REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 16, 2023

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

Mrs. Mezik called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

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

Also present were Dr. Corbett, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Slamb, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. McKeever, 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 Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to waive pledge until open session.

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

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mr. Forst to go into closed session at 6:05 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 7:34 PM.

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

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:34 PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD MEMBER – OATH OF OFFICE

PRESENTATION BY DR. MOLLINEDO –

- **ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES - STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**
- **DISTRICT-WIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The full presentation by Dr. Mollinedo can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-08-16' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-08-16.'

PRESENTATION BY MR. BAYER – COPELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

The full Copeland Middle School Code of Conduct presented by Mr. Bayer can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-08-16' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-08-16.'

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

- Member of the community #1, member of the RTEA encouraged all community members to join the RTEA Facebook page. Shared an upcoming event, Pumpkin Event in October.
- Member of the community #2, inquired why the inclusion program is not offered at all schools.

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 - 2023-08-16' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-08-16.'

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

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

I. COMMUNICATIONS

The following correspondence was received for the Board since the last regular meeting:

KDM PTA	KDM PTA Meeting Dates 2023-2024
Praveena Somasundaram	Media Request from Washington Post

II. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Forst, seconded by Dr. Tomasini to approve the minutes of July 19, 2023.

Roll Call Vote to approve the minutes of July 19, 2023, Mrs. Anderson abstained, all present remaining voting yes, motion carried.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As of today, we have completed one half of the Administrative Leadership Team Retreat. We will continue meeting tomorrow and wrap up the retreat on Friday. Our discussions have been productive in preparing our district administrators to successfully launch the new school year. This year, we welcomed four new administrators to the team; Dustin Bayer, Ruthanne Champagne, Alain Mollinedo and Katheryn Pietrowski.

I would like to thank the administrators, teachers, staff that all those that made our *Extended School Year* a success. The program took place from July 5th to August 5th and included: Pre-School Disability, Year to grow (Transitional KDG), Resource Room, FLEX, LLD, Multiple Disability, and Autism. Our talented staff included two reading specialists, and one behavior analyst. Activities included; Shark Week, World Cup and ESY Circus.

The PTA General Assembly was held on August 10, with 12 participants and every school represented. The morning included introductions of the central office administrators and a welcome from Lisa Mezik. The agenda was packed and a challenge to accomplish within two hours. During the G.A., members agreed that Tri-Annual meetings during the months of October, February, and May would be beneficial. The participants welcomed the suggestion that the Board of Education recognize the local PTAs during the school year at the board meetings.

I am grateful to Mr. Bayer for reviewing the Code of Conduct with the board this evening, and his committee for their dedication revising the Middle School Code of Conduct. This is a step toward meeting the Strategic Plan (2023 – 2028) goal of "creating a cohesive code of conduct applicable to all schools."

The Rockaway Township School District will be represented at Rockaway Day on August 19. The day runs from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. My goal is to meet more of the Rockaway Community and be available to them to hear their thoughts, concerns and suggestions.

I would like to thank the board for their dedication which is demonstrated in many ways. For example, on Saturday, July 29 the board met in the Copeland Middle School Library from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for their annual board retreat. We discussed board / district goals, HIB practices and procedures and referendum considerations.

These board / district goals that were identified during the board retreat provide a framework for decisions for the upcoming school year. For the benefit of our public, I would like to spend a few moments introducing the 2023 – 2024 district goals.

IV. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Slamb presented the following report:

The Buildings and Grounds department has been working hard to prepare for the opening of school. As of last week there were only a few classrooms remaining to be cleaned and prepped. This coming week we will also be prepping new plants for the exterior of the buildings and doing some final landscaping.

As noted in our previous meeting I had hosted a mandatory walkthrough related to our Architect of Record RFP. We had six firms attend the walkthrough and I am pleased to confirm all six firms submitted final proposals by the deadline on August 4th. Dr. Corbett and I will conduct a preliminary screening of the submissions and select three firms to come before the Operations Committee for a formal interview on August 28th. We intend to appoint a firm at the September 6th Board Meeting.

On August 2nd Dr. Corbett and I met with Bond Counsel Andrea Kahn to review potential timelines and initial action items for the potential referendum. Ms. Kahn was very informative and provided expertise and perspective on the subject. Once the new Architect is selected we will have the option to take next steps in coordinating all necessary professional services.

Yesterday during our Administrative Retreat I had the opportunity to provide a refresher for all district administrators on Business Office procedures, and what responsibilities they bear for their respective departments or schools. As always it was a very collaborative and positive conversation and should ensure compliance and teamwork as we move into the new school year.

Finally, our audit for the 2022-23 school year is set to begin the last week of September. The business office staff is already preparing our documentation.

V. CURRICULUM REPORT

The full curriculum report by Mr. Gonnella can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-08-16' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-08-16.'

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Shields – The **Operations Committee** is scheduled to meet on August 28, 2023 at 4:00 PM at the Central Office – lower conference room to interview the architectural firms.

Mrs. Smith – The Education Committee met on July 26, 2023 at 4:15 PM until 5:50 PM at the Central Office – lower conference room. In attendance were Dr. Corbett, Mr. Gonnella, Mrs. Mezik, Mrs. Shields and Mrs. Smith. Agenda included solidifying a mission statement, goals and norms for the Education Committee. In addition, the committee also discussed the following:

- Reviewed the preliminary NJSLA data,
- Discussed the pilot process
- Discussed the Prevention is Key in the Sandy Hook Promise
- Discussed different professional development programs
- Discussed CMS Code of Conduct

The **Education Committee** is scheduled to meet on August 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Central Office – lower conference room.

VII. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields 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/Before Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**

1.	Nurse	Barbara Beere	**Prorated** $73,160.00 BA+15 (Step 13)	CMS	*10/17/23	12/22/23	Leave Replacement Pending: Physical/Mantoux and Fingerprint approval (Replacing: R. Adamson)
2.	Cross Country Head Coach	Michael Bernstein	$3,000.00	CMS	23-24 SY		Stipend
3.	Preschool Disabilities Teacher	Christina Bielski	**Prorated** $60,630.00 BA (Step 1)	BW	8/30/23	11/22/23	Leave Replacement Year to Grow Pending: Physical/Mantoux and Fingerprint approval (Replacing: J. Fried)
4.	Cross Country Assistant Coach	Dominique Brock	$2,100.00	CMS	23-24 SY		Stipend
5.	Grade 6 Math Teacher	Morgan DeLoreto	$64,695.00 MA (Step 1)	CMS	8/30/23	6/30/24	Pending: Physical/Mantoux and Fingerprint approval (Replacing: G. Fazzini)
6.	PT Staff Asst.	Evelyn Hoffman	$20.62 p/hr. (Step 1)	DBO	9/1/23	6/30/24	17.5 hrs p/wk. per the student IEP Pending: Physical/Mantoux and Fingerprint approval
7.	Floater Substitute	Elwira Lardiere	$185.00 p/day	DBO	23-24 SY		
8.	Grade 2 Teacher	Victoria Flynn	**Prorated** $61,630.00 BA (Step 2)	BW	8/30/23	10/5/23	Leave Replacement (Replacing: E. Predmore)
9.	Special Education Kindergarten Teacher	Victoria Flynn	**Prorated** $61,630.00 BA (Step 2)	BW	10/6/23	3/1/24	Leave Replacement (Replacing: M. Tammam)
10.	Physical Ed. and Health Teacher	Nicolette Hourihan	**Prorated** $60,630.00 BA (Step 1)	DBO	8/30/23	1/12/24	Leave Replacement Pending: Physical/Mantoux and other relevant personnel paperwork (Replacing: L. Wisse)
11.	CPR Instructor	Paula Kelly	$600.00	DIST.	23-24 SY		Stipend
12.	PT Staff Asst.	Lori Lopez-Bass	$20.62 p/hr. (Step 1)	DBO	9/1/23	6/30/24	26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. Pending: Physical/Mantoux
13.	CPR Instructor	Daria Napolitano	$600.00	DIST.	23-24 SY		Stipend
14.	PT Staff Asst.	Sandra Pledger	$20.62 p/hr. (Step 1)	KDM	9/1/23	6/30/24	26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. per the student IEP Pending: Physical/Mantoux and Fingerprint approval
15.	Head Nurse	Krista Schellinck	$5,000.00	DIST.	23-24 SY		Stipend
16.	RTI Coordinator	Stephen Wisniewski	$2,000.00	DIST.	23-24 SY		Stipend

17.	Teacher Leaders	Per the attached list	Per the contracted Stipend	DIST.	23-24 SY		Stipend
18.	Test Coordinators	Per the attached list	$46.00 p/hr.	DIST.	23-24 SY		Per the attached list
19.	Technology Coordinator	Vanessa Waxman	$5,000.00	DIST.	23-24 SY		Stipend

B.	Leave of Absence						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/About Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	Grade 5 Resource Teacher	Alyssa Howarth		KDM	8/30/23 10/2/23	9/29/23 12/22/23	Revised from 8/31/23 to 8/30/23 With Pay Without pay under NJFLA 12 weeks Return: 1/2/24
2.	Maintenance Worker	Samuel Kong		MAINT.	7/28/23	9/8/23	With Pay under FMLA Return: 9/11/23

C.	Resign/Retire						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff. (*on/ before)**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Bus Driver	Artemio Alarcon		TRANS.	8/24/23		Resign
2.	PT Staff Asst.	Elwira Lardiere		DBO	9/1/23		Resign
3.	Leave Replacement Kindergarten Teacher	Hayley Shea		KDM	*9/28/23		Resign
4.	PT Staff Asst.	Crystal O'Leary-Wileman		BW	9/1/23		Resign

D.	Salary Adjustment – Certificated Staff						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Certificated Staff	Per the attached list			8/30/23	6/30/24	Horizontal Movement Increased Credits

E.	Staff Assistant Reassignment – Approve the following staff reassignments for the 2023-2024 school year						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Staff Assistants	Per the attached list			23-24 SY		Per the attached list

F.	Substitutes – Approve the following staff as County and State Certified Substitute Teachers, Substitute Nurses, and Floater Substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Substitute Teachers	Per the attached list		DIST.	23-24 SY		Per the attached list

G.	Job Description				
	Category	**Name**	**Date Effective**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	C-5	Bus Driver	8/17/23		Revised

2.	C-8	Mechanic's Helper		8/17/23	Abolish
3.	C-35	Bus Driver and Mechanic's Assistant	8/17/23		New
4.	D-19	Curriculum and Technology Integration Specialist	8/17/23		Revised
5.	E-6	Registered Nurse	8/17/23		Revised

H.	New Position - Approve the creation of the following position			
	Name	**Date Effective**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Bus Driver and Mechanic's Assistant	8/17/23		

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, Mrs. Anderson abstained, Mr. Forst voting no, all present remaining voting yes, motion carried.

B. HIB Resolution

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mr. Forst to approve the following HIB resolutions.

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB incidents: #10189 unconfirmed, #10256 unconfirmed, and #10259 confirmed

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:

#10189 unconfirmed, #10256 unconfirmed, and #10259 confirmed

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

C. Education

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

2023-2024 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan

1. Motion to approve and submit to the County Executive Superintendent's Office the Rockaway Township Board of Education's Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan and associated checklist *(per the attached).*

Professional Development Workshops – Multi-Language Learner Strategies

2. Motion to authorize a contract between Kiina Dordoni, owner of Lift as We Climb Consulting, LLC. and the Rockaway Township Board of Education, to provide three (3) full day workshops for up to 30 educators per workshop teaching multilingual strategies for Multi-Language Learners (ELL), at a cost of $2,400.00 per session or a total cost of $7,200.00 *(per the attached).*

Science-Based Education Programs

3. Motion to authorize an agreement with Prevention is Key (PIK) and the Rockaway Township Board of Education to provide science-based education programs that promote the health and well-being of the community through the following evidence-based programs which will run in six week cycles during the 2023-2024 school year, at no cost to the District *(per the attached).*

- Girl's Circle
- Boy's Council
- Botvin's Life skills
- Footprints for Life

No Public comment.

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

D. Special Education

Motion made by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mrs. Shields, to approve the following special education recommendations.

Out of District Placements – SY 2023-2024

1. Motion to authorize the tuition contract for the following out of district placement student for the 2023-2024 school year:

Student#	School	Location	Tuition Rate
#37	Lake Drive School	Mountain Lakes	Tuition $84,200.00 or $8,420.00 per month
#516	Mountain Lakes School District	Mountain Lakes	Itinerant Services $6,840.00 for one (1) – 60-minute session per week or $216.00 per session
#1314	Mountain Lakes School District	Mountain Lakes	Itinerant Services *$0.00 for five (5) – 50-minute session per year **Due to Section 504 status*
#1919	Lake Drive School	Mountain Lakes	Tuition $84,200.00 or $8,420.00 per month

No Public comment.

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

E. Administration

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

2023-2024 Board and District Goals

1. Motion to approve the Rockaway Township Board of Education 2023-2024 Board and District Goals as follows:

Board Goals 2023-2024

	Board Goals	Board Committee
Goal I	Ensure academic excellence by: a. Identifying and implementing resources that make education engaging, meaningful, and relevant to students. b. Providing financial support to ensure appropriate academic resources for students and staff.	Education
Goal II	Maintain a safe and supportive school district culture by: Fostering inclusivity for all students and staff. Promoting a culture of mutual respect for all students and staff. Providing the resources to support a school environment conducive to social and emotional health. Ensuring a consistent approach to the implementation of security across the district.	Policy
Goal III	Support operational excellence that is sensitive to the ever growing needs of an expanding school community by: a. Facilitating community discussions (i.e. websites, surveys, focus groups, etc.). b. Determining and executing next steps for analyzing and investing in facilities to provide adequate functional space.	Operations
Goal IV	Promoting community outreach and enhanced communications by: a. Building a conduit to effectively reach all stakeholders effectively b. Communicating the roles and responsibilities of the board to the community.	Community Outreach

District Goals 2023-2024

	District Goals	Central Office Administrator
Goal I	Improve ELA and Math achievement by at least 10 percentage points (as measured by the I-Ready diagnostic) thereby supporting the academic achievement of all students.	Director of Curriculum & Instruction (A.G.)
Goal II	Offer additional educational and service learning opportunities district-wide.	Director of Curriculum & Instruction (A.G.)

Goal III	Improve the climate and culture in each school by ensuring each student's physical and emotional safety as measured by a 10% decrease in the incidences leading to HIB reports district-wide.	Director of Curriculum & Instruction (A.G.) & Director of Student Services (A.M.)
Goal IV	Reinforce a positive and effective practice of community outreach that is transparent, trusting and collaborative (thematic listening sessions).	Superintendent (RRC)
Goal V	Identify and address the maintenance and long-term capital improvements that require repair, upkeep or replacement.	Business Administrator (M.S.)

Compliance Officer – Homeless Liaison

2. Motion to authorize the appointment of Dr. Mollinedo as the Homeless Liaison for the 2023-2024 school year.

SAIF Renewal of Membership Agreement

3. Motion to approve the Renewal of Membership Agreement between School Alliance Insurance Fund (SAIF) and Rockaway Township Board of Education for a period of three years, beginning July 1, 2023 through July 1, 2026 *(as per attached).*

SAIF Indemnity and Trust Renewal Agreement

4. Motion to approve the Indemnity and Trust Renewal Agreement between School Alliance Insurance Fund (SAIF) and Rockaway Township Board of Education for a period of three years, beginning July 1, 2023 through July 1, 2026 *(as per attached).*

Equipment Disposal

5. **WHEREAS** the following property is not needed for school purposes; there exists a need for all available space at the various schools; and the NJ Public School Contracts Law, 18A: -45, requires a resolution authorizing the disposal/sale of surplus property. Motion to authorize the disposal of the following obsolete equipment from the Transportation Department:

Tag #	Make	Equipment Type
#0509	Gray Manufacturing USA	Bumper Jack
#0510	Sun Manufacturing	1400 Investigator Gas/Diesel Analyzer

Copeland Middle School - 2023-2024 Code of Conduct

6. Motion to approve the revised 2023-2024 Copeland Middle School Code of Conduct *(as per attached).*

Copeland Middle School - 2023-2024 Cell Phone/Electronic Device Guidelines

7. Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Copeland Middle School Cell Phone/Electronic Device Guidelines *(as per attached).*

Copeland Middle School - 2023-2024 Dress Code

8. Motion to approve the 2023-2024 Copeland Middle School Dress Code Guidelines *(as per attached).*

School-Based Behavioral Threat Assessment Team

9. Motion to approve the following members for the School-Based Behavioral Threat Assessment Team for the 2023-2024 school year.
   - Michael McGovern
   - Alfonso Gonnella
   - Gena Hartman
   - P.O. Joseph Udina
   - Scott Buckley
   - Dr. Alain Mollinedo

No Public comment.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations with the following amendments with the inclusion on Item E-7, *'for water bottles and provisions for Chrome laptop bags'*, all present voting yes, motion carried.

F. Finance

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

Bills

1. Motion to authorize payment of the following as approved by the Finance Committee:

A.	July	Student Activities	$94.14
B.	July	Summer Enrichment	$28,486.00
	August	Summer Enrichment	$115.40
C.	July	Cafeteria	$49,406.91
D.	August	District Bills	$1,847,833.95

Outstanding Check List

2. Motion to approve the following check to be removed from the outstanding checks list.

Check #	Date	Amount
After School Activities		
1438	1/26/2023	$30.00
Total		$30.00

No Public comment.

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

G. Policy

Motion made by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mr. Forst to approve the following policy recommendations.

1. Motion to approve the following policies/regulations for first read:

P 0144	Board Member Orientation and Training
P 2419	School Threat Assessment Teams
P 2520	Instructional Supplies (M)
P 3217	Use of Corporal Punishment
P 4217	Use of Corporal Punishment
P 5305	Health Services Personnel
P 5308	Student Health Records (M)
P 5310	Health Services (M)
P 6112	Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures (M)
P 6115.04	Federal Funds – Duplication of Benefits
P 6311	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants
P 7440	School District Security
P 8330	Student Records (M)
P 9100	Public Relations ***Abolished***
P 9140	Citizens Advisory Committees (M)
P 9320	Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies

No Public comment.

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

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

- Member of the community #1, requested that in the future policies be highlighted to indicate changes that were made.

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

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

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

New Business

Mrs. Shields – The Rockaway Township Substance Abuse Alliance is scheduled to meet on August 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Rockaway Township Municipal Building.

Mrs. Slamb and Dr. Corbett – IT Department will be updating the district website.

Mrs. Smith – Shared School Business Administrators information on upcoming events. Full details can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-08-16' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-08-16.'

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mr. Forst, to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 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