

RIVERTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 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
Mrs. Falicki	Mr. Croft, President
Mrs. Matzelle	Mr. Elliot, Vice President
Mr. Papenberg	Joshua Zagorski, Superintendent
Mrs. Quinzi (N.A.)	Robert Foster, Business Administrator
Mr. Sencindiver (N.A.)	

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Motion made by Mrs. Corbi, seconded by Mr. Papenberg to accept the Secretary’s Minutes (Public and Executive) for the Regular Meeting on February 27, 2024 including Mid-Year Goal Reviews and the Public Hearing on the Student Safety Data Submission SSDS (Period #1).

Motion carried, all members voting aye.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Mr. Zagorski spoke about a correspondence received from a parent suggesting Riverton participate in Neurodiversity week. He indicated we have a few things in place already and will continue to share these resources with the correct personnel.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT:**

Mr. Zagorski reported on the following items:

- After-School STEM Clubs Completed
- Congratulations to Kate Austin, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student who Represented Riverton at N.J. School Boards Burlington County 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dialogue
- M.S. Art Students Showcased Artwork at RCBC Teen Arts Festival
- Riverton Porch Club & Mrs. Elwell Collaborated on Read Across America Event
- M.S. SEEK Students Attended “Mission to Mars” at Buehler Space Center
- Mr. Zagorski Attended Behavioral Threat Assessment Training at Burlington Township H.S.
- Exploration of Outside Scheduling Consulting Company
- Finalization of State Testing Schedule for this year’s NJSLA Testing in May
- Mr. Zagorski Outlined Three Possible Graduate Programs

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

- a. **Personnel** – No report.
- b. **Curriculum** – No report.
- c. **Building & Grounds** – BOE member received a comment from a citizen regarding litter on 4<sup>th</sup> Street by the playground that had been sitting a while. Mr. Zagorski indicated we have a few staff members who survey the area and pick up trash as needed.
- 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** – Referendum passed for \$18M – number of voters far exceeded the number expected. State Aid reduction of roughly \$1M.

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

Mr. Foster presented the 2024-25 proposed budget to the board. A discussion followed with questions being answered by Mr. Foster.

Based on the recommendation of the Superintendent Mr. Elliot made the following motions:

BE IT RESOLVED to approve the tentative FY 2024-25 School District Budget for submission to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$ 6,919,662.	\$ 5,995,573.
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 169,342.	\$ 0
Debt Service Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Budget	\$ 7,089,004.	\$ 5,995,573.

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

-to approve the establishment of the school district travel maximum for the 2024-25 school year at \$10,000. The maximum amount established for the 2023-24 school year is \$10,000 with the amount spent year to date of \$4,443.

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

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve the following revised policies for first reading as listed a-u:

- a. P1140 Educational Equity Policies/Affirmative Action
- b. P1523 Comprehensive Equity Plan
- c. P1530 Equal Employment Opportunities
- d. R1530 Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint Procedure
- e. P1550 Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices
- f. R2200 Curriculum Content
- g. P2260 Equity in School and Classroom Practices
- h. R2260 Equity in School and Classroom Practices Complaint Procedure
- i. P2411 Guidance Counseling
- j. P3211 Code of Ethics
- k. R5440 Honoring Student Achievement
- l. P5570 Sportsmanship
- m. P5750 Equitable Educational Opportunity
- n. P5842 Equal Access of Student Organizations
- o. P7610 Vandalism
- p. R7610 Vandalism
- q. P9323 Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition
- r. P2423 Bilingual Education
- s. R2423 Bilingual Education
- t. P2431.4 Prevention & Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions & Head Injuries
- u. R2431.4 Prevention & Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions & Head Injuries

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

Mr. Elliot made the following motion:

-to approve the April Board Meeting date adjustment from April 23, 2024 to April 24, 2024 per County guidance.

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

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent in regard to the HIB Investigation Case #4.

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

Mr. Elliot made the following motion:

-to approve the use of the Suicide Risk Screening Tool and PHQ-9 modified for Adolescents Screening Tool (PHQ-A) to be used as part of the preliminary assessment completed by the Child Study Team to determine a student's risk of suicide.

Seconded by Mrs. Falicki. Mr. Croft asked if the PHQ-A tool has any overlap with the Behavioral Threat Assessment team discussed earlier in the meeting, to which Mr. Zagorski confirmed it does.

Motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve Field Day as listed a-b:

- a. May 24, 2024 - Grades PreK, 5-8 Field Day
- b. June 7, 2024 - Grades K-4 Field Day

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

Mr. Elliot made the following motion:

-to confirm the Student Council Snow Cone Fundraiser with Kona Ice of Haddonfield on March 20, 2024.  
Responsible person: Doreen Walter.

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

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve the PTO trip as listed below:

- PTO Middle School Trip to The Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island and the Liberty Science Museum on May 22, 2024 from 8:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M.

Seconded by Mrs. Falicki. Mr. Croft asked if the PTO was only for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, to which Mr. Zagorski replied it is for all middle school grades 6-8. Motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Papenberg made the following motion:

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

- a. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students to Palmyra High School to watch a live theater performance of *Mamma Mia*;
- b. Safety Patrol to Six Flags Great Adventure as a Safety Patrol reward for the school year;
- c. Kindergarten to the Johnson's Farm to examine the parts of plants, plant seeds and pick strawberries;
- d. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend "Battle of the Books County Battle" to participate with other Burlington County students in a reading trivia contest and celebration of reading.

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

Mr. Elliot made the following motion:

-to approve Mr. Robert Sciarrotta for the extra-curricular position of YMCA of the Pines Advisor for the 2023-24 school year.

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

Mrs. Corbi made the following motions:

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

- a. Mr. Robert Foster to attend a workshop, "NJASBO Seminar -Review of Purchasing Laws for NJ Schools" on March 26, 2024 from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. at the Westin Hotel, Mount Laurel, NJ at a cost to the Board of \$125.00 plus mileage;

- b. Mr. Joshua Zagorski and Mr. Robert Foster to attend a workshop, "Strauss Esmay Annual School Law and Policy Seminar" on May 31, 2024 from 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. at Brookdale Community College, Middletown, NJ at a cost to the Board for mileage.

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

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

- a. STEM Education LLC to provide Summer STEM Camp using various first floor classrooms, Media Center and Gym on July 1 – 25, 2024, Mondays - Thursdays from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M.  
Responsible person: Mr. Joshua Zagorski

Seconded by Mr. Papenberg. Mr. Croft asked if we needed to find staff to run the summer STEM camp, to which Mr. Zagorski replied it is run by a third party vendor with the assistance of select district staff. Motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Elliot made the following motion:

-to accept the generous donations listed a-b:

- a. Riverton Fire Dept. - \$100.00 to benefit Riverton School's Art Program;  
b. Austin Family -Booklet and long reach staplers

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

Mr. Papenberg made the following motion:

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

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

Mr. Elliot made the following motions:

-to approve the submission of a Minor Amendment to the Long-Range Facilities Plan to update proposed systems actions (capital maintenance).

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

-to approve the appropriation of FY22-23 Stabilization Aid to the following accounts as listed below:

▪ 11-000-266-610 - Security Supplies:	\$21,848.34
▪ 11-000-266-300 - Security Purchased Services:	\$12,499.00
▪ 11-190-100-640 - Textbooks:	\$60,000.00
▪ 11-190-100-610 - General Supplies:	\$51,151.66
▪ 11-120-100-101-1 Substitutes:	\$20,578.00
▪ 11-000-100-565 - Tuition County Spec. Services:	\$37,000.00
▪ 11-000-217-320 - Purchased Professional Services:	\$63,000.00
	Total: \$266,077.00

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

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve the following 2023-24 Tuition contracts as listed below a-b:

- a. Palmyra Board of Education: 40 regular education students @ \$16,128 each;
- b. Palmyra Board of Education: 13 special education students @ \$21,526 each.

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

Mr. Elliot made the following motions:

-to approve the Asbestos Ahera Three Year Re-Inspection and Management Plan as prepared by Ramm Environmental Services, Inc. on February 26, 2024.

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

-to approve the Special Payrolls for hourly, per diem, and substitute employees for February 2024.

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 February 29, 2024, 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. Wilburn. A roll call was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Papenberg made the following motions:

-to approve the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for February 2024 in balance.

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

-to approve the payment of bills March 20, 2024 in the amount of \$337,190.66.

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

Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve transfers as listed in the amount of \$49,202.74 for February 2024.

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 hiring of staff, Sick Leave Bank, and HIB Investigation.

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. Elliot, seconded by Mrs. Wilburn, the Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing hiring of staff, Sick Leave Bank, and HIB Investigation.

#### **PUBLIC SESSION:**

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Corbi, seconded by Mr. Elliot, the Board reconvened to open Public Session at 7:23 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. Elliot made the following motion:

-to confirm Ms. Monica Sanders as an Interim Math Teacher beginning March 11, 2024 at the daily rate of \$269.55 (Step 1 Prorated).

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



Mrs. Corbi made the following motion:

-to approve Mrs. Jacqueline Paluszkiewicz as an Educational Aide for the 2023-24 school year beginning March 20, 2024 at the rate of \$17.50 per hour.

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

Mr. Papenberg made the following motion:

-to approve the revised staffing pattern (copy in Board Folder) for the 2023-24 school year as presented by the Superintendent.

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

Mrs. Corbi made the following motions:

-to approve the decision of the Sick Leave Bank Review Committee to approve staff member (#79048351)'s request for the use of 71 Sick Bank days for catastrophic illness.

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

-to approve the selected graduate school program at \_\_\_\_\_ for Mr. Joshua W. Zagorski to begin in the 2024-25 school year per his contract.

Seconded by Mr. Papenberg. Mr. Zagorski indicated Drexel is his preferred program of choice. Motion carried, all members voting aye.

Mr. Papenberg made the following motion:

-to approve the recommendation of the superintendent to use Key Consulting Educational Group LLC to help audit the current Riverton schedule.

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** None

**INFORMATION ITEMS:** None



**ADJOURNMENT:**

Hearing no further business, Mr. Croft called for a motion to adjourn at 7:26 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.



Robert Foster, Secretary  
Riverton Board of Education

**APPROVED UPON MOTION OF THE BOARD**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary