

**RIVER DELL REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR SESSION**

December 12, 2011

A Regular Session Meeting of the River Dell Regional Board of Education was held in the River Dell Regional High School Media Center, Monday, December 12, 2011. Board President, Joseph P. Manzelli, Jr., called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

ROLL CALL

Roger Tashjian, Stephanie Hartman, Patricia Almberg, Claudia O'Neill, Dorothea Durand, Paul Barnes, Michael Chakansky, Vito Acquafredda, Joseph P. Manzelli, Jr.

**Others Present**

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

Motion was made by Mrs. O'Neill, seconded by Mrs. Almberg, to adopt the following resolution at 7:30 pm:

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:

Memorandums of Agreement with Secretarial Unit and Building Services Unit; Professional staff leave of absence requests; rescinding athletic coach appointment; resignation of instructional aide; reassignment of teacher; additional work schedule for teacher; appointment of athletic coaches; appointment of extracurricular advisor; appointment of leave replacement teacher; extension of appointment of leave replacement teacher.

**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.

Motion was made by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Tashjian, to resume open session at 8:00 pm.

RESUME OPEN  
SESSION

Motion carried by all ayes.

**Board Members Present**

Roger Tashjian, Stephanie Hartman, Patricia Almberg, Claudia O'Neill, Paul Barnes, Dorothea Durand, Michael Chakansky, Vito Acquafredda, Joseph P. Manzelli, Jr.

**Others Present**

Patrick J. Fletcher, Superintendent of Schools  
 Thomas L. Bonfiglio, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
 Student Liaisons - Allison Friedlander and Bridget Irvine  
 Malissa Stokes, Secretary  
 Approximately 2 members of the public

Mr. Bonfiglio led everyone in a salute to the flag.

FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Bonfiglio read the following statement:

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 of tobacco 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.

Mr. Chakansky read the Mission Statement of the River Dell Regional School District.

**Presentation: 2010-2011 Audit**

Thomas McKinley of McKinley, White & Co., LLP discussed the results of the 2010-2011 audit.

Motion was made by Mrs. O'Neill, seconded by Mrs. Almberg, that the Board, having received copies of the 2010-2011 Audit, acknowledge having:

ACCEPT  
 2010-2011  
 AUDIT

- discussed the Audit;
- reviewed the recommendations;
- accepted the Audit;
- accepted the Corrective Action Plan.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Tashjian, Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Almberg, Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Durand, Mr. Chakansky, Mr. Acquafredda, and Mr. Manzelli all voted aye.

**Public Comments (on agenda items only)** - None**REPORTS**

## REPORTS

Student Member Report

The student representatives discussed the various academic and athletic accomplishments over the past month.

President's Report

Mr. Manzelli discussed the following items:

- The favorable audit, and thank you to the Board Office staff for a job well done
- The football team State playoff game

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Fletcher reported on the following:

- Two students were accepted into the 2012 Bergen County Band
- The Middle School Winter Concert was successful
- The High School Winter Concert will take place on December 22, 2011
- Fall Sports Awards Dinner was held on December 5, 2011
- Wishes for a happy and healthy holiday to all

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**Budget & Finance - Mrs. Almberg

The committee met with Mr. McKinley to review the audit. He reported that the District is in excellent financial condition, and this was the best audit he has ever seen.

Mrs. Almberg addressed the Board and discussed retaining the current auditor. She mentioned that the District went out 16 months ago for this service, and the auditors have a good feel for River Dell. Discussion ensued and the Board agreed to have McKinley, White & Co. for an additional two years, and revisit this issue at that time.

Campus Facilities - Mr. Acquafredda

The committee met on December 5, 2011 and discussed the following:

- Projects to be completed in 2011-12
- Prospective projects for the 2012-13 school year
- Free energy audit
- NJSBA grant money available for green schools

Community Relations & Information - Mr. Barnes

Tonight's meeting is the first use of paperless board packets. The committee is researching surveys for students, parents, and staff.

Policy & Governance

The committee will meet at 3:30 on December 20, 2011 to review assistant principal job descriptions.

Technology - Mr. Tashjian

The committee will have presentations by vendors on Friday, will review all proposals, and report back to the Board.

Curriculum/Tri-District - Mrs. Hartman

At last meeting approved 2 proposed curriculum changes & 2 new courses for recommendation. At the next meeting on Wednesday, discussion will continue on graduation requirements. Science curriculum is scheduled to be discussed in January.

Motion was made by Mrs. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Tashjian, that all items designated with asterisks (\*) be a part of a consent agenda and approved. APPROVE  
CONSENT AGENDA

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. AlMBERG, Mrs. O'Neill, Mrs. Durand, Mr. Chakansky, Mr. Acquafredda, and Mr. Manzelli all voted aye. Mr. Tashjian and Mr. Barnes abstained on the Minutes of November 28, 2011 because they were absent.

**VII. Board Meeting Meetings**

\* approve the following Board meeting minutes:

MINUTES

October 11, 2011	Executive and Regular Sessions
November 7, 2011	Executive and Regular Sessions
November 28, 2011	Executive and Regular Sessions

**VIII. Personnel****A. Special Requests**

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| *1. approve an internship in the middle school guidance department for Megan Maida, effective December 15, 2011 for 300 hours, with Marnie Ross as cooperating counselor.                         | M. MAIDA GUIDANCE<br>INTERNSHIP |
| *2. approve placement of Emily Halter as a student teacher in the world language department at the high school, effective January 23 to May 4, 2012, with Marina Viggiano as cooperating teacher. | E. HALTER STUDENT<br>TEACHER    |

- \*3. approve professional day requests for the following staff members to attend PROFESSIONAL  
workshops/conferences as noted and in accordance with appropriate statute: DAY

<b>Name</b>	<b>Workshop/Conference</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Not to exceed</b>
Marnie Ross	NJ State Bar-Intro to Teasing & Bullying	3/1/12	\$28.00

**B. Resignations/Retirements**

- \*1. rescind the appointment of Mitchell Grayson as Assistant Boys Lacrosse RESCIND ASST.  
Coach for the 2012 season. COACH M. GRAYSON

**C. Reappointments/Reassignments/Transfers - None**

**D. Salary Adjustments/Corrections**

- \*1. approve a 10% increase in the work schedule for Speech Therapist B. BALKIN INCREASED  
Barbara Balkin to 80%, over a four day schedule, at a prorated salary SCHEDULE  
of \$88,719 MA+48 Off C (80% of \$108,748 plus \$1,721 longevity  
stipend), effective December 1, 2011 for the 2011-2012 school year.
- \*3. approve a salary adjustment for DVR Transition Counselor Allison A. DONOGHUE  
Donoghue from MA Step 9 (\$70,519) to MA+16 Step 9 (\$73,177) SALARY ADJUSTMENT  
effective September 15, 2011, for the 2010-2011 school year.
- \*4. approve a salary adjustment for Teacher of English Susan Keitel S. KEITEL SALARY  
from MA Step 11 (\$76,372) to MA+16 Step 11 (\$79,035) effective ADJUSTMENT  
September 1, 2011, for the 2010-2011 school year.

**E. Appointments**

- \*1. approve the appointment of the following volunteer assistant coaches VOLUNTEER  
for the 2011-12 winter athletic season: ASSISTANT COACHES

<b><u>Sport</u></b>	<b><u>Volunteer</u></b>
Indoor Track	Ann Behrens
Boys Basketball	Joe Abbadessa

- \*2. approve the appointment of the following athletics coaches for the ATHLETIC COACH  
2011-2012 school year:

<b><u>Coach</u></b>	<b><u>Sport</u></b>	<b><u>Step</u></b>	<b><u>Salary</u></b>
Joseph Clause	Assistant Boys Lacrosse	3b	\$4,461

- \*3. approve the appointment of Richard Schonfeld as an Instructional R. SCHONFELD  
Aide, effective December 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 for 7.5 hours per INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE  
day, at \$15 per hour (not to exceed \$15,000) and including three paid  
holidays, three non-cumulative sick days and one non-cumulative  
personal day for the 2011-2012 school year.

- \*5. approve the appointment of the following substitute teacher(s) for the 2011-2012 school year:

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Maryellen Kleinberg (BA—Jersey City State College)  
 Anthony Castora (BA—University of Connecticut)  
 Nancy Hansen (BA—Jersey City State College)  
 Lisa D’Amico (BA—University of Hartford)

### **IX. Curriculum/Student Affairs and Activities**

- \*1. Approve the creation of the Federal Reserve Challenge Club as a new extra-curricular activity at the high school for the 2011-2012 school year. FEDERAL RESERVE CHALLENGE CLUB

### **XI. Finance/District Operation**

- \*1. Recording of Fire/Security Drills FIRE/SECURITY DRILLS
- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Middle School | November 14 & 18, 2011 |
| High School   | November 4 & 22, 2011  |
- \*2. Recording of Enrollment ENROLLMENT
- \*3. Recording of Suspension Report/Violence & Vandalism Report SUSP/VIOLENCE/VANDALISM REPORT
- \*4. Recording of HIB Reports—November 2011 HIB REPORTS
- \*5. pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4 certify and accept, that as of **November 2011** 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. NO OVER-EXPENDITURES BOARD SECTY REPORTS
- \*6. accept the Scholarship Analysis Report for the month ending **November 2011**. SCHOLARSHIP ANALYSIS
- \*9. accept the following donations into the Scholarship Accounts for the month of **December 2011**: SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS
- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Scott Evan Baker | <u>\$75.00</u> |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>\$75.00</b> |
- \*10. accept the Treasurer of School Monies Report for the month of **November 2011** and is in agreement with the Board Secretary’s Report. TREAS. SCHOOL MONIES REPORT

- \*11. approve payment to the following personnel through the following programs: PAYROLL FROM  
IDEIA GRANT

**2011-2012 IDEIA**

M. Anthony	\$28,220
A. Castora	\$24,681
N. Hanson	\$26,340
M. Kleinberg	\$20,550
V. Smith	\$22,505

- \*12. approve the acceptance of additional Ed Jobs Aid in the amount of \$1,049. The total aid is now \$34,517. ED JOBS AID

- \*13. approve use of extraordinary funds in the following manner: USE OF EXTRA-  
ORDINARY FUNDS

65-390	Capital Outlay-Professional Services	\$37,200
65-450	Capital Outlay-Construction	\$10,267

**VIII. Personnel**

**D. Salary Adjustments/Corrections**

2. Motion was made by Mrs. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Chakansky, to approve the 2011-2012 salaries for the non-bargaining staff, effective July 1, 2011 as per the attached list. APPROVE NON-  
BARGAINING STAFF  
SALARIES 2011-12

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Tashjian, Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Almberg, Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Chakansky, Mr. Acquafredda, and Mr. Manzelli all voted aye. Mrs. Durand voted nay.

**E. Appointments**

4. Motion was made by Mrs. O'Neill, seconded by Mrs. Hartman, to approve the appointment of the following Lead Teachers, at the prorated stipend of \$6,956, effective December 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 for the 2011-12 school year: APPROVE LEAD  
TEACHERS

Desiree Ferrandi	English
John Piekielek	Science

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Tashjian, Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Almberg, Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Chakansky, Mr. Acquafredda, and Mr. Manzelli all voted aye. Mrs. Durand voted nay.

**X. Miscellaneous**

1. Motion was made by Mrs. Almberg, seconded by Mrs. Durand, to approve the second reading of the following policies: APPROVE 2<sup>nd</sup> READING  
POLICIES 5131.10  
AND 9200\*

<b>5000 Series:</b>	5131.10	Dating Violence
<b>9000 Series:</b>	9200*	Orientation and Training of Board Members

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Tashjian, Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Almborg, Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Durand, Mr. Chakansky, Mr. Acquafredda, and Mr. Manzelli all voted aye.

2. Motion was made by Mr. Manzelli, seconded by Mrs. Hartman, to approve the Norms of Operation.

APPROVE NORMS  
OF OPERATION

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Almborg, Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Chakansky, Mr. Acquafredda, and Mr. Manzelli all voted aye. Mr. Tashjian and Mrs. Durand voted nay.

3. Motion was made by Mrs. Almborg, seconded by Mr. Tashjian, to approve submission of the 2011-2012 Statement of Assurance and District Performance Reviews, required by the NJQSAC process, to the New Jersey Department of Education effective December 12, 2011.

APPROVE SUBMISSION  
OF STATEMENT OF  
ASSURANCE

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Tashjian, Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Almborg, Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Durand, Mr. Chakansky, Mr. Acquafredda, and Mr. Manzelli all voted aye.

## **XI. Finance**

7. Motion was made by Mrs. O'Neill, seconded by Mrs. Almborg, to approve bill payments in the amount of **\$537,111.60** including **\$24,844.77** from Cafeteria Account Funds, and **\$224,749.08** for previously issued warrants, and **\$312,362.52** for River Dell warrants to be issued, of which **\$0** is to be issued for capital projects, for the period ending **December 12, 2011**. (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.)

APPROVE BILL  
PAYMENTS

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Tashjian, Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Almborg, Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Durand, Mr. Chakansky, Mr. Acquafredda, and Mr. Manzelli all voted aye.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that this resolution will now be part of the consent agenda.

8. Motion was made by Mr. Chakansky, seconded by Mr. Tashjian, to accept line item transfers and the adjustments as listed in the Financial Report for the month ending **November 2011**.

ACCEPT LINE ITEM  
TRANSFERS

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Tashjian, Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Almborg, Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Chakansky, Mr. Acquafredda, and Mr. Manzelli all voted aye. Mrs. Durand abstained.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that this resolution will become a separate vote item.



14. Motion was made by Mr. Chakansky, seconded by Mrs. O’Neill, to approve the following resolution:

AWARD K&D  
CONTRACTORS, LLC  
HS BATHROOM  
RENOVATION  
PROJECT

**WHEREAS**, the River Dell Regional High School District Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) advertised for bids for a project entitled, “Handicap Alterations to Men’s and Women’s Toilet Rooms at River Dell Regional High School” (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and

**WHEREAS**, on December 6, 2011, the Board received ten (10) bids for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the lowest responsible bid for the Project was submitted by K&D Contractors, LLC (hereinafter referred to as “K&D”) in the amount of \$56,375.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the bid submitted by K&D is responsive in all material respects and it is the Board’s desires to award the contract for the Project to K&D;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Board hereby awards the contract for the Handicap Alterations to Men’s and Women’s Toilet Rooms at River Dell Regional High School to K&D Contractors, LLC in the amount of \$56,375.00.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this award is expressly conditioned upon the contractor furnishing the requisite insurance certificate and labor and materials/performance bond as required in the project specifications, together with the latest editions of :

an AA201-Project Manning Report, an executed A-101-Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, A-201-General Conditions of the Contract for Construction,

as prepared by the Board Attorney, within ten (10) days of the date hereof.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board Attorney is hereby directed to draft the agreement with the successful bidder consistent with this Resolution and with the terms contained in the bid documents approved by the Board for the Project. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Tashjian, Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Almberg, Mrs. O’Neill, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Durand, Mr. Chakansky, Mr. Acquafredda, and Mr. Manzelli all voted aye.

**XII. Items for Board Discussion and Decision**

Motion was made by Mr. Chakansky, seconded by Mr. Tashjian, to approve the following resolution:

APPROVE AMENDING  
SENATE BILL 2925 AND  
ASSEMBLY BILL 4132

- Whereas, Under current law and practice, school district hiring decisions are made upon the recommendation of the chief school administrator to the local board of education; and
- Whereas, Hiring procedures leading up to the chief school administrator's recommendation should always consider the perspective of the school principal; and
- Whereas, District-level factors, including the allocation of resources, programming considerations and educational goals, should take precedent when hiring and placing instructional staff; and
- Whereas, Proposed legislation to provide long-overdue reform of the state's tenure process and seniority system also includes provisions that would significantly diminish the involvement of the superintendent and local school board in personnel matters; and
- Whereas In particular, the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey (TEACHNJ) Act.", Senate Bill 2925/Assembly Bill 4132, would give sole authority to appoint or remove instructional staff to the principal, in consultation with a "school improvement panel," consisting of the principal, an assistant principal and an instructional staff member nominated by the principal and approved by the staff; and
- Whereas, The TEACHNJ Act would completely remove the local board of education and the district superintendent from future personnel decisions; and
- Whereas, In New Jersey, the community selects a school board, which has a fiduciary relationship with taxpayers and which sets education policy goals; and
- Whereas, The community vests in the board Of education the authority to approve or reject personnel recommendations made by the superintendent; and
- Whereas, In making his or her personnel recommendations to the local board of education, the superintendent normally seeks the input of district and building-level administrators, including school principals; and
- Whereas, The current hiring and staffing process has worked successfully in school districts throughout the state, as evidenced by New Jersey students' performance on nationwide measures of achievement, such as the National Assessment of Education Progress. Now therefore be it
- Resolved, That the River Dell Board of Education urges the Legislature to amend Senate Bill 2925 and Assembly Bill 4132 to ensure that personnel hiring and placement decisions remain under the authority of the district Superintendent, with the approval of the local board of education, the community's elected or appointed representatives; and be it further
- Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey School Boards Association, the Bergen County School Boards Association and appropriate members of the NJ legislative delegation.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Mr. Tashjian, Mrs. Hartman, Mrs. Almberg, Mrs. O'Neill, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Durand, Mr. Chakansky, Mr. Acquafredda, and Mr. Manzelli all voted aye.

**Old Business**

OLD BUSINESS

The Board discussed developing a new mechanism for updates on goals.

**New Business**

NEW BUSINESS

The following topics were discussed:

- Blue Ribbon Award and other New Jersey School Awards
- Alumni returning to discuss the pros and cons of their River Dell education
- Futuristiks surveys
- A River Dell Alumnus attending the Merchant Marine Academy received an award for breaking the butterfly stroke swimming record.
- Paperless agenda

**Public Comment**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hartentstein wished everyone Happy Holidays!

Motion was made by Mr. Tashjian, seconded by Mr. Chakansky, to adjourn at 9:42 pm. ADJOURNMENT

Motion carried by all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Bonfiglio  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

TLB:ms