EXECUTIVE SESSION
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 04, 2024

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 04, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

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

The following members of the Board of Education were present in-person: Mrs. Anderson, Ms. McGeary, Mrs. Mezik, Mrs. Smith, Dr. Tomasini and Mrs. Shields.

Mrs. Slamb joined during the Executive Session.

Mrs. Curelaru was absent.

Also present were Dr. Corbett, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Slamb, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. McKeever, Board Attorney, and no members of Press.

The following items were discussed in closed session:

- Agenda - Questions /Changes
- Personnel
- President's Update
- Legal Update

Respectfully submitted,
Megan S. Slamb

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

REGULAR MEETING
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Mrs. Slamb joined during the Executive Session.

Mrs. Curelaru was absent.

Also present were Dr. Corbett, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Slamb, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. McKeever, Board Attorney, and no members of Press.

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 Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith to waive the Pledge until open session.

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

Motion made by Ms. McGeary, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to go into closed session at 6:02 PM.

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

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Ms. McGeary that the closed session stands adjourned at 7:30 PM.

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

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:30 PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC DISCUSSION
Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith to open Public comment.

Show of hands to open Public comment, all present voting yes, motion so carried

A member of the community came up and spoke regarding the Board meeting conduct and upcoming BOE elections.

The full Public comment and Board commentary can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-09-04' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-09-04'.

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to close Public comment.

Show of hands to open Public comment, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

Janelle Lauterbach	KDM PTA Exec Board & Meeting Dates 2024-2025
Donna Suszynski	I put this board on notice at the last BOE meeting on 7-17-24 regarding this Title IX injunction. Why is it being ignored?

II. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the minutes of August 14, 2024.

Roll Call Vote to approve the minutes of August 14, 2024, all present voting yes, motion carried.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

In preparation for the school year, three important events were held: the principals' leadership retreat from August 20 to August 23; the new teacher orientation on August 26 and 27; and the Convocation for all staff on August 28 and 29. All three meetings were opportunities for staff to begin the year working together, meet our newest employees, and catch up with those we may not have seen for a couple of months. I am impressed with the very positive energy and I am looking forward to beginning my third year in Rockaway Township.

For the first time in recent memory, Rockaway teachers were not trained on initiatives that will begin in the upcoming school year during tl same year's Convocation Due to the hard work of teachers counselors CST, Nurses, and administration, this training was accomplished during the 23-24 school year It was great to see teachers working in their classrooms and using the time for much needed articulation and data analysis

On the first day I visited each school and witnessed many smiling faces both students and staff. In addition Anita West and I met with our transportation department to thank them for their dedication and encourage them as they undertake their very challenging, yet essential responsibilities. Our drivers, bus aides and mechanics are very good people who care greatly for our students Their smiles are the first and last thing our students see each day

Our transportation department continues to experience a shortage of drivers This year three runs remain open and yesterday two drivers were absent. Four new R & May routes ran late. Portable bus radios were purchased to enhance communication with outside bus companie Afternoon departures were delayed starting with Copeland. This is common on the first day as students focus on boarding the correct bus Several elementary students boarded the wrong bus. These students were promptly returned to the school where they were picked up by parents. A brake line failed on a van while waiting at KDM during dismissal. The students were transferred to another vehicle and an alert was sent to those families notifying them of the delay.

One of my highlights yesterday as I visited the schools was seeing water flow from the KDM water fountains. I know this has been a long journey for the KDM community and I appreciate their patience. Peter Campisano (USA Architects) was instrumental in facilitating the teamwork that allowed us to achieve the goal of having the spigots turned on by the first day of school.

The Dwyer Sign application was submitted to the Planning Board Mr. McKeever is scheduled to appear before the board on September 16 to answer any questions.

The roofing projects at Copeland Middle School and Birchwood are complete Work has begun on the KDM roof and I understand that it will be completed ahead of schedule

The Department of Student Services will be closely monitoring the implementation of the new Character Strong curriculum. The initial evaluation team has begun working on new assignments and expediating referrals The Department continues to plan the SEPAC meetings and has made an effort to reach out to all families to provide updates and information regarding changes in case management.

Good News From our Schools

Birchwood Elementary School began the year with two assemblies to welcome students back and review bus safety and the code of conduc Students were eager to reunite with their friends, and the energy was high as teachers and staff greeted them with a camp themed celebration. With pom poms in hand and music playing, the staff created a warm and joyful atmosphere as students arrived. It was a happy and memorable day as everyone prepared for the year ahead. Over the summer, Birchwood received a few upgrades including new tile and paint in the girls' restroom, sensory paths added in the pre K wing, and fresh paint in several classrooms The school looked fantastic and they are anticipating a great school year.

On the first day of school, DBO students and staff demonstrated tremendous energy and positivity throughout the building. The DBO community is excited that new picnic tables for the courtyard will allow a significant number of our students to eat lunch outside daily. The custodial staff deserves recognition for a great job preparing the building for the new school year.

The Dwyer Family is thankful to the PTA for the balloons and signs that welcomed students and staff. Teachers have worked extremely hard to ensure that classrooms are vibrant and welcoming.

On the first day of school, KDM celebrated functioning water fountains; for the first time in three years! The year started in style with the PTA decorating the building to create an inviting and warm welcome. They also came out on the first day of school to cheer, wave, and greet students. KDM has completed some important capital improvements roof replacement and a new fence around the ballfield KDM looks forward to launching the September 27th PTA Walk a Thon

At Stony Brook students and staff arrived on the first day energized and ready to go The PTA made the start of the new year extra special by providing some fun items, including 4 brand new outdoor lunch tables with patio umbrellas, a new poster machine, and personalized lunch carts for each classroom.

The CMS administration, faculty, and staff kicked off the school year by welcoming our new and returning students and introducing the new (PAAWS) bell schedule which includes time each day for Promoting Academic Achievement, Wellness, and Support. Throughout the school year, PAAWS time will be used to provide individualized learning opportunities, community building experiences, recess breaks, and social emotional learning activities Finally the staff is excited to reintroduce TEAMS to the CMS community.

IV. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

My report this evening is uncharacteristically short, as I've only been back from maternity leave since yesterday. I want to thank my team and my fellow administrators for keeping things running smoothly in my absence I want to thank Rich specifically for barring anyone from calling me without his permission That being said he has kept me very well up to date and my Interim Dan Borgo has been communicating often and working very hard on my behalf.

As further proof of the value and skill of my office staff I was pleased to return and find this plaque in my office. Our district was awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from ASBO International To quote the letter we received:

"For over half a century, ASBO International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting has been the gold standard in promoting and recognizing excellence in financial reporting," according to ASBO International Executive Director Jim Rowan CAE, SFO. Communicating the financial and economic state of a district is so important when engaging with the school community and building their trust Districts that receive the COE Award have demonstrated their ability to do that at the highest level.

I am so proud of my team and of this district. We will continue to strive for excellence.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The full Committee Report can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-8-14' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-8-14'.

VI. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Ms. McGeary to approve the following personnel recommendations.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following personnel:

A.	Appointment						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	***Start Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	LDT-C	Patricia Benavides	$77,600.00 MA +30 (Step 10)	CMS	**8/28/24	6/30/25	Replacing: S McCabe
2.	Cross Country Head Coach	Michael Bernstein	$3,000.00	CMS	24-25 SY		Stipend
3.	Grade 4 Teacher	Allison Bresney	$61,670.00 BA (Step 1)	SB	**8/28/24	12/20/24	Leave Replacement Replacing: Employee 5997 Pending physical/Mantoux, fingerprint approval, and other personnel paperwork.
4.	Cross Country Assistant Coach	Dominique Brock	$2,100.00	CMS	24-25 SY		Stipend
5.	PT Health/Phys. Ed. Teacher	Austin Caldwell	$37,002.00 BA (Step 1)	SB	**8/28/24	6/30/25	0.6 FTE Pending physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval.
6.	PT Staff Assistant	Kimberly Carta	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	SB	*9/5/24	6/30/25	1:1 per student IEP 26 hrs./wk. Pending physical/Mantoux, fingerprint approval, and other personnel paperwork.
7.	PT Staff Assistant	Leslie Feinson	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	CAD	*9/5/24	6/30/25	Resource 17.5 hrs./wk. Replacing: D Montesano Pending physical/Mantoux, fingerprint approval, and other personnel paperwork.
8.	Special Education Teacher	Jessica Hughes	$61,670.00 BA (Step 1)	BWD	**8/28/24	6/30/25	Leave Replacement Replacing: Employee 6465 Pending physical/Mantoux.
9.	PT Staff Assistant/Bus Monitor	Rachael Jacobs	$22.57/hr. (Step 4)	TRANS.	24-25 SY		Reassignment from 17.5 hrs./wk. to 20 hrs./wk., based on route assignments
10.	Art Teacher	Taylor Jones	$200.00/day	CAD	**9/3/24	9/18/24	Revised Long Term Substitute (Replacing: Employee 5353)

11.	PT Staff Assistant	Jennifer Marty	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	DBO	*9/5/24	6/30/25	1:1 per student IEP 26 hrs./wk. Pending physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval.
12.	PT Staff Assistant/Bus Monitor	Erin McGrath	$22.57/hr. (Step 4)	TRANS.	24-25 SY		Reassignment from 17.5 hrs./wk. to 18 hrs. 20 min./wk., based on route assignments
13.	Resource Teacher	Genoveffa Moschella	$200.00 per day	SB	**9/3/24	10/11/24	Long-term substitute Replacing: Employee 6382
14.	PT Staff Assistant	Shirley Nadar	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	KDM	*9/5/24	6/30/25	In Autism Classroom 26 hrs./wk. Pending physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval.
15.	PT Music Teacher	Greta Nappa	$37,752.00 BA+30 (Step 1)	CMS	**8/28/24	6/30/25	0.6 FTE Pending physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval.
16.	PT Staff Assistant	Isis-Elysia Ordiales	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	KDM	*9/5/24	6/30/25	1:1 per student IEP 26 hrs./wk. Pending physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval.
17.	Kindergarten Inclusion Teacher	Mary Parra	$200.00 per day	BWD	**9/3/24	10/18/24	Long-term substitute Replacing: Employee 5539
18.	Bus Driver	Raena Scherwa	$20,628.00	TRANS.	**9/1/24	6/30/25	Reassignment from substitute Bus Monitor to Bus Driver
19.	CMS Stipend Positions	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	CMS	24-25 SY		Per the attached list

B.	Leave of Absence						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Bus Driver/ Mech. Helper	6505		TRANS.	8/21/24	9/4/24	Extended Without Pay Return: 9/5/24
2.	Resource Teacher	4214		CMS	9/16/24 12/9/24	12/6/24 2/14/25	With Pay under FMLA With Pay Return: 2/18/25
3.	Art Teacher	5353		CAD	8/28/24 9/16/24	9/13/24 9/18/24	Revised With Pay under FMLA Without Pay under FMLA Return: 9/19/24
4.	Kindergarten Inclusion Teacher	5539		BWD	9/4/24 9/30/24	9/27/24 10/18/24	With Pay under FMLA With Pay Return: 10/21/24

C.	Resign/Retire						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	PT Staff Assistant	Christine Aldabbas		KDM		8/28/24	Resign
2.	PT Staff Assistant	Stephanie Ibe		CMS		8/28/24	Resign
3.	ESL Teacher	Nicole Kahwaty		CMS/CAD		10/14/24	Resign
4.	PT Staff Assistant	Brianna Lopez		BWD		8/28/24	Resign
5.	PT Staff Assistant	Dawn Montesano		CAD		8/28/24	Resign
6.	PT Staff Assistant	Mary Parra		BWD		8/24/24	Resign To accept a long-term sub position in the district.

D.	Substitute Teachers - New Hires						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Level**	**Discussion**
1.	Substitute	Robert D'Amico	$175.00/day	DIST.	24-25 SY	County	Full Sail University, FL (BA) Pending physical/Mantoux
2.	Substitute	Hannah Ferguson	$175.00/day	DIST.	24-25 SY	County	Northeastern Univ., MA (BA) Pending physical/Mantoux
3.	Substitute	Marissa Forte	$175.00/day	DIST.	24-25 SY	State	Univ. Internacional de Catalunya, Spain (BA)
4.	Substitute	Joseph McCormick	$175.00/day	DIST.	24-25 SY	County	Fairleigh Dickinson Univ., NJ (BS)
5.	Floater Substitute	Thomas Montefusco	$185.00/day	CAD	24-25 SY	County	St. Peter's College, NJ (AS) Pending physical/Mantoux
6.	Substitute	Ricardo Panchoo	$175.00/day	DIST.	24-25 SY	County	Univ. of NY: Baruch College, NY (MS)
7.	Substitute	Elizabeth Riveros	$175.00/day	DIST.	24-25 SY	County	Pensacola Christian College, FL (BA) Pending physical/Mantoux
8.	Substitute	Grace Russo	$175.00/day	DIST.	24-25 SY	County	Centenary University, NJ (BA)
9.	Substitute	Theresa Weniger	$175.00/day	DIST.	24-25 SY	County	College of NJ, NJ (MA)

E.	Substitutes – Approve the following staff as Floater Substitute Teachers for the 2024-2025 school year						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**

1.	Floater Substitute Teachers	Per the attached list	$185.00/day	DIST.	24-25 SY		Per the attached list

F.	Salary Adjustment – Certificated Staff						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Certificated Staff	Per the attached list	Per the attached list		8/28/24	6/30/25	Horizontal Movement Increased Credits
G.	Bus Drivers – approve the following Contracted Bus Drivers/Salaries for the 2024-2025 school year						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Bus Drivers	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	TRANS.	24-25 SY		Per the attached list

Key
* On/Before Eff. Date
** Concurrent

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, Mrs. Anderson, Ms. McGeary, Mrs. Mezik, Dr. Tomasini, and Mrs. Shields voted yes, Mrs. Smith abstained, motion carried.

B. Education

Motion made by Ms. McGeary, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the following education recommendations.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following unavoidable registration and/or travel costs as presented, which are educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and are related to and within the scope of the employee's current responsibilities and promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district. The reimbursements are in compliance with the State travel reimbursement guidelines as established by the Department of Treasury and Board of Education policy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A-23B-1.1 et seq.

Employee	Workshop Title	Workshop Location	Workshop Date(s)	Registration Fee	Travel Cost	Total Estimated Cost
Dr. Richard Corbett	Legal One: Comprehensive Plan for Addressing Student Substance Use	FEA Conference Center, Monroe Township, NJ	October 4, 2024	$150.00	$40.96	$190.96
Dr. Alain Mollinedo	Legal One: Comprehensive Plan for Addressing Student Substance Use	FEA Conference Center, Monroe Township, NJ	October 4, 2024	$150.00	$40.96	$190.96
Anita West	Legal One: Comprehensive Plan for Addressing Student Substance Use	FEA Conference Center, Monroe Township, NJ	October 4, 2024	$150.00	$40.96	$190.96
Ruthann Champagne	Legal One: Comprehensive Plan for Addressing Student Substance Use	FEA Conference Center, Monroe Township, NJ	October 4, 2024	No Charge-4th Participant is Free	$40.96	$40.96
Chloe Silva	NJIDA Fall Conference 2024	Virtual	October 19, 2024	$190.00	N/A	$190.00

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following Student Teacher(s) to complete their MSW fieldwork during the 2024-2025 school year, commencing on or about September 1, 2024-June 30, 2025.

Student Teacher	College University	Cooperating Teacher/School
Nicole Matos	Rutgers University	Cynthia Harvey/CMS
Nicole Parks*	Kentucky University	Samantha Viscuso/DBO

*Pending satisfactory completion of District requirements

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the 2024-2025 School Year Assessment calendar (see attached).

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the 2024-2025 School Year District Professional Development Plan (see attached).

5. Upon the recommendation of Schools, the Board agrees to adopt the revised Rockaway Township School District Curriculum (see attached).

No Public comment.
Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion carried.

C. Special Education

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

1. **Revised In District Placement Tuition – for SY 2024-2025**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the revised tuition contract for the following in district placement students for the 2024-2025 school year:

Student #	School	Location	Tuition Rate

00291	Birchwood	Rockaway	**Tuition Received $34,039.00 (from the 08/14/2024 agenda)** or $189.11 per diem + Annual cost for 1:1 aide of $32,400.00 + Cost of health benefits of $9,532.20. Tuition rates include up to (1) hour per week of related services (OT, PT, Speech). All services above one (1) hour are billed at $90.00 per hour.

2. **In District Transportation - SY 2024-2025**
   Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the Out of District transportation for the 2024-2025 school year, for the following student as per their IEP.

   #00602 attending Mt. Carmel Guild Academy

3. **Prestige Education Consultants, LLC Service Agreement - SY 2024-2025**
   Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the contract between Rockaway Township Board of Education and Prestige Education Consultants, LLC to provide Bilingual Evaluations for the 2024-2025 school year (as per attached).

4. **Frank C. Nascimento, Psy.D., NCSP Service Agreement - SY 2024-2025**
   Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the contract between Rockaway Township Board of Education and Frank C. Nascimento to provide Bilingual Psychological Evaluations for the 2024-2025 school year (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. Mezik , seconded by Ms. McGeary to approve the following administration recommendations.

1. **Student Safety Data System Report Period 2 - 01/01/2024 - 06/30/2024**
   Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the submission of the Student Safety Data System Report Period 2 from 01/01/2024 through 06/30/2024 to the New Jersey Department of Education - Morris County Office (as per attached).

No public comment.

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

Finance

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

1. **YMCA Use of District Premises/Facilities Agreement**
   Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the contract between Rockaway Township Board of Education and West Morris Area YMCA for the use of district school premises for the 2024-2025 school year (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. Smith to open the public session of the meeting.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes.

Two members of the community came up and spoke about having a great school year.

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Ms. McGeary to close the public session of the meeting.

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

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Old Business

Mrs. Anderson- Changes of the PTA liaisons.
Dr. Tomasini- Survey responses please send them in.

New Business

Mrs. Smith- Welcome back the students and staff for the school year.
Mrs. Anderson- Thanked Dr. Corbett, Mr. Bayer, and all the staff for making everyone feel welcomed.
Mrs. Shields- I went to Convocation and heard Mr. Sollazzo's story and about Mr. Ceditio and wanted to thank him again.

The full discussion of old and new business and Board commentary can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-09-04' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-09-04'.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith, meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan S. Slamb

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

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