ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 22, 2025 – REGULAR MEETING

6:00 pm – Public Session — **Copeland Middle School – Cafeteria**
Immediately into Closed Session — **Copeland Middle School – Faculty Room**
7:30 pm – Public Session — **Copeland Middle School – Cafeteria**

Details for how to access the Public Meeting through remote means will be posted on the district website at www.rocktwp.net. The Public is strongly encouraged to participate. Community members can watch the meeting live online. Members of the public are encouraged to attend in person to provide public comment.

VISION
Rockaway Township Schools…Opening minds, opening worlds, so every child's potential becomes a reality and challenges become opportunities for personal success!

MISSION
To nurture a supportive culture embracing individual diversity that will ensure academic, social and emotional success for all.

2024-2025 BOARD GOALS			
GOAL I	GOAL II	GOAL III	GOAL IV
Ensure continued academic excellence by: a. Supporting and publicizing the newly-implemented and revised curriculum documents and academic programming for all learners. b. Appraising the effectiveness of ELA and Math programming in which achievement is measured through triannual reports that are shared publicly.	Maintain a safe and supportive school district culture by: a. Fostering inclusivity, equity, and a culture of mutual respect for all students and staff. b. Providing the resources to support a school environment conducive to social and emotional health and increased, cohesive service-learning initiatives.	Support operational excellence that is sensitive to the ever-growing needs of an expanding school community by: a. Utilizing community discussion data to communicate and promote the benefits of the Referendum to invest in our learners and enhance functional space. b. Ensuring a consistent approach to the implementation of security across the district. c. Determining and executing next steps for analyzing, designing, and investing in facilities to maximize and enhance functional space.	Promote community outreach and enhanced communications by: a. Building new partnerships and growing existing relationships in order to effectively reach all stakeholders. b. Clearly and effectively communicating the roles and responsibilities of the Board.

2024-2025 DISTRICT GOALS				
GOAL I	GOAL II	GOAL III	GOAL IV	GOAL V
By June 2025, the district will increase the percentages of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the NJSLA in ELA and Mathematics by at least 5% across all grade levels (4-8; grade 3 is baseline) compared to the 2023-2024 school year baseline, through data-based articulation, targeted interventions, and both internal and external professional development.	Provide additional common, and consistent learning experiences in mathematics, literacy, and science to foster increased engagement.	Improve the climate and culture in each school and reduce chronic absenteeism through the implementation of: a. Character Strong SEL Program b. Improved HIB Processes c. We Dine Together at CMS d. PAAWS at CMS e. Unified Sports at CMS f. Climate and Culture Surveys	Reinforce a positive and effective practice of community outreach that is transparent, trusting, and collaborative. (Academy Nights)	Plan and implement a Referendum that will address both capacity and educational needs well into the future of the Rockaway Township School District.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER
ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE
CLOSED SESSION
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL PRESENTATION
Presentation by Assemblywoman Dunn and Mr. McGovern
PUBLIC DISCUSSION

I. **COMMUNICATIONS**
II. **APPROVE MINUTES**
III. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
IV. **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**
V. **EDUCATION REPORT**
VI. **COMMITTEE REPORT**
VII. **RECOMMENDED ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION**
   - **A. Personnel**
   - **B. HIB**
   - **C. Education**
   - **D. Special Education**
   - **E. Administration**
   - **F. Finance**

VI. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
   - **A. Old Business**
   - **B. New Business**

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Call to Order
_____ called the meeting to order at _____pm.

Attendance Roll Call						
Mrs. Anderson	**Mrs. Curelaru**	**Ms. McGeary**	**Mrs. Mezik**	**Ms. Richardson**	**Ms. Tourne**	**Dr. Tomasini**

Others in Attendance				
Dr. Corbett	Mrs. Slamb	Board Attorney	Visitors	Press

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
The New Jersey "Open Public Meetings Act" was passed to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed and acted upon. In accordance with the provision of the "Act", the Rockaway Township Board of Education has caused notice of the date, time, and place of said meetings to be published in "The Daily Record," "The Star Ledger," and be posted in all schools in the district, in the Municipal Building of the Township and the Township Library.
Does any Board Member wish to object to the conduct of this meeting for the purpose as stated in the public notice?

PUBLIC NOTICE
All documentation and materials considered by the Board of Education as part of this agenda are available for public review and comment. Members of the public are invited to come to the Board of Education building, off Green Pond Road, during the regular business hours of 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, if they wish to inspect any of the referenced items.

Pledge of Allegiance			
Motion to waive Pledge until Open session by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to waive Pledge			

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, litigation, acquisition of real property, security, negotiations, receipt of governmental funds, the content of said discussions will be disclosed to the public at such time and extent as is required by law.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to go into closed session by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to enter closed session			
Closed Session starts at _____ pm.			

Motion to come out of closed session by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to end closed session			
Closed Session ends at _____ pm.			

Reconvene at _____ pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL PRESENTATION
Presentation by Assemblywoman Dunn & Mr. McGovern

PUBLIC DISCUSSION
During the course of the board meeting, the Rockaway Township Board of Education offers members of the public an opportunity to address issues regarding the operations of the Rockaway Township Public Schools. The Board reminds those individuals who take this opportunity to identify themselves by name and address and to limit their comments to items listed on the agenda and/or items directly related to the operations of the School District. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate. The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking, Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged and will not be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. The Board bears no responsibility nor will it be liable for any comments made by the members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in the comments and be aware that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.

In accordance with Board Policy 0167, public discussion is limited to fifteen (15) minutes with a three (3) minute limit per member of the public. The Board President shall have the right to modify the length of public discussion, as he/she deems appropriate.

Open First Public Comment			
Motion to open public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to open public comment			

Close First Public Comment			
Motion to close public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to close public comment			

I. COMMUNICATIONS – The Board has not received any correspondence since the last regular meeting.

II. APPROVE MINUTES

Approve Minutes			
Motion to approve the minutes by:		**Seconded by:**	

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approved the minutes of January 8, 2025.

Approve Minutes Roll Call						
Mrs. Anderson	**Mrs. Curelaru**	**Ms. McGeary**	**Mrs. Mezik**	**Ms. Richardson**	**Ms. Tourne**	**Dr. Tomasini**

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/HIB UPDATE/UPDATE ON DISTRICT GOALS

IV. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

V. EDUCATION REPORT

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

VII. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel			
Motion to approve Personnel Items by:		**Seconded by:**	

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.	Substitute Nurse	Brianna Brannin	$48.00/hr.	DIST.	24-25 SY		For After School Programs As needed
2.	PT Staff Assistant	Lenn Brown	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	BWD	2/10/25	6/30/25	1:1 per student IEP in Preschool 26 hrs./wk. Step frozen for 25-26 SY. (Replacing M Bosi)
3.	Substitute Nurse	Lisa Cucciniello	$48.00/hr.	DIST.	24-25 SY		For After School Programs As needed
4.	Site Manager	Scott Credidio	$1,500.00	CMS	24-25 SY		Spring Baseball/Softball Stipend
5.	Unified Sports Club Coach	Scott Credidio	$48.00/hr.	CMS	24-25 SY		One-third of 25 sessions
6.	Unified Sports Club Coach	Kenneth Fuchs	$48.00/hr.	CMS	24-25 SY		One-third of 25 sessions
7.	Assistant Director of Student Services	Rebecca Garcia	$110,000.00 (prorated)	DIST.	*3/23/25	6/30/25	(Replacing K Pietrowski)
8.	Unified Sports Coordinator	Rosemary Heath	$48.00/hr.	CMS	24-25 SY		Stipend –Not to exceed 45 hrs.
9.	ESL Teacher	Jessica Hughes	$61,670.00 BA (Step 1) (prorated)	CAD	*2/3/25	6/30/25	Reassignment Leave Replacement Pending issuance of certification (Replacing Employee 5932)
10.	PT Staff Assistant	Linda Petrovich	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	DBO	1/23/25	6/30/25	LLD Classroom 26 hrs./wk.
11.	Grade 2 Teacher	Rebecca Sanderson	$61,670.00 BA (Step 1) (prorated)	DBO	4/28/25	5/16/25	Extended Leave Replacement (Replacing Employee 5638)
12.	Softball Assistant Coach	Alexis Simpson	$3,000.00	CMS	24-25 SY		Stipend
13.	Unified Sports Club Coach	Alexis Simpson	$48.00/hr.	CMS	24-25 SY		One-third of 25 sessions
14.	PT Office Staff Assistant	Krista Zygmunt	$21.35/hr. (Step 1)	SB	1/23/25	6/30/25	(Replacing E Macellaro)

B.	Leave of Absence						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	Supervisor of Facilities and Safety Mgmt.	4304		MAINT.	**1/6/25	1/31/25	Extended with Pay Retirement: 1/31/25
2.	Grade 2 Teacher	5638		DBO	**11/18/24 1/24/25 2/17/25	1/23/25 2/14/25 5/16/25	Revised with Pay under FMLA Without Pay under FMLA Without Pay under NJFLA Return: 5/19/25
3.	FT Custodian	4779		BWD	**1/9/25	1/23/25	Extended with Pay under FMLA Return: 1/24/25

C.	Resign/Retire						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	PT Staff Assistant	Rosa Hitchner		CAD		1/24/25	Resign
2.	PT Staff Assistant	Melany Malzahn		KDM		4/30/25	Retire

D.	Substitute Teachers – Approve the following substitute teachers as new hires and rehires for the 2024-2025 school year.						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Level**	**Discussion**
1.	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	DIST.	24-25 SY	Per the attached list	Per the attached list

E.	Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following revision to the previously approved motion under Personnel (Motion B-3, 10-16-24 agenda), an increase in TREPS Pay-to-Play Club from 9 sessions at 1/week to 11 sessions at 1/week for Fall 2024 session.						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	After School Club - SB	Thea Arico	Per contracted rate of pay	SB	**10/17/24	12/19/24	Fall 2024 TREPS Club increase by 2 sessions due to increase in enrollment to club
2.	After School Club - SB	Katelyn Marini	Per contracted rate of pay	SB	**10/17/24	12/19/24	Fall 2024 TREPS Club increase by 2 sessions due to increase in enrollment to club

F.	Job Descriptions					
	Category	**Position**	**Location**	**Date Effective**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	D-11	Multiple Language Learner Program Coordinator	DIST.	1/23/25		Revised
2.	E-1	Director of Student Services	DIST.	*3/23/25		Revised
3.	E-23	Supervisor of Special Education	DIST.		*3/23/25	Abolish
4.	E-26	Assistant Director of Student Services	DIST.	*3/23/25		New

Personnel Items Key		
**on/before effective date*	***concurrent*	****on/after effective date*

Roll Call Vote on Personnel Items						
Mrs. Anderson	**Mrs. Curelaru**	**Ms. McGeary**	**Mrs. Mezik**	**Ms. Richardson**	**Ms. Tourne**	**Dr. Tomasini**

B. HIB Determination			
Motion to approve HIB Determination by:		**Seconded by:**	

HIB Resolution

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB Incidents: #273293 unconfirmed, #273294 unconfirmed, #273480 unconfirmed, #273529 confirmed, #273612 unconfirmed, #273738 confirmed, #273879 confirmed, #284015 confirmed, #284648 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: #273293 unconfirmed, #273294 unconfirmed, #273480 unconfirmed, #273529 confirmed, #273612 unconfirmed, #273738 confirmed, #273879 confirmed, #284015 confirmed, #284648 confirmed.

Roll Call Vote on HIB Determination						
Mrs. Anderson	**Mrs. Curelaru**	**Ms. McGeary**	**Mrs. Mezik**	**Ms. Richardson**	**Ms. Tourne**	**Dr. Tomasini**

HIB Current Investigations:

#284383	#284384	#284385	#284776	#284971

HIB Incident Summary (as per attached)

C. Education			
Motion to approve Education recommendations by:		**Seconded by:**	

1.Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board agrees to the following unavoidable registration and/or travel costs as presented, which are educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and are related to and within the scope of the employee's current responsibilities and promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district. The reimbursements are in compliance with the State travel reimbursement guidelines as established by the Department of Treasury and Board of Education policy in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A-23B-1.1 et seq.

Employee	Workshop Title	Workshop Location	Workshop Dates	Registration Fee	Travel/Hotel/ Incidentals Cost	Total Cost
Christina DeSarno	NJSHA Convention	Atlantic City, NJ	March 27-28, 2025	$255.00	$68.15	$323.15
Bari Eisenhauer	NJSHA Convention	Atlantic City, NJ	March 27-28, 2025	$255.00	$68.15	$323.15
Abraham Elder	TECHSPO 2025	Atlantic City, NJ	January 30, 2025	$415.00	N/A	$415.00
Samantha Fiederer	NJIDA WIFFT	Virtual	February 1, 2025	$90.00	N/A	$90.00
Alyssa Howarth	NJIDA WIFFT	Virtual	February 1, 2025	$90.00	N/A	$90.00
Michael Martino	NJSBGA Conference	Atlantic City, NJ	March 23-26, 2025	$350.00	$720.89	$1070.89
Kaitlin Miller	NJIDA WIFFT	Virtual	February 1, 2025	$90.00	N/A	$90.00
Caitlin Molloy	NJAHPERD Annual Conference 2025	Princeton, NJ	February 24, 2025	$250.00	N/A	$250.00
Sonya Patel	K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment &	Virtual	January 23, 2025	No cost	N/A	$0.00

	Management Training					
Jennifer Saxton	Dyslexia: Best Strategies (Grades K-8)	Virtual	February 25, 2025	$295.00	N/A	$295.00
Chloe Silva	NJIDA WIFFT	Virtual	February 1, 2025	$90.00	N/A	$90.00
Elyse Webster	NJIDA WIFFT	Virtual	February 1, 2025	$90.00	N/A	$90.00
Mary Weilbaecher	NJIDA WIFFT	Virtual	February 1, 2025	$90.00	N/A	$90.00

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**	**Workshop Location**	**Workshop Dates**	**Registration Fee**	**Travel/Hotel/ Incidentals Cost**	**Total Cost**
Barbara Beere	BLS Instructor Training	Virtual	December 3, 2024	$315.00	N/A	$315.00

3.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**
Kara Pirtle	Grand Canyon University	Michelle Cortese/ KDM

*Pending satisfactory completion of District requirements

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

5. 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
Nicole Parzero	Title I Before School Sub Teacher (up to 3 hrs./week for 21 weeks)	DBO	$48.00/hr.	100% Title I

Board Discussion

In accordance with Board Policy 0167, public discussion is limited to fifteen (15) minutes with a three (3) minute limit per member of the public. The Board President shall have the right to modify the length of public discussion, as he/she deems appropriate.

Open Public Comment on Education items only *(Ask if Necessary)*			
Motion to open public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to open public comment			

Close Public Comment			
Motion to close public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to close public comment			

Roll Call Vote on Education items						
Mrs. Anderson	**Mrs. Curelaru**	**Ms. McGeary**	**Mrs. Mezik**	**Ms. Richardson**	**Ms. Tourne**	**Dr. Tomasini**

D. Special Education			
Motion to approve Special Education recommendations by:		**Seconded by:**	

1. **Extraordinary Services Tuition – for SY 2024-2025**
   Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the extraordinary services for the following out of district placement student for the 2024-2025 school year (as per attached).

Student #	School/Providing Service	Location of Service	Annual Tuition Rate
#3510301	Pillar School	Livingston, NJ	$26,215.00 (107 billable days) or $245.00 per diem

2. **Revised Extraordinary Services Tuition – for SY 2024-2025**
   Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the revised extraordinary services for the following out of district placement student for the 2024-2025 school year (as per attached).

Student #	School/Providing Service	Location of Service	Annual Tuition Rate
#200104	Shepard School	Kinnelon	Tuition $69,548.76 or $326.52 per diem + **Extraordinary Aide $25,260.78 or $195.82 per diem (from the 6/26/24 agenda)**

Board Discussion

In accordance with Board Policy 0167, public discussion is limited to fifteen (15) minutes with a three (3) minute limit per member of the public. The Board President shall have the right to modify the length of public discussion, as he/she deems appropriate.

Open Public Comment on Special Education items only *(Ask if Necessary)*			
Motion to open public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to open public comment			

Close Public Comment			
Motion to close public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to close public comment			

Roll Call Vote on Special Education items						
Mrs. Anderson	**Mrs. Curelaru**	**Ms. McGeary**	**Mrs. Mezik**	**Ms. Richardson**	**Ms. Tourne**	**Dr. Tomasini**

E. Administration			
Motion to approve Administration recommendations by:		**Seconded by:**	

1. **Organizational Chart**
   Motion to approve the Rockaway Township Board of Education Organizational Chart for the 2025-2026 school year (as per attached).

2. **Equipment Disposal**
   Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorized the disposal and/or surplus property/obsolete equipment from the IT department (as per attached).

Board Discussion

In accordance with Board Policy 0167, public discussion is limited to fifteen (15) minutes with a three (3) minute limit per member of the public. The Board President shall have the right to modify the length of public discussion, as he/she deems appropriate.

Open Public Comment on Administration items only *(Ask if Necessary)*			
Motion to open public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to open public comment			

Close Public Comment			
Motion to close public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to close public comment			

Roll Call Vote on Administration items						
Mrs. Anderson	**Mrs. Curelaru**	**Ms. McGeary**	**Mrs. Mezik**	**Ms. Richardson**	**Ms. Tourne**	**Dr. Tomasini**

F. Finance			
Motion to approve Finance recommendations by:		**Seconded by:**	

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 **December 31, 2024.**

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 October 31, 2024.

Authorize December 2024 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.	December	Student Activities	$13,089.86
	January	Student Activities	$26,115.78
B.	December	After School Activities	$8,838.49
	January	After School Activities	$2,489.58
C.	December	Cafeteria	$81,866.40
	January	Cafeteria	$71,815.92
D.	January	State Unemployment Bill	$20,876.44
E.	January	District Bills	$5,255,525.99

Board Discussion

In accordance with Board Policy 0167, public discussion is limited to fifteen (15) minutes with a three (3) minute limit per member of the public. The Board President shall have the right to modify the length of public discussion, as he/she deems appropriate.

Open Public Comment on Financial items only *(Ask if Necessary)*			
Motion to open public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to open public comment			

Close Public Comment			
Motion to close public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to close public comment			

Roll Call Vote on Finance items						
Mrs. Anderson	**Mrs. Curelaru**	**Ms. McGeary**	**Mrs. Mezik**	**Ms. Richardson**	**Ms. Tourne**	**Dr. Tomasini**

Open Second Public Comment			
Motion to open public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to open public comment			

Close Second Public Comment			
Motion to close public comment by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to close public comment			

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Old Business

B. New Business

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Return to Executive Session *(if needed)*

For the discussion of _____ for approximately _____ minutes.

Motion to go into closed session by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to enter closed session.			
Closed session starts at _____ pm.			

Motion to adjourn closed session by:		**Seconded by:**	

Show of hands to end closed session.

Closed sessions ends at _____ pm.

Meeting Adjournment			
Motion to adjourn meeting by:		**Seconded by:**	
Show of hands to adjourn meeting.			

Meeting adjournment at _____ pm.