

Rochelle Park Board of Education  
Executive Meeting 6:30 P.M. Regular Meeting 7:30 P.M.  
February 15, 2022

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**

Board Member	Present	Absent
Mr. Scott Kral, Vice President	x	
Ms. Christina Holz	x	
Mrs. Teresa Judge-Cravello	x	
Mr. Joseph Marolda	x	
Mr. Jorge Martinez Jr.	x	
Mr. Charles Schaadt	x	
Mr. Matt Trawinski, President	x	

Others Present:

- Dr. Sue DeNobile, Superintendent of Schools
- Mrs. Cheryl Jiosi, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Mrs. Cara Hurd, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Mr. Michael Alberta, Principal
- Mr. Steven Lahullier, Director of Technology
- Mrs. Ellen Kobylarz, Board Recording Secretary

**III. Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975**

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” posted on the District website, at least 48 hours prior to the time of this meeting.

**IV. Executive Session**

Be it resolved that the Rochelle Park Board of Education will convene in Executive Session to discuss confidential matters which include matters pertaining to protecting public safety and matters of individual privacy.

**V. Pledge of Allegiance**

**VI. Reports**

- A. Superintendent Dr. DeNobile Welcomed everyone, the school calendar was approved at the last meeting and is now posted on the school website. Next week school is closed for President’s Day on Monday, also closed on Tuesday for students. Faculty and staff will be in for professional development on Tuesday. Mrs. Hurd will go into more detail regarding the training for that day. Extended day sessions have started, this is funded by grant money. The district is looking to fill several positions Long Term Substitute for Math, we are always looking for Cafeteria/Lunch aides, Paraprofessionals and Substitutes. Interested parties can send a letter of interest and resume to [applications@rochellepak.org](mailto:applications@rochellepak.org). On the construction, within the building classrooms are complete, the trailers will be rolling out. Dr. DeNobile had sent a letter to the community earlier in the week, all community updates are emailed to all parents and can also be found on the

school website at [www.rochellepark.org](http://www.rochellepark.org). Dr. DeNobile expressed that if you see something you feel is a safety hazard or a general concern she asked that you immediately call the school or stop into the office. Let someone know. Dr. DeNobile introduced the administration present and gave a brief description of the duties of those positions. She again encouraged parents to call if you have an issue. Next Dr. DeNobile gave an update on the mask mandate. She explained there will be a walk on resolution to amend the policy regarding the governor's lifting of the mask mandate. The district is prepared to make it mask optional.

- B. Business Administrator- Mrs. Jiosi stated that the classrooms that were affected by the flooding have all their basic needs met. CST has all new furniture, a new band room with proper storage. OT/PT and Speech are up and running in their room. With any construction project there are a few minor things that need to be fixed and next Monday/Tuesday when students are off those things will be addressed. It's been a long road back. We have entered budget season, the Governor's address pushed back the timeline therefore we will have a revision to the budget calendar. New Gym pads have been ordered and will be here on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Hurd explained that most of the curriculum is up for revision this year with the exception of Math and ELA. The PD for teachers on Tuesday will be focusing on ELA strategies, 4-8 Grade Science & Social Studies curriculum with introductions to the arts. There will be Real Time training. The district will also have another PD day in March.
- D. Principal Mr. Alberta announced that today was the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. The Spelling Bee was held on February 1<sup>st</sup>, this year it was broadcast to the classroom instead of having all the students in one room. The winners were first place Teresa Lazzaro, second place Camila Goris, and third place Matthew Del. Last week we had a speaker Mykee Fowlin come in to talk to the middle school students, it was a great program, students were really interested. Thank you to our PTO, they help bring programs like this to the school. On February 24<sup>th</sup> the National Junior Honor Society induction will take place. Lunches have been going well, students now walk up to the cafeteria counter, give their name, and are handed their pre ordered lunch. It's getting back to normal. PreK-K registration will be coming up, more details to follow. We will be running a parent night on Bullying. Reminder your child should be bringing water bottles to school as we have been limiting the use of the water fountains during Covid. Please go over the proper use of a water bottle with your child, we are finding a lot of water being spilled on the floor. Cell Phones, see the policy guidelines on the school website, they should not be out during the day in school.
- E. Board Committees, as needed:
  - Curriculum Ms. Holz, no report at this time
  - Finance** Mrs. Judge Cravello, the committee will be meeting on budget items, date for that has to be set.
  - Facilities** Mr. Kral, mentioned the flooding in the back of the school on the field. It has been a problem for some time. It was something that the board was looking into fixing prior to covid. On that day the drain was filled with ice and it was flooded so there was no place for the water to drain. Since covid the focus has shifted to inside the building, air purifiers were installed to improve air quality, we also need a new tractor to cut the lawn, instead of buying one for 36,000. We tried to get parts to fix the old one. With covid and everything shut down no one was using the field. We are now contracting with a company to maintain the fields for the upcoming spring season. When we get grant money we can only use that for what is stated in the grant documents. So, we can't take covid targeted money and now fix the fields, it doesn't work that way. The DPW has helped out when they could and we appreciate that. We looked into turning the field just the area where games are played- baseball, softball and soccer, into a turf field, just the turf alone, would be in the \$800,000. cost range. Just the turf. The flooding that occurred, will be addressed, also, there's a resolution on this agenda to purchase a system that will monitor the water flow and if a leak is detected it can automatically shut down that system.

Mr. Trawinski stated when these pipes are failing it's during the night when no one is present in the building. Catching it early we can prevent further damage. This system will do that. Our focus has been inside the building but that doesn't mean that the outside won't be taken care of or it's not in the works. We want to hear from you if you see unsafe conditions don't wait. Don't leave the area unsafe. Make the call. Use that avenue first, then go on Facebook if you feel it's still necessary. Once we were made aware, we investigated it.

Mr. Kral added we had three pipes in the building break and one outside. Geese, we have tried cardboard cutouts, border collies.

Mrs. Judge Cravello stated we had a goose alarm until the neighbors complained about it going off every 20 minutes.

Mr. Kral went on to report that the trailers now have a pick-up date. Prior to covid we had started the process to increase the parking lot which is much needed, we don't have enough spaces. It would include work on the basketball court, but in order to start that we needed to do a traffic study if we were going to look at the entrance and exit to the parking area. Well when everyone was working from home and the school was remote, it doesn't make sense to do a traffic study when there's no traffic. So that was postponed. Right now, we have 3 or 4 plan options but it all starts with the traffic study. To you it may not look like we are doing things but we are.

**Personnel**, Mr. Kral nothing to report at this time

**Policy**, Ms. Holz, we have a resolution for a second reading an adoption of a policy on the agenda tonight, and the committee was just handed another packet, so we will be having a meeting shortly.

**Negotiations** Mrs. Judge Cravello, stated the committee is still waiting on dates for a joint meeting with the union.

G. Board Liaison:

**NJSBA/BCSBA**, Ms. Holz attended an online NJSBA meeting two weeks ago she was joined by Mr. Martinez Jr. the meeting consisted of a roundtable with three Superintendents.

**Joint Boards**, Mr. Marolda- nothing to report at this time

**Liaison to the Township Committee** Mr. Kral encouraged parents to check out the Township recreation's Facebook page for information on Baseball registration, Paint and Sip night as well as a Bowling night.

## VII. Public Comment (Agenda Items Only)

The Board of Education reserves the right to hold public comment on agenda items only, at its discretion, at its regular monthly public meetings in accordance with Bylaw 0167. Public comment will be limited to three minutes per person. Citizens should give their name and address when recognized to speak. Please be reminded that this meeting is being recorded.

Mr. Pizzuto Susquehanna inquired about the storage container being open and no one returning a phone call. He also questioned the Building and Grounds Supervisor making 80K a year but didn't check sidewalk for snow and can't maintain the grass.

Mr. DeFanco Lincoln Dr. stated that the sewer grate by the field is a major tripping hazard and that his daughter's foot is small enough to get stuck in there.

Mr. Azzalino Chestnut St the dumpster was like that for more than one day, someone should be walking the grounds to look for hazards. Custodial staff should walk the grounds.

*Dr. DeNobile explained that the day in question both Dr. DeNobile had been out of district and the regular daytime custodian was also out that day. There was a crew here from outside the district who moved the furniture from that storage unit. We have since lodged a complaint with the company.*

*Dr. DeNobile and Mr. Trawinski both addressed the fact that if there something that you feel is a safety issue the first thing that should be done is to contact someone at the school. Posting it on social media first doesn't address the safety concern immediately.*

*The question of not calling a parent back was voiced. Dr. DeNobile stated that she had a conversation with that gentlemen, she did call him back the day before twice, and in fact he replied on social media that he did receive two phone messages from Dr. DeNobile ahead of his post.*

*Dr. DeNobile further explained that the sidewalk with snow was cleared the day before. That night it got very windy which caused the snow to drift. Monday morning snow was back on the sidewalk, it should have been addressed, it was not.*

Lori Pelovski Oak St. understands the district is doing all they can and she feels the parents are being shamed and we are not on the same team.

*Mr. Trawinski apologized, adding nobody should be afraid to speak, he welcomed people to call, we will respond. He admitted he's not on social media, someone calls him he will answer. All that they are saying is its delaying the process by posting it on social media first, someone could get hurt.*

### **VIII. Items for Board Action-Resolutions**

Routine Matters Resolutions R1-R14

#### Approval of Minutes

R1.RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the minutes of the following meetings:

January 25, 2022-Executive and Regular

#### Attendance

R2. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the attendance report for the month of January 2022 as listed:

#### Enrollment

Midland School	507
Hackensack H.S.	144.5
Academies/Technical Schools	29.5
Totals	681

#### Pupil Attendance

Possible Days	9900
Days Present	9297
Days Absent	603
% Present	93.9%
% Absent	6.1%

#### Teacher Attendance

Possible Days	1140
Days Present	1095
Days Absent	45
% Present	96%
% Absent	4%

#### Emergency & Crisis Situations

R3. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following Fire and Security drills held in the month of January 2022 for the Rochelle Park School District.

Fire Drill- 1/19/2022  
Security Drill – 1/28/2022

Harassment Intimidation and Bullying

R4. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following HIB Report for January 2022 on behalf of the Rochelle Park School District.

January 2022

Reported Cases:2

Number of Cases open: 0

Number of Cases closed: 2

Number of Incidents determined to be HIB: 1

School Suspensions: 2 OSS 2 ISS

Pre- K Tuition for the 2022-2023 School Year

R5. RESOLVED: on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the tuition rate of \$6,000.00 for the integrated preschool program.

Bylaws & Policies

R6. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves a second reading and adoption of the following Policy.

Policy 2624 Grading System (revision)

Field Trip

R7. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves Jack's Petting Farm to run a field trip program for the Preschool classes at Midland School, at a cost of \$22.00 per student to be paid for by the parent/guardian.

Special Education Related Services

R8. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the placement of student CST# 0912 to FedCap school effective January 24, 2022 at a cost of \$411.93 per day.

Special Education Related Services

R9. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves student CST #2001 to attend Learn Well at a cost not to exceed \$1,900.00.

Special Education Related Services

R10. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves home instruction for student CST #0912 for the months of November and December at a cost of \$3,034.26.

Special Education Related Services

R11. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves a psychiatric evaluation for student CST#2112 at a cost of \$625.00.

Special Education Related Services

R12. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves home instruction for CST #9546 as covered by their IEP.

English Language Learner Three-year program plan

R13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.6 the Board approve the English Language Learner Three-Year Program Plans for the period between 2021 and 2024.

#### Bylaws & Policies

R14. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves a first reading of the following Policy.

#### Policy 1648.11 The Road Forward COVID-19-Health and Safety

*This policy was introduced by Dr. DeNobile it's a revision pertaining to the lifting of the mask mandate. In essence, on March 7<sup>th</sup> masks will become optional, however the federal mandate still requires masks when riding on school buses, any venue (ex. fieldtrip) the staff and students would have to comply with the venue's rules. If any quarantine is in effect masks would have to be worn. She expressed to parents to speak to their children on that fact that people may still choose to wear a mask after the 7<sup>th</sup> and no one should be made to feel bad because they choose to do so. That will not be acceptable behavior.*

R1-R14

Motion. Kral, Second Ms. Holz

Roll Call 7-0

Motions Carried

#### **Personnel Resolutions P1-P4**

##### P1. Professional Development

RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the participation of the persons named at the following workshops/conferences:

Faculty	Name of Workshop	Date	Cost
Rex Leka	NJSBGA	3/20-23/2022	\$300.00 registration plus Travel in accordance with NJ DOE waiver and OMB guidelines
Klaudia Lesniak	School Climate & Anti-Bullying Conference	5/25/2022- Virtual	\$129.00 registration
Cheryl Jiosi	NJASBO School Law & Legislation Update	2/22/2022	\$100.00 registration plus Travel in accordance with NJ DOE waiver and OMB guidelines
Steven Lahullier	NJECC Annual Technology Conference	March 8, 2022	\$110.00 registration plus Travel in accordance with NJ DOE waiver and OMB guidelines

#### Crossovers

P2. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following faculty crossover as of February 1, 2022

Amanda Bellagamba- BA+30 Step 3 to MA Step 3

Substitute List

P3. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves Sarah Kotwica to the Substitute Teacher List for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

Extra-Curricular Positions

P4. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following individuals for the extracurricular positions stated. Stipends in accordance with the Master contract.

Name	Position	Stipend
A) Chris Pezzuti	Baseball (head coach)	\$2,104.00
B) Laurel Barriento	Softball (head coach)	\$2,104.00
C) Lauren Menduke	Softball (asst. coach)	\$1,156.00

P1-P4

Motion Ms. Holz Second Mr. Marolda

Roll Call 7-0

Motions Carried

**Finance Resolutions F1-F14**

Bills List

F1. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the payment of bills for February 15, 2022.

A. Regular Bills- Fund 10	\$216,402.24
B. Federal Grant - Fund 20	\$21,697.40
C Cafeteria - Fund 60	.00
D. Afterschool Program -Fund 61	.00
Total for the month of February	\$238,099.64

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

Bills List

F2. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the payment of a second bills list for January 31, 2022.

A. Regular Bills- Fund 10	\$53,678.43
B. Federal Grant - Fund 20	\$2,500.00
C Referendum - Fund 30	\$6,805.70
Total for the month of January	\$62,984.13

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

Secretary & Treasurer's Reports

F3. RESOLVED, that on the recommendation of the Superintendent the Rochelle Park Board of Education accepts, and affixes to the minutes, the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Financial Reports for the month of December 2021.

Transfers

F4. RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education accepts, and affixes to the minutes, the line item transfers for December 2021.

Certifications

F5. RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, as per New Jersey Administrative Code and New Jersey Statutes Annotated legislation and requirements, the following statement is approved:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c), I certify that as of December 2021 no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the district Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1, and

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6a:23-2.11(c), I certify that as of December 2021 no budgetary line item account has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C.6:20-2.11 (a).

Cheryl Jiosi, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Payroll Authorization

F6. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the payroll for January 2022 as follows:

January 2022	
Fund Gross Payroll	
Fund 10	586,595.61
Fund 20	7,412.44
Total	594,008.05

Check Run

F7. Be it resolved that the Rochelle Park Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, authorizes a check run for the month of February 2022 with the amounts to be approved at the March 2022 meeting.

Preventive Maintenance Program

F8. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Rochelle Park Board of Education adopts the Preventive Maintenance Program as recommended by NESBIG for mold prevention through routine maintenance as provided in the guidance from the US Environmental Protection Agency's publication.

Contract

F9. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the contract with Priority Nursing Services to provide substitute nursing services for the 2021-2022 school year.

Contract

F10. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Rochelle Park Board of Education accepts the quote from Cowboys Landscaping for ballfield start up, ballfield maintenance and grass cutting for the spring season not to exceed \$15,000 based on weather and COVID conditions.

Contract

F11. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the contract with T-Mobile Project 10 million to access 20 hotspot devices based on



number of students eligible for Free and Reduced lunch at no cost to the district and 5 hotspot devices at a cost of \$75 per month.

Facility Use

F12. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the application for use of school facilities made by the following groups/organizations listed below. The Board reserves the right to schedule activities at any time which may cause changes to the calendar.

Group/Organization	Use/Purpose/Room	Dates	Rental Fee
a) Midland School 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Parents Association	Monthly Meetings	2/21/22, 3/21/22,4/18/22,5/16/22	None

Rescind Contract

F13. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education rescinds resolution F12 from the December 14, 2021 agenda pertaining to the quote from Van Natta Mechanical Corporation to install an actuator automatic water shut off valve at a cost of \$8,800.00.

Contract

F14.RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the quote with Total Plumbing to install an actuator automatic water shut off valve and 20 water detection sensors for a cost of \$9450.00. This is being funded thru the FY22 Emergent and Capital Maintenance Needs Grant.

F1-F14

Motion Mr. Martinez Jr. Second Ms. Holz

Roll call 7-0 (exception on F10- 5-0-2 Mr. Kral and Mr. Trawinski abstained)

Motion carried

*It was pointed out that F10 and F14 are resolutions on this agenda to solve part of the issue with the field and pipe breakage.*

**IX. Public Comment (Agenda and non-agenda items)**

The Board of Education reserves the right to hold public comment on agenda and non-agenda items, at its discretion, at its regular monthly public meetings. Public comment will be limited to three minutes per person. Citizens should give their name and address when recognized to speak.

Mr. Pizzuto Susquehanna asked with the spring cleaning is that amount (\$15,000) for each time or for the season Mrs. Jiosi explained it's only for the spring season until June. That's fiscally when the school year ends. Over the summer we can usually bring in college interns to help out at a cheaper rate. We will be monitoring this arrangement.

Mr. Pizzuto what about crossing guards at Williams St.

Several people responded that the crossing guards are run by the police dept. not the school.

He also asked about lights on the field for recreation.

*There was a discussion regarding the changing of the parking lot, movement of the basketball courts and possible lighting on the field. As said earlier plans were made prior to covid 19 to increase the size of the parking lot and move the basketball courts. These plans are in the Superintendent's office. They are not final project drawings, just preliminary drawings. It was offered to Mr. Pizzuto for him make an appointment to see the drawings if he would like.*

*It was mentioned that people walk their dogs on school grounds and don't clean up after their dogs.*

*There is a policy prohibiting animals on school grounds.*

Ms. Walsh W. Passaic St stated as a new parent she doesn't know all the procedures. Coming from another school district she doesn't know the policies. She would like to see the school board have a Facebook page.

*Both Mr. Trawinski and Dr. DeNobile addressed the fact that letters are sent out to the school community, directly to parents' emails and then a text message also goes out telling you to look for an email from the school. All notices are then posted on the school website at [www.rochelepark.org](http://www.rochelepark.org)*

Mr. Pizzuto asked how he a future parent could see the letters.  
*Dr. DeNobile responded to see the website.*

Mr. Azzolino inquired as to the amount we pay to Hackensack High School for tuition.

*Mrs. Jiosi stated it was \$14,000.00 approx.*

*Dr. DeNobile added that the amount is set by the State Dept of Education, no negotiation.*

*The conversation continued with a discussion on leaving Hackensack High School, what would be the process. It was stated that a feasibility study would have to be performed and the cost for that is about \$150,000.00. There are a lot of things to factor in, busing costs may go up if the school is not a close as Hackensack. You would need to find a school that can offer the same or close to the services Hackensack provides. What about special needs children, what would be the best for everyone. It has been tried before but never happened. It's also a 3-year process and the district could go through all the trouble, spend the money just to be told by the Commissioner of Education no. Dr DeNobile explained that the first step is to hire a firm to do the feasibility study. See what Hackensack offers so we know what we are looking for. Survey the community see what they want.*

*The discussion ended with Mr. Trawinski thanking everyone for attending, He expressed to the audience that we hear you, we understand and we will look into to further. It's going to take time, money and cohesion with the rest of the community.*

## **X. Announcements**

The next regular monthly Board of Education meeting that was advertised to be held on March 15 will be changed due to the Governor's new timeline for the budget.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Motion Mr. Kral Second Mr. Martinez Jr. at 9:17 P.M.