EXECUTIVE SESSION
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 13, 2024

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a mini reorganization and regular meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

Mrs. Shields called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

Dr. Tomasini attended at 7:33 PM via Zoom.

Mrs. Smith was absent.

Also present were Dr. Corbett, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Smith, Interim Business Administrator, and Mr. McKeever, Board Attorney, and no members of Press.

The following items were discussed in closed session:

- Budget Review
- Agenda - Questions About/Changes To
- HIB /Suspensions
- Personnel
- President's Update
- Legal Update

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald Smith
H. Ronald Smith
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary

REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 13, 2024

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

Mrs. Shields called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

Dr. Tomasini attended at 7:33 PM via Zoom.

Mrs. Smith was absent.

Also present were Dr. Corbett, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Smith, Interim Business Administrator, and Mr. McKeever, Board Attorney, and no members of Press.

Public announcement was read regarding the "Open Public Meetings Act."

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" the Rockaway Township Board of Education will meet in closed session to discuss matters involving personnel, Student and Administrative issues, the content of said discussions will be disclosed to the public at such time and extent as is required by law.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to waive pledge until open session.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to go into closed session at 6:03 PM.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Ms. McGeary that the closed session meeting stands adjourned at 7:33 PM.

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

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:33 PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CMS THEATRE COMPANY - INTO THE WOODS JR.
The full performance can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13'.

DENNIS B. O'BRIEN STUDENT RECOGNITION
The full ceremony can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13'.

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTATION
PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

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

Member of the community #1, talked about how Copeland is such a positive place to be and work at.

The full ceremony can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13'.

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

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

I. COMMUNICATIONS

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

Zainap Abdullah	Thank You
Jamie Barritta	Transportation

II. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Curelaru, seconded by Ms. McGeary to approve the minutes of March 13, 2024.

Roll Call Vote to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024, Mrs. Curelaru abstained, all present remaining voting yes, motion carried.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- I begin by welcoming Mr. Ron Smith to the Rockaway Twp. School District. Ron will be serving as interim business administrator / board secretary while Megan Slamb is on maternity leave.
- Congratulations to Megan, Ray and Eloise Slamb on the new addition to their family, Jack Peter Slamb who was welcomed into the world on March 6.
- To address the water concerns at KDM, our architect has recently submitted a design to the DEP. After the DEP approves the design, we can begin installation. Unfortunately, we have no timeline for approval.
- Our architect is completing the survey of the facilities and expects to have a report ready for the board by mid-April.
- The specs for roof repairs at KDM, CMS, and Birchwood have been reviewed by our attorney. We expect bids to be issued in approximately two weeks and awarded in April.
- April is the *Month of the Military Child*. It is an opportunity to celebrate, thank and acknowledge students from military families living in Picatinny. We hope to spread awareness and recognize these children for their sacrifice and bravery on the home front. Since many children from military families attend DBO, they will be highlighted with activities, events, and a special assembly. Members of the Board of Education are invited to attend a special assembly to honor and recognize these students on Monday, April 15 from 8:30-9:00 a.m.
- After a lengthy hiatus, the *Rockaway Township Education Foundation* (RTEF) met on March 5. Their goal was to reestablish the RTEF and pass on the responsibilities to a new cadre of leaders. I was impressed with the 11 people in attendance. A new slate of officers was elected with Michele Pratola accepting the position as the new president of the RTEF. On behalf of the board of education, our principals, teachers and students, I would like to thank the RTEF for supporting education in Rockaway Township by awarding $13,801 in grants to our schools.
- The next board of education listening session is scheduled for March 26. The topic is Policy 5756, *Transgender Students*. It will be held at CMS and begin at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

- I have presented at each school's PTA regarding the possibility for a referendum. I also met with several parents yesterday to begin what we hope will become a "Referendum Action Committee." Mrs. Mezik will soon provide information about a public relations firm to assist with informing our community regarding referendum options.
- In the Student Services Department, Dr. Mollinedo is working to develop closer ties with the community by attending **PTA meetings**. He began last week at Birchwood by providing vital information about our department's initiatives and services. On March 2, I represented the district at the **ELKs** of Morris County, and received a generous $1,000 donation which will be used to provide additional educational opportunities for students with special needs. The Student Services Department remains committed to **inclusivity** as evidenced by the ongoing success of our initiatives at DBO and the Birchwood Pre-School. **SEPAC** meetings are a priority and an important part of the department's community outreach efforts. The intent is to support parents and provide information regarding programs and services. Recently, the department introduced daytime SEPAC sessions to accommodate those who work evenings. There is an open invitation to join SEPAC as a committee member. The recent district-wide celebration of **Social Emotional Learning** (SEL) on March 8 was a wonderful success. Our dedicated school guidance counselors played a pivotal role in ensuring a positive experience for all participants. Notably, this year marked the first-time Central Office staff and Administration was involved in SEL activities. Finally, Dr. Mollinedo and Mr. Gonnella are spearheading efforts to equip counselors and building principals with the necessary training for the upcoming implementation of the **Character Strong** program for the next school year.

----------Good News from our Schools----------

- At Birchwood Elementary School, students enthusiastically participated in numerous activities as part of "Read Across America." Student council members launched their second service-learning project, aiming to donate items to support *11th Hour Rescue*. Birchwood families and students also enjoyed a fantastic "*Make Your Own Pizza at Home.*" The favorite event of the year is *Paint Night*, which took place on Friday, March 8. Over 100 students and parents joined in for an enjoyable evening of painting and indulging in delicious chocolate chip cookies. Following a busy month, the Birchwood Bulldogs are looking forward to Spring Break.
- To kick off "*Read Across America*" at DBO, the *Morris Knolls Future Educators Club* read to students and joined them during recess. The high school students seemed to have more fun than the DBO kids. Thanks to the DBO PTA, the '*cereal bowl*' raised over 600 boxes of cereal which will help multiple families in our community. The PTA was also instrumental in making the book fair and family night a great success. The monthly HEART award was presented to the custodial staff who work hard to keep the school clean, safe and accessible. DBO is looking forward to the upcoming talent show, and continuing to work with the New Jersey Inclusion project.
- KDM celebrated Black History month with various activities. Students learned how African American innovators, political figures, and artists shaped America and our modern society. KDM also launched an online sign-up for 8 after school clubs, which are filled with over 100 students. Currently they are using an online platform for the Spring Enrichment program focused on Math and ELA. KDM also celebrated *"Read Across America"* with activities celebrating students' love of reading. The PTA hosted a Family Reading Night which was well attended. During the district-wide SEL Day, students learned to "Stop. Drop. and Relax." Coloring activities also promoted care and awareness of mental health. Students are participating in the district's "*Gather the Lather*" initiative which will bring toiletry items for Rise Up Rockaway. The student who brings in the most items will choose either to have the principal join them at their lunch table or grab a friend and have lunch in the principal's office. Finally, KDM is proud to report that to date, over 370 positive office referrals were sent to the office for students demonstrating H.E.A.R.T. At KDM, *Kindness Does Matter*.

- On Wednesday, February 28, CMS hosted the Principal's List Breakfast for all students who scored an average of 95 or higher in Marking Period 2. Congratulations to over 100 students who were invited to attend! On Thursday, February 29 CMS went RED for *Heart Health Month* and raised over $500 for the American Heart Association. On Friday, March 1 all staff and students set aside their electronic devices and participated in the *Global Day of Unplugging*. CMS also participated in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Day on March 8. The CMS Theatre Department's production of "*Into the Woods Jr*." will take place March 21-23. Baseball/softball tryouts will be held the week of March 25th.
- Stony Brook welcomed author Joe McGee for an inspiring assembly where he shared his journey as a children's book author, offering valuable insights and inspiration to our students. The successful conclusion of the *Read-a-Thon* underscores the incredible support and commitment of our school community. It was heartwarming to see everyone come together in support of literacy and education. The community is looking forward to the annual *Stony Brook Talent Show* which requires a lot of planning and is made possible by the PTA and all parent volunteers who help make Stony Brook an exceptional school. Expectations in academic intervention continue to evolve. Students benefiting from small intervention groups are demonstrating mastery by applying skills in the general education classroom. Stony Brook students have demonstrated dramatic improvements in comprehension, and written expression. We are proud of all our students and staff.

IV. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Dr. Corbett spoke about the budget. Mr. Smith thanked Mrs. Slamb for doing the budget report.

V. CURRICULUM REPORT

The Curriculum Report presented by Mr. Gonnella can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13'.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The full Committee Report can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13'.

VII. RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Personnel

Motion made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru 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.	Bus Driver	Rafael Arevalo-Saravia	**Prorated** $27,430.00	TRANS.	***3/1/24	6/30/24	Reassign from an as needed substitute bus driver to a contracted bus driver (Replacing: R. Warden)
2.	Administrative Asst. to Special Education	Brianna Bird	**Prorated** **$51,500.00	CO	*3/14/24	6/30/24	Pending: Physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval

							(Replacing: J. Lee)
3.	Summer Enrichment Supervisor	Lauren Crispino	$3,864.00 per phase	DIST.	3/15/24 7/1/24	6/30/24 8/15/24	Phase I Phase II
4.	Temporary Summer Technology Worker	Charles Filippo, Jr.	$17.00 p/hr.	CO	7/1/24	8/31/24	Returning ● Not to exceed 275 hrs.
5.	PT Staff Asst.	Joron Francis	**$20.62 p/hr. (Step 1)	SB	***2/26/24	6/30/24	New Position 26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. per the student IEP
6.	Temporary Summer Technology Worker	Jenna Gonzalez	$17.00 p/hr.	CO	7/1/23	8/27/24	Returning ● Not to exceed 275 hrs.
7.	Science Teacher	Jacqueline Hendershot-Sapio	**Prorated** $67,695.00 MA (Step 4)	CMS	3/25/24	6/30/24	Leave Replacement (Replacing: Employee 6633)
8.	Language Arts Teacher	Deborah Linnell	**Prorated** $64,255.00 BA+15 (Step 4)	CMS	*3/18/24	6/30/24	Leave Replacement Pending: Physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval (Replacing: Employee 4374)
9.	PT Staff Asst.	Matthew Marro	**$20.62 p/hr. (Step 1)	SB	3/14/24	6/30/24	New Position 26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. in the Behavioral Disabilities Class Pending: Physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval
10.	Temporary Summer Technology Worker	Fiona Morrissey	$17.00 p/hr.	CO	7/1/24	8/31/24	Returning ● Not to exceed 275 hrs.
11.	Home Instructor	Kathleen Nangle	$46.00 p/hr.	DIST.	23/24 SY		As assigned
12.	PT Staff Asst.	Mary Parra	$21.42 p/hr. (Step 3)	BW	4/8/24	6/30/24	26 hrs. 4 days p/wk. in the Pre-K Class
13.	Maintenance Worker	Cesar Romero	Base Salary: $49,492.00 Boiler Operator: $1,250.00 Asbestos: $1,000.00 A/C: $175.00 **Total Prorated Salary**:	MAINT.	3/1/24	6/30/24	Salary Adjustment due to obtaining A/C certification

			$51,917.00 (Step 8)				
14.	ESY Program Coordinator	Caryl Sambrato	$3,946.00 per phase	DIST.	3/1/24 7/1/24	6/30/24 8/15/24	Phase I Phase II
15.	PT Staff Asst.	Kelly Scarpone	**$20.62 p/hr. (Step 1)	CAD	3/14/24	6/30/24	Revised Start Date 26 hrs. 5 days p/wk. in the Kindergarten Class Pending: Physical/Mantoux (Replacing: M. Lukis)
16.	Administrative Asst. to the Director of Student Services	Laura Tempesta	**Prorated** **53,000.00	CO	4/8/24	6/30/24	Pending: Physical/Mantoux and fingerprint approval (Replacing: A. Yacavino)
17.	Math Teacher	Jennifer Thompson	**Prorated** $64,695.00 MA (Step 1)	CMS	5/10/24	6/30/24	Leave Replacement (Replacing: Employee 6015)
18.	School Social Worker	Samantha Viscuso	**Prorated** **$67,695.00 MA (Step 4)	DBO	*5/15/24	6/30/24	New Position Replacing Behaviorist Pending: Physical/Mantoux
19.	PT Music Teacher	Theresa Weniger	**Prorated** $41,367.00 MA+30 (Step 4)	CMS	***3/1/24	6/30/24	Interim Leave Replacement 0.6 FTE (Replacing: N. Malishchak)
20.	After School Programs	Per the attached list	Per the attached	CMS	23-24 SY		● Jazz Ensemble
21.	After School Clubs	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	DBO	23-24 SY		Pay to Play
22.	After School Clubs	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	SB	23-24 SY		Pay to Play
23.	Curriculum Revision Committee	Per the attached list	Per the attached list	DIST.	23-24 SY		Per the attached

B.	Leave of Absence						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/About Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	Educational Technologist	5704		CMS	2/6/24	3/28/24	**Extended** Without Pay under FMLA (Return: 4/8/24)

2.	Resource Room Teacher	6083		CAD	5/6/24 9/2/24 11/25/24	6/19/24 11/22/24 6/30/25	With Pay under FMLA Without Pay under NJFLA Without Pay (Return: 1st day of 25/26 SY)

C.	Resign/Retire						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Date Eff. (*On/ Before)**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	PT Staff Asst.	Jacqueline Hendershot-Sapio		CMS	3/22/24		Resign
2.	Administrative Asst. to Special Education	Jeannine Lee		CO	3/11/24		Resign
3.	PT Music Teacher	Nicholas Malishchak		CMS	3/1/24		Resign

D.	Substitute Teacher					
	Position	**Name**	**Level**	**Start Date *On/Before Eff.**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	Substitute	Thuraya Abdelal	County	3/14/24		County College of Morris, NJ (Assoc.) (Pending: Physical)
2.	Substitute	Alyson Cohen	State	3/14/24		University of Delaware, DE (BA)
3.	Substitute	Nancy Doherty	County	3/14/24		Catholic University of America, DC (BA)
4.	Substitute	Brina Felicioni	County	3/14/24		County College of Morris, NJ (Assoc.) (Pending: Physical/Mantoux)
5.	Substitute	Marguerite Theuret	County	3/14/24		Parsons School of Design, NY (BFA)
6.	Substitute	Alexis Zigarelli	County	3/14/24		Rutgers University, NJ (BA) (Pending: Physical/Mantoux)

E.	Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board approves the following amendment to the previously approved motion under Personnel (Motion A-12, 2-14-24 agenda)						
	Position	**Name**	**Salary**	**Location**	**Start Date *On/Before Eff.**	**Date Termin. *On/Before**	**Discussion**
1.	Curriculum Writers	Per the attached list	Per the contracted rate of pay	DIST.	23-24 SY		Revised

F.	Job Descriptions				
	Category	**Name**	**Date Effective**	**Date Termin.**	**Discussion**
1.	A-8	Director of Curriculum and Instruction & Professional Development	3/14/24		Revised
2.	C-1	Transportation Supervisor/Routing Coordinator	3/14/24		Revised
3.	C-3	Assistant Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds		3/14/24	Abolish
4.	C-4	Administrative Assistant – Transportation	3/14/24		Revised
5.	C-6	Head Mechanic	3/14/24		Revised
6.	C-7	Mechanic	3/14/24		Revised
7.	C-9	Mechanic Helper – Auto Body/Welder		3/14/24	Abolish
8.	C-10	Transportation Dispatcher		3/14/24	Abolish
9.	C-13	General Maintenance Specialist	3/14/24		Revised
10.	C-14	Administrative Assistant, Elementary School	3/14/24		Revised
11.	C-15	Administrative Assistant, Middle School	3/14/24		Revised
12.	C-16	Secretary for Staff and Student Attendance and Discipline	3/14/24		Revised
13.	C-17	Middle School Guidance Secretary	3/14/24		Revised
14.	C-18	Secretary for Purchasing Supplies	3/14/24		Revised
15.	C-19	Maintenance Clerk	3/14/24		Revised
16.	C-20	Clerk Typist	3/14/24		Revised
17.	C-21	Clerk-Typist – Music Department Middle School		3/14/24	Abolish
18.	C-22	Transportation Assistant Coordinator	3/14/24		Revised
19.	C-23	Transportation Clerk Typist	3/14/24		Revised
20.	C-24	Transportation PM Dispatcher	3/14/24		Revised
21.	C-25	Transportation Staff Assistants/Bus Monitors		3/14/24	Abolish (replaced by G-2)
22.	C-26	Transportation AM Dispatcher	3/14/24		Revised
23.	D-11	Multiple Language Learner Program Coordinator	3/14/24		Revised
24.	G-2	Transportation Staff Assistant	3/14/24		Revised

Key
* On/Before Eff. Date
**Salary/Step frozen for the 24/25 school year
*** Concurrent

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

B. HIB Determination

HIB Resolution

1. **Whereas,** the Superintendent of schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB incidents:

#10767 Confirmed, #10772 Unconfirmed, #10778 Unconfirmed, #10779 Unconfirmed, #10781 Unconfirmed, #10786 Unconfirmed and #10789 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:

#10587 Confirmed, #10616 Unconfirmed, #10617 Unconfirmed, #10620 Unconfirmed, #10624 Unconfirmed, #10644 Confirmed, #10650 Confirmed, #10663 Confirmed, #10665 Confirmed, #10696 Unconfirmed, #10697 Unconfirmed, #10710 Unconfirmed, #10712 Unconfirmed, #10714 Unconfirmed, #10717 Confirmed and #10718 Unconfirmed

HIB Current Investigations: #10806, #10833, #10834, #10882, #10891, #10896, #10897, #10898, #10899, #10900, #10902, #10903, #10904 and #10907

HIB Incident Summary

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

C. Education

Motion made by Ms. McGeary, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to approve the following education recommendations.

Requested Field Trips for Approval

1.Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board concurs with the 03-13-2024 list of field trips *(as per attached).*

Revised List of Field Trip Locations

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approves the motion to adopt the revised list of field trip locations *(as per attached)*.

3.Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approves the motion to approve Rockaway Township School District's participation in Year 3 of the Montclair State University proposed NJDOE Grant to Expand and Improve Computer Science Education. Through this grant the district receives professional development, curricular support and materials for participating staff. The grant runs from June 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025 *(as per attached).*

4.Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approves the following employees for Basic Life Support (CPR for Healthcare Providers) Recertification during the 2023-2024 school year. The cost to the District for the American Heart Association BLS e-card is $13.00 for each staff member.

Basic Life Support (CPR for Healthcare Providers) Instructors: Daria Napolitano and Paula Kelly	
Daria Napolitano, RN	Stony Brook
Paula Kelly, RN	KDM
Barbara Beere, RN	CMS
Jennifer Storer, RN	District Float Nurse
Krista Schellinck, RN	Birchwood
Rosa DeCandia, RN	Dwyer
Wendy Madonia, RN	DBO
Lois Sackett, RN	District Substitute Nurse
Karen Jordano, RN	CMS

Parent Chaperones

5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approves the following parent chaperones for the Copeland Middle School New Jersey Honor Society's trip to Washington, D.C. on March 25, 2024 through March 27, 2024. Pending receipt of satisfactory criminal history background check.

- Kristin Ciglia
- Nicole Ecker

Professional Development – Travel Costs

6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approves the following unavoidable 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 Date(s)	Registration Fee	Travel Cost	Total Estimated Cost
Kathryn Pietrowski	NJABA	Somerset, NJ	April 26, 2024	150.00	$40.42	$190.42
Kathleen Nangle	NJECC 2024 Annual Conference	Montclair, NJ	March 12, 2024	Free	$0.00	$0.00
Jessica Imhof	NJCEC Annual Spring Conference	Mahwah, NJ	March 18, 2024	$180.00	$0.00	$180.00
Brian Rawlins	NJCEC Annual Spring Conference	Mahwah, NJ	March 18, 2024	$180.00	$0.00	$180.00
Ashley Ruzicka	NJCEC Annual Spring Conference	Mahwah, NJ	March 18, 2024	$180.00	$0.00	$180.00
Christopher Marangon	NJCIE Summer Inclusion Leadership Conference	Union, NJ	June 7, 2024	Free	$39.48	$39.48
Michael McGovern	NJPSA Legislative Conference	Monroe, NJ	March 22, 2024	Free	$29.14	$29.14
Bari Eisenhauer	NJSHA Convention	Atlantic City, NJ	May 9-10, 2024	$255.00	$0.00	$255.00
Marisa Gardner	Dyslexia Conference	West Orange, NJ	April 15-16, 2024	$545.00	$0.00	$545.00
Joy Van Wingerden	Dyslexia Conference	West Orange, NJ	April 15-16, 2024	$545.00	$0.00	$545.00
Kristin Novembre	TEACH Conference	Virtual	May 7,8,9, 2024	Free	$0.00	$0.00
Scott Nordland	Governance, Ethics & Accountability	24 Virtual Progress	24 Virtual	$75.00	$0.00	$75.00
Vanessa Waxman	ISTE	24 Virtual Progress	24 Virtual	$270.00	$0.00	$270.00
Sarah Gallopo	Journeys of Inclusion: Charting Compassion, Courage, and Community	Kean University	March 15, 2024	Free	$0.00	$0.00
Jennifer Meyers	Writing Strategies and Structures	Virtual	March 6, 2024	$159.00	$0.00	$159.00
Amy Semeniuk	Writing Strategies and Structures	Virtual	March 6, 2024	$159.00	$0.00	$159.00
Erin Bosworth	PRISM Makey Makey	Bloomfield, NJ	March 15, 2024	Free	$24.82	$24.82
Kathleen Nangle	PRISM Makey Makey	Bloomfield, NJ	March 15, 2024	Free	$24.82	$24.82

D. Special Education

Rescind Out of District Placement Tuition SY 2023-2024

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board agrees to rescind the tuition for the following out of district placement students for the 2023-2024 school year *(as per attached).*

Student #	School	Location	Tuition Rate
D.A.	Shepard School	Kinnelon	Tuition $57,677.94 or $315.18 per diem
T.H.	Mountain Lakes Board of Education	Mountain Lakes	$11,880.00 Two (2) 50-minute sessions per week or $1,320.00 per month

Out of District Placement Tuition SY 2023-2024

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board authorizes the tuition/itinerant services for the following out of district placement students for the 2023-2024 school year *(as per attached)*:

Student#	School	Location	Tuition Rate
D.A.	Essex Valley School	West Caldwell	$31,850.00 or $455.00 per diem
D.F.	Lakeview Learning Center	Wayne	$32,300.00 or $475.00 per diem
T.H.	Mountain Lakes Board of Education	Mountain Lakes	$30,873.36

SEPAC District Presentation – Sensory Processing Disorders

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board concurrently approves Gena Hartman to conduct a district SEPAC presentation on 'Sensory Processing Disorders' on February 29, 2024 at the Central Office. Total cost is $100.00 per the Rockaway Township Education Association's Collective Bargaining Agreement *(as per attached).*

SEPAC District Presentation – Nurtured Heart Approach

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board authorizes Ms. Carol Sisterhen to conduct a district SEPAC presentation on 'Nurtured Heart Approach' on March 21, 2024 at the Central Office. Total cost is $500.00.

E. Administration

Motion made by Ms. McGeary, seconded by Mrs. Anderson to approve the following administration recommendations.

Legal Services Agreement

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board authorizes the Legal Services Agreement between Rockaway Township Board of Education and Chasan, Lamparello, Mallon & Cappuzzo, P.C. at a rate of $170.00 per hour. The term of the agreement is effective from February 15, 2024 through June 30, 2024 *(as per attached).*

Memorandum of Agreement - Rockaway Township Bus Driver's Association

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board authorizes the Memorandum of Agreement between Rockaway Township Board of Education and Rockaway Township Bus Driver's Association for Docket No. AR-2023-522 *(as per attached).*

Donation

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board accepts the following check donation of $1,000.00 from Lake Hopatcong Elks #782.

Right to Know Services Proposal

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board authorizes the Right to Know Services Proposal between Rockaway Township Board of Education and Karl Environmental Group. Total cost is $4,250.00 *(as per attached).*

2024 DOT Clearinghouse Service Agreement

5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board approves the 2024 DOT Clearinghouse Service Agreement between Rockaway Township Board of Education and Prevention Specialists Incorporated (PSI) to assist with completing the new DOT requirements for 2024. Total costs for service is $195.00 *(as per attached).*

Equipment Disposal

6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board authorizes the disposal and/or sale of surplus property/obsolete equipment from the IT Department *(as per attached).*

Donation

7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board accepts the donation of an acoustic/electric piano from Casio for Copeland Middle School.

Referendum Assistance and Campaign – Donovan Group

8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board appoints the Donovan Group to assist the board with providing the residents of Rockaway Township with information on a future referendum. Fees for the services provided as listed in the proposal will be $4,000.00 per month, not to exceed a total of $32,000.00. The Donovan Group will provide three days of on-site videography for an additional $8,000.00 *(as per attached).*

No public comment.

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

F. Finance

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

Financials

1. Be It Resolved that the Rockaway Township Board of Education approves the Report of the Secretary and Report of Appropriations, and Report of the Treasurer, for the period ending in February 29, 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 H. Ronald Smith, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, certifies the following statement:

Pursuant to NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)(3) and (4), I, H. Ronald Smith, Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary, certify that no budgetary line items accounts are over appropriated nor over expended for the period ending February 29, 2024.

Authorize February 2024 account transfers as submitted.

Bills

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

A.	February	Student Activities	$32,022.87
	March	Student Activities	$28.00
B.	February	After School Programs	$57.56
	March	After School Programs	$201.52
C.	February	Cafeteria	$101,528.36
	March	Cafeteria	$6,400.00
D.	March	District Bills	$4,354,875.57

Adoption of the Tentative Budget for School Year 2024-2025

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the board adopts the tentative budget for School Year 2024-2025.

Rockaway Township Public Schools
Adoption of the Tentative Budget for School Year 2024-2025

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2024-2025 school year using the 2024-2025 state aid figures and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit to the Executive County Superintendent for approval in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6:

	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total
Total Expenditures	$61,032,090	$814,979	$591,600	$62,438,669
Less Anticipated Revenues	$8,704,625	$814,979	$145,102	$9,664,706
Local Tax Levy to be Raised	$52,327,465	$0	$446,498	$52,773,963

AND, to advertise said tentative budget in the Star Ledger and Daily Record in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to the law

ADJUSTMENT FOR BANKED CAP: $1,245,526.00

BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockaway Township Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of $1,245,526.00. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to ensure the continuation and growth of our curricular programs in light of the loss of ESSER funding, ensure the retention of high-quality staff, and endure the continued increased costs related to
healthcare, transportation, and tuition as well as general annual inflation. The Board of Education will complete this by June 30, 2025 and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

MAXIMUM TRAVEL
Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, a board of education must establish a maximum dollar limit for travel expenditure, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et seq., BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget a maximum travel expenditure in the amount of **$93,600** for the 2024-2025 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2022-2023 school year is $93,600, of which, $31,827 has been spent and an additional $12,306 is encumbered to date.

TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT
The Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district;

AND, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board;

AND, a board of education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of $150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30);

AND, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 but deemed by the board of education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of $93,600 for all staff and board members for the 2024-2025 school year.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

CAPITAL RESERVE

Capital Reserve Account Withdrawal: $1,387,864.00

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the budget a Capital Reserve withdrawal in the amount of $1,387,864 for the purpose of district roof projects at Copeland Middle School, Birchwood Elementary, and Katherine D. Malone Elementary.

MAINTENANCE RESERVE

Maintenance Reserve Account Withdrawal: $100,000.00

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the budget a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of $100,000 for the purpose of district-wide repairs and improvements for both aesthetic and functional needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the public hearing be held in the Copeland Middle School Cafeteria, 100 Lake Shore Drive Rockaway, New Jersey 07866 on **May 1, 2023** at **7:00 pm**.

No public comment.

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

G. Policy

Motion made by Mrs. Mezik, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru to approve the following policy recommendations.

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

P 2415.50 Title I – School Parent and Family Engagement

No public comment.

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

Brian Adams RTEA on April 18th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm will be canvas painting.

Motion by Ms. McGeary, seconded by Mrs. Curelaru 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 the Morris County School Board Association President/Vice President forum on March 14th will be virtual only.

Mrs. Mezik – Shared the Morris County School Board Association is having an event called the 'Unsung Heroes' that will take place on March 20, 2024 at County College of Morris. The receipt will be Hannah Forrest the daughter of a former board member Nancy Helbourg.

New Business

Mrs. Anderson – Shared that Stony Brook school raised over $34,000.00 dollars from the Read A Thon. This was a great job and she wanted to congratulate them.

Mrs. Mezik – Shared that she attended a webinar for the Morris County School Board Association and it was on the CSA and wants to go over timelines with the board.
Mrs. Shields – Shared that the RTEF needs a board member to be a liaison for this. Mrs. Anderson and Ms. McGeary will do this.
Mrs. Shields– Shared that during her meeting with the Substance Alliance meeting she attended the mayor was at Stony Brook and it was a HEART assembly and that all the kids were waving American flags and cheering as Jose the custodian just became an American citizen.
Mrs. Shields– Shared that the Listening Session Policy 5756 will be on March 26, 2024 at Copeland at 6:00pm.

The full discussion of old and new business and Board commentary can be viewed on the Rockaway Township Board of Education's YouTube Channel, Rockaway Streamer under 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13' or by clicking this link: 'Board of Education Meeting – 2024-3-13'.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Shields mentioned that we do not need to go into executive session

Motion by Mrs. Curlaru, seconded by Ms. McGeary to adjourn meeting at 9:01 PM.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald Smith
H. Ronald Smith
Interim Business Administrator/Board Secretary