REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 15, 2023

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

Mrs. Mezik called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

The following members of the Board of Education were present in-person: Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Curelaru, Mr. Forst, Mrs. Mezik, Mrs. Smith and Dr. Tomasini.

Mrs. Shields was absent.

Also present were Dr. Corbett, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Slamb, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Mr. McKeever, Board Attorney.

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 Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith to waive pledge until open session.

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

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith to go into closed session at 6:04 PM.

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

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith that the closed session meeting stands adjourned at 7:39 PM.

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

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:39 PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

KDM 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 - 2023-11-15' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-11-15.'

PUBLIC DISCUSSION
Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to open the public session of the meeting.

- Member of the community #1, thanked the Board for their consideration to approve the Safe Routes to School Program for Rockaway Township School Distrsict.

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 - 2023-11-15' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-11-15.'

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

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

I. COMMUNICATIONS

The Board did not receive any correspondence since the last regular meeting.

II. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the minutes of October 18 2023.

Roll Call Vote to approve the minutes of October 18, 2023, Mrs. Curelaru abstained, all present voting yes, motion carried.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Our second annual "Socks in a Box" drive was a great success. I am grateful to all our school principals for promoting this event and everyone who contributed. KDM deserves a special mention since they collected over 1100 pairs of socks. The socks have been turned over to "Rise-Up Rockaway" and Rev. Jack DiMatteo of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

- Today, we opened the Genesis portal for access to students in grades 6 to 8. Students will not be able to change contact information or access features that are designated to the parent/guardian account. Student access is limited to viewing grades and attendance.

- Next month, I will be providing the board a comprehensive update regarding our district goals. This evening, I would like to highlight District Goal II which seeks to provide additional educational and service learning opportunities. In an effort to further "Build our Community," the eighth grade teachers planned a Day of Service for Wednesday, November 8th. Each homeroom decided on a particular service project, such as cleaning up the grounds, organizing the lost and found, writing cards to troops, or even the faculty. The enthusiasm from the grade 8 homeroom teachers is only one indication of an improved climate and culture at CMS. At DBO, a "Calm Club" organized a toiletry drive for Nourish NJ. The club members assembled bags of shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, water and granola bars to help members of our community in need. In addition, they previously held a litter drive to beautify our school and surroundings.

- Mold remediation of the music room at CMS has been completed. The remediation included a deep clean of the entire music room. I am grateful to our custodial staff, Bria Spotts and Nancy Brandler for their assistance.

- Our second General PTA meeting was held Wednesday, October 25 with fourteen PTA officers attending. In addition, board members Lisa Mezik, Tanya Shields and Noel Anderson also participated. Although the agenda was light, the discussion was lively, productive and informative. Our next General Assembly is scheduled for January 29, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Up to three board members are welcome to attend.

- The first SEPAC meeting of the school year was held on October 26 and featured Ms. Brittany Seeley from the New Jersey Inclusion Project. Ms. Seeley spoke convincingly about the right students have to an inclusive education and the responsibility the LEA (local education agency) has to provide an education in the LRE (least restrictive environment).

- The only disappointment was the attendance. I am optimistic that our next SEPAC meeting on November 28, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at C.M.S. will be better attended.

- Currently, each elementary school conducts their own LEAD / Moving-Up ceremonies for their fifth grade students. This year, we are planning a district-wide "LEAD" / Moving-Up ceremony that will include all elementary schools. The date has been tentatively set for June 14, at Morris Knolls H.S. Please "save the date."

- We are grateful to the Rotary of Rockaway for their generous donation of dictionaries to our third grade students at KDM, Birchwood, Stonybrook, Dwyer and DBO. Mrs. Phyllis Alpaugh represented the Rotary and delivered dictionaries to our smiling and enthusiastic third grade students.

- The Family Math Night scheduled for November 30th at Copeland Middle School will feature Nancy Schultz. The evening will include dinner, a presentation from Nancy, and a demonstration table for each grade level. Each grade level table will include a teacher and students who will show parents examples of hands-on discovery based math activities.

- The Rockaway Township School District's Performing Arts Department has partnered with the Rockaway Townsquare Mall to display student artwork for the holidays. Art work from CMS and DBO has been provided. The Wind Ensemble, Chorale, and String Chamber Ensemble will be performing at the Mall on December 15 from about 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

- Our Listening Session scheduled for December 6 at 6:00 p.m. will focus on the "Code of Conduct." It will be held here, at Copeland Middle School. I invite our parents and community members to attend.

Good News from Our Schools

- DBO kicked off November with their HEART assembly to celebrate the core values of Honesty, Empathy, Acceptance, Respect and Trust. The grade who displayed the most HEART the previous month was acknowledged, along with the class with the best monthly attendance. In addition, the fourth grade provided a performance which focused on respect. World Kindness Day was celebrated on Monday November 13. All those attending our schools were encouraged to wear green and gold. Conversations regarding kindness and making a positive impact were encouraged. DBO is looking forward to seeing parents and guardians Thursday and Friday, and next Monday for parent / teacher conferences.

- Since September, over 120 KDM students were reported for "Positive Office Referrals." These students were "caught" in the act of demonstrating one of the district's core values of H.E.A.R.T., honesty, empathy, acceptance, respect, trust. KDM recognized two Students of the Month and had over 30 students participate in the KDM "Kindness Does Matter" poster contest. These 13 winners were proudly presented this evening. In the classrooms, the Response to Intervention Teams continue to implement appropriate plans. Additionally, KDM is running an After School Enrichment program for ELA and Math with over 60 students participating. The Climate and Culture Committee is implementing a Food Drive and a door decorating contest in honor of the 50th Day of School. KDM students also participated in the District-led initiative, Cards for Cops program, where they created holiday cards for first responders to raise mental health awareness during a particularly difficult time for many of our neighborhood heroes. KDM students, faculty, and staff are looking forward to the Scholastic Book Fair and participating in the District's Family Math Night.

- Thanks to the CMS PTA, the 6th grade and 7th grade socials were a huge success! It was enjoyable seeing our students dressed up in their costumes and having fun too! As mentioned previously, the 8th grade students and teachers came

  together on November 8 for their "Day of Service." Each 8th grade homeroom decided upon and completed a service project during the advisory period, followed by team building activities in the gyms. On November 13, CMS welcomed our newest inducted members into the Copeland Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. Last night the first CMS Family Nights featured Lauren Muriello, founder of The Well Being Therapy Center, who presented "Strategies for Keeping Kids Safe on Social Media." Dinner and child care was provided.

- November is a delightful time at Birchwood Elementary, emphasizing service learning projects and reflection. This month, fourth and fifth-grade students not only exhibit leadership and positive role-model qualities, but also showcased their reading skills through guest reading sessions for the younger students in kindergarten and pre-K. Birchwood celebrated World Kindness Day, actively engaging in service-learning projects like crafting cards for cops and honoring veterans and local heroes. The Morris County K-9 unit visited our students, sharing educational stories during the assembly which focused on enhancing safety awareness. Lastly, the Birchwood PTA did an outstanding job by organizing the first book fair, and adding to the overall excitement for our young Bulldogs throughout the month. We look forward to meeting with our families this week as we head into parent / teacher conferences.

- The Dwyer Family is gearing up for Thanksgiving by conducting a food drive to feed families in need over the holidays. It is a great joy to see the children coming to school with their donations for those in need. This complements the Seeds of Service Program which runs throughout the year and supports our community through various acts of kindness. This is in addition to the many "thank you" cards created by the classes for Veterans and our police officers thanking them for their service to our country and community. Recently, students held a Veterans Day Assembly in which parents, grandparents, and family members who proudly served in the military were honored with breakfast and then recognized by the entire

school. This has been a heartwarming, Dwyer tradition throughout the years. Our teachers have been hard at work preparing for the arrival of our parents during conferences. They are very excited to get a chance to explain in detail how their students are performing in the classroom and putting a face to an email or phone call. Since the PTA will be having their famous bake sale during conferences, participants should come hungry. Dwyer continues to pursue professional development opportunities in mathematics and to enhance their multiple language learners program. The Dwyer family is grateful to their multiple language learner department for the tremendous work this year supporting our students with a second language learning while revising the program to offer improved support for classroom teachers.

- Finally, Stony Brook is reporting a fun-filled and productive month. Their Halloween parade, along with classroom parties, were a huge success. The 5th grade Halloween dance was enjoyed by all. Students came 'dressed to impress' and there were some amazing costumes. As always, a special "thanks" goes to the PTA for their continued support and partnership. Each month, Stony Brook recognizes 2 students from each grade level who have exhibited outstanding behavior, and demonstrated noteworthy acts such as helping a friend, helping their teacher, or just being kind. Students are recognized in the display window (by the main office) for the whole school to see. Congratulations to all recent principal hall of fame winners! Once again, Stony Brook will be hosting our annual drive for those in need. This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering compassion and making a positive impact in the community.

- Happy Thanksgiving to all!

IV. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Slamb presented the following report:

- On tonight's agenda under administration you will see motion #3 refers to the submission of the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings. Each year the district is tasked with assessing building health and safety in accordance with standards set forth by the State of New Jersey. We then submit a statement of assurance that we are in compliance with these requirements. This is particularly important as we head into next year during which we will be facing our QSAC evaluation cycle. I have shared the building standards with our Principals, and we will continue to coordinate to ensure we remain in compliance in anticipation of this evaluation.

- Also under Administration you will see motion #5 executing the sale of our Solar Credits as referenced in our last board meeting. We were fortunate to be able to contract a direct sale, which means the entire value of $372,052 was paid to the district with no brokerage fee.

- Motion #12 under Administration refers to the submission of our CMP and M1 - This is a standard submission which speaks to our ongoing maintenance needs in the district and the costs we have incurred in prior years which feed into future projects. This would cover a variety of day to day maintenance costs such as plumbing, hvac repair, painting, electrical work, etc.

- Last meeting, I highlighted our new Architect Firm and their efforts to jump into the ongoing needs of the district. This past week I met with our lead architect and a water engineer who specializes in well water, to assist in finding a final and lasting solution to KDM's water concerns. They are completing an evaluation as well as speaking to our past contractors to formulate a plan and finally resolve this long standing project. Our Architect is also forging ahead with the Dwyer sign project in terms of necessary approvals and pending agreements. In addition, they will be preparing our new bid process for the forgone roof projects from the prior year, with the intention of executing said bid in January. By all accounts we are on track and gaining momentum which is very positive.

- Finally, I met with District Administration on October 27th and we reviewed the timeline for for 2024-25 Budget submission as well as the various responsibilities of each administrator. We are well underway with the budget process for estimating district needs for the coming year. I practice zero based budgeting, which is a technical way of saying we assume nothing, draw each account down to zero and build them back up to ensure responsible and accurate estimates. I will begin with Personnel costs as it accounts for 70-80% of any school budget, and then we will proceed with the various departmental needs and requests. As always I am so appreciative for the collaborative spirit of our administrators and

their willingness to work with all of my forms and due dates. The level of care that each of them has for the district is always very apparent in this process.

V. CURRICULUM REPORT – MR. ALFONSO GONNELLA

The Curriculum Report by Mr. Gonnella can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-11-15' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-11-15.'

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Smith – The Education Committee met on November 8, 2023 at 4:35 PM until 6:15 PM at the Central Office – lower conference room. In attendance were Dr. Corbett, Mr. Gonnella, Mrs. Mezik, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Smith. Agenda included the following discussions:

- Reviewed District Goal #2
- Author Day Committee
- Discussed the curriculum cycle
- Discussed the draft elementary school template
- Discussed the upcoming Conquer Math Family Night
- Discussed alternative solutions for schools as polling places

The **Education Committee** is scheduled to meet on December 6, 2023 at 4:30 PM at the Copeland Middle School cafeteria.

The Committee Reports can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-11-15' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-11-15.'

VII. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Smith to approve the following personnel recommendations.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following personnel:

A.	Appointment						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/Before Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	Pay to Play	Heather Allen	$50.00 p/session	CMS			Replacing Employee 5636. To make up for missed sessions 11/8, 11/15, 11/29, and 12/7
2.	Special Education Kindergarten Teacher	Christina Bielski	**Prorated** $60,630.00 BA (Step 1)	BW	1/2/24	3/1/24	Leave Replacement (Replacing: 5539)
3.	Speech Language Specialist	Kerry Cron	No change	CAD/ BW	11/16/23	6/30/24	Reassignment from CAD (1.0 FTE) to CAD (0.8 FTE)/BW (0.2 FTE)
4.	Bus Driver	David D'Alessio	**Prorated** $23,494.00	TRANS	12/1/23	6/30/24	Reassignment from as needed Bus Monitor/ Staff Assistant to Contracted Driver

							(Replacing J. Scherr)
5.	PT Staff Asst.	Zahir Duygu Demir	$20.62 p/hr. (Step 1)	CAD	11/16/23	6/30/24	17.5 hrs. p/wk. in the Kindergarten Class Pending: Physical/Mantoux, and Fingerprint approval
6.	District Translator	Zahir Duygu Demir	$46.00 p/hr.	DIST	23-24 SY		As assigned Turkish
7.	Grade 2 Teacher	Victoria Flynn	**Prorated** $61,630.00 BA (Step 2)	BW	1/2/24	6/30/24	(Replacing: E. Predmore)
8.	PT Staff Asst.	Shirley Gibson	$21.82 p/hr. (Step 4)	CMS	11/16/23	6/30/24	Reinstate and assign to CMS, 26 hrs. p/wk. 1:1 per student IEP, Autism
9.	Physical Ed. and Health Teacher	Nicolette Hourihan	**Prorated** $60,630.00 BA (Step 1)	DBO	1/15/24	4/30/24	**Extended** Leave Replacement (Replacing: 6268)
10.	PT Staff Asst.	Melissa Lukis	$20.62 p/hr. (Step 1)	CAD	11/16/23	6/30/24	26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. Pending: Physical/Mantoux and Fingerprint approval 1:1 per student IEP
11.	Special Education Teacher	Adele Wadleigh	**Prorated** $77,870.00 MA (Step 15)	CMS	*12/19/23	6/30/24	Revised Start Date Pending: Physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval (Replacing: J. Ruchalski)
12.	After School Clubs	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	CMS	23-24 SY		Pay to Play
13.	After School Clubs	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	KDM	23-24 SY		Pay to Play
14.	CMS NJHS Field Trip	Per the attached list	$775.00 each (Stipend)	CMS	Per the attached	Per the attached	NJHS Washington DC
15.	CMS School Musical	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	CMS	23-24 SY		Stipend
16.	School Counselors	Per the attached list	No change	Per the attached list	23-24 SY		Approve the following job title change from Guidance Counselor to School Counselor to align with state mandated titles

B.	Leave of Absence						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/About Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	Supervisor of Facilities and Safety Management	4304		MAINT.	11/14/23	12/3/23	With Pay Return: 12/4/23
2.	Resource Room Teacher	4627		CMS	10/23/23 11/16/23	11/15/23 11/22/23	With Pay under FMLA Without Pay Return: 11/27/23
3.	STEAM Teacher	5636		CMS	10/30/23	12/22/23	With Pay under FMLA Return: 1/2/24
4.	STEAM Teacher	5728		SB	11/8/23	12/5/23	With Pay Return: 12/6/23
5.	Physical Education/Health Teacher	5896		CMS	1/29/24	6/30/24	**Extended** Without Pay Return: Start of 24/25 SY
6.	Maintenance Worker	6132		MAINT.	10/25/23	1/19/24	With Pay under FMLA Return: 1/22/24
7.	Physical Education/Health Teacher	6268		DBO	1/15/24	4/30/24	**Extended** Without Pay Return: 5/1/24
8.	PT Staff Asst.	6484		KDM	10/2/23	10/20/23	Revised Return Date With Pay Return: 10/23/23

C.	Resign/Retire						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff. (*on/ before)**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Kindergarten Teacher	4224			7/1/24		Retire
2.	PT Staff Asst.	Kellie Cecere		SB	7/1/24		Retire
3.	PT Staff Asst.	Beverly Clifford		KDM	10/30/23		Resign
4.	PT Staff Asst.	Jane Ellis		SB	7/1/24		Retire
5.	School Counselor	Rose-Marie Iannicelli		CMS	12/15/23		Resign
6.	Physical Education/ Health Teacher	Philip Mancuso		KDM	1/1/24		Retire
7.	PT Staff Asst.	Lorraine Nestman		SB	7/1/24		Retire
8.	Math Teacher	Jennifer Thompson		CMS	12/22/23		Resign

D.	Substitute Teacher					
	Position	**Name**	**Level**	**Date Effective**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Substitute	Roa'a Alharayzeh	County	11/16/23	6/30/24	William Paterson University, NJ (BA)
2.	Substitute	Marina Andrea	State	11/16/23	6/30/24	Thomas Edison State College, NJ (BA) (Pending: Physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval)
3.	Substitute	Mary DelGreco	Nurse	11/16/23	6/30/24	Montclair State University, NJ (BA)
4.	Substitute	Cameron Hosler	County	11/16/23	6/30/24	Rutgers University, NJ (BA)
5.	Substitute	Karen Mennella	County	11/16/23	6/30/24	NY Chiropractic College, NY (PhD)

E.	Substitutes – Approve the following staff as County and State Certified Substitute Teachers, Substitute Nurses, and Floater Substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Substitute Teachers	Per the attached list		DIST.	23-24 SY		Per the attached list

F.	Job Description				
	Category	**Name**	**Date Effective**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	A-1	Superintendent	11/16/23		Revised
2.	A-8	Director of Curriculum and Instruction & Professional Development	11/16/23		Revised
3.	C-33	Supervisor of Safety and Compliance	11/16/23		Revised
4.	D-11	ESL Coordinator	11/16/23		Revised
5.	D-25	Teacher-Elementary Math Specialist	11/16/23		Revised
6.	D-26	Teacher Leader	11/16/23		Revised
7.	E-15	Guidance Counselor		11/16/23	Abolish
8.	E-21	School Counselor	11/16/23		Revised

G.	Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following amendment to the previously approved motion under Personnel (Motion A-9, 8-16-23 agenda) Revise the end date from previous agenda.						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/Before Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	Special Education Kindergarten Teacher	Victoria Flynn	**Prorated** $61,630.00 BA (Step 2)	BW	10/6/23	12/22/23	Leave Replacement Revise end date

H.	Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following amendment to the previously approved motion under Personnel (Motion A-19, 8-16-23 agenda) Revise the approved hours for Test Coordinators						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/Before Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	Test Coordinator	Olivia Dunnigan	$46.00 p/hr.	CMS	23/24 SY		Increase hours from 30 hrs. to 60 Hrs. total
2.	Test Coordinator	Rose-Marie Iannicelli		CMS	23/24 SY		Rescind due to resignation

I.	Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board concurs with the following approval for non-contracted hours related to music room remediation efforts.						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/Before Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	Music Teacher	Nancy Brandler	$46.00 p/hr.	CMS	11/1/23	11/14/23	Not to exceed a total of 10 hrs. ea.
2.	Music Teacher	Bria Spotts	$46.00 p/hr.	CMS	11/1/23	11/14/23	Not to exceed a total of 10 hrs. ea.

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

B. HIB Determination

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to approve the following HIB Determination recommendations.

HIB Resolution

1. **WHEREAS,** the Superintendent of schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB incidents: #10287 Unconfirmed, #10290 Confirmed, #10321 Unconfirmed, #10342 Confirmed, #10343 Confirmed, #10344 Confirmed, and #10359 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 recommendations on HIB cases:

   #10287 Unconfirmed, #10290 Confirmed, #10321 Unconfirmed, #10342 Confirmed, #10343 Confirmed, #10344 Confirmed, and #10359 Unconfirmed

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

HIB current investigations: #10384, #10385, #10399, #10401, #10430, #10469, #10471, #10491, #10492, and #10494

HIB Incidents

C. Education

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mr. Forst to approve the following education recommendations.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the 11-15-2023 list of field trips *(as per attached).*

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following Student Teacher(s) to complete their fieldwork requirements during the 2024 Spring and/or Fall Semesters.

Student Teacher	College/University	Cooperating Teacher/School
Alexis Simpson	Montclair State University	Thomas Nicolicchia/CMS
Matthew Stone	Kean University	Linda Fernandez/CMS
Kayla Kostecki*	William Paterson University	Alison Piano/Stony Brook
Hannah Creighton*	Montclair State University	Katherine Rasmussen/Birchwood
Emily Fallivene*	Montclair State University	Kirsten Insinga/Katharine D. Malone
Jessica Church*	Montclair State University	Brianna Thomas/Birchwood

**Pending satisfactory completion of district requirements for placement*

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves Rockaway Township School District's participation in the 2024 GFWC Woman's Club of the Denville-Rockaway area Spelling Bee for 4th and 5th Grade students on January 17, 2024, with a snow date January 25, 2024, at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following employees for CPR Recertification during the 2023-2024 school year. The cost to the District will be $10.00/employee (for the cost for the American Heart Association e-card).

Employee	Location	Employee	Location
Kristin Novembre	BW	Larry Frank	CMS
Christine Henze	BW	Susan Ritz	CMS
Kenneth Baker	CAD	William Swenty	CMS
Danielle Massaro	CAD	John James	CMS
Tara Van Orden	CAD	Kelly Bezeg	DBO
Heather Brienza	CMS	Donna Kennedy	DBO
Dominique Brock	CMS	Margaret Nolan	KDM
Charles Filippo	CMS	Ashley Ruzicka	KDM

5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following staff as presenters at Portrait of a Successful Student Family Night Presentations to be held up to 5 times during the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of $100.00 per night per contracted rate of pay.

Employee	Location	Employee	Location
Thea Arico	SB	Kathleen Nangle	CAD
Amber Casey	SB	Gina Parisi	SB
Alexandria Conforth	BW	Cherylyn Paredes	SB
Jennifer Gruener	CAD	Kathleen Robinson	BW
Marybeth Hartnett	SB	Rehannah Sattaur	BW
Tara Hempel	KDM	Cheryl Sproul	SB
Amy Hoffnagle	BW	Loriana Takacs	DBO
Megan Jagiela	KDM	Brianna Thomas	BW
Gina Loder	SB		

6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following staff as presenters for the Family Night Math Presentation on November 30, 2023 at a rate of $100.00 per night per contracted rate of pay.

Employee	Location	Employee	Location
Thea Arico	SB	Michelle Nieves	BW
Sandra Prendergast-Blaha	SB	Gina Parisi	SB
Sandra Bornemann	DBO	Cheryl Sproul	SB
Elizabeth Clark	KDM	Joy VanWingerden	SB
Morgan Deloreto	CMS	Erinn Young	District
Nichole Kaplan	CAD	Penny Zitomer	CMS
Jessica Mucerino	CMS		

7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the motion to adopt the revised list of field trips *(as per attached)* (C:2, 10/18/23).

8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following staff to serve on the Copeland Middle School Scheduling Committee, not to exceed 10 hours total during the 2023-2024 school year, per contractual rate of pay.

Employee	Location
Penny Zitomer	CMS
Bria Spots	CMS
Caryl Sambrato	CMS
Kathleen Adams	CMS
Olivia Dunnigan	CMS

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

Teacher	Position	Location	Stipend/Salary	% Funded
Shannon Podprugin	Title I After Teacher (up to 3 hrs./week for 21 weeks)	CMS	$46.00/hr	100% Title I

No Public comment.

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

D. Special Education

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Anderson, to approve the following special education recommendations.

In District Placement SY 2023-2024 – Itinerant Services

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the itinerant services for the following in district placement student for the 2023-2024 school year *(as per attached)*:

Student#	School	Location	Tuition Rate
T.H.	Copeland Middle School	Rockaway	Two (2) 50-minute session per week or $1,320.00 per month

Revised Out of District Placement – SY2023-2024

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following amendment to the previously approved motion to authorize the tuition contract for the following out of district placement student for the 2023-2024 school year (05-17-2023 agenda – with the inclusion of **Assistive Technology $787.84**)

Student #	School	Location	Tuition Rate
R.S.	Garden Academy	West Orange	Tuition Cost $130,832.10 (210 billable days) or $623.01 per diem **Assistive Technology $787.84**

No Public comment.

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

E. Administration

Motion made by Mr. Forst, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to approve the following administration recommendations.

2023-2024 School Safety and Security Plan (SSSP) Annual Review – Statement of Assurance

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the 2023-2024 submission of the School Safety and Security Plan (SSP) Annual Review - Statement of Assurance to the New Jersey Department of Education *(as per attached).*

2023-2024 School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the Fall 2023-2024 submission of the School Bus Emergency Evacuation Drill Report *(as per attached).*

2023-2024 Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the 2023-2024 submission of the Health and Safety Evaluation of School Buildings packet to the New Jersey Department of Education *(as per attached).*

Student Accident Insurance Policies

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the 2023-2024 Student Accident Insurance Policies *(Base Policy, Catastrophic Policy, Fraud Warning, Grievance Procedure, NJ Guaranty, and Notice Privacy Notice)* between Rockaway Township Board of Education and Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. *(as per attached).*

Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) Purchase and Sales Agreement

5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board concurs to authorize the Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) Purchase and Sales Agreement between Rockaway Township Board of Education and Skyview Finance Company for the sale of 1716 SRECs totaling $372,052 *(as per attached).*

Quasi Entities

6. **WHEREAS**, The School Alliance Insurance Fund membership allows additional insured status for Booster Clubs, Foundations and other affiliated entities, and

WHEREAS, (1) Upon completion of the Quasi Entity General Application, and a formal BOE resolution recognizing the Entity as an additional insured receiving quasi entity status.,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board recognizes Rockaway Township Education Foundation, Birchwood PTA, Copeland Middle School PTA, Dennis B. O'Brien PTA, Catherine A. Dwyer PTA, Katharine D. Malone PTA, and, Stony Brook PTA, as Quasi-Entities of the Rockaway Township Board of Education *(as per attached).*

Prospective Driver In-House Training Program Contract

7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board concurs to approves the Prospective Driver In-House Training Program Contract between Rockaway Township Board of Education and David D'Alessio. The total program costs up to $2,000 *(as per attached).*

Prospective Driver In-House Training Program Contract

8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board concurs to approves the Prospective Driver In-House Training Program Contract between Rockaway Township Board of Education and Rafael Arevalo Saravia. The total program costs up to $2,000 *(as per attached).*

Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Agreement

9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board authorizes the agreement between Rockaway Township Board of Education and the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council to become a member for the period of November 15, 2023 through September 30, 2026 *(as per attached).*

WHEREAS, the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council ("MCCPC") was created in 1974 to conduct a voluntary cooperative pricing system with municipalities, boards of educations, and other public bodies located in the County of Morris and adjoining counties; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the MCCPC is to provide substantial savings on various goods and services to its members through the cooperative public bidding process; and

WHEREAS, Rockaway Township Board of Education desires to enter into an Agreement with the MCCPC, which is administered by Randolph Township as Lead Agency, to become a member of the MCCPC for the period of November 15, 2023 through September 30, 2026.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rockaway Township Public Schools, County of Morris, State of New Jersey as follows:

A. The Rockaway Township Board of Education hereby authorizes the execution of an Agreement with the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council by the Township of Randolph as Lead Agency dated November 15, 2023 pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5). Said Agreement is to become a member of the MCCPC for a three (3) year period from November 15, 2023 through September 30, 2026.
B. The Rockaway Township Board of Education Clerk is hereby directed to submit a copy of this adopted Resolution, along with an executed Agreement, to Randolph Township as Lead Agency of the MCCPC.
C. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon final passage according to law.
D. All appropriate Rockaway Township Board of Education officials are authorized and directed to perform all required acts to affect the purpose of this Resolution.

Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management

10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the 2023-2024 submission of the Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management to the New Jersey Department of Education *(as per attached).*

FY 2024 Safe Routes to School Program

11. **WHEREAS,** the Township of Rockaway is applying for funding to conduct Pedestrian Safety and Connectivity Improvements for Copeland Middle School and the Stony Brook Elementary School Complex within the Township of Rockaway; and

WHEREAS, the project will help to continue and improve the promotion and encouragement of pedestrian and bicycle access and safety for students, faculty and residents; and

WHEREAS, maintenance of the improvements, once constructed, will be assumed by the Township of Rockaway with the exception of (1) local ordinances that places maintenance responsibility with each individual property owner, and (2) those crosswalks on State or County Highways; and

WHEREAS, all logistics and planning for construction will be done in coordination with the Board of Education through the School Business Administrator and Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education shall bear no financial responsibility or physical liability for the initial completion of said construction.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Rockaway Board of Education hereby supports the Township of Rockaway's submission of the FY2024 grant application for the Safe Routes to School program within the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Comprehensive Maintenance Plan/M1 Form

12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the 2023-2024 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and Annual Maintenance M1 Form *(as per attached).*

No Public comment.

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

F. Finance

Motion made by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to approve the following finance recommendations.

Bills

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

A.	October	Student Activities	$2,022.42
	November	Student Activities	$30.59
B.	October	After School Program	$55.93
C.	October	Cafeteria	$117,862.92
D.	October	District Bills	$4,711,092.85

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mr. Forst to open the public session of the meeting.

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

- Member of the community #1, requested whether a full district bills report would be provided to the Public to understand how monies are allocated.

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Curealru to close the public session of the meeting.

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

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

G. Policy

Motion made by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mr. Forst to approve the following finance recommendations.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following policies for first read *(as per attached):*

P 1642.01	Sick Leave
P 2270	Religion in the Schools
P 2419	School Threat Assessment Team
P 3161	Examination for Cause
P 3212	Attendance
P 3324	Right of Privacy
P 4161	Examination for Cause
P 4212	Attendance
P 4324	Right of Privacy
P 5111	Eligibility of Resident
P 5116	Education of Homeless Children and Youth
P 8500	Food Services

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following policy for second read:

P 9700	Special Interest Groups

Motion by Mr. Forst, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to open the public session of the meeting.

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

- Member of the community #1, inquired about Policy 2419 School Threat Assessment Team and the status of the District's lawsuit.

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mr. Forst to close the public session of the meeting.

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

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

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to open the public session of the meeting.

- Member of the community #1, member of the RTEA, thanked and recognized their Educational Support Professional (ESP) staff which include school secretaries and custodial maintenance. On December 5, 2023 there will be a 'Make and Take Blanket Night' at Copeland Middle School from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

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 - 2023-11-15' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-11-15.'

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mrs. Curealru to close the public session of the meeting.

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

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Old Business

Mrs. Mezik – Shared her experience attending the NJ School Board Association workshop held from October 23-26, 2023. Thanked the PTA members that attended the PTA Recognition ceremony held on October 18, 2023 board meeting. SEPAC meetings are open to the Public.

New Business

Mrs. Curelaru and Mrs. Smith – Ensured that the Board is focused on the best interest of the community's children and education.

Mrs. Smith – Reminded the Board that the Morris County School Boards hybrid meeting entitled 'Defining Boardmanship in Controversy is set for December 7, 2023 located at Morris Knolls High School for the in-person attendance.

Mrs. Anderson – Brought up concerns about Maschio's food service ordering system. Parents are having trouble with the 'double order' process.

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 - 2023-11-15' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting - 2023-11-15.'

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dr. Tomasini, seconded by Mr. Forst, to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Megan S. Slamb

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