REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
MARCH 18, 2026

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 5:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

Mrs. McGeary called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

The following current sitting Board members of the Board of Education were present in-person: Mrs. Anderson, Dr. Gorman, Mrs. Mezik, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Tourne and Ms. McGeary.

Mr. Eory as of this meeting, has resigned from the Board.

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
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 provisions 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 "The Daily Record," "The Star-Ledger," and to 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 material 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 reference items.

No Board Member objected to the conduct of the meeting as advertised.

Motion made by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Ms. Tourne to waive the Pledge until open session.

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

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.

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 Ms. Tourne, seconded by Mrs. Anderson that the closed session stands adjourned at 7:39

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

Ms. McGeary reopened the regular business meeting of the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPELLING BEE STUDENT RECOGNITION
The Stony Brook Student Recognition can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-03-18' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-02-18'.

DBO STUDENT RECOGNITION
The preview performance can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-03-18' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-03-18'.

A Recess was called at 8:00 PM.

The Public Meeting reconvened at 8:11 PM.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Motion by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Tourne to open Public comment.

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

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 – 2026-03-18' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-03-18'.

No one from the public came up to speak

Motion by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Mrs. Anderson, to close Public comment.

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

I. COMMUNICATIONS:

An additional communication was added. Susan Fabiano- Notice of accumulated unused sick time for retirement.

Dylan Eory	Resignation

II. APPROVE MINUTES:

Motion by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Richardson to approve the minutes of February 18, 2026.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, Mrs. Anderson, Dr. Gorman, Mrs. Mezik, Ms. Richardson and Ms. Tourne, voted yes motion carried. Ms. McGeary abstained.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The full Superintendent Report can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-03-18' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-03-18'.

To keep the board and community apprised regarding progress toward district goals, an update will be provided at the April 15 Board of Education meeting. This annual district update is usually provided at the June board meeting. Moving it up two months makes it more relevant to the superintendent's evaluation.

This school year, we have had two school closures and three delayed openings. As per the district calendar, with two snow days remaining, school will be closed on June 19 and June 22, making June 18 the last day of school. The most recent delayed opening on Wednesday, February 25, was a difficult call due to the timing of the storm, not the accumulating snow. I received three emails from the community, and one of those who emailed also left a voicemail message. To provide the community with some insight into the process used to delay or cancel school, I posted a weather-closing FAQ on the website.

This evening, we recognized Susan Ritz, one of our hard-working paraprofessionals at Copeland Middle School, who has been awarded the NJEA MCCEA (Morris County Council of Education Association) Educational Service Professional of the Year Award. We are grateful to Susan for her hard work and dedication to our students.

Good News from our Schools

Students at Birchwood Elementary had an exciting and memorable *Read Across America* week filled with fun and many creative activities. Throughout the week, students demonstrated their love of reading through themed dress-up days. They brought their favorite stories to life by dressing as Dr. Seuss characters and showcasing their wild side with animal prints. Students also dressed as their favorite authors and proudly wore their grade-level colors, demonstrating creativity, school spirit, and a shared passion for books. Second-grade students also enjoyed their field trip to the planetarium. They returned from the bus filled with excitement and eager to share their experiences. Some of our Birchwood students and their families joined Ms. Rivera and participated in the Municipal Alliance bowling event. The celebrations concluded with the PTA's Paint Night on Friday, March 13. Under the guidance of Ms. Dearolf, participants created artwork while enjoying a relaxing evening together. The event was the perfect end to a week of learning, creativity, and community spirit.

Over the past few weeks, students and staff at DBO celebrated literacy, character, and cultural awareness. During *Read Across America Week*, the school community participated in a variety of themed days and activities designed to promote a love of reading. Classrooms across the building engaged in special read-alouds, literacy activities, and discussions that highlighted the importance of books and storytelling. In partnership with the PTA, DBO also hosted a successful book fair, which provided students and families the opportunity to explore and purchase new books while supporting the school community. The book fair culminated in a well-attended family night, bringing students, parents, and staff together to celebrate reading. In addition to celebrating literacy, the DBO community continued to recognize student achievement and positive character. The school held its monthly Student Recognition Assembly, where students were acknowledged for their accomplishments, positive attitudes, and contributions to the school community. Throughout the month, classrooms also honored Black History Month through lessons and activities that highlighted the achievements, history, and contributions of Black Americans. Students further strengthened the school's culture of kindness during Random Acts of Kindness Week, participating in activities that encouraged empathy, respect, and thoughtful actions toward others. These experiences continue to help foster a positive and inclusive learning environment for all students at DBO.

At Catherine A. Dwyer, students have been actively engaged with the community through the Seeds of Service initiative. This month, the Rockaway Township Police Department was invited to speak with students about community policing and the importance of positive partnerships. Students presented the officers with thoughtfully prepared "Go Bags" to keep in their patrol cars. This is a small gesture of appreciation for the long days and nights they dedicate to serving our community. Dwyer students have been equally busy within the school. Highlights include the Wax Museum presentations, the opening day of baseball celebrated alongside players from Morris Hills High School, informative oral health demonstrations, and preparations for the upcoming TREP$ marketplace at the end of the month. Each event continues to provide students with meaningful, real-world learning experiences. The Dwyer PTA has also been very productive, hosting a laser light show, a successful book fair, and a well-attended Literacy Night that reinforced the joy and importance of reading. In addition, many of our students bravely took the stage during the Talent Show. It was inspiring to watch them perform for a packed audience, demonstrating confidence, creativity, and school pride. As we approach Spring Break, teachers are working on instructional units and preparing students for upcoming assessments. Their dedication ensures that our students remain engaged, supported, and well-prepared. Dwyer continues as a vibrant place of learning, service, and community connection.

KDM has enjoyed an exciting and enriching month filled with opportunities for students to showcase their talents, celebrate learning, and develop valuable life skills. The KDM PTA hosted a successful Talent Show, which highlighted the students' skills and abilities. Students celebrated *Read Across America*, while our language arts students participated in fun and engaging lessons that highlighted the joy and importance of reading. The KDM staff and PTA hosted another wonderful Family Reading Night. In addition, our young entrepreneurs proudly opened their TREP$ businesses to the public with Mayor Joe Jackson on hand. The TREP$ Program provides a powerful experience for students to develop entrepreneurial skills, including business planning, marketing strategies, expense and income projections, product development, financial literacy, and sales. KDM Elementary continues to thrive thanks to the dedication of our students, staff, families, and community partners.

With continued emphasis on providing enriching experiences for students, Stony Brook welcomed author Ajanta Chakraborty for a virtual cultural arts assembly. During the presentation, she incorporated storytelling, music, and cultural traditions, providing students with an engaging opportunity to learn about and appreciate diverse cultures. The third annual Read-A-Thon concluded successfully, once again showcasing the dedication of the Stony Brook school community. This year's theme celebrated the Olympic Games, adding an extra layer of excitement and school spirit throughout the event. Students showed tremendous enthusiasm, logging countless minutes of reading and embracing the joy of books. The initiative culminated with a fun assembly where students were recognized for their efforts. Awards and prizes were distributed, and staff and students participated in several Olympic-style games. In addition, the 5th Grade Amazing Race and the annual Stony Brook Talent Show were both held this month and were highly successful. Special thanks are extended to everyone who helped organize these events and to the many families who came to support the students.

Over the past month, students and staff at Copeland Middle School have had opportunities to showcase their talents, connect with the community, and celebrate accomplishments. The CMS Interact Club joined the Rockaway Rotary Club to sponsor a collection to assist new mothers on Saturday, February 21. The Copeland Theatre Company has been hard at work preparing for its upcoming production of *The SpongeBob Musical*. As part of their outreach efforts, the cast visited all five district elementary schools on Friday, February 27, offering students and staff a preview of the show. The performers continued sharing their enthusiasm on Tuesday, March 10, when they attended Story Time at the Rockaway Township Library, delighting young children with a special interactive visit. On Wednesday, March 11, Copeland students listened attentively to Cornell Thomas, an international speaker, entrepreneur, author, coach, and former Copeland Cougar. Mr. Thomas delivered a powerful message about maintaining a positive mindset, practicing kindness, developing a strong work ethic, and pursuing one's dreams. We also extend our congratulations to Joey Shivas, who was selected as Copeland Middle School's recipient of the MCSBA Unsung Hero Award. Joey was honored during a special recognition ceremony on March 5 at Hanover Park Regional High School.

Part II: HIB Update

Of the 17 HIBs currently under investigation, six have been substantiated, and 11 are unfounded.

IV. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

The full Business Administrator's Report can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-03-18' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-03-18'.

Tonight's meeting is unprecedented as it is the first time we have not included the Tentative Budget Approval on the advanced copy of the agenda. This may cause concern for the community, however I would like to explain why that was necessary. I have spoken several times about the budgetary challenges we have faced this year. Our renewals related to fixed costs have been extremely high, we did not receive state aid numbers until a week ago, and we have been awaiting determinations related to adjustments and limits for this budget cycle. I should note that we did receive a moderate increase of $286,213 additional state aid dollars this year.

Considering all of these variables, we needed to change our approach. Usually I come to this meeting with one final recommendation for the approval of the tentative budget submission. Tonight I came to Executive Session with three options for the board to consider. We created three options so that the board could be involved in how to best approach the challenges we have faced, and we did so out of respect for our residents and the impact these decisions have upon their households. If we did not select one of the options tonight, we would have scheduled a second meeting next week to move toward an approval. Thankfully we were able to come to a consensus and will therefore be reading in the budget motion and that motion will be reflected in the minutes.

This year we will be increasing taxes by 6.69%. This is below our authorized adjusted tax levy cap of 7.2%. We will therefore be creating $433,548 in banked cap to be utilized in future budget cycles. We are able to exceed our 2% tax levy cap because we have been afforded an enrollment adjustment due to increased registrations between last year's budget and the current budget. We were also afforded a Healthcare Adjustment to assist with our staggering health benefits renewal. These adjustments were pivotal to our ability to balance the budget this year. Prior to these adjustments we would have needed to cut approximately 3.5 million dollars in expenditures in order to produce a balanced budget. We see districts reporting deficits, experiencing mass layoffs and failing to have the resources they need to offer growth and progress to their students and staff. We are grateful not to be in that position.

- One positive that we are afforded in Rockaway Township are strong ratables which once again have increased. When our tax levy is factored over those ratables, residents whose home has not increased in valuation will actually see a moderate reduction in taxes. The average assessed home value of $523,201 would experience an approximate $146 reduction on our portion of their tax bill.

- The choices we are making this year will offer a certain amount of insulation as we navigate this bleak financial forecast, but I predict that for all NJ schools, balancing the budget will be an increasingly difficult task in the coming years if there is not significant systemic change at a state and federal level.

- I encourage community members to attend or tune in to our May 6th meeting at which time I will make a full presentation of the budget and the board will vote for final approval. Please note that tonight's approval allows me to submit the tentative budget to the county for review prior to finalization. There is still an opportunity for change between now and the final budget if necessary.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The full Committee's Report can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-03-18' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-03-18'.

VII. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

A. Personnel

Motion made by Ms. Tourne, 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.	Resource Teacher	Christina Bielski	$58,167.00 BA (Step 3) prorated	KDM	4/7/26	6/30/26	Extended Leave Replacement (Employee 6370) Reduction of hours from 1.0 FTE to 0.9 FTE
2.	Admin. Assistant Elementary School	Brianna Bird	$56,912.00 (Step 6) prorated	BWD	4/1/26	6/30/26	Reassignment *from* Admin. Secretary to Special Education *to* Admin. Assistant Elementary School (Replacing M Bender)
3.	PT Staff Assistant	Jenny Hurtado	$22.18/hr. (Step 1)	KDM	***3/19/26	6/30/26	1:1 per student IEP, 26 hrs./wk. Pending physical/Mantoux Step frozen for 26-27 school year
4.	District Translator	Jenny Hurtado	$48.00/hr.	DIST.	25-26 SY		Spanish, as assigned

5.	Long-term Substitute	Kristin Lewis	$200.00 per day	CMS	**2/27/26	**3/13/26	Pending return of LOA (Employee 6176)
6.	PT Mechanic's Assistant	Katherine Pepin	$25,850.00 prorated	TRANS.	**3/1/26	6/30/26	Reassignment *from* FT Mechanic's Assistant/Bus Driver *to* PT Mechanic's Assistant, 20 hrs./wk.
7.	Admin. Assistant to the Business Administrator	Tanya Shields	$65,000.00 prorated	CO	4/1/26	6/30/26	Pending physical/Mantoux Salary frozen for 26-27 SY
8.	PT Staff Assistant	Julia Styrnik	$22.18/hr. (Step 1)	KDM	3/19/26	6/30/26	1:1 per student IEP, 26 hrs./wk. Pending physical/Mantoux Step frozen for 26-27 school year
9.	District Translator	Julia Styrnik	$48.00/hr.	DIST.	25-26 SY		Polish, as assigned
10	Admin. Secretary to Special Education	Laura Tempesta	No change in salary	CO	4/1/26	6/30/26	Reassignment *from* Admin. Secretary to the Director of Student Services *to* Admin. Secretary to Special Education
11	Interim PT Music Teacher	Theresa Weniger	$42,567.00 MA+30 (Step 4) prorated	CMS	4/1/26	6/30/26	Extended 0.6 FTE
12	Admin. Secretary to the Director of Student Services	Anne Yacavino	No change in salary	CO	4/1/26	6/30/26	Reassignment *from* Admin. Assistant to the Business Administrator *to* Admin. Secretary to the Director of Student Services

B. Appointment Per Attached Lists

	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	2025-2026 After School Clubs - CMS	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	25-26 SY		Spring Pay-to-Play Clubs per the attached list
2.	2025-2026 After School Clubs - DBO	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	25-26 SY		Spring Pay-to-Play Clubs per the attached list
3.	2025-2026 JNHS Field Trip	Per the attached list	$775.00	CMS	4/13/26	4/15/26	Washington D.C. Trip Stipend
4.	2025-2026 Superior Attendance Plan - TRANS.	Per the attached list	$350.00 (stipend)	TRANS.	**9/1/25	**1/31/26	Per the attached Bus Drivers (more than 2.5 hrs. per day)
5.	Family Math Night	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	3/24/26	3/24/26	Not to exceed 2 hours per staff member
6.	Kindergarten - Parent Presentation	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	DIST.	5/14/26	5/14/26	Not to exceed 2 hours per staff member, inclusive of planning and preparation
7.	Kindergarten Meet and Greet	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	6/23/26	6/24/26	Teachers, Nurse, and Staff Assistant per attached list Not to exceed 14 hours per staff member
8.	Kindergarten Open House	Per the attached list	Per contracted rate of pay	Per the attached list	9/3/26	9/3/26	Not to exceed 2 hours per staff member

C. Leave of Absence

	Position	**Employee Number**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date Eff.**	**Date Term.**	**Discussion**
1.	PT Staff Assistant	7195		KDM	**3/2/26 **3/13/26	**3/12/26 3/27/26	With Pay Without Pay

							Return: 4/7/26
2.	PT Staff Assistant	7072		KDM	**3/5/26	3/27/26	Without Pay Return: 4/7/26
3.	Special Education Teacher	6176		CMS	**2/19/26	**3/10/26	With Pay under FMLA Return: 3/11/26
4.	School Counselor	6371		SB	**2/26/26	**3/15/26	Extended With Pay under FMLA Return: 3/16/26
5.	Special Education Teacher	6370		KDM	4/7/26	6/30/26	Extended Without Pay Return: 1st day of 26-27 SY
6.	Admin. Assistant to the Business Administrator	6285		CO	**2/2/26	**2/13/26	Without Pay under FMLA Return: 2/16/26

D. Resignation/Retirement

	Position	Name	Salary	Location	Start Date Eff.	Date Term.	Discussion
1.	PT Staff Assistant	Scarlett Eckert		DBO		**2/28/26	Resignation
2.	Academic Intervention Teacher	Christine Garabrant		BWD		6/30/26	Retirement
3.	Special Education Teacher	Gina Guarino		CMS		10/1/26	Retirement
4.	Supervisor of Facilities and Safety Management	Michael Martino		MAINT.		4/14/26	Resignation
5.	FT Staff Assistant	Lynn Schoner		KDM		6/30/26	Retirement
6.	Bus Driver	Linda Szollosy		TRANS.		6/30/26	Retirement
7.	PT Office Staff Assistant	Krista Zygmunt		SB		4/15/26	Resignation Remain a substitute teacher in the district

E. Substitute Teachers

	Position	Name	Salary	Location	Start Date Eff.	Level	Discussion
1.	Substitute Teacher – New Hires	Per the attached list	$175.00 per day	DIST.	25-26 SY	Per the attached list	Per the attached list

F. Job Descriptions

	Category	Position	Location	Date Effective	Date Term.	Discussion
1.	C-5A	Courier	TRANS.	**3/1/26		Revised
2.	C-36	Part-time Mechanic's Assistant	TRANS.	**3/1/26		New

G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves revisions of the following previously approved motions under Personnel (Motion A-3, 1-28-26 agenda, and Motions A-1, A-10, and A-16, 2-18-26 agenda).

	Position	Name	Salary	Location	Start Date Eff.	Date Term.	Discussion

1.	English Teacher	Mai-Anh Betancur	$79,875.00 MA (Step 13) prorated	CMS	**3/9/26	6/30/26	Revised start date from 4/7/26 to 3/9/26
2.	Language Arts	Christine D'Antuono	$12,889.00 prorated	CMS	**2/16/26	**3/13/26	Revised end date for 6th Period Language Arts Coverage from 3/31/26 to 3/13/26
3.	Language Arts	Kelly McEvoy	$16,396.00 prorated	CMS	**2/16/26	**3/13/26	Revised end date for 6th Period Language Arts Coverage from 3/31/26 to 3/13/26
4.	Language Arts	Shannon Podprugin	$12,000.00 prorated	CMS	**2/16/26	**3/13/26	Revised end date for 6th Period Language Arts Coverage from 3/31/26 to 3/13/26

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

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all voted yes, motion passed.

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB Incidents:

302105 confirmed, # 302656 unconfirmed, # 302694 unconfirmed, # 302695 unconfirmed, # 302696 unconfirmed, # 302697 unconfirmed, # 302906 unconfirmed, # 303103 unconfirmed, # 303104 unconfirmed, # 303519 unconfirmed

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:

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all voted yes, motion passed.

HIB Current Investigations:

# 303408	# 303438	# 303439	# 303516	# 303569
# 303619	# 303621	# 303687	# 303757	# 304356
# 304357	# 304419	# 304559	# 304619	# 304758
# 304816	# 304817			

HIB Incident Summary: (as per attached)

C. Education:

Motion made by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Ms. Tourne to approve the following education recommendations.

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	Organization	Workshop Location	Workshop Dates	Registration Fee	Travel/Hotel/ Incidentals Cost	Total Cost
Luba Chesky	School Based SLPs: Enhancing Your Formal Assessment Practices to Best Identify & Target Student Needs	Bureau of Education & Research	Virtual	5-11-26	$295.00	N/A	$295.00

Richard R. Corbett	PR Productivity Lab: Maximizing Impact with Minimal Time	NJ School Boards Association	West Windsor, NJ	4-24-26	$149.00	$55.74	$204.74
Richard R. Corbett	2026 Spring School Law Forum	New Jersey School Boards Association	Monroe, NJ	6-11-26	$299.00	$49.82	$348.82
Michael McGovern	Leading Through Change and Uncertainty	Morris County Administrators Association	East Hanover, NJ	3-19-26	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lynn Mondello	Visualizing & Verbalizing	Linda Mood Bell	Virtual	4-13-26, 4-14-26, 4-15-26, 4-16-26	$850.00	$378.00	$1228.00
Kathryn Pietrowski	Summer Inclusion Leadership Conference	All In For Inclusive Ed	Union, NJ	5-28-26	N/A	$28.00	$28.00

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following student(s) to complete their fieldwork requirements during the Fall 2026 semester and/or the Spring 2027 Semester.

Student Teacher	College/University	Cooperating Teacher/School
Juliana Felipa*	Kean University	Claudine Porracchio/SB

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following students to complete their observation hours during the 2025/2026 school year.

Student Teacher	College/University	Cooperating Teacher/School
Jack Hartsuiker*	County College of Morris	Eugene Budd/BW
Staci Cocuzza	William Paterson University	Loriana Takacs/DBO
Molly Jacobs*	County College of Morris	Various classrooms/KDM

*Pending satisfactory completion of District requirements

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following employees for CPR Certification on March 23 or 24, 2026. The cost to the District will be $10.50/employee for the cost of the American Heart Association e-card.

Employee	Location	Employee	Location
Blasi, Corie	CAD	Bodnar, Kelly	KDM
Casey, Amber	SB	Carradini, Noreen	Transportation
Doorly, Erin	Transportation	Eisenhauer, Bari	KDM
Eshete, Roman	Transportation	Fried, Jacqueline	BW
Hillegass, Lisa-Anne	KDM	Jacobs, Rachael	Transportation
Katz, Cynthia	Central Office	Kong, Samuel	Maintenance
Kostelnik, Molly	Transportation	Kramer, Erin	BW
Massey, Beth Ann	Transportation	Mastrostefano, Jean	Transportation
Nordland, Scott	CAD/KDM	Poylangada, Maria	DBO
Richardson, Tina	Transportation	Strazdas, Christine	SB
Stevens, Kelly	SB	Villacis, Susan	KDM
Taboadela, Anthony	BW	West, Anita	Central Office
Warnock, Daniel	CAD	Wisniewski, Stephen	SB
Willadsen, Patricia	Transportation	Zarriello, Donna	CMS

5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the amendments to the previously approved field trips (as per attached).

6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following field trips (as per attached).

No Public comment.

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

D. Special Education:
Motion made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Richardson, to approve the following special education recommendations.

1. BeeWise Behavior, LLC
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Rockaway Township Board of Education and BeeWise Behavior, LLC and parent to provide ABA services to student #00064 (as per attached).

No public comment

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

E. Administration:
Motion made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Richardson 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 #782 (as per attached).

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

3. 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 follows:

Vehicle #	Year	Make	Vin Number	License
18	2005	Thomas	1GDHG31V351162650	2389MG
259	2012	Bluebird	1BABJBPA7CPF288353	A484S1
263	2013	Bluebird	1BABJBPA2DF294448	B783S1
264	2013	Bluebird	1BABJBPA4DF294449	B784S1
Van	2006	Chevy G3500	1GBJG31U551156060	32034MG
Truck	2009	Ford F350	1FTWF31549EA15105	MG84799
Topkick	2007	GMC	1GDE5C3257F408079	26802MG
Pick Up	2008	Ford F350	1FTWF31R48ED69093	MG79830
HD	2012	GMC 2500	1GT02ZCG6CZ154834	MG92723
Ford Van	-	-	1FTSE34L1XHA42804	-

4. Anticipated Facility Use – Change of Use
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the submission of applications for the Anticipated Facility Use-Change of Use rooms to the Executive County Superintendent for the 2025- 2026 school year for the following classrooms (as per attached).

School	Room #	Description
Dennis B. O' Brien E.S.	Rm 11	Original Use: Child Study Team Offices Proposed Use: Pull Out Resource Room Class
Copeland Middle School	Rm 431	Original Use: Child Study Team Office Proposed Use: Reading Strategy Intervention Room

No public comment.

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

F. Finance:
Motion made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Tourne, to approve the following finance recommendations. Mrs. Slamb walked in motion #3 to adopt the tentative budget.

1. Financials
Be It Resolved that the Rockaway Township Board of Education approves the Report of the Secretary and Report of Appropriations, for the period ending January 31, 2026.

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 item accounts are over appropriated nor over expended for the period ending January 31, 2026.

Authorize January 2026 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	Cafeteria	$184,709.78
B.	March	After School Activities	$128.69
C.	February	Student Activities	$1,639.64
D.	March	Student Activities	$15,587.20
E.	February	State Unemployment Bills	$29,389.46
G.	February	District Bills	$4,934,365.58

3. Adopt tentative budget for school year 2026-2027

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

G. Policy:

Motion made by Ms. Tourne, seconded by Ms. Richardson to approve the following policy/regulations recommendations.

1. Upon the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approves the following policies/regulations for first read *(as per attached).*

P 1636.01 **NOTIFICATION OF PROMOTION, NEW JOB, AND TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES**

2. Upon the Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approves the following policies/regulations for first read *(as per attached).*

P 0141 **BOARD MEMBER NUMBER AND TERM**

No public comment.

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

SECOND PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Motion by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Tourne to open Public comment.

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

No one from the public came up to speak

Motion by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Mrs. Anderson, to close Public comment.
Show of hands to open Public comment, all present voting yes, motion so carried

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Old Business:

Mrs. Anderson- Commented how impressive the CMS presentation was by former CMS alumni.
Mrs. Mezik- MCSBA had unsung hero presentation on March 10, 2026.

New Business:

Mrs. Slamb – Posting of board vacancy
Ms. Tourne – Thank SEPAC on presentation regarding Anxiety
Dr. Corbett – Thank Interact Club and Joan Young
Mrs. Mezik – Will be attending MCSBA Nancy Helbourg Memorial meeting on May 6th

Dr. Gorman – Stony Brook PTA updates

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 – 2026-03-18' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2026-03-18'.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn meeting by Mrs. Mezik seconded by Mrs. Anderson, meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan S. Slamb

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