EXECUTIVE SESSION
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
MARCH 12, 2025

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

Dr. Tomasini called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

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

Ms. Richardson joined at 5:01pm.

Ms. Tourne joined during executive session.

Mrs. Curelaru was absent.

Also present were Dr. Corbett, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Slamb, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Ms. Morgese, 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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Dr. Tomasini called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

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

Ms. Richardson joined the meeting at 5:01 PM.

Ms. Tourne joined during executive session.

Mrs. Curelaru was absent.

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

Public announcement 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 Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Ms. McGeary to waive the Pledge until open session.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to go into closed session at 5:02 PM.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Ms. McGeary that the closed session 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.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CMS THEATRE COMPANY – THE WIZARD OF OZ
The full ceremony can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2025-03-12' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2025-03-12.'

STONY BROOK STUDENT RECOGNITION
The full ceremony can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2024-03-12' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2024-03-12.'

A recess started at 7:48pm till 7:59pm.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Motion by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Ms. McGeary to open Public comment.

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

23 members of the community came up and spoke about the incident that occurred at Dwyer school on Celebrity Day.

5 members of the community came up and spoke regarding Referendum.

The full Public comment and Board commentary can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-03-12' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-03-12'.

Motion by Ms. McGeary, seconded by Ms. Tourne, to close Public comment.

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

I. COMMUNICATIONS

Andre Demino	Native American Guardian's Association
Maigen OConnor	Need Clarification on Projected Enrollment for School District
Donna Marie Suszynski	Title IX protects girls and women again
Amanda Wadleigh	Celebrity Day
Sophia Freire	Mr. McGovern's costume
Gretel Raibeck	Concern with Dwyer Principal
Kurt Kalata	Mr. McGovern at Dwyer
Inga Donskaya	Poor choice of an outfit
Hannah Lablans	Concerned Parent in District regarding Principal's Costume Choice at Dwyer
Patty Ochs	Politics in our school
Dan Dubofsky	Principal McGovern
Karen Lambert	Concern about incident at Dwyer
Kristin Dunne	Dwyer Principal
Mary Paulson	Concern regarding Event at Catherine Dwyer School
Dani Bratton	Concerns regarding Mr. Michael McGovern's choices yesterday
Sarah Gramma	Concern Regarding Social Media Post and Student/Staff Privacy
Jean Crumby	Dwyer Elementary School Celebrity Day
Rebecca Villareale	Supporting Michael McGovern
Kurt Kalata	Celebrity Day at Dwyer
Newal Rimawi	Celebrity Day at Dwyer
Jessica Brienza	Celebrity Day at Dwyer – We Support Mr. McGovern
Donna Suszynski	Celebrity Day at Dwyer
Amber McCormack	Celebrity Day at Dwyer
April Matera-Patiro	Support for Mr. McGovern
Amna Samad	Dwyer incident
Victoria DePinto	Celebrity Day at Dwyer
Paul Sepanski	Principal McGovern
Scott Livingston	Costume choice
Dana Taboadela	Celebrity Day
Kurt Kalata	Letter to the Dwyer Family
Inga Donskaya	Disappointment
Alexis and Andrew DeVita	In support of Mr. McGovern
Hannah Lablans	Unacceptable Response from Dwyer Principal
Dan Dubofsky	Dwyer Principal follow-up
Scott Livingston	Donald Trump look alike disgrace
Kristina Peebles	Disappointed

Francesca Angela Nordin	Human Trafficking Web Conference 4.10.25 for Student Teacher and Pre-Service Admins
Jennifer Hernandez	Pregunta
Jennifer Hernandez	Pregunta
April Matera	Appropriate Touching in RT schools

II. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. McGeary to approve the minutes of February 12, 2025.

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

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I will begin by recognizing and thanking the *Copeland Middle School Theater Company* for their commitment to excellence in the performing arts. This evening's brief performance is only a sample of the extraordinary talent on display. I encourage our community to attend the full show on March 20, 21, and 22. I am grateful to our student performers for visiting our elementary schools to inspire the next generation of thespians. Yesterday, they visited the Rockaway Township Library during Story Time and mesmerized their young audience. All this would not be possible without a faculty dedicated to performing arts: Ms. Brandler, Ms. Goryeb, Ms. Spotts, and Mr. DePope.

The Academy Night, held last Monday at 6:30 p.m. at C.M.S., was a make-up for the original date, February 6, which was rescheduled due to a snow day. The theme was Reading Rocks! Grades 3-5: Magnetic Reading and Balanced Literacy. Although the turnout was light, the feedback was positive.

I look forward to meeting with the PTA representatives from around the district at the General Assembly, scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on March 24.

As I will report shortly, author Anica Mrose Rissi recently visited our students around the district to share her love of writing. She will be featured during our Family Author Night, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on March 13 at C.M.S. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with an inspiring author and foster a love of reading, writing, and learning. The evening will include giveaways and raffles for the students. An RSVP is appreciated.

The March SEPAC meeting will be held on March 18 at the Copeland Library. Ms. Viscuso, one of our school social workers, will deliver the topic, "Supporting Students with ADHD." Once again, we are grateful to the Lake Hopatcong Elks for their generous donation of $1,000 to support our special education programs in Rockaway Township.

Good News from our Schools

March at Birchwood started with a performance of "The Wizard of Oz" by *Copeland Middle School Theater Company*. Birchwood students loved their performance, particularly enjoying the singing and dancing. Additionally, during *Read Across America*, the students participated in several exciting activities including dress-up spirit days focusing on celebrating and promoting the joys of reading and book exploration. A standout moment of the month was a visit from Anica Mrose Rissi. Her presence gave students a unique opportunity to interact with a published award-winning author, explore her books, and encourage enthusiasm for reading.

The Birchwood Student Council also played a significant role in community engagement by organizing a successful diaper collection to support the North Porch organization. As the month draws to a close, students and teachers are preparing for the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) a standardized test that measures a student's reasoning skills in three areas: verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. It will take place at the end of the month.

Meanwhile, students and staff at Dwyer are preparing for the *World-class Instructional Design and Assessment*, aka *WIDA*. This test is used to establish the language proficiency of our MLL students in four areas, speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Students have worked hard this year on their skills and we expect positive results. The third grade conducted a wax museum for the school by dressing up in character based on biographies. They presented to both students and parents from a first-person perspective. Their speaking skills and their efforts in costume were impressive. The talent show was another huge success. Students demonstrated an array of skills from comedy to classic piano.

KDM teachers met with Response to Intervention (RTI) teams to review student progress and promote academic growth. "Read Across America," was celebrated with a spirit week and a fun twist – "The Masked Reader" challenge. Students were challenged to guess who was behind the mask as faculty and staff read books on a special daily video. The Sussex County Miners Reading Club visited with students along with Anica Mrose Rissi who shared her enthusiasm for writing. The KDM PTA hosted a sold-out Family Reading Night, bringing together families for a fun night of literacy. On March 7, the TREP$ afterschool program hosted a marketplace showcasing 27 student entrepreneurs. It was a huge success, with many budding business moguls selling their products. We are grateful to the Rockaway Township Education Foundation for their generous support of the program.

Students were entertained by CMS's "Wizard of Oz" presentation and look forward to their premiere later this month. Also occurring at the end of March is KDM's Rodeo Talent Show where students will demonstrate their multifarious talents.

Stony Brook's continued focus on reading included a visit from author Anica Mrose Rissi for a wonderful assembly, where she inspired students and shared her experiences as a children's book author. She spoke about the writing process, the importance of creativity, and the joys of storytelling, leaving students eager to explore their writing potential. The Read-A-Thon concluded successfully, showcasing the dedication of the school community. Students showed enthusiasm, logging many minutes of reading and embracing the joy of books. Their commitment to literacy was inspiring, and the event's success would not have been possible without the support of families, teachers, and staff. In addition, several fun events were held over the past few weeks, including a successful Candy Bar Bingo night and the 5th Grade Amazing Race. Looking ahead, the Stony Brook Talent Show on March 28 promises to be an exciting showcase of student talent, with a variety of performances sure to make it a fun and memorable event.

Over the past month, DBO continued its efforts to foster student engagement and community connections. Small group conversations led by Prevention is Key provided 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders with meaningful opportunities for discussion and personal growth. DBO also participated in Acts of Kindness Week, encouraging students to spread positivity through thoughtful gestures and community-building activities. As part of *Read Across America*, DBO welcomed the Morris Knolls Varsity Club, who read to students and helped promote a love of storytelling. A March Madness Reading Challenge was initiated to inspire students to explore new books and develop strong reading habits. The PTA also hosted their annual book fair as well as a literacy night which was held on March 6th.

Committed to "Building our Community: Brick by Brick," CMS is proud to announce the addition of two exciting new student-based initiatives: *Unified Sports* and *Lead 4 Change*. Dedicated to promoting social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences, *Unified Sports* joins people with and without disabilities on the same team. The CMS *Unified Sports* Club meets weekly in Bassett Hall after school where the student-athletes engage in various sports and activities under the supervision of our *Unified Sports* coaches. *Lead 4 Change* is a volunteer, leadership-based experience where students work toward meaningful change in their school and community while developing self-awareness, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Both programs are off to a great start.

IV. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

At our last board meeting, a member of the public brought up concerns regarding information provided in one of the initial press releases for the district's referendum. Specifically, that it cited an approximately 40% increase in enrollment over a five-year period (2019-2025). The individual then quoted alternative enrollment numbers which did not support that percentage. I did not respond at that point in time for two reasons, the first being I was unsure what press release was being referenced, and the second, because the numbers she quoted sounded correct, or at least very similar to what I would expect them to be. Following the meeting, I spoke with our Board President and began reviewing the situation. It became clear very quickly that an error had been made by the Interim Business Administrator who was filling in for me from March to June of 2024 and that his incorrect information was then included in the initial press release in August. His calculation failed to include Special Education students for the first two years of the cycle, and he had predicted a very inflated value for FY2025. The true enrollment numbers based on the district's ASSA submissions are as follows:

Year	Enrollment	Increase
2020	2270	-
2021	2339	69
2022	2384	45
2023	2409	25
2024	2425	16

Below is a breakdown of the most recent enrollment snapshot by school location:

Location	October 15, 2024 Enrollment
Copeland MS	801

Dennis O'Brien ES	296
Katherine D. Malone ES	303
Birchwood ES	315
Catherine A. Dwyer ES	345
Stony Brook ES	365
Total	**2425**

This would translate to an approximately 7% increase across those years or roughly 155 students. While a 40% increase in enrollment grabs your attention more, it is also unlikely to see that type of enrollment increase in any district. The release of this figure was not intended to mislead the public or make our situation more dire. It was simply an error made by someone filling in. Furthermore, the 7% increase which sounds far less exciting actually presents a true concern for the district. It shows fluctuations when new developments were built, predicts steady increases and is only a snapshot at October 15th of each year. This year alone from the time we took our October 15th snapshot, we have had 13 additional enrollments and counting. Any teacher will tell you that the addition of even one student greatly affects the dynamics of a classroom.

While increasing enrollment is certainly a concern, it is not the predicating factor of the referendum. More urgent, is that we have determined our current space to be at or nearing capacity, and frankly it is not at the standard we would like to see for our students. Just because we have found a way to make things work at this moment, does not mean we shouldn't continue to strive for better and more functional learning environments for our students and staff. Each year we apply for waivers to utilize unconventional spaces for learning. We receive that approval and support from the county, but do we want to continue to file for this type of exception? When I trained for my certification, we studied Buildings and Grounds management in detail. One of the first things taught to me and my peers was that it was our responsibility to ensure safe, healthy, and functional environments for our community. Without it, the best curriculum in the world will fall short. We are asking the community to consider supporting this endeavor. This community and its students deserve more than adequate. We want to strive to be at the forefront of innovation and growth, not catching up or falling behind. Projects like the ones outlined in this referendum cannot be accomplished within the normal budget cycles and if they could, it would take decades. We recognize that any referendum is a significant request for our taxpayers, and we do not make it lightly, but we have significant concerns about where we will be in the coming years if we do not consider these needs.

Tonight I will also be discussing the preliminary budget, and I want to say that I and my fellow administrators continue to look for savings, and responsible options to make the most of every dollar we spend. We truly hope that the community sees the advantages of what we choose to invest in, whether that is the quality of our staff, the opportunities for our students, the education we provide, and the environment we create. I hope this has offered clarity on the issue at hand, and we will continue to share more details and information on the items I've referenced as we move forward with the referendum and determine a new election date.

The district received notice from the NJDEP regarding elevated levels of lead in two locations at KDM Elementary. These locations were taken out of service immediately. Remediation actions have already been taken, and we are awaiting additional testing to clear the locations in question. This is not a widespread issue with the water throughout the building, but only two locations with a specific configuration of pipes and spigots. Those locations and a few surrounding them were taken out of service when preliminary test results were received out of an abundance of caution and none were "drinking locations" or utilized for food prep. We have no reason to believe there is any safety concern for students or staff.

I am very pleased to say that the Dwyer Sign will be shipping out on March 18th and should be arriving shortly thereafter. The maintenance department has already begun preparations for installation. In addition, after further review of the terms of the original purchase negotiated in 2022, I eliminated one of the vendors and through the help of Mr. Martino, our head of Building and Grounds, we were able to reduce the cost of the sign by more than half.

The transportation department is working to accommodate some of the issues that have been brought to our attention in relation to the sink hole issue on Rt. 80. It has impacted route timings and also changed traffic patterns in residential areas. We have chosen to relocate some stops temporarily to ensure student safety and will continue to assess the situation. We appreciate the public's patience as we do so.

Also on tonight's agenda under finance, we have the approval of our most recent bills list. To highlight the expenditures on tonight's bills list which make up the total amounts reflected:

- Approximately $198,578 is attributed to various utilities
- Approximately $166,677 is attributed to tuition
- Approximately $43,130 is attributed to Custodial/Maintenance
- Approximately $146,722 is attributed to transportation contracts, mechanical repairs, and department supplies
- Payroll for 2/15 and 2/28 totaled to $3,642,830
- The remaining costs are attributed to a range of smaller categories to include supplies, food service, staff pd and travel, etc.

I also wanted to take a moment to thank Abe Elder and our technology department for their hard work. It's been a tough couple of weeks for the district as very determined hackers have been orchestrating an onslaught of attempts to infiltrate emails and accounts across the district. This is something I'm hearing from my peers in other districts as well. Thus far the efforts of the IT department have kept us and our information safe from harm.

V. EDUCATION REPORT

The full Education Report can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-03-12' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-03-12'.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The full Committee Report can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-03-12' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-03-12'.

VII. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel

Motion made by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Mrs. Anderson , 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.	PT Custodian	Michael Allison	$27,166.00 (Step 4) + $1,500.00 +$800.00 (prorated) = $29,466.00	SB	**2/18/25	6/30/25	Reassignment to night hours Night differential stipend added
2.	Grade 2 Teacher	Lauren Anderson	$61,670.00 BA (Step 1) (prorated)	CAD	**2/18/25	6/6/25	Reassignment of Leave Replacement from AI Teacher to Grade 2 Teacher at CAD (Replacing Employee 6833)
3.	Academic Intervention Teacher	Christina Bielski	$62,670.00 BA (Step 2) (prorated)	BWD	4/22/25	6/30/25	Extended Leave Replacement (Replacing Employee 6027)
4.	Substitute Nurse	Megan Fernandez	$48.00/hr.	DIST.	24-25 SY		For After School Programs As needed
5.	District Mentor	Amy Hoffnagle	$550.00 per year	BWD	24-25 SY		
6.	Bus Assistant	Terry Jenkins	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	TRANS.	***3/13/25	6/30/25	As needed Training to be Bus Driver Step frozen for 25-26 school year Pending fingerprint approval
7.	After School Club	Ivan Kaltman	$50.00 per session	SB	3/19/25	5/7/25	Pay-to-Play Chess Club 2 sessions per week (24 students) 14 total sessions
8.	Special Education MD Teacher	Debbi Katcher	$62,920.00 BA+30 (Step 1) (prorated)	KDM	4/22/25	6/13/25	Leave Replacement Pending physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval (Replacing Employee 6789)

9.	Academic Intervention Teacher	Dawn Montesano	$61,670.00 BA (Step 1) (prorated)	KDM	**3/3/25	6/30/25	Leave Replacement (Replacing Employee 6948)
10.	ESY Program Coordinator	Jessica Mucerino	$3,946.00 per phase	DIST.	3/13/25 6/30/25	6/30/25 8/15/25	Phase I Phase II
11.	District Mentor	Kathleen Nangle	$550.00 per year	CAD	24-25 SY		
12.	Bus Mechanic	Selvin Ramos	$58,000.00 (prorated)	TRANS.	*3/31/25	6/30/25	Full-time Salary frozen for 25-26 SY Pending physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval (Replacing C Logrono)
13.	Substitute Nurse	Linda Rizzuto	$48.00/hr.	DIST.	24-25 SY		For After School Programs As needed
14.	SEPAC Presenter	Samantha Viscuso	$120.00 stipend	DIST.	3/18/25	3/18/25	Stipend per presentation outside school hours and includes preparation
15.	Math Teacher	Megan Yar	$81,390.00 MA+60 (Step 13) (prorated)	CMS	*5/13/25	6/30/25	Step frozen for 25-26 school year Pending physical/Mantoux and other personnel paperwork (Replacing N Granaturova)
16.	JNHS Field Trip Alternate Administrator	Charles Young	$775.00 stipend	CMS	3/26/25	3/28/25	Trip to Washington DC As needed

B.	Appointments Per Attached Lists						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	After School Clubs – CMS	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	CMS	3/17/25	5/23/25	Spring 2025 Pay-to-Play Clubs per the attached list
2.	Author Night Supervision	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	3/13/25	3/13/25	Per the attached list Not to exceed 2 hours
3.	District Translators	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	24-25 SY		As needed
4.	Kindergarten Meet and Greet	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	6/23/25	6/24/25	Teachers, Nurse, and Staff Assistant per attached list Not to exceed 14 hours per staff member
5.	Kindergarten Open House	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	8/26/25	8/26/25	Not to exceed 2 hours per staff member
6.	Summer Hours - Nurses	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	DIST.	7/1/25	8/26/25	Preparation of the 25-26 SY Hours per the attached list

C.	Leave of Absence						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	Math Teacher	6917		CMS	6/16/25 9/8/25	9/5/25 11/28/25	With Pay under FMLA Without Pay under NJFLA Return: 12/1/25
2.	PT Staff Assistant	6834		CMS	3/31/25 4/28/25	4/24/25 6/20/25	With Pay Without Pay under NJFLA Return: 1st day 25-26 SY
3.	PT Staff Assistant	6344		CMS	**1/31/25	3/12/25	With Pay Return: 3/13/25
4.	Academic Intervention Teacher	6027		BWD	4/22/25	6/30/25	Extended without Pay Return: 1st day 25-26 SY
5.	Occupational Therapist	6855		BWD	5/27/25 6/13/25 9/2/25	6/12/25 6/30/25 11/21/25	With Pay under FMLA Without Pay under FMLA Without Pay under NJFLA

							Return: 11/24/25
6.	PT Custodian	6718		CAD	**2/10/25 3/18/25	3/17/25 4/13/25	With Pay Without Pay Return: 4/14/25
7.	Maintenance Clerk	5085		MAINT.	3/24/25	5/9/25	With Pay under FMLA Return: 5/12/25
8.	Bus Driver	5380		TRANS.	**2/28/25	3/21/25	With Pay Return: 3/24/25
9.	PT Staff Assistant/Bus Monitor	6194		TRANS.	**1/31/25	4/4/25	With Pay Return: 4/7/25

D. Resign/Retire

	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.		4238		CO		7/1/25	Retire
2.	Bus Mechanic	Christopher Logrono		TRANS.		**2/26/25	Resign
3.	Substitute Teacher	Janayla Montes		DIST.		**2/10/25	Resign
4.	PT Staff Assistant	Dawn Montesano		BWD		**3/3/25	Rescinded acceptance of reinstatement in order to accept Leave Replacement position in district
5.	PT Staff Assistant	Maria Niro		DBO		**3/3/25	Resign

E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following revision to the previously approved motion under Personnel (Motion A-10, 12-11-24 agenda), rescinding employment offer.

	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	Grade 2 Resource Teacher	Jaime Inglesino	$62,920.00 BA+30 (Step 1) (prorated)	DBO		3/13/25	Rescind employment offer due to delay of certification issuance

F. Job Description

	Category	**Position**	**Location**	**Date Effective**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	A-9	Assistant School Business Administrator	DIST.	3/13/25		New

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 Ms. McGeary, seconded by Ms. Tourne, to approve the following HIB determination.

HIB Resolution

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB Incidents: #284970 unconfirmed, #284972 confirmed, #285073 confirmed, #285142 confirmed, #285143 unconfirmed, #285259 unconfirmed, #285356 unconfirmed, #285357 confirmed, #285453 unconfirmed, #285576 confirmed, #285997 confirmed, #285998 confirmed 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:
#284970 unconfirmed, #284972 confirmed, #285073 confirmed, #285142 confirmed, #285143 unconfirmed, #285259 unconfirmed, #285356 unconfirmed, #285357 confirmed, #285453 unconfirmed, #285576 confirmed, #285997 confirmed, #285998 confirmed.

HIB Current Investigations:

#285880	#286387	#286527	#286972	#287038
#287061	#287165	#287417	#287418	#287950
#287593	#287594	#287595	#287848	#287928
#287967	#288144	#288190	#288191	#288663

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 Ms. McGeary, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the following education recommendations.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the field trip to the Rockaway Township Library with the cast of The Wizard of Oz on March 11, 2025 at 10:30am for Story Time.

2. 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
Thea Arico	Just-in-Time Math Interventions (K-2)	Bureau of Education and Research	Virtual	April 9, 2025	$295.00	N/A	$295.00
Nancy Beiermeister	Annual Conference	Sussex County Regional Cooperative	West Orange, NJ	May 1, 2025	No Cost	$20.77	$20.77
Wendy Madonia	2025 Annual Conference	NJ American Academy of Pediatrics	Somerset, NJ	June 11, 2025	$185.00	$39.76	$224.76
Michael McGovern	Legislative Conference	NJ Principals and Supervisors Association	Monroe, NJ	March 21, 2025	No Cost	$57.34	$57.34
Scott Nordland	School Safety/School Climate Teams(SS/SCT) : Role & Responsibilities	NJ Department of Education	Virtual	March 24, 2025	No Cost	N/A	$0.00
Claudia Passaro	School Based SLPs: Word Finding Disorder-What it is and how to treat it.	Bureau of Education and Research	Virtual	April 4, 2025	$295.00	N/A	$295.00
Joy Van Wingerden	Strengthen Phonics Instruction in Any K-2	Bureau of Education and Research	Virtual	March 31, 2025	$295.00	N/A	$295.00

	Reading Program						

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the salary and stipends funded with Federal Grants, as follows:

Employee	Grade/Position	Location	Stipend/Salary	% Funded
Loriana Takacs	Title I After School Substitute Teacher	DBO	$48.00/hr	100% Title I

4. 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 and/or the Fall 2025 Semester.

Student Teacher	College/University	Cooperating Teacher/Location
Jack Hartsuiker*	County College of Morris	Demet Bilter/BW
Kara Pirtle	Grand Canyon University	Carly Farrell/CAD

*Pending satisfactory completion of District requirements

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

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

7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following employees for CPR Certification during the 2024-2025 school year. The cost to the District will be $10.50/employee (for the cost for the American Heart Association e-card) (as per attached).

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

D. Administration
Motion made by Ms. McGeary, seconded by Ms. Tourne, to approve the following administration recommendations.

1. Donation
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board accepts the following check donation of $1,000.00 from Lake Hopatcong Elks #3559 (as per attached).

2. Vehicle Disposal
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the disposal and/or sale of surplus/obsolete equipment for the Transportation Department as follow (as per attached):

Bus / Van #	Year	Make	Passenger	Vin #
30	2015	Chevrolet	16	1GD372BGXE1137362
31	2015	Chevrolet	16	1GD372BGOE1137175
246	2006	Bluebird	54	1BABHBKA56F236520
247	2007	Bluebird	54	1BABHBKA47F243069
248	2007	Bluebird	54	1BABHBKA07F243070
249	2007	Bluebird	54	1BABHBKA27F243071
250	2007	Bluebird	54	1BABHBKA47F143072

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

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

1. Financials
Be It Resolved that the Rockaway Township Board of Education approves the Report of the Secretary and Report of Appropriations, and Report of the Treasurer, for the period ending in **February 28, 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 February 28, 2025.
Authorize February 2025 account transfers as submitted.

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

A.	February	Student Activities	$19,696.46
B.	March	Student Activities	$178.82
C.	February	After School Activities	$1,108.55
D.	February	Cafeteria	$107,494.76
E.	March	District Bills	TBD

3. Copier Lease Agreement
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the five-year lease agreement commencing on July 1, 2025 with Atlantic, 400 Broadacres Drive, Suite 350, Bloomfield, NJ 07003 for copiers for all the Rockaway Township Schools and Administrative Buildings in the amount of $297,600.00 (as per attached).

4.Adoption of the Tentative Budget for School Year 2025-2026
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board adopts the tentative budget for School Year 2025-2026.

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

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

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

P. 5512 HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (M)
P. 5516 USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES (M)
P. 5533 STUDENT SMOKING (M)
P. 5701 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
P. 5710 STUDENT GRIEVANCE
P. 7441 ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND ON SCHOOL GROUNDS
P. 8500 FOOD SERVICES
P. 9320 COOPERATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES (M)

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

Motion by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Mezik, 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 thanking Mrs. Slamb for providing her answers to her questions that she asked.

A member of the community came up complimenting the Board for answering questions.

A member of the community came up thanking the Board for letting public comment go longer, the theater club did great, can we post on the website what Board member is on what committee, and also wanted to know why the numbers that were given last year were incorrect when it was brought to Board members attention.

A member of the community came up and spoke about when the training will be rescheduled.

A member of the community came up and said she heard that the Dept of Education was closing and what will the plan be?

Motion by Ms. McGeary, seconded by Ms. Tourne 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

New Business
Ms. Richardson- went to her first Substance Alliance Committee meeting. May 8th and May 21st they will be here at Copeland school. The program is called Project Positive Choices. This is all done by fundraising website is RTSAA.org.
Mrs. Mezik- spoke about the upcoming MCSBA and the next meeting is on April 2nd at Morris Knolls. A Copeland student was nominated for the Unsung Hero's Ceremony.

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 – 2024-03-12' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-03-12'.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Ms. McGeary, meeting adjourned at 9:37PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan S. Slamb

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