

Rockaway Borough Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 7:30 PM

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

Visit us on the Web: 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 I: 6:30-7:30 (Closed to the Public) 6:35 pm – 7:33 pm

Be it Resolved, that the Board enters into Executive Session (Private) for the purpose of discussing exempt matters pertaining to 1) negotiations pertaining to a CST Shared Services Agreement, 2) a personnel matter pertaining to the Business Administrator's employment contract; and 3) a confidential matter relating to students, the natures of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

<u>Motion to Enter:</u>	Moved by: Dr. Piombino	Seconded by: Mrs. Walter	Voice Vote: All Ayes
<u>Motion to Adjourn:</u>	Moved by: Mrs. Walter	Seconded by: Dr. Piombino	Voice Vote: All Ayes

1. Call to Order: 7:33 PM

The public meeting was called to order at 7:33 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 Citizen Newspaper on January 19, 2022; posted on our website and at town hall. Official Board actions will be taken."

2. Board Member Roll Call:

Mrs. Linda McGovern – Absent W Notice

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

Dr. Alexis Piombino, Vice President - Present

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

Mrs. Christa Smith, President - Present

Elected 2019 to 7th consecutive term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2022)

Mr. Jeffrey Tobias - Present

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

Mrs. Karen Walter - Present

Elected 2021 to 2nd 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 2017 District Business Administrator (BA) & Secretary of the Board

Mr. Stepka Declares: A Board Quorum is Present: 4

The Pledge of Allegiance was then held . . .

3. Workshop/Regular Session:**A. Administration Monthly Reports -****Submitted by:**

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

B. Superintendent's Report - Mr. Grieco, Supt.

1. Monthly District Update Report:
 - A. Parent Conferences are scheduled for March 9, 10, and 11
 - B. Federal Audit of all Federal Funds for the 2021-22 school year is ongoing.
 - C. A COVID-19 Update was given.

C. 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.
2. Financial Status Updates:
 - A. 2020-21 Audit: This will be presented at the March 15th meeting.
 - B. 2021-22 Current Budget Year: Revenue & expenses are within parameters.
 - C. 2022-23 Budget Development Status Update: Administration is in the process.
 1. State aid numbers will be released on March 10th, instead of February 24th.
 - D. Mr. Stepka gave a brief report of the Building Referenda Projects close-out.
 - E. Food Service program: Options for more appetizing choices were discussed.

D. Other Items for the Good of the Order:

1. Reschedule the March 15th Board Meeting to March 22th to coincide with the official change in the Budget Calendar due to the delay in the release of State Aid for the 2022-23 Budget.

E. Review of Agenda Items Recommended for Approval**4. Public Comment No. 1: Agenda Items ONLY**

- A. No comments were offered at this time.

5. Enrollment Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2020	Students June 30, 2021	Students February 7, 2022	Diff from June 21	Sections (Classes)	Avg. Class Size
Preschool - Lincoln	26	19	26	+7	2	13
Kindergarten - Lincoln	63	50	64	+14	3	21
Grade 1 - Lincoln	58	64	58	-6	3	19
Grade 2 - Lincoln	45	59	67	+8	3	22
Grade 3 - Lincoln	62	43	56	+13	3	19
<u>Total Lincoln School:</u>	<u>254</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>+36</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>
Grade 4 - TJ	53	58	46	-12	3	15
Grade 5 - TJ	53	50	59	+9	3	20
Grade 6 - TJ	51	52	53	+1	3	18
Grade 7 - TJ	74	52	56	+4	3	19
Grade 8 - TJ	69	69	52	-17	3	17
<u>Total Thomas Jefferson:</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>266</u>	<u>-15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>
Special Ed Out-of-District:	3	3	3	0	-	-
<u>Resident Students:</u>	<u>557</u>	<u>519</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>+21</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>18</u>
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	5	2	1	-1	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	3	3	5	+2	-	-
Total Students:	565	524	546	+22	-	-

6. Meeting Minutes

- A. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, that the following Meeting Minutes be approved and accepted:
1. January 25, 2022: Regular & Executive Sessions I & II.

7. Finance

- A. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the BA, to approve the manifest of Payrolls and Bills & Claims List, which is on file in the Business Administrator's Office:
1. Bills & Claims List: January 26 to February 22: \$470,661.58
- B. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the BA, to approve and accept the Budgetary Transfers Report for the month of December.
- C. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the BA, to approve and accept the Board Secretary's Financial Reports for the month of December.
- I hereby certify, pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A2.3(e), that as of December 31, 2021, 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 upon the recommendation of the BA, to approve and accept the Treasurer of School Monies Financial Reports for the months of December.
- E. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendations of the Supt and BA, to accept and approve the following resolution concerning SEMI Funds for the 2022-23 Budget:
- Whereas**, NJAC 6A:23A-5.3(b)1 provides that a school district may request a waiver of compliance with respect to the district's participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for the 2022-2023 school budget year if there are fewer than 40 Medicaid estimated eligible classified students, and
- Whereas**, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education desires to apply for this waiver due to the fact that the NJ DOE furnished projection has our district at 29 (last year was 24) Medicaid eligible classified students,
- Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator to submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, in the County of Morris, an appropriate waiver request of the requirements of NJAC 6A:23A-5.3(b)1 for the 2022-2023 school budget year."

8. Referenda Building Projects & Contractors

- A. There were none.

9. Personnel

- A. Be it resolved, based upon 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 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Brian Craig** as a substitute teacher for the 2021-2022 school year, at a daily rate of \$115.

- C. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Eileen Weidanz**, paraprofessional at Lincoln School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2022. Please join us in thanking her for her 16 years of dedicated service to the district, community, fellow colleagues, and especially the students and wishing her well in retirement.
- D. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a stipend for **Christine Savini** as a “Buddy” for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year for Brianna Luongo, Guidance Counselor at Lincoln School at a rate of \$275 (to be pro-rated).
- E. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a stipend for **Helen Love** as a “Buddy” for Marie Wallace, District Vocal Music Teacher at a rate of \$275 (to be pro-rated) for the 2021-2022 school year.
- F. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a stipend for **Sandy Gancarcik** as a “Buddy” for Alyssa Summer, Special Education Teacher at Thomas Jefferson School at a rate of \$275 (to be pro-rated) for the 2021-2022 school year.
- G. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a stipend for **Mihaela Tuluca** as a “Buddy” for Christopher Cayes, a leave replacement 2nd Grade Teacher at Lincoln School at a rate of \$275 (to be pro-rated) for the 2021-2022 school year.
- H. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an employment contract for **Patricia Barton** as a Non-Tenure track Leave Replacement Teacher, beginning on or about February 14, 2022, through on or about April 1, 2022. Ms. Barton will be paid based on Guide-Step BA-1 with an annual salary of \$53,135 (to be pro-rated from the actual start date). Ms. Barton will return to her district paraprofessional position upon completion of her leave of absence contract.
- I. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an employment contract for **Michelle Civello** as a Non-Tenure track Leave Replacement Teacher, beginning on or about March 7, 2022, through on or about March 28, 2022. Mrs. Civello will be paid based on Guide-Step BA-1 with an annual salary of \$53,135 (to be pro-rated from the actual start date). Mrs. Civello will return to her district paraprofessional position upon completion of her leave of absence contract.
- J. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an employment contract for **Kaya Jellinek** as a paraprofessional at Lincoln School, beginning February 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022, at an hourly rate of \$15.48, not to exceed 29.75 hours per week, pending Office of Student Protection review background check by P.L. c.116 and Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse Disclosure required by P.L. 2018, c.5.
- K. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an employment contract for **Leslie Quiroa** as a District Part-Time Custodian, beginning on or about February 17, 2022, through June 30, 2022. Ms. Quiroa will be paid at the rate of \$18.72 per hour (based on Custodial Guide C-6: \$38,930), not to exceed 29.5 hours per week, pending successful completion of the Office of Student Protection background check required by P.L. 1886 c.116 and Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse Disclosure required by P.L. 2018 c.5.
- L. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve and regretfully accept the resignation letter of **Jenna Schreck**, 7th Grade Math Teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, effective Friday, April 15, 2022. Please join us in thanking her for her service to the students of Rockaway Borough and wishing her success in her future endeavors.

10. 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, if any.

B. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Extra-Curricular Activity Establishment Proposal submitted by Aileen Schumacher and Brianna Luongo regarding the initiation of a **Yoga Club** for district students. As per district policy, the teacher shall not be compensated for the initial year of the program, but upon review of the Superintendent, it may be recommended to establish the program for the following year, following a successful implementation.

~~**C.** Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the memorandum of agreement between Prevention Is Key, Inc. (PIK) and Thomas Jefferson Middle School for the purpose of analyzing the scope, intent, and potential impact of school-based prevention programs, policies and practices in relation to Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Project. This agreement shall be in effect from February 28, 2022, to June 20, 2024.~~

Tabled until the March Meeting.

11. Technology and Buildings & Grounds

A. There were none at this time.

12. Policy

A. There were none at this time.

13. Consent Agenda

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

Except Resolution #10 CIA Item C above, which was tabled until the March meeting.

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

4 - 0 - 0 - 1

Mr. Stepka declares all Resolutions & Recommendations are hereby approved, except as noted above.

14. Old Business

A. There was none at this time.

15. New Business and/or Anything for The Good of the Order?

A. Be it resolved to reschedule the March 15, 2022, Board Meeting to March 22, to coincide with the recently modified State's Budget Calendar and delay in the release of State Aid figures for the District for the 2022-23 Budget and direct the Board Secretary to notify the public of such change.

Moved by: Mrs. Walter

Seconded by: Dr. Piombino

Voice Vote: All Ayes

16. Public Comment No. 2 (Agenda & Other Items)

Please be respectful of the Board, Administration, Staff, Students, and all other Audience Members in attendance.

PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME & ADDRESS, THANK YOU!

There were none at this time.

17. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting**A. Tuesday, March 22, 2022**

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

18. Executive Session II: 8:15 pm to 8:55 pm

Be it Resolved, that the Board enter into Executive Session (Private) for the purpose of discussing a personnel and possible HIB situation, 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.

Motion to Enter:

Moved by: Mrs. Walter

Seconded by: Dr. Piombino

Voice Vote: All Ayes

Motion to Adjourn:

Moved by: Dr. Piombino

Seconded by: Mrs. Walter

Voice Vote: All Ayes

19. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: 8:55 pm

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was hereby adjourned at 8:55 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/
School District Business Administrator

Professional Development/Travel Expenditure Requests:

STAFF MEMBER	WORKSHOP TITLE/DEST	DATES	FEES/MILEAGE	JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TRIP
Nancy Beiermeister	School Transportation Supervisors Conference/ Atlantic City, NJ	3/23-25/22	Registration: \$350 Lodging: \$174 Mileage/Tolls: \$95.90	Attend workshops and roundtable to discuss transportation issues and ensure the district is following current requirements for transporting students on district buses.
William Stepka	NJASBO 60th Annual Conference/ Atlantic City, NJ	6/7-10/22	Registration: \$275 Lodging: \$269.30 Mileage/Tolls: \$112.02	To ensure the district remains compliant with all Federal, State, and Department of Education laws, regulations, and policies. To obtain continued professional development.
Denise Jacobus	Lesson Learned from Covid and the Future of School Health (NJPSA)/Virtual	3/8/22	\$125	Attendance at this workshop will prepare for transition from Covid moving from a pandemic to endemic stage and how this will apply to school health services, including implications for infection control, attendance, and overall student health.
Linda Savercool	Lesson Learned from Covid and the Future of School Health (NJPSA)/Virtual	3/8/22	\$125	Attendance at this workshop will prepare for transition from Covid moving from a pandemic to endemic stage and how this will apply to school health services, including implications for infection control, attendance, and overall student health.
Cecilia Isenberg	NJECC Conference/ Montclair State University	3/8/22	\$125	Improving instruction and learning innovative ways to incorporate technology into the classroom.

Student Field Trip Requests:

GRADE	TEACHERS	DATE	TIME: DEPART/ RETURN	DESTINATION	# OF STUDENTS	# OF ADULTS	COST	JUSTIFICATION FOR TRIP
6-8	Love/Wallace	6/8/22 Date change from 6/9/22	8:00am/8:00pm	High Note Festival, Dorney Park, Allentown, PA	50 (approx)	15 (approx)	\$48 per student	Students will perform in an ensemble which will be evaluated with positive taped comments by experienced adjudicators. The experience will be the culmination of much preparation and is a means for motivating the students to practice hard and work toward higher standards. The amusement park is both an incentive and a reward for participation. (Trip previously approved 11/16/21)
MD- Adapted PE	Onischuk	2/24/22 Snow date 3/3/22	10:45am/2:00pm	Rockaway Lanes and M&S II Pizza, Rockaway, NJ	8	6	\$0	Reward for exercise-based warm-up program; offer students a curricular experience outside of the traditional classroom.
Volleyball Club	Onischuk Leahey	2/22/22	3:15pm/6:00pm	Practice Match at Allamuchy Twp. School	45	2	\$0	Provide an opportunity for practice prior to the tournament.
Volleyball Club	Onischuk Leahey	3/2/22 Snow Date 3/3/22	3:15pm/6:00pm	GMCJSCA Club Volleyball Tournament/ Valleyview School, Denville, NJ	45	2	\$0	Participate in the County Tournament to defend title and win 7th consecutive championship.