REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 18, 2015

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2015, at 6:05 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

The following members of the Board of Education were present: Mr. Babcock, Mrs. Chabala, Mrs. Chirico, Mrs. Maluszczak, Mr. Press, Mrs. Salny and Dr. Kurland.

Motion by Mr. Press, seconded by Mrs. Chabala to waive pledge salute, public announcement and public notice until the meeting is reopened.

Public announcement was read regarding the "Open Public Meeting Act." No Board Member objected to the conduct of the meeting as advertised.

Motion made by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mr. Press to adopt the following resolution:

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.

All present voting yes, motion carried.

The Board met in closed session at 6:06 PM.

Motion made by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mrs. Chirico that the closed session meeting stand adjourned at 7:32 PM
Roll Call Vote, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:37 PM. Present were approximately 65 visitors and no members of the press.

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

Motion by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mr. Press to open the public session of the meeting.

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

Resident commented her child attended a full-day Kindergarten and is in First Grade and ahead of her class. If we do not build a foundation at the Kindergarten level, students will be at a disadvantage.

Motion by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mr. Babcock to close the public session of the meeting.

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

Correspondence

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Mike Brady	Re: PARCC Testing
Shelley C. Kurland	Re: PARCC Presentation
Karyn Crouthamel	Re: Snow Days

Minutes

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion made by Mrs. Chirico, seconded by Mrs.Maluszczak to approve the minutes of February 4, 2015.

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

Supt Report

The following information was presented by the Superintendent in her report:
Dr Grefe reported there were no new HIB investigations.
Dr. Grefe let the Public know that the week of April 13-17, 2015 there will be Kindergarten registration at Central Office.

Six Principal candidates will be interviewed by the Committee tomorrow. There will be a Community Forum on March 3rd and Board approval of the new principal at the March 4th meeting.

After school clubs will start in April.

Informational Items:
Nurses' Report – January
Field Trip Report – January

BA Report

The following was presented by the Business Administrator in her report:
Mrs. Palmiere reported we will be going out to bid in March for Catherine A. Dwyer elevator and Birchwood School windows.

Sp Ed Committee

Special Education Committee
Special Education online tool was discussed and explored; a good tool for special education and general education teachers. SEPAC recommends continuing a Transitional Kindergarten class and inclusion for Kindergarten.

Negotiations Committee

Negotiations Committee
Committee met last evening and reported that both sides continue to negotiate in good faith. Bus Drivers will meet tomorrow.

Policy Committee

Policy Committee
Committee met and will review later under Policy.

The following actions were taken during the Regular Meeting of the Board:
Personnel
The Superintendent of Schools recommends actions on the following certificated personnel:
Motion made by Mr. Press, seconded by Mrs. Salny to approve the following personnel recommendations.

Employment

1. **Employment**
Approve the courses, instructors and the individual rate of pay per quarter, indicated on the attached list, for the After School Programs, to be held at the Copeland Middle School, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Explanation: These are "Pay-to-Play" programs.

Approve the employment of the following staff, as a Home Instructor, on an "as needed" basis, for the 2014-2015 school year. The rate of pay is $44.00 per hour:

Kerri Bataille

Explanation: Instructional staff necessary to provide Home Instruction, where needed.

Employ Subs

2. **Employment/Substitute Teachers**
Approve the employment of the following county and state certified Substitute Teachers indicated below for the 2014-2015 school year:

Kaitlynn Fiorilla — William Paterson University, NJ (BA)
West Milford, NJ — Certification: County
Effective Date: February 19, 2015

Peter Osebre University of Cape Coast, West Africa (Bachelor of Education)
Dover, NJ Certification: County
Effective Date: February 19, 2015

3. **Extended Leave of Absence** — **Extended Leave**
Approve an extended leave of absence for Raymond Witte, III, a full-time Grade 8 Special Education Teacher, at the Copeland Middle School, without pay, effective February 17, 2015 through June 30, 2015. (Mr. Witte is expected to return to work on September 1, 2015).

4. **Leave Replacement Assignment** — **Leave Replacement**
Approve a leave replacement assignment for Carolyn George, replacing Raymond Witte, a full-time Grade 8 Special Education Teacher, at the Copeland Middle School, effective January 5, 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 school year. The rate of pay is $150.00 per diem.

5. **Reassignment** — **Reassignment**
Approve the reassignment of Elizabeth DeDreu, a part-time In Class Support Resource Room Teacher for Grade 4, at 19.50 hours per week, at the Birchwood School to a full-time In Class Support Resource Room Teacher for Grade 4, at the Birchwood School, effective February 9, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The annual prorated salary will be $58,535.00 (MA Step 1).

6. **Resignation** — **Resignation**
Approve the resignation, of Samantha Moore, a State Certified Substitute Teacher, for the district, effective February 5, 2015.

7. **The Superintendent of Schools recommends actions on the following non-certificated personnel:**
Employment — **Employment**
Approve the employment of Jesus Castano, as a Substitute Custodian, on an "as needed" basis, for the District, for the Buildings and Grounds Department, effective February 19, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The rate of pay is $16.00 per hour. (Mr. Castano is replacing Mr. Petrunyak).

Approve the employment of Arlene Cunningham, a part-time Staff Assistant, at 17.50 hours per week, in the Multiple Disabled Class, per the student's IEP, at the Copeland Middle School, effective February 19, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The rate of pay is $16.51
(Step 1) per hour. (Mrs. Cunningham is replacing Mr. Hubert).

Approve the employment of Michelle Ertle, a part-time Staff Assistant, at 17.50 hours per week, in the Preschool Disabled Class, afternoon session, per the student's IEP, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, effective February 19, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The rate of pay is $16.51 (Step 1) per hour.

Approve the employment of Amy Mulhearn, as a Substitute Healthcare Provider, for the District, for the 2014-2015 school year. The rate of pay will be $30.00 per hour.

Resignation — **Resignation**
Approve the resignation, of Rane Wortendyke-Garcia, a part-time Staff Assistant, at 20 hours per week, for the Transportation Department, effective February 13, 2015.

Superior Attendance Stipend — **Superior Attendance**
Approve the appropriate stipend indicated on the attached list for the Bus Drivers that have had superior attendance for the period of September 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015.

Termination — **Termination**
Approve the termination of Employee Number 5662, due to cause, effective February 5, 2015.

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

Curriculum/Instruction

Motion made by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mr. Babcock to approve the following curriculum/instruction recommendations.

Wk Shop Hrs

1. Amend the resolution for physical education teachers to present a Team Building Workshop on January 19, 2015, for a maximum two (2) hour each, at the rate of $44 per hour:

   Scott Credidio
   Frances Gely
   Chris Jackson
   Jennifer Klak
   Bill Swenty
   Thomas Nicolicchia

   Explanation: Previously approved for one (1) hour each.

NCLB Grant

2. Approve salary and stipends funded with NCLB FY14-15 Grant as follows:

TEACHER/STAFF	GRADE/POSITION	LOCATION	STIPEND/ SALARY	% FUNDED
Amy Mulhern	Title I After School Nurse & Nurse Aide Sub	BW/CAD/DBO	$44.00	$100% Funded

   Explanation: State requires that salaries/stipends paid with NCLB grant require board approval

Parent Evening Hrs

3. Approve the following staff members to prepare and present three (3) Family Math Evenings in March 2015, not to exceed a total of 10½ hours per presenter, at the current rate:

   Debra Cirillo
   Mary Ledyard
   Tara Toohey
   Jennifer Gruener
   Gina Parisi

   Explanation: Per RTEA contract.

4. Approve the following staff members to prepare and present three (3) Family Literacy Evenings in March 2015, not to exceed a total of 10½ hours per presenter, at the current rate:

   Claire Capuano
   Donna Spinweber
   Judith Johnson
   Gina Parisi

   Explanation: Per RTEA contract.

5. Approve the following staff members to prepare and present three (3) Family Science Evenings in April 2015, not to exceed a total of 10½ hours per presenter, at the current rate:

   Claire Capuano
   Donna Spinweber
   Gina Parisi
   Vanessa Waxman

Explanation: Per RTEA contract.

No Public comment.

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

Administration

Motion made by Mrs. Maluszczak, seconded by Mrs. Salny to approve the following administrative recommendations.

1. Authorize a parental contract for non-aided subscription busing for the following student, for the 2014-2015 school year: **Subscription Busing**

   #311 - $442.00 (one-way drop off)

2. Authorize a contract between the Rockaway Township Board of Education and NYU Child Study Center to conduct neuropsychological evaluations, on an as needed basis, for the 2014-2015 school year, for a cost not to exceed $4000.00. **NYU Child Study Center**

   Explanation: For provision of independent evaluations, when necessary and the Child Study Team does not provide this service.

3. Approve Susan Andrews to present a workshop for the Family Outreach Program on February 26, 2015 (snow date March 5, 2015), for a total of 1.5 hours, at the current contractual rate. **Wk Shop Hrs**

   Explanation: Workshop on the topic of dyslexia.

No Public comment.

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

Motion by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mrs. Chirico to approve the following Administrative recommendation.

1. **BE IT RESOLVED,** the Rockaway Township Board of Education approves the implementation of a full-day Kindergarten program for the 2015-2016 school year. **Full-day Kindergarten**

Board Comments **Board Comments**

Dr. Kurland thanked Administration for all the information given to the Board so they can make the best decision.

Mrs. Salny said there is no right or wrong answer. She received an email today statics report Kindergarten should be a positive experience and stress free for kids. She feels the quality of instruction is what is important, equally important is keeping tax at 2%, and with careful planning and budgeting to make this work she supports a full-day Kindergarten.

Mrs. Chabala reported she is not an educator and looked to educators, if she had only $100 to spend, what is the best way to spend my $100.

Mrs. Maluszczak did data and research as did Mrs. Chabala. How will the impact be with Common Core and what is best for the money? How does full-day Kindergarten move toward vision & mission? She thanked Administration, Administrators and staff who gave their full support for full-day Kindergarten. Staff member emails showed the impact on our kids. She appreciates all who helped impact her decision.

Mr. Babcock read a letter from the Rockaway Township Administrators' Association in support of full-day Kindergarten. In Grad School he had the opportunity to co-teach in Kindergarten and it is a smooth transition to 1st Grade. His decision is based on a lot of data.

Mr. Press fells statistics studies show it could go either way. There are a lot of programs we need to support and things we possibly could not have. Boards across the State are mixed. A hard decision, lots of questions about the benefits.

Mrs. Chabala feels full-day Kindergarten is for a specific group of children, does not benefit older kids but will benefit students and the district as a whole as years go by. Investing in the future of Rockaway Township students.

Dr. Kurland personally went back and forth on full-day Kindergarten. Research very divided and by 2nd Grade all evens out, not sure he buys into argument. If we do not do a full-day Kindergarten we could do other programs. He has concerns about new superintendent, redistricting decisions and wished he could wait for a decision. All Board Members kids have gone through a half-day day program and have tuned out well, not a clear decision at all, many things have to be factored in.

Mrs. Chirico thanked all the parents and administrators for their input.

Mrs. Salny reported the entire Board was on the fence, a very demanding decision that's why she insisted on a plan.

Public Comments **Public Comments**

Motion by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mr. Press to open discussion on full-day Kindergarten.

Resident has lived here 15 years, her child was split between daycare and half-day Kindergarten and it was terrible for her child.

Resident's son attended a full-day Kindergarten elsewhere and they figured out his learning disability early and now he is mainstreamed. Her second son attended ½ day Kindergarten but was not diagnosed until he was in 2nd Grade. It really does make a difference and does impact the bottom line.

Resident feels it goes beyond academics. Kids should be healthy as well as educated.

Resident would vote for a full-day Kindergarten, stress & value if you reduce stress early on your reduce stress down the line. Pointed out if you go with a full-day program, we are in contract year and you have to consider how much you can give in increase. Go to Trenton and fight to get funds to transition into full-day Kindergarten. A report in the 70's looked at the impact of a full-day Kindergarten and it works for weaker students and gives everyone a reason to excel.

A Resident, who is a pre-k teacher in an ABBOTT district, reported as a teacher she feels if it is done right students should be having fun and be learning. Very nervous that Rockaway Township does not have a full-day Kindergarten. She wants her child to be ready.

Mr. Giarratano, former Board Member, appreciates the work the Board does. Researching he found an overwhelming support for full-day Kindergarten. Very happy it appears to going as a yes.

Motion by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mrs. Salny to close public discussion.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendation, Mr. Press voting no, all others present voting yes, motion so carried.

Finance

Motion made by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mr. Press to approve the following finance recommendations.

1. **Be It Resolved** in accordance with Board Policy 6471 the Rockaway Township Board of Education approves the attached travel expenses as they promote the delivery of instruction, critical to the instructional needs of the district and/or further the efficient operations of the district (see attached). **Travel**

Be It Further Resolved, that the travel is educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and is directly related to, and within, the scope of the current responsibilities for district employees and the district's Professional Development Plan.

Explanation: As per statute, boards of education are required to establish a maximum budget for travel and subsistence, the Board may not exceed this maximum.

2. **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 January 31, 2015 and **Bd Secy Report**

Be It Further Resolved that this Budget does not include any unapproved appropriations or moneys.

Be It Resolved that the Rockaway Township Board of Education acknowledges that Donnamarie Palmiere, Board Secretary, certifies the following statement:

Pursuant to NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)(3) and (4), I, Donnamarie Palmiere, Board Secretary, certify that no budgetary line items accounts are over appropriated nor over expended for the period ending January 31, 2015.

Authorize payment of the January After-School Activities bills, as approved by the Finance Committee.

Authorize payment of the February bills, as approved by the Finance Committee.

Authorize payment of the February Cafeteria bills, as approved by the Finance Committee.

Authorize payment of the February After-School Activities bills, as approved by the Finance Committee.

Authorize payment of the February Student Activities bills, as approved by the Finance Committee.

Authorize payment of the January State Unemployment Insurance bills, as approved by the Finance Committee.

Explanation: Statute requires that the Board of Education approve all bills paid by the district. The list includes payment for salaries, purchased services, supplies, and equipment.

3. Authorize acceptance of a $700.00 grant from Target Field Trips Scholarship American to be used for a trip to the Morris Museum. **Target Grant**

Explanation: Mr. Frinzi, Birchwood Principal, applied for the grant.

No Public comment.

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

Policy

Motion made by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mr. Press to approve the following policy recommendations.

2. Approve the second reading of the following policies, as amended: **Second Reading**

3283	Electronic Communications between Teaching Staff Members and Students
4283	Electronic Communications between Support Staff Members and Students
5331	Management of Life Threatening Allergies in School

3. Approve the first reading of the following policies: **First Reading**

1581	Victim of Domestic or Sexual Violence Leave
5200	Attendance

Public comment. **Public Comment**

Resident asked about the allergy policy.

Resident asked about the absentee policy, calling in do they need a note from parent.

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

Old Business
None

New Business
None

Public Comments **Public Comment**
Motion by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mrs. Press to open meeting to Public for comments.

Dr. Monchar reported the Rockaway Township Education Foundation is still involved in organization issues but progressing. The first fundraiser has been launched, Devils game on March 6th and fliers have been sent throughout the district.

Resident thanked Board for full-day Kindergarten. Wanted to know what the plan is for 9th child entering Resource Room. Is a waiver going to be requested?

Motion by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mr. Press to close meeting for Public comments.

Motion made by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mr. Press that the meeting stand adjourned at 9:08 PM and return to Executive Session for personnel issues. **Adjourn to Executive Session**

Roll Call Vote, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Maluszczak, seconded by Mrs. Chabala that the closed session meeting stand adjourned at 10:00 PM. **Adjournment**

Roll Call Vote, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnamarie Palmiere

DONNAMARIE PALMIERE
Board Secretary