REORGANIZATION MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 6, 2015

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 6:06 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

The following members of the Board of Education were present: Mrs. Chabala, Mr. Babcock, Mrs. Maluszczak, Mr. Press, Mrs. Salny and Dr. Kurland. Mrs. Chirico was absent.

Motion by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mr. Press to waive pledge salute, public announcement and public notice until the meeting is reopened.

Public announcement was read regarding the "Open Public Meeting Act." No Board Member objected to the conduct of the meeting as advertised.

Motion made by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mrs. Chabala to adopt the following resolution:

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.

All present voting yes, motion carried.

The Board met in closed session at 6:07 PM.

Motion made by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mrs. Salny that the closed session meeting stand adjourned at 7:37 PM
Roll Call Vote, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:38 PM. Present were 10 visitors and no members of the press.

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

OATH OF OFFICE

Donnamarie Palmiere, Board Secretary, administer the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board Members, Dr. Robert Kurland and Mr. Russell Babcock.

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Palmiere called for nominations for the position of President. Motion made by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mr. Press to nominate Dr. Kurland as Board President. Motion by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mr. Press to close nominations. No other nominations being made, Mrs. Palmiere, acting as Temporary Chairperson, called for a vote.

Roll Call Vote on nomination of Dr. Kurland for Board President, roll call vote all members of the Board of Education, voting yes, motion so carried. The Temporary Chairperson declared that Dr. Kurland is duly elected to the Office of President of the Board of Education for the ensuing year.

Mrs. Palmiere turned the meeting over to Dr. Kurland, the newly elected president.

Dr. Kurland called for nominations for the position of Vice President. Motion made by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mrs. Salny to nominate Mrs. Maluszczak as Vice President. Motion by Mrs. Salny seconded by Mrs. Chabala to close nominations. No other nominations being made, Dr. Kurland called for a vote.

Roll Call Vote for Mrs. Maluszczak as Vice President, roll call vote all members of the Board of Education, voting yes, motion so carried. Mrs. Maluszczak is duly elected to the Office of Vice President of the Board of Education for the ensuing year.

Motion by Mr. Press, seconded by Mrs. Chabala to approve the following recommendations, as amended.

2. **BOARD MEETING LOCATION**
Designate the Copeland Middle School as the official meeting place for the Board of Education.

DESIGNATION DATES/TIMES OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS
6:00 PM Public Session, immediately into Executive Session and reconvene at 7:30 PM for Public Session:

January 6* & 21, 2015
February 4 & 18, 2015
March 4 & 18, 2015
April 8 & 22, 2015
May 6 & 20, 2015
June 10 &22**, 2015
July 15, 2015
August 5 &19, 2015
September 2 & 16, 2015
October 7 & 21, 2015
November 4 & 18, 2015
December 9, 2015
January 6, 2016

*Reorganization
** Monday
*** Reorganization

3. **Be It Resolved** the Rockaway Township Board of Education reaffirms the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics (see attached), for the 2015-2016 school year.

4. **Be It Resolved** the Rockaway Township Board of Education reaffirms the use of Roberts Rules for parliamentary procedures for the 2015-2016 school year.

Motion by Mr. Press, seconded by Mrs. Chabala to approve motions 1 & 2, as amended.

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

Dr. Kurland read the following statement:

On behalf of the current sitting Board of Education, I want the Public to know that we are disappointed to learn for the first time about the recent events surrounding our former Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gary Vitta.

During the entire time of his service to this district, the Rockaway Township School District has had no documentation to demonstrate that it has had any involvement or knowledge regarding the issues involved in this matter. In fact, the recent plea in response to the one charge stems from events that occurred after Dr. Vitta left the school district for retirement.

We also want to assure the Public that over the course of his administration, the Board monitored all district operations regularly and worked closely with the Business Office to ensure fiscal compliance. Each school year, an audit of the district operations was conducted and the audits confirmed the fiscal integrity of the district. There is no evidence whatsoever that the incident reported now involving the former Superintendent had any negative impact upon the Board operations. However, please know that this Superintendent of Schools and School Business Administration will continue to monitor, question, oversee and ensure that all fiscal operations are in the best interests of the Rockaway Township School District and its citizens.

Motion by Mr. Press, seconded by Mrs. Maluszczak to open the public session of the meeting.

There was no Public comment this evening.

Motion by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mrs. Maluszczak to close the public session of the meeting.

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

COMMUNICATIONS — **Correspondence**

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

Donnamarie Palmiere	Re: Polling Locations
Regina Swierc	Re: Holiday Greeting

APPROVE MINUTES — **Minutes**

Motion made by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mr. Babcock to approve the minutes of December 10, 2014.

Roll Call Vote on above, Mr. Babcock abstaining all others present voting yes, motion so carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mr. Press to approve the minutes of December 11, 2014.

Roll Call Vote on above, Mr. Babcock abstaining all others present voting yes, motion so carried.

The following information was presented by the Superintendent in her report: — **Supt Report**

Dr Grefe reported there were no previous HIB cases to vote on, but there was one new HIB investigation Case #82 as unconfirmed. Dr. Grefe reported she received correspondence from the DOE that there has been a 9% decrease in 12-13 school year because of the HIB Law.

On Goal IV, successful instruction strategies – Teacher of the Year done in-house only. Names submitted by January 7th and announced January 9th teachers will be recognize January 19th at Professional Development Day. February 9th from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Barn there will be an Administrative celebration.

Informational Items:

- Enrollment – December
- Evacuations – December
- Field Trips – December

The following was presented by the Business Administrator in her report: — **BA Report**

Mrs. Palmiere reported on an Architect Meeting regarding projects at Birchwood and Dwyer Schools and researching a new building versus upgrades for Central Office

A letter to move elections from schools was sent on December 22nd, so far there has been no response.

State Mandate/State Pay – Finalizing costs for attorney on Gifted & Talented and Dyslexia

Finance Committee — **Finance Committee**

December 18th the committee met to discuss budgets. Staff or negotiations were not discussed.

Negotiations Committee — **Negotiations Committee**

RTEA negotiations Thursday night, Bus Drivers at the end of the month.

The following actions were taken during the Regular Meeting of the Board:

Personnel

The Superintendent of Schools recommends actions on the following certificated personnel:
Motion made by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mrs. Maluszczak to approve the following personnel recommendations.

1. **Employment**

Employment

Approve the course, instructor and the individual rate of pay per quarter, indicated on the attached list, for the After School Programs, to be held at the Katharine D. Malone School, for the 2014-2015 school year.

Explanation: These are "Pay-to-Play" programs.

Approve the employment of Stephen Scism, as a full-time Physical Education Teacher, at the Catherine A. Dwyer, Katharine D. Malone and Dennis B. O'Brien Schools, effective February 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The annual prorated salary will be $54,470.00 BA (Step 1). (Mr. Scism holds a Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing as a Teacher of Health and Physical Education). (Mr. Scism is replacing Mrs. Ryan).

2. **Employment/Substitute Teachers**

Employ Subs

Approve the employment of the following county and state certified Substitute Teachers indicated below for the 2014-2015 school year:

Joseph Aragona Rockaway, NJ	University of Scranton, PA (BS) Certification: County Effective Date: January 7, 2015
Stephen Scism Flanders, NJ	East Stroudsburg University, PA (BS) Certification: State Effective Date: January 7, 2015
Gail Vanprooien Rockaway, NJ	Montclair State University, NJ (BS) Certification: County Effective Date: January 7, 2015

3. **Extended Leave of Absence**

Extended Leave

Approve an extended leave of absence for Raymond Witte, III, a full-time Grade 8 Special Education Teacher, at the Copeland Middle School, without pay, effective January 5, 2015 through February 12, 2015. (Mr. Witte is expected to return to work on February 17, 2015).

4. **Leave of Absence**

Leave

Approve a leave of absence for employee number 5047, with pay, effective December 1, 2014 through December 16, 2014. (Employee number 5047 is expected to return to work on December 17, 2014). replacement assignment for Erin Bootes-King, replacing Janet Moran, a full-time Grade 7 Science

5. **Leave Replacement Assignment**

Leave Replacement

Approve a leave Teacher, at the Copeland Middle School, effective January 12, 2015 through February 23, 2015. The rate of pay is $150.00 per diem.

6. **Reassignments**

Reassignments

Approve the reassignment of Megan Cohen, an Occupational Therapist, on an "as needed" basis, at the hourly rate of $65.00, for the district to a full-time Occupational Therapist for the district, effective January 12, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The annual prorated salary will be $59,735.00 (MA Step 4).

Approve the reassignment of Katelyn Reverri, a part-time Preschool General Education Teacher, at 19.50 hours per week, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School to a full-time Preschool General Education and Preschool Disabled Teacher, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, effective January 5, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The annual prorated salary will be $54,470.00 (BA Step 1).

7. **Reemployment** — **Reemployment**

Approve the reemployment of Lindsay Fisher, as a County Certified Substitute Teacher, for the District, effective January 7, 2015 through June 30, 2015.

8. **Revised Leaves of Absence** — **Revised Leaves**

Approve a revised leave of absence for Cynthia Dodge, a full-time Grade 6 Language Arts Teacher, at the Copeland Middle School, with pay, effective January 19, 2015 through March 13, 2015, the leave will continue, without pay, effective March 16, 2015 through June 30, 2016. (Mrs. Dodge is expected to return to work on September 1, 2016).

Approve a revised leave of absence for Danielle Ronay, a full-time Autistic Teacher, at the Katharine D. Malone School, with pay, effective February 2, 2015 through February 20, 2015, the leave will continue, without pay, effective February 23, 2015 through May 29, 2015. (Mrs. Ronay is expected to return to work on June 1, 2015).

9. **The Superintendent of Schools recommends actions on the following non-certificated personnel:**

Employment — **Employment**

Approve the employment of Alecia Piso, a part-time Staff Assistant, at 17.50 hours per week, in the Preschool Disabled Class, afternoon session, per the student's IEP, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, effective January 7, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The rate of pay is $16.51 (Step 1) per hour.

Leave of Absence — **Leave**

Approve a leave of absence for Joseph Sewatsky, a part-time Staff Assistant, at 17.50 hours per week, for the morning session, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, with pay, effective January 5, 2014 through January 15, 2015, the leave will continue without pay, effective January 16 and January 20, 2015. (Mr. Sewatsky is expected to return to work on January 21, 2015).

Reassignments — **Reassignments**

Approve the reassignment of Cinnamon Lenahan, a county certified Substitute Teacher, for the district to a full-time Staff Assistant, per the student's IEP, at the Copeland Middle School, effective January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The annual prorated salary will be $17,140.00 (Step 1). (Mrs. Lenahan is replacing Mrs. Devine).

Approve the job reassignment for Jean Marie O'Toole, a Substitute on an "as needed" basis Bus Driver for the Transportation Department to a contractual Bus Driver for the Transportation Department, effective January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015. The annual prorated salary will be $12,204.00. (Mrs. O'Toole is replacing Mr. Skrinak).

Resignations — **Resignations**

Approve the resignation of James DelGreco, a part-time Staff Assistant, at 17.50 hours per week, per the student's IEP, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, effective December 1, 2014.

Approve the resignation of Maureen Devine, a full-time Staff Assistant, per the student's IEP, at the Copeland Middle School, effective December 24, 2014.

Approve the resignation of Jennifer Hantis, a full-time Staff Assistant, per the student's IEP, at the Katharine D. Malone School, effective December 24, 2014.

Approve the resignation, due to retirement, of Kathryn Heller, a Bus Driver, for the Transportation Department, effective March 1, 2015.

Salary Adjustment/Contract Rider — **Salary Adjustment**

Approve the prorated salary adjustment for the Bus Driver listed below effective January 1, 2015:

	From	To
Carole Scherr	$26,110.00	$26,997.00

Explanation: Due to additional routes/time added to route.

Superior Attendance

Superior Attendance Stipend
Approve the appropriate stipend indicated on the attached list for the Mechanics that have had superior attendance for the period of July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

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

Curriculum/Instruction

Motion made by Mrs. Chabala, seconded by Mr. Press to approve the following curriculum/instruction recommendations.

Curriculum & Textbooks 15-16

1. **Be It Resolved** the Rockaway Township Board of Education adopts the district curriculum and textbooks, as per the attached, per the most recent published Core Curriculum Standards for the 2015-2016 school year.

Grant Writing

2. Approve Gina Parisi, Susan Keown, Maria Whelan, Ann Kerin and Daniel Warnock to split the $220.00 grant-writing stipend. They submitted a grant to MSUNER for a teacher study group "Team T.E.A.C.H." and will be awarded a $500.00 grant for their project.

Internship Program

3. Amend the approval of Cariesha Black, a Morris Knolls Student Internship Program participant, to observe at Catherine A. Dwyer school one (1) or two (2) days per week from January 2015 through May 2015.

   Explanation: Previously approved to observe at Dennis B. O'Brien School.

Reading Company

4. Approve American Reading Company to provide a Language Arts workshop. The $2,600.00 fee is to be funded under the NCLB Title I Grant.

   Explanation: Training Title I Teachers with a focus of increasing rigor in Language Arts resources and activities.

Grant Writing

5. Approve Gina Parisi to receive a $132.00 grant-writing stipend. She submitted a grant to MSUNER for a project "Math Path to Literature and Learning" and will be awarded a $200.00 grant for her project.

6. Approve Maria Whelan to receive a $132.00 grant-writing stipend for a grant she submitted to MSUNER for a project "Understanding H.I.S.T.O.R.Y." and will be awarded a $200.00 grant for her project.

Wk Shop Hrs.

7. Approve the following physical education teachers to present a Team Building Workshop on January 19, 2015, for a maximum one (1) hour each, at the rate of $44 per hour:

   Scott Credidio
   Frances Gely
   Chris Jackson
   Jennifer Klak
   Bill Swenty
   Thomas Nicolicchia

   Explanation: As per RTEA Contract.

Mrs. Maluszczak asked how grants are written and was told most are mini grants proposed through program at Montclair State where we are enrolled. Principal must sign off on grant and done through a Study Group.

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

No Public comment.

Administration

Motion by Dr. Kurland, seconded by Mrs. Chabala to separate the following motion:

Separate Motion

1. **APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL PHYSICIAN**
   Authorize appointment of Vanguard Medical Group as School Physician for the 2015-2016 school year.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Maluszczak, seconded by Mrs. Salny to approve the following administrative recommendations.

Treasurer 15-16

1. **APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER**
   Authorize appointment of Lisa Palmieri as Treasurer for the Rockaway Township Board of Education for the 2015-2016 school year, as authorized under Title 18A:17-31.

Legal Counsel 15-16

2. **APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL**
   Appoint the firm of Schwartz Simon Edelstein & Celso, LLP as official legal counsel for the Rockaway Township Board of Education for the 2015-2016 school year.

Auditor 14-15

3. **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**
   Appoint the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP as official auditors for the Rockaway Township Board of Education for the 2014-2015 school year.

Architect 15-16

5. **APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTS OF RECORD**
   Appoint the firm of Parette Somjen Architects as Architect of Record, on an as needed basis, for the Rockaway Township Board of Education for the 2015-2016 year.

Board Manuals

6. **BOARD MANUALS**
   Reaffirm adoption of the following Board Manuals effective January 6, 2015:

   Policy Manual
   Job Description Manual
   Standard Operating Manual

CMP & M1

7. Approve the 2014-2015 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and the Annual Maintenance M1 Form.

Comm for the Blind

8. Authorize a contract with Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired for one (1) Rockaway Township special education student for the 2014-2015 school year, as follows:

   1 - Level 1 Student at the annual cost of $1,800.00

School Choice

9. Approve Student # 119, under the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program (N.J.S.A. 18A:36B), to attend a school outside their district of residence.

Board Comments

Mrs. Maluszczak reported the Board does not actually receive a job description manual but receives new job descriptions when they are approved by resolution.

Mrs. Maluszczak questioned the reappointment of the Architect. There were concerns that arose over the summer. Mrs. Palmiere felt they needed to be more aggressive and a new lead architect was being assigned to the district.

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

Motion made by Mrs. Maluszczak, seconded by Mrs. Salny to approve the following administrative recommendation.

School Physician 15-16

8. **APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL PHYSICIAN**
Authorize appointment of Vanguard Medical Group as School Physician for the 2015-2016 school year.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendation, Dr. Kurland abstaining, all others present voting yes, motion so carried.

Mrs. Maluszczak questioned the appointment of the architects of Record.

No Public comment.

Finance

Motion made by Mr. Babcock, seconded by Mrs. Maluszczak to approve the following finance recommendations.

Travel

1. **Be It Resolved** in accordance with Board Policy 6471 the Rockaway Township Board of Education approves the attached travel expenses as they promote the delivery of instruction, critical to the instructional needs of the district and/or further the efficient operations of the district (see attached).

Be It Further Resolved, that the travel is educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and is directly related to, and within, the scope of the current responsibilities for district employees and the district's Professional Development Plan.

Explanation: As per statute, boards of education are required to establish a maximum budget for travel and subsistence, the Board may not exceed this maximum.

Bd Secy Report

2. **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 November 30, 2014 and

Be It Further Resolved that this Budget does not include any unapproved appropriations or moneys.

Be It Resolved that the Rockaway Township Board of Education acknowledges that Donnamarie Palmiere, Board Secretary, certifies the following statement:

Pursuant to NJAC 6A:23-2.11(c)(3) and (4), I, Donnamarie Palmiere, Board Secretary, certify that no budgetary line items accounts are over appropriated nor over expended for the period ending November 30, 2014.

Transfers

Authorize the November account transfers as submitted.

Outstanding Checks

3. **Be It Resolved** in accordance with New Jersey Department of Education auditing requirements the Rockaway Township Board of Education declares the following outstanding checks null and void:

General Custodial Account

Check #	Date		Amount
134690	12/18/13	$	41.18
135432	4/23/14		15.00
135439	4/23/14		44.02
135615	5/21/14		14.40
135684	5/21/14		14.46
135722	6/18/14		442.00
135764	6/18/14		884.00
136205	6/30/14		1,910.20
136206	6/30/14		275.00

Cafeteria Account

Check #	Date	Amount
6212	11/5/13	$ 9.65
6221	1/13/14	19.70
6231	3/10/14	36.70
6261	6/27/14	9.10
6277	6/27/14	7.00

Summer Enrichment Account

Check #	Date	Amount
2077	5/19/14	$ 15.00

4. Accept a $500 grant from MSUNER for teacher study group "Team T.E.A.C.H." **Accept Grant**

No Public comment.

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

Policy

Motion made by Mrs. Maluszczak, seconded by Mrs. Chabala to approve the following policy recommendations.

Policy 2nd Reading

1. Approve the second reading of the following policies, as amended:

2481	Home or Out-of-School Instruction for a General Education Student for Reasons Other Than a Temporary or Chronic Health Condition
5610	Suspension

No Public comment.

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

Old Business **Old Business**

There was a discussion and the Board asked for additional information before making any recommendations on full-day Kindergarten.

New Business **New Business**

Board wants to do a mid-year Superintendent review next week at 6:00 Pm in the Copeland Faculty Room.

Motion by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mr. Press to open for Public Comment. **Public Comment**

Mr. Dunckley wants access to full-day Kindergarten information. Professional Development Days (PD) can be used to present information or be heard so everyone is on the same page. Princeton Plan presentation should also be done during a PD Day.

Dr. Kurland commented he is still waiting for more information from Ross Haber.

Resident asked if there has been a Parent Group set up for parents who have incoming Kindergarten students to discuss full-day Kindergarten. She was told it was done a year and a half ago.

Motion by Mr. Press, seconded by Mrs. Salny to close Public Comments.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mrs. Maluszczak that the meeting stand adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Roll Call Vote, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnamarie Palmiere

DONNAMARIE PALMIERE
Board Secretary