

Rockaway Borough Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 22, 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: 6:30-7:32 pm (Closed to the Public)

Be it Resolved, that the Board enter into Executive Session (Private) to discuss an exempt matter pertaining to Negotiations: the Shared Child Study Team (CST) contract with Morris Hills Regional High School District, the nature of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

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

1. Call to Order: 7:32 PM

The public meeting was called to order at 7:32 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 – Not 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 Declared a Board Quorum Was Present

Along with 21 audience members (staff, parents, and public)

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

3. Workshop/Regular Session:

A. Administration Monthly Reports -

	<u>Submitted by:</u>
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

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

- Governor's Educator of the Year Recipients
Mr. Grieco read a short biography of each recipient and presented each with a commemorative certificate marking the occasion for: Mrs. Susan Longergan, Mrs. Christine Savini, Ms. Samantha Selikoff, and Mr. Joseph Basile.
- District Update: Discussion of 22-23 & 23-24 school calendars.
- SSDS (Student Safety System Data)- Reporting Period 1 (**September 1 - December 31, 2022**), for 2022-2023. *Motion to accept: Dr. Piombino, second by: Mr. Rivieccio, all ayes.*
- Facilities Update- Michael Klein

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

- Board Correspondence: *Received(R) or Sent(S) since our last meeting:*
 - R: Assemblywoman Aura K. Dunn, 25th District, thanking the Board for sending the resolution to oppose School Employees' Health Benefits Program rate increase that went into effect January 1, 2023.
- 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: Compilation proceeding as per Budget Calendar.

D. The Board then Reviewed the Agenda Items Recommended for Approval

- The Superintendent withdrew resolution 9.B. (School Calendar for 2023-24).
- The Business Administrator deleted a name under PD requests as per a principal's request.

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 February 1, 2023	Diff from June 22	Sections (Classes)	Avg. Class Size
Preschool - Lincoln	29	28	-1	2	14
Kindergarten - Lincoln	65	56	-9	3	19
Grade 1 - Lincoln	56	65	+9	3	22
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>272</u>	<u>-1</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>
Grade 4 - TJ	46	56	+10	3	19
Grade 5 - TJ	59	42	-17	3	14
Grade 6 - TJ	54	59	+5	3	20
Grade 7 - TJ	58	55	-3	3	18
Grade 8 - TJ	53	62	+9	3	21
<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	3	0	-	-
<u>Resident Students:</u>	<u>546</u>	<u>549</u>	<u>+3</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>19</u>
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	1	2	+1	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	5	5	0	-	-
Total Students:	552	556	+4	-	-

6. Meeting Minutes

A. Be it resolved to approve and accept the following meeting minutes:

1. January 23 Regular Meeting and 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 List: January 25 to February 22: \$1,041,887.62

B. Be it resolved to approve and accept the Budgetary Transfers Report for the months of December & January.

- C. Be it resolved to approve the following resolution concerning SEMI Funds for the 2023-24 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 has furnished a projection that has our district at 32 (last year was 29) Medicaid eligible classified students,
Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education hereby authorizes the Chief School Administrator & Business 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 2023-2024 school budget year."
- D. Be it resolved to approve the renewal of the inter-local shared services agreement with the Morris Hills Regional Board of Education to provide complete Child Study Team (CST) Services for the 2023-24 school year for \$335,331 (+\$12,522 or 3.8% from 22-23) and an additional daily rate of \$501.26 for any new student referrals that might take place in the summer of 2023, if needed.
- E. Be it resolved to renew the district's membership in the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative (aka "Sussex Co-Op") (and approve the joint resolution) for the 2023-24 school year, to provide regular public & non-public, choice student, special education and athletic/field trip student transportation services, as and if/when needed, in accordance with the shared ride/cost payment structure to maximize transportation efficiency and reduce costs, in accordance with the joint resolution.
- F. Be it resolved to renew the district's "Managed Print Services Agreement" with Steward (a Xerox company), of Mt. Laurel, NJ, to continue to provide toner and repair services to all the district's printers for a flat fee of \$495 per month, effective January 25, 2023 to January 24, 2026 (3-year term).

8. Personnel

- A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the list of Staff Member **Professional Development Workshops & Travel Expenditure Requests** at the end of this agenda 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 the Extra-Curricular Activity Establishment Proposal submitted by **Samantha Selikoff** regarding the initiation of a **Thomas Jefferson Middle School Spring Run Club**. 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 on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Leslie Quiroa Rodriguez** (former part-time custodian) as a substitute custodian for the 2022-2023 school year, as needed, at an hourly rate of \$18.86.

- D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Irene Mazzola** as a Homebound Tutor for the 2022-23 school year at an hourly rate of \$38.91, as needed.
- E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Robyn Bezold** as a district part-time nurse at an hourly rate of \$34.48, up to 27.5 hours per week, effective January 17, 2023. Mrs. Bezold has successfully completed all background checks.
- F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Chathuri Galagedara** as a paraprofessional at Lincoln School effective on or about February 27, 2023 through June 30, 2023, at an hourly rate of \$16.50, 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.
- G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to confirm/approve **Maternity/FMLA/Disability/Leave of Absence** for the following personnel:

.	Name	Location	Position	From	To
1.	Laura Perniciaro	Thomas Jefferson	Science Teacher	2/8/23 (Sick- 2/8/23-2/24/23) (Unpaid- 2/26/23-3/22/23)	3/22/23
2.	Amy DeFelice	Thomas Jefferson	Social Studies Teacher	5/8/23 (Sick/Personal-5/8/23-5/23/23) (Unpaid-5/24/23-6/2/23) (FMLA-6/5/23-11/3/23)	11/6/23

- H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve additional instructional class periods for **Laura Esposito** (Thomas Jefferson- ESL), at an amount of \$50.05 per period, for the 2022-23 school year, to be paid via monthly timesheet.

9. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

- A. Be it resolved 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 2023-2024 School District Calendar, as submitted. Superintendent withdrew.~~

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds

- A. Be it resolved to approve a contract with GM Fence, of Roseland, NJ, to demolish, furnish and install approximately 500' linear feet of 6' tall, black chain link fence, along the right side of Thomas Jefferson's property line to the right of the ball field, which parallels Keller Avenue, for \$16,050, based on their quote dated December 6, 2022. (Other quotes rec'd: Essex Fence of Rockaway: \$15,088 - did not include demo of existing fence, and Fox Fence of Clifton: \$26,840.)

11. Policy

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

Policy/Reg P & R	Number	Title	Reason for Update
	5200	Attendance	Revised (Mandated)

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. Rivieccio:	Seconded	Aye	-	-	-
Mr. Graf:	-	Aye	-	7D, CST only	-
Dr. Piombino:	Moved	Aye	-	-	-
Mrs. Walter, VP:	-	-	-	-	Absent
Mr. Tobias, President:	-	Aye	-	-	-

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

13. New Business

A. There was none at this time.

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

- A. Mrs. Christina Michelucci (Parent), 161 Rockaway Avenue, asked for a follow-up from last month’s meeting regarding the before and after care program. Mr. Grieco answered.
- B. Mrs. Sarah Langan (Parent), 8 Birchwood drive, stated that since the Boro Kids program is full, she needs transportation for her son to and from school.
- C. Mr. Onischuk, district teacher and association president, asked about the contracted child study team (CST) with the high school district. Mr. Grieco replied that the Board is looking at all options.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

A. Thursday, March 16, 2023

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

16. Executive Session II: 8:30 pm – 8:55 pm

Be it Resolved, that the Board enter into Executive Session (Private) for the purpose of discussing a negotiations issue related to the vacant position of treasurer of school monies, the nature 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: Dr. Piombino* *Seconded by: Mr. Graf* *Voice Vote: All Ayes*

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

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

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Moved by: Dr. Piombino Seconded by: Mr. Graf 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
MD	Antonia Zangara	3/15/23	11:15-12:45	Riverside Cafe	8	5	Free	To enhance our social curriculum with real life world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.
MD	Antonia Zangara Hailey Smith	4/5/23	9:15-11:30	Pizza Rustica	13	9	Free	To enhance our social curriculum with real life world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.
MD	Antonia Zangara Hailey Smith	5/19/23	10:30-11:30	Quick Chek	13	9	Free	To enhance our social curriculum with real life world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.
MD & PALS	Antonia Zangara Hailey Smith Jennifer Grlica	6/6/23	9:15-2:00	Turtle Back Zoo	23	15	\$17/pp	To enhance our social curriculum with real life world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.
K	Elizabeth Hickman Jaclyn Schwarz Svitlana Kahuy	5/4/23	9:00 - 2:00	Turtle Back Zoo	56	7	\$20/pp	Provide students with an enriching recreational experience in wildlife education and wildlife conservation, so that they are inspired to understand, appreciate, and protect the fragile interdependence of off living things.
7	Mike Leahey Amy DeFelice Laura Perniciaro	3/27/23	8:00 - 5:00	Franklin Institute/ Philadelphia	51	7	\$67/pp	Students will make connections to physical, life, earth and space science.

Professional Development/Travel Expenditure Requests:

STAFF MEMBER	WORKSHOP TITLE/DEST	DATES	REG & FEES	JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TRIP
Nicolas Bova	NJ Music Educators Association 2023 State Convention/ Atlantic City, NJ	2/24/23	\$145 Mileage: \$131.60	To provide professional development in music workshops to gain pertinent information for application in the classroom.
Linda Savercool	The Eye of the Storm/Virtual	3/1/23	\$125	This session will review important legal documents in the area of school health including recent legislation and the latest guidance from NJDOE & CDC.
Denise Jacobus	Practical Strategies to Address the Challenges of Today's School Nurse/Virtual	3/15/23	\$279	Topics covered include infections of concern, evaluating injuries and burns, providing students with trauma sensitive and calming spaces, and vaping education.
Timothy Yobs	PEOSH/NJADP "Indoor Air Quality/ Sussex County Tech	6/2/23	Free	Better indoor air quality for staff and students. Ongoing training.
Sandy Gancarcik	Strengthening your Effectiveness as a Special Education Resources Teacher/ Online	4/5/23	\$279	This training will provide: Expanding my expertise as a special education teacher. New ways to better implement multi-level instruction and differentiated interventions.
Sandy Gancarcik	Strengthening your Students Math Learning & Engagement with DESMOS Activity Builder/West Orange, NJ	3/20/23	\$279	This training will provide practical ways to enhance my mathematical instruction using Desmos Activity Builder.
Joseph Corbo	Strengthening your Students Math Learning & Engagement with DESMOS Activity Builder/West Orange, NJ	3/20/23	\$279	This training will provide practical ways to enhance my mathematical instruction using Desmos Activity Builder.
Michael Klein	AHERA Asbestos Training/Virtual	2/10/23	\$185	Refresh maintenance with the hazards of asbestos, the applications in which asbestos is likely to be found and regulations governing asbestos abatements.
Samantha Selikoff Laura Perniciaro Heather DeGrose	Space Camp for Education/ Huntsville Alabama	6/7/23 6/8/23 6/9/23	\$999 per person Total: \$2,997	The Science and STEM team at TJ will work together to bring back innovative ideas to engage students as well as plan a schoolwide space day in the future. The curriculum includes NASA-inspired lesson plans and it correlated to the National Science Education Standards.
William Stepka	NJASBO 100th Annual Convention/ Atlantic City, NJ	6/6-9/23	Reg: \$275 Lodging: 3 nights \$351.29 Mileage/Tolls: \$150	To ensure the district complies with numerous new State Title 18A Statutes, Title 6A Administrative code, audit requirements, and overall oversight and management of the district's financial and reporting procedures and practices, plus to gain valuable professional development in the area of school business administration.
Helena Holmes	NJTESOL Spring Conference/ New Brunswick, NJ	5/24/23	Reg. \$390 Mileage: TBD Pd by Title III Immigrant Grant	Will learn about current research in the field of teaching ELL's and explore the best methods to meet the needs of our ESL students.
Lisbeth Schnurman	Assessment, Eligibility, and Dismissal in School Strategies, Tools and Decision Making/Virtual	Flexible 22/23	\$144	Essential for determining speech therapy eligibility and dismissal for school based SLP.
Dave Waxman Stephanie Dzikowski Bryanna Dennison Sandy Gancarcik Rebecca Vlacich Alyssa Bellafonte	I& RS to MTSS/ Virtual	3/14/23	\$100/pp	Will guide us as we transition from I&RS to TSS model.
Samantha Selikoff	CEC Conference & State Conference/ Louisville KT and Ramapo College	3/3/23 3/13/23	No cost to district Grant funded	I would like to learn additional ways to support special education students, especially students in the MD and LLD programs.