REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
July 19, 2023

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

Mrs. Mezik called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

The following members of the Board of Education were present in-person: 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. Shields to go into closed session at 6:04 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 7:31 PM.

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

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:31 PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD MEMBER VACANCY – INTERVIEWS

The full interview session can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-07-19' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-07-19.'

Board Member Nomination Results

Motion by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mr. Forst to open for board discussion of candidates.

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

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith to close for board discussion of candidates.

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

Motion by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Dr. Tomasini to commence voting in order of letter of interest.

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

Motion by Mrs. Shields, seconded by Mrs. Smith to open for further discussion of candidates.

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

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields to close further discussion of candidates.

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

The following were results for the nomination of the new board member:

Nomination for Noel Anderson

First Roll Call Vote Noel Anderson					
Mrs. Curelaru	**Mr. Forst**	**Mrs. Shields**	**Mrs. Smith**	**Dr. Tomasini**	**Mrs. Mezik**
Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes

Second Roll Call Vote Noel Anderson					
Mrs. Curelaru	**Mr. Forst**	**Mrs. Shields**	**Mrs. Smith**	**Dr. Tomasini**	**Mrs. Mezik**
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Nomination for Olivier Borno

Roll Call Vote Olivier Borno					
Mrs. Curelaru	**Mr. Forst**	**Mrs. Shields**	**Mrs. Smith**	**Dr. Tomasini**	**Mrs. Mezik**
No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No

Nomination for Juana Shapiro

Roll Call Vote Juana Shapiro					
Mrs. Curelaru	**Mr. Forst**	**Mrs. Shields**	**Mrs. Smith**	**Dr. Tomasini**	**Mrs. Mezik**
No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

Mrs. Mezik announced Mrs. Anderson as the newly appointed board member.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mr. Forst to open the public session of the meeting.

No Public comment.

Motion by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mrs. Shields 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:

Olivier Borno	Announcement Of Vacancy - Board Member
Juana Shapiro	Letter of Interest for Board Member Vacancy
Susanne Jackson	BOE Open Seat

II. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Forst, seconded by Dr. Tomasini to approve the minutes of June 28, 2023.

Roll Call Vote to approve the minutes of June 28, 2023, all present voting yes, motion carried.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

We have been working hard, interviewing candidates to fill two key positions which include middle school vice-principal and supervisor of special education. On Friday, we identified Katherine Pietrowski as the most qualified candidate to fill the position of supervisor of special education. She is on the agenda for board approval this evening.

In addition, staff assistant reassignments have been completed and board approvals are on the agenda. All staff assistants will receive assignment letters on/about August 1, 2023.

A new and detailed staff handbook is being prepared and will be on the August 16 board agenda for approval. It will be provided to board members for review prior to the meeting.

Finally, we are in the process of interviewing qualified candidates to fill other openings in the position control roster which include:

The Buildings & Grounds department has been hard at work with various repairs and updates. Renovations at Central Office are well underway, with demolition/removal complete and new drywall already installed in the Business Office and Human Resources area. The team is on track to wrap up the project next week. Our paving projects are progressing well, despite the rainy weather we experienced at the beginning of the month. Copeland, Dwyer and Birchwood are complete and KDM should start soon, depending on the weather. Our custodial team is also hard at work with their summer cleaning regimen. Classrooms are being refreshed and spaces are being re-organized in anticipation of our students and staff returning in September. We will continue to work our way down the "To Do List" as we head toward the end of the month and into August.

Staff began ESY on July 5th with 27 teachers and reading specialists, 11 related service providers, and 48 staff assistance. The Director of Pupil Services, Alain Mollinedo, and Supervisor of Special Education, Maria Meo, were there to introduce themselves. Approximately 124 students were welcomed on July 6th. Ruthanne Champagne orchestrated a very smooth opening for both students and staff. ESY will run through August 2, 2023. Despite some minor issues (some kids got off at SB instead of CMS) transportation went smoothly. Students typically participate in a morning meeting, ELA and math instruction, with breaks in between. Dr. Mollinedo and Ms. Meo will be visiting the program frequently.

Our PTAs are essential to the success of our students. To provide greater support to our PTAs, I intend to plan a PTA General Assembly, August 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Up to three board members are welcome to attend.

In partial completion of his Eagle Scout requirements, gaga ball pits have been successfully installed by Andrew Scott. I will be meeting with him on July 26 to confirm completion and discuss loose ends. On behalf of the board and our students and staff, I thank Andrew for his hard work.

As you know, Mrs. Mezik is in the process of scheduling the board retreat which will include the following topics: referendum, district /board goals, & HIB procedures. To prepare for the referendum discussion, board members have been provided with three important reports:

- Demographic Study
- LAN Study (Since this is a very large file with several documents, I've also share it with each board member. See your email.)
- District owned property.

To facilitate the discussion, I recommend that board members have mini discussion prior with board colleagues (limit group discussion to three) and be prepared to present recommendations to the full board during the retreat.

IV. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Slamb presented the following report:

The Buildings & Grounds department has been hard at work with various repairs and updates. Renovations at Central Office are well underway, with demolition/removal complete and new drywall already installed in the Business Office and Human Resources area. The team is on track to wrap up the project next week. Our Paving Project is progressing as well, despite the rainy weather we experienced at the beginning of the month. Copeland's lot is complete, Dwyer and Birchwood are wrapping up today, and we will begin our work at KDM tomorrow (weather permitting). Our custodial team is also hard at work with their summer cleaning regimen. Classrooms are being refreshed and spaces are being re-organized in anticipation of our students and staff returning in September. We will continue to work our way down the "To Do List" as we head toward the end of the month and into August.

Earlier today we hosted a district walk through for potential Architects of Record in coordination with our RFP. We had a great turn out, with six firms showing interest in the district. Proposals are due to the district by August 4th and we will then review the submissions in coordination with the Operations Committee.

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 - 2023-07-19' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-07-19.'

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Shields – The **Negotiations Committee** is in the progress of scheduling a mediation session with the administrators. Date to be determined.

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 is scheduled to meet on July 26, 2023 at 4:15 PM at the Central Office – lower conference room. Mrs. Shields will be sitting in for Mrs. Lukany.

VII. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mr. Forst 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.	FT Staff Asst.	Kathleen Adams	$22,325.00 (Step 6)	CMS	9/1/23	6/30/24	Reassign from a PT Staff Asst. at KDM to a FT Staff Asst. in the Autism class at CMS. (Replacing: S. Stanulis)
2.	FT Staff Asst.	Jessica Campbell	$21,390.00 (Step 2)	CMS	9/1/23	6/30/24	New position Reassign from a PT Staff Asst. at CMS to a FT Staff Asst. in the LLD class at CMS
3.	Vice Principal	Ruthann Champagne	**Prorated** $98,500.00	CMS	8/14/23	6/30/24	(Replacing: B. Brace)
4.	Kindergarten Teacher	Lauren Corsini	**Prorated** $60,630.00 BA (Step 1)	SB	10/9/23	6/30/24	Leave Replacement (Replacing: K. Marini)
5.	FT Staff Asst.	Lois Crispino	$21,765.00 (Step 4)	SB	9/1/23	6/30/24	Reassign from a PT Staff Asst. at SB to a FT Staff Asst. at SB (Replacing: T. Sopchak)
6.	Language Arts Teacher	Hendi Cumberton	$75,330.00 MA (Step 11)	CMS	8/30/23	6/30/24	Pending: Physical/Mantoux (Replacing: L. Crispino
7.	Supervisor of Special Education	Kathryn Pietrowski	**Prorated** $100,000.00	CO	*9/20/23	6/30/24	Pending: Physical/Mantoux, Fingerprint Approval, and other

							relevant personnel documents (Replacing: M. Meo)
8.	FT Staff Asst.	Eileen Quinn	$21,390.00 (Step 2)	CMS	9/1/23	6/30/24	New position Reassign from a PT Staff Asst. at CMS to a FT 1:1 Staff Asst. at CMS
9.	FT Staff Asst.	Susan Ritz	$26,160.00 (Step 18)	CMS	9/1/23	6/30/24	New position Reassign from a PT Staff Asst. at CMS to a FT Staff Asst. in the Autism class at CMS
10.	Immigrant Liaison	Tangelin Rivera	$3,000.00	DIST.	23-24 SY		Stipend
11.	FT Staff Asst.	Maria Scordo	$21,390.00 (Step 2)	CMS	9/1/23	6/30/24	New position Reassign from a PT Staff Asst. at CMS to a FT Staff Asst.in the BD class at CMS
12.	Flex Teacher	Teresa Sopchak	$60,630.00 BA (Step 1)	SB	8/30/23	6/30/24	Reassign from a FT Staff Asst. at SB to a Flex Teacher at SB (Replacing: C. Dorer)
13.	Academic Intervention Teacher	Carolyn Willis	**Prorated** $61,630.00 BA (Step 2)	SB	8/30/23	1/12/24	Leave Replacement (Replacing: S. Fiederer)
14.	Bagels and Books	Per the attached list	$46.00 p/hr.	CMS	7/19/23 and 8/16/2023		Per the attached
15.	Bagels and Locks	Per the attached list	$46.00 p/hr.	CMS	8/22/23 and 8/24/23		Per the attached
16.	Clerk Typists	Per the attached list	Per the contractual rate of pay	DIST.	8/1/23	8/25/23	Not to exceed 10 hrs. ea. To assist School Secretaries with the re-opening of schools

B.	Leave of Absence						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/About Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	Custodian	Carlos Hoyos		MAINT./CMS	7/10/23	8/25/23	Extended With Pay under FMLA Return: 8/28/23

C.	Resign/Retire						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff. (*on/ before)**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Vice Principal	Bree Brace		CMS	*8/28/23		Resign
2.	PT Staff Asst.	Sophie Cabrera		CAD	7/1/23		Resign
3.	Special Education Multiple	Ruthann Champagne		KDM	8/13/23		Resign

	Disabilities Teacher						
4.	PT Staff Asst.	Lauren Corsini		SB	10/8/23		Resign
5.	ESY Staff Asst.	Roman Eshete		DIST.	6/30/23		Rescinded
6.	PT Clerk Typist	Jill Frendo		CAD	7/1/23		Resign
7.	PT Clerk Typist	Michelle Gioioso		KDM	7/1/23		Resign
8.	PT Staff Asst.	Samantha Hoehn		KDM	7/1/23		Resign
9.	PT Staff Asst.	Judith Levinson		CMS	7/1/23		Resign
10.	Reading Specialist	Alisha Nichols		CMS	8/30/23		Resign
11.	PT Staff Asst.	Zachary Sotomayor		CMS	7/1/23		Resign
12.	PT Staff Asst.	Carolyn Willis		SB	8/29/23		Resign

D.	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

E.	Motion to approve an amendment to the previously approved motion under Personnel (Motion D-1, 6-28-23 agenda) Reassignment - approve the reassignments for the following staff, for the 2023-2024 school year						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	PT Physical Therapist	Tara Wach		DBO/SB/CMS	8/30/23	6/30/24	FTE Adjustment from 1.0 to 0.8

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

B. HIB Resolution

Motion made by Mrs. Shields, 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: #9668 unconfirmed, #9920 confirmed, #10035 confirmed, #10045 confirmed, #10087 unconfirmed, #10124 confirmed, #10126 confirmed, #10127 confirmed, #10159 unconfirmed, #10204 confirmed, and #10263 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:

#9668 unconfirmed, #9920 confirmed, #10035 confirmed, #10045 confirmed, #10087 unconfirmed, #10124 confirmed, #10126 confirmed, #10127 confirmed, #10159 unconfirmed, #10204 confirmed, and #10263 confirmed

1. HIB current investigations: #10189, #10256, and #10259

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

C. Education

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

Service Agreement – Workshop and Professional Development

1. Motion to approve a contract between Trifecta Mental Health, LLC and Rockaway Township Board of Education, for Educator Resilience Workshop(s) and professional development at a cost of $7,000.00 per month for the 2023-2024 school year to be paid out of ESEA Title IIA funding *(as per attached).*

Literacy Staff Development

2. Motion to approve Emily Strang-Campbell, literacy consultant to provide Rockaway Township Board of Education with literacy staff development for 10 days during the 2023-2024 school year for a total of $21,000.00 to be paid out of ESEA Title IIA funding *(as per attached).*

School Administrators Residency Program

3. Motion to approve Anita West for the School Administrators Residency Program per the Standard School Administrator Certificate requirement. Total costs of $1,750.00 includes the New Superintendents Academy and a one-year subscription to the NJASA Legal Research Publications.

No Public comment.

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

D. Special Education

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

1. Motion to authorize the Client Services Agreement between Rockaway Township Board of Education and Soliant Health, LLC for supplemental health services staffing for the 2023-2024 school year *(as per attached).*

Out of District Placements – SY 2023-2024

2. 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
#141	Roots Autism Center	Cedar Knolls	Tuition $175,971.60 or $977.62 per diem

In District Placements – ESY 2023-2024

3. Motion to authorize the tuition contract for the following in district placement student for the 2023-2024 extended school year:

Student#	School	Location	Tuition Rate
#14	Katharine D. Malone	Rockaway	Tuition $1,900.00 or $95.00 per diem + Cost for 1:1 aide of $1,600.00

In District Placements – SY 2023-2024

4. Motion to authorize the tuition contract for the following in district placement students for the 2023-2024 school year:

Student#	School	Location	Tuition Rate
#12	Birchwood	Rockaway	Tuition $32,109.00 or $178.38 per diem + Annual cost for 1:1 aide of $28,800.00 + Cost of health benefits of $9,239.60. Tuition rates include up to one (1) hour per week of related services (OT, PT, and Speech). All services above one (1) hour are billed at $80.00 per hour.
#14	Katharine D. Malone	Rockaway	Tuition $36,551.00 or $203.06 per diem + Annual cost for 1:1 aide of $28,800.00 + Cost of health benefits of $9,239.60

Rescind Out of District Placement – SY 2023-2024

5. Motion to rescind the following student from out of district placement – SY 2023-2024 *(moving out of district to West Point, NY).*

Student #	School	Location	Tuition Rate
#22	Windsor Learning Center	Pompton Lakes	Tuition Cost $72,870.00 (210 billable days) or $347.00 per diem

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.

Equipment Disposal

1. **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 disposal of obsolete IT equipment *(as per attached).*

SY 2023-2024 Shared Service Agreement for SLEO Class III Officers

2. Motion to approve the SY 2023-2024 Shared Service Agreement between Rockaway Township and Rockaway Township Board of Education for two (2) SLEO Class III Officers at the rate of $37.50 per hour in a total reimbursement amount not to exceed 155 total hours *(as per attached).*

No Public comment.

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

F. Finance

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

Financials

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rockaway Township Board of Education approves the Preliminary Report of the Secretary and Report of Appropriations, and Report of the Treasurer, for the period ending in June 30, 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 June 30, 2023.

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

Bills

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

A.	June	Student Activities	$1,105.81
B.	June	After-School Programs	$1,834.00
C.	June	Cafeteria	$38,157.00
	July	Cafeteria	$615.00
D.	July	State Unemployment Insurance	$18, 614.07
E.	June	District Bills	$4,295,582.98
	July	District Bills	$20,764.41

Contract for Technical Services – Repairs/Maintenance and 2023 Course Inspection for Copeland's Challenge Course

3. Motion to approve the Contract for Technical Services between Project Adventure, Inc. and Rockaway Township Board of Education for challenge course-related technical services which include repairs and/or Maintenance and 2023 course inspection. The total cost to district is $3,936.40 *(as per attached).*

No Public comment.

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

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

No Public comment.

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mr. Forst 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. Curelaru – Shared that there will be three (3) seats up for board member vacancies and encouraged the public to apply. Two full-terms and one unexpired term.

Mrs. Mezik – Welcomed the new administrators, Supervisor of Special Education Kathryn Pietrowski; Vice Principal at Copeland Middle School, Ruthann Champagne, and newly appointed board member, Noel Anderson.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Shields, to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 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