

RIVERTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2023
REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting of the Riverton Board of Education was called to order by Mr. Croft at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center at the school.

Mr. Croft led the salute to the flag, and read the following statement:

“On January 4, 2023, notice of this meeting was posted on the District’s website, mailed to Burlington County Times, posted on the front door of the school, the Post Office, and filed with the Municipal Clerk. I direct the Secretary to enter this public announcement into the minutes.”

The following were present:

Mrs. Corbi	Mrs. Wilburn (N.A)
Mrs. Falicki	Mr. Croft, President
Mrs. Matzelle	Mr. Elliot, Vice President
Mr. Papenberg	Mr. Joshua Zagorski, Superintendent
Mrs. Quinzi	Mr. Nikolas Vrettos, School Board Secretary
Mr. Sencindiver (A)	

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. Zagorski reported on the submission of the Student Safety Data Report Period #1 (Collection of incidents of violence, vandalism, weapons, substance use, harassment, intimidation and bullying as well as HIB Training and activities to support a positive school climate) at 6:35.

Mr. Croft opened the hearing to the public for discussion and at that time there were no questions or comments made.

Upon hearing no further questions or comments from the public, Mr. Croft closed the Public Hearing on Student Safety Data Submission Report Period #1 at 6:39 p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion made by Mrs. Corbi, and seconded by Mr. Papenberg to accept the Secretary’s Minutes (Public and Executive) for the Reorganization Meeting on January 3, 2023.

Motion carried, all members voting aye.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Mr. Zagorski spoke about the following items:

- HIB Report
- Week of Respect Activities
- Standard Response Protocol
- Security & Affiliation with Riverton Police Department
- Middle School Awards
- BCPSI at Cherokee
- Participation with County Crisis Team
- Preschool Lottery
- PASS Results & Feedback

Mr. Zagorski informed the Board of his conversations with Strauss Esmay and the costs to update the district's policy manual. Mrs. Corbi commented that she understands the importance to the school and considers it an investment. Mr. Croft asked if policies are discussed during negotiations with Mr. Zagorski responding yes. Additionally, Mr. Zagorski spoke about the district vacancies, SLA dates, and Start Strong.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS FOR DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS: None

PTO: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Personnel** – No report.
- b. **Curriculum** – No report.
- c. **Building & Grounds** – Mrs. Matzelle informed the Board that the Rain Garden sign has arrived and installation is pending.
- d. **Finance** – No report.
- e. **Policy** – No report.
- f. **Community Relations** – No report.
- g. **Legislation** – No report
- h. **Palmyra Board Representative** – Mrs. Falicki reported that at the last meeting, Palmyra BOE approved the Joint Transportation Agreement with Riverton, and Palmyra and Riverside will combine field hockey teams with splitting home games 50/50.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve the updated ARP-ESSR Safe Return to School Plan.

Seconded by Mr. Elliot, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mrs. Falicki made the following motion:

-to approve the report on State Mandated Start Strong Testing administered fall, 2022.

Seconded by Mrs. Corbi, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Papenberg made the following motion:

-to approve the Student Safety Data Submission for July1 – December 31 (Period #1) for the 2022-23 school year.

Seconded by Mrs. Falicki, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve a Public Budget Hearing on the 2023-24 school budget to be held on April 25, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. in the gymnasium.

Seconded by Mr. Elliot, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Papenberg made the following motion:

-to approve the 2023 Board of Education Committees.

Seconded by Mrs. Falicki, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mrs. Corbi made the following motions:

-to approve the Title I Performance Report as prepared by the Superintendent.

Seconded by Mr. Papenberg, motion carried, all members voting aye.

-to approve the Joint Transportation Agreement with Palmyra Township School District to provide transportation services beginning September 1, 2022 until June 30, 2023. Host District's Route Number is EP1, Destination is Edgewater Park and the cost is \$10,000.00.

Seconded by Mr. Elliot, motion carried, all members voting aye.

-to approve Resolutions # 1-23 and #2-23 binding the Riverton BOE to purchase natural gas services and electric generation services through the Alliance for Competitive Energy Services ("ACES").

Seconded by Mrs. Falicki. A roll call was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Mrs. Quinzi made the following motion:

-to approve Mrs. Susan Dechnik as a volunteer for the 2022-23 school year.

Seconded by Mrs. Corbi, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Papenberg made the following motion:

-to approve appointments for extra-curricular duties for the 2022-23 school year as listed a-f:

- a. Mrs. Michele DiMarino – Morning Duty
- b. Mr. Andy Milloy – Morning Duty
- c. Ms. Monica Sanders – In-clement Recess Duty
- d. Mrs. Lena Sutcliffe – Recess Duty
- e. Ms. Heather Thress – Recess Duty
- f. Mrs. Tiffany Williams – Recess Duty

Seconded by Mrs. Falicki, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve the following substitutes to provide staff coverage/extra classroom help every week on their assigned day for the 2022-23 School Year as listed a-c:

- a. Mrs. Marilyn Lippincott – Tuesdays
- b. Mrs. Karen Park – Wednesdays
- c. Mrs. Donna Johnson – Thursdays

Seconded by Mr. Papenberg. Mr. Croft asked about Mondays and Fridays with Mr. Zagorski responding that there were no volunteers. Motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Papenberg made the following motion:

-to approve the after-school clubs with advisor Mrs. Amy Penwell as listed a-b:

- a. Girls Who Code - Grades 3-5 (February – April 2023)
- b. Girls Who Code - Grades 6-8 (April – June 2023)

Seconded by Mrs. Corbi. Mr. Zagorski mentioned the advisor will be paid with the Math and Science stipend. Motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mrs. Corbi made the following motions:

-to approve the revised staffing pattern (copy in Board Folder) for the 2022-23 school year as presented by the Superintendent.

Seconded by Mr. Elliot. A roll call was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

-to approve/confirm the workshop/professional day requests as listed below a-b:

- a. Mrs. Lindsay Bartuska and Ms. Elizabeth Odd to attend a workshop, “Restorative Practices in the Classroom” on January 12, 2023 from 9:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. at no cost to the Board;
- b. Mrs. Anne Devonshire to attend a virtual workshop, “Winter 2023 NOW Conference” on January 27-29, 2023 from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. at a cost to the Board of \$149.00.

Seconded by Mr. Elliot, motion carried, all members voting aye.

-to approve the Author Visit with Daniel Jude Miller on February 28, 2023 for grades 1-8 during Read Across America Week.

Seconded by Mrs. Falicki. Mr. Croft mentioned he looked the author up online and he seemed interesting with Mr. Zagorski responding that the author has visited many Burlington County schools. Motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Papenberg made the following motion:

-to approve the PTO Variety Show on March 3rd and 4th, 2023.

Seconded by Mrs. Corbi, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mrs. Corbi made the following motions:

-to approve the following class trip as listed below:

- Eighth grade to the YMCA of the Pines Camp (3 days) to observe animal/plant life and to develop an understanding of the Pinelands environment.

Seconded by Mr. Papenberg, motion carried, all members voting aye.

-to approve the following application for facilities use as listed below:

- Riverton PTO to use the gym for Hammer & Stain Fundraiser on February 9, 2023 from 6:00-9:30 P.M.
Responsible people: Michael and Maureen Gaspari.

Seconded by Mr. Papenberg. Mrs. Quinzi asked for more detail with Mr. Zagorski explaining the event uses wooden kits. Motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Papenberg made the following motion:

-to approve the observance of the Random Acts of Kindness Week scheduled for February 13-17, 2023.

Seconded by Mrs. Falicki, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mrs. Corbi made the following motions:

-to approve the participation in the American Heart Association Fundraiser – Kids Heart Challenge for the week of February 6-10, 2023. The teacher responsible: Mr. Dave Zaun.

Seconded by Mr. Elliot, motion carried, all members voting aye.

-to approve the annual review of Policy #3542.1 Local Wellness, Nutrition.

Seconded by Mrs. Falicki, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Elliot made the following motions:

-to approve the Fire & Security Drill Report for the month of January, 2023 as submitted by the Superintendent.

Seconded by Mrs. Falicki, motion carried, all members voting aye.

-to approve the special payrolls for hourly, per diem, and substitute employees for December 2022.

Seconded by Mr. Papenberg, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Papenberg made the following motions:

-to approve the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for December 2022 in balance.

Seconded by Mr. Elliot, motion carried, all members voting aye.

-to approve the following resolution

Pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c) 4, we certify that as of December 31, 2022, after review of the secretary's monthly financial report, and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been overextended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Seconded by Mrs. Falicki. A roll call was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Elliot made the following motion:

-to approve the payment of bills for January 25, 2023 in the amount of \$467, 194.02.

Seconded by Mr. Papenberg, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mrs. Falicki made the following motion:

-to approve the transfers, as listed in the amount of \$0.00 for December 2022.

Seconded by Mr. Elliot, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve the contract with Strauss Esmay Associates, school policy consultants, to create a policy and regulation manual at a fee of \$10,000, an annual online membership \$4,835, and a one-time set-up fee of \$2,495.

Seconded by Mr. Elliot, motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Elliot made the following motion:

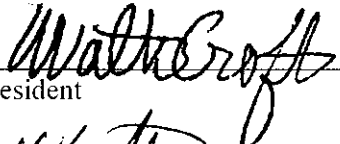
-to approve Family Math Nights from 6:00 – 7:30 pm (four 90-minute sessions) on March 22, March 29, April 5, and April 19. Responsible persons: Miss Christine Durante and Mrs. Shannon Vasile.

Seconded by Mrs. Corbi, motion carried, all members voting aye.

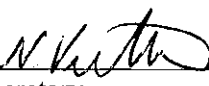
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, the Public shall be excluded from the portion of the meeting involving the discussion of staff resignation and student residency.

FURTHER, that any action taken shall be disclosed following the executive meeting.



 President



 Secretary

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting; and **WHEREAS, the Riverton Board of Education** has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of the Riverton Board of Education will reconvene following the end of the closed session, approximately _____ p.m. this evening.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Riverton Board of Education will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

_____ Any matter which, by express provision of Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from discussion in public (Provision relied upon: _____);

_____ Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

_____ Any matter the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

_____ Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions of which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of terms and conditions with employees or representatives of employees of the public body (Specify contract: _____)

_____ Any matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed;

_____ Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

_____ Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

_____ Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer (If pending or anticipated litigation, the matter is entitled: _____) (If contract negotiation, the nature of the contract and interested party is _____)

X Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting (Subject to the balancing of the public's interest and the employee's privacy rights under South Jersey Publishing, 124 N.J. 478, the employee (s) and nature of discussion);

Any deliberation of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act of omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Riverton Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Riverton Board of Education Attorney advises the Riverton Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Riverton Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Corbi, seconded by Mrs. Falicki, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. for the purpose of discussing staff resignation and student residency.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Quinzi, seconded by Mrs. Corbi, the Board reconvened to open Public Session at 7:49 p.m. Motion carried, all members voting aye.

ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSION DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to accept with regrets the resignation of Mr. Nikolas Vrettos as of April 1, 2023.

Seconded by Mr. Elliot, motion carried, all members voting aye.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: Mr. Vrettos gave an update about ethics training and financial disclosure forms.


INFORMATION ITEMS: Mr. Zagorski informed the Board he currently has 4 potential 2023-2024 school calendars.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS FOR COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA: None

ADJOURNMENT:

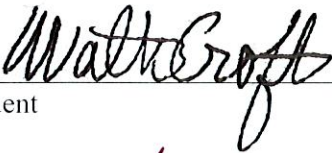
Hearing no further business, Mr. Croft called for a motion to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Corbi, seconded by Mr. Elliot, the Board moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Motion carried, all members present voting aye.



Nikolas Vrettos, Secretary
Riverton Board of Education

APPROVED UPON MOTION OF THE BOARD



President



Secretary