

RIVER EDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
“Building Bright Futures Together”

Minutes of the Regular Public Meeting - December 7, 2022 - 7:30PM

The Board of Education, Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, met in the New Bridge Center Project Room of Cherry Hill School, 410 Bogert Road, River Edge, NJ 07661.

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Ms. Kang called the meeting to order at 7:34PM.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Kang read the Mission Statement.

Special Item - Swearing in New Board Member Eric Langley

Ms. Kang stated that Mr. Eric Langley has been appointed to fill the Board of Education vacancy and this evening he will be sworn in as the new Board Member.

Mrs. Napolitano read the Oath of Office to Mr. Eric Langley after which Ms. Kang welcomed Mr. Langley to the Board.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley, Ms. Kang

Also present: Ms. Danahy and Mrs. Napolitano

Absent: Ms. Brown, Mr. Papiris and Mr. Sim

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

Mrs. Napolitano read the Open Public Meetings Notice.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Kang stated there will be a closed session at the end of this meeting to discuss a contractual and personnel matter where no action will be taken.

SPECIAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

Honor Cherry Hill Student Serena Jung

Serena Jung was the winner of the International Peace Poster Contest and her family and teachers were in attendance this evening.

Ms. Danahy congratulated Serena and went on to state that artistically talented students from Cherry Hill School and Roosevelt School submit artwork to the River Edge Lions Club Peace Poster Contest. The theme for the 2022-23 Peace Poster contest was “Lead with Compassion”. Students from either Cherry Hill School, Roosevelt School or St. Peters are chosen to represent the Lions Club in Bergen County. Serena not only won first place in the State of New Jersey but her artwork is now being passed on to the national competition which if she wins, she will then go on to the international competition.

Serena spoke about her artwork and said that she is very glad to be representing the New Jersey Lions Club and stated, “I think at school, kids will learn to lead in the future.”

Power of Play (“POP”) Presentation

Mr. Eric James, Assistant Principal and Physical Education teachers, Mr. Anderson, Ms. Naimaster, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Walsh, presented on the Power of Play (“POP”) which is a new program for students who struggle at recess in teaching them how to enjoy themselves, game rules and regulations and just to be positive at all times.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1885EIX-ip9X7SHc46jHex4-QnPmlfxbGu17-qW7GVlo/edit?usp=s>
[hare link](#)

D. AlphaBest Programmatic Status Update

Robyn Knapp, Director of Regional Operation for AlphaBest; Brian Heaton, Chief Operating Officer and Dawn Hosni, Chief Business Development Officer presented an update on the AlphaBest before and after school program. The AlphaBest program started in September 2022 for both Cherry Hill School and Roosevelt School. Enrollment has remained steady since it began. An update was given on the skilled staff, enrollment, attendance and operational procedures. The AlphaBest staff also helps coach and train the River Edge staff on curriculum implementation, training on behavior management techniques and communication with families.

Questions were asked and answered regarding the program.

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Ms. Danahy reported on the following:

- Ms. Danahy had meetings with the Mayor, Council and some representative of the Council which Ms. Kang and Ms. Napolitano participated in, The mayor asked that Ms. Danahy does not report publicly on the details of those conversations. Ms. Danahy thought the meetings were positive in finding a solution for the girls to play on the field at Roosevelt School.
- The house on June Court which the Board has passed a resolution to bid on had sold for \$680,000. This was more than the BOE had bid. They will continue to look for other properties.
- Pack the Pickup Holiday Toy Drive will be taking place at Cherry Hill School and Roosevelt School for two days each. Families will be donating unwrapped toy for the holiday season. The donations will be given to several organizations.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Mr. James, who is filling in for Mr. Henzel, reported on the following:

- Mr. James thanked the Roosevelt staff and students for welcoming him to the school. Mr. James also thanked the custodial staff for all the work they did in taking on special projects.
- December 9th, the 4th grade will have a theater performance
- December 20th, there will be a holiday concert and a dance performance.
- The holiday shop was set up in the hallway outside the Steam Lab.

BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Mrs. Napolitano reported on the following agenda items this evening:

- Mrs Napolitano thanked REBBL and REGAL for their donations for the scoreboard.
- Agenda Item D1 a donation from REGAL for a new scoreboard at Cherry Hill School
- Agenda Item D2 a donation from REBBL for a new scoreboard at Cherry Hill School.
- Agenda Item D3 a donation from the Cherry Hill School PTO for an outside basketball hoop at Cherry Hill School.
- Agenda Item F1 an amendment for a contract with Bergen County Special Services for technology training and one for amending the technology agreement with Bergen Tech for their services.

- The Securing Children's Future Funding Bond Act ("SOCFBA") through the SDA which has amounts allotted to each School District. River Edge has \$26,462 which they have applied for to use for either the Wellness Center at Roosevelt School.
- The Audit is currently going on now and will hopefully be completed by next week.

PRESIDENT REPORT

Ms. Kang reported on the following:

- Ms. Kang attended meetings with the Mayor and Councilwoman Kinsella and they are still in discussion about the fields.
- Ms. Kang attended the Bergen County School Board Association ("BCSBA") meeting virtually on November 30th. Ms. Dansky and Mr. Sim attended the meeting in person. The main topic was school security is a priority and our responsibility. Ms. Kang commented on the tabletop security exercise that Ms. Danahy coordinated in our schools. The BCSBA said that by next September every school has to have a school threat assessment team which we are working on and will be on an upcoming agenda.
- Ms. Danahy mentioned that Dr. Jaffe attended the school security training as well.
- NJDOE preparedness is having threat assessment training all year.
- Ms. Kang reported that she, Ms. Danahy and Mrs. Napolitano met with the new Board members, Mr. Langley and Miss Crespo, to begin the onboarding process.
- Mr. Langley and Ms. Crespo also attended the NJSBA session on the 3Rs: Roles, Responsibilities and Resources."

COMMITTEES

Ms. Kang reported on the following:

- **Personnel and Management Committee** met on November 21, 2022. On the agenda was one matter which will be shared in closed session. Mr. Sim, Ms. Kang, Ms. Danahy and Mrs. Napolitano were in attendance.
- **Finance and Facilities Committee** will be meeting on December 14, 2022.

ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

1. That the Board of Education approve the Minutes of November 16, 2022.

Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene

Seconded by: Mr. Langley

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley and Ms. Kang

Nays: None

Abstained: Mr. Langley

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following workshops, as noted with travel reimbursed at the statutory rates per NJ OMB Guidelines:

Name/Title	Conference/Workshop	Date(s)	Cost to District
Christine Moran Director of Curriculum & Instruction	NJASA Techspo '23	1/25-27/23	\$515.00
Nevin Werner Supervisor of STEAM & Assessment	NJASA Techspo '23	1/25-27/23	\$515.00
Kara Cuadra Teacher	NJMA: Intermediate String Orchestra Audition	1/7/23	\$ 0

3. That the Board of Education approve the completion of the following emergency drills:

School	Dates
Cherry Hill School	11/16/22 Fire Drill 11/21/22 Lock Down
Roosevelt School	11/07/22 Fire Drill 11/17/22 Lock Down

4. That the Board of Education approve membership/organizational fees for the following:

Name/Position	Membership(s) for 2022-2023	Amount
Evan Jaffe Director of Special Services	Crisis Prevention Intervention Institute	\$200.00

5. That the Board of Education approve the 2022 Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between the River Edge Elementary Schools and the River Edge Law Enforcement Officials for the 2022-2023 school year.
6. That the Board of Education re-approve the following trip at the new rate due to an additional bus cost:

School	Grade	Destination	New Cost to District
New Bridge Center	PreK-6	Township Theatre, Washington Township	\$1,150.00

7. That the Board of Education approve the Second Read of Policy 5141.2 Illness (attachment)
8. That the Board of Education approve the following bus evacuation drills for Roosevelt School:

School	Class	Date
Roosevelt School	Grade K -6	October 25, 2022

Motion by: Mr. Langley
 Seconded by: Ms. Dansky
 Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley and Ms. Kang
 Nays: None

B. CURRICULUM/EDUCATION - None

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - None

D. FINANCE/GRANTS/GIFTS

1. That the Board of Education approve the donation from REGAL in the amount of \$5,525 to be used for a new scoreboard at Cherry Hill School.

Motion by: Ms. Dansky
Seconded by: Ms. Juskeliene
Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley and Ms. Kang
Nays: None

2. That the Board of Education approve the donation from REBBL in the amount of \$3,800 to be used for a new scoreboard at Cherry Hill School.

Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene
Seconded by: Mr. Langley
Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley and Ms. Kang
Nays: None

3. That the Board of Education approve the donation from the Cherry Hill School PTO in the amount of \$3,500 to be used for the basketball hoop at Cherry Hill School.

Motion by: Mr. Langley
Seconded by: Ms. Dansky
Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley and Ms. Kang
Nays: None

4. That the Board of Education approve the amendment to the Shared Service Agreement for Technology Support Services between the River Edge Board of Education and Bergen County Technical Schools Board of Education for the 2022-2023 school year for the period beginning on July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for services that will consist of site technician services as well as technology support services to the River Edge School District. (Attachment)

Motion by: Ms. Dansky
Seconded by: Ms. Juskeliene
Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley and Ms. Kang
Nays: None

E. PERSONNEL

1. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following ABA Paraprofessionals, for up to two additional hours per month, at their hourly contractual rate, effective December 8, 2022.

Helen Belits
Deborah Connors
Jennifer Gismondi

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a Maternity/Disability leave of absence for Employee #011860, whose name is on file in the Board Office, to commence on or about May 15, 2023 through June 30, 2023.
3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Christina Loughnane for Student Teaching at Roosevelt School, to commence on January 3, 2023 through March 31, 2023.

4. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Nicholas Baranello for Student Teaching in a Special Education setting at Cherry Hill School, to commence on March 27, 2023 through May 5, 2023.
5. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Nicholas Baranello as a Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 School Year.
6. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, post approve the following Paraprofessionals for an increase of hours, from 27 hours per week to 27.5 hours per week, at their hourly contractual rate, effective November 16, 2022:

Name	School
Thippawon Arjarasumpum	Roosevelt School
Eleanor Noel	Roosevelt School

7. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request to rescind the appointment of Maria Garcia, ABA Paraprofessional.
8. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Kara Cuadra, Teacher, to attend the Northern Jersey School Music Association: Intermediate String Orchestra Audition, on January 7, 2023 (snow date: January 8, 2023), not to exceed 7 hours at her hourly contractual rate.
9. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Anne Marie Spiegel as Literacy Specialist, not to exceed 25 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$110 per hour, effective January 1, 2023 through May 30, 2023, to be paid with **ARP ESSER Accelerated Learning Salaries** funds.
10. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Anne Marie Spiegel, as Literacy Consultant, to facilitate an "Introduction to Reading Workshop" course, to be held after school on January 4, January 11 and January 18, 2023, for River Edge staff members, not to exceed 5 hours at an hourly rate of \$110 per hour, to be paid with **ARP ESSER Professional and Technical Services** funds.
11. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following staff to participate in the "Introduction to Reading Workshop" not to exceed 5 hours each at an hourly rate of \$50 per hour, to be paid with **ARP ESSER Accelerated Learning Salaries** funds:

Stacey Kaley Elena Kim Samantha Lipman Caitlyn Loew	Steven Luca Mona Naik Cassandra Scott
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12. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the original contract for the following employee and approve the new contract effective December 19, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

Rosemary Irvine, ABA Paraprofessional	From: Step A	To: AA, Step A
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- 13. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, post-approve Mary Ann Crudello, Teacher, as a presenter for the W.I.N. Parent Academy, November 30, 2022, at a rate of \$75.00 per hour not to exceed 2 ¼ hours.
- 14. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Full Time Equivalency for Janine Caruso, Teacher, from .6 to .7, on or about December 12, 2022 through May 1, 2023.
- 15. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the movement of Caitlyn Ryan, Teacher, from Cherry Hill School to Roosevelt School, on or about January 3, 2023.
- 16. That the Board of Education, accept with regret, the resignation of Kelly Seidler, School Psychologist, effective January 30, 2023.
- 17. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Kristine McHugh, as a Substitute Nurse, for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion by: Ms. Juskeliene
 Seconded by: Mr. Langley
 Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley and Ms. Kang
 Nays: None

F. RIVER EDGE SPECIAL EDUCATION

- 1. That the Board of Education approve the Bergen County Special Services Annual Contract for Services for the 2022-2023 school year, Educational Enterprises Division Assistive Technology Training for one student and staff on IPAD with pencil up to 6 hours, at a cost of \$1,020. (Attachment)
- 2. That the Board of Education approve the 2022/2023 Curiosity Corner Curriculum Renewal Contract in the amount of \$2,800. (Attachment)
- 3. That the River Edge Board of Education approve the following out of district tuition student into the Building Bridges/Building Connections Program for the 2022-2023 school year:

School District	No. of Classified Students
New Milford	1
Allendale	1

Motion by: Mr. Langley
 Seconded by: Ms. Dansky
 Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley and Ms. Kang
 Nays: None

G. REGION V ADMINISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

- 1. WHEREAS, the River Edge Board of Education (the “Board”) is the lead education agency (“LEA”) for the Bergen County Region V Council for Special Education (“Region V”); and WHEREAS, Region V provides shared services for its member districts, non- member districts such as evaluations, direct services, and consultation; and services to non-public schools as requested by member and non-member districts;

WHEREAS, as the LEA, the Board must approve the contract of the providers that Region V utilizes to deliver shared services to its member districts, non-member districts and services to non-public schools as requested by member and non- member districts;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the contract of the following Region V Shared Services Consultants/Agencies to provide evaluations, direct services, and consultation, to public and non- public schools for member districts and non-member districts upon request for the 2022-2023 school year:

Provider and/or Company Name	Discipline	Area of Service	Hourly Rate
Jaimee Rizzo, JR Behavior Consulting, LLC	Behavior Analyst Consultant (BCBA)	Direct Services	Negotiated Rate on file with BOE Office

2. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Conference as noted, with travel reimbursed at the statutory rates as per NJ OMB Guidelines:

Name/Title	Conference	Date	Cost
Lisa Bernardo, Coordinator of Region V	NJAPSA - Winter Academy Conference	1/13/23	\$149.00

3. That the Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Region V's application to become an Authorized Continuing Education (ACE) provider for Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA's):

Organization	Application	Cost
Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB)	Authorized Continuing Education (ACE) Provider	\$200

Motion by: Ms. Dansky
 Seconded by: Ms. Juskeliene
 Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley and Ms. Kang
 Nays: None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Dansky reported that there is weekend training for the new board members. The first will be the first weekend in February. The training is from Friday and Sunday. The training is in a group setting with other board members and trainers from all over the state.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Kang called for a motion to convene to a closed session at 9:11PM

Motion by: Ms. Dansky

Seconded by: Ms. Juskeliene

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley and Ms. Kang

Nays: None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:21PM.

Motion by: Ms. Dansky

Seconded by: Ms. Juskeliene

Ayes: Ms. Dansky, Ms. Juskeliene, Mr. Langley and Ms. Kang

Nays: None

Upcoming Board Meetings

December 21, 2022

January 4, 2023 Reorganization Meeting

Louise Napolitano
Board Secretary/Business Administrator