

Rockaway Borough Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 27, 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: 6:33-7:38 pm (Closed to the Public)

Be it Resolved, that the Board enters into an Executive Session (Private) to discuss exempt matters: collective bargaining negotiations with the Rockaway Borough Education Association, personnel, a student HIB, a contracted service agreement, and a legal matter, the natures of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion to Enter: **Moved by: Ms. Dahl Seconded by: Mr. Riviuccio Voice Vote: All Ayes**
Motion to Adjourn: **Moved by: Mr. Riviuccio Seconded by: Ms. Dahl Voice Vote: All Ayes**

1. Call to Order: 7:38 PM

The public portion of this meeting was called to order at 7:38 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 complete a 3-year unexpired term (to Dec. 31, 2024)

Mrs. Karen Walter, VP – Not 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 6 parents and one staff person.

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. Riviuccio & Mrs. Walter**
3. Athletic/Activities: **Mr. Riviuccio & 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)**
7. Strategic Plan (Ad Hoc): **Mr. Graf** gave a brief update.

B. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco

1. District Update – Today is the first day for staff.
2. SSDS- 23-24 (Report of incidents of violence, vandalism, weapons, substances, harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB), restraint, seclusion, and other incidents leading to removal, as well as HIB training and programs conducted to support anti-bullying efforts).
3. District Goals- 2024-2025
 1. Enhance and modernize educational engagement and communication across the district, for all stakeholders in the school community.
 2. For the 2024-2025 school year, the Rockaway Borough School District will initiate the 2025-2026 budget planning process by the fall of 2024 to enhance efficiency and ensure comprehensive stakeholder collaboration amongst pertinent stakeholders.
 3. For the 2024-2025 school year, the Rockaway Borough PK-8 School District will develop a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan to guide academic, operational, and financial decision-making, with input from all key stakeholders.

Items #2 & #3:

Motion: Ms. Dahl Seconded by: Mr. Riviuccio 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 since our previous meeting.
2. Financial Status Updates:
 - A. The 2023-24 Prior Budget Year is being prepared for the audit.
 - B. The 2024-25 Budget is now in effect.

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> |
| Mr. Riviuccio commended the B&G staff for a great job getting the schools ready. | |
| 5. Technology Supervisor's Report: | <i>Mr. Reyes</i> |

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

1. Board of Education Candidates for the General Election to be held on November 5, 2024:
Faride Hernandez and Vanessa Dorgilles. (2 seats are up for election.)

F. Review of Agenda Items Recommended for Approval

Review of new district calendar.

4. Public Comment No. 1:

1. Parent Amir Kahn: when does new calendar go into effect? Mr. Graf & Mr. Grieco replied.

5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2023	Students June 14, 2024	Difference from June 23	Sections (Classes)	Avg. Class Size	Certificated Staff - Teachers	Non-Certificated Staff
Preschool - Lincoln AM/PM & Full Day	30	29	-1	2	15	1	8
Kindergarten - Lincoln	58	56	-2	3	19	3	3
Grade 1 - Lincoln	67	59	-8	3	20	3	3
Grade 2 - Lincoln	59	66	+7	3	22	3	2
Grade 3 - Lincoln	67	59	-8	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
<u>Total Lincoln School:</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>269</u>	<u>-12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>33.5</u>
Grade 4 - TJ	55	62	+7	3	21	3	-
Grade 5 - TJ	42	56	+14	3	19	3	-
Grade 6 - TJ	61	45	-16	3	15	3	-
Grade 7 - TJ	55	63	+8	3	21	3	-
Grade 8 - TJ	61	58	-3	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
<u>Total Thomas Jefferson:</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>+10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>19</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 Ed Out-of-District:	2	5	+3	-	-	-	-
<u>Resident Students:</u>	<u>557</u>	<u>558</u>	<u>+1</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>18.5</u>	-	-
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	2	0	-2	-	-	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	5	3	-1	-	-	-	-
Total Students (548) Staff (137.5) Ratio: 4/1	564	561	-3	-	-	68.5	69

6. Meeting Minutes

- A. Be it resolved to approve and accept the following meeting minutes:
 - 1. July 23, 2024, Regular & Executive Sessions 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: July 1 to August 27, 2024: \$742,386.75

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 recommendations of the Superintendent, to approve/confirm Maternity/FMLA/Disability and Medical Leave of Absence for the following personnel:

Staff #	Location	Position	From	Return Date
597	Thomas Jefferson	Teacher	11/7/24 (Utilize Sick days-11/11/24 - 11/27/24) (FMLA - 12/2/24 - 2/28/25) Will claim benefits under NJ Family Leave Insurance Act.	3/3/25

- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an employment contract for **Eric Hedlund**, Mathematics Teacher at Thomas Jefferson School beginning on or about August 28, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Mr. Hedlund will be paid based on Salary / Guide-Step BA-4, at the current 23-24 rate of \$56,565, pending 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. (Final salary rate and guide placement will be determined once a new CBA is in effect.).
- D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to an employment contract for **Julia Van Luvender**, Paraprofessional at Lincoln School beginning on or about September 9, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Ms. Van Luvender will be paid based on Salary / Aide Guide Step-1, at the current 23-24 hourly rate of \$17.02, pending 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. (Final hourly rate will be determined once a new CBA is in effect.).
- E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a horizontal salary guide movement request from **Monica Fleming**, Grade 6 Teacher at Thomas Jefferson School, for the successful attainment of advanced graduate credits, from the 2023-2024 MA Guide (Step-10 \$71,155) to the 2023-2024 MA+30 Guide (Step-10 \$73,555), effective September 1, 2024. (Final salary rate and guide placement will be determined once a new CBA is in effect.).

- F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the re-employment of **Debra Garris** as a Bus Aide for the 2024 - 2025 school year. (The hourly rate will be determined once a new CBA is in effect).
- G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the re-employment of **Nicole Macera** as a Bus Aide for the 2024 - 2025 school year. (The hourly rate will be determined once a new CBA is in effect).
- H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the re-employment of **Artemio Alarcon**, District Bus Driver for the 2024 - 2025 school year. (The hourly rate will be determined once a new CBA is in effect).
- I. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the re-employment of **Patricia Fitzgerald** as a substitute bus driver, at an hourly rate of \$26.00, as needed for the 2024-25 school year.
- J. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following **Extracurricular advisors** for the 2024-2025 school year:

Club / Sport	Advisor	Stipend Rate
Art Club	Cecelia Isenberg	\$1,004
Athletics Coordinator	Michael Onischuk	\$1,004
Boys Baseball - Head Coach	Michael Onischuk	\$2,248
Boys Baseball- Assistant Coach	Robert Vento	\$937
Boys & Girls Cross Country Head Coach	Samantha Selikoff	\$937
Boys & Girls Cross Country Assistant Coach	Trevor Basile	\$937
Boys Basketball- Head Coach	Michael Onischuk	\$2,248
Boys Basketball- Assistant Coach	Michael Leahey	\$937
Boys Soccer- Head Coach	Michael Onischuk	\$2,248
Boys Soccer- Assistant Coach	Lauren Bogart	\$937
Cube Club	TBD	TBD
Director of Musical/Dramatic Productions	Helen Love	\$3,494
Director of Musical/Dramatic Productions Assistant	Jennifer Barbosa	\$2,501
Girls Basketball- Head Coach	Robert Longo	\$4,243
Girls Basketball- Assistant Coach	TBD	TBD
Girls Softball- Head Coach	Robert Longo	\$4,338
Girls Softball - Assistant Coach	TBD	TBD
Girls Soccer- Head Coach	Aileen Schumacher	\$2,248
Girls Soccer- Assistant Coach	Samantha Mannello	\$937

Jazz Band Director	Nicolas Bova	\$841
Lego Building Buddies	Alyssa Summer	\$841
Middle School Dean of Students	Michael Onischuk	\$1,004
Morning Movement	Samantha Selikoff	TBD
National Junior Honor Society	TBD	TBD
Newspaper	Samantha Mannello & Monica Fleming (Split Stipend)	\$435.50 each
Run Club	Samantha Selikoff	\$937
SGO	TBD	TBD
Solar Car / Robotics Advisor	Samantha Selikoff	\$841
Table Top Games	TBD	TBD
Talking Sports Club	Samantha Selikoff	TBD
Teacher in Charge- Lincoln & TJ	Monica Fleming - TJ Michael Jones - Lincoln	\$841 each
Volleyball Club	Michael Onischuk & Michael Leahy (Split Stipend)	\$502 each
Yearbook	Michael Leahy	\$1,054
Yoga Club	Aileen Schumacher & Brianna Rigas (Split Stipend)	\$420.50 each
8th Grade Advisor	TBD	TBD
Community Service Club	Samantha Selikoff	Volunteer

- K. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the internship of **11 Morris County Vocational School Students** at both Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson Schools (the students are part of the Academy of Education and Learning and will be working with staff as part of their work-based learning experience), names of which are on file in the Superintendent’s office.
- L. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve student #14374453 to attend a higher education **Honors Geometry** course at Morris Hills High School for the 2024-2025 school year, as per the agreed upon schedule for A days. Transportation is to be provided by Morris Hills Regional School District via a purchased service agreement.
- M. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Krista Gore**, as a Floating Substitute Teacher for the district, at a daily rate of \$125.00 for in-person instruction, effective on or about August 27, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Ms. Gore has already completed all required background checks.

- N. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Chelsea Dougherty**, as a Lunch Aide at Lincoln School, beginning on or about September 9, 2024 through June 30, 2025 at the 2023/2024 hourly rate of \$15.13. 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. (The hourly rate will be determined once a new CBA is in effect).
- O. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following Mentor for the 2024/2025 school year at a rate of \$550, to be paid by the mentee: (Mentor fees are as follows: CEAS Cert. \$550 and CE Cert. \$1,000):

Mentor	New Hire
Joseph Corbo	Eric Hedlund

- P. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following Corrections to the Summer Curriculum Writing previously approved on June 25, 2024. Hourly rate of \$38.91 to be adjusted, if applicable, once a new CBA is in effect:

Name	Subject Area	Maximum Hours
Jackie Schwarz	Kindergarten ELA (Align to new standards)	6 hours
Heather Doering	1st Grade ELA (Align to new standards)	6 hours

9. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

- A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following updated/revised curriculums:

ELA - K-8. Aligned to new 2023 NJSLs	Math - K-8. Aligned to new 2023 NJSLs
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- B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the revised 2024 - 2025 school year calendar, as submitted.
- C. Be it resolved to approve a special education out-of-district tuition contract with The Shepard School (a state-approved private school for students with disabilities), of Kinnelon, NJ, to provide special educational services for student #272 for 213 school days (12 months) at a tentative tuition rate of \$326.52 per day (\$69,548.76) for the 2024-25 school year, with transportation costs to be determined.
- D. Be it resolved to approve a special education out-of-district tuition contract with Windsor Learning Center (a state-approved private school for students with disabilities), of Pompton Lakes, NJ, to provide special educational services for student #382, for 180 school days (10 months) at a tentative tuition rate of \$354.50 per day (\$63,810), and another \$52,500 for a one-on-one aide, for the 2024-25 school year, with transportation costs to be determined.

- E. Be it resolved to approve a special education out-of-district tuition contract with Windsor Learning Center (a state-approved private school for students with disabilities), of Pompton Lakes, NJ, to provide special educational services for student #256, for 180 school days (10 months) at a tentative tuition rate of \$354.50 per day (\$63,810), and another \$52,500 for a one-on-one aide, for the 2024-25 school year, with transportation costs to be determined.

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds

- A. There are none at this time.

11. Policy

- A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the **First Reading** of the following new and/or revised Board Policy and/or Regulation where applicable:

Policy/Reg	Number	Title	Reason for Update
R	5600	Student Discipline/Code of Conduct	Revised

- B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the following Superintendent's HIB decision(s) in the following instances as numbered:
 1. Tracking Number 267639_TJM_06102024- *Conclusion- 15120725: Founded*
- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following new and/or revised Job Description for Lunchroom/Playground Aide and School Crossing Guard.

12. Consent Agenda

- A. Move and Vote on all Agenda Resolutions & Recommendations in One Motion:
 1. Items Personnel 8J tabled items: "Morning Movement & Talking Sports Club"

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	<u>Moved & Seconded By:</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Ms. Dahl:	Moved	Aye	-	-	-
Mr. Riviuccio:	-	Aye	-	CIA 9B: Calendar	-
Mr. Tobias:	Seconded	Aye	-	-	-
Mrs. Walter, VP:	-	-	-	-	Not Present
Mr. Graf, President:	-	Aye	-	-	-

All Motions Carried: 4 0 1 1

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 approve Patricia Carroll as a substitute teacher, as needed, for \$115 per day, for the 2024-25 school year. Mrs. Carroll has already passed all required state mandated background checks.
Moved: Ms. Dahl, seconded, Mr. Riviuccio, Roll Call: All Ayes.

- B. Be it resolved to schedule and advertise for a Special Board of Education Meeting, on Thursday, September 5, 2024, beginning at 6 PM in the Whitehouse Administration Building, for the purpose of voting on the 24-25 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board and RBEA, plus any other business that might come before it.

Moved: Ms. Dahl, seconded, Mr. Tobias, Voice Vote: All Ayes.

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

- A. Parent Mr. Amir Kahn thanked the Board for adding the Eid al-Fitr holiday to the school calendar.
 B. Ms. Dahl, board member, thanked teacher Mr. Corbo for moving to 7th grade to teach mathematics.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

A. Regular Meeting: Tuesday, September 24, 2024

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

16. Executive Session II: 8:20 pm to 9:00 pm

Be it Resolved, that the Board enter into Executive Session (Private) for the purpose of discussing: a shared service agreement, 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 45 MINUTES.

BOARD ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AFTER THIS SESSION CONCLUDES.

Moved by: Ms. Dahl Seconded by: Mr. Riviuccio Voice Vote: All Ayes

In Open Public Session at 9:00 pm:

Be it resolved to approve the renewal purchased service agreement with the Borough of Rockaway to provide two (2) Class III Police Officers, effective July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

Moved by: Ms. Dahl Seconded by: Mr. Riviuccio Roll Call Vote: All Ayes

17. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: 9:03 pm

With no further business before the Board, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Moved by: Ms. Dahl Seconded by: Mr. Riviuccio Voice Vote: All Ayes

Respectfully submitted,

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

Professional Development/Travel Expenditure Requests:

<i>Staff Member</i>	<i>Workshop Title/Dest.</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Reg & Fees</i>	<i>Justification for the Trip</i>
Courtney Conway	IMSE Intervention and Support for Struggling Readers/ Online	Online- 9 hours	\$200	This course is designed to provide knowledge and strategies for intensifying instruction in reading and spelling. This course supplements the Comprehensive Orton-Gillingham Plus course by helping participants identify areas of need for struggling readers and the strategies best suited for intervention.
Courtney Conway	The Classroom Reset/ Online	Online On-demand	\$179	This course addresses specific classroom management situations that early childhood educators face. I will learn developmentally appropriate, evidence-informed ways of responding to unexpected behaviors or classroom disruptions.
Leon Samuels	MCAEMSA Fall Conference/ Hanover Manor	10/2/24	Free	School leadership and student SEL.
Leon Samuels	MCAEMSA Winter Conference/ Hanover Manor	12/4/24	Free	School leadership and SEL. Also, support for students with special needs.