

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MARCH 8, 2004

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday evening, March 8, 2004 at the High School Cafeteria. Meeting was called to order by President Willis at 7:32 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On roll call the following members were present: Mrs. Ahmed, Mr. Brancato, Mr. Casadonte, Mrs. Cevasco, Mr. Ferguson, Mrs. Monahan, Mr. Novosielski, and Mrs. Willis. Mr. Gibney was absent for the entire meeting. Also present were Mrs. Conlon and Mr. Brown.

**N.J. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW**

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Rutherford Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted on the bulletin board outside the Borough Clerk's Office, mailed to the News Leader, Herald, South Bergenite, and the Record newspapers, and filed with the Borough Clerk.

**TAPING AND BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS**

As approved by the Rutherford Board of Education, we are taping and broadcasting our worksessions and regular meetings. These meetings will be broadcast without editing during a two-hour time segment on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 PM on the Comcast public access channel. At the conclusion of the two-hour segment, the broadcast will end regardless of what part of the meeting is currently being viewed due to the Comcast time constraint. Any member of the public who wishes to view the two-hour tape should make a written request to the Board Secretary who will have a copy of the tape made available within two weeks of the request. There will be a nominal fee charged for this tape reproduction. We welcome comments from residents viewing the broadcast.

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

1. Resolution by Mr. Novosielski, seconded by Mrs. Cevasco.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION that the minutes of the Worksession Meeting and Executive Session of March 1, 2004 be approved as recorded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Cevasco – aye	Mrs. Monahan – aye
Mr. Brancato – abstain	Mr. Ferguson – abstain	Mr. Novosielski – aye
Mr. Casadonte – abstain	Mr. Gibney – absent	Mrs. Willis – aye

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:**

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Public Hearing/Worksession on March 29, 2004 at 7:30 P.M.

Election will be held on April 20, 2004 from 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM.

Anna Amorelli Scholarship Fund has been established.

Healthy Lifestyles Seminar with Judy DePasquale will be held on March 16, 2004 at the High School.

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: (Agenda Items Only)** 7:39 P.M. No comments made

**NEW BUSINESS (Action to be Taken)**

**PERSONNEL:**

Motion by Mrs. Ahmed, seconded by Mr. Novosielski to move the following resignations, retirements, salary adjustments, reassignments, appointments, etc., pending approval from the State Department of Education, subject to the New Jersey Criminal Background Check and other legal requirements.

Approved.

**Motion by Mrs. Ahmed, seconded by Mrs. Cevasco to approve Personnel Items #1-#9.**

**RETIREMENT MONIES**

1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following retirement monies to Mrs. Patricia Bardzell who retired effective 7/1/03, as per agreement between the Rutherford Board of Education and the Rutherford Education Association, pending further negotiations:

79 days x \$30.00 = \$2,370

**COMPUTER STIPEND**

2. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following computer repair stipend for an Apple certificate as follows for the 2003-2004 school year:

Forrest Dowling    Apple Portable Service Certificate    Annual Stipend: \$1,000\*

\* pro-rated effective 3/1/04

**MIRIAM PUJOLS**

3. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to employ Ms. Miriam Pujols as a lunch monitor at Union School effective 3/9/04 at the hourly rate of \$8.25.

**ROGER KOTLARZ**

4. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to employ Mr. Roger Kotlarz as a Weight Room Advisor effective 2/24/04 at the hourly rate of \$15.00.

**THE SUBSTITUTE SERVICE**

5. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to renew the contract with The Substitute Service, LLC for the 2004-2005 school year in the amount of

BRIDGET RULLER 6. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to extend the unpaid child rearing leave of Mrs. Bridget Ruller through June 30, 2005.

KATHLEEN COCKCROFT 7. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve a one-month unpaid leave of absence for Mrs. Kathleen Cockcroft, secretary in Special Services, during the months of July and August 2004.

DIANE ROSAMILIA 8. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to employ Mrs. Diane Rosamilia as a one-to-one aide for Student #2000410 for 7 hours per day, 2 days per week, at the hourly rate of \$12.50 (step 1) through 6/30/04. This is a temporary assignment.

SUBSTITUTES 9. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to employ the following as substitute teacher(s) at the per diem rate of \$70.00 and in accordance with law:

Patrick Cassidy - effective 3/9/04  
Amelia Locascio - effective 3/9/04

Roll Call Vote Personnel Items #1-#9:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Cevasco – aye	Mrs. Monahan – aye
Mr. Brancato – aye	Mr. Ferguson – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye
Mr. Casadonte – aye	Mr. Gibney – absent	Mrs. Willis – aye

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:**

**Motion by Mr. Novosielski, seconded by Mrs. Monahan to approve Curriculum and Instruction Items #1-#3.**

OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENT 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the out-of-district placement of Student #2003182 (name on file in the office of special services) to attend the South Bergen Jointure Commission, East Rutherford campus, effective 2/23/04 at the annual tuition of \$13,900.00.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the district Professional Development Plan for 2004-2005 as approved by the Bergen County Professional Development Board on January 22, 2004.

HOME INSTRUCTION 3. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve home instruction for Student "Q" (name on file in the office of the superintendent) effective 2/29/04.

Roll Call Vote Curriculum and Instruction Items #1-#3:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Cevasco – aye	Mrs. Monahan – aye
Mr. Brancato – aye	Mr. Ferguson – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye
Mr. Casadonte – aye	Mr. Gibney – absent	Mrs. Willis – aye

**Motion by Mr. Novosielski, seconded by Mrs. Cevasco to approve Curriculum & Instruction Item #4.**

SUMMER MATH PROGRAM 4. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the establishment of a mandatory Summer Math Program for students entering grades 9-11.

MOTION TO AMEND Motion by Mrs. Monahan, seconded by Mrs. Ahmed, to strike the word “mandatory” from Summer Math Program resolution.

Roll Call Vote Motion to Amend:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Cevasco – no	Mrs. Monahan – aye
Mr. Brancato – aye	Mr. Ferguson – no	Mr. Novosielski – no
Mr. Casadonte – no	Mr. Gibney – absent	Mrs. Willis – aye

**Motion to Amend Failed**

MOTION TO CALL QUESTION Motion by Mrs. Ahmed, seconded by Mrs. Monahan to call the question on Item #4.

Roll Call Vote Motion to Call Question:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Cevasco – aye	Mrs. Monahan – aye
Mr. Brancato – aye	Mr. Ferguson – aye	Mr. Novosielski – no
Mr. Casadonte – aye	Mr. Gibney – absent	Mrs. Willis – aye

Roll Call Vote Curriculum and Instruction Item #4:

Mrs. Ahmed – no	Mrs. Cevasco – aye	Mrs. Monahan – no
Mr. Brancato – aye	Mr. Ferguson – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye
Mr. Casadonte – aye	Mr. Gibney – absent	Mrs. Willis – aye



**ADDL. APPROPRIATIONS  
OF FUND BALANCE ON  
RECAP BALANCES LINE 1620**

7. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the appropriation of additional balance:

RESOLVED, that additional fund balance was appropriated between July 1, 2003 and January 31, 2004 in the amount of \$405,000 for providing sprinkler systems at Lincoln and Washington Schools and also providing one-hour rated fire doors required by the fire marshal at all six district schools, and will be included on Line 1620 of the Recapitulation of Balances. This appropriation did not reduce the general fund unreserved fund balance below the greater of 3 percent of the proposed budget year general fund appropriations or \$75,000, in conformity with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-8.6(b)1.

**Roll Call Vote Finance Items #1-#7:**

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Cevasco – aye	Mrs. Monahan – aye
Mr. Brancato – aye	Mr. Ferguson – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye
Mr. Casadonte – aye	Mr. Gibney – absent	Mrs. Willis – aye

**POLICY:**

**Motion by Mrs. Cevasco, seconded by Mr. Casadonte to approve Policy Item #1.**

**SERIES 6000 POLICIES**

1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following 6000 Series policies on first reading:

- 6146 Graduation/Promotion Policy RHS
- 6146.1 Graduation/Promotion Policy RHS
- 6162.4 Community Resources
- 6162.5 Research/Student Surveys
- 6163.1 Media Center/Library
- 6164.1 Intervention and Referral Services for General Education Pupils
- 6164.2 Guidance Services
- 6164.4 Child Study Team
- 6171 Special Instructional Programs
- 6171.1 Remedial Instruction
- 6171.2 Gifted and Talented
- 6171.3 At-Risk and Title I
- 6171.4 Special Education
- R6171.4 Special Education
- 6172 Alternative Educational Programs
- 6173 Home Instruction
- 6200 Adult/Community Education
- 6300 Evaluation of the Instructional Program

**Roll Call Vote Policy Item #1:**

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Cevasco – aye	Mrs. Monahan – aye
Mr. Brancato – aye	Mr. Ferguson – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye
Mr. Casadonte – aye	Mr. Gibney – absent	Mrs. Willis – aye

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:**

**Motion by Mrs. Monahan, seconded by Mr. Brancato to approve Buildings and Grounds Item #1.**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR RFP**

1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to authorize the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to send out requests for proposals to energy conservation companies for the purpose of retrofitting all six schools in the Rutherford school district with more energy-efficient lighting fixtures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to apply for any energy conservation grants that may be available from the New Jersey Public Utilities Commission for the purpose of providing additional funding toward this project.

**Roll Call Vote Buildings and Grounds Item #1:**

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Cevasco – aye	Mrs. Monahan – aye
Mr. Brancato – aye	Mr. Ferguson – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye
Mr. Casadonte – aye	Mr. Gibney – absent	Mrs. Willis – aye

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: (Any Topic) 8:10 P.M.**

Bill Cirelli addressed the Board regarding special education inclusion.

Nick Cirelli addressed the Board regarding special education inclusion.

Mildred Dyson addressed the Board regarding special education programs.

Maureen Bigley addressed the Board regarding special education inclusion.

Meeting was then closed to the public at 8:24 P.M.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion by Mr. Ferguson, seconded by Mr. Brancato that an Executive Session be held at 8:27 P.M. for the purpose of discussing negotiations and personnel. Action may or may not be taken. The Board expects to return within 15 minutes.

Approved.

The Board returned at 8:55 P.M.

The Board discussed issues of special education inclusion.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Mr. Casadonte, seconded by Mr. Ferguson that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Brown  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

**Following is an extract of binding action taken at the Worksession Meeting of March 1, 2004.**

**NEW BUSINESS (Action to be Taken)**

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

1A. Resolution by Mr. Novosielski, seconded by Mrs. Ahmed.  
 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2004 and the Special Meeting of February 18, 2004 be approved as recorded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Cevasco – aye	Mrs. Monahan – aye
Mr. Brancato – absent	Mr. Ferguson – absent	Mr. Novosielski – aye
Mr. Casadonte – absent	Mr. Gibney – aye	Mrs. Willis – aye

**PERSONNEL:**

**EMERGENT HIRES**

1A. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to employ the following applicant(s) under the emergent hiring law as per the State Department of Education:

Mrs. Helene Wetzel - Special Education Teacher  
 Ms. Miriam Pujols - Lunch Monitor

**HELENE WETZEL**

2A. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to employ Mrs. Helene Wetzel as a leave replacement special education teacher at the high school effective 2/18/04 through 6/30/04 at the annual salary of \$39,227 (step 4, level 3) pending further negotiations. This is a replacement for Ms. Adamo.

**CYNTHIA ALAI**

3A. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to rescind the appointment of Mrs. Cynthia Alai, at her request, as a leave replacement special education teacher at the high school.

**FINANCE:**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

1A. Resolution by Mr. Gibney, seconded by Mrs. Cevasco.  
 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION that the bills listed below be approved.

<b>Accounts Payable</b>	3/1/04	\$485,909.54
	3/1/04	473,816.94
	2/17/04	205,096.15
Void Check #022311-Bergen County Soil Conservation		(700.00)
Re-Issue #022318-Bergen County Soil Conservation		600.00
		<b>\$1,164,722.63</b>
<b>Payroll</b>	2/13/04	<b>\$916,780.44</b>
<b>General Activities</b>	2/5/04	464.35
	2/6/04	133.00
	2/9/04	2,093.40
	2/12/04	185.20
	2/18/04	45.60
	2/18/04	3,196.00
	2/19/04	251.95
	2/20/04	121.68
	2/24/04	2,748.29
		<b>\$9,239.47</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>\$2,090,742.54</u></b>

Roll Call Vote Finance Item #1A:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Cevasco – aye, abstain ck#022433	Mrs. Monahan – aye
Mr. Brancato – absent	Mr. Ferguson – absent	Mr. Novosielski – aye
Mr. Casadonte – absent	Mr. Gibney – aye	Mrs. Willis – aye