Rockaway Borough Board of Education

103 E. Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 7:30 PM

Thomas Jefferson School Cafeteria, 95 E. Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

Visit us on the Web: rockboro.org

ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOLS' MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Rockaway Borough School District, a caring and diverse community, is to propel the success of each student by creating an environment that fosters self-confidence and encourages creativity through quality instruction and educational opportunities aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Executive Session I: 6:30-7:30 pm (Closed to the Public)

Be it Resolved, that the Board enters into an Executive Session (Private) to discuss exempt matters pertaining to personnel, negotiations, and legal; the nature of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion to Enter: 6:36 ***Moved by: Mr. Rivieccio*** ***Seconded by: Ms.Dorgilles***
Voice Vote: ALL YES (4 of 4 present)

Motion to Adjourn: 7:31 ***Moved by: Ms. Hernandez*** ***Seconded by: Mr. Rivieccio***
Voice Vote: ALL YES (4 of 4 present)

Absent w/Notice- Edward Graf

1. Call to Order: 7:34 PM

The public portion of this meeting will be called to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. by Ms. Dahl, Board Vice President, by reading the following announcement:

"In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, The Rockaway Borough Board of Education has provided adequate notice of this meeting to the public by having the time, date, and location advertised in The Citizen Newspaper on January 15, 2025, posted on our website and at town hall. Official action will be taken."

Mr. Graf, Board President, was absent with notice.

2. Board Member Roll Call:

Mrs. Faride Hernandez
Elected 2024 to 1st term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2027)

Mrs. Vanessa Dorgilles
Elected 2024 to 1st term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2027)

Mr. Brian Rivieccio
Elected 2022 to 1st term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2025)

Ms. Jennifer Dahl, VP
Elected 2023 to 1st term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2026)

Mr. Edward Graf, President

Elected 2023 to 1st term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2026)

Pledge of Allegiance

3. Reports & Updates:

A. Board Committees Reports (as needed):

1.	Finance/Personnel/Facilities: 7/18	*Mr. Graf & Mrs. Hernandez*
2.	Curriculum/Special Education: 7/15	*Ms. Dahl & Mrs. Dorgilles*
3.	Negotiations with RBAA: 7/14	*Mr. Graf & Ms. Dahl*
4.	Negotiations with RBEA: Update	*Mrs. Dorgilles & Mr. Graf*
5.	Athletic/Activities:	*Mr. Rivieccio & Mrs. Dorgilles*
6.	Policy/Safety/Security/Tech/Strategic Planning/Misc.:	*Ad Hoc*

B. Liaison Reports (as needed):

1. NJ School Boards Assoc. - Mr. Rivieccio
2. Morris County School Boards Assoc. - Ms. Dahl
3. Rockaway Borough Council - Mr. Graf
4. Morris County ESC - Ms. Dahl
5. Rockaway Borough HSA - Mr. Graf
6. Rockaway Borough Ed. Found. - Mrs. Hernandez
7. Rockaway Borough Recreation Committee - Mrs. Dorgilles

C. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco

1. District Update
   - Filming the meetings
   - Budget Update

D. Board Secretary's/Business Office Report:

- Dr. Cusmano introduced himself and gave a budget update.

1. Board Correspondence: *Received (R) or Sent (S) since our last meeting:*
N/A

E. Administration Monthly Reports:

All will be submitted to BOE prior to August Meeting.

1.	Lincoln Principal's Report:	*Mrs. Skomial*
2.	Thomas Jefferson Principal's Report:	*Mr. Samuels*
3.	Curr., Inst., and Assessment Director's Report:	*Mrs. Argenziano*
4.	Building & Grounds Supervisor's Report:	*Mr. Klein*
5.	Technology Supervisor's Report:	*Mr. Reyes*

F. Any Other Items/Comments for the Good of the Order

N/A

G. Board Review of Agenda Items

4. Public Hearing:

Agenda items only: limited to 3 minutes each. Please state your name & address.
The President will open the floor for the Board to hear the public and then close the floor.
Please direct all dialogue to the President. Board replies are not required.

Ms. O'Dell, Rockaway, NJ
Asked about the gym floor.

Can businesses pay for uniforms, etc., for athletics?

Ms. Langan, Rockaway, NJ
Making donations.

Ms. Hamilton, Rockaway, NJ
Asked about PE resignation and opening.

Concerned about teachers leaving the district and potential turnover in the district.

Ms. Langan, Rockaway, NJ
Is the Math Curriculum being posted

Ms. Brainard, Rockaway, NJ
Happy about the new auditor, but would like to know what the school board can do about the current deficit.

Ms. O'Dell, Rockaway, NJ
We are not a seven dollar lunch district.

Ms. Clark, Rockaway
Explain role of the Treasurer of School Monies

Ms. Hook, Rockaway, NJ
Stated that Rockaway Borough is 5th highest in taxes in Morris County.

Ms. Rueda, Rockaway, NJ
Is there a skeleton crew in our buildings at this time? What is our plan to get back to a more robust offering for our students?

Ms. Hamilton, Rockaway, NJ
Question about the legal requirement for a media specialist.

5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2024	Students June 17, 2025	Difference from June 30, 2024	Sections (Classes)	Avg. Class Size	Certificated Staff - Teachers	Non-Certificated Staff
Preschool - Lincoln AM/PM & Full Day	29	**26**	**-3**	**2**	**13**	**1**	**8**
Kindergarten - Lincoln	56	**67**	**+11**	**3**	**22**	**3**	**3**
Grade 1 - Lincoln	59	**58**	**-1**	**3**	**19**	**3**	**3**
Grade 2 - Lincoln	66	**62**	**-4**	**3**	**21**	**3**	**2**
Grade 3 - Lincoln	59	**66**	**+7**	**3**	**22**	**3**	**2**
Other Staff: (Principal 1, Specials 8, Aides 5, PE 1, Guid 1, Nurse 1, Sec 1, Cust 2.5, Caf 7)	-	-	-	-	-	**12**	**15.5**
Total Lincoln School:	**269**	**279**	**+10**	**14**	**20**	**25**	**33.5**
Grade 4 - TJ	62	**63**	**+1**	**3**	**21**	**3**	-
Grade 5 - TJ	56	**65**	**+9**	**3**	**22**	**3**	-
Grade 6 - TJ	45	**64**	**+19**	**3**	**21**	**3**	-
Grade 7 - TJ	63	**54**	**-9**	**3**	**18**	**3**	-
Grade 8 - TJ	58	**65**	**+7**	**3**	**22**	**3**	-
Other Staff: (Principal 1, Specials 16, Aides 9, PE 2, Guid 1,Nurse 1, Sec 2, Cust 2.5, Caf 9)	-	-	-	-	-	**21**	**22.5**
Total Thomas Jefferson:	**284**	**311**	**+27**	**15**	**21**	**36**	**22.5**
Shared Staff: (Other Certificated Teachers 4.5, & Part-Time Nurses 2)	-	-	-	-	-	**4.5**	**2**
Administrative: (Supt, BA, CIA, CST 1, Sec 4, Maint 2, Bus Drivers 2, Bus Aides 2)	-	-	-	-	-	**3**	**11**
Special/Reg Ed Out-of-District:	5	**8**	**+3**	**-**	**-**	-	-
Resident Students:	***558***	***597***	***+39***	***29***	***21***	-	-
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	0	**0**	0	-	-	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	3	**3**	0	-	-	-	-

Total Students (593)/ Staff (140) Ratio: 4.25/1	**561**	**600**	**+39**	**-**	**-**	**66.5**	**69**

6. Meeting Minutes:

A. Be it resolved to approve and accept the following meeting **Minutes**:

1. June 22, 2025, Board of Education Meeting- Regular and Executive Sessions
2. July 2, 2025, Special Meeting Board of Education Meeting- Regular and Executive Sessions

7. Finance:

A. Be it resolved to approve the manifest of **Payrolls and Bills & Claims Lists**, which are on file in the Business Office:

1. Bills, Claims, and Payrolls List: June 20th-June 30th

B. Be it resolved to approve Lerch, Vinci, and Bliss, LLP as the auditor of record for the 2025-2026 school year, including conducting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

C. Be it resolved to approve the termination of the professional services of Wielkotz and Company for the 2024-2025 audit.

8. Personnel:

A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the attached list of Staff Member **Professional Development Workshops & Travel Expenditure Requests** that have been deemed related to and within the scope of the employee's current job responsibilities and will enhance the efficient delivery of student instruction and/or furthers the efficient operation of the school district. Reimbursements listed are in accordance with guidelines established by the Dept. of Treasury, BOE Policy, and in accordance with NJAC 6A:23B-1.1., listed below.

Professional Development/Travel Expenditure Requests:

Staff Member	***Workshop Title***	***Workshop Location***	***Dates***	***Reg & Fees***	***Cost to District***	***Justification for the Trip***
Linda Savercool	34th Annual School Health Conference	The Palace @ Somerset Park, Somerset NJ	10/22/25	$240 Mileage: $38.07		Learning the most up to date information for the following: Legal Issues and Student Health Emergency Preparedness: Legal Requirements of the School nurse for Field Trips: How to keep our schools and students healthy and learning how to support immigrant children & families.

B. Be it resolved to approve the completion of the evaluation for the Superintendent of Schools, as per NJ Rev Stat § 18A:17-20.3 (2013). The evaluation was discussed in executive session on July 22, 2025, and completed and signed on **June 30, 2025.**

C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following ***REVISED ESY*** positions for 2025. The program will be closed on July 4, 2025. REVISED ESY

D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Michael Jones**, Physical Education teacher, effective September 19, 2025 or sooner.

E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Samantha Pizzi,** paraprofessional at Lincoln School, effective **July 1, 2025**.

F. Be it resolved to appoint Dr. Giovanni Cusmano, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, as the Qualified Purchasing Agent for the district, as he has completed the mandatory training and is in possession of a valid State of NJ issued QPA Certificate, according to the rules and regulations of P.L. 1999 c.440; and the Qualified Purchasing Agent is authorized to award contracts up to the bid threshold of $53,000 and establish the quote threshold at $7,950 as governed by the State of New Jersey pursuant to NJSA 18A:18A, et. seq.

G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Timothy Havlusch**, as the Treasurer of School Monies, for the 2025-2026 school year, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, at a salary of $5,000.00.

H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Casey Layne**, Physical Education Teacher at Lincoln School, beginning August 27, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Mr. Layne will be paid based on Salary/Guide BA-9, at the current 24/25 rate of $64,865, pending successful completion of Criminal History background check required by P.L. 1986 c.116 and Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse Disclosure required by P.L. 2018 c.5. (Final rate will be determined when a new CBA is in effect).

9. Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment:

A. Be it resolved to approve the **Student Field Trip/District Events/Miscellaneous** requests as listed below:

Student Field Trip/District Events/Miscellaneous Requests: N/A

GRADE	*TEACHERS*	*DATE*	*TIME: DEPART/RETURN*	*DESTINATION*	*# of Pupils*	*# of Staff*	*Cost Per Pupil*	*Cost to District*	*JUSTIFICATION FOR TRIP*
MD	Zangara Ralli	7/30/25	9:30 / 11:30	5 Star Swim	14	10	N/A	Nurse	To enhance our social skills curriculum with real world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.

District Events List / Miscellaneous: N/A

School Activity	Loc./School	Date/Time	Participants	Cost to District	Adm./ Teacher/ Coach/ Advisor

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds:

A. N/A

11. Policy and NJDOE

A. Be it resolved to approve the First Reading of the following new and/or updated Board Policies (P) and/or Regulations ®, where applicable:

N/A

B. Be it resolved to approve the annual submission of the Security Drills Statement of Assurance for the 2024-25 school year.

C. Be it resolved to approve the Emergency Virtual/Remote Instructional Plan for the 2025-2026 school year.

12. Consent Agenda:

A. Move and Vote on all Agenda Resolutions & Recommendations in One Motion:

Roll Call Vote:	Moved & Seconded By:	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Recuse	Not Present
Mrs. Hernandez	**Moved**	**X**				
Mrs. Dorgilles	**Seconded**	**X**				
Mr. Rivieccio		**X**		**Personnel H**		
Ms. Dahl, VP		**X**				
Mr. Graf, President						
ALL MOTIONS PASS	**X**					

13. New Business/Any Other Items/Board Comments for the Good of the Order:

14. Public Hearing: Limited to 3 minutes each.

Please state your name & address.

The President will open the floor for the Board to hear the public and then close the floor.

Please direct all dialogue to the President. Board replies are not required.

- **Mr. Havlusch- Treasurer of School Monies**
  Thanked the Board for approving him as Treasurer of School Monies. He also clarified the role of the Treasurer of School Monies.

- **Mr.Onischuk- RBEA President**
  Thanked the Board for RBEA Negotiations, especially for listening during negotiations.

  He echoed the sentiments of the community at the meeting (staffing/programs/budget).

  He inquired about the Treasurer of School Monies and the new auditor approved by the BOE.

- **Ms. Rueda, Rockaway**
  Asked about if the custodian was approved for translation services at the last meeting.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

A. Tuesday, August 26, 2025

The public portion of the Meeting will begin at 7:30 pm in the Cafeteria of Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

16. Executive Session II (if necessary)

Be it Resolved, that the Board enter into Executive Session (Private) for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal, the nature of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

THE BOARD ANTICIPATES BEING IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR APPROXIMATELY ___15_ MINUTES.

BOARD ACTION will NOT BE TAKEN AFTER THIS SESSION CONCLUDES.

EXEC

Motion- Rivieccio

Seconded- Dorgilles

17. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: 9:34 PM

With no further business before the Board, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:34 pm.

Moved by: Hernandez Seconded by: Dorgilles Voice Vote: ALL 4 of 4 present