REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
SEPTEMEBR 03, 2025

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 03, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

Dr. Tomasini called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

Ms. McGeary was absent.

Mrs. Curelaru joined the meeting at 7:08PM.

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

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
The New Jersey "Open Public Meetings Act" was passed to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed and acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the "Act", the Rockaway Township Board of Education has caused notice of the date, time and place of said meetings to be published in the "The Daily Record," "The Star-Ledger," and to be posted in all schools in the district, in the Municipal Building of the Township and the Township Library. *Does any Board Member wish to object to the conduct of this meeting for the purpose as stated in the public notice?*

PUBLIC NOTICE
All documentation and material considered by the Board of Education as part of this agenda are available for public review and comment. Members of the public are invited to come to the Board of Education building, off Green Pond Road, during the regular business hours of 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, if they wish to inspect any of the reference items.

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

Motion made by Ms. Tourne, seconded by Mrs. Anderson, to waive the Pledge until open session.

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

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.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to go into closed session at 6:01 PM.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Tourne that the closed session stands adjourned at 7:32 PM.

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

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:32 PM.

Dr. Tomasini reopened the regular business meeting of the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC DISCUSSION
Motion by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Ms. Richardson 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 about the drop off at Birchwood as it has changed from last year.

A member of the community came up and made a proposal to start a ski and snowboarding club at Copeland.

Motion by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Ms. Tourne, to close Public comment.

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

I. COMMUNICATIONS – The Board has not received any new correspondences since the last regular meeting.

II. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the minutes of August 13, 2025.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations.
Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Curelaru, Mrs. Mezik, Ms. Richardson and Ms. Tourne voted yes.
Dr. Tomasini abstained.
Motion carried.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The full Superintendent report can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-09-03' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-09-03.'

The first day of the 2025 school year went extremely well, and I am optimistic that it is a harbinger for the next 179 days. The day was filled with 99.9% happy smiles from both students and staff. So far, there have been no concerns regarding transportation. I am extremely grateful to the Rockaway Township Police Department for their vigilance, which certainly put parents at ease.

This week, teachers are engaging in collaborative discussions and planning regarding summative assessments in the core content areas. Mr. Gonnella and his team continue to work on norming the district's *Character Strong Program* and staff training on the i-Ready *Literacy Tasks*, which is an important tool that helps ensure all students in grades K–6 are screened for dyslexia.

We look forward to welcoming our families to "Back to School Night" on the following dates:

- Copeland-September 9 (Grade 6), September 11 (Grades 7 and 8)
- Stony Brook-September 15
- Dwyer-September 10
- DBO-September 16
- KDM-September 25
- Birchwood-September 30

The Administrative Team Retreat was held the week of August 18. It included intensive planning for the school year, including discussions regarding curriculum, teachers' observations, and special education.

I am always grateful to our PTAs from around the district who do so much to support education in their local schools. We met for the first PTA General Assembly of the 2025- 2026 on Tuesday, August 19. Discussions were beneficial and went beyond the agenda. The participants plan to have two more General Assemblies this year, one before Thanksgiving and a final gathering in the spring.

The start of a new school year is always exciting, in part because I get to meet and greet our new and veteran teachers. New teachers gathered for their orientation on August 25 and 26. They are all enthusiastic about their new responsibilities and are very willing to learn and contribute to our schools.

The Rockaway Township School District Convocation took place on August 27 and 28. Although most people would like to extend the summer, the many smiles reminded me of how fortunate we are to have teachers who truly love what they do.

In conclusion, I am happy to report that the opening day of the 2025 - 2026 school year went very smoothly, and I look forward to working with a great staff to ensure another successful school year.

IV. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The full Business Administrator's report can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-09-03' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-09-03.'

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The full Committee reports can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-09-03' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-09-03'.

VI. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel

Motion made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru, to approve the following personnel recommendations.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approved the following personnel resolutions.

A.	Appointment						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	Spanish Teacher	Claudia Armanetti	1/6 of contracted salary	CMS	25-26 SY		6th Period Sidebar stipend to teach extra Spanish class
2.	Spanish Teacher	Rosana Badishkanian	1/6 of contracted salary	CMS	25-26 SY		6th Period Sidebar stipend to teach extra Spanish class
3.	Cross Country Head Coach	Michael Bernstein	$3,000.00	CMS	25-26 SY		Stipend
4.	Floater Substitute Teacher	Christina Bielski	$185.00 per day	KDM	9/4/25	10/15/25	Reassignment from Substitute to Floater Substitute
5.	Special Education Resource Teacher	Christina Bielski	$64,630.00 BA (Step 3) prorated	KDM	10/16/25	3/27/26	Leave Replacement (Replacing Employee #6370)
6.	Cross Country Assistant Coach	Dominique Brock	$2,100.00	CMS	25-26 SY		Stipend
7.	PT Bus Monitor/Staff Assistant	Cessia Castro	$22.18/hr. (Step 1)	TRANS.	9/4/25	6/30/26	17.5 hrs./wk. Pending physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval
8.	New Teacher Orientation Presenter	Scott Credidio	$120.00 Stipend	DIST.	**8/25/25	**8/25/25	Stipend inclusive of planning and presentation
9.	Safety and Compliance Monitor	John James	$2,000.00 stipend	DBO	25-26 SY		Stipend to provide supervision on additional PM bus run through Pond View Estates
10.	PT Staff Assistant	Stephanie Moskowitz	$22.18/hr. (Step 1)	KDM	9/4/25	6/30/26	1:1 per student IEP 26 hrs./wk., 5 days/wk. Pending physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval
11.	Spanish Teacher	Christopher Phillips	1/6 of contracted salary	CMS	25-26 SY		6th Period Sidebar stipend to teach extra Spanish class
12.	Administrative Substitute	Margaret Price	$250.00 per day	CO	**9/2/25	12/31/25	As needed Pending physical/Mantoux
13.	PT School Counselor	Emily Protasiewicz	$47,925.00 MA (Step 13)	SB	9/4/25	6/30/26	0.6 FTE Pending physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval Replacing S Russo
14.	MLL Coordinator	Ayla Quaglio	$5,000.00 stipend	DIST.	25-26 SY		
15.	Head Nurse	Krista Schellinck	$5,000.00 stipend	DIST.	25-26 SY		

B.	Appointments Per Attached Lists						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	2025-2026 Horizontal Movement	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	25-26 SY		Movement on guide per the attached list
2.	2025-2026 Reassignments - Staff Assistants	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	25-26 SY		Per the attached list
3.	2025-2026 District Mentors	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	25-26 SY		Per the attached list
4.	2025-2026 Bus Drivers	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	25-26 SY		Per the attached list
5.	2025-2026 CMS Stipend Positions	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	25-26 SY		Per the attached list

C.	Leave of Absence						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	Special Education Resource Teacher	6462		KDM	12/1/25 2/2/26	1/30/26 5/1/26	With Pay under FMLA Without Pay under NJFLA Return: 5/4/26
2.	PT Night Custodian	6712		BWD	**8/25/25	8/26/25	Extended Without Pay Return: 8/27/25

D.	Resign/Retire/Termination						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.		Employee 7162		CO		11/3/25	Termination
2.	Special Education Resource Teacher	Cassi Deighan		SB		**8/26/25	Resign
3.	PT Staff Assistant	Leslie Feinson		CAD		**8/14/25	Resign
4.	PT Staff Assistant	Keisha Griffith		CMS		**7/1/25	Resign
5.	Language Arts Teacher	LeeAnn Hurley		CMS		1/1/2026	Retire
6.	PT Staff Assistant	Maria Leach		BWD		9/8/25	Resign
7.	PT Staff Assistant	Emely Lopez		BWD		**8/12/25	Resign
8.	PT Staff Assistant	Dawn Montesano		BWD		**8/31/25	Resign
9.	Special Education Teacher	Laura Porretta		CMS		1/31/26	Retire
10.	School Counselor	Susan Russo		SB		**8/26/25	Resign
11.	PT Staff Assistant	Phillip Savarin		CMS		9/17/25	Resign

E.	Substitutes – New Hires and Renewals						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	Substitute Teachers – New Hires	Per the attached list	$175.00 per day	DIST.	25-26 SY		New Hires
2.	Substitutes - Renewals	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	DIST.	25-26 SY		Renewals

Personnel Items Key		
**on/before effective date*	***concurrent*	****on/after effective date*

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

B. **Education**

Motion made by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Ms. Tourne to approve the following education recommendations.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board agrees to 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**	**Organization**	**Workshop Location**	**Workshop Dates**	**Registration Fee**	**Travel/Hotel /Incidentals Cost**	**Total Cost**
Dustin Bayer	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	9/30/25	$165.00	$80.99	$245.99
Nancy Beiermeister	Transportation Table Workshop	School Transportation Supervisors of NJ	Randolph, NJ	9/16/25	No cost	$11.93	$11.93
Kelly Bodnar	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	10/1/25	$165.00	$78.11	$243.11
Alexa Case	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	9/29/25	$165.00	$77.26	$242.26
Christine Ciampi	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	9/30/25	$165.00	$79.72	$244.72
Joan Hoyt	FMLA Training	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	10/15/25	$145.00	$88.36	$233.36
Natalia Hubisz	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	9/30/25	$165.00	$80.56	$245.56
Daria Napolitano	CPR Instructor Recertification	Team Life	Colts Neck, NJ	9/29/25	No cost	$63.07	$63.07
Sonya Patel	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	10/1/25	$165.00	$93.72	$258.72
Alison Piano	Connecting the Dots: Designing Intervention Referral Pathways and Risk Assessment and Response Protocols to Support Student Mental Health	NJ Principals and Supervisors Association	Monroe, NJ	9/25/25	No Cost	$68.47	$68.47
Alison Piano	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	9/29/25	$165.00	$64.57	$229.57
Doreen Pickett	FMLA Training	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	10/15/25	$145.00	N/A	$165.00
Kathryn Pietrowski	Connecting the Dots: Designing Intervention Referral Pathways	NJ Principals and Supervisors Association	Monroe, NJ	9/25/25	No Cost	$56.87	$56.87

	and Risk Assessment and Response Protocols to Support Student Mental Health						
Kathryn Pietrowski	NJ Leadership Academy	NJ Principals and Supervisors Association	Virtual	October 2, 29, and December 17, 2025	$450.00	N/A	$450.00
Kathryn Pietrowski	De-escalation Strategies	School Alliance Insurance Fund	Sparta, NJ	9/18/25	No Cost	$9.87	$9.87
Brian Rawlins	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	9/29/25	$165.00	$72.75	$237.75
Maria Rivera	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	9/30/25	$165.00	$81.96	$246.96
Hanan Saadah	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	9/29/25	$165.00	$72.94	$237.94
Kelsey Santiago	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	10/1/25	$165.00	$85.40	$250.40
Gaetano Sollazzo	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	10/1/25	$165.00	$79.00	$244.00
Gaetano Sollazzo	HIB Law Update: 2025-2026	NJ Principals and Supervisors Association	Virtual	10/30/25	$125.00	N/A	$125.00
Stephen Wisniewski	HIB Training Program	Strauss Esmay Associates, LLP	Toms River, NJ	10/1/25	$165.00	$68.00	233.00

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following student(s) to complete their MSW fieldwork during the 2025-2026 school year, commencing on or about September 4, 2025-December 22, 2025.

Student Teacher	**College/University**	**Cooperating Teacher/School**
Nicole Matos	Rutgers University	Cynthia Harvey/CMS

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following student(s) to complete their Level 2 clinical experience during the 2025-2026 school year, commencing on/about December 1, 2025-February 12, 2026.

Student Teacher	**College/University**	**Cooperating Teacher/School**
Zachary Brady*	Stockton University	Tara Wach & Erin Meineke/All Schools

*Pending satisfactory completion of District requirements

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following student(s) to complete their Clinical I and Clinical II requirements during the Fall 2025 semester and the Spring 2026 Semester.

Student Teacher	**College/University**	**Cooperating Teacher/School**
Amanda Ladorimak*	Montclair State University	Elyse Webster/CAD

*Pending satisfactory completion of District requirements

5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the list of field trips (as per attached).

6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the amendment to the previously approved motion (8-13-25, Education, B:2) (as per attached).

No Public comment.

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

C. Special Education

Motion made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Tourne, to approve the following Special Education recommendations.

1. In District Placement Tuition – for SY 2025-2026

Student #	School	Location	Tuition Rate
# 00017	Stony Brook	Rockaway	**Tuition Received** $43,747.00 Tuition rates include up to (1) hour per week of related services (OT, PT, Speech, Counseling). All services above (1) hour are billed at $94.00 per hour.

2. Out of District Placement Tuition – for SY 2025-2026

Student #	School	Location	Tuition Rate
# 00313	Winston Preparatory School	Whippany	**Tuition Rate Monthly** ESY 2025 $5,250.00 and $6,648.00 from September 2025 through June 2026

No public comment.

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

D. Administration
Motion made by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the following administration recommendations.

1. Student Safety Data System Report Period 2 – 01/01/2025 – 06/30/2025
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the submission of the Student Safety Data Report Period 2 – 01/01/2025 – 06/30/2025 to the New Jersey Department of Education – Morris County Office (as per attached).

2. Subscription Busing
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the subscription busing for student I.N. for The 2025-2026 school year. One way AM Transport fee for $588.50.

3. Subscription Busing
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the subscription busing for student A.Y. for the 2025-2026 school year. One way AM Transport fee for $588.50.

4. Subscription Busing
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the subscription busing for student N.P. and Z.P. for the 2025-2026 school year. Two-way Transport fee for both $2,354.00.

5. DAB Solutions, LLC – Service Agreement
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the agreement between Rockaway Township Board of Education and DAB Solutions, LLC to provide the District with residency compliance for the 2025-2026 school year (as per attached).

No public comment.

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

E. Finance
Motion made by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Ms. Tourne to approve the following finance recommendations.

1. Financials
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 **June 30, 2025.**

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 June 30, 2025.

Authorize June 2025 account transfers as submitted.

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the submission of the 2025-2026 Elementary And Secondary Education Act (ESEA) application and acceptance of the funds as follows:

Title I	$101,658.00
Title II	$39,900.00
Title III	$16,649.00
Title III Immigrant	$4,736.00
Title IV	$10,000.00

3. Payment Application #001 to Northeastern Interior Services
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes payment application #001 in the amount of $1,171,401.31 for Window Replacement at Katharine D. Malone Elementary School (as per attached).

No public comment.

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

F. Policy
Motion made by Ms. Tourne, seconded by Ms. Curelaru to approve the following policy recommendations.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approve the following policies for second read:

P 8507	BREAKFAST OFFER VERSUS SERVE (OVS)
P 1648.11	THE ROAD FORWARD COVID-19 – HEALTH AND SAFETY (ABOLISHED)
P 1648.13	SCHOOL EMPLOYEE VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS (ABOLISHED)
P 1648.15	RECORDKEEPING FOR HEALTHCARE SETTINGS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS- COVID-19 (ABOLISHED)
P 3244	IN-SERVICE TRAINING (M) (ABOLISHED)
P 3431.3	NEW JERSEY'S FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE PROGRAM (ABOLISHED)
P 3432	SICK LEAVE (ABOLISHED)
P 4431.3	NEW JERSEY'S FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE PROGRAM (ABOLISHED)
P 4432	SICK LEAVE (ABOLISHED)
P 8540	SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (ABOLISHED)
P 8550	MEAL CHARGES/OUTSTANDING FOOD SERVICE BILL (ABOLISHED)

No public comment.

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

Motion by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to open the second public session of the meeting.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes.

No members of the community spoke.

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

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

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Old Business
No old Business to discuss.

New Business

Ms. Richardson- Would like to recommend adding an Ad Hoc Safety and Security Committee. Dr. Tomasini agreed and between the Board they will form a committee.

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 – 2025-09-03' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-09-03'.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mrs. Anderson, meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan S. Slamb

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