

RIVER DELL REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION

**October 26, 2020  
(Hybrid Meeting)**

A Regular Session Meeting of the River Dell Regional Board of Education was held on October 26, 2020 Board President, Albert Graef, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

ROLL CALL

Claudia O’Neill, Alan Feigenson, John Samuel, Tracey-Ellen Ehalt, Douglas Kupfer, Barbara Kuchar, Stephanie Hartman, and Albert Graef. Joseph Manzelli was absent

**Others Present**

Patrick J. Fletcher, Superintendent of Schools  
Thomas L. Bonfiglio, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Motion was made by Claudia O’Neill, seconded by Douglas Kupfer, to adopt the following resolution at 7:36 p.m.:

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

**BE IT RESOLVED** that in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act (“Act”), the River Dell Regional School District Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) shall conduct a closed executive session pursuant to the exceptions prescribed by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 for the purpose of discussing:

*Appointment of teacher*

It is anticipated that the length of time of this executive session will be 30 minutes and that action will be taken in public after the executive session.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the minutes of the executive session will be released when the need for confidentiality in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 no longer applies.

Motion carried by all ayes.

Executive Session ended at 7:58 p.m.

Motion was made by Stephanie Hartman, seconded by Claudia O’Neill to resume open session at 8:00 p.m.

RESUME  
OPEN SESSION

Thomas Bonfiglio led everyone in a salute to the flag.

FLAG SALUTE

Thomas Bonfiglio read the following statement:

OPEN PUBLIC  
MEETING STMT.

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the River Dell Regional Board of Education has caused notice of this regular meeting to be publicized by having the date, time, and place thereof sent to THE RECORD (primary), THE TOWN NEWS, and/or THE STAR LEDGER newspapers, the constituent borough clerks and borough libraries, as well as posting in the school district principals' offices, faculty rooms, Board Office, and website. According to New Jersey Public Law 2001, Chapter 226, the smoking or use of any tobacco product is strictly prohibited anywhere in the public school buildings or anywhere on school grounds, including but not limited to the parking lots, grassy areas, and athletic fields. Violators will be subject to a fine not to exceed \$100.

**Board Members Present**

ROLL CALL

Claudia O’Neill, Alan Feigenson, John Samuel, Tracey-Ellen Ehalt, Douglas Kupfer, Barbara Kuchar, Stephanie Hartman, and Albert Graef. Joseph Manzelli was absent.

**Others Present**

Patrick J. Fletcher, Superintendent of Schools  
Thomas L. Bonfiglio, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Marc Wachter, Technology Specialist/Assistant Business Administrator  
Jody Murphy, Administrative Assistant to the Business Administrator  
Approximately 161 others were in attendance virtually.

Albert Graef read the mission statement of the River Dell Regional School District.

MISSION  
STATEMENT

**4. Public Comments (on agenda items only)**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Discussion ensued with the public on Mr. Fletcher’s modified schedule recommendation.

**5. PRESENTATION: School Schedule Update – Patrick J. Fletcher**

PRESENTATION  
MR. FLETCHER

- Mr. Fletcher gave an update on the High School Principal search.
- He updated the Board on the two COVID-19 exposure cases.
- Mr. Fletcher reported the enrollment numbers regarding in-person vs. virtual learning.
- He recommended a modified instructional schedule which will be effective November 9, 2020.

**6. Student Member Report:**

**STUDENT  
MEMBER  
REPORT**

Noelle Sarafian indicated that virtual Wednesday is a long day for students. Jesse Henderson suggested that the district consider student and teacher input. Joshua Wiesenfeld mentioned that the students seem to be getting a lot more homework because of less in-person instruction.

**7. Reports**

1. President’s Report – Mr. Graef indicated that the Board does listen to all comments but the Board as a whole does not respond to the public. However, the Superintendent or Board may respond or acknowledge. Based on the public comments, the Board may make adjustments, as necessary.

**PRESIDENT’S  
REPORT**

2. Superintendent’s Report - See presentation above by Mr. Fletcher.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S  
REPORT**

**Committee Reports**

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

3. Budget & Finance – Nothing to report.
4. Facilities & Security – Mr. Kupfer indicated that the committee met this evening to review some numbers regarding upgrades to the HVAC system and other safety precautions. Systems are currently 100% compliant.
5. Community Relations & Technology – Mr. Samuel reported that Board Member biographies have been added to the River Dell website.
6. Curriculum – Nothing to report.
7. Policy & Governance – Nothing to report.

8. Motion was made by Claudia O’Neill, seconded by Stephanie Hartman that all items designated with asterisks(\*) be part of a consent agenda and approved.

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

Claudia O’Neill, Alan Feigenson, John Samuel, Tracey-Ellen Ehalt, Douglas Kupfer, Barbara Kuchar, and Albert Graef all voted aye. Stephanie Hartman voted aye on all, except 10.E.3 which she abstained. Joseph Manzelli was absent.

**9. Board Meeting Minutes**

APPROVAL  
OF MINUTES

- A. \*approve the following Board meeting minutes:  
 September 8, 2020 Executive and Regular Meeting  
 September 21, 2020 Executive and Regular Meeting

**10. Personnel**

**A. Special Requests**

SPECIAL REQUESTS

- \*1. approve professional day requests for the following staff members to attend workshops/conferences as noted and in accordance with appropriate statute: PROFESSIONAL DAYS REQUEST

Name	Workshop/Conference	Date	Amount (Not to Exceed)
Tiffany Correa	ISTE Live 2020, Virtual	11/29-12/5/20	\$175.00

- \*2. approve 15.5 additional work hours for Teacher of TV/Media Anthony Traina at the rate of \$78.76 per hour, not to exceed \$1,220.78 for the 2020-2021 school year. TEACHER OF TV/MEDIA A. TRAINA

**B. Resignations/Retirements**

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

1. Motion by Claudia O’Neill, seconded by Tracy-Ellen Ehalt to accept, with regret, the resignation due to retirement of High School Head Custodian Ronald Shoemaker effective January 1, 2021. RETIREMENT R. SHOEMAKER

Claudia O’Neill, Alan Feigenson, John Samuel, Tracey-Ellen Ehalt, Douglas Kupfer, Barbara Kuchar, Stephanie Hartman and Albert Graef all voted aye. Joseph Manzelli was absent.

The Board wished Mr. Shoemaker well in his retirement and thanked him for his service to the district.

- \*2. rescind the appointment of the following extra-curricular advisors for the 2020-2021 school year: RESCIND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ADVISORS

Name	Position
Chin Chu	The Invention Team Advisor
Edward Houston	Computer Science Club Advisor

**C. Reappointments/Reassignments/Transfers**

REAPPOINTMENTS/  
REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

**D. Salary Adjustments/Corrections**

**SALARY ADJUSTMENTS/  
CORRECTIONS**

- \*1. approve a salary adjustment for Teacher of Special Education Jessica Rickershauser from \$91,111 (MA+16 Step 13) to \$93,903 (MA+32 Step 13), effective 9/1/2020 for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the RDEA Agreement. SALARY ADJ.  
J. RICKERHAUSER  
TEACHER OF  
SPEC ED.
- \*2. approve a salary adjustment for Teacher of Special Education Joseph Stingo from \$51,048 (BA Step 2) to \$53,360 (BA+16 Step 2), effective 9/1/2020 for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the RDEA Agreement. SALARY ADJ.  
J. STINGO  
TEACHER OF  
SPEC. ED.

**E. Appointments**

- \*1. approve the appointment of the following extra-curricular advisors for the 2020-2021 school year: EXTRA-CURRICULAR  
ADVISORS

Name	Position	Salary
Chin Chu	Computer Science Club Advisor	\$1,212.00
John Herbeck	Spring Musical – Technical Director	\$2,020.00

- \*2. approve the appointment of River Dell staff, as per the attached list, to participate in turnkey training for the 2020-2021 school year, at prorated salaries as per the RDEA Agreement. TURNKEY  
TRAINING
- \*3. approve the appointment of the following substitute teacher for the 2020-2021 school year: SUBSTITUTE  
TEACHERS
  - Erin Flanagan (60 credits – The College of New Jersey)
  - Jaime Hartman (60 credits – Goucher College, Baltimore, MD)

**11. Curriculum/Student Affairs and Activities**

**CURRICULUM/STUDENT  
AFFAIRS & ACTIVITIES**

**12. Miscellaneous**

- \*A. approve the *2020-2021 Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials.* UNIFORM STATE  
MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT  
2020-2021

**13. Finance/District Operation**

- \*A. pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4 certify and accept, that as of **September 2020** after review of the appropriate sections of the monthly financial reports of the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, and upon consultation with the School Business Administrator and other appropriate District officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended NO OVER  
EXPENDITURES  
BOARD SECY.  
REPORT  
**SEPT. 2020**

in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the District’s financial obligations anticipated for the remainder of the fiscal year and is in agreement with the Treasurer’s Report.

- \*B. accept the Scholarship Analysis Report for the month ending **September 2020**. SCHOLARSHIP ANALYSIS RPT. SEPT. 2020
  - \*C. bill payments in the amount of **\$1,195,198.76** including **\$6,135.79** from Cafeteria Account Funds, and **\$401,209.70** for previously issued warrants, and **\$787,853.27** for River Dell warrants to be issued, of which **\$-0-** is to be issued for capital projects, for the period ending **October 26, 2020**. (Members who had voucher reimbursements due them for Board connected expenditures listed on the bill list will indicate that their vote of approval will not include approval of any bill payment to them individually for those expenditures, or for any payee listed for whom they have performed services). BILL PAYMENTS ENDING OCT. 26, 2020
  - D. Motion by Alan Feigenson, seconded by Albert Graef to accept line item transfers and the adjustments as listed in the Financial Report for the month ending **September 2020**. TRANFERS/ ADJUSTMENTS SEPT. 2020
- Claudia O’Neill, Alan Feigenson, John Samuel, Tracey-Ellen Ehalt, Douglas Kupfer, Barbara Kuchar, Stephanie Hartman and Albert Graef all voted aye. Joseph Manzelli was absent.
- \*E. accept the following donations into the Scholarship Accounts for the month of **October 2020: N/A** SCHOLARSHIP ACCTS. OCT. 2020
  - \*F. accept the Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month of **September 2020** and is in agreement with the Board Secretary’s Report. TREASURER OF SCHOOL MONIES SEPT. 2020
  - \*G. approve payment amounts, as per the attached list, for ACT Test administration on October 10, 2020. ACT TEST ADMINISTRATION

Motion by Claudia O’Neill, seconded by Stephanie Hartman to bring forward the Executive Agenda EXECUTIVE AGENDA CARRIED FORWARD

- 1. approve the appointment of Lauren McDonald as a Teacher of Social Studies (Tenure Track), effective January 1, 2021, or sooner if released, to June 30, 2021 at a salary of \$55,699 (BA Step 4). This appointment is contingent upon receipt of proper certification, academic records and satisfactory background/reference checks, as required by P.L. 1986. This is an emergent appointment under the provision of Senate Bill #851 amending the criminal history background check laws N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 et seq., or N.J.S.A. 18A-39-17 et seq., or N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4, 13 et seq. APPOINTMENT L. McDONALD SOCIAL STUDIES

Claudia O'Neill, Alan Feigenson, John Samuel, Tracey-Ellen Ehalt, Douglas Kupfer, Barbara Kuchar, Stephanie Hartman and Albert Graef all voted aye. Joseph Manzelli was absent.

**14. Old Business - None** OLD BUSINESS

**15. New Business** NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. O'Neill commented that the Board appreciates the fact that the students voiced their concerns and thanked them. She indicated that the Board is listening and taking notes. MRS. O'NEILL COMMENTS

Mrs. Ehalt commented that the confidence level the students exhibited this evening is a testament to the staff. The Board takes all comments/concerns into consideration. The students' voices are important. The Board is doing its best to accommodate each and every student. MRS. EHALT COMMENTS

**16. Board Discussion** BOARD DISCUSSION

**17. Public Comments** PUBLIC COMMENTS

Member of the public inquired about a recent incident.

A student asked about the status of a petition.

**18. Adjournment** ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Claudia O'Neill, seconded by Alan Feigenson, to adjourn at 9:29 p.m.

Motion carried by all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Bonfiglio  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

TLB:jm