

# Rockaway Borough Board of Education

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 7:30 PM

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

Visit us on the Web: [rockboro.org](http://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 negotiation matters: with the RBAA & RBEA collective bargaining units and a legal matter, the nature of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion to Enter:

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

**Voice Vote:**

Motion to Adjourn:

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

**Voice Vote:**

## 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 Riviuccio**

*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)*

**Mr. Anthony Grieco, Superintendent of Schools**

*Appointed July 2021 Chief School Administrator & Non-Voting Board Member (CSA/Supt)*

**Mr. William Stepka, SBA/Board Secretary**

*Appointed Nov 2017 Business Administrator, Secretary of the Board & Non-Voting Board Member (BA)*

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

**3. Reports & Updates:****A. Board Committees Reports (as needed):**

1. Strategic Planning: *Ms. Dahl & Mr. Riviuccio*
2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities: *Mr. Graf & Mrs. Hernandez*
3. Curriculum/Special Education: *Ms. Dahl & Mrs. Dorgilles*
4. Negotiations with RBAA: *Mr. Graf & Ms. Dahl*
5. Negotiations with RBEA: *Mrs. Dorgilles & Mrs. Hernandez*
6. Athletic/Activities: *Mr. Riviuccio & Mrs. Dorgilles*
7. Policy, 8. Safety/Security, 9. Technology *All 3 are Ad Hoc*

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

1. NJ School Boards Assoc. - Mr. Riviuccio
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

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

1. **Board Correspondence:** *Received (R) or Sent (S) since our last meeting:*
  - A. There are none at this time.
2. **Financial Status Updates:**
  - A. 2023-24 Audit has been filed timely on Wednesday, January 15, 202, and will be presented by the auditors at our February 25th meeting. .
  - B. 2024-25 Current Budget Year: Proceeding within budgeted parameters.
  - C. 2025-26 New Budget: Administration is proceeding as per the Budget Calendar.

**E. Administration Monthly Reports:**

- |  | <b><u>Submitted by:</u></b> |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 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**

- 1.

**G. Review of Agenda Items Recommended for Approval**

**H. School Board Recognition Month:**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey State Board of Education, which adopts the administrative code to implement state education law, has established rigorous standards through its promulgation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, which set the expectations of academic achievement for nearly 1.4 million public school children; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's locally elected and appointed boards of education play a vital role in ensuring that their local school districts meet state standards and adhere to all code provisions, with the goal of providing outstanding education to prepare all students for college and the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's 5,000 non-partisan local board of education members and charter school trustees are public servants who dedicate their time, without pay or benefit, to the oversight of school district operations, sound financial practices, comprehensive policies, curriculum, staffing, and the well-being and academic achievement of all students in the district; and

**WHEREAS**, the efforts of local boards of education, in conjunction with state education officials and local educators, have built a foundation of success that has led to New Jersey's status as a leader in student achievement, as evidenced by the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores; and

**WHEREAS**, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January to be School Board Recognition Month;

**Now, Therefore, Be It RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education recognizes the contributions of our state's local boards of education to the academic success of its public school students and expresses its sincere appreciation to local board of education members for their continued focus on the achievement of children throughout New Jersey, and

**Be it Further RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey State Board of Education encourages qualified New Jersey citizens to consider serving as members on their local school boards.

**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 input, moderate, and then close the floor.**

**Please direct all dialogue to the President. Replies are not required.**

**5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:**

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2024	Students January 15, 2025	Difference from June 25	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	67	+11	3	22	3	3
Grade 1 - Lincoln	59	58	-1	3	19	3	3
Grade 2 - Lincoln	66	60	-6	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>277</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33.5</b>
Grade 4 - TJ	62	65	+3	3	22	3	-
Grade 5 - TJ	56	63	+7	3	21	3	-
Grade 6 - TJ	45	59	+14	3	20	3	-
Grade 7 - TJ	63	54	-9	3	18	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>307</b>	<b>+23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22.5</b>
<b>Shared Staff:</b> (Other Certificated Teachers 4.5, & Part-Time Nurses 2)	-	-	-	-	-	4.5	2
<b>Administrative:</b> (Supt, BA, CIA, CST 1, Sec 4, Maint 2, Bus Drivers 2, Bus Aides 2)	-	-	-	-	-	3	11
Special Ed Out-of-District:	5	6	+1	-	-	-	-
<b>Resident Students:</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>+32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	-	-
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	3	3	0	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Students (548)/ Staff (137.5) Ratio: 4/1</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>+32</b>	-	-	<b>66.5</b>	<b>69</b>

**6. Meeting Minutes**

- A. Be it resolved to approve and accept the following meeting minutes:
  1. January 7, 2025, Organizational Meeting & Any Other Business and 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: January 8 to January 28: \$377,458.22
  
- B. Be it resolved to establish and approve the following incoming student tuition rates for the 2025-26 school year for other districts’ students to attend our school programs - rates will increase by 5% from 24-25 (except for parent paid), it is also expressly understood by all parties that transportation and all its associated costs will be borne by the sending district or parent. (ESY= Extended School Year, or Summer School.)

<b>Grade Level/Program</b>	<b>25-26</b>	<b>(24-25)</b>	<b>\$Diff</b>
ESY 5 Week Reg Preschool (4dys/wk 2.5 hrs/day)	\$3,400	(\$3,236)	164
ESY 5 Week RR/LLD Program (5dys/wk 3.5hrs/day)	\$5,904	(\$5,623)	281
ESY 6 Week PALS/MD Program (5dys/wk 3.5hrs/day)	\$10,866	(\$10,348)	518
ESY One to One Aide	\$3,589	(\$3,418)	168
ESY One to One Shared Aide	\$1,796	(\$1,710)	86
10 Mo. Resident Preschool Program (Parent Paid)	\$3,600	(\$3,600)	-0-
10 Mo. Preschool Disabled F/T (PALS) Program	\$51,937	(\$49,464)	2,473
10 Mo. Learn/Lang. Disabled Program	\$37,947	(\$36,140)	1,807
10 Mo. Multiple Disabled Program	\$40,390	(\$38,467)	1,923
10 Mo. One to One Aide	\$22,430	(\$21,361)	1,069
10 Mo. One to One Shared Aide	\$11,167	(\$10,635)	532
10 Mo. Kindergarten Full Day Program	\$16,990	(\$16,180)	810
10 Mo. Regular Grades 1 - 5	\$16,821	(\$16,020)	801
10 Mo. Regular Grades 6 - 8	\$16,856	(\$16,053)	803

**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:

<b>Staff #</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
654	Thomas Jefferson	Aide	1/13/25 Unpaid	3/7/25
142	Lincoln School	Secretary	1/3/25 Sick and Vacation	2/10/25
333	Thomas Jefferson	Teacher	1/17/25 Sick and Unpaid	1/31/25

- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Amira Salem and Ava Zeman** as substitute teachers for the 2024/2025 school year. Ms. Salem and Ms. Zeman have already cleared the required background checks.
- D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Angelica Aguirre**, of Wharton, NJ, as a substitute bus driver, as needed, at an hourly rate of \$28.00 for the 2024-25 school year, pending successful clearance of all required background checks.
- E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Alyssa McNamara**, currently a student attending Centenary University, observation hours at Lincoln School for her foundation of education class this semester.
- F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Marcy Rattay** as a substitute bus aide at her hourly rate of \$20.47 for the 2024-25 school year.
- G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a 2025-2026 employment contract for **Sara Schneiderman**, Speech & Language Therapist, from August 26, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Ms. Schneiderman will be paid based on the 2024-25 Salary/Guide MA-4 at an annual salary rate of \$62,185 (pending RBEA negotiations).

**9. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment**

- A. Be it resolved to approve the Student Field Trip requests as listed at the end of this agenda.
- B. Be it resolved to approve a tuition contract with an approved out-of-district private school for students with disabilities: the Mount Carmel Guild Academy of West Orange, NJ, for student number 17180321, effective Monday, January 27 to June 30, 2025, at a daily tentative tuition rate of \$310.00 per day and another \$246 per day for a one-to-one aide, for approximately 93 school days (\$51,708) plus transportation to be bid-out through the Morris County ESC (estimated at another \$25,000).

**10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds**

- A. Be it resolved to engage the services of Parette Somjen Architects of Rockaway, NJ, and the architect of record for the district, to update the district’s “Long Range Facilities Plan” (last updated in 2018) for \$6,000 as per their quote dated January 24, 2025.

**11. Policy**

- A. Be it resolved to approve the **Second Reading & Adoption** of the following new and/or updated Board Policies (P) and/or Regulations ®, where applicable.

Policy/Reg	Number	Title	Reason for Update
Policy	0141	Board Member Number and Term	Revised
Policy	0164.6	Remote Public Board Meetings During a Declared Emergency	ABOLISHED
Policy	2200	Curriculum Content	Revised
Policy & Reg	3160	Physical Examination	Revised
Policy & Reg	4160	Physical Examination	Revised

Regulation	5200	Attendance	Revised
Policy	5337	Service Animals	Revised
Policy	5350	Student Suicide Prevention	Revised
Policy	8420	Emergency and Crisis Situations	Revised
Policy & Reg	8467	Firearms and Weapons	Revised
Policy	9181	Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-Curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants	Revised

**12. Consent Agenda**

A. Move and Vote on all Agenda Resolutions & Recommendations in One Motion:

<b><u>Roll Call Vote:</u></b>	<b><u>Moved &amp; Seconded By:</u></b>	<b><u>Aye</u></b>	<b><u>Nay</u></b>	<b><u>Abstain</u></b>	<b><u>Recuse</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Mrs. Hernandez						
Mrs. Dorgilles						
Mr. Riviuccio						
Ms. Dahl, VP						
Mr. Graf, President						

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

A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to confirm/approve the QSAC Equivalency Submission for the area of Instruction and Program (Indicators 1-7), for school year 2024-2025.

*(Please note that the district plans on not having to rely on the QSAC Equivalency).*

**14. Public Hearing**

Limited to 3 minutes each. Please state your name & address.

The President will open the floor for the Board to hear input, moderate, and then close the floor.

Please direct all dialogue to the President. Replies are not required.

**15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:**

A. Tuesday, February 25, 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 MAY 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:**

**Seconded by:**

**Voice Vote:**

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

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Workshop Title/Dest.</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Reg &amp; Fees</b>	<b>Justification for the Trip</b>
Jamie Argenziano Shaun Reyes	Techspo/ Atlantic City	1/29-31/25	Reg: \$590 Hotel: \$208 Mileage: \$132.54 Tolls/Parking \$25 (ESEA Grant- PD)	To learn about the latest teaching platforms that infuse curriculum into digital instruction. UPDATED: PREVIOUSLY APPROVED 1/7/25
Michael Klein	NJSBGA 2025 Expo / Atlantic City	3/23-26/25	Reg: \$350 Hotel: \$339.63 Travel: \$168 (ESEA Grant- PD)	CEUs for CEFM Vendor Introduction and code compliance updates.
Linda Savercool	School Nurses Best Strategies for Helping Students with Autism, Allergies & Anaphylaxis/ Virtual	4/23/25	\$295 (ESEA Grant- PD)	Will expand my knowledge of updated practices and current resources for achieving positive outcomes for students who have Asthma, Allergies and possible Anaphylaxis.
Jennifer Skomial	I&RS to MTSS- Implementing MTSS to Meet NJ Intervention and Referral Services / Online	3/26/25	\$75 (ESEA Grant- PD)	This session will provide strategies and tools for implementing MTSS to meet the NJ I&RS requirements for interventions.
Denise Jacobus	Best Practices for Addressing Mental Health Issues in Your Schools/ Virtual	4/28/25	\$295 (ESEA Grant- PD)	This workshop will help me to support students with mental and behavioral concerns by applying evidence-based strategies.

***District Events List:***

<b>School Activity</b>	<b>Loc./School</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Adm./ Teacher/ Coach/ Advisor</b>
TJ Musical	Thomas Jefferson School	3/14/25 - 7:00 pm, 3/15/25 - 7:00 pm 3/16/25 - 3:00 pm	TJ Players Cast & Crew	Helen Love & Jennifer Barbosa
Literacy Night	Lincoln School	2/6/25	Kindergarten Parents	Conway, Schwarz, Alyssa Lawton, and Marsh



**Student Field Trip Requests:**

GRADE	TEACHERS	DATE	TIME: DEPART/ RETURN	DESTINATION	# of Pupils	# OF ADULTS	COST PP	JUSTIFICATION FOR TRIP
8	Laura Perniciaro	2/13/25	9:00 am/2:00 pm	iFly- Paramus	61	6	\$52	The STEM program at iFly is designed to give kids hands-on experience with science, technology, engineering, and math principles and get them thinking about how these principles translate to the real world.* <i>Applied for a grant to offset the cost.</i>
PALS MD- Lincoln & TJ	Antonia Zangara Jennifer Glica Hailey Ralli	6/10/25	9:15 am / 2:00 pm	Turtle Back Zoo	20	16	\$27	To enhance our social skills curriculums with real-world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.
3	James Kadus Aileen Schumacher Allyn Thompson	3/19/25	11:00 am / 2:00 pm	MPAC/ Morristown	70	19	\$18	The purpose of the trip to see a play is to enhance the third-grade language arts curriculum fiction unit in the school-wide program we are currently implementing.
1	Katrina Jacinto Heather Doering Dodi Yobs	5/16/25	9:00 am / 2:00 pm	Liberty Science Center/ Jersey City	60	36	\$31	Students will be able to relate NJ Science standards to real-life exhibits and deepen their learning at Liberty Science Center.
MD	Antonia Zangara	3/13/25	9:30 am / 12:30 pm	Life Town/ Livingston, NJ	7	7	N/A	To enhance our social skills curriculums with real-world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.
7	Laura Perniciaro	2/12/25	9:00 am / 1:00 pm	Pyramid Mountain/Boonton, NJ	49	9	N/A	Pyramid Mountain offers a hands-on opportunity to explore real-world geological features and processes. The area is home to fascinating rock formations, such as the famous Tripod Rock, which is a glacial erratic left behind by ancient glaciers during the Ice Age.