

RIVER DELL REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR SESSION

**March 1, 2021
(Hybrid Meeting)**

A Regular Session Meeting of the River Dell Regional Board of Education was held on March 1, 2021 Board President, Albert Graef, called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present

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

Motion was made by Mr. Manzelli, seconded by Mr. Feigenson, to adopt the following resolution at 7:00pm.

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:

Contract appeal, Negotiations, medical leave of absence, additional work schedules, administrator retirement, work schedule change, appointment of leave replacement, appointment of administrative assistant, settlement agreement

It is anticipated that the length of time of this executive session will be 60 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 7:41 p.m.

Thomas Bonfiglio led everyone in a salute to the flag.

FLAG SALUTE

Board Members Present

ROLL CALL

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

Others Present

Patrick J. Fletcher, Superintendent of Schools
Thomas L. Bonfiglio, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Susan White, Auditor from Smolin, Lupin & Co., PA
Marc Wachter, Technology Specialist/Assistant Business Administrator
Stephanie Franco, Administrative Assistant to the Business Administrator
Student Liaisons: Jesse Henderson, Noelle Sarafian and Joshua Wiesenfeld
Approximately 38 others were in attendance virtually.

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.

Joseph Manzelli read the mission statement of the River Dell Regional School District

MISSION
STATEMENT

4. Public Comments (on agenda items only) – None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. PRESENTATION: 2019-2020 Audit – Susan White, Smolin, Lupin & Co., PA

Ms. White from Smolin, Lupin & Co. presented the 2019-2020 CAFR and discussed in detail the parts of it. She stated that there were no recommendations and the district is running efficiently and is financially sound.

AUDIT
2019-2020

Motion was made by Mr. Manzelli, seconded by Mr. Feigenson that the Board, having received copies of the 2019-2020 Audit, acknowledge having:

- discussed the Audit,
- reviewed the recommendation,
- accepted the audit,
- accepted the Corrective Action Plan.

Ms. White thanked Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Bonfiglio and the Office personnel for their cooperation during the audit process. She indicated that they should be commended for a job well done. She pointed out that it was a clean audit. Ms. White indicated that the district is in excellent financial condition.

Mr. Fletcher thanked Ms. White, Mr. Bonfiglio and the team for their efforts and a job well done.

Mr. Bonfiglio thanked his staff for an excellent job.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Claudia O'Neill, Alan Feigenson, John Samuel, Tracey-Ellen Ehalt, Douglas Kupfer, Barbara Kuchar, Joseph Manzelli, Stephanie Hartman, and Albert Graef all voted aye.

6. Student Member Report

STUDENT
MEMBER
REPORT

Noelle Sarafian indicated that the school play took place over the weekend. Jesse Henderson mentioned that more students are present in the high school. Joshua Wiesenfeld also mentioned the increase in students and that students are adapting to the new schedule.

7. Reports

1. President's Report – Mr. Graef informed the public about student financial-aid workshops, local scholarships, events for the class of 2025, the clothing drive, and that students were able to select their electives for the next school year.
2. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Fletcher gave an update on the uptake of in-person students. He also announced the valedictorian and salutatorian for the class of 2021. Thanked the media club and Mr. Traina for being able to film the play.

PRESIDENT'S
REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Committee Reports

COMMITTEE
REPORTS

3. Budget & Finance – Mr. Manzelli mentioned the preliminary budget will be voted on March 15th. He also said the district received more state aid than expected. The committee is recommending to keep the tax levy below the 2% increase.
4. Facilities & Security – Mr. Kupfer mentioned the committee met on February 23. The district received funding from ESSER about \$140,000, which will allow to replace two rooftop units in the high school this year. The committee also discussed the security report, the consultant will provide an updated one.

- 5. Community Relations & Technology – Committee did not meet.
- 6. Curriculum – Committee did not meet.
- 7. Policy & Governance – Committee did not meet.

- 8. Motion was made by Mrs. O’Neill, seconded by Mr. Kupfer 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, Joseph Manzelli, Stephanie Harman, and Albert Graef all voted aye.

Board Meeting Minutes

- A. *Approve the following Board meeting minutes: APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - January 5, 2021 Reorganization and Regular Meeting
 - January 19, 2021 Executive and Regular Meeting

10. Personnel

- A. **Special Requests** SPECIAL REQUESTS
 - *1. The Board of Education approves professional day requests for the following staff members to attend workshops/conferences as noted and in accordance with appropriate statute: PROFESSIONAL DAY REQUESTS FOR STAFF

Name	Workshop/Conference	Dates	Cost (Not to exceed)
Saratheresa Bartelloni	2021 National Art Education Assoc. National Convention, Virtual	3/4-5/21	\$219.00

- *2. The Board of Education grants Employee #5047, whose name is on file in the Superintendent’s Office, a medical leave of absence for the period beginning January 28, 2021 and ending February 26, 2021. MEDICAL LEAVE #5047

*3. The Board of Education grants Employee #1452, whose name is on file in the Superintendent’s Office, an unpaid family medical leave of absence (FMLA) for the period beginning January 21, 2021 and ending March 31, 2021. FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE #1452

*4. The Board of Education grants Employee #9591, whose name is on file in the Superintendent’s Office, a maternity leave of absence for the period beginning March 17, 2021 and ending October 1, 2021. MATERNITY LEAVE #9591

B. Resignations/Retirements

1. Motion was made by Mr. Manzelli, seconded by Mrs. O’Neill to accept, with regret, the resignation due to retirement of Building Services Employee Frederick Smith, effective June 30, 2021. RESIGNATION/ RETIREMENT F. SMITH

Mrs. O’Neill, Mr. Feigenson, Mr. Samuel, Mrs. Ehalt, Mr. Kupfer, Mrs. Kuchar, Mr. Manzelli, Mrs. Harman, and Mr. Graef all voted aye.

C. Reappointments/Reassignments/Transfers - None REAPPOINTMENTS/ REASSIGNMENTS/ TRANSFERS

D. Salary Adjustments/Corrections

*1. The Board approves the salary adjustment for Special Education Teacher Samantha Altman from \$66,869 (MA+16 Step 5) to \$69,660 (MA+32 Step 5) effective February 1, 2021 for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the RDEA Agreement. SALARY ADJUSTMENTS/ CORRECTIONS S. ALTMAN

*2. The Board approves the salary adjustment for Spanish Teacher Mariluz Ruiz-Norena from \$63,588 (BA Step 7) to \$66,869 (BA+16 Step 7) effective February 1, 2021 for the 2020-2021 school year, as per the RDEA Agreement. SALARY ADJUSTMENTS/ CORRECTIONS M.RUIZ-NORENA

E. Appointments – None APPOINTMENTS

11. Curriculum/Student Affairs and Activities – None CURRICULUM STUDENT AFFAIRS/ ACTIVITIES

12. **Miscellaneous – None**

MISCELLANEOUS

13. **Finance/District Operation**

*A. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4 certify and accept, that as of **January 2021** 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 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.

BOARD SECY.
REPORT
JAN. 2021

*B. The Board Secretary, recommends that the Board accept the Scholarship Analysis Report for the month ending **January 2021**.

SCHOLARSHIP
ANALYSIS
REPORT
JAN. 2021

*C. Approve bill payments in the amount of **\$1,164,084.77** including **\$2,455.01** from Cafeteria Account Funds, and **\$383,644.15** for previously issued warrants, and **\$777,985.61** for River Dell warrants to be issued, of which **\$-0-** is to be issued for capital projects, for the period ending, **February 26, 2021**. (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
FEB. 26, 2021

D. Motion made by Mr. Manzelli, seconded by Mr. Feigenson accept line item transfers and the adjustments as listed in the Financial Report for the month ending **January 2021**.

TRANSFER/
ADJUSTMENTS
JAN. 2021

Mrs. O’Neill, Mr. Feigenson, Mr. Samuel, Mrs. Ehalt, Mr. Kupfer, Mrs. Kuchar, Mr. Manzelli, Mrs. Harman, and Mr. Graef all voted aye.

*E. The Board accepts the following donations into the Scholarship Accounts for the month of **February 2021**:

SCHOLARSHIP
ACCOUNTS
DONATIONS

Secretarial Scholarship	<u>\$20.00</u>
Total:	\$20.00

*F. The Board accepts the Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month of **January 2021** and is in agreement with the Board Secretary's Report. TREASURER OF
SCHOOL MONIES
JAN. 2021

*G. The Board approves the use of extraordinary aid in the following manner: USE OF
EXTRAORDINARY AID

56-566 Tuition-private \$4,031

*H. The Board approves an additional 100 hours for Bergen Catholic Nurse Maria Celeste Tumino totaling \$3,000. The rate is \$30 per hour for the 2020-2021 school year. BERGEN CATHOLIC
NURSE
M. TUMINO

*I. The Board approves the following payment amounts for PSAT-10 testing on April 24, 2021. Room capacity will comply with social distancing protocols. PSAT-10
APRIL 24, 2021

Name	Position	Rate	Not to Exceed
Jennifer Stuber	Director	\$69.75/hour X 15 hours	\$1,046.25
Yanira Obeso	Associate Director	\$27.84/hour X 15 hours	\$417.60
App. 12 people	Room Proctor-Regular time	\$125.00 per proctor	\$1,500.00
App. 2 people	Room Proctor-Extended time	\$185.00 per proctor	\$370.00
TBD	Security	\$185.00	\$185.00

*J. The Board rescinds the appointment of Brian DiUbaldo for supplemental instruction and appoint Emily Sullivan to perform supplemental instruction, at a cost of \$50.78 per hour not to exceed 30 hours, as per the RDEA Agreement. SUPPLEMENTAL INSTR.
RESCIND
B. DIUBALODO
APPOINT
E. SULLIVAN

*K. The Board approves the Addendum to Transportation Service Agreement between South Bergen Jointure Commission and River Dell Regional School District for the 2020-2021 school year. SOUTH BERGEN
JOINTURE
ADDENDUM
2020-2021

*L. The Board approve bedside instruction for Student #232795 for 7 hours per week at the cost of \$50.78 per hour beginning February 5, 2021 for approximately 4 weeks, with instruction provided by River Dell Staff. BEDSIDE
INSTRUCTION
#232795

*M. The Board approves the disposal of outdated/unusable textbooks located in the High School World Language Department, as per the attached list. DISPOSAL OF
TEXTBOOKS

*N. The Board approves voiding the checks on the attached list.

VOIDED
CHECKS

Motion by Joseph Manzelli, seconded by Alan Feigenson
to bring forward and approve all items in the Executive Agenda.

EXECUTIVE AGENDA
CARRIED FORWARD

Mrs. O’Neill, Mr. Feigenson, Mr. Samuel, Mrs. Ehalt,
Mr. Kupfer, Mrs. Kuchar, Mr. Manzelli, Mrs. Harman, and
Mr. Graef all voted aye.

A. Special Request

SPECIAL REQUEST

1. The Board of Education grants Employee #1634, whose name is on file in the Superintendent’s Office, a medical leave of absence for the period beginning February 8, 2021 and ending April 9, 2021.
2. The Board approves the appointments of the following River Dell staff members to work additional schedules as noted for the 2020-2021 school year, at salaries as per the RDEA Agreement:

MEDICAL
LEAVE
#1634

STAFF
ADDITIONAL
SCHEDULES

Staff	Class	Schedule	Salary	Effective
Barbara Connolly	US History II	20%	\$22,126 (MA+48 St 17 \$110,629)	3/1/21-6/24/21
Lucia Lauterhahn	US History II	20%	\$16,165 (MA+48 St 8 \$80,823)	3/1/21-6/24/21
Michael O’Toole	H US History II	20%	\$22,126 (MA+48 St 17 \$110,629)	3/1/21-6/24/21
Dennis Sasso	US History II	20%	\$20,339 (MA+16 St 16 \$101,695)	3/1/21-6/24/21
Matthew Winchell	US History II	20%	\$15,049 (MA St 9 \$75,243)	3/1/21-6/24/21

B. Resignations/Retirements

RESIGNATIONS/
RETIREMENTS

1. Motion made by Mrs. O’Neill, seconded by Mr. Feigenson to accept, with regret, the resignation to retirement of Middle School Principal Richard Freedman, effective August 31, 2021.

RETIREMENT
R. FREEDMAN

Mrs. O’Neill, Mr. Feigenson, Mr. Samuel, Mrs. Ehalt,
Mr. Kupfer, Mrs. Kuchar, Mr. Manzelli, Mrs. Harman, and
Mr. Graef all voted aye.

C. Reappointments/Reassignments/Transfers

D. Salary Adjustments/Correction

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <p>1. The Board approves a work schedule change and salary adjustment for the following teacher, for the 2020-2021 school year effective March 1, 2021:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Monica Burgos from 80% to 60% (\$43,471 BA Step 10)</p> | <p>M. BURGOS
SALARY ADJ.</p> |
|---|----------------------------------|

E. Appointments

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. The Board approves the appointment of W. Craig Burton as a Teacher of English (leave replacement), effective March 8, 2021 to June 30, 2021 at a prorated salary of \$49,636 (BA Step 1). 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.</p> | <p>APPOINTMENT
W.C. BURTON
ENGLISH</p> |
| <p>2. The Board approves the appointment of Michele Puentes to the position of Administrative Assistant to the Director of Special Services, effective April 1, 2021, or sooner if released, for the 2020-2021 school year, at a prorated salary of \$49,000. This appointment is contingent upon receipt of a satisfactory background/reference check as required by P.L.1986.</p> | <p>APPOINTMENT
M. PUENTES
SPECIAL SVCS.</p> |
| <p>3. The Board approves the appointment of Justin Lazaro as an Instructional Aide, effective March 15, 2021 to June 30, 2021 at a salary of \$15.00 per hour for 7.5 hours a day, not to exceed \$7,560.</p> | <p>APPOINTMENT
J. LAZARO
INSTR. AIDE</p> |

4. Miscellaneous

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>A. The Board approves a settlement agreement for student #201815, which is attached to the Board Secretary's copy of the agenda.</p> | <p>SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT
#201815</p> |
|---|---|

14. Old Business

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <p>A. Board Goals for 2020-2021- Mr. Fletcher read the goals compiled by the Board of Education Goals for the time being will be short-term due to COVID-19. Long-term goals will be discussed at the end of the school year. Mrs. Hartman suggested compiling goals 1 and 2 together as they have similar points.</p> | <p>BOARD GOALS
2020-2021</p> |
|--|----------------------------------|

15. New Business

NEW BUSINESS

16. Board Discussion

BOARD DISCUSSION

Mrs. Hartman thanked and congratulated Mr. Wilson and the students involved in the play for a great job.

17. Public Comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments and questions were regarding the plans for increasing in-person instruction.

18. Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mrs. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Graef, to adjourn at 8:53 p.m.

Motion carried by all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas L. Bonfiglio
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

TLB:sf