

Rochelle Park Board of Education
Caucus Meeting Minutes- 7:00 P.M.
February 8, 2018

- I. **Call to Order and Flag Salute** led by Mr. Warren, Township Committeeman
- II. **Roll Call**

Board Members	Present	Absent
Mr. Matt Trawinski, Vice President	X	
Mr. Scott Kral	X	
Mrs. Dimitria Leakas	X	
Mrs. Geraldine Minichetti		X
Mr. Gerard Sorrentino	X	
Ms. Layla Wuthrick	X	
Mrs. Teresa Judge Cravello, President	X	

Others present:

- Dr. Geoffrey W. Zoeller, Jr., Superintendent of Schools
- Mrs. Cara Hurd, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
- Mr. Brian Cannici, Principal
- Mrs. Ellen Kobylarz, Board 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, The Record and The Our Town, in accordance with Chapter 231,P.L.1975”

IV. Work Session Discussion regarding Joint issues with Township issues discussed between the two boards

- Dr. Zoeller gave a short summary of the schools summer program and how it piggy backs onto the town summer camp program. The district will be having the summer school again this year and he looks forward to working with the town on this again.
- President Judge Cravello touched on our exceptional audit and the fact that we will once again be able to offer \$250,000.00 in tax relief to the town.
- President Judge Cravello also spoke about our increase in technology and the district looking in to chrome books for students.
Dr. Zoeller interjected that the district would still have to work out insurance, write policy and certainly have some type of signed agreement with the parents.
- Vice President Trawinski stated he looks forward to working with the town on the William St. project, stating that it is his understanding that the town could help us in obtaining a grant for sidewalks in the back part of the field by the parking spaces as well as helping us with a town policy.

- Township Committeemen Warren addressed the Farmer's Market that would run between June 30th to Oct 26th. He talked about setting up 10/10 tents up against the basketball courts cording off the lane of traffic in front of that area. Then the spaces close to the street would be used for parking. DPW would sweep the lot after. They would have at least two facilitators on site. He understands that the school has outside bathrooms and they would like to be able to use that for vendors, their other option would be port-a john's and they really didn't want to go in that direction.

Dr. Zoeller confirmed that the district does have outside bathrooms.

Mr. Warren added that if anyone knows of any vendors or would like to suggest a product they would like to see, to let him know.

President Judge Cravello suggested a meeting with Dr. Zoeller and the Building and Grounds committee to talk about all the ins and outs. She thinks it's a wonderful idea.

Dr. Zoeller added that as we continue to have a working relationship with the town in obtaining gas and salting. He has named a designee for the library board looks forward to working with that board. He is also looking forward to a break in the weather, purchase orders have been sent out for the lighting detection system. Which is another project that the two groups worked together to get the project done.

At this point the township opened in public for their public session at 7:21 P.M.

Mr. Scully Oldis St. thinks the Farmer's Market is a great idea. He asked if the town was looking to make money on it. Mr. Scully also asked if there would be room for township nonprofits to have an area. He used the example of a PTO fundraiser, or other township groups.

Mr. Warren responded stating that the rates have been set to be competitive. He did solicit the public as to who they wanted to see there. Also there is no other Saturday market in the area. With regard to the nonprofits in town Mr. Warren sees no problem with letting them have some space.

The township closed their public portion at 7:25 P.M.

Mr. Kasmir was interested about the school academic achievements and the direction it was going.

Dr. Zoeller explained that through Mrs. Hurd our Curriculum Director we have a multi-district curriculum with So Hackensack, Hackensack and Maywood. All the math and ELA curriculums, science, and social studies will be implemented next year. Standards and assessments were all aligned with the state guidelines. We are working on becoming a Google Educational School; teachers have laptops, have attended Orton Gillingham

training, which they turn key back to the school. Scores are up, we are no longer a focus school but are now among the highest schools making progress in the state. The School performance report shows we are still not where we want to be, but we have made significant progress. The facility is pleased and proud, the teachers are the ones writing the curriculum, We are already seeing the results.

The Township at this point adjourned their portion of the meeting. The school board at 7: 33 P.M took a 8 minute recess. The meeting resumed at 7:41 P.M.

V. Superintendent's Report Dr. Zoeller reported on the following:

- Dr.Zoeller read a list of workshops the teachers will be attending.
- There will be a resolution to approve a second reading and adoption of two policies
- A resolution for approval for two field trips.
- A resolution for the Board to accept two grants. He thanked Mr. Grossman and Ms. Mallon for obtaining these grants to offset their field trips.
- The ORAC report was discussed in general, with Dr. Zoeller indicating the rest would be discussed in Executive Session.

VI. Director of Curriculum & Instruction's Report Mrs. Hurd reported the following:

- Teams for the Social studies, Grades K-8 Met the first half of the year with Mrs. Fletcher to revise, edit and update the curriculum. Grades K-5 are complete, and grades 6-8 need a few more edits/revisions, but will be completed in the near future.
- Curriculum for technology class and media class will be worked on the second half of the school year.
- Spring assessment calendar for the district testing dates will be finalized I the next week. The testing window for PARCC is April 16th -Math 25th , and for the NJ Student Learning Assessment for Science Field Test (which is replacing the NJASK Science) in open May 7th and closes June 8th. PARCC tests students in grades 3-8, ELA and Math. Science test is for students in Grades 5 & 8.Younger students will be tested first. This will give the Algebra 1 students more time in class. Students must now pass Algebra 1 to graduate high school. It's a state requirement.

Mrs. Leakas asked why the change in testing grade. Mrs. Hurd stated the state didn't explain why they made the change.

VII. Principal's Report Mr. Cannici reported the following:

- Mr. Cannici was pleased to announce that Mrs. Angela Jacobus is the winner of the Governor's Educator of the Year Award. We were also pleased to name Mrs. Nancy Gomez as the Educational Services Professional of the Year. Both will be formally recognized for their achievements at the March public BOE meeting.
- The 2018 Midland School Gymnastics Assemblies will be held on the February 15th at 7:00 P.M. and February 16th for grades K-8 at 9:00 AM, Grades 4-8 at 10:30 A.M.
- School will be closed for President's Holiday on Monday, February 19th and Tuesday, February 20th. The 20th will be a staff development day for all staff members.

- Information regarding Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration for the 2018-29 school year was recently posted on our school website and our school Facebook page. Information can also be found in the virtual folder.
- **PTO** Mrs. Reardon reported the following:
 - Book Fair is ongoing this week, with great success. Thank you to the R.P. Police Department for reading to the students during the fair. Also thank you Mr. Cannici.
 - Mrs. Reardon added that since the district has gone paperless it has impacted their fundraisers. The Joe Corbi Pizza, WrestleMania. She believes the parents don't know about the fundraisers. She stated her organization exists to give back to the school, but if we can't get the word out, then they can't give as much as they would like. She would like to request permission to send paper copies once again.
 - In addition the Rochelle Park Fire Dept. is requiring at every event to pay \$75.00, which is taking money directly away from the fundraising.

President Judge Cravello stated she understands the concern, the board has discussed this topic once before, and it is something the board can discuss again. Mr. Trawinski thinks the issue of paper copies should be revisited.

VIII. Building & Grounds Supervisor's Report- Dr. Zoeller gave the report in Mr. DeGrazio's absence.

- Commended the custodial staff on their cleanup after the storm earlier today. He also commended the DPW for their help.
- He addressed an issue with a fire alarm that required the company to come out today and fix.
- There was some leaking in the gym area, Dr. Zoeller believed it to have been caused by ice buildup.
- The William St. project and lighting detection system projects will be moving forward.

IX. Reports – Board Committee Reports- Tabled to regular meeting

X. Items for Board Action- Resolutions (If Needed)

- **None at this time**

XI. Open Public Forum (Pursuant to Board Policy 0167 – Public Participation in Board Meetings)

During this portion of the meeting, district residents and staff are invited to address the Board of Education on any topics specifically addressed in this agenda or on any other questions, comments, or concerns that may be in respect to the operation of their schools. The Board requests that individuals sign the speakers' list giving name and address, and asks that all remarks be directed to the Board as a whole (not to individuals). The public is reminded that their remarks are being recorded.

The Board wishes to remind all attendees at its meetings that while it subscribes without reservation to the principle of keeping the community completely informed, it cannot respond to or discuss personnel matters. If a matter concerning a district staff member is of interest or concern to a resident, the matter should be referred to the Building Principal, Superintendent of Schools, or the Board of Education, either by telephone, letter, or email.

Each speaker's statement will be limited to five (5) minutes in duration. The Public Forum will be limited to one (1) hour in duration.

Motion by Mr. Trawinski, seconded by Mr. Sorrentino, to open public comment at 8:15 P.M.

Roll Call 6-0
Motion Carried

Mr. Allos Parkway- lent his support to the board. He voiced his opinion on not rehiring the Architect was a mistake, he has done a lot of work in this building, was very knowledgeable. He added that we now have stability, we have a surplus we never had before, encouraged the board to keep that stability, and not rock the boat.

He asked what OFAC stood for.

President Judge Cravello answered Office of Fiscal Accountability.

Mr. Allos asked how they are regulated.

Dr. Zoeller replied they are a state accountability department.

Mr. Scully Oldis St. – asked if board members are still fingerprinted? He asked who's signatures are on the checks is it the Board President and Vice President.

Dr. Zoeller responded they are fingerprinted through a state run program. Currently the district does electronic signature of the Board President.

Mrs. Rodas Hobart Ct. asked if BOE members were allowed to meet outside of school to discuss personnel matters without an Administrator.

Dr. Zoeller stated yes if there is less than 4 (four) members of the board. They are still citizens and can meet and have conversations.

Mrs. Abraham Forest Pl- inquired about a meeting held the prior week without the Superintendent being present. Was this meeting advertised, why was it not on the sign board out front.

Dr. Zoeller explained that the meeting as scheduled around the Board Attorney's schedule. It was advertised through the proper channels and that is all that has to be done. It is not required to be on the sign board.

Mrs. Abraham asked about what was different by having a caucus meeting?

President Judge Cravello explained that a caucus is a work session. Items are brought to the board as a whole. It gives all seven board members a chance to discuss the information. Committee meetings gather information then the whole board an discuss it.

Mrs. Abraham stated that Mr. Trawinski announced that he was head of the building and grounds committee weeks before it was announced publicly. How did he know in advance when the board didn't discuss it.

President Judge Cravello explained that she had talked to people and assigned the people to committees.

Motion by Mr. Kral, seconded by Mrs. Leakas, to close public comment at 8:40 P.M.

Roll Call 6-0
Motion Carried

XII. Announcements:

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday February 15,, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Media Center.

XIII. 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: HIB, Personnel.

NOW HEREOFRE 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. Leakas, seconded by Mr. Trawinski, to open Executive Session at 8:42 P.M.
Roll Call 6-0
Motion Carried

Motion by Mrs. Leakas, seconded by Mrs. Wuthrich, to close Executive Session and resume the Regular Meeting Agenda at 10:41 P.M.
Roll Call 6-0
Motion Carried

XIV. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Kral, seconded by Mrs. Wuthrich to adjourn meeting at 10:42 P.M.
Roll Call 6-0
Motion Carried