

# Rockaway Borough Board of Education

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 24, 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: 6:32-7:33 pm (Closed to the Public)

Be it Resolved, that the Board enters into an Executive Session (Private) to discuss exempt matters: Personnel and Legal matters, 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: Mrs. Walter      Voice Vote: All Ayes**  
Motion to Adjourn:      **Moved by: Mrs. Walter      Seconded by: Ms. Dahl      Voice Vote: All Ayes**

### 1. Call to Order: 7:33 PM

*The public portion of this meeting was called to order at 7:33 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 - Present**

*Elected 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 one staff member.**

*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: (meeting to be held) **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. Ms. Dahl & Mr. Grieco reported on the tremendous response they received at the Back to School nights and positive feedback the parents gave.

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

1. Board Correspondence: *Received (R) or Sent (S) since our last meeting:*
  - A. An e-mail was received from a parent about traffic during student pick-up time.
2. Financial Status Updates:
  - A. The 2023-24 Prior Budget Year is being audited.
  - 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>       |
| 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

### 4. Public Comment No. 1:

1. There was none at this time.

**5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:**

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2024	Students September 13, 2024	Difference from June 24	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	66	+10	3	22	3	3
Grade 1 - Lincoln	59	59	0	3	20	3	3
Grade 2 - Lincoln	66	59	-7	3	20	3	2
Grade 3 - Lincoln	59	65	+6	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>275</b>	<b>+6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>33.5</b>
Grade 4 - TJ	62	60	-2	3	20	3	-
Grade 5 - TJ	56	61	+5	3	20	3	-
Grade 6 - TJ	45	58	+13	3	19	3	-
Grade 7 - TJ	63	49	-14	3	16	3	-
Grade 8 - TJ	58	64	+6	3	21	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>292</b>	<b>+8</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	5	0	-	-	-	-
<b>Resident Students:</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>+14</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>18.5</b>	-	-
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	3	3	0	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Students (575) Staff (135.5) Ratio: 4.2/1</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>+14</b>	-	-	<b>66.5</b>	<b>69</b>

## 6. Meeting Minutes

- A. Be it resolved to approve and accept the following meeting minutes:
1. August 27, 2024, Regular & Executive Sessions I & II.
  2. September 5, 2024 Special Meeting.

## 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 27 to September 24, 2024: \$545,174.50
- B. Be it resolved to approve the Budgetary Transfer Report for the month of July.
- C. Be it resolved to approve and accept the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month of July.  
*I hereby certify, pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A2.3(e), that as of July 31st, 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 approve and accept the Treasurer of School Monies Financial Report for the month of July.
- E. Be it resolved to renew the purchased services agreement with Delta-T Group, of Woodbridge, NJ, to provide NJ state-licensed Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) services, as needed, at an hourly rate of \$60 (RN) and \$50 (LPN), for the 2024-25 school year.
- F. Be it resolved, to renew the purchased services agreement with Best Choice Home Care, of Hackettstown, NJ, to provide NJ state-licensed Registered Nurse (RN) services, as needed, at an hourly rate of \$72, for the 2024-25 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 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve employment contracts for **Executive & Administrative Staff** members for the 2024-2025 school year, as submitted. Their continued employment was approved at the May 7th meeting.
- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a non-tenured employment contract for **Nadine Morgenland**, Payroll/Health Benefits/Transportation Coordinator, effective July 1, 2024, to March 18, 2025. (Eligible for Tenure on June 2, 2025.)
- D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve additional instructional class periods for **Monica Fleming** at an amount of \$52.90 per additional period (one per day), for the 2024/2025 school year (9/3/25 through 6/30/25), to be paid via timesheet (to be funded with ESEA-Title 1 funds).

- E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind an employment contract for **Michael Stockstill**, Lunchroom/Playground aide at Lincoln School, previously approved on June 25, 2024.
- F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind an employment contract for **Julia Van Luvender**, paraprofessional at Lincoln School, previously approved on August 27, 2024.
- G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the internship of **Pranav Agarwal**, a senior at Morris Hills High School, to teach financial literacy activities during the month of December at Lincoln School, dates to be determined.
- H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of **Francesca Migliore**, paraprofessional at Thomas Jefferson School as of September 20, 2024.
- I. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to terminate the active employment, as of September 13, and the employment contract effective October 11, 2024, of **Employee #639**.
- J. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an employment contract for **Eduar Izaguirre**, as a Paraprofessional at Thomas Jefferson School beginning on or about October 15, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Mr. Izaguirre will be paid based on Salary / Aide Guide Step-1 at the hourly rate of \$17.49 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.
- K. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Daniel Walden** as a substitute custodian, at an hourly rate of \$17.00 per hour 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.
- L. 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
8th Grade Advisor	Samantha Selikoff	\$871
Cube Club	Joseph Corbo	\$1,004
Table Top Games	Laura Perniciaro & Nicolas Bova (shared stipend)	\$420.50 each
SGO Advisor	Nicolas Bova	\$871

- M. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Sara Beattie** as a Leave Replacement Math Interventionist teacher (Thomas Jefferson), from November 4, 2024, through February 28, 2025. She will be paid based on salary Guide MA Step-10 (prorated to (\$27,623) 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.

**9. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment**

- A. Be it resolved to approve the list of **Student Field Trip Requests** as listed at the end of this agenda.
- B. Be it resolved to confirm and approve the **District Events List** for all extra activities, events, fundraisers, etc. as listed at the end of this agenda.

**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 **Second and Final 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*

**12. Consent Agenda**

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

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

All resolutions unanimously approved: 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)**

Michael Onischuk, district gym teacher, asked if the Board could schedule an Athletics Committee meeting before December. He also asked about electronic requisitions and expressed disappointment the annual DC student trip was cancelled.

**15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:**

**A. Regular Meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

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

**16. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: 8:25 pm**

With no further business before the Board, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:25 pm.

***Moved by: Mrs. Walter***

***Seconded by:***

***Voice Vote***

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. William Stepka, RSBA

Secretary of the Board of Education/Business Administrator

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

Staff Member	Workshop Title/Dest.	Dates	Reg & Fees	Justification for the Trip
Laura Esposito	General Participants/ML Educator Program/ Rutgers University	9/24/24	Free	This is part of my multilingual educator professional learning as an ELL Teacher.
Christine Capen	NJCSS- Annual Conference/ Rutgers University	10/21/24	\$90	Articulate with the social studies community on issues re: election, diversity education, and state standards.
Amy DeFelice	NJCSS- Annual Conference/ Rutgers University	10/21/24	\$90	Articulate with the social studies community on issues re: election, diversity education, and state standards.
Kim Hynson	NJCSS- Annual Conference/ Rutgers University	10/21/24	\$90	Articulate with the social studies community on issues re: election, diversity education, and state standards.
Michael Onischuk	GMCJSCA Meetings & Roundtable Discussions/ Various locations	10/2/24 Nov. date TBD 1/8/25 Feb. date TBD 4/9/25	N/A	Aid in the scheduling of our athletic program; discuss current issues in middle school athletics.
Jamie Argenziano	MCAEMSA Fall Conference MCAEMSA Winter Conference/ Hanover Manor	10/2/24 12/4/24	Reg: Free Mileage:	School leadership and SEL. Also, support for students with special needs.
Jamie Argenziano William Stepka	NJ School Boards Assoc. Annual Fall Convention, Atlantic City	10/21/24 10/24/24	Each: Reg: \$550 Accommodations: \$375 est Mileage/Tolls: \$120 est	The preeminent state event for school leaders which encompasses all aspects of managing a school district: policy, governance, fiscal, personnel, curricula, legal matters, etc. via exclusive on-site professional development opportunities.
Laura Esposito	2025 Spring Conference NJTESOL/ Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, NJ	5/21/25	Title III	National Conference for ESL educators
Bryanna Dennison Brianna Rigas	NJ4S Prevention Summit/ Rockaway River CC/ Denville, NJ	9/25/24	Free	Speaker on the difference between Behavioral Threat Management and Suicide Prevention.
Michael Klein Timothy Yobs	Asbestos O & M / Virtual	11/8/24	\$195 each	Asbestos in the schools' maintenance.

**Student Field Trip Requests:**

Grade	Teachers	Date	Time: Depart/ Return	Destination	# Of Students	# Of Adults	Cost	Justification for Trip
MD-TJ LLD & PALS- Lincoln	Antonia Zangara Hailey Ralli Jenifer Grlica	10/9/24	8:45/12:30	Ort Farms	18	14	\$17	To enhance our curriculum with real-world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.
8	Lauren Mitofsky	11/1/24 12/6/24 1/3/25 2/7/25 3/7/25 4/4/25 5/2/25 6/6/25	9:00/9:30 am	Rockaway Library	6	1	Free	The purpose of the trip is to show students the vast amount of resources (study rooms, workshops, books, computers, magazines, DVDs, audiobooks, etc.) available to them and to boost their interest when it comes to reading. We will explore all the library has to offer, look at the different genres, and use their library cards to check something out.
Select 7-8 Vocal Students	Nicolas Bova	10/22/24	9:00 / 2:00 pm	Vocal Music Day at MKHS	27	2	Free	Thomas Jefferson 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. The trip will provide a musically rich and rewarding experience for those students involved.
Select 6-8 Instrumental Band students	Helen Love	10/24/24	8:45 / 12:00	Instrumental District Music Day at MHHS	15	1	Free	Thomas Jefferson 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 during their high school years. The trip will provide a musically rich and rewarding experience for those students involved.
3	Jamie Kadus Aileen Schumacher Allyn Thompson	10/24/24	9:00/12:30 pm	Wightman Farm	65	26	\$17	To enhance the third-grade curriculum, we currently implement the "Environment and Living Things" and "Life Cycle and Traits" units in the TCI science program.
K	Courtney Conway Alyssa Lawton Jaclyn Schwarz	10/15/24	9:00/1:30 pm	Tranquility Farms/ Andover, NJ	66	10	\$23	For students to learn about pumpkins and how they grow. Students will also visit the farm animals where they will learn about their environment and the animals' needs and wants.
4	Samantha Selikoff	10/25/24	8:45/2:45	Legoland/ Goshen, NY	60	11	\$50	This trip is to enhance the CID curriculum after having completed several design challenges using Legos.
8	Cynthia O'Brien	10/31/24	9:00/1:30	Pax Amicus	64	8	\$34	To watch a live performance of a canon of work being studied.

***District Events List:***

School Activity	Loc./School	Date/Time	Participants	Adm./ Teacher/ Coach/ Advisor
Lincoln Literacy Night	Lincoln School	10/24/24 / 6-8 pm	Students and families	Jennifer Skomial
Mattress Fundraiser	Thomas Jefferson School Gymnasium	11/17/24 / 10:00 am - 5:00 pm	District families	Jennifer Skomial/ Custom Fundraising Solutions
Builder Bash	Thomas Jefferson School	10/15/24 / 6:30-7:30 pm	Open to 20 families with children in 4th-6th grades	Samantha Selikoff
Brick Bash- Family Lego Night	Thomas Jefferson Cafeteria	12/5/24 6:30-7:30 pm 2/20/25 6:30-7:30 pm 5/1/25 6:30-7:30 pm	Open to 20 families with children in 4th-6th grades	Samantha Selikoff
Movie Night	Thomas Jefferson Parking lot	9/20/24 / 6:30-10:00 pm	All district students and families	Rockaway Borough Home & School
TJ Halloween Dance	Thomas Jefferson Gymnasium	10/25/24 / 5-10 pm	Students in grades 6, 7 & 8	Leon Samuels & teacher chaperones TBD
Week of Respect	Thomas Jefferson School Lincoln School	Week of 10/7/24	All Students	All Teachers
Bullying Prevention Assembly	Thomas Jefferson School Lincoln School	10/10/24	All Students	All Teachers
Peace in Our Schools	Thomas Jefferson School Lincoln School	Week of 10/14/24	All Students	All Teachers
Red Ribbon Week	TJ & Lincoln School at AOG	Week of 10/21/24	All Students	All Teachers
Scholastic Book Fair	TJ & Lincoln School at AOG	10/15-17/24	All Students	All Teachers
Mad Science	Lincoln School	10/22/24	ML students	Helena Holmes
National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony	Thomas Jefferson School Gym	3/21/25	TJ Students	Bryanna Dennison/Leon Samuels