

Rockaway Borough Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 7:30 PM

Thomas Jefferson School Cafeteria, 95 East Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOLS' MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Rockaway Borough School District, a caring and diverse community, is to propel the success of each student by creating an environment that fosters self-confidence and encourages creativity through quality instruction and educational opportunities aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Executive Session I: 6:33-7:31 pm

Be it Resolved, that the Board enters into Executive Session (Private) to discuss exempt matters pertaining to personnel issues: the reappointments of administrative staff for the 23-24 school year and negotiations with the Rockaway Borough Education Association, the natures of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

<u>Motion to Enter:</u>	Moved by: Mr. Graf	Seconded by: Mr. Riveccio	Voice Vote: All Ayes
<u>Motion to Adjourn:</u>	Moved by: Mr. Graf	Seconded by: Mr. Riveccio	Voice Vote: All Ayes

1. Call to Order: 7:31 PM

The public portion of this meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m., by Mr. Tobias, Board President, by reading the following announcement:

"In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, The Rockaway Borough Board of Education has provided adequate notice of this meeting to the public by having the time, date, and location advertised in The Citizen Newspaper on January 11, 2023; posted on our website and at town hall. Official action will be taken."

2. Board Member Roll Call:

Mr. Brian Riveccio - Present

Elected 2022 to 1st term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2025)

Mr. Edward Graf - Present

Appointed October 2022 to fulfill an unexpired term (to Dec. 31, 2023)

Dr. Alexis Piombino – Not Present

Elected 2021 to 2nd consecutive term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2024)

Mrs. Karen Walter, VP - Present

Elected 2021 to 2nd consecutive term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2024)

Mr. Jeffrey Tobias, President – Not Present

Elected 2020 to 2nd consecutive term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2023)

Mr. Anthony Grieco, Superintendent - Present

Appointed July 2021 Chief School Administrator & Non-Voting Board Member (CSA/Supt)

Mr. William Stepka, SBA/Board Secretary - Not Present

Appointed Nov 2017 Business Administrator, Secretary of the Board & Non-Voting Board Member (BA)

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was then held . . .

Board Secretary Pro-Tempore

Be it resolved to appoint Mr. Anthony Grieco as the temporary Board Secretary due to Mr. Stepka's absence. Moved: Mr. Graf Seconded: Mr. Riveccio Voice Vote: All Ayes

3. Reports & Updates:

A. Board Committees for 2023:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Curriculum/Special Education: | <i>Dr. Piombino & Mr. Graf</i> |
| 2. Safety/Security: | <i>Mrs. Walter & Mr. Riveccio</i> |
| 3. Athletic/Activities: | <i>Mr. Riveccio & Mr. Tobias</i> |
| 4. Finance/Facilities: | <i>Mr. Graf & Mr. Tobias</i> |
| 5. Technology: | <i>Mrs. Walter & Mr. Graf</i> |
| 6. Negotiations: | <i>Mrs. Walter & Mr. Tobias</i> |

B. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco

- District Update: Progress of B&G Summer Projects. Mr. Grieco introduced the new principal of Thomas Jefferson Middle School: Mr. Leon Samuels.

C. Board Secretary's/Business Administrator's Report: Mr. Stepka

- Board Correspondence: *Received (R) or Sent (S) since our last meeting:*
 - (R) Resignation Letter from Board Member Dr. Alexis Piombino.
Motion to accept: Mr. Graf, seconded by Mr. Riveccio, all ayes.
- Financial Status Updates:
 - 2022-23 Current Budget Year: Now closing out the fiscal year.
 - 2023-24 New Budget Year: Annual classroom supplies are being ordered/received.
- Board of Education Election: Tuesday, November 7, 2023:
 - Nominating petitions are due on Monday, July 31st, at 4:00 pm in the county clerk's office. Two (2) seats are up for election.

D. Administration Monthly Reports:

Submitted by:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Lincoln Principal's Report: | <i>Mrs. Skomial</i> |
| 2. Thomas Jefferson Principal's Report: | <i>Mr. Waxman</i> |
| 3. Curr., Inst., and Assessment Director's Report: | <i>Mrs. Argenziano</i> |
| 4. Building & Grounds Supervisor's Report: | <i>Mr. Klein</i> |
| 5. Technology Supervisor's Report: | <i>Mr. Reyes</i> |

E. Review of Agenda Items Recommended for Approval

4. Public Comment No. 1: Agenda Items ONLY

- There was none at this time.

5. Enrollment Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2022	Students June 30, 2023	Diff from June 22	Sections (Classes)	Avg. Class Size
Preschool - Lincoln	29	30	+1	2	15
Kindergarten - Lincoln	65	58	-7	3	19
Grade 1 - Lincoln	56	67	+11	3	22
Grade 2 - Lincoln	66	59	-7	3	20
Grade 3 - Lincoln	57	67	+10	3	22
<u>Total Lincoln School:</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>+8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>20</u>
Grade 4 - TJ	46	55	+9	3	18
Grade 5 - TJ	59	42	-17	3	14
Grade 6 - TJ	54	61	+7	3	20
Grade 7 - TJ	58	55	-3	3	18
Grade 8 - TJ	53	61	+8	3	20
<u>Total Thomas Jefferson:</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>+4</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>
Special Ed Out-of-District:	3	2	-1	-	-
<u>Resident Students:</u>	<u>546</u>	<u>557</u>	<u>+11</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>19</u>
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	1	2	+1	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	5	5	0	-	-
Total Students:	552	564	+12	-	-

6. Meeting Minutes

- A. Be it resolved to approve and accept the following meeting minutes:
1. June 20th, 2023 Regular Meeting & Executive Session.

7. Finance

- A. Be it resolved to approve the manifest of Payrolls and Bills & Claims List, which is on file in the Business Administrator's Office:
1. Bills, Claims, and Payrolls List: June 21 to June 30, 2023: \$778,652.49
- B. Be it resolved to accept the grant allocation award amounts and to approve the administration to submit the Grant Application for the 2023-24 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), for Preschool & Part B (Basic) Programs, in the following amounts to help disabled and educationally challenged children in our district and those attending Divine Mercy & American Christian Academy (non-public schools within our borough):
1. IDEA Preschool: \$8,781 (All RB)
 2. IDEA Part B Basic: \$190,723 (RB=\$164,653, DM/ACS=\$26,070)
- Total IDEA Funds Applied: \$189,048 (RB=\$173,434, DM/ACS=\$26,070)
- C. ~~Be it resolved to decline the Title III (\$4,595) and Title III Immigrant (\$2,976) allocations for the 2023-24 school year due to Rockaway Township no longer being the lead agency for a consortium and the total amount being less than \$10,000 and allowed to be declined.~~ This resolution was withdrawn.
- D. Be it resolved to approve a renewal contract and shared services agreement with the Borough of Rockaway, to provide, as a purchased service, Class Three Special Officers, for the 2023-24 school year.
- E. Be it resolved to approve a renewal contract with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc., of Parsippany, NJ, to provide substitute nurses, as needed, for the 2023-24 school year.

8. Personnel

- A. ~~Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the employment contract with **William Stepka**, tenured Business Administrator & Board Secretary, as reviewed and approved by the Morris County Executive Superintendent in accordance with applicable state laws, codes, and regulations, for the 2023-24 school year. This resolution was withdrawn.~~
- B. ~~Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint **William Stepka** as Treasurer of School Monies, effective October 19, 2022. This resolution was withdrawn.~~
- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Christine Matrisciano**, Occupational Therapist, and **Lisbeth Schnurman**, Speech Therapist, not to exceed 10 hours each, at an hourly rate of \$38.91, over the summer to participate in Child Study Team meetings, as needed.

- D. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve employment contracts for the following **Executive & Administrative Staff** members for the 2023-2024 school year:
(Their employment was renewed at the May 8th meeting.)

Name	Position	Status	Salary
David Waxman	Principal of Thomas Jefferson School	Tenured	\$135,342
Jamie Argenziano	Director of Curr, Inst. & Assessment	Tenured	\$127,927
Dr. Jean-Paul Bonnet	School Physician	Non-Tenured	\$9,041
Sally Ascoli	Executive Admin. Asst. to Supt.	Tenured	\$66,796
Wendy Chandler	A/P Coord./Admin. Asst. to BA	Tenured	\$56,760
Nadine Morgenland	Payroll/HB Coord./Admin. Asst to BA	Non-Tenured	\$64,500
Michael Klein	Supervisor of Building & Grounds	Non-Tenured	\$99,498+\$5K stipend
Timothy Yobs	Assistant Supervisor of B&G	Non-Tenured	\$61,831
Shaun Reyes	Technology Coordinator	Non-Tenured	\$88,965

- E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of **David Waxman**, Principal of TJ Middle School for the last six years, effective August 25, 2023, or sooner, and to wish him best wishes in his future endeavors.
- F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of **Dawn Montesano**, Paraprofessional at Lincoln School, effective July 30, 2023.
- G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an adjustment of the hourly rate for **Ana Mendez-Avaroma**, Nurse for ESY, from \$34.48 to \$38.91, retroactive to June 19, 2023, through July 28, 2023.
- H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Nicholas Cecere**, as the 7th & 8th Grade Social Studies Maternity Leave of Absence teacher beginning August 30, 2023, through November 6, 2023. Mr. Cecere will be paid based on the Step/Guide BA-2 at the annual salary rate of \$56,075 (to be prorated). Mr. Cecere has successfully completed all background checks.
- I. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Declan Carroll**, as the 7th Grade Mathematics teacher at Thomas Jefferson School, effective August 29, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Mr. Carroll will be placed on Guide/Step BA+30-11 at an annual salary rate of \$71,300, pending Criminal History background check required by P.L. 1986 c.116 and Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse Disclosure required by P.L. 2018 c.5.
- J. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an employment contract with **Leon Samuels**, to serve as the principal of Thomas Jefferson Middle School, effective August 29, 2023, through June 30, 2024. at an annual salary rate of \$135,500, pending successful completion of the Criminal History background check required by P.L. 1986 c.116 and Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse Disclosure required by P.L. 2018 c.5.
- K. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following Extra Curricular advisors for the 2023-2024 school year:

Club / Sport	Advisor	Stipend
Art Club	Cecelia Isenberg	\$1,004
Athletics Coordinator	Michael Onischuk	\$1,004
Boys Baseball - Head Coach	Michael Onischuk	\$2,248

Boys Baseball - Assistant Coach	Robert Vento	\$937
Boys Cross Country - Head Coach	Trevor Basile	\$937
Girls Cross Country - Head Coach	Samantha Selikoff	\$937
Boys and Girls Cross Country - Assistant Coach	TBD	TBD
Boys Basketball - Head Coach	Michael Onischuk	\$2,248
Boys Basketball- Assistant Coach	Michael Leahey	\$937
Boys Soccer - Head Coach	Michael Onischuk	\$2,248
Boys Soccer - Assistant Coach	Lauren Bogart	\$937
Connect Four & Checkers Club	Laura Perniciaro	\$841
Cube Club	Joseph Corbo	\$1,004
Director of Musical / Dramatic Productions	Helen Love	\$3,494
Director of Musical / Dramatic Productions Assistant	TBD	TBD
Girls Basketball - Head Coach	Robert Longo	\$4,242.74
Girls Basketball - Assistant Coach	TBD	TBD
Girls Softball - Head Coach	Robert Longo	\$4,338
Girls Softball - Assistant Coach	TBD	TBD
Girls Soccer - Head Coach	Aileen Schumacher	\$2,248
Girls Soccer - Assistant Coach	TBD	TBD
Jazz Band Director	Helen Love	\$1,004
Lego Building Buddies	Alyssa Summer	\$841
National Junior Honor Society	Daniele Ferrone & Cynthia O'Brien (Split Stipend)	\$527 each
Newspaper	TBD	TBD
Run Club	Samantha Selikoff	\$937
SGO	Amy DeFelice	\$1,054
Solar Car / Robotics Advisor	TBD	TBD
Talking Sports Club	Samantha Selikoff	\$1,004
Volleyball Club	Michael Onischuk & Michael	\$502 each

	Leahy (Split Stipend)	
Yearbook	Cynthia O'Brien	\$1,054
Yoga Club	Aileen Schumacher & Brianna Luongo (Split Stipend)	\$420.50 each
8th Grade Advisor	Daniele Ferrone & Amy DeFelice (Split Stipend)	\$527 each
Middle School Dean of Students	TBD	TBD
Teacher in Charge	TBD	TBD

9. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

- A.** There are none at this time.

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds

- A.** Be it resolved to award a contract to Gemba Security Solutions, of Warwick, NY, to replace the internal public address system in Lincoln School, for \$78,935.98 (to be paid with referenda funds) based on their quote dated June 16, 2023, by utilizing Educational Data Systems (Ed-Data) Contract #10437.
- B.** Be it resolved to award a contract to NJSB Construction Facility Management Inc., of Ocean, NJ, to demo, furnish and install new bluestone slate stair treads for the exterior front entrance of Thomas Jefferson Middle School, for \$23,985 based on their quoted dated July 6, 2023, by utilizing Hunterdon County Ed Services Commission General Construction Bid Award #HCEC-SER-20F.
- C.** Be it resolved, based upon the recommendations of the BA & Architect, to approve the following "Final Payment" to the following contractor for work completed for the Referendum Projects, a copy of which is on file in the Business Administrator's Office:
1. APS Construction, Lincoln School Addition PayAp#:17 \$78,399.94 (\$Remaining: \$-0-)

11. Policy

- A.** Be it resolved to accept the resignation, with great regret, of Board of Education member Dr. Alexis Piombino, and to thank her for her five years of service to the students and district. Please join us in offering her our best wishes for her future endeavors.
- B.** Be it resolved to authorize the Board Secretary to advertise the Board of Education member vacancy to the public and to solicit letters of interest and resumes in finding a suitable person to fulfill this unexpired term until December 31, 2024. The Board anticipates holding candidate interviews at its August 29th meeting and appointing a person that night.

Motion to remove resolutions 7C, 8A, & 8B:

Moved by: Mr. Graf, seconded by Mr. Riveccio, all ayes.

12. Consent Agenda

A. Move and Vote on all Agenda Resolutions & Recommendations in One Motion:

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	<u>Moved & Seconded By:</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Riveccio:	Seconded	Aye			
Mr. Graf:	Moved	Aye			
Dr. Piombino:					Absent
Mrs. Walter, VP:		Aye			
Mr. Tobias, President:					Absent
		3	0	0	2

13. New Business

A. There was none at this time.

14. Public Comment No. 2 (Agenda & Non-Agenda Items)

A. There was none at this time.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

A. Tuesday, August 29, 2023

The public portion of the Meeting will begin at 7:30 pm in the Cafeteria of Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

16. Executive Session II: 8:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Be it Resolved, that the Board enter into Executive Session (Private) for the purpose of discussing personnel and negotiations, the natures of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

THE BOARD ANTICIPATES BEING IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES.

BOARD ACTION WILL NOT BE TAKEN AFTER THIS SESSION CONCLUDES.

Moved by: Mr. Riveccio, seconded by Mr. Graf, all ayes.

17. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: 9:00 pm

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Moved by: Mr. Graf

Seconded by: Mrs. Walter

Voice Vote: All Ayes

Respectfully submitted by:

Mr. Anthony Grieco, Board Secretary Pro-Temp
& Superintendent of Schools