

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

DATE

January 6, 2022

PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Dudas
Mr. Gesario
Dr. Leddy
Mrs. Savarese
Mrs. Scaraggi

MEETING

Regular Business Meeting
(Virtual)

ABSENT

TIME

7:48 PM

ADJOURNED

11:16 PM

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Somers
Mr. Gibbs
Faculty Members
Community Members

PLACE

Lester C. Noecker School

I. CALL TO ORDER – Board President

Mrs. Savarese welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

II. 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.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Dudas Present Mr. Gesario Present Dr. Leddy Present
Mrs. Savarese Present Mrs. Scaraggi Present

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

III. BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

- Ethics Training by Charlene Peterson of NJSBA

Ms. Peterson gave a presentation in great detail on Board Ethics which is listed in the Board Agenda under RPT-023-22. It can be found in the Board Minutes/Board Highlights section of the website.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Health and Safety Committee

Mr. Gesario gave an update on the Health and Safety Committee meeting that was held earlier that day. He also discussed the optimism that was discussed at the November meeting and the color coded matrix that the State put out. He further stated that in person meetings will be suspended, except for the recreation department activities.

He urged parents to keep their children at home if they are not feeling well in order to help protect the school and keep it open for in person instruction. More guidelines will be communicated from the State in the near future.

- Principal Comments

Mr. Sandoval wished everyone a Happy New Year to everyone. He also hoped the new year brings happiness and, of course, good health.

Before he began, he recognized our staff for their continued hard work, dedication, and commitment to teaching and learning, especially in face of the ongoing pandemic.

He further stated that now that the new year is in full swing, we have several events scheduled for the second week of 2022. Next week we have two parent workshops:

Our first presentation is an informational workshop on special education services. This is a collaboration between special education parents, special education teachers, and administration. It will be a fact-filled and informative workshop that I am sure will be engaging for all families that may have questions about anything and everything related to special education and special education services offered through the district.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

Our other workshop is a rescheduled social-emotional learning workshop in a series we offered last year, Building Resilience Through Loss and Adversity; the fourth workshop of the four-part series will be held prior to the HSA meeting, which is also virtual. The same zoom link will be used for both meetings. The workshop will be presented by Jesse Bassett, Director of Good Grief Schools.

Preschool and kindergarten registration is now open for the 2022-2023 school year. We will also have our pre-school and kindergarten virtual open houses. You will have an opportunity to hear from our wonderful teachers about our programming for early elementary students. The teachers have been working hard to prepare an informative session that will provide you with a glimpse into the world of preschool and kindergarten at Noecker.

The exact dates, times and details for the events I just mentioned can be found on our Wednesday Notification.

Lastly, is the West Essex Guidance visit scheduled for Noecker 6th graders. He stated that we will be putting out more specific information in an e-blast to all 6th grade families. Please be on the lookout for that communication.

In closing, he welcomed and congratulated our new board members as well as Dr. Brockel.

- Superintendent Comments

Ms. Somers stated Happy New Year, and just like that it is January with slippery and snowy weather in the forecast, shorter days, and a virtual Board of Education meeting. In yesterday's Wednesday notification I shared a Lucy MacDonald quote that sums up where we all are about now: "It's not that optimism solves all of life's problems; it is just that it can sometimes make the difference between coping and collapsing." I am confident that just like one year moves on to the next, meetings will be back to in-person meetings in no time..

She further stated as Mr. Gesario shared, the Health and Safety Committee met earlier to review current guidelines related to facilities use, visitors, and our "switching classes" plan. As I wrote my comments for tonight, I looked back on my November superintendent report and in that report I'd noted that we were taking a step towards normalcy, but not there yet, which unfortunately has proven too true. There have been a great many positive cases

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

of students and their family members. We truly beg our families to not send children to school if they are waiting for a test result, symptomatic, or have been exposed to a positive person. Even if fully vaccinated, if one has symptoms, one should get tested and stay home. We need everyone to do their part and thank those who have been so diligent and understanding. Please follow all of our health and safety procedures regarding symptoms, testing, notifications, and travel. All information is updated regularly on the LCN COVID-19 page on our website and through each week's Wednesday Notification. We do anticipate another set of updated NJDOH guidelines any time now, so stay tuned.

We will be sharing all information pertaining to our Trimester 2 Inclusivity Initiative early next week. Trimester 2's focus is on Diversity and topics such as respect, curiosity, and empathy towards others. We have beautiful books once again that will be utilized as the basis of conversation, exploration, and activities. Thank you to the committee for their reflective and enthusiastic efforts in bringing these real world topics to our students and to our Health & Wellness teachers for their participation in sharing experiences with students.

On tonight's agenda, the Board is asked to approve several leave replacements as our Noecker Family continues to grow. I know they are also happy to approve another substitute. Additionally, the Board is asked to approve the district's three year English Language Learners plan which Senora Cruz and Mr. Sandoval completed with board office assistance. While we currently only have six qualified ELL students, we are required to have an official plan to support them. Thank you, Senora Cruz, for all of your efforts with these students, in the plan development, and the various reporting required.

Finally, several things. First, an official superintendent welcome to Mr. Dudas and Dr. Leddy as they are now proud members of the Roseland Board of Education. As you just learned from Charlene, being a board member is a challenging role, but you are joining a great team and there is so much support from them and from New Jersey School Boards.

She further stated that she is optimistic in the Board's selection of Dr. Brockel as Interim Superintendent. And eager to share our incredible facilities, amazing staff, high achieving curriculum and instruction, and our numerous initiatives which support teaching and learning. I am so very proud of us and all that we have accomplished together and look forward to showing you off.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

Next, I thank you all for the opportunity to be the Roseland School District's superintendent for most of six years. Special thank yous to all of the volunteer board members who have supported me through my tenure: Anna Gordon, Neal Goldstein, Julie DiGiacamo, Jean Perrotti, Scott Gorman, Allison Scaraggi, Laura Savarese, Corby Murano, and Mike Gesario. It has been a pleasure to work with you all on behalf of the children of Roseland.

A very special thank you also to my administrative and administrative support team for their partnership and professionalism, for laughing at my jokes and for talking me off the ledge, and for being the truest example of a team. I know just how fortunate I have been to work with you. The Noecker community does not know just how lucky they are to have each of you. I wish all of you all the best.

Finally, I am quite sure that our outstanding educators will be able to relate to how this month feels for me when I say it feels as bittersweet as the last day of school combined with the realization at graduation when the hugeness and symbolism of the ceremony sinks in.

These rites of passage catch us off guard and the change makes us feel a bit uneasy and wistful. It's that moment when a little piece of your heart walks away, you know something has shifted, and nothing will ever be the same again. Fortunately that feeling passes and the excitement of possibility begins again. In the immortal words of Dr. Seuss, "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." All the best to my Noecker Family.

V. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

- Agenda Items

Mr. Gibbs stated that on this evening's agenda you will see two resolutions to approve contracts for Dr. Brockel who, once he is fully approved, will be the Interim Superintendent while the Board searches for a new permanent Superintendent. One contract is for a transition period during the month of January 2022 and the other is for his service as Interim Superintendent from February 1st, 2022 to June 30th, 2022. He welcomed Dr. Brockel and looked forward to working with him.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

There is a resolution that is listed for approval for the submission of the December 31, 2021 E-Cert which is required by the State. The E-Cert is the certification of compliance with Federal and State Law requiring the reporting of compensation for certain employees. The required employees are the Superintendent and Business Administrator.

Also for approval this evening is the interest only payment on the school's Bond that is due by March 1st, 2022 in the amount of \$55,175.00. The remaining principal on the Bond is \$3,380,075 which should be paid in full by the end of the 2026 school year.

The 2022-2023 budget process is on track as all of the departments have submitted their budgets. I will be meeting with Ms. Somers next week to review the overall preliminary budget.

In accordance with the 2022 Board Meeting Calendar, the Preliminary 2022-2023 Budget Presentation is scheduled for Thursday, March 17th, 2022 and the Public Hearing to adopt the 2022-2023 budget is scheduled for Thursday, April 28th, 2022.

He further reminded the Board and Administration that they will need to file their 2022 Personal/Relative and Financial Disclosure Statements. The program to enter your information will be available around February 1st, 2022. Once open, he will send out a reminder and the link to the website via email. The due date for their disclosure statements submission is Friday, April 29th, 2022.

Finally, he stated that since this is Ms. Somers' last Board meeting as the Roseland Superintendent, he thanked her for all of her hard work and dedication to the students, staff, and school district. He stated that it has been a pleasure working with her and he wished her all the best for the future.

VI. 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.

No Public Comment

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

VII. APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS

BOARD MINUTES/REPORTS

RPT-020-22 Approve Closed Session and Regular Board Meeting Minutes- December 2021

RPT-021-22 Approve the December 2021 Enrollment Report

RPT-022-22 Approve the December 2021 HIB Report

RPT-023-22 Approve the Board Members Code of Ethics

RPT-024-22 Approve the December 2021 Code of Conduct Report

MOTION by Mr. Gesario, SECOND by Mrs. Scaraggi

No Discussion

ROLL CALL: Mr. Dudas Aye Mr. Gesario Aye Dr. Leddy Aye Mrs. Savarese Aye
Mrs. Scaraggi Aye

RPT-020-22 Approve Closed Session and Regular Board Meeting Minutes for December 2021

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Closed Session and Regular Board Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2021.

RPT-021-22 Approve the December 2021 Enrollment Report

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

RPT-022-22 Approve the December 2021 HIB Report

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

RPT-023-22 Approve the Board Members Code of Ethics

The Board of Education Members shall have the required Board of Ethics Training session as required under N.J.A.C. 6:3-1.3 and N.J.A.C.6A:30.

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey School Boards Association "Code of Ethics" shall be considered the official Code of Ethics of the Roseland Board of Education:

CODE OF ETHICS

- A. I will uphold and enforce all laws, state board rules and regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
- B. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex or social standing.
- C. I will confine my Board action to policy-making, planning, and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the Board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
- D. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow Board members, to see that they are well run.
- E. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.
- F. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan, political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or for the gain of friends.
- G. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
- H. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the chief administrative officer.
- I. I will support and protect school personnel in proper performance of their duties.
- J. I will refer all complaints to the chief administrative officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution.

RPT-024-22 Approve the December 2021 Code of Conduct Report

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

FINANCE/FACILITIES

- FIN-113-22 Approve Payment of Bills and Claims – December 31, 2021
- FIN-114-22 Approve Acceptance of the Cafeteria Report – November 30, 2021
- FIN-115-22 Approve an Occupational Therapy Re-Evaluation for Student No. 51681868743
- FIN-116-22 Approve a Psychiatric Evaluation for Student No. 4466071151
- FIN-117-22 Approve Bond Redemption - Series 2013
- FIN-118-22 Approve the Submission of the December 31, 2021 E-Certification of Compliance
- FIN-119-22 Approve Additional Compensation for Employees
- FIN-120-22 Approve a Medically Trained Bus Aide for Student No. 2181230274
- FIN-121-22 Approve Dr. Richard Brockel as Educational Consultant During the Month of January 2022

MOTION by Mrs. Scaraggi, SECOND by Mr. Gesario
No Discussion

ROLL CALL: Mr. Dudas Aye Mr. Gesario Aye Dr. Leddy Aye Mrs. Savarese Aye
Mrs. Scaraggi Aye

- FIN-113-22 Approve the Payment of Bills and Claims – December 31, 2021

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of Bills and Claims for the period ending December 31, 2021:

General Fund Bills & Claims	\$ 100,490.00
General Fund Payroll	\$ 564,368.80 through December 31, 2021
Special Revenue	\$ 14,693.88
<u>Cafeteria Fund Bills & Claims</u>	<u>\$ 14,618.06</u>
<i>Total Payments</i>	<i>\$ 694,170.74</i>

- FIN-114-22 Approve Acceptance of the Cafeteria Report – November 30, 2021

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Cafeteria Report for the period ending November 30, 2021.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

FIN-115-22 Approve an Occupational Therapy Re-Evaluation for Student No. 5168168743

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves an Occupational Therapy Re-Evaluation for Student No. 5168168743, services being provided by Pediatric Potentials, at a cost of \$375.00. (PO2200312)

FIN-116-22 Approve a Psychiatric Evaluation for Student No. 4466071151

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a psychiatric evaluation for Student No. 4466071151, services to be provided by one of our board approved vendors at a cost not to exceed \$1,300.00.

FIN-117-22 Approve Bond Redemption - Series 2013

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves a Series 2013 interest payment of \$55,175.00 on March 1, 2022 to the Chase Manhattan Bank for the Roseland Board of Education.

FIN-118-22 Approve the Submission of the December 31, 2021 E-Certification of Compliance

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:17-14.4 (P.L. 2007, c53., authorizes the submission of the Certification of Compliance with Federal and State law respecting the reporting of compensation for certain employees for the calendar year ended December 31, 2021.

FIN-119-22 Approve Additional Compensation for Employees

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves additional compensation for employees presenting professional development and/or attending evening events.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

FIN-120-22 Approve Compensation for a Medically Trained Bus Aide for the Transportation of Student No. 2181230274

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves additional compensation for a medically trained Bus Aide for the transportation of Student No. 2181230274 at a rate of \$40.00 per hour.

FIN-121-22 Approve Dr. Richard Brockel as Educational Consultant During the Month of January 2022

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Dr. Richard Brockel as an Educational Consultant during the transition period to Interim Superintendent at a rate of \$87.50 per hour, to a maximum of six hours, during the month of January.

PERSONNEL

PER-042-22 Approve Disability Leave for Employee No. 100053

PER-043-22 Approve Maternity Leave for Employee No. 100482

PER-044-22 Approve Dr. Richard Brockel as Interim Superintendent

PER-045-22 Approve Maternity Leave for Employee No. 100505

PER-046-22 Approval of Roseland School District Substitutes for the 2021-2022 School Year

MOTION by Mrs. Scaraggi, SECOND by Mr. Gesario

Discussion:

Mrs. Savarese congratulated those staff members who were going out on maternity leave. Board members welcomed Dr. Brockel to the district.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Dudas Aye Mr. Gesario Aye Dr. Leddy Aye Mrs. Savarese Aye
Mrs. Scaraggi Aye

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

PER-042-22 Approve Disability Leave for Employee No. 100053

RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves a disability leave of absence for Employee #100053 (“Employee”) commencing on October 14, 2021 and extending through May 11, 2022. The Employee may use accumulated sick leave days where appropriate during this temporary disability period to receive salary and health benefits from October 14, 2021, through February 15, 2022.

RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the leave of absence under the Family Medical Leave Act for employee #100053 (“Employee”) commencing February 16, 2022, and extending through May 11, 2022. The employee shall not receive salary during this period of time but will continue to receive health benefits subject to the employee’s required payout towards the premiums.

RESOLVED, Employee #100053 (“Employee”) shall return to work on May 11, 2022. Any leave beyond this date must be requested by the Employee and may be granted at the sole discretion of the Board.

PER-043-22 Approve Maternity Leave for Employee No. 100482

RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the maternity disability leave of Employee #100482 (“Employee”) commencing on May 9, 2022, and extending through the final day of the 2021-2022 school year. The employee may use a personal day during this temporary disability period to receive salary and health benefits on May 9, 2022 and may use accumulated sick leave days during this temporary disability period to receive salary and health benefits from May 10, 2022 through June 2, 2022.

RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the child care family leave of absence under the Family Medical Leave Act and the New Jersey Family Leave Act for Employee #100482 (“Employee”) commencing June 2, 2022, and extending through the final day of the 2021-2022 school year. The remainder of the employee’s leave under the Family Medical Leave Act shall run concurrent to the employee’s leave under the New Jersey Family Leave Act. The employee shall not receive salary during this period of time, but will continue to receive health benefits subject to the employee’s required payout towards the premiums.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

RESOLVED, Employee #100482 (“Employee”) shall return to work on the first day of the 2022-2023 school year. Any leave beyond the leave provided by the Family Medical Leave Act and the New Jersey Family Leave Act must be requested by the Employee and may be granted at the sole discretion of the Board.

PER-044-22 Approve Dr. Richard Brockel as Interim Superintendent

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Dr. Richard Brockel as Interim Superintendent, Position Control No. 111, at a salary of \$525.00 per student school day for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year or until superintendent search is complete, pending criminal history review and County approval.

PER-045-22 Approve Maternity Leave for Employee No. 100505

RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the maternity disability leave of Employee #100505 (“Employee”) commencing on or about September 6, 2022 using twenty (20) of her accumulated sick days through October 3, 2022.

RESOLVED, that the Board, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the child care family leave of absence under the Family Medical Leave Act and the New Jersey Family Leave Act for Employee #100505 (“Employee”) commencing October 4, 2022, and extending through the final day of December 27, 2022 school year. The remainder of the employee’s leave under the Family Medical Leave Act shall run concurrent to the employee’s leave under the New Jersey Family Leave Act. The employee shall not receive salary during this period of time, but will continue to receive health benefits subject to the employee’s required payout towards the premiums. The employee intends to return to school on January 2, 2023.

PER-046-22 Approval of Roseland School District Substitutes for the 2021-2022 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves Roseland School District Substitutes for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

C&I-019-22 Approve the Statement of Assurance for Paraprofessional Staff- January 2022

C&I-020-22 Approve the Submission of the Student Safety Data System Report -
Period 1 - September 1, 2021 -December 31, 2021

C&I-021-22 Approve the English Language Learner (ELL) Three-Year Program Plan for
2021-2024

MOTION by Mr. Gesario, SECOND by Mrs. Scaraggi

No Discussion

ROLL CALL: Mr. Dudas Aye Mr. Gesario Aye Dr. Leddy Aye Mrs. Savarese Aye
Mrs. Scaraggi Aye

C&I-019-22 Approve the Statement of Assurance for Paraprofessional Staff- January 2022

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the part two (2) submission of the Statement of Assurance for Paraprofessional Staff for the 2021-2022 school year.

C&I-020-22 Approve the Submission of the Student Safety Data System Report -
Period 1 - September 1, 2021 -December 31, 2022

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the 2021-2022 Student Data System Report for Period 1- September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 as submitted to the Department of Education.

C&I-021-22 Approve the English Language Learner (ELL) Three-Year Program Plan for
2021-2024

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the English Language Learner (ELL) Three-Year Plan for 2021-2024.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Farrah Rella, 11 Williamsburg Drive - Questioned whether the school is going to update the virtual instruction as it relates to those students that are confirmed being quarantined. Those students that are being quarantined based on a sibling or are waiting for their test results, which could take a week, are getting packets sent home. She further questioned why they are not getting Zoom remote instruction. She feels that there should be more instructional engagement as it seems to be getting worse.

Jennifer Luzzi - Co-President of the REA - mentioned that she is a third grade teacher at Noecker and wished Ms. Somers the very best in her retirement and appreciates everything she has done for the school district. She further welcomed Dr. Brockel, as the new Interim Superintendent, and she congratulated Dr. Leddy and Mr. Dudas as new Board members. She further congratulated Mrs. Savarese and Mrs. Scaraggi in their new positions on the Board and she looked forward to working with them.

Yervant Dermenjian, 58 Roosevelt Street - Questioned when the Demographic Study would be posted on the school's website but realized that it was recently posted. He did agree with Mrs. Rella.

Patricia Franchino, 2 Huntington Lane - Had questions regarding the code of ethics. Her second was related to what Mrs. Rella stated as she agreed as it pertains to Special Education. She feels that her daughter is not getting her services and the twenty minute Zooms are geared more towards Gen Ed students. She wanted to know why the district is not Zooming into the classroom. She further stated that the 2.0 plan does not include Special Education students. She feels that the school district has to do better.

She further questioned parent notifications and whether a posting on social media supporting a Board candidate would be considered a violation of the code of ethics.

Cynthia Sellitto, 16 Williamsburg Drive - spoke on behalf of SEPAC in congratulating Dr. Leddy and Mr. Dudas in becoming new Board members. In further speaking on behalf of SEPAC they felt that since the 2021-2022 school year that there is miscommunication, confusion, and resistance from the school Board of Education and Administration.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

She gave an explanation of the history of their concerns. She would like the school Board, with the support of SPAN, to allow SEPAC to give a presentation at the February Board meeting in order to effectively corroborate their efforts.

Lynn Cummings, REA Co-President and School Counselor - Welcomed Dr. Brockel and congratulated the new Board members.

Kathy Shwiff, 80 Roseland Ave - Questioned whether there would be a delayed opening tomorrow.

Ms. Somers stated that there is a two hour delayed opening tomorrow. An eblast went out to the community at 5:45 pm. She further stated that she is working with other districts in the area as to their closings. She thanked the REA for their comments. She has enjoyed working with the staff at the Noecker School.

She further stated that the ethics questions were answered previously but she stated that she will answer the questions in writing via email.

Ms. Somers clarified that there seems to be some misunderstanding between what we offered last year versus what we are offering this year as there is no fully remote instruction option. Last year we set-up fully remote classrooms with a teacher at the grade level as there was a hybrid schedule setup on an every other day schedule. There were set classrooms both on-site and remote. Even when students were last year they would not join the remote class nor would they Zoom into classrooms. We do not believe that having teachers in front of cameras and students in their classroom is not effective. Our teacher's priority was for those students who were on site. On short-term quarantine, we did and do not provide related services to students, but they are/were made up. When in a remote session they did have the opportunity to opt out or opt in. Some families had students come in remotely at the end of the school day to complete their related services. Remote related services being offered at all are currently on the table right now since we can't do it after January 11th. Unless that changes with the department of health guidelines that is something we are not looking to do.

The numbers at this point have been very manageable for our assigned remote support teachers. We have teachers who are assigned remote teaching that have been assigned for those students that have to be quarantined due to an exposure with a quarantined person. We are not offering remote for those who are traveling or for parents who choose to keep their students home for a period of time. Things have changed after the holidays with respect to the virus and Ms. Somers stated that she has been in contact with the department of health and things may change by the end of the month or the beginning of February, the same as last year. She believes that everyone is worn out and that the last virus has done a number on our community. We have never done Zoom in our classrooms and are not starting that now. We do have a solid remote only plan in place for when it is needed. All students have access to their Google classrooms or their Seesaw accounts as well as their

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

remote teachers. Some of those remote teachers were out this past week due to illness so things do take a bit longer to set-up. This is a short-term problem. We had the option to offer fully remote last year and it is not an option for this year. She further stated that she cares deeply about our students' health and welfare at the Noecker School.

Ms. Somers addressed SEPAC and reshared was discussed at previous Board meetings in supporting a new partnership with parents and our education community. This partnership is not to replace SEPAC but to partner with them. This is a valuable partnership to the school district to help create more dialog in order to help support the school district. She thanked the five parent leaders for their participation in the program. There is a Board member on SEPAC and the district team so we will have continued dialog. She further stated that there will be a parent and SEPAC meeting in the month of January.

Mr. Gesario stated that we know that being remote is not the same as being in school which is why we have chosen to try and keep students in school. He further stated that Ms. Somers and the staff are trying to be creative in solving this problem. After being in the situation for two years he agreed with Ms. Somers in that Zooming is not the answer. If all students are on Zoom that is different from having some on Zoom and some in person. We are figuring it out as we go.

Ms. Somers clarified that SEPAC is state mandated in terms of having an organization that is set-up and led by parents as an advisory group. They are doing a great job in working with parents but the district wasn't having the same dialog as a parent leader group. The district's committee is an additional support for our Special Education program.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Savarese thanked Ms. Somers for her six years of service to the district and wished her well in her retirement. She further welcomed Dr. Brockel and hoped that he would help the district in finding a new Superintendent.

Mr. Gesario thanked Mr. Gorman and Mrs. Murano for their service as Board members. He further stated that he thanked Ms. Somers for her service especially over the past two years. He also welcomed Dr. Brockel.

Mrs. Scaraggi thanked Ms. Somers for her service and wished her and her family well in her retirement.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dudas posed a question with respect to inviting SEPAC to give a presentation at the February meeting to which Ms. Somers stated that the request would have to be made to the Superintendent. The Superintendent would have to discuss the request with the Board.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

Mrs. Savarese stated that Dr. Leddy is the liaison to both organizations so we will coordinate through her.

X. CONSIDERATION FOR CLOSED SESSION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following Resolution for Closed Session:

RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Borough of Roseland that it shall meet in Closed Session this evening following the Regular Business Meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

The Board will publicly disclose information pertaining to topics discussed as soon thereafter as possible and once the reasons for non-disclosure no longer exist. The topics to be discussed are within the exemptions which are permitted to be discussed in private session pursuant to P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

The Board will reconvene in public at 11:00 p.m. and may take action following the closed session.

MOTION by Mr. Gesario, SECOND by Mrs. Scaraggi

ROLL CALL: Mr. Dudas Aye Mr. Gesario Aye Dr. Leddy Aye Mrs. Savarese Aye
Mrs. Scaraggi Aye

XI. REOPEN INTO PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Gesario, SECOND by Mrs. Scaraggi

ROLL CALL: Mr. Dudas Aye Mr. Gesario Aye Dr. Leddy Aye Mrs. Savarese Aye
Mrs. Scaraggi Aye

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Savarese, SECOND by Mrs. Scaraggi

ROLL CALL: Mr. Dudas Aye Mr. Gesario Aye Dr. Leddy Aye Mrs. Savarese Aye
Mrs. Scaraggi Aye

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
January 6, 2022- 8:00 PM**

The next regular board meeting will be held Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 7:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room. There is a chance this meeting may be switched over to a virtual meeting. If this is the case, proper notification will be sent out and details will be on our website at www.roselandnjboe.org.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gordon Gibbs
Board Secretary/Business Administrator