

# Rockaway Borough Board of Education

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, October 20, 2022, 7:30 PM**

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

Visit us on the Web: [www.rockboro.org](http://www.rockboro.org) (Rescheduled from October 18, 2022)

### **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: 6:45-7:35 pm (Closed to the Public)**

Be it Resolved, that the Board enters into Executive Session (Private) to discuss an exempt matter pertaining to: school security, the nature of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion to Enter Exec Session:      **Moved by: Dr. Piombino**      **Seconded by: Mrs. Walter**      **Voice Vote: All Ayes**

Motion to Adjourn Exec Session:      **Moved by: Mrs. Walter**      **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 Mrs. Christa Smith, 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 Daily Record Newspaper on October 18, 2022; and posted on our website and at town hall on October 14, 2022. Official Board actions will be taken."

## **2. Board Member Roll Call:**

### **New Appointment**

*(Unexpired term runs to Dec. 31, 2023)*

**Dr. Alexis Piombino, Vice President - Present**

*Elected 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2024)*

**Mrs. Christa Smith, President - Present**

*Elected 2019 to 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2022)*

**Mr. Jeffrey Tobias - Present**

*Elected 2020 to 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2023)*

**Mrs. Karen Walter - Present**

*Elected 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2024)*

**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 November 2017 District Business Administrator (BA) & Secretary of the Board*

**Mr. Stepka Declares: All Present**

*Along with 2 administrators, 2 staff members and 3 members of the public/parents*

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

### 3. Workshop/Regular Session:

#### A. Oath of Office: Swearing-In and Seating of New Board Member:

1. Mr. Edward Graf was sworn-in by Mr. Stepka and took his seat on the Board.

#### B. Administration Monthly Reports -

##### Submitted & Presented by:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Lincoln Principal's Report:                     | Ms. Dachisen    |
| 2. Thomas Jefferson Principal's Report:            | Mr. Waxman      |
| 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
  - Class 3 Officers
  - Professional Development
2. 2021-2022 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act*
3. Spring 2022 Statewide Assessment Results- Presentation

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

1. Board Correspondence: Received(R)/Sent(S) since our last meeting:
  - A. None at this time.
2. Financial Status Updates:
  - A. 2021-22 Budget Year: Audit is underway.
  - B. 2022-23 Current Budget Year: Proceeding within parameters.
3. Board of Education Election Update:
  - A. 1 seat is up for election (Mrs. Smith's seat) on the November 8th ballot.  
1 Petitioner: Mr. Brian Riveccio has filed to run.

#### E. Review of Agenda Items Recommended for Approval

1. The Board reviewed the recommendations on the agenda en masse.

Motion to begin regular meeting agenda:

*Moved by: Mrs. Walter*

*Seconded by: Dr. Piombino*

*Voice Vote: All Ayes*

### 4. Public Comment No. 1: Agenda Items ONLY

- A. There was none at this time.

**5. Enrollment Report:**

<b>Grade Level &amp; School</b>	<b>Students June 30, 2022</b>	<b>Students October 14, 2022</b>	<b>Diff from June 22</b>	<b>Sections (Classes)</b>	<b>Avg. Class Size</b>
Preschool - Lincoln	29	<b>28</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>
Kindergarten - Lincoln	65	<b>57</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>
Grade 1 - Lincoln	56	<b>66</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>
Grade 2 - Lincoln	66	<b>56</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>
Grade 3 - Lincoln	57	<b>66</b>	<b>+9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>
<b><u>Total Lincoln School:</u></b>	<b><u>273</u></b>	<b><u>273</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>14</u></b>	<b><u>20</u></b>
Grade 4 - TJ	46	<b>56</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>
Grade 5 - TJ	59	<b>41</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>
Grade 6 - TJ	54	<b>60</b>	<b>+6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>
Grade 7 - TJ	58	<b>54</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>
Grade 8 - TJ	53	<b>59</b>	<b>+6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>
<b><u>Total Thomas Jefferson:</u></b>	<b><u>270</u></b>	<b><u>270</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>15</u></b>	<b><u>18</u></b>
Special Ed Out-of-District:	3	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b><u>Resident Students:</u></b>	<b><u>546</u></b>	<b><u>546</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>29</u></b>	<b><u>19</u></b>
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	1	<b>2</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	5	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Students:</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## 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. September 27, 2022: Regular & Executive Sessions I & II.

## 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: September 28 to October 20: \$1,266,305.23
- B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Business Administrator, to approve and accept the Budgetary Transfers Reports for the months of July, August, and September.
- 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 July, August, and September.  
*I hereby certify, pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A2.3(e), that as of July 31, August 31, and September 30, 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 approve and accept the Treasurer of School Monies Financial Reports for the months of July, August and September.

## 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 employment contracts for **Mr. William Stepka**, Business Administrator and Board Secretary, for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, as reviewed and approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent of Schools of Morris County.
- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a guide placement adjustment for **Alyssa Summer**, a Special Education Teacher at Thomas Jefferson School, from Guide/Step BA-6 (\$58,285) to Guide/Step BA-7 (\$59,785) effective retroactively to August 31, 2022.
- D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve her request for an unpaid medical leave of absence for **Saadia Khan**, paraprofessional at Thomas Jefferson School, effective October 4, 2022 through October 21, 2022 - for a total of 14 working days without pay.
- E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Afsheen Waseem** as a paraprofessional at Thomas Jefferson School, effective on or about October 28, 2022 through June 30, 2023, at an hourly rate of \$15.72 for 185 days (prorated from actual start date) at 5.75 hours per school day. 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.

- F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the resignation of **Melissa Nestor**, Treasurer of School Monies, effective October 18, 2022 and to thank her for her years of service to the district.

## 9. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

- A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Student Field Trip requests as listed at the end of this agenda, if any.
- B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a proposal by **Samantha Selikoff** to form a **Thomas Jefferson Middle School Community Service Club**. The goal of this club is to provide an opportunity for students to volunteer and show the importance of giving back to their community. Ms. Selikoff is also seeking this as a volunteer opportunity and will not be requesting a stipend for the club.

## 10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds

- A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendations of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, to approve a contract with Rich Tree Service, of South Plainfield, NJ, to remove/address all trees on district property deemed to be a danger and/or in need of pruning, in the amount of \$20,244.00, based on their proposal dated October 3, 2022, by utilizing NJ State Contract #18-DPP-00645, T0456.
- B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendations of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, to approve a contract with GM Fence, of Roseland, NJ, to furnish and install a 4' high black vinyl coated chain link fence, along with a 15' barrier gate, around the preschool playground at Lincoln school, for \$5,970.00, as per their proposal dated October 3, 2022.
- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendations of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, to approve a contract with Keyboard Consultants, of Fairfield, NJ, to furnish and install an "Audio System Upgrade" for the Thomas Jefferson Gymnasium & Stage, for \$15,131.18 as per their proposal dated July 28, 2022 by utilizing HCESC Co-Op/NJ State Approved Contract #34JUNCCP (ESC Bid#10437 "Tech/AV/Computer Vendor #6346).
- D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendations of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, to approve a contract with Russell Electric, of Rockaway, NJ, to furnish and install a 100-amp electrical sub-panel and Emergency Exit lights in the Whitehouse Administration Building, based on the findings of the local fire marshal to bring the building up to code, for \$3,835.00, based on their proposal dated October 3, 2022. (Another quote rec'd: Auriemma Electric: \$8,000).

## 11. Policy

- A. Be it resolved to approve the **Second Reading & Adoption** of the following new and/or updated Board Policy (P) and/or Regulation (R), where applicable:

Policy/Reg Number	Title	Reason for Update
P 0163	Quorum	Revised (M)
P 1511	Board of Education Website Accessibility	Revised (M)
P 2415	Every Student Succeeds Act	Revised (M)
P & R 2425	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program	
P & R 5513	Care of School Property	Revised (M)

- B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the 2022-23 Rockaway Borough School District and Rockaway Borough Police Department Memorandum of Understanding for Live Stream Video Sharing, as submitted.
- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve and accept the 2021-22 Lincoln & Thomas Jefferson Self-Assessments for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

## 12. Consent Agenda

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

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	<u>Moved &amp; Seconded By:</u>	<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mr. Graf:	-	Yea	-	6A: Minutes	-
Dr. Piombino, VP:	Seconded	Yea	-	-	-
Mr. Tobias:	-	Yea	-	-	-
Mrs. Walter:	Moved	Yea	-	-	-
Mrs. Smith, Prez:	-	Yea	-	-	-

Mr. Stepka declares all Resolutions & Recommendations are hereby approved.

## 13. Old Business

- A. There was none at this time.

## 14. New Business

- A. Mrs. Smith welcomed Mr. Graf to the Board and wished him well, the rest of the Board echoed her sentiment.

## 15. Public Comment No. 2 (Agenda & Other School Business Items to be Heard)

- A. Mr. Onischuk, district pe teacher, updated the Board and those present about the success of our Cross-Country team this season.

## 16. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

### A. Tuesday, November 15, 2022

The Public Meeting will begin at 7:30 pm in the Cafeteria of Thomas Jefferson Middle School. (Executive Session begins at 6:30 pm - closed to the public.)

## 17. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: 8:20 pm

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was hereby adjourned at 8:20 pm.

**Moved by: Dr. Piombino      Seconded by: Mrs. Walter      Voice Vote: All Ayes**  
Respectfully submitted,

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

**Student Field Trip Requests:**

GRADE	TEACHERS	DATE	TIME: DEPART/ RETURN	DESTINATION	# OF STUDENTS	# OF ADULTS	COST	JUSTIFICATION FOR TRIP
3	Jamie Kadus Aileen Schumacher Allynn Thompson	5/15/23	9:00am/ 12:00pm	MAYO Performing Arts Center	65	18	\$29	The purpose of the trip is to see a play to enhance the third-grade language arts curriculum fiction unit in the Schoolwide program we are currently implementing.
3	Jamie Kadus Aileen Schumacher Allynn Thompson	6/2/23	8:00am / 3:00pm	Bronx Zoo	65	27	TBD	The purpose of the trip to the Bronx Zoo is to enhance the third-grade curriculum "Environments and Living things" and Life Cycle and Traits" units in the TCI science program we are currently implementing.
2	Mihaela Tuluca Maryann Medore Brianna Jones	11/4/22	8:45/11:45	Rockaway Borough Historical Museum	57	6	\$0	To enhance the second-grade social studies curriculum and focus on 2nd grade standards and how communities change over time.
2	Mihaela Tuluca Maryann Medore Brianna Jones	5/9/23	9:00am/ 12:00pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center	57	15	\$22	To enhance the second-grade curriculum in the areas of: communication and language arts, music, science, and social studies.
1	Dorothea Yobs Katrina Tajiddin Heather Doering	11/17/22	10:00am/ 1:15pm	Rockaway Borough Library	65	6	\$0	To provide students an opportunity to visit their local library, meet some of the librarians, and continue to develop a love of books and reading.
8	Daniele Ferrone Amy DeFelice	5/31/23 To 6/2/23	6:30am/ 8:00pm	Washington DC	60	7	\$589	This trip connects to 8th Grade US History standards.

**Professional Development/Travel Expenditure Requests:**

STAFF MEMBER	WORKSHOP TITLE/DEST	DATES	REG & FEES	JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TRIP
Anthony Grieco, William Stepka, Jamie Argenziano, Christa Smith & Dr. Alexis Piombino	NJ School Boards Convention, Atlantic City, NJ	10/24, 10/25, 10/26/22	Registration: \$2,100 (gt) Lodging: \$96/nite plus Mileage/Tolls	Annual NJ School Boards Convention: Professional Development, Seminars, and Workshops provide the administration and board members with the current state of federal and state laws, regulations, court cases, and financial updates impacting the standard operations and procedures of the district.
Jamie Argenziano Alyssa Bellafonte Catherine Forte Kellianne Fowler Jamie Kadus	Dr. Nikki Newton, Best Math Practices Morris Plains Borough School	10/19/22	Registration: \$99/ per person Plus, mileage	To improve math instruction supporting co teaching and interventions.
Helena Holmes	41st Annual Bilingual/ESL Conference/ Virtual	12/9/22	Reg: \$49.99 (Title III Grant)	Conference offers access to current research and pedagogical techniques to best meet the educational needs of English language teachers.
Samantha Selikoff	Sewn Circuits Grades K-12/ Rutgers, Piscataway, NJ	12/13/22	Reg: \$95 RBEF Grant funded plus mileage	I would like to do some holiday theme lessons related to circuits such as ones inspired by Halloween costumes or Ugly Sweaters.
Lauren Mitofsky	Morphology: Greek & Latin Roots/ Livestream	1/17/23	Reg: \$249	A way to use prefixes, suffixes in teaching instruction to general education classes.
Laura Esposito	41st Annual Bilingual Conference/ ESL/ Virtual	12/9/22	Reg: \$49.99 (Title III Grant)	Conference offers access to current research and pedagogical techniques to best meet the educational needs of English language teachers.
Rebecca Vlachich	Morphology: Greek & Latin Roots/ Livestream	1/17/23	Reg: \$249	A way to use prefixes, suffixes in teaching instruction to general education classes.
Brianna Luongo Bryanna Dennison	Elementary Conflict Resolution/ NJ Law Center, New Brunswick, NJ	11/15/22	Free Mileage: \$43.24/per person	Elementary school conflict resolution is an interactive workshop that focuses on conflict resolution techniques such as identifying conflict, ascertaining sources of conflict, developing listening skills and various skills to resolve conflict.