REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 16, 2020

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 6:03 PM on the Zoom meeting platform, Rockaway, New Jersey.

The following members of the Board of Education were present: Mrs. Brookes, Mrs. Curelaru, Mrs. Mezik, Mrs. Shields, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Tomasini and Mrs. Helbourg.

Also present were Dr. Peter Turnamian, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Patrick Higgins, Assistant Superintendent and N. Simon, J. Morgese, D. McKeever, Board Attorneys.

Mrs. Helbourg, call the meeting to order.

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

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

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 Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith to go into closed session at 6:05 PM.

All present voting yes, motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Shields, seconded by Mrs. Brookes that the closed session meeting stands adjourned at 7:31 PM

All present voting yes, motion so carried.

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:33 PM. Present was 1 visitor and no members of the press.

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

Presentation – Service and Tenure Pin Awards

Motion by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Brookes to open the public session of the meeting.

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

- Brian Adams - speaking on behalf of the RTEA
  Mention of RTEA Work Environmental Council and desire to discuss with RTBOE

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Kelly Koopman	Re:Dwyer Playground Dedication
Caryl Sambrato	Re: Contract Negotiations(2)
Seth Tipton	Re: FPSCT&T secured a major victory
Edison Innovation Foundation	Re: Early Contest Registration is open
Brian Adams	Re: RTEA Report Work Environment Council

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Shields seconded by Mr. Tomasini to approve the minutes of November 28, 2020 as corrected.

Roll Call Vote on above, Mrs. Helbourg abstained, all remaining present voting yes, motion so carried.

The following information was presented by the Superintendent in his report:
I hope everyone is doing well. I would like to begin this evening by acknowledging the news I shared last week about moving our schools to full virtual learning through Jan 15th was upsetting for some in our community. As I indicated in the notice, I do consider this switch to full virtual learning to be temporary and I am committed to returning all of our schools to hybrid instruction the week of Jan 19th. Our entire staff has done an amazing job with the implementation of hybrid instruction under very difficult circumstances. I could not be prouder of them all for the commitment and dedication they have shown throughout this school year to our students and families. As we move into the second half of our school year, we are committed to continuing to work in partnership with the community to ensure the safety of our students and staff remains our top priority in all we do. Once the conditions of the pandemic improve, we will look to accelerate our reopening plan in an attempt to bring more students back for in-person instruction on a weekly basis. In considering any changes, a priority will be given to our youngest learners, those in PreK- 2 grades. I know this has been hard on everyone and I want to thank everyone, for their continued efforts and support.

I have one additional update. First, I want to highlight the Board Agenda this evening includes our school calendar for the 21-22 school year. This calendar includes three significant shifts that I believe will have a positive impact on our school district. First, we are moving the new teacher orientation sooner by one week. I believe this change will allow us to provide even greater support to our new teachers as they prepare for their first school year in our community. Second, We are moving our family conferences so they occur part of the last week of October and the first week of November. Traditionally they were held the second week of November which tended to create a very "choppy" dynamic for the entire month of November, This shift will give us two weeks of uninterrupted full days of instruction before Thanksgiving. Third, we removed an early dismissal from January to capture more instructional time.

In closing, I know the conditions of the pandemic remain top of mind for everyone. I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Please help us keep everyone safe by remaining vigilant with the use of face coverings, keeping good social distance, and frequent use of hand sanitizer. We are better together! Thank you, Peter

Mrs. Shields was in favor of moving the conferences for next school year

2. Informational Items:
   - November 2020 Enrollment
   - November 2020 Nurses Report
   - November 2020 Fire/Security Drill Report

The following information was presented by the Business Administrator in her report:
A few brief notes from the Business Office
Tonight the Board will be approving the initial engineering work for the design of a totally new HVAC system for DBO. After completion of this project we will be able to tie DBO into the Automated Building System with our other buildings. We expect this work to begin at the end of this school year.
The on ground portion of our yearly audit is complete. The auditors are finishing the work remotely.
The additional work at DBO on the north side of the building is complete, the remaining punch list items will be completed as the weather permits.

Mrs. Helbourg asked about the school lunch program.

The following information was presented by the Curriculum Director in his report:

Thank you

I would like to continue in the same vein as Dr. Turnamian when I say a heartfelt thank you to the entire Rockaway Township School Community. From Central Office to building administration to faculty and staff and to students and families--you have all done a wonderful job of making this situation successful. Since the process of adapting our programs began last March, this community as a whole has "rowed in the same direction" in the best interest of everyone involved. For that, and for the continued support we receive from all levels, I am grateful.

Summary of Virtual Learning Guidelines

With our move to virtual learning through the 19th of January, we have made some changes to both our schedules and our guidelines for teachers. Firstly, each building has revamped its schedule to accommodate some key aspects that we view as paramount to student success in a virtual environment:

- Social and Emotional Learning for all Students
- A focus on live teaching through whole-class instruction and small-group instruction
- Continued communication between teachers, students, and parents
- A balance of instruction and screen time

As we have said throughout the last two years, we are a learning organization, and we are committed to a continued study of the best practices within our profession. We have learned much from the work of our teachers and students over the last few months and will continue to do so throughout the next few weeks. Please continue to reach out with questions and concerns and we will do our best to work alongside you.

Universal Screening Window

During the upcoming period of virtual learning, our midpoint screening assessments will take place. As a reminder, those assessments consist of a series of reading screenings (Acadience, Fountas and Pinnell, etc.) and the i-Ready Math Diagnostic Test. We will be sending guidance out to families that will stress the importance of these screenings in helping our teachers determine areas of strengths and weaknesses for each student. Since the Spring, we have attempted to gather as much information about our students this way as to gauge the amount of learning loss that may have occurred due to the changes in instructional models. Our teachers and administrators have used this data to make crucial decisions about interventions for their students, and we feel we are making great strides toward accelerating learning in our schools.

Family Nights in December

A huge thank you to Mandy Thomas and Vanessa Waxman for their facilitation of the 5th Grade Family Night in December that was focused on celebrating Computer Science Week. Aimed at our 5th Grade Families, the content ranged from showing how simple algorithms develop into more complex code. Students and their families created simple codes for each other to perform as they learned about Loops, Conditionals, and Strings. These will be running throughout the year this year for various grade levels. Space is limited, so please stay tuned for the next one, which will be on January 12th and 13th for our 4th-grade families.

Elementary Report Cards Available Today

Please remember to check the Parent Portal today for Grades K-5 report cards. They have been available since 4pm today.

Committee Reports

Operations - Mrs. Brookes - Met on December 2nd - discussion of properties
Committee recommends LAN Project
Approved all bills for payment in December

Policy- Met on 12/9
Mrs. Smith discussed the items that were reviewed at this meeting including getting the Policy Manual updated
Mrs. Shields asked when the Board could expect to receive the updated Policy Manual
Mrs. Brookes commented that she would need more than two weeks to review the policy manual

Mrs. Mezik thanked all Committee Chairs

Mrs. Helbourg - 12/9 - **Education** - discussed items covered at their meeting

Mrs. Shields - **Negotiations** - RTEA has requested to begin negotiation

The following actions were taken during the Regular Meeting of the Board:
Personnel
Motion made by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mr. Tomasini to approve the following personnel recommendations.

The Superintendent of Schools recommends actions on the following personnel:

Employment

1.Approve the employment of Mario Benitez, as a Bilingual Translator, for the district, effective for the 2020-2021school year. The rate of pay will be $46.00 per hour.

2. Approve the employment of Bree Brace, as a Summer Programs Supervisor, for the Extended School Year (ESY) Program, effective February 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. The stipend for Phase I will be $3,864.00.

3. Approve the employment of the staff, at the stipend, as per the attached list, as Director, Co-Director and Producer, at the Copeland Middle School, for the 2020-2021 school year.

4. Approve the employment of Nicole McConnell, as a Floater Substitute Teacher, for the Stony Brook School, at 3-4 days per week, effective December 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The rate of pay will be $135.00 per diem.

5. Approve the revised employment of Kristen Shinnick, as a leave replacement assignment for Jessie Ezzo, a full-time Grade 1 Teacher, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, effective December 14, 2020 through April 30, 2021. The prorated salary will be $58,170.00 BA+15 (Step 1). (Ms. Shinnick holds a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing as an Elementary School Teacher in Grades K-5).

6. Approve the extended employment of Gregory Voinier, as a leave replacement assignment for Glennis Patterson, a full-time Music Teacher, at the Katharine D. Malone School, effective January 4, 2021 through April 1, 2021. The annual prorated salary will be $63,150.00 MA (Step 2).

Employment/Substitute Teachers

7. Approve the following county and state certified Substitute Teachers for the 2020-2021 school year:

Adam Lepkowski Rockaway, NJ	The College of New Jersey, NJ (BA) Certification: County Effective Date: December 7, 2020
Angelo Soto Denville, NJ	Rutgers State University, NJ (MA) Certification: County Effective Date: December 17, 2020

Leave of Absence

8. Approve a leave of absence for Patricia Coulter, a part-time special education Staff Assistant, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, with pay, effective December 16, 2020 through January 7, 2021, the leave will continue, without pay, effective January 8, 2021 through February 10, 2021. (Ms. Coulter is expected to return on or about February 11, 2021).

9. Approve a revised leave of absence for Jessie Ezzo, a full-time Grade 1 Teacher, with pay, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, effective December 14, 2020 through January 29, 2021, the leave will continue, without pay, under the New Jersey Twelve Week Family Leave Act, effective February 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021. (Mrs. Ezzo is expected to return to work on or about May 3, 2021).

10. Approve an extended leave of absence for Dawn Filippone, a part-time special education Staff Assistant, at the Katharine D. Malone School, with pay, under the Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) at the per diem rate of two-thirds salary, effective December 2, 2020 through December 9, 2020. (Ms. Filippone is expected to return to work on or about December 10, 2020).

11. Approve the extended leave of absence for Katherine Klinger, a part-time Kindergarten Staff Assistant, at the Catherine A. Dwyer School, with pay, under the Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) at the per diem rate of two-thirds salary, effective December 2, 2020 through December 11, 2020. (Mrs. Klinger is expected to return on or about December 14, 2020).

12. Approve an extended leave of absence for Glennis Patterson, a full-time Music Teacher, without pay, at the Katharine D. Malone School, effective January 4, 2021 through April 1, 2021. (Mrs. Patterson is expected to return to work on or about April 12, 2021).

13. Approve a leave of absence for Marissa Reilly, a full-time Grade 4 Teacher, at the Birchwood School, with pay, effective March 12, 2021 through April 30, 2021, the

leave will continue, without pay, under the New Jersey Twelve Week Family Leave Act, effective May 3, 2021 through June 30, 2021. (Mrs. Reilly is expected to return to work on the first day for teachers in September 2021).

14. Approve an extended leave of absence for Francesca Russo, a full-time Bus Driver, without pay, for the Transportation Department, effective December 2, 2020 through February 2, 2021. (Mrs. Russo is expected to return to work on or about February 3, 2021).

15. Approve a leave of absence for Nicole Shears, a full-time Grade 3 Teacher, at the Stony Brook School, with pay, effective March 15, 2021 through April 16, 2021, the leave will continue, without pay, under the New Jersey Twelve Week Family Leave Act, effective April 19, 2021 through June 30, 2021. (Mrs. Shears is expected to return to work on the first day for teachers in September 2021).

16. Approve an extended leave of absence for Terry Suleski, a full-time Grade 5 Teacher, at the Birchwood School, with pay, effective January 11, 2021 through June 23, 2021. (Mrs. Suleski is expected to return on the first day for teachers in September 2021).

17. Approve an extended leave of absence for Christy Warren, a part-time general education, in the preschool class, Staff Assistant, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, with pay, under the Federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) at the per diem rate of two-thirds salary, effective December 2, 2020 through December 14, 2020. (Ms. Warren is expected to return to work on or about December 15, 2020).

18. Approve a leave of absence for Lauren Wisse, a full-time Physical Education Teacher, with pay, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, effective February 1, 2021 through March 12, 2021, the leave will continue, without pay, under the New Jersey Twelve Week Family Leave Act, effective March 15, 2021 through June 11, 2021. (Mrs. Wisse is expected to return to work on or about June 14, 2021).

19. Approve a leave of absence for Gregory Zinberg, a full-time Physical Education Teacher, without pay, at the Stony Brook School, under the New Jersey Twelve Week Family Leave Act, effective on or about December 14, 2020 through January 1, 2021. (Mr. Zinberg is expected to return to work on or about January 4, 2021).

Reassignment

20. Approve the reassignment of Jacqueline Trentacoste, a part-time Kindergarten Staff Assistant, 5 day week, at 17.50 hours per week, at the Catherine A. Dwyer School to a part-time Kindergarten and Resource Room Staff Assistant, 4 day week, at 26 hours per week, at the Catherine A. Dwyer School, effective December 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The rate of pay will be $19.36 (Step 2) per hour.

21. Approve the reassignment of Christy Warren, a part-time general education, preschool Staff Assistant, at 17.50 hours per week, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School to a part-time special education Staff Assistant, at 17.50 hours per week, at the Katharine D. Malone School, effective December 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The rate of pay will be $20.23 (Step 4) per hour.

Resignation

22. Approve the resignation of Nayima Hasan, a part-time special education Staff Assistant, at the Copeland Middle School, effective December 7, 2020.

23. Approve the resignation of Katherine Klinger, a part-time Kindergarten Staff Assistant, at the Catherine A. Dwyer School, effective December 16, 2020.

24. Approve the resignation of Alysia Liuzza, a part-time special education Staff Assistant, at the Copeland Middle School, effective December 10, 2020.

25 Approve the revised resignation date, of Kristen Shinnick, a part-time special education Staff Assistant, at the Stony Brook School, effective December 14, 2020.

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

HIB

Motion by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to affirm the following HIB Cases:

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB incidents:

2020-2 unconfirmed
2020-3 unconfirmed

and the investigations 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 recommendations on HIB cases:

2020-2 unconfirmed
2020-3 unconfirmed

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

Dr. Turnamian reported there were no new HIB investigations:

Education
Motion made by Mrs. Curelaru seconded by Mrs. Shields to approve the following curriculum/instruction recommendations.

1. Approve the following Montclair State University Students as Student Teachers for the spring semester (Clinical I - February-May) and fall semester (Clinical II - September-December) of 2021. (Pending NJDOE Fingerprinting/Background check and Mantoux):

MSU Student	Certification Area
Rachael Bakunas	P-3
Melania Della Perruit	P-3

2. Approve Kelly Stites to present Google Classroom topics to KDM Staff Assistants, on a district in-service day, for one (1) hour, at the current RTEA contracted rate.

3. Approve the amendment from June 24, 2020, of Shaina Doshi, a William Paterson University graduate student enrolled in the school counseling program, interning with Sonya Patel, at Birchwood Elementary School, to be extended until January 2021.

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

Special Education
Motion made by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Mrs. Brookes to approve the following special education recommendations.

ESY Out of District Placements-2020-2021 School Year

1. Authorize student in the revised out-of-district placement for the 2020-2021 School Year:

Student	School	Location	Tuition Rate
#720	Limitless	Denville	$5,645.00

Out of District Placements-2020-2021 School Year

2. Authorize students in the following out-of-district placements for the 2020-2021 School Year:

Student	School	Location	Tuition Rate
#133	Pillar Elementary School	Livingston	$409 per diem+ $199 per diem 1:1 aide

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

Administration
Motion made by Mr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Brookes to approve the following administrative recommendations.

School Bus Evacuation Drills

1. Motion to approve the Fall 2020-2021 School Bus Evacuation Drills as per attached.

Donation

2. Motion to approve the donation of a refrigerator from the Dover Home Depot for the Multiple Disabled class for the Life Skills Program at Katharine D. Malone School.

Calendar 2021-2022

3. Motion to approve the academic calendar for Rockaway Township Schools for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dedication of the Catherine A. Dwyer School Playground

4. Motion to approve the dedication of the new playground at the Catherine A. Dwyer School to Principal Michael McGovern, in honor of his years of dedicated service to the students and families of the Dwyer Community, as well as his service to the Country in the U.S. Military and ongoing service as a Rockaway Township firefighter.

Mrs. Brookes commented on the great community outreach of Home Depot donation.
Mrs. Curelaru remarked on the playground dedication.

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

Finance
Motion made by Mrs. Shields seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to approve the following finance recommendations.

Travel

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).

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.

Bills

2. Authorize payment of the following as approved by the Finance Committee.

A.	December	School District Bills	$4,041,829.06
B.	November	Cafeteria Bills	$153.80
	December	Cafeteria Bills	$23,790.57
C.	November	Student Activities	$400.00
	December	Student Activities	$313.45
D.	November	After School Bills	0
E.	November	Summer Enrichment Bills	0
F.	November	Unemployment Bill	0

Interactive Boards Purchase

3. Motion to approve the purchase from PC University Distributors Inc. for
15 LED display interactive 4k UHD boards for the district in the amount of $55,965.00.
The district is using $54,083.91 COVID RELIEF FUND GRANT MONEY for this purchase.
Expense account #20-479-100-600-49-000.

HVAC Upgrades at Dennis B. O'Brien

4. Motion to approve proposal for LAN Associates for A & E Services to design the HVAC system upgrade at Dennis B. O'Brien Elementary School for a fee of $205,420.00.

Dump Truck Purchase

5. Motion to approve proposal to purchase a 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD Work Truck, from Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc., NJ State Contract #A88759, in the amount of $51,704.85 to replace 2007 GMC Top Kick.

Capital Reserve Transfer

6. Motion to withdraw $205,420.00 from Capital Reserve to fund the HVAC Upgrades at Dennis B. O'Brien project. This will be transferred to account 12-000-400-334-48-AHV-DBO.

Chromebooks

7. Motion to approve the purchase of 150 Chromebooks from Softnetworks, LLC in the amount of $30,000.

Mrs. Helbourg thanked Mrs. Brookes and Mrs. Shields for signing this month's purchase orders.

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

Policy

Motion made by Mrs. Brookes, seconded by Mr. Tomasini to approve the following policy recommendations.

1. Motion to approve the following policies for second read:

P 2330	Homework
P 3282	Use of Social Networking Sites (Teaching Staff)
P 4282	Use of Social Networking Sites (Support Staff)

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

Old Business

- Mrs. Shields thanks the RTEA for the Pizza Kits.
- Mrs. Brookes asked about 5th grade Chromebooks. Dr. Turnamian explained that the proper cases were not received.
- Mrs. Brookes thanks administration and staff for all their efforts. Dr. Turnamian agreed.

New Business

- Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. El-Tayib for his work on policy. DBO 12/14/PTA Meeting –Presidents' Council.
- Mrs. Helbourg discussed the Ad Hoc Committee – Community Outreach to be chaired by Mrs. Brookes.
- Mrs. Brookes thanked Mrs. Wisniewski for the Mentor/Mentee program at KDM.
- Mrs. Helbourg commented on the great partnership between the town Health Department- Ms. Hess and the School District. Dr. Turnamian also thanked the school nurses and Ms. Hess from the Township Health Department.

Motion by Mrs. Shields, seconded by Mr. Tomasini to open the public session of the meeting.
Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

No public comment.

Motion by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Shields to close the public session of the meeting.
Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Mrs. Helbourg wished all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Motion made by Mrs. Curelaru seconded by Mrs. Brookes that the meeting stand adjourned at 8:33 PM.
and to return to Executive Session for personnel issues for 30 minutes.
Motion made by Mrs. Shields, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru that the meeting stand adjourned at 9:14 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel DeCarlo

RACHEL DECARLO
Board Secretary