

Rockaway Borough Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 7:30 PM

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

Visit us on the Web: www.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: 6:32-7:35 pm (Closed to the Public)

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

Motion to Enter : **Moved by: Mrs. Walter Seconded by: Dr. Piombino Voice Vote: All Ayes**
Motion to Adjourn : **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 Citizen Newspaper on January 19, 2022; posted on our website and at town hall. Official action will be taken.”

2. Board Member Roll Call:

Mr. Edward Graf - Present

Appointed October 2022 to fulfill an unexpired term (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 Nov 2017 Business Administrator, Secretary of the Board & Non-Voting Board Member (BA)

Mr. Stepka Declared All Board Members were Present

Along with 2 Admins, 3 staff, and 12 members of the public

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

3. Workshop/Regular Session:

A. Administration Monthly Reports -

1. Lincoln Principal's Report:
2. Thomas Jefferson Principal's Report:
3. Curr., Inst., and Assessment Director's Report:
4. Building & Grounds Supervisor's Report:
5. Technology Supervisor's Report:

Submitted by:

Ms. Dachisen
 Mr. Waxman presented his report.
 Mrs. Argenziano presented her report.
 Mr. Klein
 Mr. Reyes

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

1. District Update: Winter Wonderland dates and attendance.
2. Board Member Christa Smith's Retirement from the Board.

At this time, Mr. Greco read the following resolution honoring Christa Smith for her years of service to the school district:

Resolution Honoring Board Member Christa Smith

Whereas, Mrs. Christa Smith, a respected and dedicated Trustee of the Rockaway Borough Board of Education, first from 2003 to 2006, and then again since 2010, gave unsparingly of her time and energies toward the betterment of our school system over three different decades; *and*

Whereas, Mrs. Smith oversaw the recruitment, appointment, and service of several superintendents and school administrators during her tenure; *and*

Whereas, Mrs. Smith also oversaw the successful passage of a 12-million-dollar school building referenda in September of 2019 which resulted in the most extensive renovations, rehabilitation and expansion *ever* in the district's history; *and*

Whereas, Mrs. Smith has served with dedication, dignity and decorum on a Board of Education comprised of five elected officials; *and*

Whereas, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education hereby acknowledges with gratitude those services rendered by Mrs. Smith; *now, therefore*

Be it resolved, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education thank and commend Mrs. Christa Smith for her service as a Trustee of the Rockaway Borough Board of Education and recognize her dedication to the children and families of Rockaway Borough, and wishes her good health and much personal happiness in her future, and; *be it*

Further resolved, that the Secretary of the Board of Education be directed to spread this Resolution in full upon the Minutes of this meeting and that the Superintendent of Schools present a copy of this Resolution to Mrs. Christa Smith. We wish you well.

Mr. Stepka presented Mrs. Smith with a plaque from NJ School Boards Association and from the Board as its "Perennial President." Mr. Stepka then gave her the original gavel she used as President for close to ten years. She then posed for pictures with the other Board members and her family. She thanked all those in attendance and reflected on her service.

3. LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i)
-Public Comments/Questions/Feedback: the floor was opened for public comment; there was none.
4. Math Coach Presentation by Mr. Ted Sheeran.

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

1. Board Correspondence: Received(R)/Sent(S) since our last meeting:
 - A. R: 11/28/22: Morris County Clerk: "Statement of Determination" of Election Results.
2. Financial Status Updates:
 - A. 2021-22 Budget Year: Audit is continuing; due February 3, 2023.
 - B. 2022-23 Current Budget Year: Proceeding within budgeted parameters.
 - C. 2023-24 New Budget: Administration proceeding preparation as per Budget Calendar.
 1. Direction on Local Tax Levy increase target.
 - D. Draft 2023 Board of Education Meeting Dates.
3. Board of Education Election Update:
 - A. Official Certified Results from the November 8th Election:
 1. Petitioner: Mr. Brian Rivieccio: 1,285. ELECTED. Write-ins: 32

D. Review of Agenda Items Recommended for Approval

The Board then reviewed the agenda.

Motion to begin regular meeting agenda:

Moved by: Dr. Piombino

Seconded by: Mrs. Walter

Voice Vote: All Ayes

4. Public Comment No. 1: Agenda Items ONLY

- A. There was none at this time.

5. Enrollment Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2022	Students December 1, 2022	Diff from June 22	Sections (Classes)	Avg. Class Size
Preschool - Lincoln	29	27	-2	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>271</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>
Grade 4 - TJ	46	56	+10	3	19
Grade 5 - TJ	59	41	-18	3	14
Grade 6 - TJ	54	59	+5	3	20
Grade 7 - TJ	58	55	-3	3	18
Grade 8 - TJ	53	59	+6	3	20
<u>Total Thomas Jefferson:</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>
Special Ed Out-of-District:	3	3	0	-	-
<u>Resident Students:</u>	<u>546</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>19</u>
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	1	2	+1	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	5	5	0	-	-
Total Students:	552	551	-1	-	-

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. November 15, 2022: Regular & Executive Session.

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: November 16 to December 13: \$653,717.72

- B.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Business Administrator, to approve and accept the Budgetary Transfers Report for the month of October.
- C.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Business Administrator, to approve and accept the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month of October.
I hereby certify, pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A2.3(e), that as of October 31, 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 a 4-year copier lease for 5 new "multi-function printers" (MFP) with Atlantic Tomorrow's Office, of Bloomfield, NJ, by utilizing NJ State Contract #G40467, for a monthly amount of \$1,542.10 (was \$2,159 per month), effective on or about April 16, 2023 (due to "supply chain" issues) to April 16 of 2027. (Current 4-year lease ends 1/15/23 and we will use the existing copiers until the new ones arrive. This new lease represents a cumulative savings of \$29,624 from the previous lease.)
- E.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Business Administrator, to approve a 5-year renewal agreement with the "Alliance for Competitive Energy Services" (ACES) Bidding Cooperative Pricing System ID#E8801-ACESCPS, with the NJ School Boards Association acting as the "lead agency", to procure aggregated electricity and natural gas supplies on behalf approximately 550 local school districts, beginning in May of 2023 to May of 2028.

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 rescind the November 15 resolution offering an employment contract to **Maryeline Corro**, as a world language teacher; she declined the offer.
- C.** Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Elise Kelly**, substitute bus driver, effective November 30, 2022.
- D.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Joseph Basile, George Ciottone, and Andrew Dzikowski** as district Substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 school year at a per diem rate of \$115.00.
- E.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Patricia Rolph**, Lunch aide at Lincoln School, effective November 29, 2022.
- F.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve additional instructional class periods for **Antonia Zangara** (TJ) and **Morgan Abrams** (TJ) at an amount of \$50.05 per instructional period, for the 2022/2023 school year (9/1/22 through 6/30/23), to be paid via timesheet.

- G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Marlene Beckmann** as the Spanish Teacher at Thomas Jefferson School, effective December 19, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Ms. Beckmann will be placed on Guide/Step BA-12 at an annual salary rate of \$71,365. Salary to be prorated from actual start date. 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.
- H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Kathleen New**, as a Lunchroom Aide at Lincoln School, beginning on or about January 3, 2023 through June 30, 2023 at an hourly rate of \$14.00. 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.

9. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

- A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a purchased services contract with **Colleen Lonergan**, of Hopatcong, NJ, to provide Student Behavioral Services, as a Board-Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCABA 0-18-8943) and a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT-17-32955) for \$95.00 per hour, not to exceed \$70,000, effective December 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds

- A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendations of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, to **rescind** the contract approved at the November 15th meeting with **Window Film Depot**, of Hamilton Township, NJ, to furnish and install 3M Tinted Window Security Film at Lincoln (ground floor) and Thomas Jefferson schools, for \$69,207.02, by utilizing NJ State Coop Contract Number: 65MCESCCPS, based on their quote dated October 28, 2022, due to a math error.
- B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendations of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, to **approve** a contract with **Window Film Depot**, of Hamilton Township, NJ, to furnish and install 3M Tinted Window Security Film at Lincoln (ground floor) and Thomas Jefferson schools, for \$85,049.85, by utilizing NJ State Coop Contract Number: 65MCESCCPS, based on their updated quote dated November 20, 2022.
- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendations of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, to **rescind** the contract approved at the November 15th meeting with **New Jersey Door Works**, of Hillside, NJ, to furnish and install two sets of replacement double exterior doors for the 4th grade wing at Thomas Jefferson School, for \$22,965.00, based on their quote dated September 27, 2022.
- D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendations of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, to **approve** a contract with **New Jersey Door Works**, of Hillside, NJ, to furnish and install two sets of replacement double exterior doors for the 4th grade wing at Thomas Jefferson School, for \$25,495.00, based on their updated quote. (Other quote received: Gordian, of Hackensack, NJ: \$39,141.36 and one "no quote" response.)

- E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendations of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, to approve a purchase with **Hoover Truck & Bus Centers**, of Flanders, NJ, for a 2024 Ford Blue Bird Handicapped Wheelchair Equipped Mini-School Bus, in the amount of \$181,645.85 by utilizing NJESC Cooperative Bid #ESCNJ 22/23-24, and based on their quote dated December 12, 2022.
- F. 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 four (4) Promethean ActivPanel 75” Smart Boards, in the amount of \$15,920.00 by utilizing NJ State Contract # School & Library Equipment, Supplies and Services 17-Food-0026617DPP0111 8/31/17 to 8/30/23, and based on their quoted dated November 10, 2022.
- G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendations of the Superintendent and Business Administrator, to approve a contract with **JCT Solutions**, of Jersey City, NJ, to furnish and install two “Alyssa’s Law Panic Button Systems” at Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson Schools, for \$13,367.25 by utilizing Union County Coop Contract “#8-UCCP 24-2021 Telephone/Associated Services Systems Equipment, Installation, and Maintenance Services,” and based on their quote dated November 11, 2022.

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	Number	Title	Reason for Update
Policy	5512	Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying	Mandated Update

- B. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Bus Evacuation Drill Logs for Lincoln Elementary School for the 2022-2023 school year.
- C. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (2019 Revisions* - Approved by the New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety and the New Jersey Department of Education), for the 2022-2023 school year.
- D. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the School Safety and Security Plan Annual Review Statement of Assurance, in accordance with N.J.A.C.6A:16-5.1, for the 2022-2023 school year.
- E. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Rockaway Borough School District HIB Manual (2022-2023).
- F. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the update to the LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, Section 2001(i) (revised on September 1, 2023).

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. Graf:	-	Aye	-	-	-
Dr. Piombino, VP:	Moved	Aye	-	-	-
Mr. Tobias:	-	Aye	-	-	-
Mrs. Walter:	Seconded	Aye	-	-	-
Mrs. Smith, Prez:	-	Aye	-	-	-

Roll Call Vote: 5 0 0 0

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

13. Old Business

A. Mrs. Smith again expressed her appreciation and pleasure for serving on the Board.

14. New Business

A. A Finance Meeting was scheduled for December 22 at 4:15 pm in the Board Office.

15. Public Comment No. 2 (Agenda & other school business items)

A. Mr. Onischuk, staff member and President of the teachers’ association, thanked Mrs. Smith for her years of service. He then asked about the Dean of Students position.

B. A parent commented about the “Boro Kids” aftercare program.

16. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: Annual Organizational Meeting

A. Wednesday, January 4, 2023

The Meeting will begin at 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria of Thomas Jefferson Middle School to organize the Board for the 2023 year and to act on any other business before it.

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

Be it Resolved, that the Board enter into Executive Session (Private) for the purpose of discussing: a legal matter pertaining to a use of facilities group; 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: Mrs. Walter Voice Vote: All Ayes

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by: Dr. Piombino Seconded by: Mrs. Walter Voice Vote: All Ayes

18. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

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

Moved by: Mrs. 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
None	at this time.							

Professional Development/Travel Expenditure Requests:

STAFF MEMBER	WORKSHOP TITLE/DEST	DATES	REG & FEES	JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TRIP
Jamie Argenziano Cindy O'Brien Mike Leahey Monica Fleming	Kwame Alexander Workshops/ Eisenhower Middle School, Succasunna, NJ	12/1/22	\$350/pp Total: \$1,400	Kwame Alexander is a Newbery Medal winning author. His trainings will focus on providing personal and practical advice on how to teach writing workshops in the modern-day classrooms.
Alyssa Bellafonte	All Learners Network: 5-8 Math Intervention Workshop/ Virtual	12/13/22	\$300	Best approaches to target intervention instruction, improve efficient assessment that supports I&RS.
Lauren Mitofsky	Just Words/ Virtual	2/13/23	\$299	Multi-sensory approach to teaching kids that have minor gaps in the decoding/spelling proficiency. Good for the 7th/8th grades I do Wilson with.
Linda Savercool	Keys to Enhancing your Effectiveness as a school nurse/ Virtual	1/27/23	\$279	Will learn up to date best practice models, tools, templates & resources. Recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental health disorders.