REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 20, 2023

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

Mrs. Mezik called the meeting to order at 6:08 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 Mrs. Smith to go into closed session at 6:11 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 7:33PM.

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

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:33 PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

- Member of the community #1, student within the district shared his frustration and safety concerns of walking to school and requested bussing be provided for two home addresses.
- Member of the community #2, father of Member of the community #1, reiterated his son's frustration of the bussing situation and asked the Board to reconsider their decision to provide transportation at both home addresses.

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 - 2023-09-20' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-09-20.'

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru 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:

Debbie Buldo Stony Brook PTA Meeting Dates

II. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Shields, seconded by Mrs. Curealru to approve the minutes of September 6, 2023.

Mrs. Smith abstained on Item E-6 under Administration – roll call vote on all above recommendations, all present remaining voting yes, motion carried.

Roll Call Vote to approve the minutes of September 20, 2023 with the noted abstention of Item E-6 under Administration, all present voting yes, motion carried.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- The New Teacher Orientation and the Convocation were held August 28 & 29, and August 30 & 31, respectively. Both events provided teacher time for professional development and to be reacquainted following the summer months.

- Yesterday, I was able to visit each school. During my visits, I saw many smiles coming from the faces of our students and our staff. If I may speak for our district staff, we are happy to see our children are back in school, and the students seem really excited about learning. Thanks to our teachers, who prepared the classrooms, and our custodians who cleaned our buildings, the interior of our schools were clean and ready for the start of a new school year. The asphalt repairs also added to the exterior aesthetics. The heat remained a concern today and we will keep a close eye on Thursday's temperatures. Students remained indoors for lunch and recess yesterday and today.

- During my school visits, I stopped in to meet some of our kitchen staff, now employed by Maschio's. So far, I have received only positive reviews regarding food. The new menu options have resulted in many satisfied customers. I am hopeful that the next 179 days is also positive! We will continue to refine the preordering system for our elementary schools.

- Transportation is a challenge due to a shortage of drivers. Some routes have been outsourced and we have had to adjust some bus stops. Ultimately, we are able to meet our responsibility to transport all students between home and school. Ms. Slamb will have more to say about transportation in her report.

- We are short a vice-principal at CMS. As we begin the process of filling that vacancy, we will compensate by asking qualified teachers to provide discipline support and supervision, primarily for arrival and dismissal.

- Last year, the board facilitated one listening session with a focus on HIB. This year, I am asking the board to expand the number of listening sessions so that we can focus on a variety of relevant issues.

Proposed date:	Proposed theme:
Oct. 4	HIB
Dec. 6	Code of Conduct
Feb. 7	Social Media / Cell phone
April 24	Vaping / Substance abuse

These sessions will be advertised as board meetings, and held at in the CMS Library at 6:00 p.m.

- I have also scheduled PTA district meetings for our PTA officials on October 25, January, 29 and April 29. These meetings are scheduled for 6 p.m. to be held in central office. In recognition of all the work our local PTAs do for our schools, I am recommending that the board recognize the important work of the PTA at their October 18 board meeting.

IV. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Slamb presented the following report:

- In the past two weeks I entered into a negotiation with the district's Bank (PNC) regarding our interest rates. The rates the district accounts were subject to was far below what I would consider acceptable in the current market. I was able to obtain a rate increase from 0.01% in our general account to 4.5%. This will lead to a significant increase in interest income moving forward for the district. That funding will be used to offset line item deficits we have referenced in prior meetings and help to maintain our healthy financial standing.

- I also contacted our Health Benefit's broker regarding their broker fee. While we are in the midst of our current agreement, I felt that through an RFP we could secure a rate reduction. That being said, we have a good relationship with our brokerage and did not feel that their services were insufficient in any way. I gave them the opportunity to revise the rate and maintain the contract. They agreed to a reduction from 3.15% to 2% beginning January 2024. We will then revisit the rate at the July renewal in the interest of moving away from a percentage to a flat fee. This change is beneficial to not only the district, but our employees as well, as they should see a slight decrease in their benefit premiums as a result of this change. While not staggering by any means, and improvement is an improvement. We appreciate our vendors for placing the same value in our relationships as we do.

- Finally, the district will begin its annual audit next week. The Business Office has prepared all necessary documentation and we look forward to Nisivoccia's feedback and final report for the 2023 Fiscal Year.

V. CURRICULUM REPORT

The 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 - 2023-09-20' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-09-20.'

VI. STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

The Student Services Report by Dr. Mollinedo can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-09-20' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-09-20.'

Member of the Community #1, inquired about SEMI. The full public comment and response can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-09-20' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-09-20.'

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Shields – The **Negotiations Committee** is scheduled to meet on September 26, 2023 at 6:00 PM at Copeland Middle School.

The **Operations Committee** is scheduled to meet on October 5, 2023 at 4:30 PM at the Central Office – lower conference room.

Mrs. Smith – The Education Committee met on September 12, 2023 at 4:30 PM until 6:30 PM at the Central Office – lower conference room. In attendance were Dr. Corbett, Mr. Gonnella, Mrs. Mezik, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Smith. Mrs. Mezik attended virtually. Agenda included the following discussions:

- Reviewed NJSLA data
- Professional Development updates
- RTSD curriculum site – for staff and looking forward to look into the parent site in the future

The **Education Committee** is scheduled to meet on October 11, 2023 at 4:30 PM at the Central Office – lower conference room.

Mrs. Curelaru – The Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on September 22, 2023 at 4:30 PM at the Central Office – lower conference room.

VIII. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru 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 *On/Before Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	National Junior Honor Society Advisor	Brian Adams	$950.00 as per the RTEA contracted rate	CMS	23-24 SY		Stipend
2.	Bus Assistant	David D'Alessio	$20.62 p/hr. (Step 1)	TRANS.	*9/25/23	6/30/24	As needed Pending: License, mantoux, and fingerprint approval
3.	Bus Assistant	Rafael Arevalo-Saravi	$20.62 p/hr. (Step 1)	TRANS.	*9/25/23	6/30/24	As needed Pending: License, mantoux, and fingerprint approval
4.	PT Staff Asst.	Denise Cleary	$21.82 p/hr. (Step 4)	KDM	9/21/23	6/30/24	Reassign from a PT Staff Asst. at 17.5 hrs. p/wk. for the office to a PT Staff Asst. at 22.5 hrs. p/wk. for office/lunch
5.	Student Council Advisor	Nicole Gillan	$650.00 as per the RTEA contracted rate	CAD	23-24 SY		Stipend
6.	Lunch Detention Monitor	Nataly Granaturova	$23.00 p/period (1/2 hr.)	CMS	23-24 SY		Not to exceed a total of $4,000.00 cumulatively for this category of position.
7.	PT Staff Asst.	Rebecca Janis	$21.82 p/hr. (Step 4)	SB	9/5/23	6/30/24	Reassign from a PT Staff Asst. at 26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. per the student IEP at KDM to a PT Staff Asst. at 26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. per the student IEP at SB
8.	PT Staff Asst.	Dawn Montesano	$20.62 p/hr. (Step 1)	CAD	9/21/23	6/30/24	26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. per the student IEP
9.	Talent Show Coordinator	Tara Rinko	$350.00 per the RTEA contracted rate	CAD	23-24 SY		Stipend
10.	National Junior Honor Society Advisor	Caryl Sambrato	$950.00 as per the RTEA contracted rate	CMS	23-24 SY		Stipend

11.	Student Council Advisor	Kristen Shinnick	$650.00 as per the RTEA contracted rate	BW	23-24 SY		Stipend
12.	Talent Show Coordinator	Loriana Takacs	$350.00 per the RTEA contracted rate	DBO	23-24 SY		Stipend
13.	Music Teacher	Theresa Weniger	**Prorated** $68,945.00 MA+30 (Step 4)	CMS	*9/11/23	2/23/24	Revised end date Leave Replacement Pending: Physical/Mantoux and Fingerprint approval (Replacing: Employee # 5714)
14.	Administrative Support	Charles Young	$60.00 p/day	CMS	9/5/23	9/20/23	To provide administrative support
15.	Dean of Students	Charles Young	$84,120.00 MA (Step 20)	CMS	09/21/23	06/30/24	To replace VP position for the 23-24 SY only; position and job description below
16.	Additional compensation for Dean of Students	Charles Young	$10,000.00, prorated	CMS	9/21/23	06/30/24	Additional AM and PM hours daily and 5 additional days at the end of the year
17.	Teacher in Charge	Gregory Zinberg	$100.00 p/day	SB	23-24 SY		Per Sidebar
18.	After School Clubs	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	BW	23-24 SY		Pay to Play
19.	After School Clubs	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	CMS	23-24 SY		Pay to Play
20.	After School Clubs	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	DBO	23-24 SY		Pay to Play
21.	After School Clubs	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	KDM	23-24 SY		Pay to Play
22.	After School Programs – Nurses	Per the attached list	$46.00 p/hr.	CMS	23-24 SY		As assigned
23.	After School Programs – Staff Assistants	Per the attached list	$20.00 p/hr.	CMS	23-24 SY		As assigned After School Activities/Evening Chaperones
24.	After School Programs – Substitutes	Per the attached list	Per the contracted rate	CMS	23-24 SY		As needed
25.	After School Programs - Teachers	Per the attached list	$46.00 p/hr.	CMS	23-24 SY		As assigned Evening Chaperones
26.	After School Programs – Teachers	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	CMS	23-24 SY		• Chorale • Jazz Band • Wind Ensemble • Art Studio
27.	Copeland Stipends	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	CMS	23-24 SY		• Basketball

28.	District Translators	Per the attached list	$46.00 p/hr.	DIST.	23-24 SY		As needed

B.	Leave of Absence						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/About Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	Music Teacher	Employee #5714		CMS	8/30/23 11/27/23	11/24/23 2/23/24	Revised With Pay under FMLA Without Pay under NJFLA 12 wks. (Return: 2/26/24)

C.	Resign/Retire						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff. (*On/ before)**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Math Teacher	Charles Young		CMS	9/20/23		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.	Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following amendment to the previously approved motion under Personnel (Motion A-30, 9-6-23 agenda) Handle with Care - approve the following staff as Presenters effective August 31, 2023 at $60.00 p/hr. not to exceed 3 hours.					
	Name	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Elizabeth Adams	**$60.00 p/hr.**		8/31/23		Not to exceed 3 hrs.
2.	Scott Buckley	**$60.00 p/hr.**		8/31/23		Not to exceed 3 hrs.
3.	Natalia Hubisz	**$60.00 p/hr.**		8/31/23		Not to exceed 3 hrs.

To correct hourly rate from $46.00 p/hr. to $60.00 p/hr.

F.	New Positions – Approve the creation of the following position.			
	Name	**Date Effective**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Dean of Students	09/21/23	06/30/24	

G.	Job Description - Approve the creation of the following Job Description.				
	Category	**Name**	**Date Effective**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	D-31	Dean of Students	09/21/23	06/30/24	

Motion by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mrs. Smith to table Item A-A-9 and A-A-12.

Roll Call Vote to table Item A-A-9 and A-A-12, all present voting yes, motion carried.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations excluding Item A-A-9 and A-A-12, all present voting yes, motion carried.

B. Education
Motion made by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Shields to approve the following education recommendations.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves Hand 2 Mind, Inc. to present a workshop on customized math instruction on October 9, 2023 at a cost of $850.00 funded with ESEA FY 2022-2023 Grant.

Field Trips for Approval

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the 09-20-2023 list of field trips *(as per attached).*

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following Student Teacher(s) to complete their fieldwork requirements, during the 2023-2024 school year.

Student Teacher	College University	Cooperating Teacher/School
Jessie Crowell	Montclair State University	Loriana Takacs/DBO
Charlotte O'Donnell	Montclair State University	Catherine Briggs/KDM
Matthew Stone	Kean University	**Matthew Stone**/KDM

Noted that Item B-3 'Matthew Stone – Kean University – that the Cooperating Teacher **'Matthew Stone' be changed to 'TBD'.**

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. Shields, to approve the following special education recommendations.

In District Transportation – SY 2023-2024

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the in district transportation for the 2023-2024 school year to be provided by the Morris County Educational Services Commission for the following students as per their IEP.

A.D.	Katharine D. Malone E.S.
R.A.	Katharine D. Malone E.S.
A.R.G.	Katharine D. Malone E.S.
J.J.L.	Katharine D. Malone E.S.
O.J.L.	Katharine D. Malone E.S.
R.S.	Copeland M.S.
J.D.	Copeland M.S.

Rescind ESY 2023-2024 Tuition

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board agrees to rescind the ESY 2023-2024 program tuition for the following student *(as per attached). *Check for payment was canceled.*

Student #	School	Location	Tuition Rate
A.D.	Stony Brook	Rockaway	Tuition $1,900.00 or $95.00 per diem + Cost for 1:1 aide of $1,600.00 **Total: $3,500.00**

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 Mr. Forst to approve the following administration recommendations.

Subscription Busing

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the subscription busing for student S.R. for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of $1,000. **Noted that the correct rate be changed from $1,000 to $500.**

Subscription Busing

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the subscription busing for student E.A. for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of $500.

YMCA Use of District Premises/Facilities Agreement

3. 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 2023-2024 school year *(as per attached).*

Student Safety Data System Report Period 2 - 01/01/2023 – 06/30/2023

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the submission of the Student Safety Data System Report Period 2 from 01/01/2023 through 06/30/2023 to the New Jersey Department of Education – Morris County Office.

No Public comment.

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

F. Finance

Motion made by Mr. Forst, seconded by Mrs. Shields to approve the following finance recommendations.

Financials

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rockaway Township Board of Education approves the Report of the Secretary and Report of Appropriations, and Report of the Treasurer, for the period ending in August 31, 2023.

   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That this Budget does not include any unapproved appropriations or monies.

   BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockaway Township Board of Education acknowledges that Megan Slamb, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, certifies the following statement:

   Pursuant to NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)(3) and (4), I, Megan Slamb, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, certify that no budgetary line items accounts are over appropriated nor over expended for the period ending August 31, 2023.

   Authorize August 2023 account transfers as submitted *(as per attached).*

Bills

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes payment of the following as approved by the Finance Committee:

A.	August	Student Activities	$193.58
	September	Student Activities	$579.34
B.	August	Student Enrichment	$12,000.04
C.	September	Cafeteria	$88.65
D.	September	State Unemployment	$4,854.45
E.	September	Summer Savings	$43.73
F.	September	District Bills	$2,772,261.96

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.

- Member of the community #1, Dean of Students thanked the Board and administrators for the opportunity to serve the students of Rockaway Township School District.

- Member of the community #1, member of RTEA reminded the community to attend 'Pumpkin Carving Night' on October 12, 2023 at Copeland Middle School.

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

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

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS

New Business

Mrs. Smith – Reminded that the Morris County School Board Association will be having their meeting on October 5, 2023 on Trauma Informed Education.

Mrs. Curelaru – Complimented Mascho's Food Service Company.

Mrs. Shields – The Rockaway Township Substance Abuse Alliance is scheduled to meet on September 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM at Copeland Middle School library.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mr. Forst, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 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