

**Rochelle Park Board of Education  
Special Meeting Minutes 11:00 A.M.  
March 22, 2018**

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

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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
- 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 Meeting were sent to all concerned individuals, associations and sent to the The Record, Our Town in accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

**IV. 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 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 three (3) minutes in duration. The Public Forum will be limited to thirty (30) minutes in duration.

Motion by Mr. Kral, seconded by Mr. Sorrentino, to open public comment at 11:03 A.M.

Roll Call 6-0

Motion Carried

Mrs. LaFace Chestnut St- complemented the board for the good work that they do, she realizes the time and effort put in by members. She asked if the referendum has been completed.

*Dr. Zoeller stated that for the most part everything in the original proposal has been completed; some of the projects came in under budget therefore the district has some money left over to do some smaller projects. He noted that the referendum money must be used for that purpose. The building and grounds committee have been in discussion on three or four projects they would like to see done next.*

Mrs. LaFace thought it might be nice to invite the public in to see the building changes. She remembers when they were first proposed the referendum the then administration held open visits, so people could see the condition of the school.

*Dr. Zoeller informed Mrs. LaFace that the board about two years ago had a rededication ceremony where that happened.*

Mrs. LaFace expressed that the work was not completed; now it is.

*Dr. Zoeller replied that the things the public would want to see were done, like the library, bathrooms. Recent projects were the electrical upgrades, new water line etc. not things that are very interesting to look at.*

*President Judge Cravello added that anyone is free to come in and look at the projects that were done.*

Mrs. LaFace asked if there were any projects currently going on.

*Dr. Zoeller stated not at this time, but again the committee is working on a few projects we hope to get started soon.*

Mrs. LaFace read a statement on safety, noting that in the Parkland incident teachers were the first to notice something and recommend avenues. She wanted to know what steps the school is taking to keep everyone safe and to take safety into consideration.

*Dr. Zoeller explained that had it not snowed, and he was able to have the Meeting with the Superintendent last night, Mrs. LaFace would have seen one area of safety that Mr. Cannici and Dr. Zoeller would like to improve upon. It's a discussion that Mr. Cannici and he have often.*

*President Judge Cravello also stated that security is a top priority for the board as well.*

Mrs. LaFace commented on something that was said at the last meeting, where students are not being recognized in the Our Town. She has seen the student of the week pictures but maybe not other things. She asked who was in charge of that or is it another hat Mr. Cannici wears and if so maybe someone else could do it.

*Mr. Cannici responded by stating he is the one who does it. He puts things up on Facebook and the website, noting that where he understands not everyone uses Facebook you can use the same argument that not everyone gets the Our Town. He*

*did admit that he does put more things on Facebook than he sends out to the Our Town.*

Mrs. LaFace asked about the curriculum, are we still sharing services, because she has a friend in South Hackensack and that person says they don't belong. She inquired as to who was paying the district for this service.

*Dr. Zoeller explained that we pay the staff member, when the other districts pay us that goes into our general fund. He noted that South Hackensack is committed to a different curriculum group and therefore they haven't participated. There are no official contracts with any of the other districts.*

Mrs. LaFace asked who would consider changing the layout of administration, who decides that, say if the district was looking to save money.

*Dr. Zoeller echoed that the district has always had three administrators. The change came several years ago when it was decided that the district didn't need a full time Business Administrator, what the district needed was a curriculum person which led to better test scores and the district getting out of Focus status. The focus is on students more now than before.*

Mrs. LaFace board meeting minutes, she has seen other towns posting their minutes within 48 hours of a meeting, why does it take so long for our minutes to come out.

*Dr. Zoeller stated that the minutes have to be approved by the board of education and that can't be done until the following meeting. Dr. Zoeller commended Mrs. Kobylarz on her job with the minutes.*

Mrs. LaFace noted that some parents are not putting the students first, stating that two women who frequent the meetings don't even have children in the building. In addition to Ex- BOE members who come and ask questions they should already know the answers to. She asked that people stop wasting time on the pettiness, it makes the school and community look bad. She stated we are above this and asked people to stop.

*President Judge Cravello thanked Mrs. LaFace for her observations, seeing no other public present at the meeting, she asked Mrs. LaFace to repeat her comments at a meeting where there is a bigger public audience.*

Motion by Mr. Kral, seconded by Mr. Sorrentino, to close public comment at 11:24 A.M.

Roll Call 6-0

Motion Carried

**V. Approval of Submission of 2018-2019 Tentative School District Budget to Bergen County ECS**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Rochelle Park Board of Education, County of Bergen, approves the 2018/19 school year budget as follows:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Local Tax Levy</b>
General Fund (10)	\$12,463,045	\$11,421,704
Special Revenue Fund (20)	\$169,984	\$0
Debt Service Fund (40)	\$452,078	\$298,345
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,085,107</b>	<b>\$11,720,049</b>

The budget includes a withdrawal from capital reserve in the amount of \$49,950 for fencing and masonry.

WHEREAS, school district Policy 6471 and NJAC 6A:23B-1.2(b) 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 2018/19.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rochelle Park Board of Education hereby establishes the School District travel maximum for the 2018/19 school year at the sum of \$15,000; and

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

Motion by Mr. Leakas, seconded by Mrs. Minichetti,  
Roll Call 6-0  
Motion Carried

#### **VII. Announcements**

**The next Caucus Meeting will be held on Thursday April 12, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Media Center. The Regular Meeting may be held on April 19, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.**

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Kral, seconded by Mr. Sorrentino, to adjourn meeting at 11:26 A.M.  
Roll Call 6-0  
Motion Carried