

Rockaway Borough Board of Education

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 12, 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: 6:45-7:40 pm

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

1. Call to Order: 7:40 PM

The public portion of this meeting was called to order at 7:40 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: All Present:

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 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 Mrs. Argenziano, CIA Director, one parent and one staff.

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: Meet today **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 School Veteran's Day Celebration
2. Spring 2024 Statewide Assessment Results: NJSLA Presentation

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 last meeting.
2. Financial Status Updates:
 - A. The 2023-24 Audit is continuing.
 - B. The 2024-25 Budget is in effect.
 - C. The 2025-26 Budget Calendar has been distributed.

D. Administration Monthly Reports:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Lincoln Principal's Report: | <u>Submitted by:</u>
<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 Election Unofficial Results:
Faride Hernandez: 1,511 and Vanessa Dorgilles: 1,705, Others 38.

F. Review of Agenda Items Recommended for Approval

4. Public Comment No. 1:

1. On agenda items only. If you have any comments, please **state your name and address, thank you.**

Mrs. Clark, parent, 66 West Flag Street, Rockaway:

Asked about who is replacing Mrs. Rich, asked if there was a longitudinal SLA study available.

5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2024	Students November 6, 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	58	-1	3	19	3	3
Grade 2 - Lincoln	66	58	-8	3	19	3	2
Grade 3 - Lincoln	59	67	+8	3	22	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>269</u>	<u>275</u>	<u>+6</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>33.5</u>
Grade 4 - TJ	62	63	+1	3	21	3	-
Grade 5 - TJ	56	61	+5	3	20	3	-
Grade 6 - TJ	45	60	+15	3	20	3	-
Grade 7 - TJ	63	53	-10	3	18	3	-
Grade 8 - TJ	58	67	+9	3	22	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>284</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>+20</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</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:	5	6	+1	-	-	-	-
<u>Resident Students:</u>	<u>558</u>	<u>585</u>	<u>+27</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>18.5</u>	-	-
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	3	3	0	-	-	-	-
Total Students (575) Staff (135.5) Ratio: 4.2/1	561	588	+27	-	-	66.5	69

6. Meeting Minutes

- A. Be it resolved to approve and accept the following meeting minutes:
1. October 16, 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: October 17 to November 12, 2024: \$956,311.78
- B. Be it resolved to approve the Budgetary Transfer Report for the month of September.
- C. Be it resolved to approve and accept the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the month of September.
- I hereby certify, pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A2.3(e), that as of September 30th, 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 September.

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 an employment contract for **Jennifer Bills**, as a Non-Tenure track Leave of Absence Teacher at Thomas Jefferson School, beginning November 13, 2024, through January 10, 2025. Mrs. Bills will be paid based on Guide-Step BA-1 with an annual salary of \$57,135 (to be prorated from the start date). Mrs. Bills will return to her district paraprofessional position upon completion of the leave of absence contract. Mrs. Bills has completed all required background checks.
- C. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve additional instructional class periods for **Jennifer Bills** at an amount of \$52.90 per additional period (one per day) for the 2024/2025 school year (11/13/24 through 1/10/2025, to be paid via timesheet.
- D. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a contract extension for **Neal Healy**, as a Leave Replacement Substitute Teacher at Thomas Jefferson School, from November 12, 2024, to an end date of November 15, 2024. His position was originally approved at the October 16, 2024 board meeting. Mr. Healy has completed all required background checks.
- E. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the staff assignment transfer for **Mihaela Tuluca** to Thomas Jefferson School as a 4th grade English Language Arts (ELA) teacher for the 2025-2026 school year.

- F. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Anna Pratt** as a Substitute Teacher for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$115 per day. Ms. Pratt has successfully completed all required background checks.
- G. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve observation hours for **Ariana Carlucci**, a County College of Morris student. Ms. Carlucci is part of the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Education program and will work with Kimberly Hynson, a teacher at Thomas Jefferson School as part of her course requirement. Hours are to be completed by November 22, 2024.
- H. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve volunteer hours at Lincoln School for a student (name on file in the Superintendent's office), a **senior** at Morris Hills High School as part of the Service Learning class. Volunteer hours will be every other Friday beginning November 2024 through June 2025.
- I. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Maryam Saadah**, Paraprofessional at Thomas Jefferson School, effective November 22, 2024.

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.
- C. Be it resolved to approve a joint transportation agreement with the Morris Hills Regional High School District for Route 25RBSH1 to transport student #14374453 to an Honors Geometry course at Morris Hills High School for the 2024-2025 school year, for "A" days only, for \$5,142.00. (The student will ride the high school morning bus with a sibling to the high school, take the course, and then be transported to TJ Middle School on A days - this arrangement was previously approved at our August meeting; now the transportation contract is ready for approval.)
- D. Be it resolved to approve a Special Education Tuition Contract with an Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities (APSSD): The Windsor Learning Center, of Pompton Plains, for student number 17180348, at a tentative tuition rate of \$354.50 per day, effective November 25 to June 30, 2025, for a total of 126 school days for a pro-rated cost of \$47,667.00. Transportation is to be arranged through the Morris County Education Services Commission with an estimated cost of \$9,030.

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds

- A. Be it resolved to approve and accept the "Annual Facilities Comprehensive Maintenance Plan & M-1 Worksheets" for the 2025-26 school year.

11. Policy

- A. **Whereas**, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education in the County of Morris is undergoing a scheduled NJ Department of Education evaluation under NJ QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum) for the 2024-25 school year, and
Whereas, NJAC 6A:30-3.2(f) requires the school district to hold a public meeting to approve the submission of the District’s DPR (District Performance Review) Indicators: Governance, Fiscal, Personnel, Instruction & Program, and Operations and the Statement of Assurance with respect to this process, and
Whereas, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education in the County of Morris has reviewed the district DPR responses and Statement of Assurance and hereby approves these documents,
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education does hereby authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the DPR Indicators and Statement of Assurances to the Commissioner of Education in compliance with the provisions of NJAC 6A:30-3.2(f).

- B. Be it resolved to approve the **Nursing Services Plan** for the 2024-25 school year.

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>Recuse</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Ms. Dahl:	Moved	Aye				
Mr. Riviuccio:		Aye				
Mr. Tobias:		Aye				
Mrs. Walter, VP:	Seconded	Aye				
Mr. Graf, President:		Aye			#9C	

All resolutions were approved.

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

- A. Mr. Riviuccio thanked the 8th grade.

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

District employee, Michael Onischuk, Gym Teacher, asked about a copy program called Paper Cut. The administration will entertain this question during normal business hours through the normal chain of communication (command).

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

- A. **Regular Meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 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: 8:53pm

With no further business before the Board, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:53 pm.

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

Staff Member	Workshop Title/Dest.	Dates	Reg & Fees	Justification for the Trip
Marcella Staropoli	Vermont Agency of Education: Grades 6-8 Math Intervention/ Virtual	1/16/25	Free	Attending this workshop will improve my instruction in my new role as an 8th grade math co-teacher. Students would benefit from an additional layer of instruction to support their understanding of grade level content.
Jennifer Skomial Mihaela Tuluca Maryann Medore Brianna Rigas	Morris County Association of Elementary and Middle School Administrators Winter Conference	12/4/24	Free	This workshop will be hosting guest speaker, Jordan Toma, who will speak about students with IEPs. Additionally attendees will network with other administrators and teachers from various districts in Morris County.
William Stepka	Green Is In / Birchwood Manor Whippany, NJ	11/12/24	\$145 Mileage: \$8.72	Receive update about "green" cleaning products, chemicals, purchasing & technology for schools.

Staff Professional Development/Travel Expenditure Requests:

Grade	Teachers	Date	Time: Depart/ Return	Destination	# Of Students	# Of Adults	Cost	Justification for Trip
MD	Antonia Zangara	11/13/24	10:00-11:00	Shop-Rite Rockaway	7	6	N/A	To enhance our curriculum with real-world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness skills.
7-8	Helen Love Nicolas Bova	11/14/24	9:00am - 3:00pm	Morris Hills HS Theater Workshop	15	2	N/A	TJ theater students will attend an open dress rehearsal of the MHHS Fall Drama Production. This theater experience will provide the opportunity for selected 7th & 8th grade students to cycle through four forty-five minute workshops run by students, many of whom are TJ alumni.
6-8	Helen Love Nicolas Bova	5/29/25	8:15am - 8:15pm	High Notes Festival Dorney Park, Allentown, PA	45	10	\$62	Students will perform in an ensemble which will be evaluated with positive recorded comments by experienced adjudicators. The experience will be the culmination of much preparation, and is a means for motivating the students to practice hard and work toward higher standards. The amusement park is both an incentive and a reward for participation..
MD/APE	Michael Onischuk Lauren Bogart	12/4/24	10:45am - 1:30pm	Rockaway Lanes & M&S Pizza II/ Rockaway	8	8	Free	Part of an exercise reward system; gives students an opportunity to try a sport in a non-traditional PE setting.
2	Mihaela Tuluca Maryann Medore Donna Hawkes	5/14/25	9:00am - 12:00pm	Mayo Performing Arts Center/ Morristown, NJ	59	13	TBD	Communication and Language Arts. Provide experiential learning opportunities. Help students see connections between the classroom and the real world. Encourage critical thinking, observation, and inquiry skills

Student Field Trip Requests:

District Events List:

School Activity	Loc./School	Date/Time	Participants	Adm./ Teacher/ Coach/ Advisor
Lincoln Spring Concert	Rockaway Assembly of God	3/26/25 / 1 pm - 2:30 pm	All Lincoln Students	Helen Love
Computer Science Week Assembly- Author Visit	Rockaway Assembly of God	12/9/24- 10:00 am -2:50 pm	Grades K through 8	Samantha Selikoff
Lincoln School Field Day	Lincoln School	6/3/25 Rain dates:6/4/25 or 6/5/25	All Lincoln Students	Lincoln Staff