

**Rochelle Park Board of Education
Caucus Meeting– 6:30 P.M.
February 10, 2014**

- I. Call to Order and Flag Salute**
- II. Roll Call**

Board Members	Present	Absent
Mr. Mark Scully, Vice President	X	
Mr. Sam Allos		X (arrived 7:13 PM)
Mrs. Arlene Ciliento Buyck	X	
Mrs. Teresa Cravello	X	
Mrs. Maria Lauerman		X
Mrs. Dimitria Leakas	X	
Mr. Jay Esposito, President	X	

Others present:

- Dr. Dennis McDonald, Interim Superintendent
- Christine Werner, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Cara Hurd, Principal
- Ellen Kobylarz, Board Recording Secretary

III. Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P. L. 1975 Announcement – by Board President

In accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, I wish to announce that:

“The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. Notices announcing the date, time and place for this Regular Meeting were sent to all concerned individuals, associations and sent to the Star Ledger, The Record and Our Town, in accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

IV. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Dennis McDonald reported the following:

- Resolutions to approve Mrs. Weiner to attend the New Jersey Music Ed Association Conference on February 20 & 21. Mrs. Hurd and Ms. Siliato to attend NJASK District Test Coordinator Training on March 18, 2014 and Ms. Lender to attend Ethics and the Law on March 26, 2014.
- Midland School PTA celebrated Founder’s Day on February 6, 2014.
- Gymnastics Show moved to March 6, 2014.
- Kindergarten registration is ongoing with the last two scheduled registration dates today and tomorrow.
- Resolution’s to approve two Field Trips. The concert band to Summit Middle School in Summit on May 13, 2014 and the 8th grader trip to the State House in Trenton on March 13, 2014.

V. Principal’s Report Mrs. Hurd reported the following:

- 3rd Marking period started January 27th, report card will be distributed to students on Friday February 7th.

- February 4, 2014, students from Hackensack High School will be coming to do a presentation to our 7th Grade students on Anti-Bullying.
- Next month the Board of Education will recognize the Spelling Bee winners and Geography Bee winners. Congratulations to all.
- Mrs. Hurd also expressed congratulations to all the inductees into the Junior National Honor Society.

VI. Business Administrator's Report Mrs. Werner reported the following:

- Reminded the Board Members that they should have completed their Personal/Relative and Financial Disclosure Statements online and A-5 Training opportunities.
- Bergen County School Boards will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at Maggiano's in Hackensack. Topic How to effectively communicate with legislators.
- Discussed several matters before the legislation. Pointing out A375- Permits a child who moves out of a school district due to a family crisis to remain enrolled in that district until the end of the school year. A4300- Extends the timeline for performing certain budget related tasks in the school districts that have moved the annual election to November.
- Outlined a **Tentative** project schedule of work during the summer of 2014 with regard to the referendum.

Mrs. Werner introduced Ms. Lisa Gorab- who is the districts bonding attorney. Ms. Gorab congratulated the board on the referendum vote. She explained the resolution on the agenda tonight. As well as outlining the process going forward for the sale of the bonds. It was stated that they would be for a 21 year period- this would minimize the tax impact on the residents. She is looking at a March 12th bond sale It shouldn't take longer than 2 weeks before the district will see the money.

Mrs. Werner stated it was extensive but appropriate.

It was followed by a brief discussion which included a conversation regarding the sprinkler system, which was added later therefore it is separate item, from the rest of the work.

Mrs. Werner and the Board thanked Mrs. Gorab.

VII. Reports – Committee Action Items: All except Transportation were deferred to Regular meeting.

Transportation- Mr. Scully started by stating he is aware of the problems with the bus company during exam week. He is directly impacted by this situation, as he has tried several times to get them to comply. The district was told that the bus driver was fired. Pick up is never on time, this morning they again had to wait for the bus. Coming home the problem seem to be who is getting on the bus, we have called the bus company and Hackensack High School several times.

Dr. McDonald had a conversation with the Principal of Hackensack who stated they have staff out checking bus passes. He will ask again to check on passes. Dr. McDonald would like to have a meeting with the HS personnel and Bus Company. That has not been feasible with all the snow we have had lately.

Mrs. Werner- has reached out to the Jointure and stated the bus company could be excluded in the bid process for next year. She has called, faxed, emailed and doesn't know what else we could have done.

Mr. Scully-the week of exams the Chestnut St. stop should not have been on the schedule- He asked if the their payment is in increments, if so can we hold payment if they don't give us the service. The Hackensack bus has also pull away with more students on the bus than they have seats for.

Mrs. Cravello asked if it was chronically late.

Mr. Scully asked if we are getting over load on all buses or just this one.

Mrs. Werner stated there were two incidents of overcrowding. Bus passes are color coded, for easier identification of who belongs on which bus.

Mrs. Cravello asked if they were arranged through the South Bergen Jointure.

Mrs. Werner stated we should look at next year. Do they have a yearly contract? She also stated that we can't get out of the contract this year but perhaps next year. At this point the meeting was open to the public.

III. Items for Board Action - Resolutions (If needed)

Note: Resolutions marked with an asterisk are as a result of Executive Session Discussion.

IX. Other Business:

X. Open to the Public (Any Item)

During this portion of the meeting, the residents are invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns that may be in respect to the operation of their school.

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mrs. Buyck, to open public comment at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call 5-0

Motion Carried

Mrs. Greico Peek St- District 5 Maureen Kerne needs to be contacted.

Mrs. Werner stated that Region 5 handles our Special Education busing and not the Hackensack busing that is through the Jointure.

Mrs. Greico- stated you can't have 10 kids standing out there in an open field for 20 minutes in subzero temperatures waiting for the bus.

Mr. Scully added that the other students don't have a shelter.

Mrs. Grieco asked if each bus driver has a list of who they are picking up.

Mrs. Werner Bus company response is that it's not their responsibility; the bus driver's responsibility is to drive the bus.

Mrs. Grieco- stated that one day the bus never showed up because they were picking up students from Lodi who went to a movie.

Mr. Grieco- added that he sent a letter to the Corporate Office – the woman is very rude.

Dr. McDonald confirmed that the woman is very outspoken; he was told that one day they were late due to the buses having to clean heavy snow off after the recent snow storm.

Mr. Allos asked if there was any legal recourse.

President Esposito- Stated they will try their best- he would like to see a face to face meeting here with a supervisor.

Mr. Grieco stated that the woman said she didn't know the Superintendent's name.

Mrs. Werner- High school has people out there and they need to step up.

President Esposito – Felt we should get a hold of Michael Jordan (Maywood Superintendent) and see if we can combine with them a get a better price.
Mrs. Cravello asked about monitors for the bus.
Mrs. Werner- stated it would be duty Teachers.
Mrs. Cravello- stated that students at the HS were told they could go into the library.
Mrs. Greico- Bus would come and then leave before the kids in the library could get out there. She indicated that she never saw any bus monitors.
Mr. Allos asked if we could hold the check
President Esposito- stated yes.

Mrs. Minichetti- has the calendar been decided on; the day's that are owed are you looking at spring break, Monday and Tuesday of Presidents day?
President Esposito stated it was too late for President's day.
Mrs. Minichetti- Harvey Ave- Morning drop off- People are parking and walking with kids, very dangerous. Couldn't the administration encourage people to park on Williams St. or use the front circle for the younger students.
President Esposito- stated you would need a monitor to be sure it was only certain grade levels.
Mrs. Cravello stated it was a fire zone would have to get permission from the fire marshal
President Esposito once one person stops it messes everything else up. The custodians will tell the people and they get yelled at. We can block off the parking lot entirely.
Mrs. Leakas- can the handicapped students use the circle entrance so that the parents don't have to walk them in.
Mrs. Werner stated that the handicapped entrance is around the corner.
President Esposito and Mrs. Hurd both stated that they don't need to use that entrance.
President Esposito expressed concern that the cones have not been out.
Mrs. Minichetti asked if a staggered drop off could be arranged, Just a thought.
Mrs. Pascarella- Thiem Ave. explained that when Mrs. Hurd was out on her maternity leave and Mr. McGrath was here he set up the safety patrol.
President Esposito stated it was coming back
Mrs. Hurd stated with the cold weather t has hindered having them out there. They were out there in November and December.

Mrs. Pascarella asked why the students were on the floor at graduation and not on the stage.
President Esposito has been thinking about moving the students to the bleachers.
Mrs. Abraham asked how many days we were over for snow days.
Dr. McDonald stated two.
Motion by Mrs. Leakas, seconded by Mr. Allos, to close public comment at 7:25 p.m.
Roll Call 6-0
Motion Carried

XI. Announcements:

The next caucus meeting will be held on Monday March 3, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. in the Media Center.

XII. Executive Session Announcement (if needed)

WHEREAS, the Rochelle Park Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") will convene in Executive Session to discuss confidential matters which include:

Personnel

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board shall move into Executive Session to discuss the above referenced matter(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the minutes of the executive session will provide as much information as possible without violating any applicable privilege or confidentiality so that the public can understand what was discussed and when available what the Board decision was.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the minutes of the executive session will be released to the public in an appropriately redacted form within a reasonable period of time after the privilege or confidentiality is no longer applicable to such minutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the redacted portion of the executive session minutes will not be released until such time as the privilege or confidentiality is no longer applicable.

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mrs. Leakas, to open Executive Session at 7:26 p.m.
Roll Call 6-0
Motion Carried

Motion by Mrs. Buyck, seconded by Mr. Allos, to close Executive Session at 8:58 p.m.
Roll Call 6-0
Motion Carried

Motion by Mrs. Leakas, seconded by Mrs. Cravello, to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 8:59 p.m.
Roll Call 6-0
Motion Carried