REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 1, 2023

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

Mrs. Mezik called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The following members of the Board of Education were present in-person: Mrs. Curelaru, Mr. Forst, Mrs. Lukany, Mrs. Mezik, Mrs. Shields, Mrs. Smith and Dr. Tomasini.

Also present were Dr. Corbett, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Higgins, Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. Slamb, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. Russo, Board Attorney.

Public announcement was read regarding the "Open Public Meeting Act."

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" the Rockaway Township Board of Education will meet in closed session to discuss matters involving personnel, Student and Administrative issues, the content of said discussions will be disclosed to the public at such time and extent as is required by law.

No Board Member objected to the conduct of the meeting as advertised.

Motion made by Mrs. Shields, seconded by Mrs. Smith to waive pledge until open session.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion carried.

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to go into closed session at 6:03 PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion carried.

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith that the closed session meeting stands adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion carried.

The Public Meeting reconvened at 6:36 PM.

Mrs. Mezik reopened the regular business meeting of the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mrs. Slamb presented the budget work session for preliminary submission to the State. The full budget report and Board commentary can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-3-1' or by clicking this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0YcBkLtbxk&t=1s

Motion by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to go into recess at 7:12 PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Lukany to return from recess at 7:33 PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion carried.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH/SCHOOL RECOGNITION PRESENTATION – DENNIS B. O'BRIEN

Mrs. Mezik invited Dennis B. O'Brien, Principal, Dr. Marangon to address the Board and the community and announce the recipients of Student of the Month/School Recognition award. The full ceremony can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-3-1' or by clicking this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0YcBkLtbxk&t=1s

Board recess for light refreshments at 7:43 PM.

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith to open the public session of the meeting.

No Public comment.

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith to close the public session of the meeting.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion carried.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

The Board did not receive any communication since the last regular meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Shields, seconded by Mrs. Lukany to approve the minutes of February 15, 2023.

Roll Call Vote on above recommendations, Mrs. Curelaru abstained, all present remaining voting yes, motion carried.

II. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- My report this evening is brief. I would like to begin by thanking and congratulating the students, staff and parents of the DBO school community for their dedication to education. We are successful only because of the school's partnership with parents. I am confident that the board will agree that seeing the smiles on the faces of students and some very proud parents makes our job worth it!

- Between October 17 and November 22, four focus groups were conducted throughout the district. These focus groups offered our community the opportunity to provide general feedback and perceptions regarding our school district. In some focus groups, there were some parents who indicated that HIB (bullying) was a concern. These parents wanted to know more about the district's policy, what our schools do to address this concern and what they can do to support the district's efforts to eliminate bullying. In response, and as many know, we are scheduling an HIB workshop to be held during our April 19 board meeting. Prior to the April 19 workshop, we would like to have a better understanding of our communities' concerns and perceptions regarding bullying in our schools. The meeting scheduled for February 28 was cancelled due to schools being closed. The board will meet on March 14 to provide our community with an opportunity voice any concerns or provide suggestions or compliments. The board's intention it to listen. The board will not take formal action. However, the communities' input is a vital part of informing future decisions regarding our response to HIB.

- The next SEPAC meeting will be held on March 23. It will deal with executive functioning and ADHD.

III. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Budget work session presented in lieu of Business Administrator's report.

IV. CURRICULUM REPORT

Good evening members of the Board, and hello Rockaway Township.

Academics:

Upcoming Events:

- The Winter Assessment Window has closed and we are busy analyzing data. The Education Committee was given a chance to preview some of the initial i-Ready Data and will be looking at the full breakdown of that data next week. We were able to highlight some of the many outstanding gains in our classrooms, as well as focus on some aspects that need further attention.
  - Our schools are busy looking at their individual student data and using it to personalize instruction for our students as we move into the second half of the year.
  - Much credit has to be given to our building principals and our teachers for the incredible gains made from September to January. Their work in grade-level meetings, and within their classrooms is truly paying dividends for our students.

- NJACCESS 2.0 Testing is open, and our ELL staff will begin testing shortly. All students eligible for ELL services in the district must take the ACCESS Test. It measures the growth and performance of our students from year to year. It is also a means by which students are able to show proficiency in the English language and exit ELL services.

- CogAT Testing for grades two and five will be coming up in March. More information will be sent home to parents in those two grades as we approach the testing window. The CogAT measures the following:
  - Verbal reasoning
  - Quantitative reasoning
  - Nonverbal reasoning
- Important Upcoming dates:
  - Trimester 2 Closing for Elementary Schools: March 14, 2023
  - Trimester 2 Report Cards and Data Dashboards for Elementary Schools: March 21, 2023
  - Marking Period 3 for Copeland Ends: April 11, 2023
  - Marking Period 3 Report Cards for Copeland: April 25, 2023

Community:
Upcoming Events:

- Portrait of a Successful Student:
  - Each of our five elementary schools will be presenting a program called "Portrait of a Successful Student" for their respective communities. The dates are as follows:
    - BW 3/2/23 6:15-7 pm
    - SB 3/6/23 6:15-7 pm
    - CAD3/7/226:00-6:45pm
    - KDM 3/8/23 6:15-7 pm
    - DBO 3/22/23 6:15-7 pm
  - The groups will be presenting the common traits that successful students display and how teachers, parents, and the community can help foster the development of those traits. Refreshments will be served, childcare will be provided, and each building will host their regularly scheduled PTA meeting directly after the program.
  - Flyers will be sent home from each of the individual elementary schools, and the dates and times will be posted on the district calendar.

Professional Development
In the area of professional development, we continue to work with our entire district staff on the various methods of co-teaching in inclusion classrooms. We are partnered with New Jersey Council for Inclusion Education, as well as New Jersey Teacher-To-Teacher to offer our staff instruction, training, and demonstration of the co-teaching models. We look forward to sharing this work with the public in the coming months.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Shields – The Operations Committee met on February 24, 2023 at 4:30 PM at the Central Office, Lower Conference Room. In attendance were Mr. Forst, Mrs. Mezik, Dr. Corbett and Mrs. Slamb. Items that were discussed included:

- Budget items
- Upcoming strategic plan meetings scheduled for April 3, 26, and 29, 2023
- Ongoing Pond View bussing routes

The next meeting is scheduled on March 16, 2023 at 9:00 AM to discuss demographic study discussions.

Mrs. Smith – The Educational Curriculum Committee met on February 22, 2023 at 4:15 to 6:00 PM at the Central Office – Lower Conference Room. In attendance were Dr. Corbett, Mr. Higgins, Mrs. Mezik, Mrs. Lukany, and Mrs. Mezik. Items that were discussed included:

- District aligned after-school clubs
- Start Strong and testing coordinators
- Internet issues at Copeland Middle School
- Assessment update – mid-year diagnostic updates

The next meeting is scheduled on March 8, 2023 at 4:15 PM at the Central Office, Lower Conference Room.

VI. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel

Motion made by Mrs. Shields, seconded by Mrs. Lukany to approve the following personnel recommendations.

The Superintendent of Schools recommends actions on the following personnel:

A.	Appointment						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/About Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	PT Staff Asst.	Caren Betley	$19.96 p/hr. (Step 1)	KDM	3/2/23	6/30/23	26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. per the student IEP Pending: Physical/Mantoux
2.	Preschool Disabilities Teacher	Casey Dorer	$60,855.00 BA (Step 2)	BW	3/20/23	6/20/23	Reassign from a Special Education Teacher in the BD Class at SB to a Pre-K Disabilities Teacher at BW
3.	Floater Substitute	Aquilia Laws	$185.00 p/day	KDM	3/2/23	6/30/23	
4.	Maintenance Worker	Noah Rathfon	**Prorated** $45,385.00 (Step 1)	MAINT.	3/16/23	6/30/23	Pending: Physical/Mantoux (Replacing: M. Gillen)
5.	After School Programs	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	CMS	22-23 School Year		Nurses Eff. 3/2/23
6.	After School Programs	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	KDM	22-23 School Year		

B.	Leave of Absence						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/About Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	PT Staff Asst.	Jane Bedell		SB	1/26/23 2/13/23	2/10/23 2/27/23	With Pay Without Pay Return: 2/28/23
2.	Resource Room Teacher	Cassi Deighan		SB	5/25/23 10/2/23	9/29/23 12/22/23	With Pay Without Pay under NJFLA 12 weeks Return: 1/2/24
3.	Language Arts Teacher	LeeAnn Hurley		CMS	3/21/23	4/21/23	With Pay Return: 4/24/23

C.	Resign/Retire						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Grade 4 Teacher	Diane Cooper		KDM	7/1/24		Retire
2.	PT Staff Asst.	Aquilia Laws		KDM	3/1/23		Resign

D.	Substitute Teacher					
	Position	**Name**	**Level**	**Date Effective**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Substitute	Milagro Talbot	County	3/2/23		County College of Morris, NJ (Assoc.)
2.	Substitute	Denise Trimmer	County	3/2/23		County College of Morris, NJ (Assoc.)

E.	Motion to approve an amendment to the previously approved motion under Personnel (Motion A-39, 9-21-22 agenda) Test Coordinators 22-23 School Year. ***Addition of 10 hrs. per employee due to Start Strong.**							
	Nature of Action	**Position**	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Test Coordinators	Per the attached list	$46.00 p/hr.	DIST.	22-23 School Year			Test Coordinators

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion carried.

B. HIB Determination

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to approve the following HIB Determination.

HIB Resolution

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB incidents: #9480 unconfirmed and the investigations which were conducted following these complaints; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education was advised of any consequences and /or remedial measures related to these matters as well as the Superintendent's recommendation regarding the results of these investigations; and

THEREFORE, BE IT Resolved that the Board of Education votes to affirm the Superintendent's recommendations on HIB cases:

#9480 unconfirmed

1. HIB current investigations: #9475

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, Mrs. Curelaru abstained, all present remaining voting yes, motion carried.

C. Education

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Lukany to approve the following education recommendations.

Field Trips for Approval

1. Motion to approve the 03-01-2023 list of field trips *(as per attached).*
2. Motion to approve the following Centenary University student, to complete a four (4) hour classroom observation during the Spring 2023 semester.

Student	Cooperating School
Samantha Livoti*	Birchwood School

* *Pending receipt of Volunteer Affidavit for RTSD*

3. Motion to approve salary and stipends funded with Federal Grants as follows:

Employee	Position	Location	Stipend /Salary	% Funded
Lauren Crispino	Garden Club: Gardening requires full-year care! Help Copeland utilize our beautiful garden area to create a combination of floral and produce that can be sold in the community, donated to our local food pantries, and so much more. (1 day per week)	CMS	$46.00/Hr	100% ESSER

Erin Bootes-King	Extra Day of Clay Sculpting Club: Create art from eARTh! You will learn progression in the methods of pinch, and slab clay techniques, Students will continue to apply the additive and subtractive techniques already learned in prior sessions, to create unique works of art. (1 day per week)	CMS	$46.00/Hr	100% ESSER

Professional Development Presentation

4. Motion to approve Dr. Fernando Naiditch, Associate Professor of Secondary and Special Education at Montclair State University, to provide a full-day professional development in the area of ELL Education at the Catherine A. Dwyer School on March 9, 2023. These hours are included in our partnership with Montclair State University as part of the MSUNER (Montclair State University Network for Educational Renewal) (as per attached).

No Public comment.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion carried.

D. Administration

Motion made by Mrs. Shields, seconded by Dr. Tomasini to approve the following administration recommendations.

Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance

1. Motion to approve the Comprehensive Equity Plan Statement of Assurance for the 2023-2024 school year *(as per attached).*

Strategic Planning 3D Model Contract Renewal

2. Motion to approve the strategic planning 3D model renewal 'Dream, Determination, and Destiny by Design' contract agreement between Rockaway Township Board of Education and New Jersey School Boards Association. Costs not to exceed $3,000.00 *(as per attached).*

No Public comment.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion carried.

E. Finance

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Lukany to approve the following finance recommendations.

Mrs. Shields noted that she signed the district bills and recommends approval.

Partial Roof Replacement - Birchwood Elementary School

1. Motion to approve the following fee schedule for a partial roof replacement at Birchwood Elementary School by LAN Associates *(as per attached)*:

Item #	Description	Fee
1	Prepare NJDOE Application	$1,500.00
2	Preparation of Construction Documents for Roof Replacement	$4,200.00
3	Bidding and Contract Award	$800.00
4	Construction Observation Services	$2,800.00
5	Asbestos Sampling (Estimated)	$600.00
	Total	$9,900.00

Partial Roof Replacement – Katharine D. Malone Elementary School

3. Motion to approve the following fee schedule for a partial roof replacement at Katharine D. Malone Elementary School by LAN Associates *(as per attached)*:

Item #	Description	Fee
1	Prepare NJDOE Application	$2,500.00
2	Preparation of Construction Documents for Roof Replacement	$38,900.00
3	Bidding and Contract Award	$1,500.00
4	Construction Observation Services	$15,200.00

5	Asbestos Sampling (Estimated)	$1,500.00
	Total	$59,600.00

Partial Roof Upgrade – Copeland Middle School

4. Motion to approve the following fee schedule for a partial roof upgrade at Copeland Middle School by LAN Associates *(as per attached)*:

Item #	Description	Fee
1	Prepare NJDOE Application	$2,200.00
2	Preparation of Construction Documents for Roof Replacement	$17,900.00
3	Bidding and Contract Award	$1,500.00
4	Construction Observation Services	$7,800.00
5	Asbestos Sampling (Estimated)	$900.00
	Total	$30,300.00

Travel

5. Motion to approve Nancy Beiermeister to attend the 53rd Annual New Jersey Pupil Transportation Conference and Equipment Show held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City from March 30, 2023 through March 31, 2023. Total associated costs include $400.00 for conference registration and $192.00 for accommodation, amounting to $592.00 *(as per attached).*

No Public comment.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Lukany to open the public session of the meeting.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion carried.

No Public comment.

Motion by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Dr. Tomasini to close the public session of the meeting.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion carried.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Old Business

Mrs. Curelaru – thanked Dr. Corbett and Mrs. Mezik for attending the Pancake Breakfast event at the Catherine A. Dwyer school.

New Business

Dr. Corbett – Recommended to follow him on Twitter @RockawaySup for notifications of delayed openings and closings.

Mrs. Smith – Reminded the Public that the SEPAC meeting is scheduled on March 23, 2023. Shared that Mrs. Mezik and Mrs. Smith attended the New Jersey School Boards Association presentation on February 23, 2023 where it discussed Board President and Vice President duties and the opportunity to look at case studies and meet in small groups.

Mrs. Shields – The Rockaway Township Substance Abuse Alliance met on February 16, 2023. Mrs. Forst was present as a liaison. The meeting focused on planning for a Celebrity Day. Opening Ceremony for Celebrity Day is set for June 1, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled on March 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School Library.

Dr. Tomasini – In an effort to connect more with the community, Dr. Tomasini suggested that brief biographies of the Board Members and Administration be displayed on the District website.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mrs. Lukany, seconded by Mrs. Smith that the meeting stand adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan S. Slamb

Megan S. Slamb, MBA, SFO, QPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary