

# Rockaway Borough Board of Education

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

## MINUTES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 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: 6:30-7:30 pm (Closed to the Public)

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

Motion to Enter: 6:32 pm    *Moved by: Ms. Dahl*    *Seconded by: Ms. Hernandez*    *Voice Vote: All Ayes*  
Motion to Adjourn: 7:28 pm    *Moved by: Ms. Dahl*    *Seconded by: Ms. Hernandez*    *Voice Vote: All Ayes*

### 1. Call to Order: 7:30 PM

*The public portion of this meeting will be called to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Graf, 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 15, 2025, posted on our website and at town hall. Official action will be taken."

### 2. Board Member Roll Call:

**Mrs. Faride Hernandez**

*Elected 2024 to 1st term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2027)*

**Mrs. Vanessa Dorgilles**

*Elected 2024 to 1st term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2027)*

**Mr. Brian Riveccio**

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

**Ms. Jennifer Dahl, VP**

*Elected 2023 to 1st term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2026)*

**Mr. Edward Graf, President**

*Elected 2023 to 1st term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2026)*

*“Now, please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America. . .”*

**Board Secretary Pro-Tempore**

Be it resolved to appoint Mr. Anthony Grieco as the temporary Board Secretary, from March 18, 2025 through June 30, 2025

***Moved: Ms. Dahl***

***Seconded: Ms. Dorgilles***

***Voice Vote: All Ayes***

**3. Reports & Updates:**

**A. Board Committees Reports (as needed):**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <u>Strategic Planning:</u>                            | <i>Ms. Dahl &amp; Mr. Riveccio</i>       |
| 2. <u>Finance/Personnel/Facilities:</u>                  | <i>Mr. Graf &amp; Mrs. Hernandez</i>     |
| 3. <u>Curriculum/Special Education:</u>                  | <i>Ms. Dahl &amp; Mrs. Dorgilles</i>     |
| 4. <u>Negotiations with RBAA: 4/8- Postponed</u>         | <i>Mr. Graf &amp; Ms. Dahl</i>           |
| 5. <u>Negotiations with RBEA: 3/27</u>                   | <i>Mrs. Dorgilles &amp; Mr. Graf</i>     |
| 6. <u>Athletic/Activities:</u>                           | <i>Mr. Riveccio &amp; Mrs. Dorgilles</i> |
| 7. <u>Policy/Safety &amp; Security/Technology/Misc.:</u> | <i>Ad Hoc</i>                            |

*Ms. Dahl if we can have a finance meeting in the near future, to discuss summer reading.*

**B. Liaison Reports (as needed):**

1. NJ School Boards Assoc. - Mr. Riveccio
2. Morris County School Boards Assoc. - Ms. Dahl
3. Rockaway Borough Council - Mr. Graf
4. Morris County ESC - Ms. Dahl
5. Rockaway Borough HSA - Mr. Graf
6. Rockaway Borough Ed. Found. - Mrs. Hernandez
7. Rockaway Borough Recreation Committee - Mrs. Dorgilles

*Mr. Graf discussed Unsung Hero Award Presentation at Morris Knolls HS, that he attended with Mr. Samuels, for the top grade graduate in Morris County Schools. This took place on April 2nd.*

**C. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco**

1. District Update-  
2023-2024- NJ School Performance Reports RELEASE

A letter will be going out to families on Friday, April 11th, with the link to the NJ School Performance Reports. It is already on the website.

Some highlights include :

- **ELA Performance (Overall % of students who met or exceeded expectations).**

21/22- 47.9%

22/23- 50.9%

23/24- 57%

- **Math Performance (Overall % of students who met or exceeded expectations).**

21/22- 39.9%

22/23- 45.9%

23/24- 48%

**D. Board Secretary's/Business Administrator's Report: None**

1. **Board Correspondence:** Received (R) or Sent (S) since our last meeting:  
N/A

**E. Administration Monthly Reports:**

**Submitted by:**

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Lincoln Principal's Report:                     | Mrs. Skomial    |
| 2. Thomas Jefferson Principal's Report:            | Mr. Samuels     |
| 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       |

Ms. Dahl commended Lincoln staff, including Ms. Skomial and Mr. Bova, on the Lincoln Talent Show.

**F. Any Other Items/Comments for the Good of the Order**

N/A

**G. Board Review of Agenda Items**

N/A

**4. Public Hearing:**

**Agenda items only:** limited to 3 minutes each. Please state your name & address.

The President will open the floor for the Board to hear the public and then close the floor.

Please direct all dialogue to the President. Board replies are not required.

-None

## 5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:

| Grade Level & School   | Students June 30, 2024 | Students April 1, 2025 | Difference from June 30, 2024 | Sections (Classes) | Avg. Class Size | Certificated Staff - Teachers | Non-Certificated Staff |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Preschool - Lincoln AM/PM & Full Day   | 29                     | 26                     | -3                            | 2                  | 13              | 1                             | 8                      |
| Kindergarten - Lincoln   | 56                     | 68                     | +12                           | 3                  | 23              | 3                             | 3                      |
| Grade 1 - Lincoln  | 59                     | 59                     | 0                             | 3                  | 20              | 3                             | 3                      |
| Grade 2 - Lincoln  | 66                     | 61                     | -5                            | 3                  | 20              | 3                             | 2                      |
| Grade 3 - Lincoln  | 59                     | 66                     | +7                            | 3                  | 22              | 3                             | 2                      |
| <b>Other Staff:</b> (Principal 1, Specials 8, Aides 5, PE 1, Guid 1, Nurse 1, Sec 1, Cust 2.5, Caf 7)  | -                      | -                      | -                             | -                  | -               | 12                            | 15.5                   |
| <b>Total Lincoln School:</b>   | <b>269</b>             | <b>280</b>             | <b>+11</b>                    | <b>14</b>          | <b>20</b>       | <b>25</b>                     | <b>33.5</b>            |
| Grade 4 - TJ   | 62                     | 64                     | +2                            | 3                  | 21              | 3                             | -                      |
| Grade 5 - TJ   | 56                     | 63                     | +7                            | 3                  | 21              | 3                             | -                      |
| Grade 6 - TJ   | 45                     | 63                     | +18                           | 3                  | 21              | 3                             | -                      |
| Grade 7 - TJ   | 63                     | 53                     | -10                           | 3                  | 17              | 3                             | -                      |
| Grade 8 - TJ   | 58                     | 66                     | +8                            | 3                  | 22              | 3                             | -                      |
| <b>Other Staff:</b> (Principal 1, Specials 16, Aides 9, PE 2, Guid 1, Nurse 1, Sec 2, Cust 2.5, Caf 9) | -                      | -                      | -                             | -                  | -               | 21                            | 22.5                   |
| <b>Total Thomas Jefferson:</b>   | <b>284</b>             | <b>309</b>             | <b>+25</b>                    | <b>15</b>          | <b>21</b>       | <b>36</b>                     | <b>22.5</b>            |
| <b>Shared Staff:</b><br>(Other Certificated Teachers 4.5, & Part-Time Nurses 2)                        | -                      | -                      | -                             | -                  | -               | 4.5                           | 2                      |
| <b>Administrative:</b><br>(Supt, BA, CIA, CST 1, Sec 4, Maint 2, Bus Drivers 2, Bus Aides 2)           | -                      | -                      | -                             | -                  | -               | 3                             | 11                     |
| Special/Reg Ed Out-of-District:  | 5                      | 8                      | +3                            | -                  | -               | -                             | -                      |
| <b>Resident Students:</b>  | <b>558</b>             | <b>597</b>             | <b>+39</b>                    | <b>29</b>          | <b>21</b>       | -                             | -                      |
| Charter/Choice Schs Out:   | 0                      | 0                      | 0                             | -                  | -               | -                             | -                      |
| Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:   | 3                      | 3                      | 0                             | -                  | -               | -                             | -                      |
| <b>Total Students (593)/ Staff (140) Ratio: 4.25/1</b>   | <b>561</b>             | <b>600</b>             | <b>+39</b>                    | -                  | -               | <b>66.5</b>                   | <b>69</b>              |

## 6. Meeting Minutes:

- A. Be it resolved to approve and accept the following meeting **Minutes**:
1. March 28, 2025, Special Meeting, and Executive Session
  2. March 18, 2025, Regular Meeting and Executive Sessions 1 and 2

## 7. Finance:

- A. Be it resolved to approve the manifest of **Payrolls and Bills & Claims List**, which is on file in the Business Office:
1. Bills, Claims, and Payrolls List: March 19 - April 8: \$760,235.67

## 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., listed below.

### **Professional Development/Travel Expenditure Requests:**

| <b>Staff Member</b>           | <b>Workshop Title/Dest.</b>                            | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Reg &amp; Fees</b>     | <b>Cost to District</b> | <b>Justification for the Trip</b>  |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Jennifer Glica                | NJCIE Summer Leadership/<br>Kean University, Union, NJ | 6/6/25       | \$125<br>Mileage: \$26.69 | ESEA Grant              | This conference will provide the skills and resources needed to develop and sustain inclusive learning communities for all students. |
| Mary Leslie                   | NJCIE Summer Leadership/<br>Kean University, Union, NJ | 6/6/25       | \$125<br>Mileage: \$26.69 | ESEA Grant              | This conference will provide the skills and resources needed to develop and sustain inclusive learning communities for all students. |
| Timothy Yobs<br>Michael Klein | ESCNJ Vendor Expo/ Expo<br>Center, Edison, NJ          | 5/21/25      | Free                      | Nonet                   | Training, CEU's safety for schools.  |

- B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to confirm/approve a leave of absence for the following personnel:

| <b>Staff #</b> | <b>Location</b>  | <b>Position</b> | <b>From</b>   | <b>To</b> |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---|-----------|
| 654            | Thomas Jefferson | Aide            | <b>UPDATE:</b> 3/10/25<br>Requesting additional 3 weeks<br>Unpaid | 3/28/25   |
| 595            | Thomas Jefferson | Aide            | 4/9/25- utilizing personal days, sick<br>days and unpaid          | 6/30/25   |
| 546            | Lincoln School   | Counselor       | 8/26/25 - Utilizing sick days, NJFLA.<br>Will claim NJFLI         | 12/13/25  |

- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education confirms the Administrative Leave with pay for **Employee #484**, effective March 18, 2025.
- D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Patricia Fitzgerald**, district substitute bus driver, effective March 21, 2025.
- E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Melody Wolfe**, lunchroom aide, effective April 14, 2025.
- F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Kaila West**, floating substitute teacher, effective April 21, 2025.
- G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following substitute nurses for the 2024/2025 school year at a per diem rate of \$250.

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Mannal Ramadan</b> | <b>Catharina Cocozza</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|

- H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Shawn Robertson** as a Floating Substitute Teacher at Lincoln School beginning May 5, 2025 through June 17, 2025 at a per diem rate of \$125.
- I. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Kyra Morena** as a substitute teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Morena has successfully completed all required background checks.

## 9. Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment:

- A. Be it resolved to approve the **Student Field Trip/District Events/Miscellaneous** requests as listed below:

### **Student Field Trip/District Events/Miscellaneous Requests:**

| GRADE  | TEACHERS           | DATE    | TIME:<br>DEPART/RETURN | DESTINATION   | # of<br>Pupils | # of<br>Staff | Cost<br>Per Pupil    | Cost to District   | JUSTIFICATION FOR TRIP  |
|--------|--------------------|---------|------------------------|---|----------------|---------------|----------------------|--|---|
| MD/APE | Onischuk<br>Bogart | 4/23/25 | 10:45 / 1:30           | Rockaway Lanes /<br>M&S2 Pizza/<br>Rockaway, NJ         | 7              | 7             | Free                 | Substitute Estimate-<br>\$230.00<br><br>Bussing and Fuel<br>Estimate- \$75 | Exercise based reward system; offering students a non-traditional setting for physical activities.  |
| 5-8    | Onischuk           | 5/28/25 | 9am - 2pm              | Somerset Patriots/<br>TD Bank Ballpark,<br>Somerset, NJ | 75             | 7             | Approx.<br>\$20-\$30 | Estimate- \$115.00<br><br>Bussing and Fuel<br>Estimate- \$75               | End of the year athletic department trip; opportunity for young athletes to see high level play; team bonding experience; it is also STEAM/Education Day.       |
| MD     | Zangara            | 4/28/25 | 10:45/12:30            | Chick, Wings &<br>Things/<br>Rockaway, NJ               | 7              | 7             | Free                 | Bussing and Fuel<br>Estimate- \$75   | To enhance our social skills curriculum with real world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness. |

**District Events List / Miscellaneous:**

N/A

- B. Be it resolved to approve a student tuition contract with the Wharton Board of Education in the amount of \$18,432 to provide regular educational services to student 14476387 for the 2024-25 school year, as per the "McKinney-Vento" law and regulations.
- C. Be it resolved to approve a special education student tuition contract with the Stanhope Board of Education in the amount of \$9,178.48 plus related services of shared aid for \$3,232.31 and counseling services for \$396.50 (grand total: \$12,807.29) plus transportation costs to be determined, effective March 12 to June 30, 2025.

**10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds:**

A. N/A

**11. Policy**

- A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the following Superintendent's HIB decision(s) in the following instances as numbered:

1. 289373\_TJM\_03112025 - Conclusion: Unfounded

- B. Be it resolved to approve the ***Second Reading & Adoption*** of the following new and/or updated Board Policies(P) and/or Regulations (R), where applicable: (Policy 9163- *Spectator Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Events* was tabled at the 3/18/25 meeting- ***First Reading***)

| Policy/Reg | Number | Title  | Reason for Update |
|------------|--------|--|-------------------|
| Policy     | 5111   | Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students (M) | Revised           |
| Policy     | 5512   | Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying (M)        | Revised           |
| Policy     | 5533   | Student Smoking (M)                              | Revised           |
| Regulation | 5533   | Student Smoking                                  | Revised           |
| Policy     | 5701   | Academic Integrity                               | Revised           |
| Policy     | 5710   | Student Grievance                                | Revised           |
| Policy     | 8500   | Food Services (M)                                | Revised           |
| Policy     | 9320   | Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M)    | Revised           |
| Regulation | 9320   | Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies (M)    | Revised           |

## 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>Aye</u> | <u>Nay</u> | <u>Abstain</u> | <u>Recuse</u> | <u>Not Present</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. Hernandez         |                                 | Aye        | -          | -              | -             | -                  |
| Mrs. Dorgilles         |                                 | Aye        | -          | -              | -             | -                  |
| Mr. Rivieccio          | Seconded                        | Aye        | -          | -              | -             | -                  |
| Ms. Dahl, VP           | Moved                           | Aye        | -          | -              | -             | -                  |
| Mr. Graf, President    |                                 | Aye        | -          | -              | -             | -                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           |                                 | <b>5</b>   | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>           |

*All passed.*

## 13. New Business/Any Other Items/Board Comments for the Good of the Order:

Public Hearing on Superintendent's Employment Agreement Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-11.

The Rockaway Board of Education has provided notice of its intent to hold a public hearing and to take action to rescind the Superintendent's current Employment Agreement and approve a new Agreement, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030. This notification was printed in the Board's official newspaper (The Citizen), posted at the Borough of Rockaway Public Schools, and on the District's Website, on February 26, 2025.

### Public Comment

Please state your name & address.

1. Ms. Clark- 66 West Flagge St., Rockaway NJ- asked for an explanation of the process of rescinding the superintendent's contract. The answer was given by Mr. Graf, outlining the process.
2. Ms. Leslie- 68 Hemlock Road, Rockaway, NJ- asked, "Is it normal for a superintendent to get a 5 year contract?"  
The answer was given by Mr. Grieco. "Normally they are 3 or 5 year contracts."

## 14. Public Hearing: Limited to 3 minutes each.

Please state your name & address.

The President will open the floor for the Board to hear the public and then close the floor.

Please direct all dialogue to the President. Board replies are not required.

- 1. Ms. Clark- 66 West Flagge St., Rockaway NJ- asked about the camp that Mr. Onischuk is running over the summer. She asked if running the camp is a conflict of interest and if fees would be charged. The answers were given by Mr. Graf and Mr. Grieco. They responded that we have done research with the board attorney, insurance broker, and other districts. There are no fees in the current policy for use of fields and he does not need custodians. If custodians are needed, there will be a charge for that, based on the policy. The response also included telling Ms. Clark that the policy itself also should be updated.
- 2. Ms. Clark- 66 West Flagge St., Rockaway NJ- asked about the potential of a church land sale. Mr.Graf responded that the church approached the board about selling land for a project that they are looking to do. This project has never fully been considered, because there are too many obstacles in the way to consider at this time for the board to even consider, including state approval and the cost of various items needed to even explore this possibility.

**15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:**

**A. Tuesday, May 6, 2025**

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

**16. Executive Session II (if necessary)- NO EXECUTIVE SESSION II**

~~Be it Resolved, that the Board enter into Executive Session (Private) for the purpose of discussing \_\_\_\_\_, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ MINUTES.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_BOARD ACTION \_\_\_\_\_BE TAKEN AFTER THIS SESSION CONCLUDES.\_\_\_\_\_~~

**17. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:**

With no further business before the Board, the meeting is hereby adjourned at **8:24 pm**.

**Moved by: Mrs. Hernandez**

**Seconded by: Mr. Rivieccio**

**Voice Vote: All Ayes**