

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2021 – 7:30 PM**

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**DATE**

March 18, 2021

**PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Gesario  
Mr. Gorman  
Mrs. Murano  
Mrs. Savarese  
Mrs. Scaraggi

**MEETING**

*Virtual* Business Meeting

**ABSENT**

**TIME**

7:30PM

**ADJOURNED**

09:24 PM

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ms. Somers  
Mr. Gibbs  
Administration  
Faculty Members  
Community Members  
*The Progress*

**PLACE**

*Lester C. Noecker School Via Cisco Webex Meeting*

**I. CALL TO ORDER – Board President**

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE - Open Public Meeting Act**

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231, notice of this regular meeting has been properly advertised in the newspapers of record, the agenda has been posted at the appropriate locations, directions for public comment have been posted on the district website, and a copy has been filed with the Borough Clerk of Roseland.

This regular meeting is being held virtually due to the continued state of emergency as per Executive Order No. 186.

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Gesario, Mr. Gorman, Mrs. Murano, Mrs. Savarese, and Mrs. Scaraggi -  
*All present.*

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**III. FLAG SALUTE**

**IV. BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT**

*Mr. Gorman welcomed all to the Board meeting. He stated that Ms. Somers will be providing plans to reopen and Mr. Gibbs will be giving a presentation regarding the 2021-2022 Budget. He discussed the progress being made with respect to negotiations with the Roseland Education Association's contract with the Board of Education.*

*Mr. Gorman further stated that we should be able to go to phase three of the opening plan in a few months. He discussed the hiring of another Special Education teacher even though there is a modest increase in taxes. He further discussed the Public Comment portion of the Board Meeting.*

*Mr. Gorman stated that each week the Negotiations Committee has been meeting in order to complete the teacher's contract for the 2021-2022 school year. He is optimistic that there will be an agreement as soon as possible. He further stated that the Preliminary budget that will be presented this evening will have a 3% increase in teacher's salaries but the school is limited in our financial resources. There are a number of uncertainties that will make it challenging to the budget.*

*Mr. Gorman further explained that the Bonds that the school is paying for is also taken into consideration as it impacts the school's financial future.*

**V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Finance/Facilities Committee - Mrs. Savarese reported that the Committee spent the majority of time this month reviewing the 2021-2022 Budget that Ms. Somers and Mr. Gibbs will be presenting.*

*HSA Liaison Report - Mrs. Murano was glad to get updates as to what is going on in the classroom. Mrs. Murano reported that there are creative ways to keep the tradition. There will be an outside Book Fair coming up in an outdoor setting as well as an outdoor plant sale. She further discussed a possible plan for the sixth grader wax museum. If there is anyone in need you can reach out to the Helping Hands Program. Their next meeting is April 14th, 2021.*

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*SEPAC Liaison Report - Mrs. Scaraggi reported that on February 18th there was a second collaborative meeting of which parents could discuss their challenges. They discussed many success stories. Following the meeting there was a survey that required parent input to identify what areas that parents would like to see SEPAC could focus on. The results will be presented at the April 22nd meeting as well as a presentation at the May Board of Education meeting.*

*On March 11th, SEPAC held a workshop with SPAN Advocacy Network parental involvement. A copy of the presentation can be found at the Noecker website. The next SEPAC meeting is on April 22nd.*

**VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Principal Report

*Mr. Sandoval stated:*

*As many of you know, on Tuesday we had our Illusion Maker Virtual assemblies for all grades levels. Many of our students are familiar with the in-person environmental assemblies, but this year I am glad that we had the opportunity to participate virtually. Many thanks to all of the remote and offsite students and families that participated. I would be remiss if I did not thank the Roseland DPW for sponsoring this program that emphasizes keeping Roseland, and our planet, healthy.*

*Governor Murphy has declared March 26th as SEL Day. The purpose of SEL Day is to build awareness and an understanding of what Social Emotional Learning is. Throughout the school year we have incorporated many SEL initiatives such as mindfulness, themed days, week of respect, and Table to Table. Our most critical work has been in the classroom where our staff work tirelessly to foster positive learning communities.*

*For SEL Day we will do the following:*

- *Make available an SEL digital library to teachers and families*
- *Share a new classroom poster for continued discussions centered around the five competencies of SEL.*
- *Provide teachers with additional resources and activities to use in the classroom*

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*As we welcome spring and knock on summer's door, we are in the process of planning for in-person summer programs. We look to offer ESY, Enrichment, as well as a Kindergarten program. This year, in addition to the creative and fun courses, we will look to have offerings that have a heavier emphasis on academics. Information on summer programs is forthcoming.*

*I am also pleased to announce that Noecker is partnering with an organization called Good Grief. This organization was founded in 2004 with a goal of advocating for grieving children. Since then the organization has grown and expanded their programming to help schools and families with Routes to Resilience, a social emotional learning program.*

*In the coming months, we will be hosting virtual parent workshops on the following topics:*

- *Navigating Through Loss and Adversity*
- *Raising and Empowering Resilient, Self-Reliant Children*
- *Coping with Adversity: Adaptive Skills to Build Resilience*
- *Being is Doing: Supportive Communication Practices*

*We are excited to host these programs because we feel they will be a valuable social, emotional and mental health resource for all. Please be on the lookout for information on these offerings. The workshops will be offered over the coming months, in the evenings for all families via Zoom.*

- *Reopening Plan Update*

*Ms. Somers began:*

*Good evening, everyone! Happy almost spring! A few comments before I present the ever evolving reopening plan update. As Mr. Sandoval shared, there are so many exciting things happening at Noecker School. I am thrilled to have on the agenda the four-part parent workshop on adversity, resilience, and communication to support parents in supporting their children. Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Sandoval, and I had such a positive meeting with the presenter earlier this week. We all recognize the loss of what once was and hope that this will be a great support to our families.*

*Towards getting closer to normal, I'm so happy to see the HSA Book Fair on the agenda! It's such a special event and I'm hoping for great weather for it as it will likely be outside this spring!*

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*Thank you to all of the teachers and staff who have been involved in Read Across America, the Masked Singer series, Wellness Week, Lots of Socks for World Down Syndrome Day, which is tomorrow, and the upcoming SEL Day and Autism Acceptance Month. A reminder that next week we have our Spring Parent Teacher Conferences and to please carefully review travel guidelines for Spring Break.*

Ms. Somers then shared the Reopening Plan Update presentation which can be found on the district website under Board of Education ->Meeting Notices and Agendas -> 2020-2021-> Board Meeting Notices and Agendas

*Ms. Somers also thanked Mr. Sandoval, Dr. Celebre, and Nurse Noronha for their hard work and dedication during the year.*

**VII. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT**

- Preliminary Budget Presentation

The budget presentation can be found on the district website under Board of Education ->Meeting Notices and Agendas -> 2020-2021-> Board Meeting Notices and Agendas

*Ms. Somers and Mrs. Gibbs gave the presentation of the 2021-2022 Budget as follows:*

***The Budget Process***

*All Teachers and Administrators prepared their budgets during the months of November-January 2021. The Finance Committee which consists of Mrs. Savarese and Mrs. Murano reviewed the budget information during the months of February and March for tonight's presentation.*

***March 18th***

*The Preliminary Budget that is presented will be voted on this evening. Once the budget is Board approved, it will be sent to the County Superintendent for approval.*

***April 29th***

*Once the County has approved the Preliminary Budget the Final Budget budget will be presented to the Public and the Board will vote to adopt the Budget.*

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**Primary Goals**

- *Return Students to School!!*
- *Health and Safety*
- *Continue to Support the Strategic Plan*
  - *Service & Community*
  - *Future Ready Curriculum & Instruction*
  - *Character Development*
  - *STEAMed & Engaged*
- *Maintain Class Sizes & Current Programs*
- *Continue to Focus on Student Achievement & Experience*
- *Maintain Our Beautiful Facilities*
- *Be Fiscally Prudent*

**What Happened Since Last Year**

*Each year we build a budget based upon known and unknown factors; many of which are up to 18 months in the future! Since the approval of the 2020-21 budget last Spring:*

- *Facilities and Maintenance Items (ventilation system cleaned throughout the building, HEPA filters in every classroom, additional cleaning supplies, additional health & safety items) (-)*
- *Additional Technology Costs such as new Chrombooks and Computers (-)*
- *Socially-Distanced Transportation for mandated students (-)*

**Tax Levy Increase**

- *Our 2% tax levy = \$168k*

*We are NOT eligible to use:*

- *Banked Cap*
- *No Waivers are available*
- *We cannot increase the tax levy without a referendum*

**Instruction and Programing 2021-2022**

- *Maintaining All Staff & Programs*
- *Additional Special Education Teacher*
- *Expanding BSI Support through Scheduling*

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- *Increasing the LDTC (CST) from 3.0 days to 4.0 days*
- *Adding Supplies & Materials (as our 4 4th grade sections move to 5th)*
- *Continuing to Support Our Instructional Initiatives*
  - *Utilize ESSERII funding for SEL-Mental Health Support and Assessment/Academic Resources*
  - *(Continue to) Utilize ESEA Title funding for literacy, SEL, professional development, inclusivity training, parent support, and related materials*

***Growing Our Special Education Department***

- *Year-over-year the district has made a financial commitment to support our special education programs. Some items are required and out of our budgetary control (out-of-district students, SE transportation, enrollment) but growth and improvement of the department is consciously planned and budgeted.*
- ***2017-2018*** *Inclusion began! Added an additional SE teacher*
- ***2018-2019*** *Reinstated 2.5 CST positions (LDTC, School Psychologist, Social Worker)*
- ***2019-2020*** *Added an additional SE teacher*
- ***2020-2021*** *Added an additional SE teacher Increased LDTC from 2.5 to 3.0 days*
- ***2021-2022*** *Budget Planning Adding an additional SE teacher Increasing LDTC from 3.0 to 4.0 days*

***Transportation***

- ***We will continue to follow state, federal, and DOH recommendations pertaining to social distancing.***
- ***If everything is “normal”, our goal is to reinstate courtesy busing. Courtesy busing is actually less \$\$ than every day, mandated, socially distanced busing.***
- ***Our goal is busing every day for all students.***

***Additional Annual Allocations and their Impacts on the 2021-22 Budget***

- *Salary Increases (Currently negotiating - Budgeted 3%)*
- *Health Care Cost Increases*
  - *Medical +7%*
  - *Dental +3%*
  - *Rx +0%*
- *Increase in Liability Insurance (+10%)*
- *Increase in Workers Compensation Costs (+6%)*

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*Additional State Aid of ~\$88.5k has been allocated to SE Staffing & Transportation*

***Proposed Inclusions- Maintenance Projects***

*These are all part of the Board approved M-1 Maintenance Plan*

- *Repairs and Inspections to the Roof and Skylights*
- *Univent Maintenance & Safety Inspections*
- *Inspections and Repairs to Play Scapes & Swings*
- *Asbestos Maintenance and Repairs*
- *Maintenance and Repairs to Boiler System*
- *Repairs to Brick Face & Fascia on Building*

*If projects are completed for less than estimated, funds are returned to the Maintenance Reserve Account for use in subsequent years' Maintenance Projects.*

***Proposed Inclusions Capital Projects***

*(Capital Reserve - not part of the tax levy)*

*These are all Strategic and Long Range Facilities Plans!*

- *Update Controls for HVAC Rooftop Units*
- *Replace Five Electrical Breaker Panels*
- *Replace Walkways & Curbs where needed in the front of the Building*
- *Plumbing - Replace Gate Valves for 19 Classrooms*

***Sources of Revenue- \$10,980,822*** (see chart on presentation)

***Budget Expenditures- \$10,980,822*** (see chart on presentation)

***Tax Impact Based on Assessed Value, Not Market Value***

*"Average" assessed home value\* = \$466,907*



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**Tax Levy Increase: 2.0%**

**Increase For Year\*: \$62.81**

**Increase Per Month\*: \$5.23**

*Discussion*

*Mr. Gorman thanked Ms. Somers and Mr. Gibbs for the budget presentation.*

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT** – On agenda items only

Members of the public may speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes by the clock during this portion of the meeting. The public may speak **on agenda items only** during this three (3) minute period. All comments should be directed to the Board President and depending upon the nature and complexity of the question, it may or may not be answered during the meeting by the Administration. If so, the response would occur after this public portion of the meeting has concluded. Everyone has the freedom to speak, but please be advised that anything said in public may have legal ramifications and there is no protection regarding statements made by the public.

*Mrs. Bonnie Sturchio, 37 Lincoln Street, is concerned about six graders not getting enough education before they go on to West Essex. She felt that there is no reason for the sixth graders not to go to five days of instruction from their homes if they were on a remote schedule. She further expressed concerns about her child.*

*Mrs. Robyn Cassidy, 2 Cooper Ave, expressed the same concern as Mrs. Sturchio. She further stated that other schools are in class five days a week and our students will fall behind. She asked what other counties have to do with us.*

*Mrs. DeMarco, 14 Evergreen Place, thanked the teachers and staff for all their efforts. She expressed a similar concern stating North Caldwell, Fairfield, and Essex Fells are opening five days a week once they move to yellow. She further stated that remote days seem to be self teaching days for students. She also questioned why Fridays would be half days on Step 3. She is happy that the school is moving forward. She would like to know what the change would look like on remote days. She further stated that she understands that the school is following CDC Guidelines but other schools are also following those guidelines and opening sooner.*

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*Mrs. Maggie Wohltmann, 5 Lyons Avenue, further echoed what was said previously regarding the opening of phase three opening. She requested more information on the opening.*

*Mrs. Robyn Cassidy, 2 Cooper Ave, expressed a concern for parents and students as parents have to work during the day and help students with homework in the evening. She questioned the Expenditure Graph that was presented and stated that Gen. Ed. Instruction should be the same as Special Ed instruction. Mrs. Cassidy further questioned whether the tax levy was for one or two years.*

Public Comment Closed

*Mr. Gesario stated that he, just as every other parent, has the same concerns about students going back to school on a full time basis. He further stated that as a teacher he understands why the school is on the current course. The teachers have had to work very hard this year and one way to say thank you to our teachers is to give them a couple more weeks to get vaccinated, if they so choose to do so, before we bring them back into a more normal schedule. He further stated that as a Board member he has to weigh all the different factors in order to make sure that the school opens safely. The social distancing guidelines are not there yet for the school to go back to normal and that we have to play this smart in order to make sure that everyone is safe. He feels that we are moving in the right direction and should continue to do so. It may not be as fast as some people would want but he is proud that we are moving in the right direction. We can look at some other districts and learn from them as to what they are doing but they too can look at Roseland and learn from us as well. He further stated that sometimes the grass looks greener on the other side but Roseland is doing a good job in keeping everyone safe and moving in the right direction.*

*Ms. Somers stated that we all want students in a full day. We are currently looking at all things and based on the current guidelines we feel that we are moving towards phase three as a possibility and if things change we are looking at making revisions. There are factors when one group has to go remote on a hybrid schedule. We have to shut the school down when they are investigating a case as we follow the recommendations and guidance of our health department. We were one of the first schools in Essex County to have a possible in-school transmission. She further explained that we follow the health department's recommendations. In February when we had to close, there were two more positive cases after we closed, which could have been an in school transmission.*

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*With respect to our Special Education teachers, we have six staff members that are trained in Orton Gillingham Program which is a multisensory program that is used to support dyslexia students.*

*There are six regions within the state. We are in the Northeast region. Other regions have moved to the yellow, but recently returned to orange. We are still in the orange zone and have been since mid-November. We are not out of this yet as previously explained. There are districts that are moving forward and, if asked if they are under six feet, they will tell you that some of their classrooms are and it is not the guidance of their DOH. They are not all following the six feet and that is district dependent. Their district has made the decision to go below six feet. Our district is still six feet as per the recommendation of our health department. Our survey indicated that 56% of the parents would rather we not as it is too soon until all teachers are vaccinated. Eighteen percent of our students are still remote.*

*Ms. Somers reiterated that she wants them in school as we all want them in school but we have parameters. We can blow-up the schedule to make Friday a full day but any change is disruptive. We cannot accommodate what we need to do contractually by having a full day on Friday. The curriculum is being covered and the teachers have been completing their assessments and benchmarks for conferences that are next week and we are currently looking at the data. Students are making great progress. There are no distractions in our classrooms. Teachers have honed in on the most critical parts of the instruction and the curriculum and the students are performing. The students that struggle, struggle. Some students are thriving in a remote environment.*

*Regarding travel, people make choices to travel. There are still guidelines in place regarding travel. If they travel they need to quarantine fourteen days before coming back to school. If teachers travel then they have to quarantine fourteen days as well.*

*Mr. Gibbs stated that the Tax Levy increase is for the 2021-2022 school year, one year. He further reviewed the tax rate based on the average assessed value, not the market value.*

*Mr. Gibbs further stated that Special Education represents seventeen percent of the student body and they are receiving twenty one point five percent of the total budget. The Gen Ed population which represents eighty three percent of the student population receives thirty point four percent of the population so it is not and can not be a fifty/fifty split.*

**IX. APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS**

**BOARD MINUTES/REPORTS**

RPT-030-21 Approve the February 16, 2021 Regular Business Meeting Minutes

RPT-031-21 Approve the February 2021 Code of Conduct Report

RPT-032-21 Approve the February 2021 Enrollment Report

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RPT-033-21 Approve the February 2021 HIB Report  
RPT-034-21 Approve the Quarterly Health Office Report

MOTION by Mrs. Savarese, SECOND by Mrs. Scaraggi

*No Discussion*

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Gesario, Mr. Gorman, Mrs. Murano, Mrs. Savarese, and Mrs. Scaraggi - *All Ayes.*

RPT-030-21 Approve the February 16, 2021 Regular Business Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the and Regular Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2020.

RPT-031-21 Approve the February 2021 Code of Conduct Report

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the February 2021 Code of Conduct Report.

RPT-032-21 Approve the February 2021 Enrollment Report

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the February 2021 Enrollment Report.

RPT-033-21 Approve the February 2021 HIB Report

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the February 2021 HIB Report.

RPT-034-21 Approve the Quarterly Health Office Report

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Quarterly Health Office Report.

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**FINANCE/FACILITIES**

- FIN-155-21 Approve Acceptance of the Report of Treasurer of School Monies – February 2021
- FIN-156-21 Approve Acceptance of the Report of the Board Secretary– February 2021
- FIN-157-20 Approve the Board of Education’s Monthly Certification of Major Budgetary Account/Fund Status – February 2021
- FIN-158-21 Approval the Payment of Bills and Claims – March 2021
- FIN-159-21 Approve Budgetary Line Item Transfers – February, 2021
- FIN-160-21 Approve Acceptance of the Cafeteria Report – February 2021
- FIN-161-21 Adoption of the Preliminary 2021-2022 Budget
- FIN-162-21 Approve the Three Year Morris Essex Insurance Group (M.E.I.G.) Contract
- FIN-163-21 Approval of Maximum Travel Expenditures for 2021-2022 School Year
- FIN-164-21 Approval of Facilities Use Requests
- FIN-165-21 Approval of Occupational & Physical Evaluations for Student No. 9739703503
- FIN-166-21 Approval of Annual Payment to PERS Employer Pension Liability
- FIN-167-21 Approval Urging Relief from Increased Costs to School Districts Resulting from the Implementation of “Chapter 44,” the 2020 School Employee Health Benefits Reform Law
- FIN-168-21 Approve Submission of the Application for the CARES Act II Grant
- FIN-169-21 Retroactively Approve Additional Home Instruction Hours for Student No. 5878858908
- FIN-170-21 Approval of an Occupational Therapy Re-Evaluation for Student No. 1632109636
- FIN-171-21 Approve Additional Home Instruction Hours for Student No. 2181230274
- FIN-172-21 Retroactive Approval for the Illusion Maker Virtual Assemblies
- FIN-173-21 Approve Travel and Work Related Expenses
- FIN-174-21 Approve the Purchase of Four Outside Shelters
- FIN-175-21 Approve the Audit from Nisivoccia & Company LLP for the 2020-2021 School Year Audit
- FIN-176-21 Approve to Accept Donation from RRJ Petrol, Inc.
- FIN-177-21 Approval of Good Grief Schools Parent Education Workshops

MOTION by Mrs. Savarese, SECOND by Mrs. Scaraggi

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*Discussion:*

*Mrs. Savarese was pleased to see that the school is buying the outside shelters for the students.*

*Mrs. Murano questioned Mr. Gibbs regarding a facilities use request that wasn't listed to which Mr. Gibbs stated that it will be on the April 2021 Board Agenda.*

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Gesario, Mr. Gorman, Mrs. Murano, Mrs. Savarese, and Mrs. Scaraggi - *All Ayes.*

FIN-155-21 Approve Acceptance of the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies – February 2021

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the acceptance of the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies for the period ending February 2021.

FIN-156-21 Approve Acceptance of the Report of the Board Secretary –February 2021

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the acceptance of the Report of the Board Secretary for the period ending February 2021.

FIN-157-21 Approve the Board of Education's Monthly Certification of Major Budgetary Account/Fund Status – February 2021

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.12(c)4, certifies that as of February 2020, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the 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:23-2.12(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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FIN-158-21 Approval the Payment of Bills and Claims – February 2021

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of Bills and Claims for the period ending March 2021:

General Fund Bills & Claims	\$ 405,072.08.
General Fund Payroll	\$ 791,011.18 through March 15, 2021
Special Revenue Fund Bills & Claims	\$ 27,075.54
Debt Services Fund	\$ 69,475.00
<u>Cafeteria Fund Bills &amp; Claims</u>	<u>\$ 18,254.43</u>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>\$1,310,888.23</b>

FIN-159-21 Approve Line Item Transfers – February 2021

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached Line Item Budget Transfers for the month of February 2021, as per N.J.S.A. 18A:8.1.

FIN-160-21 Approve Acceptance of the Cafeteria Report – February 2021

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Cafeteria Report for the periods ending January 2021 and February 2021.

FIN-161-21 Adoption of the Preliminary 2021-2022 Budget

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes the submission of the 2021-2022 Preliminary School Budget to the Essex County Executive Superintendent of Schools with the following Fund Allocations:

<u>2021-2022 Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
Total General Fund	\$ 9,949,655.00	\$ 8,601,278.00
Total Special Rev. Fund	\$ 191,517.00	n/a
<u>Total Debt Service Fund</u>	<u>\$ 839,650.00</u>	<u>\$ 839,650.00</u>
Totals	\$10,980,822.00	\$ 9,440,928.00

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Roseland Board of Education authorizes as included in budget line 620, Budgeted Withdrawal of Capital Reserve – Excess Costs & Other Capital Projects, the transfer of an amount of \$220,00.00 from Capital Reserve for other capital projects including plumbing upgrades (\$80,000.00), electrical upgrades (\$25,000.00), replace walkways & pavers (\$25,000.00), and update HVAC controls for rooftop units (\$90,000.00). The total cost of these projects is \$220,000.00, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards and security audit measures determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey student learning standards and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Roseland Board of Education authorizes as included in budget line 630, Budgeted Withdrawal of Maintenance Reserve – Excess Costs & Other Maintenance Projects, the transfer of an amount of \$79,500.00 from Maintenance Reserve for other maintenance projects including univent maintenance (\$9,000.00), safety inspections (\$5,000.00), Asbestos Maintenance (\$5,000.00), inspection and repairs to the roof (\$6,000.00), repair skylight seals (\$2,500.00), repairs to existing sidewalks and curbs (\$17,000.00), painting of classrooms and hallways (\$7,000.00), recoating gym floor (\$5,000.00), pruning trees and

bushes as well as replace mulch (\$6,000.00), repairs to brick fascia to the building (\$5,000.00), repairs to the boilers (\$6,000.00), maintenance to the grease traps and sewer line (\$6,000.00). The total cost of these projects is \$79,500.00, which represents expenditures for maintenance elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards and security

audit measures determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the New Jersey student learning standards and;

**FIN-162-21 Approve the Three-Year Morris Essex Insurance Group (M.E.I.G.) Contract**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the three year Morris Essex Insurance Group (M.E.I.G.) contract;

**WHEREAS**, a number of Boards of Education in Essex County have joined together to form a Joint Insurance Pool as permitted by N.J. Title 18A-.18B and;



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WHEREAS, said Pool was approved effective February 10, 1984 by the New Jersey Commissioner of Insurance and has been in operation since that date and;

WHEREAS, the Pool contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a Pool, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Roseland has determined that Membership in the MORRIS ESSEX INSURANCE GROUP is in the best interest of the District.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Education of Roseland Does hereby agree to renew membership in the MORRIS ESSEX INSURANCE GROUP and hereby accept the Bylaws as approved and adopted. The renewal term is from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized to execute the application for membership and the accompanying certification on behalf of the District and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/Business Administrator is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying membership in the Pool as are required by the Pool's By laws and to deliver the same to the Executive Director.

**FIN-163-21 Approval of Maximum Travel Expenditures for 2021-2022 School Year**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following resolution;

Whereas, the School District Travel policy, # 647 I and N:J::A:C, 6A:23A-7.3 provides that annually in the pre-budget year, each board shall establish by board resolution a maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year, which the school district shall not exceed. Whereas, the Roseland Board of Education established \$25,000.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roseland Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2021-2022 school year at the sum of \$25,000.00, which includes board members, administrators, teachers, custodians and support staff.

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FIN-164-21 Approval of Facilities Use Requests

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following Facilities Use Requests:

Organization	Dates	Time	Day(s)	Purpose	Room/Area
H.S.A.	May 11-17, 2021	9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Tuesday-Monday	Book Fair Set Up Book Fair	Outdoors- Back Playground on the black top
Roseland Recreation Department	March 29, 2021- June 19, 2021	Weekdays 5:00 pm. - 8:00 p.m.  Weekends 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  <i>Exception: Due to Book Fair outdoors on blacktop the week of May 11-17, 2020, begin at 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.</i>	Mondays- Saturdays	Youth Baseball & Softball	Front and Back Ballfields

FIN-165-21 Approval of Occupational & Physical Evaluations for Student No. 9739703503

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approves an Occupational and Physical Re-evaluations for Student No. 9739703503, services being provided by Pediatric Potentials, at a cost of \$375.00 each, totaling \$750.00. (PO 2100434)

FIN-166-21 Approval of Annual Payment to PERS Employer Pension Liability

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the annual payment of the PERS Employer Pension Liability in the amount of \$97,940.00.

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FIN-167-21 Approval Urging Relief from Increased Costs to School Districts Resulting from the Implementation of “Chapter 44,” the 2020 School Employee Health Benefits Reform Law

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following:

**WHEREAS**, P.L.2020, c.44 (“Chapter 44”) requires the School Employees’ Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) to offer plans, beginning on January 1, 2021, for medical and prescription benefits coverage including the New Jersey Educators Health Plan (NJEHP); as adopted and implemented by the School Employees’ Health Benefits Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 44 established reduced premium contributions for any employee who selects, or is placed into, the NJEHP as his or her health care coverage option; and

**WHEREAS**, The SEHBP applies to the following employers who elect to participate in the SEHBP: local school district, regional school district, county vocational school district, county special services school district, jointure commission, educational services commission, state-operated school district, charter school; and

**WHEREAS**, The provisions of Chapter 44 also apply to these same employers even if they do not elect to participate in the SEHBP; and

**WHEREAS**, Many school districts had previously negotiated health benefit agreements with lower net costs compared to the plan design and cost-sharing requirements under “Chapter 44,” and/or have staff that previously declined coverage but now are choosing to enroll in the NJEHP due to its low employee cost-sharing provisions; and

**WHEREAS**, A significant number of school districts will experience a net increase in their health care costs because the NJEHP premiums are higher than the premiums for the collectively bargained plans previously offered by the district, which is further exacerbated by reduced employee contributions under Chapter 44; and

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**WHEREAS**, Other school districts will experience a net increase in their overall health care costs even if the NJEHP premiums are lower than that of the previous plan offerings because the reduction in employee contributions will offset any overall premium savings, resulting in increased net costs to the district; and

**WHEREAS**, The low employee contribution requirements under NJEHP encourage employees who had previously waived or declined coverage to enroll thereby increasing the districts' health benefit costs for the balance of fiscal year 2021, continuing into fiscal year 2022 and likely beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, These costs may exceed districts' ability to address within their budgets owing to the limitations of the 2% property tax levy cap; and

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 44 was a well-intentioned proposal that aimed to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in savings for school districts, school employees and taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, While some school districts may indeed be realizing savings due to the provisions of Chapter 44, many are experiencing the opposite effect and witnessing an increase in their health care costs, which may result in cuts to critical programs, services and staff in order to balance their budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, Since Chapter 44 essentially froze the level of health benefits and employee contributions for the seven-year period following the law's effective date, districts are unable to control cost increases through the traditional collective bargaining process; and

**WHEREAS**, It is incumbent upon the Legislature and Governor to address and correct the unintended financial consequences districts are experiencing due to Chapter 44 and ensure that all districts share in the anticipated savings.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Roseland Board of Education requests that the State Legislature and Governor provide relief from the increased health care costs experienced by school districts due to the implementation of Chapter 44; and be it further

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**RESOLVED**, that relief from Chapter 44 should include direct, short-term assistance from the state to ensure that all school districts are held financially harmless in both the current and subsequent fiscal years; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Legislature and Governor should expeditiously begin to explore long-term structural reforms that reverse the unintended consequences of Chapter 44 and generate lasting savings for school districts, employees and taxpayers; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that any proposals to amend or revise Chapter 44 include input from all affected stakeholders before moving forward, including feedback from representatives of local boards of education, school business administrators, superintendents, building-level supervisors and school employees; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution be delivered to Governor Phil Murphy, State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin; and the 12 Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

FIN-168-21 Approve Submission of the Application for the CARES Act II Grant

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Business Administrator to apply for the ESSER II Funding in the amount of \$200,632.00 broken down as follows:

ESSERII for the 2020-21 school year-cleaning services & supplies	\$130,632.00
Learning Acceleration for the 2021-2022 school year	\$ 25,000.00
Mental Health Support & Services 2021-2022 school year	\$ 45,000.00

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FIN-169-21 Retroactively Approve Additional Home Instruction Hours for Student No. 5878858908

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, retroactively approves an additional (20) twenty home instruction hours with Silvergate Prep, 981 Route 22, West, Suite 202, Bridgewater, N.J. 08807, for Student No. 5878858908, at an hourly rate of \$55.00, totaling \$ 1,100.00.

FIN-170-21 Approval of an Occupational Therapy Re-Evaluation for Student No. 1632109636

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, retroactively approves an occupational therapy re-evaluation for Student No. 1632109636, services being provided by Pediatric Potentials, at a cost of \$375.00. (PO 2100439)

FIN-171-21 Approve Additional Home Instruction Hours for Student No. 2181230274

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves additional Home Instruction for Student No. 2181230274, services provided by board approved home instruction staff at a their at their respective hourly rates, not to exceed a total of 20 hours, pending absences.

FIN-172-21 Retroactively Approval for the Illusion Maker Virtual Assemblies

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, retroactively approve (3) three Illusion Maker virtual Assemblies taking place on March 16, 2021. These are of no cost to the district.

FIN-173-21 Approve the Travel and Work Related Expenses

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and in accordance with the travel policy, hereby approves the March 18, 2021 list of travel related expenses.

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FIN-174-21 Approve the Purchase of Four Outside Shade Shelters

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the purchase of four outside shade shelters from Amazon Business, P.O. Box 530958, Atlanta, GA 91999-4984, in the amount of \$7,463.58 for the purpose of providing shade for outside lunch, recess, and instruction for students.

FIN-175-21 Approve the Audit from Nisivoccia & Company LLP for the 2020-2021 School Year Audit

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Nisivoccia & Company LLP, 200 Valley Road, Suite 300, Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856, as its Auditors for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, ending June 30, 2021, at a fee of \$23,000.

FIN-176-21 Approve to Accept Donation from RRJ Petrol, Inc.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve to graciously accept a \$500.00 donation from RRJ Petrol, Inc. (Roseland Exxon Mobil Alliance).

FIN-177-21 Approval of Good Grief Schools Parent Education Workshops

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves series of (4) four Good Grief Schools Parent Education workshops, at a cost of \$500.00 each, totaling \$2,000.00, using ESEA title money.

**PERSONNEL/MANAGEMENT**

PER-021-21 Approval of Additional Staff for Stipend Duties in 2020-2021

PER-022-21 Approve Intern Hours for High School Senior

PER-023-21 Approval of the Roseland School District Substitutes for the 2020-2021 School Year

MOTION by Mrs. Murano, SECOND by Mrs. Savarese

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*Discussion:*

*Mrs. Savarese was glad to see that the Board was approving a High School student for an internship.*

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Gesario, Mr. Gorman, Mrs. Murano, Mrs. Savarese, and Mrs. Scaraggi - *All Ayes.*

PER-021-21 Approval of Additional Staff for Stipend Duties in 2020-2021

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the additional staff members to perform extra duty beyond their contractual obligations for the 2020-2021 school year.

PER-022-21 Approve Intern Hours for Livingston High School Senior

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Lucy Xu, Livingston High School senior to work virtually with Employee No. 100437, (20) twenty hours per week from May 24, 2021 through June 18, 2011.

PER-023-21 Approval of the Roseland School District Substitutes for the 2020-2021 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the list of Roseland School District Substitutes for the 2020-2021 school year pending criminal history approval.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Members of the public may speak for a maximum of three (3) minutes by the clock during this portion of the meeting. The public may speak **on agenda items only** during this three (3) minute period. All comments should be directed to the Board President and depending upon the nature and complexity of the question, it may or may not be answered during the meeting by the Administration. If so, the response would occur after this public portion of the meeting has concluded. Everyone has the freedom to speak, but please be advised that anything said in public may have legal ramifications and there is no protection regarding statements made by the public.



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*Mrs. Robyn Cassidy, 2 Cooper Ave, stated that the school needs an OG Certified Teacher for the school's dyslexia students.*

*Mrs. Bonnie Sturchio, 37 Lincoln Street, stated that she felt that the teachers are doing a good job and wished everyone well on the new contract.*

*Councilman Trillo, 5 Glenn Ave., stated that he is not in agreement with the two percent increase but felt that everyone is doing a great job. Mr. Trillo spoke positively of the efforts the district is making during the pandemic.*

*Mrs. Robyn Cassidy, 2 Cooper Ave, was against not having courtesy busing but enjoys walking to school with her daughter as does her daughter. She further stated that she spoke to the East Hanover Department of Health and they said that it is at the discretion of the school as to whether they should close. It is up to the administration as to close or not.*

Public Comment Closed

*Mr. Gorman stated that the Board of Health only makes a recommendation but it is the administration who can expand the guidelines.*

*Mrs. Savarese - the lack of courtesy busing has been an inconvenience but she enjoys walking her child to school in the morning and home in the afternoon.*

**XI. OLD BUSINESS - No Old Business**

**NEW BUSINESS - No New Business**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mrs. Scaraggi , SECOND by Mrs. Murano

**ROLL CALL:** Mr. Gesario, Mr. Gorman, Mrs. Murano, Mrs. Savarese, and Mrs. Scaraggi - *All Ayes.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Gordon Gibbs  
Board Secretary/Business Administrator