

Rockaway Borough Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 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: 6:35-7:32 PM

Be it Resolved, that the Board enters into Executive Session (Private) to discuss exempt matters: 1) Personnel; review and discussions of staff reappointments for 24-25, 2) Student HIB reports, and 3) Negotiations; about collective bargaining contract negotiations with the Rockaway Borough Education Association, the natures of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

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

1. Call to Order: 7:32 PM

The public 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 17, 2024; posted on our website and at town hall. Official action will be taken."

2. Board Member Roll Call:

Ms. Jennifer Dahl - Present

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

Mr. Brian Riviuccio - Present

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

Mr. Jeffrey Tobias - Present

Appointed January 2024 to completed a 3-year unexpired term (to Dec. 31, 2024)

Mrs. Karen Walter, VP - Present

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

Mr. Edward Graf, President - Present

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

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)

Along with approximately 27 public & staff members present.

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

3. Reports & Updates:

A. Board Committees for 2024: (Chairs in **BOLD**)

1. Policy/Curriculum/Special Education: **Mr. Graf & Ms. Dahl**
2. Safety/Security: **Mr. Riveccio & Mrs. Walter**
3. Athletic/Activities: **Mr. Riveccio & Ms. Dahl (Co-Chairs)**
4. Finance/Facilities: **Mr. Graf & Mr. Tobias**
5. Technology: **Mrs. Walter & Mr. Graf**
6. Negotiations (Ad Hoc): **Mrs. Walter & Mr. Tobias (Co-Chairs)**

B. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco

1. District Update: Lincoln's Spring Concert to be held tomorrow (5/8).

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

1. **Board Correspondence:** *Received (R) or Sent (S) since our last meeting:*
 - A. None since our last meeting.
2. **Financial Status Updates:**
 - A. 2023-24 Current Budget Year: Proceeding within budgeted parameters.
 - B. 2024-25 Budget: Public Hearing tonight.

D. 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> |

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

1. Jack Phillips newspaper article.
2. Starbucks Challenge newspaper article (Ms. Isenberg).
3. Board of Education Candidates petitions due 7/29/24 to County Clerk, 2 seats up.
4. Mr. Graf updated the Board about Strategic Planning & Board Goals for 24-25.

F. Review of Agenda Items Recommended for Approval

4. Public Comment No. 1: Agenda Items ONLY

- A. Michael Onischuk, district employee, asked who the "point person" would be for the Strategic Plan.

2024-25 District Budget Presentation & Public Hearing

A. Mr. Grieco and Mr. Stepka presented the 2024-25 School Budget and highlighted the educational programs and the impact on the overall residents' tax rate.

During the presentation the public asked questions and were answered by the administration.

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 2024-25 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, May 1, 2024, 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 2024-25 School Budget in the following amounts:

| | General Fund | Special Revenues | Debt Service | Totals |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 2024-25 Total Appropriations: | \$12,519,525 | \$556,714 | \$756,675 | \$13,832,914 |
| Less: Anticipated Revenues: | \$3,159,523 | \$556,714 | \$240,148 | \$3,956,385. |
| Local Taxes To Be Levied: | \$9,360,002 | -0- | \$516,527 | \$9,876,529 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 \$68,640 as the additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefits premiums, and

Be it Resolved that the Board of Education includes in the budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$237,991 the district intends to use these funds to provide goods and services necessary to teach students, and

Be it Resolved to allocate \$125,000 from the district's Surplus account to help fund an out-of-district special education student placement, and

Be it Resolved to withdraw \$30,000 from the district's Maintenance Reserve account to fund budgeted building maintenance needs, and

Be it Resolved that the Board of Education include in the budget a Capital Reserve withdraw in the amount of \$30,660 for the following projects and reimbursement of \$44,017:

1. Thomas Jefferson Blacktop Playground Paving & Sidewalk work: \$18,900
2. Abandoned In-Ground Oil Tank Removal: \$11,760
3. SDA grant assessments reimbursement from FY13 to FY25: \$44,017 (NJAC Title 6A:23A-14.1(8)).

The total cost of these projects is \$30,660 which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards as determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and

Be it further Resolved to authorize the Superintendent of School and District Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute and administer this budget for the 2024-25 school year.

Moved by: Ms. Dahl Seconded by: Mrs. Walter Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Dahl: Aye, Mr. Rivieccio: Aye, Mr. Tobias: Aye, Mrs. Walter: Aye, and Mr. Graf: Aye.

24-25 Budget approval & adoption unanimously carried: 5-0-0.

5. Enrollment Report:

- A. The same as three weeks ago and will be updated at the June meeting.

6. Meeting Minutes

- A. Be it resolved to approve and accept the following meeting minutes:
1. April 16 Regular Meeting, Executive Session I & II.

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: April 17 to May 7, 2023: \$389,932.16

- B. Be it resolved to approve and accept the Budgetary Transfers Report for the months of January, February, March, and April.

- C. Be it resolved to approve and accept the Business Administrator's Financial Reports for the months of January, February, March, and April.

I hereby certify, pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A2.3(e), that as of April 30, 2024, 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 to renew the district's participation in the Brown & Brown Public Employer Trust for employee dental coverage for the 2024-25 school year.

- E. Be it resolved to approve the monthly renewal rates for the employee Dental plan (Horizon Dental Option Plan) which reflect a 0% increase, as listed for the 2024-25 school year: Single: \$39.56, 2 Adults: \$87.56, Parent/Child: \$85.64 and Family: \$137.57, this plan serves the majority of district employees.

- F. Be it resolved to approve the monthly renewal rates, which reflect a 0% increase, for the employee Dental plan (Horizon Dental Choice Plan K - Managed Care) as listed for the 2024-25 school year: Single: \$17.34, 2 Adults: \$33.50, Parent/Child: \$43.20 and Family: \$60.62; this plan serves the rest of district employees.

- G. Be it resolved to enter into a Joint Transportation Agreement with the Educational Services Commission of Morris County for public, non-public, and special education pupils for the 2024-25 school year, as needed.

- H. Be it resolved that the Rockaway Board of Education "SFA" (School Food Agency) accepts the bid proposal for the Food Service Management Contract with The Pomptonian, Inc. "FSMC" (Food Service Management Company), of Fairfield, NJ, for the food service operation for 2024-2025 school year (year 1) as follows:

1. FSMC fee:

The FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, an administrative/management fee of \$0.2874 per reimbursable meal and meal equivalent to compensate the FSMC for administrative and management costs. This fee shall be billed monthly as a cost of operation. The SFA guarantees the payment of such costs and fees to the FSMC.

Total meals are calculated by adding reimbursable meal pattern meals served and meal equivalents. The number of reimbursable meals served to the children shall be determined by the actual count. Cash receipts, other than from sales of reimbursable program meals served to the children, shall be divided by \$4.70 to arrive at an equivalent meal count.

The per-meal administrative/management fee of \$0.2383 will be multiplied by the total meals.

- 2. There is no guaranteed financial performance.
- 3. Total Estimated Cost of Contract:

Total expenses (costs) include food, labor, supplies, other expenses, and FSMC Management fees. The Total Cost of the Contract is \$248,869.58

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 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the re-employment of the following **Executive & Administrative Staff** members for the 2024-2025 school year:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Tenured/Non-Tenured</u> |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| William Stepka | Business Administrator/Board Secretary | Tenured |
| Leon Samuels | Principal of Thomas Jefferson Middle School | Non-Tenured (T=8/1/27) |
| Jennifer Skomial | Principal of Lincoln Elementary School | Non-Tenured (T=7/4/27) |
| Jamie Argenziano | Director of Curr. Inst. & Assessment | Tenured |
| Dr. Jean-Paul Bonnet | School Physician | Non-Tenured (T=N/E) |
| Sally Ascoli | Executive Admin. Asst. to Supt. | Tenured |
| Wendy Chandler | A/P Coord./Admin. Asst. to BA | Tenured |
| Nadine Morgenland | Payroll/HB/Trans Coord./Admin Asst. to BA | Non-Tenured (T=6/2/25) |
| Michael Klein | Supervisor of Building & Grounds | Non-Tenured (T=N/E) |
| Timothy Yobs | Assistant Supervisor of B&G | Non-Tenured (T=N/E) |
| Shaun Reyes | Technology Coordinator | Non-Tenured (T=N/E) |

C. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the re-employment of, which will result in **tenure being granted**, the following **non-tenured certificated teaching staff** members for the 2024-25 school year: (Salary and guide placement will be determined once a new CBA is in effect.)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Tenure Date</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Glica, Jennifer | 9/3/2024 |
| Perniciaro, Laura | 9/3/2024 |
| Schwarz, Jaclyn | 9/3/2024 |
| Tajiddin, Katrina | 9/3/2024 |
| Thompson, Allynn | 9/3/2024 |

- D. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the re-employment of the following **non-tenured certificated teaching staff** members for the 2024-25 school year: (Salary and guide placement will be determined once a new CBA is in effect. Tenure dates assume no unpaid leave of absence will be taken, if so, tenure dates are extended equally to the length of any unpaid leave.)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Tenure Date</u> | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Kadus, James | 9/3/2025 | |
| Lawton, Alyssa | 9/3/2025 | |
| Rigas, Brianna | 9/3/2025 | 25-26 School Year |
| Mannello, Samantha | 9/3/2025 | |
| Staropoli, Marcella | 9/3/2025 | |
| Summer, Alyssa | 3/30/2026 | |
| Bellafonte, Alyssa | 9/2/2026 | |
| Bova, Nicolas | 9/2/2026 | |
| Dennison, Bryanna | 9/2/2026 | 26-27 School Year |
| Esposito, Laura | 9/2/2026 | |
| Mikotsky, Lauren | 9/2/2026 | |
| Thomas, Kyrsten | 9/2/2026 | |
| Beckmann, Marlene | 12/21/26 | |
| Rzucidlo, William | 3/22/2027 | |
| Duker, Rachael | 8/31/2027 | 27-28 School Year |
| Carroll, Declan | 8/31/2027 | |

- E. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the re-employment of the following **tenured certificated teaching staff** members for the 2024-25 school year: (Salary and guide placement will be determined once a new CBA is in effect.)

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Abrams, Morgan | Blake, Elizabeth | Bogart, Lauren | Capen, Christine | Conway, Courtney |
| Corbo, Joseph | DeFelice, Amy | DeGrose, Heather | Dobbs, Janet | Doering, Heather |
| Ferrone, Daniele | Fleming, Monica | Forte, Catherine | Fowler, Kellianne | Gancarcik, Sandy |
| Hickman, Elizabeth | Holmes, Helena | Hynson, Kimberly | Isenberg, Cecilia | Jacobus, Denise |
| Jones, Brianna | Jones, Michael | Leahey, Michael | Leslie, Mary | Lonergan, Susanne |
| Love, Helen | Marsh, Jennifer | Matrisciano, Christine | McCarter, Nicole | McGill, Laurie |
| Medore, Maryann | O'Brien, Cynthia | Onischuk, Michael | Rich, Sherry | Savercool, Linda |
| Savini, Christine | Schnurman, Lisbeth | Schumacher, Aileen | Selikoff, Samantha | Ralli, Hailey (Smith) |
| Stein, Lauren | Tuluca, Mihaela | Vlachim, Rebecca | Yobs, Dorothea | Zangara, Antonia |

- F. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the re-employment of the following full-time **custodial staff** members for the 2024-25 school year: (Salary and guide placement will be determined once a new CBA is in effect.)

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Duque-Roldan, Maria | Escobar, Albeiro | Sepulveda, Cesar | Sungail, Justin |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|

- G. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the re-employment of the following full-time **secretarial staff** members for the 2024-25 school year: (Salary and guide placement will be determined once a new CBA is in effect.)

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Amato, Nora (T) | Murphy, Kimberly (T) | Swanick, Jean (T) |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|

- H. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the re-employment of the following part-time district nurses, **Robyn Bezold** and **Ana Mendez-Avarona** for the 2024-2025 school year. Hourly rates will be determined once a new CBA is in effect.
- I. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Patricia Fitzgerald**, as a substitute bus driver for the 2024-2025 school year at an hourly rate of \$28.00.
- J. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Jennifer Berk** as a substitute nurse for the 2024-2025 school year, at an hourly rate of \$34.48.
- K. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Chathuri Galagedara**, an existing paraprofessional, as a substitute bus aide, as needed, at her current hourly rate of \$17.02 per hour, effective May 8 to June 30, 2024.
- L. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Margaret Lenahan**, an existing paraprofessional, as a substitute bus aide, as needed for the 2024-2025 school year.
- M. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Lynne Fomchecnko**, as a full-time 10-month Secretary at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, effective May 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, at an annual salary rate of \$43,478 (to be prorated from start date). Mrs. Fomchenko has previously completed all required background checks and Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse Disclosure when first hired.
- N. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Lynne Fomchenko**, as a full-time 10-month Secretary at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, effective August 28, 2024, through June 30, 2025, at an annual salary rate to be determined once a new CBA is in effect. Mrs. Fomchenko has previously completed all required background checks and Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse Disclosure when first hired.
- O. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following as Seasonal **Summer Help** Custodial staff. They will be employed for no more than 40 hours per week for the summer of 2024 beginning on or about June 17, 2024:

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Aiden Kennedy | Tyler Klein | Thomas Lane | Brendan Lenahan |
| Ellen Secallus | Kassandra Sepulveda | Kevin Simone | |

- P. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Shenel Clark** as a substitute crossing guard, as needed, at an hourly rate of \$15.13, effective May 8, 2024, to 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.
- Q. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Ken Marsh** as a substitute teacher for the 23/24 school year at a daily rate of \$115.00.

R. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve/confirm **Maternity/FMLA/Disability/ and Medical Leave of Absence** for the following personnel:

| Staff # | Location | Position | From | To/Return date |
|---------|------------------|----------|---|----------------|
| 562 | Thomas Jefferson | Teacher | 8/28/24 (Utilize Sick days- 8/28/24 -9/6/24) (FMLA -9/9/24-11/29/24) Will claim benefits under NJ Family Leave Insurance Act | 12/2/24 |
| 38 | Thomas Jefferson | Teacher | 5/24/24 (Utilize Sick days- 5/24/24 - 6/14/24) | 8/28/24 |
| 396 | Lincoln | Teacher | 8/28/24 (Utilize Sick days- 8/28/24-9/6/24) (FMLA- 9/9/24-11/30/24) (NJFLA- 12/1/24-2/28/25) Will claim benefits under NJ Family Leave Insurance Act | 3/1/25 |

9. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

A. Be it resolved to approve the Student Field Trip requests as listed at the end of this agenda.

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds

A. There was none at this time.

11. Policy

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

1. 260774 TJM 02222024-14509407: Founded
2. 260774 TJM 02222024-14605770: Unfounded

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>Abstentions</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Ms. Dahl: | Seconded | Aye | | | |
| Mr. Riviuccio: | | Aye | | | |
| Mr. Tobias: | | Aye | | | |
| Mrs. Walter, VP: | Moved | Aye | | | |
| Mr. Graf, President: | | Aye | | | |

All resolutions unanimously carried: 5 0 0 0

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

A. There was none at this time.

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

A. Mr. Amir Kahn, district resident and parent, 50 White Meadow Road, stated he is looking forward to Thursday night’s (5/9) meeting with Mr. Grieco regarding having a school district holiday in honor of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

A. Tuesday, June 25, 2024

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

16. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: 9:05 PM

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Moved by: Ms. Dahn Seconded by: Mrs. Walter Voice Vote: All Ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. William Stepka, RSBA
Secretary of the Board of Education/Business Administrator

Student Field Trips/Activity/Events/Fundraisers/etc. Requests:

| GRADE | TEACHERS | DATE | TIME: DEPART/ RETURN | DESTINATION | # OF STUDE NTS | # OF ADULT S | COST | Bus/Van Included in Cost? | JUSTIFICATION FOR TRIP |
|-------|---|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------|---------------------------------|---|
| 8th | Mitofsky | 6/5/24 (Thursday) | 12:30 PM- 1:00 PM | Rockaway Borough Public Library | 5 | 2 | Free | n/a | To have the students explore the public library. They will look up different genres and check out a book. |
| 8th | Mr. Samuels | 6/14/24 (Friday) | 8:45 AM- 11:00 AM | Morris Hill High School | 100 | 10 | Free | \$275 | 8th Grade Graduation Practice |
| 5th | Officer MacQuesten (Rockaway Borough PD) | 6/11/24 (Tuesday) | 9:30 AM- 12:30 PM | Rockaway Lanes | 56 | 4 | Free | District Drivers | Celebration/completion of the LEAD Program |

Professional Development/Travel Expenditure Requests:

| STAFF MEMBER | WORKSHOP TITLE/DEST | DATES | REG & FEES | JUSTIFICATION FOR THE TRIP |
|--|---|--------------------|--|---|
| Mary Leslie Jennifer Grlica Jennifer Skomial | NJCIE Summer Leadership Kean University Union, NJ | 6/7/24 (Friday) | Leslie - \$175.00 Grlica - \$175.00 Skomial - Free Mileage (each): \$38.04 | The conference will provide the skills and resources needed to develop and sustain inclusive learning communities for all students, as recommended by the CST Director. |