

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY**

**MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 13, 2025 - 7:00 PM**

DATE

March 13, 2025

PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS

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

MEETING

Regular Business Meeting

ABSENT

TIME

7:00 PM

ADJOURNED

7:27 PM

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Leone
Mr. Murphy

PLACE

Lester C. Noecker School

I. CALL TO ORDER

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.

III. FLAG SALUTE

IV. BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT

Mrs. Scaraggi opened the meeting and moved directly into committee reports.

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V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

SEPAC

Mr. Dudas announced that the Roseland SEPAC and the Department of Special Services are excited to announce several upcoming events:

- *World Down Syndrome Day: Celebrations will take place on Friday, March 21.*
- *Autism Acceptance Day: Scheduled for Wednesday, April 2.*
- *Parent Check-In Meeting: SEPAC will hold a virtual parent check-in meeting on March 27 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.*
- *New Jersey Department of Education Winter Learning: Council members and Dr. Celebre will attend this event, focusing on topics such as the least restrictive environment and family engagement.*
- *Affirmation Board: Mr. Sandoval will visit the 5th and 6th grade classes to decorate posters for their affirmation board, located in the 5th and 6th grade hallway.*
- *Mock Trial: Judge Fuentes will preside over the mock trial for the 4th grade students for the second year.*
- *Fun Sock Day: Scheduled for March 21 to celebrate World Down's Syndrome Day.*

Curriculum Committee

Dr. Leddy provided the following updates:

- *Morning Tutoring Program: The program is off to a great start with high attendance and children enjoying it.*
- *Summer Programs: The summer programs have been released and are currently waiting for more kindergartners to sign up. Registration has been going well so far.*
- *QSAC: The school is undergoing a QSAC review, which happens every three years. The school is working within compliance throughout the review.*
- *ELA Resources: The school is looking to update its English Language Arts (ELA) resources. Various programs are being considered.*

Finance/Facilities Committee

The Finance/Facilities Committee discussed the 2025-2026 school budget which is being presented tonight.

HSA

Mrs. Villopoto reported that the school play is scheduled for next week, sponsored by the HSA. It will take place on Thursday, March 20, and Friday, March 21. The play is

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Finding Nemo, Jr. Tickets for the school play are on sale, and doors will open at 6:30 PM.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Principal's Report

Mr. Leone shared the following school activities since last month's meeting on behalf of Mr. Sandoval:

Recent Events:

- **February 20**

Grade 6 MAP testing was successfully administered. Students were engaged throughout the assessment process. The data collected will be instrumental in placing students in the appropriate math classes at WEMS.

- **February 21**

We welcomed author David Biedrzycki for a special visit. He captivated students with stories about his writing process and illustrations, inspiring many young readers and writers. His engaging presentation sparked enthusiasm for literacy across all grade levels.

- **February 21-22**

The Scholastic Book Fair was held, generating great excitement among students. Many students had the opportunity to select books that piqued their interests, further fostering a love of reading. The event was well-organized and we thank the HSA for their continued support of literacy.

- **March 3**

West Essex Peer Leaders visited Noecker for Read Across America. They engaged with our younger students through interactive read-alouds and literacy-based activities in the library. They had a great time and so did our students. The Read Across Committee team also did an outstanding job planning themed events throughout the week. The festivities concluded with Season 1 of the Masked Reader Assembly, where staff members read books while disguised, challenging students to guess their identities. This event was the highlight of the week, creating a fun and memorable experience for all.

- **March 7**

Our Beginner Band Concert showcased the talents of our beginner musicians. Under the direction of Mr. Gavarny, students demonstrated their progress and confidence in playing their instruments. Parents, 3rd and 4th-grade students, and siblings attended the performance, showing strong support for our young musicians. The students did a fantastic job, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth in music.

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Upcoming Events:

- **March 17-19**
2:55 PM dismissal for Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- **March 18**
End of Trimester 2; Genesis Parent Portal will reopen for viewing report cards.
- **March 19**
G&T Learning Carnival for Grades 3-4; Virtual HSA Meeting at 7:00 PM.
- **March 20-21**
School Play: Finding Nemo Jr. (Ticket information was shared on the Wednesday Notification).
- **March 21**
World Down Syndrome Day - #LotsOfSocks Fun Sock Day.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and school community.

Superintendent's Report

- *Mr. Leone thanked the teachers, the administrative team, and especially Mr. Murphy for his efforts in balancing the budget. It was an extensive process and I feel good about the financial standing of the district.*
- *The Roseland Little League has merged with other West Essex communities to form the Caldwell/West Essex Little League and we are approving the use of our fields which will still be used by our Roseland children.*
- *Congratulations to Mrs. Ramunni, wishing her and her family the best on their upcoming addition to their family.*

VII. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

- [Preliminary 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.

No one wished to be heard.

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IX. APPROVAL OF ACTION ITEMS

BOARD MINUTES/REPORTS

RPT-033-25 Approve the February 2025 Regular Business Meeting Minutes

RPT-034-25 Approve the February 2025 Code of Conduct Report

RPT-035-25 Approve the February 2025 Enrollment Report

RPT-036-25 Approve the February 2025 HIB Report

RPT-037-25 Approve the Quarterly Health Office Report

MOTION by Mr. Dudas, SECOND by Mrs. Villopoto

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

RPT-033-25 Approve the February 2025 Regular Business Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Regular Business Meeting Minutes for February 20, 2025.

RPT-034-25 Approve the February 2025 Code of Conduct Report

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the February 2025 Code of Conduct Report.

RPT-035-25 Approve the February 2025 Enrollment Report

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the February 2025 Enrollment Report.

RPT-036-25 Approve the February 2024 HIB Report

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the February 2025 HIB Report.

RPT-037-25 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-140-25 Approve Acceptance of the Report of Treasurer of School Monies – February 2025
- FIN-141-25 Approve Acceptance of the Report of the Board Secretary– February 2025
- FIN-142-25 Approve the Board of Education’s Monthly Certification of Major Budgetary Account/Fund Status – February 2025
- FIN-143-25 Approval the Payment of Bills and Claims – March 2025
- FIN-144-25 Approve Budgetary Line Item Transfers – February 2025
- FIN-145-25 Approve the Travel and Work Related Expenses
- FIN-146-25 Approval of the Sussex County Regional Transportation Agreements for 2025-2026 School Year
- FIN-147-25 Approve the Resubmission of the M-1 and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
- FIN-148-25 Adoption of the 2025-2026 Tentative Budget
- FIN-149-25 Approval to Continue Membership in the Morris Essex Insurance Group
- FIN-150-25 Approve the Out of District Placement Contract with Windsor Learning Center
- FIN-151-25 Approval of Facilities Use Request

MOTION by Mrs. Villopoto, SECOND by Dr. Leddy

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

- FIN-140-25 Approve Acceptance of the Report of the Treasurer of School Monies – February 2025

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 2025.

- FIN-141-25 Approve Acceptance of the Report of the Board Secretary –February 2025

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 2025.

- FIN-142-25 Approve the Board of Education’s Monthly Certification of Major Budgetary Account/Fund Status – February 2025

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

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February 2025, 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.

FIN-143-25 Approval the Payment of Bills and Claims – March 2025

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the payment of Bills and Claims for the period ending March 13, 2025:

General Fund Bills & Claims	\$	95,620.78
General Fund Payroll	\$	596,821.67 through March 15, 2025
Special Revenue Fund Bills & Claims	\$	9,655.40
Capital Projects Fund	\$	73,640.00
Debt Services Fund	\$	12,600.00
<u>Cafeteria Fund Bills & Claims</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>24,563.76</u>
<i>Total Payments</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>812,901.61</i>

FIN-144-25 Approve Line Item Transfers – February 2025

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the attached Line Item Budget Transfers for the month of February 2025, as per N.J.S.A. 18A:8.1.

FIN-145-25 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 13, 2025 list of travel related expenses.

Travel and Work Related Expenses Approval March 13, 2025		
Staff Member	Event Location Purpose	Cost
Noha Sadany	NJTESOL Spring	Registration: \$390.00

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	Conference Cherry Hill, NJ New Jersey Teachers of (English to Speakers of Other Languages) May 21, 2025 Professional Development	Tolls & Mileage at OMB rate
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FIN-146-25 Approval of the Sussex County Regional Transportation Agreements for 2025-2026 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Sussex County Regional Transportation agreement for the 2025-2026 school year for Special Education routes, Public routes and Field trips based on the CPI rate and the following administrative fees:

Public School Transportation	2%
Field Trips Transportation	4%
Special Education Transportation	3%

FIN-147-25 Approve the Resubmission of the M-1 and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the resubmission of the 2024-2025 M-1 and Comprehensive Maintenance Plan to the Department of Education.

FIN-148-25 Adoption of the 2025-2026 Tentative Budget

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

RESOLVED that the Roseland Borough Board of Education, in the County of Essex, approves the Tentative School budget for the 2025-2026 school year using the 2025-2026 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator be authorized to submit the TENTATIVE budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline, as follows:

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	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total
2025-2026 Total Expenditures	\$ 11,515,185	\$ 119,310	\$ 852,600	\$ 12,487,095
Anticipated Revenues	\$ 1,789,939	\$ 119,310	\$ - 0 -	\$ 1,909,249
Taxes to be Raised	\$9,630,986	\$ - 0 -	\$ 852,600	\$10,483,586

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Herald News in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing be held at the Roseland Board of Education located at the Lester C. Noecker School on April 29 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2025-2026 school year.

A. Adjustment for ENROLLMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that the Roseland Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for enrollment in the amount of \$21,587. The district intends to utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary for the additional students.

B. Adjustment for HEALTH CARE COSTS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Roseland Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$97,055. The additional funds will be used to pay for additional increases in health benefit premiums.

C. Maintenance Reserve Account Withdrawal

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roseland Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-14.2(d) the general fund appropriations includes a maintenance reserve withdrawal in the amount of \$324,100.00. The district intends to utilize these funds for required maintenance for the district pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-20.5.

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D. Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement-2025-2026

WHEREAS, school district Policy 6471, School District Travel, and N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.1 et. seq., provides that the Board of Education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for the 2025-2026 school year; and

WHEREAS, maximum expenditure amount allotted for travel and expense reimbursement for the 2024-2025 school year was \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, travel and expense reimbursement has reached a total amount of \$22,421.49 as of March 1, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roseland Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2025-2026 school year not to exceed \$43,155; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

E. Professional Service Expenses

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A:5.2 (a) mandates boards to establish annually prior to budget preparation, for public relations and each type of professional service a maximum level of spending for the ensuing school year, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c) 14; and

WHEREAS, the tentative budget includes the following appropriations:

Legal Services	\$ 20,000
Auditing Services	\$ 27,500
School Physician	\$ 3,000
Financial Advisory	\$ 1,500; and

WHEREAS, the Administration needs to notice the Board if there arises a need to exceed said maximums. Upon which the Board may adopt a monetary increase in the maximum amount through formal Board action; and

WHEREAS, the Board and Administration wishes to minimize the amount of paperwork involved in this area;

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roseland School District Board of Education establishes maximums for professional services in the areas listed above at a level of 120% of the amounts listed for the 2025-2026 school year.

FIN-149-25 Approval to Continue Membership in the Morris Essex Insurance Group

WHEREAS, a number of Boards of Education in Morris and Essex Counties have joined together to form a Joint Insurance Pool as permitted by N.J. Title 18A-.18B and; 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, 2025 to June 30, 2028.

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 Bylaws and to deliver the same to the Executive Director.

FIN-150-25 Approve the Out of District Placement Contract with Windsor Learning Center

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the out of district placement 2024-2025 contract for Student No. 5047760977 with Windsor Learning Center of Pompton Lakes, NJ in the amount of \$24,815, plus an Aide in the amount of \$17,500 (March 10, 2025 - June, 26, 2025).

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FIN-151-25 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
Caldwell/ West Essex Little League	M-F (3/17-6/13/2025) Sat. (3/22-6/14/2025)	M-F (5:00 pm - 8:00 pm) Sat. (8:00 am - 6:00 pm)	Monday - Saturday	Youth Baseball, Softball, T-Ball, K-Ball (Practices and games)	Back Ball Fields

PERSONNEL/MANAGEMENT

PER-040-25 Approval of Roseland School District Substitutes for the 2024-2025 School Year

PER-041-25 Approve the Maternity Leave of the Ashley Ramunni

MOTION by Dr. Leddy, SECOND by Mr. Dudas

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

PER-040-25 Approval of Additional Roseland School District Substitutes for the 2024-2025 School Year

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the additional list of Roseland School District Substitutes pending criminal history approval as follows:

<u>Substitute Custodians</u> \$18.50 per hour
Julia Lopez-Sanchez

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PER-041-25 Approve the Maternity Leave of the Ashley Ramunni

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the maternity leave of absence for Ashley Ramunni, Position Control No. 126, as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the terms and conditions recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, approves a leave of absence for Ashley Ramunni, Special Education Teacher (PT), effective June 2, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The leave shall be pursuant to Article VII(C) of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Roseland Board of Education and the Roseland Education Association (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027).

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 any item pertaining to the school 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 one wished to be heard.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Leddy congratulated the Roseland girls' and boys' basketball teams that won their respective West Essex basketball championships.

XII. CONSIDERATION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Consideration for a closed session had been reserved on tonight's agenda to discuss personnel matters, student matters, and/or matters of school security. The Board did not meet in closed session tonight.

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XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Dudas, SECOND by Dr. Leddy

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

The next Regular Board Meeting is Thursday, April 29, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Murphy

Paul Murphy
Board Secretary/Business Administrator