

Rockaway Borough Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 26, 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: 6:40-7:35 pm (Closed to the Public)

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

Motion to Enter: **Moved by: Mr. Graf** **Seconded by: Mrs. Walter** **Voice Vote: All Ayes**
Motion to Adjourn: **Moved by: Mrs. Walter** **Seconded by: Mr. Graf** **Voice Vote: All Ayes**

1. Call to Order: 7:35 PM

The public portion of this meeting was called to order at 7:35 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 – Not Present

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

Mrs. Karen Walter, VP - 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)
2 staff members and the HSA secretary were also present.*

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

3. Reports & Updates:

A. Board Committees for 2023:

1. Curriculum/Special Education: *Mr. Graf & Dr. Piombino*
2. Safety/Security: *Mrs. Walter & Mr. Riviuccio*
3. Athletic/Activities: *Mr. Riviuccio & Mr. Tobias*
4. Finance/Facilities: *Mr. Graf & Mr. Tobias*
5. Technology: *Mrs. Walter & Mr. Graf*
6. Negotiations: *Mrs. Walter & Mr. Tobias*

B. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco

- District Goals- 2023/2024
 1. Improve communication to the board of education and to parents.
 2. Align vision for the district with a focus on faster execution of goals.
 3. Improve academic results.
- Board Goals- 2023/2024
 1. Evaluate and improve board of education committee performance and impact, based on best practices.

Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the 2023-2024 District and Board Goals.

Moved by: Mr. Graf Seconded by: Mrs. Walter Voice Vote: All Ayes

C. Board Secretary's/Business Administrator's Report: Mr. Stepka

1. Board Correspondence: *Received (R) or Sent (S) since our last meeting:*
 - A. None.
2. Financial Status Updates:
 - A. Preparing for the annual financial audit for the 22-23 fiscal year.
3. Board of Education Election: Tuesday, November 7, 2023:
 - A. Petitions filed for 2 three-year seats: Mr. Edward Graf & Mrs. Jennifer Dahl

D. Administration Monthly Reports:

- | <u>Administration Monthly Reports:</u> | <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> |

E. Review of Agenda Items Recommended for Approval

Mr. Riviuccio stated that he attended TJ's Back to School night and it went very smoothly and there was a nice "vibe" to the night.

4. Public Comment No. 1:

1. On agenda items only; at this time.
There were none at the time.

5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2023	Students September 15, 2023	Difference from June 23	Sections (Classes)	Avg. Class Size	Certificated Staff - Teachers	Non-Certificated Staff - Aides & Other
Preschool - Lincoln AM/PM & Full Day	30	24	-6	2	12	1	8
Kindergarten - Lincoln	58	63	+5	3	21	3	3
Grade 1 - Lincoln	67	59	-8	3	19	3	3
Grade 2 - Lincoln	59	67	+8	3	22	3	2
Grade 3 - Lincoln	67	61	-6	3	20	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
Total Lincoln School:	281	274	-7	14	20	25	33.5
Grade 4 - TJ	55	63	+8	3	21	3	-
Grade 5 - TJ	42	56	+14	3	18	3	-
Grade 6 - TJ	61	42	-19	3	14	3	-
Grade 7 - TJ	55	61	+6	3	20	3	-
Grade 8 - TJ	61	56	-5	3	19	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
Total Thomas Jefferson:	274	278	+4	15	19	36	22.5
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 Ed Out-of-District:	2	3	+1	-	-	-	-
Resident Students:	557	555	-2	29	18.5	-	-
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	2	1	-1	-	-	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	5	4	-1	-	-	-	-
Total Students (548)/ Staff (137.5) Ratio: 4/1	564	560	-4	-	-	68.5	69

6. Meeting Minutes

- A. Be it resolved to approve and accept the following meeting minutes:
 - 1. August 29th, 2023 Regular Meeting, 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, and Payrolls List: August 31 to September 26, 2023: \$991,583.30
- B. Be it resolved to approve a Joint Transportation Agreement renewal, with the Educational Services Commission of Morris County, NJ, to quote, bid, coordinate, and provide transportation services for all eligible public, nonpublic, and special education students, for the 2023-24 school year, as needed.
- C. Be it resolved to approve a renewal contract with Delta-T Group North Jersey, Inc., of Woodbridge, NJ, to provide substitute nursing services, when needed, at an hourly rate of \$57.00, for the 2023-24 school year.
- D. Be it resolved to approve a renewal contract with Best Choice Home Care, LLC, of Hackettstown, NJ, to provide substitute nursing services, when needed, at an hourly rate of \$71.00, for the 2023-24 school year.

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 confirm/approve a leave of absence for the following personnel:

Staff #	Location	Position	From	To
#527	Lincoln School	Teacher	10/2/23 (Utilizing sick days)	10/30/23

- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following Extra Curricular advisors for the 2023-2024 school year:

Club / Sport	Advisor	Stipend
Director of Musical/Dramatic Productions Assistant	Jennifer Barbosa	\$2,501
Solar Car / Robotics Advisor	Samantha Selikoff	\$841
*Dean of Students - TJ	Michael Onischuk	\$1,050
*Teacher in Charge - TJ	Monica Fleming	\$841
*Teacher in Charge - Lincoln	Michael Jones	\$841

* Three C items above in **BOLD** were moved to table by Mr. Riviuccio and seconded by Mrs. Walter, and unanimously approved to table via voice vote.

- D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Samantha Pizzi** as an Instructional/Personal aide at Lincoln School to be paid based on Schedule F/Step 1 at an hourly rate of \$17.02, not to exceed 5.75 hours per day, effective September 19, 2023 through June 30, 2024, 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.
- E. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Iuliia Luchka** as an Instructional/Personal aide at Lincoln School to be paid based on Schedule F/Step 1 at an hourly rate of \$17.02, not to exceed 5.75 hours per day, effective on or about September 29, 2023 through June 30, 2024, 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.
- F. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to transfer and approve **Yanfen Zhong**, as an Instructional/Personal aide (transferred from "lunchroom aide") at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, to be paid based on Schedule F/Step 1 at an hourly rate of \$17.02, not to exceed 5.75 hours per day effective September 27, 2023, through June 30, 2023.
- G. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendations of the Superintendent, to approve **Elvin Giordano** as a Lunchroom aide at Lincoln School, at an hourly rate of \$14.45, not to exceed 2.50 hours per day, effective on or about September 29, 2023 through June 30, 2024, 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.
- H. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Michael Stockstill** as a Lunchroom aide at Lincoln School, at an hourly rate of \$14.45, not to exceed 2.50 hours per day, effective on or about September 29, 2023 through June 30, 2024, 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.
- I. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **James Didieo** as a Lunchroom aide at Thomas Jefferson School, at an hourly rate of \$14.45, not to exceed 3.50 hours per day, effective on or about September 29, 2023 through June 30, 2024, 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.

- J. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Rita Didieo** as a Lunchroom aide at Thomas Jefferson School, at an hourly rate of \$14.45, not to exceed 3.50 hours per day, effective on or about September 29, 2023 through June 30, 2024, 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.
- K. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve additional instructional class periods for **Antonia Zangara** (TJ- one per day), **Morgan Abrams** (TJ- one per day), and **Michael Jones** (Lincoln- one per week) at an amount of \$51.68 per additional instructional period, for the 2023/2024 school year (9/5/23 through 6/30/23), to be paid via timesheet.
- L. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Alyssa Bellafonte** as District Math Coach (grades K-8) at an amount of \$51.68 per additional period (one per day), for the 2023/2024 school year (8/29/23 through 6/30/23), to be paid via timesheet (To be funded with ESEA- Title I funds).
- M. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Donna Hawkes** as a Leave Replacement Teacher (not eligible towards tenure) at Lincoln School beginning October 2, 2023 through October 30, 2023. Mrs. Hawkes will be paid at a daily rate of \$301.76. Mrs. Hawkes has successfully completed all required criminal background checks.
- N. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Mychau Le**, lunch aide at Lincoln School effective September 15, 2023.

9. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

- A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Student Field Trip requests as listed at the end of this agenda, if any.
- B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following update/revised curriculums.

Gifted & Talented- Update K-8	Media- Update K-8	Math- Align to New Program K-5	Social Studies- Civics Curriculum Update Grades 7 & 8	Climate Change Units- Update K-8
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10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds

- A. There were none at the time.

11. Policy

- A. Mr. Anthony Grieco, Superintendent of Schools, recommends that the board of education temporarily suspend Bylaw 0131 and adopt new Policy 1642.01 and new Regulation 1642.01 and revised Policy 2419 and new Regulation 2419 with one reading based on recently approved sick leave legislation that is effective immediately and recent New Jersey Department of Education guidance provided to school districts.

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

Update	Policy/Reg	Number	Title	Reason	for
	P	16402.01	Sick Leave	New (Mandated)	
	R	1642.01	Sick Leave	New (Mandated)	
	P	2419	School Threat Assessment Teams	Revised (Mandated)	
	R	2419	School Threat Assessment Teams	New (Mandated)	

- C. Mr. Anthony Grieco, Superintendent of Schools, recommends that the board of education confirm/approve the following Job Description (as submitted): ESL Teacher/ML Coordinator.

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>Not Present</u>
Mr. Rivieccio:	-	Aye	-	-	-
Mr. Graf:	Moved	Aye	-	-	-
Dr. Piombino:	-	-	-	-	Not Present
Mrs. Walter, VP:	Seconded	Aye	-	-	-
Mr. Tobias, President:	-	Aye	-	-	-
		4	0	0	1

13. New Business

- A. There was none at the time.

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

There was none at the time.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

- A. **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

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

16. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Moved by: Mrs. Walter Seconded by: Mr. Rivieccio 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	Reg & Fees	Justification for the Trip
Samantha Selikoff	NJTEEA Conference/ Rutgers	10/27/23	FREE	Network with other STEM educators throughout the state to bring ideas back for or CID classes.
Jennifer Marsh Susanne Loneragan	Reading Recovery Continuing Contact Classes/ Cooper Hill, Ringoes, NJ	9/27/23 10/11/23, 11/15/23, 1/17/24 2/21/24, 5/22/24	Reg: Free Mileage: \$46.53 PP each session	On-going Professional Development in adherence with Reading Recovery guidelines.
Samantha Selikoff	NJECC Coach September Meeting/ Montclair State	9/22/23	Included in membership fee already paid	As the ed tech coach these meetings are very beneficial to problem solve and get ideas. This meetings also has an AI focus.
Mike Klein Tim Yobs	IPM Training/ Mahwah, NJ	2/9/24	Free	Integrated pest management Coordinators for schools, CEFM & CEU.
Mike Klein Tim Yobs	IAQ Designated Person/ Mahwah, NJ	2/23/24	Free	Indoor air quality training for schools. CEFM & CEU.
Jennifer Skomial	2013 Talk About Teaching: Danielson Training/ Online	Self-paced modules	\$375	Danielson Framework Observation training.
Jennifer Skomial	Legal One: The Principal's Survival Guide/ Saddle Brook HS	9/28/23	\$150 Mileage: \$24.44	Principal procedures, legal matters, responsibilities, etc.
Michael Onischuk	GMCJSCA Yearly Meeting & Roundtables/ Various locations	10/4/23 TBD: 12/2023 1/10/24 TBD: 3/2024 4/10/24	Free	Aid in the yearly scheduling of our Athletic Program; hear the business of the Association; Vote in yearly rule matters; discuss current topics.
Timothy Yobs	Boiler Controls & Safety Devices & Water Treatment Fundamentals for Boilers and HVAC Systems	10/10/23 2 Online Courses	\$300 each course	For better operations of boilers.
Samantha Selikoff	TCEA Conference/ Austin, Texas	2/5/24 2/6/24	Free to district. Covered by CS4NJ Scholarship	The conference specializes in ed tech as well as in computer science, along with bringing back many new idea. I hope to network with others from other states on the subject.
Rebecca Vlacich	Science of Reading: The Symposium/ Virtual	10/10/23	Free	Navigating and sustaining change when implementing a Science of Reading curriculum.
Rebecca Vlacich	Supporting Linguistic Diversity in Reading/ Forest Hill Field Club, Bloomfield, NJ	10/5/23	Free	ESL/Reading

Student Field Trip Requests:

<i>GRADE</i>	<i>TEACHERS</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>TIME: DEPART/ RETURN</i>	<i>DESTINATION</i>	<i># OF STUDENTS</i>	<i># OF ADULTS</i>	<i>COST</i>	<i>JUSTIFICATION FOR TRIP</i>
7-8 Instrumental band	Helen Love	10/19/23	9:00/2:00	Morris Knolls HS	15	1	Free	TJ Middle School students will get the experience of meeting, working and playing with other band students from the sending district, as well as getting familiar with the program and opportunities offered to them in the High School years.
MD/PALS	Zangara, A. Smith, H. Grlica, J.	10/18/23	9:45 / 1:00	Ort Farms/ Long Valley	17	15	\$20/pp	To enhance our curriculum with real world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.
7-8 Vocal Students	Nicolas Bova	10/25/23	9:00/2:00	Morris Hills HS	27	2	Free	TJ Middle School students will get the experience of meeting, working and singing with other choir students from the sending district. They will also be familiarized with the opportunities offered by our district's high school choir program.
MD	Zangara, A. Seilkoff, S.	11/16/23	8:45/12:00	Build A Bear Rockaway Mall	10	5	Free	The purpose of the field trip is to enhance the CID experience for Mrs. Zangara's students and talk about assembly.