

RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF March 16, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held on Monday evening, March 16, 2015 in the High School Cafeteria. Meeting was called to order by President Novosielski at 7:30 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On roll call the following members were present: Mrs. Ahmed, Mr. Arce, Mr. Chu, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Lanni, Mrs. Librera, Mr. Recine and Mr. Novosielski.

Also present were Mr. Hurley and Mr. Kelly.

Absent: Mr. McLean

N.J. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act 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 posted on the bulletin board outside the Borough Clerk's Office, mailed to the *Herald*, *South Bergenite*, and the *Record* newspapers, and filed with the Borough Clerk.

TAPING AND BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Rutherford Board of Education will be broadcast without editing during a two-hour segment, as limited by Comcast's time constraints, on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. on the Comcast public access channel and on FiOS Channel 38. Any member of the public who wishes to view the tape can make that request in writing to the board secretary.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Work Session, March 2, 2015

Executive Session, March 2, 2015

No corrections. Minutes approved as recorded.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mr. Hurley reported on the following:

- The Bus Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on March 19. In reviewing various documents and publications, he noted that, with the exception of installing "No Idling" signs around the

schools, the district has performed all of the recommended actions to minimize the impact of bus exhaust fumes on students and staff. He further noted that all of the district's buses have received the closed crank ventilation upgrade by way of a retrofit in 2010, which limits the expulsion of exhaust from the buses.

- The first round of PARCC testing is essentially complete and the district had minimal technical issues. A total of approximately 1,620 students took the tests, while 103 students refused to do so. For future years, Mr. Hurley is hopeful that the state will revisit the testing schedule to ensure the first round (March) does not occur so close to the second round (May).
- The district has used its snow days for the year. As a result, school will be in session the Friday before Memorial Day (May 22), and like last year, it will be a one-session day.
- With regard to the new Preschool program under consideration, Mr. Hurley reported that several additional pieces of information have recently come to light, pertaining to busing and before-and after-care programs, which will necessitate additional study of the program. As a result, he recommends that it be reconsidered over the course of the next year in conjunction with the consideration of a true Middle School program, as both programs may impact staffing, facilities, student enrollment in the different schools and transportation requirements.
- With regard to the Middle School program under consideration, Mr. Hurley reported that he continues to investigate ways to introduce such a program at minimal incremental cost, and is now considering a Grade 7-8 school, which could be accomplished at minimal cost, and would address faculty and parent concerns about the stress of sixth graders transitioning too early into a Middle School environment. The Middle School and Preschool initiatives will require additional study and he hopes to have recommendations for both ready for the Board by December 2015.
- The Board meeting calendar will require a minor adjustment. The Board meeting scheduled for May 18 is too late for approval of staff renewals for the 2015/16 school year. As a result, Mr. Hurley will ask the Board to approve rescheduling that meeting to

Monday, May 11 and moving the committee meetings scheduled for that evening to May 18.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: 2015/2016 Preliminary Budget Presentation

Mr. Hurley and Mr. Kelly presented a detailed discussion of the preliminary 2015/2016 budget.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:

Mr. Novosielski reported that he has heard from the RAA and RSA and that negotiations will begin shortly. He will reach out to the other committee members.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (Agenda Items Only) 8:46 P.M.

Ms. Cynthia Chovan-Dalton, parent of a district student and a preschool student at Meadow School, requested that, if the district were to consider permanently moving the busses to the DPW Lot, that a parent representative from the Meadow School be included in the discussion. She also asked the Board to investigate the health issues that have been raised at Pierrepont School.

NEW BUSINESS (Action to be Taken)

PERSONNEL:

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

Approved by Voice Vote. [8-0-1]

Motion by Mrs. Ahmed, seconded by Mrs. Jones to approve Personnel Items #1 thru #16:

KRISTEEN CRUISE

1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve a disability leave with pay for Kristeen Cruise, grade 5 teacher at Pierrepont School, effective April 13, 2015 through (20) days following the birth of her baby to be followed by a child rearing leave of absence under the Family Leave Act without pay through February 1, 2016.

ALAYNE LAMBA

2. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve a disability leave with pay for Alayne Lamba, grade 5 teacher at Union School, effective June 1, 2015 through (20) days following the birth of her baby to be followed by a child rearing leave of absence under the Family Leave Act without pay through December 18, 2015.

ERIN TIFFNER

3. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve a disability leave with pay for Erin Tiffner, grade 5 teacher at Union School, effective May 4, 2015 through (20) days following the birth of her baby to be followed by a child rearing leave of absence under the Family Leave Act without pay through December 18, 2015.

STEPHANIE CASTELLANO

4. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve a disability leave with pay for Stephanie Castellano, art teacher at Rutherford High School, effective May 27, 2015 through (20) days following the birth of her baby to be followed by a child rearing leave of absence under the Family Leave Act without pay through June 23, 2015.

CHELSEA LEARY

5. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve Chelsea Leary as a long term substitute teacher at Rutherford High School effective March 23, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at the per diem rate of \$240 (step 1, level 1).

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

6. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following substitute teachers for the 2014-2015 school year effective March 17, 2015 at the per diem rate of \$80.00 and in accordance with law:

Gillian Bonner
Katherine Calabrese
Megan Cockcroft
Ellen Plumaker
Abbey Rabinovich
Rana Elkadi
Adam Neurohr-Pierpaoli
Kara Hall
Nicole Megaro

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANTS

7. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following substitute teacher assistants for the 2014-2015 school year effective March 17, 2015 at the hourly rate of \$10.00:

Gillian Bonner
 Katherine Calabrese
 Megan Cockcroft
 Ellen Plumaker

SUBSTITUTE BUS ASSISTANT

8. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following substitute bus assistant for the 2014-2015 school year effective March 17, 2015 at the hourly rate of \$9.00:

Meritxi Andujar

ALEXANDER MICELI

9. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION approve Alexander Miceli, as a part-time courier for the district, effective March 17, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at the annual salary of \$17,250(.50) (step 1) (pro-rated). This is a replacement position.

KIMBERLEE BRADLEY

10. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve Kimberlee Bradley, as a part-time teacher assistant at the Kindergarten Center, effective March 17, 2015 through June 30, 2015 at the hourly rate of \$19.00 (step 1) for 4.9 hours per day. This is a replacement position.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS

11. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following travel reimbursements for the 2014-2015 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Name of Activity</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Trans.</u>	<u>Meals</u>	<u>Lodgings</u>	<u>Other</u>
Laurie Catalano	Teacher	Orton-Gillingham	05/4-8/15	\$975	none	none	none	none
Megan Joyce	Teacher	Orton Gillingham	05/4-9/15	\$975	none	none	none	none
Anthony Paterno	Supervisor	NJ B&G Convention	03/16-18/15	\$100	none	none	none	\$390
Maria DeTrizio	Teacher	Intro to PROMPT	04/13-14/15	\$700	none	none	none	none

HALEH PODOLANCZUK

12. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve an unpaid child rearing leave under the Family Leave Act for Haleh Podolanczuk effective September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

JOANNE FIUME

13. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to accept the resignation of Joanne Fiume, hall monitor at Rutherford High School effective March 23, 2015.

KRIS ANN WRONKO

14. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to accept the resignation of Kris Ann Wronko, lunch monitor at Pierrepont School effective March 20, 2015.

KRIS ANN WRONKO

15. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve Kris Ann Wronko, as hall monitor at Rutherford High School effective March 23, 2015 for 3.5 hours per day at the hourly rate of \$10.50. This is a replacement position.

ADAM NEUROHR-PIERPAOLI

16. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve Adam Neurohr-Pierpaoli, as a long term substitute teacher at Rutherford High School effective April 13, 2015 through June 23, 2015 at the per diem rate of \$240 (step 1, level 1).

Roll Call Vote on Personnel Items #1 thru #16:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Jones – aye	Mr. McLean– absent
Mr. Arce – aye	Mrs. Lanni – aye	Mr. Recine – aye
Mr. Chu – aye	Mrs. Librera – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

Motion by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Lanni to approve Curriculum and Instruction Items #1 thru #10:

HOME INSTRUCTION

1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve home instruction for the following student (name on file in the office of the superintendent):

Student #11388 – effective 2/20/15

CURRICULUM GUIDES

2. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following revised curriculum guides:

Social Studies

- Social Studies/World Geography Grade 7
- World History Honors

World Languages

- Spanish Grade 6
- Spanish 1a Grade 7
- Spanish 1B grade 8
- Spanish 1
- Spanish 2

TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

3. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the following textbooks:

Growing Your Vocabulary: Learning from Latin and Greek Roots by Paul Moliken

- Prestwick House Publishers, Copyright 2008, latest revision 2008 Grades 4, 5, &6

Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots: A Study of Word Families by Elizabeth Osborne

- Prestwick House Publishers, Copyright 2005, latest revision 2010 Grades 7, 8, & 9

OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS

4. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the attached list of contracts for tuition and other services provided for out-of-district placements for the 2014-2015 school year.

SERVICE PROVIDER

5. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the attached list of a Service Provider for the 2014-2015 school year.

HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION BULLYING DECISION

6. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to affirm the Superintendent's decision in HIB investigation #2014-016, for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the students' parents, and directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents.

HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION BULLYING DECISION

7. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to affirm the Superintendent's decision in HIB investigation #2014-017, for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the students' parents, and directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents.

HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION BULLYING DECISION

8. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to affirm the Superintendent's decision in HIB investigation #2014-018, for the reasons set forth in the Superintendent's decision to the students' parents, and directs the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to transmit a copy of the Board's decision to the affected students' parents.

BUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE 9. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the Bus Advisory Committee for the 2014-2015 school year:

- Mayor Joseph DeSalvo
- Jack Hurley, Superintendent of Schools
- Joseph Kelly, School Business Administrator
- Anthony Paterno, Director of Buildings and Grounds
- Joan Carrion, Principal of Pierrepont School
- RyanAnn Guglielmotti, Teacher and Co-President REA
- Jovan Evtimovski, Teacher
- Margaret MacFadyen-Doty, Teacher
- JoAnn Castle, Parent
- Quinn Cassavale, Parent
- Elizabeth Gilmore, Parent

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN 10. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION to approve the submission of the Special Education Medicaid Incentive (SEMI) program Corrective Action Plan to the NJDOE, to document steps to be taken to improve parent participation in the program.

Roll Call Vote on Curriculum and Instructions Items #1 thru #10:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Jones – aye	Mr. McLean– absent
Mr. Arce – aye	Mrs. Lanni – aye	Mr. Recine – aye
Mr. Chu – aye	Mrs. Librera – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye

FINANCE:

Motion by Mrs. Librera, seconded by Mr. Chu to approve Finance Items #1 thru #3:

APPROVAL OF BILLS

1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION that the bills listed below be approved.

Accounts Payable	973,809.55
Offline Checks	2,761.70
Food Service Checks	800.00
Payroll	1,251,880.02
General Activities	<u>2,001.86</u>
Total	2,231,253.13

APPROVAL OF
BASE BUDGET

2. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Rutherford Public School District Board of Education, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey approves the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the preliminary 2015/2016 school district budget for submission to the Department of Education for approval to advertise as follows:

General Fund	\$41,628,354
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 752,017
Debt Service Fund	<u>\$ 1,485,890</u>
	\$43,866,261

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there should be raised for the General Fund \$38,204,351 for the ensuing School Year (2015/2016).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2015/2016 school year budget includes automatic adjustments for an increase in healthcare costs of \$56,451, an increase in weighted enrollment of \$393,471 and the use of banked cap of \$389,469 in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-39(e).

CAPITAL PROJECT NEEDS

3. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Rutherford Board of Education, County of Bergen has determined the need exists to address certain school facility projects in the Rutherford School District that require immediate and/or near term consideration for renovation, upgrade, or maintenance and attached hereto, and

WHEREAS, prior to current New Jersey school budget restrictions, projects of this nature were addressed through a school district's annual operating budget and included within the capital outlay portion of its annual budget, and

WHEREAS, prior to current law, these smaller Capital Outlay projects were always considered authorized adjustments to any tax levy or budgetary caps in place at that time, and

WHEREAS, projects of this nature were generally of such size and scope that the annual cost of these projects did not substantially impact the local taxpayer, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 44 of the Laws of 2010 amended 18A:7F-38 and placed more restrictive limits on school district annual budget increases by providing that no school district shall adopt an annual budget with an increase in its adjusted tax levy of more than 2% after adjustments for enrollment, health care costs, and certain accrued liability pension contributions, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 44 effectively eliminated any authorized adjustments heretofore in place that addressed the capital needs of school districts, and

WHEREAS, a *tax levy cap* of 2% often results in an annual school operating budget limit of less than 1% which must accommodate all increases relative to salaries, benefits, supplies, and operational services, and

WHEREAS, school districts around the state are experiencing great difficulty in meeting the educational needs of their district within the constraints of the 2% tax levy cap; and accordingly, must set aside, if not delay, addressing important capital projects that if go unaddressed will certainly result in much higher costs to the state and local taxpayer in the future.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rutherford Board of Education calls upon its district legislators, the Commissioner of Education, and the Governor of New Jersey to consider amendments to current law to provide that school capital costs again be recognized as authorized adjustments to school tax levy increases, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the NJ Commissioner of Education, local legislators, the New Jersey School Board's Association, and the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials.

Roll Call Vote on Finance Items #1 thru #3:

Mrs. Ahmed – aye	Mrs. Jones – aye	Mr. McLean– absent
Mr. Arce – aye	Mrs. Lanni – aye	Mr. Recine – aye
Mr. Chu – aye	Mrs. Librera – aye	Mr. Novosielski – aye

POLICY:

Mr. Chu reported that the committee had met and will present policy revisions for a first reading at the May meeting.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: **None**

OLD BUSINESS: **None**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Mrs. Jones provided an update on several pieces of legislation under consideration by the state, including pieces that would impact school start times for Middle and High School students, teacher certifications and endorsements, and the use of service animals.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: 9:06 P.M. No one spoke.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None Held.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Mrs. Ahmed, seconded by Mrs. Lanni that the meeting be adjourned at 9:06 P.M.

Approved by Voice Vote. [8-0-1]

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph P. Kelly
Business Administrator/Board Secretary