Rockaway Borough Board of Education

103 E. Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 15, 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 and legal matters; the nature of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion to Enter:	***Moved by:***	***Dahl***	***Seconded by:***	***Hernandez***	***Voice Vote: ALL***
Motion to Adjourn:	***Moved by:***	***Dahl***	***Seconded by:***	***Hernandez***	***Voice Vote: ALL***

1. Call to Order: 7:30 PM

The public portion of this meeting will be called to order at approximately 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Graf, Board 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."

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: *Mr. Graf & Mrs. Hernandez*
2. Curriculum/Special Education: *Ms. Dahl & Mrs. Dorgilles*
3. Negotiations with RBAA: *Mr. Graf & Ms. Dahl*
4. Negotiations with RBEA: *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
2. State Assessment Presentation - November 18th
3. Audit Update

D. Board Secretary's/Business Office Report:

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

E. Administration Monthly Reports:

1. Lincoln Principal's Report:
2. Thomas Jefferson Principal's Report:
3. Curr., Inst., and Assessment Director's Report:
4. Building & Grounds Supervisor's Report:
5. Technology Supervisor's Report:

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

G. Board Review of Agenda Items

4. Public Hearing:

Agenda items only: limited to 3 minutes each. Please state your name and 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. Khan, Rockaway, NJ-
Thank you for the holiday. The request is for a 2nd day of Eid (May 27th).

Ms. Clark, Rockaway, NJ-
Audit projection- Do we have a list of potential things to bring back if things are good. Do you have a list of potential things?

Question about resignation of Tech Coordinator.

SGO- Ms. Clark mentioned that it would be great if the Student Government could go to a council meeting.

5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2025	Students October 10, 2025	Difference from June 30, 2025	Sections (Classes)	Avg. Class Size	Certificated Staff - Teachers	Non-Certificated Staff
Preschool - Lincoln AM/PM & Full Day	26	24	+2	2	12	1	8
Kindergarten - Lincoln	67	56	-11	3	19	3	3
Grade 1 - Lincoln	58	65	+7	3	22	3	3
Grade 2 - Lincoln	62	59	-3	3	20	3	2
Grade 3 - Lincoln	66	62	-4	3	21	3	2
Other Staff: (Principal 1, Specials 8, Aides 5, PE 1, Guide 1, Nurse 1, Sec 1, Cust 2.5, Caf 7)	-	-	-	-	-	12	15.5
Total Lincoln School:	279	266	-13	14	19	25	33.5
Grade 4 - TJ	63	63	0	3	21	3	-
Grade 5 - TJ	65	65	-	3	22	3	-
Grade 6 - TJ	64	68	+4	3	22	3	-
Grade 7 - TJ	54	65	+11	3	22	3	-
Grade 8 - TJ	65	59	-6	3	20	3	-
Other Staff: (Principal 1, Specials 16, Aides 9, PE 2, Guide 1,Nurse 1, Sec 2, Cust 2.5, Caf 9)	-	-	-	-	-	21	22.5
Total Thomas Jefferson:	311	320	+9	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:	**8**	**8**	**-**	**-**	**-**	-	-
Resident Students:	***598***	***594***	***-4***	***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	**601**	**597**	**-4**	**-**	**-**	**66.5**	**69**

6. Meeting Minutes:

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

1. September 23, 2025, 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:

- Bills, Claims, and Payrolls List: September 24th through October 15th in the amount of $530,417.74

B. Be it resolved to approve and accept the Board Secretary's Financial Report for the months listed below, as submitted. Be it further resolved, pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A2.3(e), that as of the dates listed on the monthly reports, no budgetary line item(s) have been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6:23-2.11(a).

- Board Secretary Report as of August 2025

C. Be it resolved to approve and accept the Treasurer of School Monies Financial Reports for the months listed below, as submitted:

- August 2025

D. Be it resolved to approve the Budgetary Transfer Reports for the following months, as submitted:

- August 2025

E. Be it resolved to renew a purchased services agreement with Bayada Home Health Care, Inc. of Morristown, NJ, to provide Registered Nursing services, when required and

requested, at an hourly rate of $72, with a four-hour minimum, for the 2025-2026 school year.

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*
Onischuk	Decreasing Defiant & Argumentative Behaviors: Practical Strategies	Virtual	11/12/25	$295	N/A	Learn strategies for defiant students in my role as teacher and Dean of Students
Samuels	Star Advantage Technology Summit	Monroe Twp, NJ	12/12/25	Free	Mileage: $55.93	Use of AI in schools. Best practices and security.
Isenberg	Eco Art and Zentangle presented by the Montclair Art Museum	Jefferson Twp. Intermediate School, Oak Ridge, NJ	10/13/25	$100	Mileage: TBD	Eco Art emphasizes awareness, sustainability, and community impact, while Zentangle emphasizes personal mindfulness, creativity, and confidence.
Argenziano Cusmano Graf Dahl Dorgilles Hernandez	NJ School Boards Assoc. Annual Fall Convention.	Atlantic City, NJ	10/20-23/25	Group Rate- $2,300.00 (vs. individual rate of $550.00)	Mileage: TBD	The preeminent state event for school leaders which encompasses all aspects of managing a school district: policy, governance, fiscal, personnel, curricula, legal matters, etc. via exclusive on-site professional development opportunities.
Morgenland Chandler Cusmano	NJASBO 25-26 DOE Presents	Birchwood Manor, Whippany, NJ	10/14/25	$195 $145 $75	Mileage:$8.27 Mileage: $7.99	Stay updated on relevant DOE as it relates to the District.
Morgenland	NJASBO Payroll & the BA	Birchwood Manor, Whippany, NJ	11/12/25	$145	Mileage: $8.27	Payroll training as it relates to the district.
Layne	NJIP- UDL Differentiation	Virtual	10/23/25	$0		Enhancing PDP goal for differentiation strategies.

B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following Extracurricular Advisors for the 2025-2026 school year.

Program	Advisor	Stipend
Lego Building Buddies	Alyssa Summer	$1,040

ESports Club	Samantha Selikoff	$871

C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind approval of **Samantha Selikoff** as Lego Building Buddies Advisor as previously approved on August 26, 2025.

D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an employment contract for **Joseph Bitetto**, as a Non-Tenure track Leave Replacement Teacher, beginning on or about November 5, 2025, through on or about December 23, 2025. Mr. Bitetto will be paid based on Guide-Step BA-1 with an annual salary of $57,915 (to be pro-rated from the actual start date). Mr. Bitetto will return to his district floating substitute position upon completion of his leave of absence contract.

E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Lauren Salomon**, as a Substitute Paraprofessional for the 2025/2026 school year, at a per diem rate of $90, (as needed) 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.

F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Angela Afonso and Kristen Marrero,** district paraprofessionals, as substitute bus aides for the 2025/26 school year.

G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Eric Beck** as a district substitute teacher for the 2025-2026 school year.

H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Allen Kaye**, Floating Substitute Teacher for the 2025/2026 school year, at a daily rate of $125.00, effective on or about October 15, 2025, through June 30, 2026, 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.

I. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the visitation of **Chloe Kilgallen**, a Senior student at Morris Hills High School as part of her district's Gifted and Talented Program. The student will present and introduce business and financial topics to students at Lincoln School and Thomas Jefferson School on various dates throughout October 2025.

J. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to confirm/approve a leave of absence for the following personnel:

Staff ID#	Location	Position	From	To
232	Lincoln School	Paraprofessional	10/13/25- NJFLA	11/29/25- Returning 12/1/25

K. *Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education confirms the Administrative Leave with pay for Employee #334, effective September 23, 2025.*

L. *Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept and approve the resignation of* ***Shaun Reyes****, Technology Coordinator,*

effective December 15, 2025.

9. Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment:

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

Student Field Trips

GRADE	TEACHERS	DATE	TIME: DEPART /RETURN	DESTINATION	# of Pupils	# of Staff	Cost Per Pupil	District Cost	JUSTIFICATION FOR TRIP
6-8 Concert Band/ Select Choir	Bova/Love	5/19/26	8:00am 8:00pm	High Note Festival, Dorney Park, Allentown, PA	45	11	$65		Students will perform in an ensemble which will be evaluated with positive recorded comments by experienced adjudicators. The experience will be the culmination of much preparation, and is a means for motivating the students to practice hard and work toward higher standards. The amusement park is both an incentive and a reward for participation.
7-8 Select Choir Students	Bova	10/16/25	8:45am 2:00pm	Vocal District Music Day/ MHHS	25	2	N/A		Thomas Jefferson School students will get the experience of meeting, working and singing with other choir students from the sending district. They will also be familiarized with the opportunities offered by our district's high school choir program. This trip will provide a musically rich and rewarding experience for those students involved.
7-8 Instrumental Band	Love	10/23/25	8:30am 11:45am	Instrumental District Music Day MKHS	25	3	N/A		Thomas Jefferson School students will get the experience of meeting, working and playing with other band students from the sending district, as well as getting familiar with the program and opportunities offered to them in the High School years. At the same time this will provide a musically rich and rewarding experience for those students involved.
8	O'Brien	10/30/25	9:00am 1:00pm	Pax Amicus Theatre	58	8	$30		To experience a live presentation of a canon of literature read by the students in ELA class. (Poe)
MD/LLD	Zangara Bills Ralli	10/21/25 **(date change)**	8:45 12:30	Ort Farms	19	13	$0	TBD	To enhance our curriculum with real world connections and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.(Previously board approved 9/23/25)

District Events List / Miscellaneous

School Activity	Loc./School	Date/Time	Participants	District Cost	Adm./ Teacher/ Coach/ Advisor
Rockaway Borough Library Visits	TJ	11/3/25 - 9:45-10:30 11/5/25 - 9:45-10:30 11/14/25 - 9:45-10:30	4th Grade Students	$0	Melissa Okerblom- Rockaway Borough Librarian
Brick Bash Family Lego Night	TJ Cafeteria	11/20/25, 2/11/26, TBD, 5/28/26 6:30-7:30pm	Open to 20 families with children in Grades 4-6	$0	Samantha Selikoff
Family Coding Night	TJ Cafeteria	1/15/16 - 6:30-7:30pm	Open to 20 families with children in Grades 4-6	$0	Samantha Selikoff

Family Crochet Night	TJ Cafeteria	1/20/26 - 6:30-7:30pm	Open to 20 families with children in Grades 4-6	$0	Sandy Gancarcik

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds:

A. N/A

11. Policy and NJDOE

A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Bus Evacuation Drill Reports for Lincoln School and Thomas Jefferson School for the 2025-2026 school year.

B. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (2023) Revisions* - Approved by the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety and the New Jersey Department of Education 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	**Seconded**	**X**				
Mrs. Dorgilles		**X**				
Mr. Rivieccio		**X**				
Ms. Dahl, VP	**Motion**	**X**				
Mr. Graf, President		**X**				

All passed.

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

Ms. Dahl mentioned that the Talent Show is this Friday.

14. Public Hearing: Limited to 3 minutes each.

Please state your name.

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. Clark, Rockaway, NJ-
Ms. Clark mentioned questions that she emailed Mr. Rivieccio and other candidates running for the board.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

A. Tuesday, November 18, 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, the nature of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by: Dahl Seconded by: Rivieccio Voice Vote: ALL

THE BOARD ANTICIPATES BEING IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR APPROXIMATELY __20__ MINUTES.

BOARD ACTION WILL NOT BE TAKEN AFTER THIS SESSION CONCLUDES.

17. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting is hereby adjourned at ____8:35__ pm.
Moved by: Dahl Seconded by: Hernandez Voice Vote: ALL