EXECUTIVE SESSION
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 30, 2025

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

Dr. Tomasini called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

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

Ms. Richardson joined the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Mrs. Curelaru was absent.

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

The following items were discussed in closed session:

- Agenda - Questions /Changes
- HIB/Suspensions
- Personnel
- President's Update

Respectfully submitted,

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

REGULAR MEETING
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Ms. Richardson joined the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Mrs. Curelaru was absent.

Also present were Dr. Corbett, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Slamb, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. Baldofsky, 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 Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. McGeary, 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. McGeary, seconded by Ms. Tourne to go into closed session at 5:31 PM.

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

Motion made by Ms. McGeary, seconded by Ms. Tourne 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.

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 Mrs. Anderson to open Public comment.

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

No members of public spoke.

Motion by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Richardson, 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. Anderson, seconded by Ms. McGeary to approve the minutes of April 09,2025 and NJSBA minutes.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, 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 – 2025-04-30' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-04-30.'

I am pleased to recommend Maria Rivera to the Board as the next Principal of Birchwood Elementary School, effective July 1, 2025. Maria is an experienced school administrator and currently serves as vice-principal of Glen Rock High School. Maria will say a few words of introduction following her official appointment by the Board this evening.

Notifications regarding gypsy moth spraying have been sent by the Town and the District to the effective families in the northern section of Rockaway Township. The window for spraying is between May 15 and June 16, as determined by the Department of Agriculture. Spraying may take three days, and the exact days have not been determined.

As a reminder to the board and the public, on June 11 we will present to the Board an update regarding this year's District Goals and the Strategic Plan.

IV. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Dwyer sign is up and running.

V. BUDGET PRESENTATION 2025-2026

The full Budget presentation can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-04-30' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-04-30.'

No Board members commented.
Opened it to the public for questions.

A member of the community came up and asked questions that Mrs. Slamb answered.

VI. REFERENDUM PRESENATATION

The full Referendum presentation can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-04-30' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-04-30'.

VII. 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 – 2025-04-30' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-04-30'.

VIII. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel

Motion made by Ms. McGeary, seconded by Ms. Tourne, 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.	Academic Intervention Teacher	Kelly Dacus-Smith	$65,735.00 MA (Step 1)	CAD	**4/22/25	6/30/25	Reassignment of Leave Replacement from English Teacher at CMS to AI Teacher at CAD
2.	PT Staff Assistant	Scarlett Eckert	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	DBO	5/1/25	6/30/25	Per student IEP, 26 hrs./week Step frozen for 25-26 SY Pending physical/Mantoux
3.	Substitute Bus Driver	Terry Jenkins	$27.00/hr.	TRANS.	**4/23/25	6/30/25	Reassignment from Substitute Bus Monitor to Substitute Driver As needed
4.	PT Staff Assistant	Ana Lotito	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	BWD	5/1/25	6/30/25	Per student IEP, 26 hrs./week Step frozen for 25-26 SY Pending physical/Mantoux
5.	District Translator	Ana Lotito	$48.00/hr.	DIST.	24-25 SY		Spanish
6.	MLL Screener	Kathleen Nangle	$48.00/hr.	DIST.	24-25 SY		
7.	Substitute Custodian	Katherine Pepin	Contracted rate of pay	DIST.	5/1/25	6/30/25	As needed
8.	Substitute Custodian	Katherine Pepin	Contracted rate of pay	DIST.	7/1/25	6/30/26	As needed
9.	Test Coordinator	Shannon Podprugin	$48.00/hr.	CMS	24-25 SY		Not to exceed 30 hours
10.	MLL Coordinator	Ayla Quaglio	$1,000.00	DIST.	5/1/25	6/30/25	One-fifth of Stipend (Replacing N Gillan)
11.	PT Staff Assistant	Julissa Reyes Rivera	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	KDM	***5/1/25	6/30/25	Per student IEP, 26 hrs./week Step frozen for 25-26 SY Pending physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval (Replacing M Malzahn)
12.	District Translator	Julissa Reyes Rivera	$48.00/hr.	DIST.	24-25 SY		Spanish
13.	School Principal	Maria Rivera	$133,000.00	BWD	7/1/25	6/30/26	(Replacing J Macones)
14.	Substitute Teacher	Marie Takacs	$175.00/day	DIST.	24-25 SY		

B.	Appointments Per Attached Lists						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	ESY Program – Nurses/ Substitute Nurses	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay		6/30/25	7/29/25	Not to exceed 75 hours collectively
2.	ESY Program – Related Services	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay		6/30/25	7/29/25	Not to exceed 75 total hours
3.	ESY Program – Teachers	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay		6/30/25	7/29/25	Not to exceed 75 total hours
4.	ESY Program – Substitute Teachers	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay		6/30/25	7/29/25	Not to exceed 75 total hours
5.	ESY Program – Staff Assistants/ Sub. Staff Assistants	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay		6/30/25	7/29/25	Not to exceed 75 total hours
6.	Kindergarten Open House Preparation	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay		7/1/25	8/25/25	Not to exceed 2 hours

C.	Leave of Absence						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	PT Staff Assistant	5642		DBO	**4/25/25	5/13/25	With Pay Return: 5/14/25

D.	Resign/Retire						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	Science Teacher	Geraldine Collins		CMS		7/1/25	Retire
2.	Special Education Teacher	Jacqueline Messina		BWD		7/1/25	Resign
3.	PT Staff Assistant	4417		BWD		**4/11/25	Deceased

E.	Reemployment - approve the reemployment and salaries for the following staff for the 2025-2026 school year					
	Nature of Action	**Position**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Effective**	**Discussion**
1.	Reemployment	Administrators	Per the contracted salary	DIST.	25/26 SY	Per the attached list
2.	Reemployment	Custodial/Maintenance	Per the contracted salary	MAINT.	25/26 SY	Per the attached list
3.	Reemployment	Miscellaneous Staff	Per the contracted salary	DIST.	25/26 SY	Per the attached list
4.	Reemployment	Secretarial/Clerical	Per the contracted salary	DIST.	25/26 SY	Per the attached list
5.	Reemployment	Staff Assistants	Per the contracted salary	DIST.	25/26 SY	Per the attached list
6.	Reemployment	Teachers	Per the contracted salary	DIST.	25/26 SY	Per the attached list
7.	Reemployment	Technology Department	Per the contracted salary	DIST.	25/26 SY	Per the attached list
8.	Reemployment	Transportation Department	Per the contracted salary	TRANS.	25/26 SY	Per the attached list

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. **HIB Determination**

Motion made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. McGeary, to approve the following HIB determination.

HIB Resolution

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB Incidents: #285997 unconfirmed, 285998 unconfirmed, #288140 unconfirmed, #288327 unconfirmed, #289090 unconfirmed, #289229 unconfirmed, #289231 unconfirmed, #289233 unconfirmed, #289256 confirmed, #289257 unconfirmed, #289702 unconfirmed, #289736 unconfirmed, #289855 confirmed, #289974 unconfirmed which were conducted following these complaints; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT resolved that the Board of Education votes to affirm the Superintendent's recommendation on HIB cases: #285997 unconfirmed, #258998 unconfirmed, #288140 unconfirmed, #288327 unconfirmed, #289090 unconfirmed, #289229 unconfirmed, #289231 unconfirmed, #289233 unconfirmed, #289256 confirmed, #289257 unconfirmed, #289702 unconfirmed, #289736 unconfirmed, #289855 confirmed, #289974 unconfirmed.

HIB Current Investigations:

#289976	#290240	#290719
#291046	#291128	#291431

HIB Incident Summary: as per attached

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

C. 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
Nancy Beiermeister	OFAC Criminal History & School Bus Safety Training Program	NJ Department of Education	Morris Plains, NJ	4/29/25	No Cost	$12.00	$12.00
Pam Melyan-Bratton	All In Inclusion Leadership Conference	All In for Inclusive Ed	Union, NJ	6/6/25	No Cost	$28.39	$28.39
Cherry Wnek	All In Inclusion Leadership Conference	All In for Inclusive Ed	Union, NJ	6/6/25	No Cost	$28.39	$28.39
Greg Zinberg	School Safety/School Climate Teams (SS/SCT): Role and Responsibilities	NJDOE	Virtual	5/12/25	No Cost	N/A	$0.00

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following Student Teacher(s) to complete their fieldwork requirements during the Spring 2025 semester, Fall 2025 Semester and Spring 2026 semester.

Student Teacher/Intern	College/University	Cooperating Teacher/Location
Anthony Agnoli*	Montville High School	Pia Bose/KDM

*Pending satisfactory completion of District requirements

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the Field Trip request (as per attached).

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board agrees to adopt the following revised Rockaway Township School District Curriculum (as per attached).

5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the creation of the Interact Club, effective immediately and extending to the 2025 -2026 school year for students attending Copeland Middle School. The Interact Club will require one club moderator (TBD) who shall be compensated at the contractual rate (XI.C.f.) of $350 per quarter.

No Public comment.

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

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

1.Extended School Year 2024-2025 Transportation
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the extended school year transportation provided by the Educational Services Commission of Morris County for the following students as per their IEP needs.

Student Number	Attending School
#02234	Stony Brook
#00194	P.G. Chambers
#00733	P.G. Chambers
#00561	Stony Brook
#00423	Stony Brook
#02526	Mountain Lakes High School
#00354	Garden Academy
#00322	Cornerstone Day School
#10301	Pillar Elementary

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

E. Administration
Motion made by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Ms. McGeary, to approve the following administration recommendations.

1.School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report
Motion to approve the Spring submission of the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report for the 2024-2025 school year (as per attached).

2.Sidebar Agreement – Rockaway Township Education Association (RTEA) – Secretarial
Motion to approve the sidebar agreement between Rockaway Township Board of Education (RTBOE) and the Rockaway Township Education Association (RTEA) – Secretarial to be effective July 1, 2025 for the period ending June 30, 2027 (as per attached).

3.Employment Contract – School Business Administrator/Board Secretary – Megan S. Slamb
Be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the employment contract of Megan S. Slamb, School Business Administrator / Board Secretary for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in accordance with the contract approved by the Executive County Superintendent 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.

F. Finance
Motion made by Ms. Tourne, seconded by Ms. McGeary to approve the following finance recommendations.

1. Adopt The Final Budget
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board adopts the Final Budget for School Year 2025-2026.

Rockaway Township Public Schools
Adoption of the Final Budget for School Year 2025-2026

BE IT RESOLVED that the final budget be approved for the 2025-2026 school year using the 2025-2026 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit to the Executive County Superintendent for approval in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6:

	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total

Total Expenditures	$64,084,950	$685,619	$0	$64,770,569
Less Anticipated Revenues	$10,480,696	$685,619	$0	$11,166,315
Local Tax Levy to be Raised	$53,604,254	$0	$0	$53,604,254

ADJUSTMENT FOR BANKED CAP: $243,583

BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockaway Township Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of $243,583. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to ensure the continuation and growth of our curricular programs, ensure the retention of high-quality staff, and endure the continued increased costs related to healthcare, transportation, and tuition as well as general annual inflation. The Board of Education will complete this by June 30, 2026 and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

MAXIMUM TRAVEL

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, a board of education must establish a maximum dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq., BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the final budget a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of **$93,600** for the 2025-2026 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2024-2025 school year is $93,600, of which, $20,845 has been spent and an additional $5391 is encumbered to date.

TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

The Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district;

AND, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board;

AND, a board of education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of $150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30);

AND, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the board of education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education includes in the final budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of $93,600 for all staff and board members for the 2025-2026 school year.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

CAPITAL RESERVE

Capital Reserve Account Withdrawal: $2,447,010

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the budget a Capital Reserve withdrawal in the amount of $2,447,010 for the purpose of a district-wide flooring project, Bleacher replacements at CMS, district-wide Phone System replacement, Camera Replacement Project, Window Replacement Project KDM, Auditorium Audio Project CMS, and Playground Upgrade Project KDM.

MAINTENANCE RESERVE

Maintenance Reserve Account Withdrawal: $50,000

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the budget a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of $50,000 for the purpose of district-wide repairs and improvements for both aesthetic and functional needs.

EMERGENCY RESERVE

Emergency Reserve Account Withdrawal: $50,000

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the budget an emergency reserve withdrawal in the amount of $50,000 for the purpose of the Camera Replacement Project.

2. 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 **March 31, 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 March 31, 2025.

Authorize March 2025 account transfers as submitted.

3. Bills

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

A.	March	Cafeteria	$ 95,429.42
B.	April	Cafeteria	$ 103,029.09
C.	March	After School Activities	$ 6,323.23
D.	April	After School Activities	$ 2,821.71
E.	March	Student Activities	$ 24,571.28
F.	April	Student Activities	$ 7,036.93
G.	April	State Unemployment	$ 49,725.16
H.	April	District Bills	$ 5,422,580.73

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

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

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes.

A member of the community came up and spoke about the Referendum.

Motion by Ms. Tourne, 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

No old business to discuss.

New Business

Mrs. Anderson- Wanted to thank the teachers of Rockaway Township since next week is going to be Teacher Appreciation Week. She also wanted to give a shout out to Copeland and Mr. Bayer as the students went on a trip and the Vietnam Vet tour and the students were so good and well behaved.
Mrs. Mezik- MCSBA will be having its 3rd annual Nancy Helbourg award ceremony at Mt. Olive High School on May 7th.
Ms. McGeary- On May 13th at Copeland from 5:30pm-7:30pm the Community Wellness fair.
Mrs. Slamb- Wanted to thank her administrative team for all their work.

Dr. Tomasini- Wanted to thank his fellow Board members for all their hard work and time to make this community great for the kids.
Dr. Corbett- Mr. Bayer and Dr. Corbett will be visiting each elementary school to prepare the 5th graders for Copeland and the high standards for academic and behavior.

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 – 202-04-30' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2025-04-30'.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ms. McGeary, seconded by Mrs. Anderson, meeting adjourned at 9:10 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