

RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
September 12, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Riverside Township Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Office conference room.

Present were: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
R. Ehrich, and J. Lennon

Absent were: D. Graf and D. Potts

Dr. Parker led the flag salute.

Mrs. Lennon announced that adequate notice of the meeting had been given to the public by notifying the Burlington County Times and the Courier Post on January 11, 2019 and posted at the Riverside Town Hall.

CORRESPONDENCE

NJSBA-School Board Notes dated August 26, 2019

On the motion by Mr. Holak, seconded by Mr. D'Agostino, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the acceptance and filing of the above correspondence.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Cole Cerchiaro reported that RHS Student Council has selected We Rise By Lifting Others as their theme for the year. Today was national day of encouragement and they placed notes on every student's lockers to remind them they believe in them and are here to support them this year. This year the State Charity for student council is the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. This non-profit is committed to being a beacon of light for families in NJ facing pediatric cancer. They provide in-home professional counseling to families, material assistance and emergency financial aid. Student council will host many events this year in which they will be raising funds for the organization, so please be generous in your donations. Upcoming dates; they will be attending the fall Leadership Conference at TCNJ on October 8, 2019, floats start September 30, 2019, and Homecoming is on October 12, 2019. We look forward to seeing you all there.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion by Dr. Parker, seconded by Mr. McElroy, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of a Board Workshop Meeting and Regular Board Meeting held on August 9, 2019.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

On the motion by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Dr. Parker, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the Board Secretary's Report (July 31, 2019), the Treasurer's Report (July 31, 2019), the Cafeteria Financial Report (July 31, 2019), the student Activity Financial

Report (July 31, 2019), Athletic Council (June 30, 2019) and the Budget Status Report (July 31, 2019), as attached.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

APPROVAL OF BILLS

On the motion by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves payment of September 2019 bills for the Board of Education and the Cafeteria as attached.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

BUSINESS & FINANCIAL

Transfers

On the motion by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, **Whereas**, the State Department of Education permits transfers among the school district's budgetary line item accounts, **And Whereas**, it is the desire of the Riverside Township Board of Education to make such transfers, **Therefore, Be It Resolved**, by the Riverside Township Board of Education that the Board Secretary is hereby authorized to make the following budgetary account line item transfers:

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
11.000.230.890.0.07.00	11.000.240.890.0.00.00	\$100.00
20.218.100.610.0.01.00	20.218.200.320.0.01.00	225.00

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

Settlement Agreement

On the motion by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the S.P. o/b/o G.M. v. Riverside Township Board of Education Settlement Agreement and General Release.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

Statement of Assurance

On the motion by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the Statement of Assurance - Reporting of Paraprofessional Staff 2019-2020 school year to be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent, as presented.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

RAA Contract

On the motion by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mr. Holak, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the contract negotiated with and ratified by the Riverside Administrative Association for the contract years 2019-20 through 2021-22.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Abstained: T. McElroy and J. Mongon
Nay: 0
Carried

PERSONNEL

Resignation

On the motion by Mrs. Pinho, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation, from **Regina Lynn**, ES Instructional Ambulatory Aide, effective August 9, 2019.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

Salary Adjustment

On the motion by Mrs. Pinho, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the salary adjustment for **Jenna Buffetta**, Elementary School 4th Grade Teacher, from \$66,865 (Step 10, BA) to \$67,865 (Step 10, BA+15), for the 2019-20 school year.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

Staff Development

On the motion by Mrs. Pinho, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the staff development activities for the 2019-2020 school year, as attached.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

New Employees

On the motion by Mrs. Pinho, seconded by Mr. D'Agostino, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the following staff members for the 2019-2020 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

1. **Stephanie Cavacini**, 11 month Child Study Team Social Worker (Step 0 + MA), at the contract salary of \$67,128, prorated start date of September 23, 2019, pending criminal history review and completion of Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse review.

2. **Suzanne Mormando**, Elementary School Instructional Ambulatory Aide, at the hourly rate of \$17.97, as needed per IEP, start date of September 16, 2019.
3. **Stacey Norcross**, Elementary School Instructional Ambulatory Aide, at the hourly rate of \$17.97, as needed per IEP, start date of September 17, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year, pending criminal history review, and completion of Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse review.
4. **June Sorrentino**, Elementary School Instructional Ambulatory Aide, at the hourly rate of \$17.97, as needed per IEP, start date of September 16, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year, pending criminal history review, and completion of Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse review.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Abstained: J. Mongon
Nay: 0
Carried

Administrative Salaries

On the motion by Mrs. Pinho, seconded by Mr. D'Agostino, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the administrative staff appointments for the **2019-2020** school year at the revised contract salaries listed, as recommended by the Superintendent, as attached.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Abstained: W. Greiner, J. Mongon and T. McElroy
Nay: 0
Carried

Substitute Rate

On the motion by Dr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the rate of pay, per day, for the following long term substitutes for the periods indicated:

<u>Substitute</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Sean Desjardins	Caitin Black	\$90	September 3-November 22, 2019
Georgia Monschein	Kristen Frey	90	September 3-November 1, 2019
Catherine Cliver	Caitlin Kalustyan	100	October 15, 2019-March 6, 2020

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

Leave Request

On the motion by Dr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the unpaid leave of absence request for the employee listed below for the period indicated:

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
Janet Pellegrin	Crossing Guard/Playground Aide	September 30-October 4, 2019

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

Volunteer Advisors/School Clubs

On the motion by Dr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the following volunteer Advisors and Clubs for the 2019-2020 school year.

<u>Names</u>	<u>Position</u>
Renee Brignola	Elementary School
Robert Brown	Cross Country
Jenna Buffetta & Deborah Kaiser	Helping Hands Club
Kiona Fortune, Regina Morris & Jill Murray	Parent/Student Book Club
Valerie Franz	HS Diversity Club
Kristen Frey	ES Newspaper (Lamb Pages)
Laura Galgoci	Kindness Club
Devi James & Claudia West-Grady	ES Crochet Club
Lea Lauletta	HS Business Club
Carmen Plant	Spanish Club
Lynn Starke	HS Book Club
Lori Wareham	MS Crochet Club

VOTE-Aye: J. D’Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

Voluntary Transfer

On the motion by Dr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the following staff voluntary transfer for the 2019-2020 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

<u>Employee</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Michelle Jacoby	ES Inst. Ambulatory Aide	HS Inst. Ambulatory Aide

VOTE-Aye: J. D’Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

STUDENTS

Field Trips

On the motion by Mr. D’Agostino, seconded by Mrs. Pinho, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the following field trips for the 2019-2020 school year, as attached.

VOTE-Aye: J. D’Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

Fundraisers

On the motion by Mr. D’Agostino, seconded by Mrs. Pinho, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the following fundraisers for the 2019-2020 school year, as attached.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

On the motion by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mrs. Pinho, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby contracts with NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to provide Educational Level 1 Services for the 2019-2020 school year, as listed.

<u>ID#</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
270206	09/01/19	06/30/20	\$1,900.00

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

Out of District Placements

On the motion by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mrs. Pinho, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the following out of district student placements for the 2019-2020 school year, as listed.

<u>ID#</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Annual Tuition</u>
201005	Garfield Park Academy (Willingboro)	\$56,336.40 (Change in Placement)
201064	B.C. Alternative HS (Mt. Laurel Campus)	25,200.00
290143	Garfield Park Academy (Willingboro)	56,336.40 (Change in Placement)
320077	Garfield Park Academy (Willingboro)	56,336.40

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

Student Handbook

On the motion by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mrs. Pinho, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the Student Handbook for the Elementary School for the 2019-20 school year, as submitted.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

FACILITIES

Facility Use

On the motion by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mrs. Pinho, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby approves the facility/building use requests for the 2019-2020 school year, as attached.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL & EMPLOYEE RELATIONS –No Report

FINANCE & INSURANCE –No Report

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS –Mr. D’Agostino stated that the committee will be scheduling a walk through meeting after the building projects are completed.

ATHLETICS –Mr. Holak stated the committee will be scheduling a meeting soon.

CURRICULUM – No Report

SAFETY & SECURITY – No Report

STUDENT GOVERNMENT –No Report

DELEGATE TO BURLINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS –No Report

DELEGATE TO NEW JERSEY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION – No Report

DELANCO REPRESENTATIVE – Mrs. Gonteski reported that Delanco has renegotiated a five year contract with their superintendent, Joseph Merssinger.

Acknowledgement of Visitors – Christy Veasy questioned the status of the classroom aides in Kindergarten and Ms. Ehrich explained that the aides were dependent on Title I funding and the funding was not sufficient to hire more than two aides this school year.

Ms. Veasy also asked when the board would be willing to sit with the teachers to settle a contract.

Mr. Holak read the following statement: As lead negotiator for the Personnel Committee of the Riverside Board of Education, I would like to update you regarding the ongoing negotiations with the Riverside Education Association. As you may be aware, the Board’s Committee and the REA have been in negotiations for a successor collective bargaining agreement since November, 2018. By law, the terms of the collective bargaining agreement that expired on June 30, 2019 remain binding on both parties until there is a new agreement. Contrary to statements issued by the Association at Back to School nights, REA members are never “working without a contract.” They continue to have their full salaries paid and all the benefits of that agreement.

The Board committee felt that the REA’s financial proposals were excessive. The Board must remain fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of the Riverside community while still providing a fair and reasonable contract for the REA. After five meetings, an impasse was declared and the parties went to mediation. The mediation took place on July 18, 2019. Unfortunately, the parties could not come to a reasonable and fair resolution. The Parties then moved to Fact Finding. Fact Finding is a part of the negotiations process where a neutral party is appointed to mediate the dispute. We are scheduled to meet on September 23, 2019.

As we await the session with the Fact Finder, we must note that the quality, professionalism, performance and devotion of the teaching and support staff here at Riverside has never been an issue. The students here are fortunate to have high quality professional and support staff. The Board will continue to honor the bargaining process and participate fully. Once again, we believe our proposals are equitable and fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of the Riverside community. We hope that you will support us in our mutual endeavor of maintaining a high quality educational community for the students of the Riverside School District.

Chris Cerchiaro reported that he heard a rumor about an unsafe building with asbestos and asked if the board was aware of this issue and how they were addressing it. Ms. Ehrich gave him an update on the status of rooms 109 and 111.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On the motion by Dr. Parker, seconded by Mr. D'Agostino, and carried unanimously, Be It Resolved that the Riverside Township Board of Education hereby go into Executive Session at 7:30 pm for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

VOTE-Aye: J. D'Agostino, R. Gonteski, W. Greiner, M. Holak, T. McElroy, J. Mongon, S. Parker, M. Pinho
Nay: 0
Carried

The board discussed the salary of JROTC instructor.

At 7:55 pm the meeting was reconvened.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion by Dr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Greiner, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Lennon
Board Secretary