

Rockaway Borough Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 7:30 PM

Thomas Jefferson School Cafeteria, 95 E. 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 pm (Closed to the Public)

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

Motion to Enter: 6:25

Moved by: Ms. Dahl Seconded by: Mrs. Hernandez Voice Vote: All Ayes

Motion to Adjourn: 7:25

Moved by: Ms. Dahl Seconded by: Mr. Riveccio 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)

ALL PRESENT

Pledge of Allegiance

3. Reports & Updates:

A. Board Committees Reports (as needed):

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <u>Finance/Personnel/Facilities:</u> 4/17/25 & 5/5/25 | <i>Mr. Graf & Mrs. Hernandez</i> |
| 2. <u>Curriculum/Special Education:</u> | <i>Ms. Dahl & Mrs. Dorgilles</i> |
| 3. <u>Negotiations with RBAA:</u> | <i>Mr. Graf & Ms. Dahl</i> |
| 4. <u>Negotiations with RBEA:</u> 4/24/25 | <i>Mrs. Dorgilles & Mr. Graf</i> |
| 5. <u>Athletic/Activities:</u> | <i>Mr. Riveccio & Mrs. Dorgilles</i> |
| 6. <u>Policy/Safety/Security/Tech/Strategic Planning/Misc.:</u> | <i>Ad Hoc</i> |

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

C. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco

1. District Update
State Testing
Teacher Appreciation Week
2. Budget Presentation- 2025/2026

D. Board Secretary's/Business Office Report:

1. Board Correspondence: *Received (R) or Sent (S) since our last meeting:*
 - Letter from Assemblywoman Aura K. Dunn

E. Administration Monthly Reports:

- | | <u>Submitted by:</u> |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Lincoln Principal's Report: | <i>Mrs. Skomial</i> |
| 2. Thomas Jefferson Principal's Report: | <i>Mr. Samuels</i> |
| 3. Curr., Inst., and Assessment Director's Report: | <i>Mrs. Argenziano</i> |
| 4. Building & Grounds Supervisor's Report: | <i>Mr. Klein</i> |
| 5. Technology Supervisor's Report: | <i>Mr. Reyes</i> |

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

G. Board Review of Agenda Items

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.

- *Mr. Penn- 35 Philip Dr., Rockaway NJ 07866- Asked why is the % so high? When does it stop?*
- *Ms. West- 4 Orchard St., Rockaway NJ 07866- Mentioned that the district has higher enrollment.*

Mr. Graf discussed how the district will be appointing an outside treasurer of school monies in the future.

- *Mr. Haynes- 81 Andrea Dr., Rockaway NJ 07866- Thanked the board for their hard work. He also mentioned how he understands our situation but that the taxpayers cannot endure these increases every year. Mr. Haynes asked for some clarification on the role of School Counselors and also asked if the district has thought of having more shared service agreements with the high school (special education programming, services, etc.).*
- *Ms. Miceli- 2 Overlook Dr., Rockaway NJ 07866- Discussed how special education costs were unpredictable.*
- *Mr. Dougherty- 18 Valley View Road, Rockaway NJ 07866- Asked about our district having 5G and if it was necessary in our size district.*
- *Ms. Clark- 66 West Flagge St., Rockaway NJ- Discussed some concerns with our website and that we should plan for the number of apartments going up in town.*

5. 2025-2026 District Budget Presentation & Public Hearing:

A. Mr. Grieco will present the 2025-26 School Budget and highlight the district's programs and the impact on the overall residents' tax rate.

During the presentation, the public may comment & ask questions once recognized by the presenter.

Whereas, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education is charged by the state constitution of New Jersey with providing a thorough and efficient education for all school-aged and legally eligible children who reside in Rockaway Borough by developing a District Budget for the 2025-2026 school year as prescribed by the NJ State Board of Education, State law and Administrative Code, and

Whereas, the Board, Superintendent & Business Administrator, in conjunction with other administrators and district stakeholders, has put forth a responsible and justified budget that addresses the continued updating and enhancement of the educational programs delivered to the students, along with maintaining & upgrading our school buildings - which are major community assets, and

Whereas, this Budget, which has been reviewed and approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools and Executive County Business Administrator, has been published in The Citizen local newspaper on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, and posted on the district's website in accordance with the state law, and a Public Budget Hearing has just been held and concluded in accordance with state law where the public, if so desired, commented on the budget, now therefore

Be It Resolved, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education hereby formally approves and adopts the 2025-2026 School Budget in the following amounts:

	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Totals
2025-2026 Total Appropriations:	\$13,475,295	\$491,624	\$756,425	\$14,723,344

Less: Anticipated Revenues: \$2,685,550 \$491,624 \$619,034 \$3,796,208

Local Taxes To Be Levied: \$10,789,745 -0- \$137,391 \$10,927,136 and

Be it Resolved that the Board of Education includes in the budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$168,350 the district intends to use these funds to provide goods and services necessary to teach students, and

Be it Resolved that the Board of Education includes in the budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$206,894 as the additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefits premiums, and

Be it resolved to utilize \$863,932 from the district's Banked Cap spending authority to fund out-of-district special education student placements and transportation, a need that must be completed by the end of the school year and cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time, and

Be it resolved to approve to utilize \$378,966 to reduce the district's debt service in 2025-2026, and

Be it also resolved that the Board of Education include in the budget a Capital Reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$47,500 for the following project:

1. Lincoln Elementary Stairwells: Replace stair treads for \$47,500 (plus SDA grant use of \$31,468)

The capital reserve account will fund \$47,500 of the total cost of \$78,968, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities' efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and

Be it further Resolved to authorize the Superintendent of Schools and District Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute and administer this budget for the 2025-2026 school year.

Moved by: Ms. Dahl

Seconded by: Ms. Hernandez

Roll Call Vote: All Ayes

Passed

5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2024	Students May 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
Other Staff: (Principal 1, Specials 8, Aides 5, PE 1, Guid 1, Nurse 1, Sec 1, Cust 2.5, Caf 7)	-	-	-	-	-	12	15.5

<u>Total Lincoln School:</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>+11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>33.5</u>
Grade 4 - TJ	62	64	+2	3	21	3	-
Grade 5 - TJ	56	65	+9	3	22	3	-
Grade 6 - TJ	45	64	+19	3	21	3	-
Grade 7 - TJ	63	54	-9	3	18	3	-
Grade 8 - TJ	58	65	+7	3	22	3	-
Other Staff: (Principal 1, Specials 16, Aides 9, PE 2, Guid 1, Nurse 1, Sec 2, Cust 2.5, Caf 9)	-	-	-	-	-	21	22.5
<u>Total Thomas Jefferson:</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>312</u>	<u>+28</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>22.5</u>
Shared Staff: (Other Certificated Teachers 4.5, & Part-Time Nurses 2)	-	-	-	-	-	4.5	2
Administrative: (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	-	-	-	-
<u>Resident Students:</u>	<u>558</u>	<u>597</u>	<u>+39</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>21</u>	-	-
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	3	3	0	-	-	-	-
Total Students (593)/ Staff (140) Ratio: 4.25/1	561	600	+39	-	-	66.5	69

6. Meeting Minutes:

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

1. April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting and Executive Sessions

7. Finance:

N/A

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:

Staff Member	Workshop Title/Dest.	Dates	Reg & Fees	Cost to District	Justification for the Trip
Nadine Morgenland	OFAC School Bus Safety Training/ Morris Plains, NJ	4/29/25	Reg: Free Mileage: 13.4 \$6.29	None	Up to date with State and County Bus training requirements.
Jennifer Skomial	The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights: An Overview / Virtual	5/2/25	Free	None	To enhance my knowledge as the Anti-Bullying Coordinator.
Jennifer Skomial	The Roles and Responsibilities of the Chief School Administrator, Principal, and Anti-Bullying Coordinator / Virtual	5/5/25	Free	None	To enhance my knowledge as the Anti-Bullying Coordinator.
Jennifer Skomial	School Safety/School Climate Teams: Role and Responsibilities / Virtual	5/12/25	Free	None	To enhance my knowledge as the Anti-Bullying Coordinator.
Lisbeth Schnurman	~Auditory & Working Memory in Children ~Grammar Boot Camp ~Can't Remember That-IRI ~Functional speech Therapy for Middle School with Autism ~Differentiating Language Differences from Language Disorders / Virtual	5/20/25 5/21/25	Free	None	Auditory/Working memory, grammar, articulation, functional therapy and differentiating language difference from disorder are all integral to working as a speech therapist in our schools.
Anthony Grieco	Strauss Esmay 37th Annual Educational Policy & School Law Seminar/ Lincroft, NJ	6/6/25	Reg: No charge Mileage: \$54.14	None	This seminar will present an overview of relevant policies and school law.

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

Staff #	Location	Position	From	To
595	Thomas Jefferson	Paraprofessional	4/9/25	5/5/25 (RETURNING EARLIER)

- C.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following as substitute teachers for the 2024-2025 school year. All required background checks have been successfully completed.

Pamela Mejia	Julia Strain
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- D.** BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education rescinds the 2021-2026 Employment Agreement for **Anthony Grieco** and approves a new Agreement effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030, as approved by the Executive Morris County Superintendent of Schools, as submitted.

- E. Be it resolved that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education approve **Anthony Grieco** as district purchasing agent, effective March 18, 2025 through June 30, 2025, in compliance with Chapter 440 laws of 1999 and NJSA 18A:18A-2.
- F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an employment contract for **Donna Hawkes**, 3rd Grade Teacher at Lincoln School, beginning August 26, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Mrs. Hawkes will be paid based on Salary/Guide BA-2, at the current 24/25 rate of \$57,135. Mrs. Hawkes has successfully completed all background checks. (Final salary rate will be determined once a new CBA is in effect).
- G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Susanne Lonergan**, Teacher at Lincoln School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2025. Please join us in thanking her for her 25 years of dedicated service to the district, community, colleagues, and especially the students, and wishing her well in retirement.
- H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the board of education confirm/approve the **request to re-appoint RBEA staff** for the 2025/2026 School Year. (**as submitted**)
- I. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **William Stepka**, School Business Administrator, for the purpose of retirement, effective August 31, 2025. Please join us in thanking him for his service to the students of Rockaway Borough and wishing him success in his future endeavors.

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: DEPART/RETURN	DESTINATION	# of Pupils	# of Staff	Cost Per Pupil	Cost to District	JUSTIFICATION FOR TRIP
5	Officer McQuesten & RBPB	5/27/25	10:30/1:30	Rockaway Lanes, Rockaway, NJ	65	3 + Officer Mark	Free	Transportation paid by RBPB Sub Nurse: 3.5 hours	LEAD Program completion celebration.
8 and Select Chorus	Samuels Selikoff	6/17/25	8:45 / 11:00 am	Morris Hills High School/ Rockaway	80	8	\$0	None	8th Grade Graduation practice.

District Events List / Miscellaneous:

School Activity	Loc./School	Date/Time	Participants	Cost to District	Adm./ Teacher/ Coach/ Advisor
SGO Car Wash Fundraiser	Thomas Jefferson Front Parking Lot	5/10/25 / 11:30-1:30 Rain Date: 5/17 and 5/31	SGO Representatives	None	Nic Bova
Therapy Dog Visit	Thomas Jefferson	5/23/25 / 12:30-1:00	Mrs. Perniciaro's class	None	Danielle Isenberg, Owner & Handler for Therapy Dog, Louie
TREPS	Thomas Jefferson Gymnasium	5/28/25 / 2pm - 4pm	4th Grade	None	Kimberly Hynson

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds:

A. N/A

11. Policy

N/A

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>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Recuse</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Mrs. Hernandez	Seconded	X				
Mrs. Dorgilles		X				
Mr. Riveccio		X				
Ms. Dahl, VP	Moved	X				
Mr. Graf, President		X				

PASSED

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

A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of Mr. John DiPaola, as Treasurer of School Monies, from April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

14. Public Hearing: Limited to 3 minutes each.

Please state your name & address.

- *Mr. Penn- 135 Philip Dr., Rockaway NJ 07866- Asked who John DiPaola was.*
- *Mr. Haynes- 81 Andrea Dr., Rockaway NJ 07866- Asked about filling the BA position.*
- *Ms. Clark- 66 West Flagge St., Rockaway NJ- Asked about BA position and asked about Class Tag.*
- *Mr. Penn- (see above)- Asked if the district considers hiring a grant writer.*

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.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

A. **Tuesday, June 24, 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)

~~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 _____ pm.

Moved by: Ms. Dahl

Seconded by: Mr. Rivieccio

Voice Vote: ALL AYES