

Rockaway Borough Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 7:30 PM

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

Visit us on the Web: www.rockboro.org

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: 6:34-7:35 pm (Closed to the Public)

Be it Resolved, that the Board enter into Executive Session (Private) to discuss exempt matter pertaining to: a negotiation matter with the teachers' association, the nature of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion to Enter: **Moved by: Mr. Graf** **Seconded by: Mrs. Walter** **Voice Vote: All Ayes**

Motion to Adjourn: **Moved by: Mr. Graf** **Seconded by: Dr. Piombino** **Voice Vote: All Ayes**

1. Call to Order: 7:35 PM

The public meeting was called to order at 7:35 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 Riviuccio - 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 - 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 - 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 - Present

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

Mr. Stepka Declares: All Board Members Present

Along with TJ Student Government officers, class representatives, parents, residents, one administrator, and a few staff members.

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

3. Workshop/Regular Session:

A. Swearing in of TJ Student Government Officers/Class Representatives

1. Mr. Stepka sworn-in the officers and Mr. Grieco presented each student with a certificate of appreciation during a much-celebrated ceremony. Mrs. Amy Defelice, student advisor, and Mr. Waxman, principal were also part of the ceremony.

B. Administration Monthly Reports -

Submitted by:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Lincoln Principal’s Report: | Ms. Dachisen |
| 2. Thomas Jefferson Principal’s Report: | Mr. Waxman (presented by) |
| 3. Curr., Inst., and Assessment Director’s Report: | Mrs. Argenziano |
| 4. Building & Grounds Supervisor’s Report: | Mr. Klein |
| 5. Technology Supervisor’s Report: | Mr. Reyes |

C. Superintendent’s Report - Mr. Grieco, Supt.

1. District Update
 - 2023 Law Day Symposium
 - Math Coach – update & Special Education- (Co-Teaching Model)
2. Presentation: 2022-2023- Start Strong Assessment Report. Mr. Grieco reviewed and discussed the scores. The Board members and public followed along.

Motion to accept the report: Mrs. Walter, seconded by Dr. Piombino, all ayes.

D. Business Administrator’s & Board Secretary’s Report - Mr. Stepka, BA

1. Board Correspondence: Received(R)/Sent(S) since our last meeting:
 - A. There are none at this time.
2. Financial Status Updates:
 - 2021-22 Budget Year: Audit is finishing up; due March 17, 2023.
 - 2022-23 Current Budget Year: Proceeding within budgeted parameters.
 - 2023-24 New Budget: Administration proceeding as per Budget Calendar.

E. School Board Recognition Month:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public school children; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions, with the goal of providing an outstanding education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey’s status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2021 to be School Board Recognition Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the contributions of our state’s local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.

Mr. Grieco thanked the Board members for their time and expertise, and noted that these position are unpaid.

F. Review of Agenda Items Recommended for Approval

The Board reviewed items for approval.

4. Public Comment No. 1: Agenda Items ONLY

A. Mrs. Kim Merick, a parent, asked how do we help our children with Start Strong? Mr. Grieco replied.

5. Enrollment Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2022	Students January 1, 2023	Diff from June 22	Sections (Classes)	Avg. Class Size
Preschool - Lincoln	29	27	-2	2	14
Kindergarten - Lincoln	65	55	-10	3	18
Grade 1 - Lincoln	56	64	+8	3	21
Grade 2 - Lincoln	66	56	-10	3	19
Grade 3 - Lincoln	57	67	+10	3	22
<u>Total Lincoln School:</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>-4</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>
Grade 4 - TJ	46	56	+10	3	19
Grade 5 - TJ	59	41	-18	3	14
Grade 6 - TJ	54	59	+5	3	20
Grade 7 - TJ	58	55	-3	3	18
Grade 8 - TJ	53	59	+6	3	20
<u>Total Thomas Jefferson:</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>
Special Ed Out-of-District:	3	3	0	-	-
<u>Resident Students:</u>	<u>546</u>	<u>542</u>	<u>-4</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>19</u>
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	1	2	+1	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	5	5	0	-	-
Total Students:	552	549	-3	-	-

6. Meeting Minutes

A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the following Meeting Minutes be approved and accepted:

1. 2023 Organizational Minutes: January 4, 2023 and Executive Session.

7. Finance

A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Business Administrator, to approve the manifest of Payrolls and Bills & Claims List, which is on file in the Business Administrator’s Office:

1. Bills & Claims List: December 14 to January 24: \$1,415,691.94

B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Business Administrator, to approve and accept the Budgetary Transfers Reports for the month of November and December.

C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Business Administrator, to approve and accept the Board Secretary’s Financial Reports for the months of November and December.

I hereby certify, pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A2.3(e), that as of November 30, and December 31, 2022, no budgetary line item has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6:23-2.11(a). William Stepka, RSBA- Business Administrator/Board Secretary

D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Business Administrator, to establish and approve the following incoming student tuition rates for the 2022-23 school year for other districts’ students to attend our school programs - rates will increase by 5% from 21-22 (except for parent paid), it is also expressly understood by all parties that transportation and all its associated costs will be borne by the sending district or parent. (ESY= Extended School Year, or Summer School.)

<u>Grade Level/Program</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>(22-23)</u>	<u>\$Diff</u>
ESY 5 Week Reg Preschool (4dys/wk 2.5 hrs/day)	\$3,082	(\$2,935)	147
ESY 5 Week RR/LLD Program (5dys/wk 3.5hrs/day)	\$5,355	(\$5,100)	255
ESY 6 Week PALS/MD Program (5dys/wk 3.5hrs/day)	\$9,855	(\$9,385)	470
ESY Resident Preschool Program (Parent Paid)	\$1,200	(\$1,200)	-0-
ESY One to One Aide	\$3,255	(\$3,100)	155
ESY One to One Shared Aide	\$1,628	(\$1,550)	78
10 Mo. Resident Preschool Program (Parent Paid)	\$3,600	(\$3,600)	-0-
10 Mo. Preschool Disabled F/T (PALS) Program	\$47,108	(\$44,865)	2,243
10 Mo. Learn/Lang. Disabled Program	\$34,419	(\$32,780)	1,639
10 Mo. Multiple Disabled Program	\$36,635	(\$34,890)	1,745
10 Mo. One to One Aide	\$20,344	(\$19,375)	969
10 Mo. One to One Shared Aide	\$10,175	(\$9,690)	485
10 Mo. Kindergarten Full Day Program	\$15,409	(\$14,675)	734
10 Mo. Regular Grades 1 - 5	\$15,257	(\$14,530)	727
10 Mo. Regular Grades 6 - 8	\$15,288	(\$14,560)	728

E. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendations of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, to approve a sidebar agreement with the Rockaway Borough Education Association, effective February 1, 2023, to realign the hourly pay guides for the “Special Education Aide Salaries (bus, instructional, personal) Hourly Rates (Schedule F)” for the 2022-23 (effective February 1, 2023) and 2023-24 school years, in the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the Rockaway Borough Board of Education and Rockaway Borough Education Association that covers the 2021-2024 school years.

At this time, Mr. Onischuk, President of the Rockaway Borough Education Association (RBEA), sincerely thanked the Board for raising the hourly rates for existing and new paraprofessionals. The Board thanked him for his positive input.

8. Personnel

- A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the attached list of Staff Member **Professional Development Workshops & Travel Expenditure Requests** that have been deemed related to and within the scope of the employee's current job responsibilities and will enhance the efficient delivery of student instruction and/or furthers the efficient operation of the school district. Reimbursements listed are in accordance with guidelines established by the Dept. of Treasury, BOE Policy, and in accordance with NJAC 6A:23B-1.1., and listed at the end of this agenda.
- B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Beth Blake** as a Buddy for Marlene Beckmann, the new Spanish Teacher at Thomas Jefferson School for the remainder of the 2022/2023 school year. (\$275 to be prorated from start date.)
- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an Unpaid Leave of Absence for **Saadia Khan**, a paraprofessional at Thomas Jefferson School, effective February 1, 2023 through February 16, 2023 for personal reasons.
- D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Janice Santoro**, lunchroom/playground aide at Lincoln School, effective February 28, 2023.
- E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Sarah Klein**, paraprofessional at Thomas Jefferson School, effective February 10, 2023.
- F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Leslie Quiroa-Rodriguez**, part-time custodian at Lincoln School, effective January 30, 2023.
- G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a contract extension for **Svitlana Kahuy**, as a Maternity Leave Replacement Kindergarten teacher at Lincoln School (not eligible towards tenure) beginning November 12, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Ms. Kahuy was originally board approved for this position on September 27, 2022. That contract was set to end on April 2, 2023. Ms. Kahuy will continue to be paid based on Guide-Step BA-2 at an annual salary of \$54,305, prorated from the actual start date. (She will work in Mrs. Courtney Conway's position.)
- H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Megan Gaeb**, as a Floating Substitute Teacher for the district, at a daily rate of \$125.00 for in person instruction effective on or about January 25, 2023 through June 30, 2023, 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.
- I. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Mychau Le**, as a Lunchroom Aide at Lincoln School, beginning March 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023 at an hourly rate of \$14.13. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of the Office of Student Protection 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 **Janice Santoro** as a substitute lunchroom aide, at an hourly rate of \$14.13.
- K. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Kathleen New** as a substitute bus aide, at an hourly rate of \$14.13.

- L. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an AMENDED leave of absence request, previously board approved on July 19, 2022, related to a physician's certified disability (pregnancy) for **Kimberly Hynson**, Grade 4 Science/Social Studies teacher at Thomas Jefferson School. Mrs. Hynson's Unpaid NJ Family Leave Act for child-rearing purposes began December 2, 2022 and will now run continuously through March 1, 2023. Her previous return date was to be March 13, 2023.
- M. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an AMENDED leave of absence request, previously board approved on August 20, 2022, related to a physician's certified disability (pregnancy) for **Courtney Conway**, Kindergarten teacher at Lincoln School.
- Paid Disability Leave of Absence, utilizing 35 earned and banked sick days to begin on or about November 12, 2022, and to end on or about January 11, 2023.
 - Unpaid NJ Family Leave Act (FMLA) for child-rearing purposes to begin January 12, 2023, and run continuously through April 1, 2023. It is her intention to claim family leave insurance benefits under the NJ Family Leave Insurance Act. (NJFLIA)
 - Upon end of the NJ Family Leave Act, she wishes to be placed on a child rearing leave pursuant to the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, to begin April 2, 2023 and run continuously through the end of the 2022-2023 school year.
 - Barring any unforeseen circumstances, Mrs. Conway intends to return to her position at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.
- N. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following leave of absence request, related to a physician's certified personal disability (pregnancy) for **Jaclyn Schwarz**, Kindergarten teacher at Lincoln School.
- Paid Disability Leave of Absence, utilizing 8 earned and banked sick days to begin on or about March 6, 2023, and to end on or about March 15, 2023.
 - Unpaid days beginning on or about March 16, 2023 until the end of disability period which shall be on or about March 20, 2023.
 - Unpaid NJ Family Leave Act (FMLA) for child-rearing purposes to begin March 21, 2023 and run continuously through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. It is her intention to claim family leave insurance benefits under the NJ Family Leave Insurance Act. (NJFLIA)
 - Barring any unforeseen circumstances, Mrs. Schwarz intends to return to her position at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.
- O. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Dawn Montesano** as a Maternity Leave Replacement Kindergarten Teacher (not eligible towards tenure) at Lincoln School beginning on or about March 6, 2023 through June 30, 2023. Mrs. Montesano will be paid based on Guide-Step BA-1 at an annual salary rate of \$54,055 (to be prorated from actual start date.) Mrs. Montesano has successfully completed all required criminal background checks. (She will work in Mrs. Jaclyn Schwarz's position).

9. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

- A. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Student Field Trip requests listed at the end of this agenda.
- B. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the TJ Girls Soccer Training Camp 5th-8th grade only, to run Wednesdays, beginning March 2023 through May 2023 with assistance from The Morris Hills Girls Varsity Soccer Coach.

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds

- A. There were none at this time.

11. Policy

A. There were none at this time.

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. Riviuccio:	-	Aye	-	-	-
Mr. Graf:	Moved	Aye	-	-	-
Dr. Piombino:	-	Aye	-	To 6A (minutes)	-
Mrs. Walter, VP:	Seconded	Aye	-	-	-
Mr. Tobias, Prez:	-	Aye	-	-	-

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Mr. Stepka declared all Resolutions & Recommendations were approved.

13. New Business

A. There was none at this time.

14. Public Comment No. 2

- Christina Marlucci, Rockaway Road, spoke about the before & aftercare offering and “Centruy 21” aftercare.
- Erin Demarcelli spoke about subscription/courtesy bussing and asked if parents could be surveyed.
- Don Schreider, a resident of Keller Avenue (by Lincoln School), stated there’s too much traffic due to parents dropping-off and picking-up their children.
- Mrs. Jones, Valley View Road, spoke in support of subscription/courtesy bussing.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

A. **Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

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

16. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: 8:30 pm

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Moved by: Dr. Piombino Seconded by: Mr. Riviuccio Voice Vote: All Ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. William Stepka, RSBA
 Secretary of the Board of Education/
 School District Business Administrator

Student Field Trip Requests:

GRADE	TEACHERS	DATE	TIME: DEPART/ RETURN	DESTINATION	# OF STUDENTS	# OF ADULTS	COST	JUSTIFICATION FOR TRIP
6	Monica Fleming	5/25/23	8:00/3:15	Bronx Zoo	60	7	\$52	Science and Social Studies Fun

Professional Development/Travel Expenditure Requests:

STAFF MEMBER	WORKSHOP TITLE/DEST	DATES	REG & FEES	JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TRIP
Laura Esposito	NJTESOL 2023 Spring Conference/ Cherry Hill, NJ	5/24/23	\$325.00	ESL conference to support my ESL instruction.
Alyssa Bellafonte	Grassroots Workshop, "Would you Rather"	Online- your own pace	\$39.00	Turnkey information to math teachers to improve instruction.
Lauren Mitofsky	Co-Teaching Strategies to Increase Learning, Grades K-12	On Demand Video	\$159.00	Shows a variety of co teaching models and instructional strategies that enhance differentiation in co-taught classrooms.
Monica Fleming	Comprehensive Orton Gillingham Plus Virtual	1/28 & 29/23 2/4 & 5/23	\$1,500.00	Orton-Gillingham course for ELA/Fluency Curriculum grades K-8.
Laurie McGill	Easy-to-Implement Co-Teaching Strategies to Increase Learning for All students in Inclusion Classrooms, Gr. 6-12	On Demand Video	\$159.00	Learn models and techniques to implement co teaching effectively in a general education classroom as a special education teacher.
Linda Savercool	SNAP Advanced Skills	2/9/23 Virtual	\$400.00	Will have the ability to retrieve data as well as perform various time saving tasks in the Health Office.
Helen Love	North Jersey Area Band Festival	12/10/22 1/13/23 1/14/23	Mileage: \$21.15 Mileage \$14.10 Mileage: \$14.10	Attendance ensures continued membership in the North Jersey Area Band affiliation which in turn provides opportunities to our students, enabling them to participate in the Festival.
Helen Love	New Jersey Music Educators Association 2023 State Conference/ Atlantic City Convention Center	2/24/23	\$145.00 Mileage: \$131.60	To provide professional development in music workshops to gain pertaining information for application in the classroom.
Cynthia O'Brien	NewsLitCamp with NBC News/ Virtual	1/27/23	Free	This special NewsLitCamp is a free, virtual event led by journalist from NBC Universal News Group and news literacy experts. It is designed to help educators teach students to analyze news and information with a skeptical, not cynical eye.
Cynthia O'Brien	Curriculum as a Hub for Teaching and Learning-Atlas/ Voorhees Township Public School	2/28/23 3/1/23	\$298.00	Atlas is a platform that our school uses for curriculum and planning purposed. I would like to elaborate upon the skills I already have in an effort to use this platform to its greatest potential, as it will impact both teacher practice and student achievement.
Samantha Selikoff	NJECC Monthly Meetings/Montclair State University	2/10/23 5/19/23	Included in membership	These particular meetings have sessions that include coaching topics and will help me grow as an Ed. Tech coach.
Bryanna Dennison	School Climate & Anti-Bullying Conference/ Virtual	5/24/23	\$199.00	Anti-Bullying Specialist.
Timothy Yobs	O&M Refresher/ Online	2/10/23	\$185.00	Asbestos in the schools to help maintain and repair.
Timothy Yobs	IPM Coordinator / Sussex County Tech	5/26/23	Free	Mandatory training.

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION**MINUTES****January 24, 2023**

Timothy Yobs	New Jersey School Buildings & Grounds Conference & Expo/ Atlantic City	3/20-22/23	\$325.00 Hotel: \$200.00 Mileage: \$150.00	Continued training.
Sandy Gancarcik Joseph Corbo	Strengthening Your Students' Math Learning and Engagement with DESMOS Activity Builder/Newark/West Orange	3/20/23	\$279.00/ PP	This training will provide practical way to enhance our mathematical instruction using Desmos Activity Builder and innovative ways to create and use Computation Layer in math lessons.
Sandy Gancarcik	Strengthening your effectiveness as a Special Education Resources Teacher/ Virtual	4/5/23	\$279.00	This training will provide ways to expand my expertise as a special education teacher and new way to better implement multi-level instruction and differentiated interventions.