

RIVERTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2024  
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 12, 2024, notice of this meeting was posted on the District’s website, mailed to the 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	Joshua Zagorski, Superintendent
Mrs. Quinzi	Robert Foster, Business Administrator
Mr. Sencindiver	

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Motion made by Mrs. Corbi, seconded by Mrs. Falicki to accept the Secretary’s Minutes (Public) for the Reorganization Meeting on January 2, 2024.

Motion carried, all members voting aye.

**PUBLIC LOTTERY:**

The preschool lottery wasn’t required based on the number of applicants. Mr. Zagorski specified there are 5 seats open and we will be reposting the openings.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** BOE members agreed we should publicize a notice before board meetings – “If childcare is needed during the upcoming BOE meeting please contact the Main Office”. Live streaming of meetings is not necessary if we will provide childcare. Mr. Zagorski noted the volunteer hours count for Palmyra Interact students even if no children are present for meetings.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT:**

Mr. Zagorski reported on the following items:

- Presentation of SSDS report from July 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31, 2023
- PreK Registration – No Lottery Necessary for 2024-25 School Year – 8 Registered, 5 Seats Open
- Partnership with NJ Tutoring Corps – Using iReady Platform
- Book “Mascot” - Board Members to Review Prior to Adoption
- After School STEM Club – Grades 2 to 5
- Mr. Zagorski at State Conference on 1/25-1/26 & Presenting on Topic of Artificial Intelligence

**RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS FOR DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS:** None**PTO:** None**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. **Personnel** – Mr. Sencindiver noted the new REA contract was fully executed in early January. He also spoke about the REA and BOE currently working towards a Sick Leave Bank for catastrophic illness or injury. There would be a committee formed to handle this Bank – more info to follow at future meetings.
- b. **Curriculum** – No report.
- c. **Building & Grounds** – No report.
- d. **Finance** – Mr. Papenberg reviewed the bills and found all to be in order.
- e. **Policy** – No report.
- f. **Community Relations** – No report.
- g. **Legislation** – No report.
- h. **Palmyra Board Representative** – the Palmyra Board met 1/10/24 – they are breaking into smaller groups to begin pushing people to vote for the upcoming referendum.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None**NEW BUSINESS:**

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

-to approve the Student Safety Data Submission for July1 – December 31 (Period #1) for the 2023-24 school year.

Seconded by Mr. Elliot. Mr. Zagorski commented he will be presenting this at the February meeting. Motion carried, all members voting aye.

-to approve a Public Budget Hearing on the 2024-25 school budget to be held on April 23, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. in the gymnasium.

Seconded by Mr. Papenberg. Mr. Sencindiver asked if the state had a date to issue State Aid figures. Mr. Foster responded this information will be released in late February/early March. Motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Sencindiver made the following motions:

-to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent in regards to the HIB Investigation Case #2 and Case #3.

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

-to approve the 2024 Board of Education Committees.

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

Mr. Elliot made the following motion:

-to approve the revised school calendar for the 2023-24 school year as listed a-c:

- a. February 16, 2024– Make-up Snow Day for 1/16/24
- b. June 17, 2024 Last day for students & staff – Make-up Snow Day for 1/19/24
- c. June 18, 2024 Last day for staff only –Make-up Snow Day for 1/19/24

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

Mr. Sencindiver made the following motion:

-to approve the annual review of the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement with all addendums between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (MOA) and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding live video streaming for the 2023-24 school year.

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

Mr. Elliot made the following motion:

-to approve the following job description for first reading and adoption as listed below:

- a. #67 English Language Arts (ELA) Coordinator

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

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve appointments for extra-curricular duties for the 2023-24 school year as listed a-b:

- a. Mrs. Amy Penwell – English Language Coordinator (Split)
- b. Mrs. Lora Palazzolo – English Language Coordinator (Split)

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

Mr. Sencindiver made the following motions:

-to approve the workshop/professional day request as listed below:

- Mrs. Anne Devonshire to attend an online workshop, “AOE Winter 2024 NOW Conference” on February 2-4, 2024 from 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. at a cost to the Board of \$157.94.

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

-to approve the following applications for facilities use as listed below a-c:

- a. PTO Wellness Committee to use the gym for a Mindfulness Event on January 25, 2024 from 5:30 – 9:30 P.M. Responsible Person: Abigail Greenwood;
- b. PTO Variety Show to use the Gym and various classrooms on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>h</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> during requested times. Responsible person: Jeanne Tuscano;
- c. PE Academy Camps to use (in case of severe weather) the gymnasium, computer lab, restrooms on April 2-5, 2024 (Spring Break) from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. and in June, camp will start the first day after the final day of the school year for staff and run until June 28, 2024 from 8:45 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. Responsible persons: Mr. Robert Sciarrotta and Mr. Dave Zaun.

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

Mr. Elliot made the following motions:

-to approve the YMCA Base Program hosting Action Karate to hold a demonstration for their Primetime after care students in the Media Center.

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

-to approve the following PTO events as listed a-c:

- a. Variety Show - March 1st & 2nd, 2024 (Riverton School Gym)
- b. Dodgeball Tournament – March 22, 2024 (Sacred Heart Gym)
- c. Family Fun Night – April 19, 2024 (Sacred Heart Gym)

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

Mr. Sencindiver made the following motions:

-to approve the following class trips as listed a-c:

- a. First and Second grades to the Arden Theater to see Pinocchio. Prior to the play, classes will read the book in class. Students will compare the book to the play and experience a live performance;
- b. Fourth Grade to the Franklin Institute to explore science topics such as the brain, heart, electricity, machines and space and to make real-world connections to science;
- c. Eighth grade to Palmyra High School to tour the building and review various curricular and extra-curricular programs offered to students.

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

-to approve the observance of Random Acts of Kindness Week scheduled for February 12-16, 2024.

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

-to approve the 2nd through 5th grade after school STEM Clubs to start the week of February 5, 2024 using the Boston Museum's Engineering in Elementary Unit Curriculum.

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

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve the annual review of Policy #8505 (3542.1) Local Wellness/Nutrient Standards for Meals and Other Foods.

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

Mr. Papenberg made the following motion:

-to approve Mr. Robert Foster as the Riverton School Public Agency Compliance Officer for the 2024 calendar.

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

Mr. Sencindiver made the following motions:

-to approve the 2022-23 Title I Comparability of Services Report and the 2022-23 Title I Performance Report as submitted by the Superintendent.

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

-to approve the Fire & Security Drill Report for the month of January, 2024 as submitted by the Superintendent.

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

-to approve the special payrolls for hourly, per diem, and substitute employees for December 2023.

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

-to approve the Board Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports for December 2023 in balance.

Seconded by Mr. Papenberg, 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, 2023, 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 Mr. Elliot. 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 24, 2024 in the amount of \$344,009.94.

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

Mr. Sencindiver made the following motion:

-to approve the transfers, as listed in the amount of \$68,812.27 for December 2023.

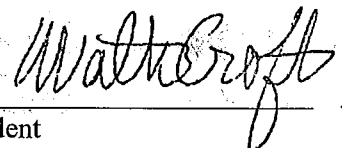
Seconded by Mr. Papenberg, motion carried, all members voting aye.

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

**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 reviewing policy manuals and staff family leave.

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 is \_\_\_\_\_);

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 Mr. Sencindiver, seconded by Mr. Papenberg, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. for the purpose of discussing

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Elliot, seconded by Mr. Sencindiver, the Board reconvened to open Public Session at 7:20 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, Mr. Sencindiver made the following motions:

-to approve the second reading and adoption of revoking of the New Jersey School Board's Policies and regulations listed in the table of contents of the policy manuals.

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

-to approve the second reading and adoption of the Strauss Esmay Policies and Regulations listed in the table of contents of the policy manuals, except for Policy 6-113.

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

-to approve Childbirth Disability Leave, FMLA Leave, New Jersey Family Leave and Child Rearing Leave (per contract without pay) for Mrs. Shannon Elwell beginning April 8, 2024 and returning November 11, 2024 using 74 sick days.

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

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve Mr. Charles McGee for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act beginning March 11, 2024 and returning the first day of the 2024-2025 school year.

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

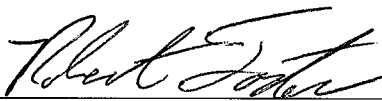
**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** Disclosure Forms, Ethics Training

**INFORMATION ITEMS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

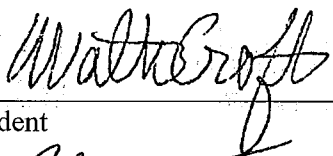
Hearing no further business, Mr. Croft called for a motion to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.

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

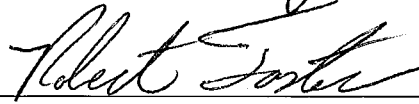


Robert Foster, Secretary  
Riverton Board of Education

**APPROVED UPON MOTION OF THE BOARD**



President



Secretary