Rockaway Borough Board of Education

103 E. Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 18, 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 AYES (1 Absent)*
Motion to Adjourn:	***Moved by:***	*Dahl*	***Seconded by:*** *Hernandez*	***Voice Vote:*** *ALL AYES (1 Absent)*

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: 11/3/25 *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 - Tech- 11/10/25*

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- Reported on communication with the Ed Foundation.*
7. Rockaway Borough Recreation Committee - Mrs. Dorgilles

-Mr. Graf, Ms. Dahl, and Ms. Hernandez reported on various topics from attending the NJSBA Convention.

C. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco

1. District Update- The Fall Concert for Lincoln was a success. Fall sports seasons have come to a conclusion. Winter is underway.
2. State Assessment Presentation- 2024/2025 NJSLA

D. Board Secretary's/Business Office Report:

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

-Mr. Graf addressed an anonymous letter received by the board of education.

E. Administration Monthly Reports:

1. Lincoln
2. Thomas Jefferson
3. Curr., Inst., and Assessment
4. Building & Grounds
5. Technology

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

1. Board of Education Candidates Election Unofficial Results:
    a. Brian Rivieccio: 761
    b. Michael Dougherty: 930
    c. Others: 24

-Mr. Graf thanked Mr. Riovieccio for his service to the board.

G. Board Review of Agenda Items

4. Public Hearing:

Agenda items only: 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-*
  She thanked the board for changes to the agenda/setup, commented on budget projection, and commented on maintenance plan. She also told Mr. Graf that he handled himself well explaining anonymous letter.
- *Ms. Francis- Rockaway, NJ-*
  She asked a question about the hiring of an additional lunch aide on the agenda.
- *Ms. Hamilton- Rockaway, NJ-*
  She asked if Lincoln was watching videos in the cafeteria.
- *Mr. Khan- Rockaway, NJ-*
  He asked if the board would consider making Eid ul Adha a holiday.

5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2025	Students November 12, 2025	Difference from June 30, 2025	Sections (Classes)	Avg. Class Size	Certificated Staff - Teachers	Non-Certificated Staff
Preschool - Lincoln AM/PM & Full Day	26	26	0	2	13	1	8
Kindergarten - Lincoln	67	55	-12	3	18	3	3
Grade 1 - Lincoln	58	67	+9	3	22	3	3
Grade 2 - Lincoln	62	59	-3	3	20	3	2
Grade 3 - Lincoln	66	63	-3	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	270	-9	14	19	25	33.5
Grade 4 - TJ	63	64	+1	3	21	3	-
Grade 5 - TJ	65	66	+1	3	22	3	-
Grade 6 - TJ	64	68	+4	3	23	3	-
Grade 7 - TJ	54	65	+11	3	22	3	-
Grade 8 - TJ	65	58	-7	3	19	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	321	+10	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***	***591***	***-7***	***29***	***20***	-	-
Charter/Choice Schs Out:	**0**	**0**	0	-	-	-	-
Spec. Ed Tuition Incoming:	**3**	**3**	0	-	-	-	-
Total Students (593)/ Staff (140) Ratio: 4.25/1	**601**	**594**	**-7**	**-**	**-**	**66.5**	**69**

6. Meeting Minutes:

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

1. October 15, 2025, Board of Education Meeting- Regular and Executive Session

7. Finance:

A. Be it resolved to approve the submission of the **Annual Facilities Comprehensive Maintenance Plan & M-1 Worksheets** for the 2026-27 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*
Klein, M.	NEATI Asbestos Operations & Maintenance	Online	12/5/25	$195 PO Fee: $25	$220	Improving and maintaining asbestos in the district for a safe and healthy learning environment.
Yobs, T.	NEATI Asbestos Operations & Maintenance	Online	12/5/25	$195 PO Fee: $25	$220	Improving and maintaining asbestos in the district for a safe and healthy learning environment.
Grieco, A.	Schoolwide Transition Webinar	Online	11/17/25	No Fee	N/A	Provide important information about the transition process to a Title I, Part A schoolwide program model.
Corbo, J.	Using AI to increase Math Learning	Online	12/12/25	$295		I would like to increase my knowledge of making more detailed and engaging lessons.

Dobbs, J. Staropoli, M	Science inclusion/Science Resource Observation	Morris Hills High School	12/8/25	Free		It is important to observe a high school inclusion and pull out resource class to see how accommodations and modifications evolve.
Morgenland	NJASBO- Pension Review-Update	Birchwood Manor, Whippany, NJ	1/13/26	$195	Mileage: $8.08	The program is intended to help understand the retirement systems from two standpoints: 1. Role as administrator in your district and 2. Personal role as a member of the system. Discuss NJ pension employee manuals, handling of part-time employees, enrollment in pension, fact sheets, reporting of retirees and "when can I retire" and more.

B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Selina Burgos**, district paraprofessional as a substitute teacher for the 2025/2026 school year.

C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Kamryn Koerner** as a substitute teacher for the 2025/2026 school year.

D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Sophia Rosso**, as a Substitute Paraprofessional for the 2025/2026 school year, at a per diem rate of $90. Ms. Rosso has successfully completed all required background checks.

E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Jamie Vergara** as a Lunchroom Aide, on or about November 18, 2025 through June 30, 2026, at an hourly rate of $16.23, 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 accept and approve the resignation of **Helen Love**, Instrumental Music Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective January 1, 2026. Please join us in thanking her for her dedicated service to the district, community, colleagues, and especially the students, and wishing her well in retirement.

G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to **rescind** the extra curricular advisor appointment of Helen Love as the Assistant to the Director of Musical / Dramatic Productions, previously approved August 26, 2025.

H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a change of assignment for **Nicolas Bova**, to *Instrumental Music Teacher*, effective January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, at his current annual salary rate of $58,165 on Guide/Step- BA- 4.

I. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to AMEND the following extra curricular advisor positions for 2025/2026, previously approved August 26, 2025.

Samantha Selikoff	Boys/Girls Cross Country- Head Coach	Stipend: $1,040
Trevor Basile	Boys/Girls Cross Country- Head Coach	Stipend: $1,040
Nicolas Bova	Assistant to the Director of Musical/Dramatic Productions	Stipend: $2,418

J. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Shawn Robertson**, Floating Substitute Teacher for the 2025/2026 school year, at a daily rate of $125.00, effective November 3, 2025, through November 21, 2025. Mr. Robertson has successfully completed all required background checks.

K. Be it resolved,based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Shawn Robertson**, Floating Substitute Teacher, effective November 24, 2025.

L. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an AMENDED Leave Replacement School Counselor employment contract for **Marie MacLeod** to reflect a corrected contract end date of December 12, 2025. (previously approved as December 5, 2025 at the August 26, 2025 board meeting)

M. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Michael Coiro,** Paraprofessional, effective on or about December 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Mr. Coiro will be paid based on Aide/Guide Step-1, at the hourly rate of $17.95, (prorated from actual start date) 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.

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

Staff #	Location	Position	From	To
562	Thomas Jefferson	Teacher	3/16/26 - Utilizing 9 sick days, NJFLA. Will claim NJFLI benefits	End of the 25/26 school year.

O. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Alex McBride, Information Technology Assistant, for the 2025/2026 school year, at an hourly rate of $25.00, not to exceed 25 hours per week, effective December 1, 2025. Mr. McBride has completed all required background checks.

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	Isenberg	2/12/26	8:30am 1:30pm	Morris Museum Morristown, NJ	25	2-3	TBD		Step beyond the classroom and into a world of creativity at the Morris Museum. Through interactive exhibitions and educator-led tours, students will explore new perspectives, ask big questions, and spark bold ideas.
6	Fleming, Ferrone, DeGrose, Gancarcik, Sumer, Capen	4/28/26	8:07am 2:30pm	Camp Bernie, YMCA/ Port Murray, NJ	70	6	$48	Bus: $1,456	Team building/social emotional learning.
5	Manello, DeGrose, Capen, Summer, Forte	4/10/25	10:30am 2:00pm	Dave & Busters/ Wayne, NJ	50	5	$50		Relates to 5th Grade Math Standard (Standard: 5.NBT.B.7)
3	Jones, Schumacher, Hawkes	6/3/25	8:45am 2:00pm	Team Makers/ New Milford YMCA	63	21	$24		Team Makers will provide students with a variety of activities that will engage, unite, and impower them through team-building, leadership and play.
4	Selikoff, Bova, Fowler, Hynson, Isenberg, Tuluca, Duker, Marsh	6/11/26	8:45am 2:45pm	Legoland/ Goshen, NY	65	8 plus Nurse & Para's	$50		This has been an annual field trip for the past few years that supports the CID curriculum and many of the 4th graders are looking forward to it.

District Events List / Miscellaneous

School Activity	Loc./School	Date/Time	Participants	District Cost	Adm./ Teacher/ Coach/ Advisor
Future Business Leaders Club-MHRD Demonstration	TJ CID Classrooms	12/8/25- 1:30-2:15 12/9/25- 1:30-2:15 & 2:15-3:00pm	Grade 8 Students		Keith Bigora, CTE Supervisor MHRD, Samantha Selikoff
ESL Family Night	Lincoln Cafeteria	11/17/25 - 6:30-8:00pm	Students & Families		Helena Holmes, Rosely Caliendo, Principals
MHRD- Presenting Freshman Course Selection, Credits and Scheduling	Thomas Jefferson	12/12/25 Times: TBD	8th Grade Teachers		Brenda Gupta- MHRD Administrator
Spelling Bee	TJ Gymnasium	2/18/26 - 6:00-9:00pm Snow date: 2/25/26	Grades 4 & 5		Rockaway/Denville Women's Club

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds:

N/A

11. Policy and NJDOE

N/A

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		X				
Mrs. Dorgilles						X
Mr. Rivieccio	**Seconded**	X				
Ms. Dahl, VP	**Motion**	X				
Mr. Graf, President		X				

ALL MOTIONS PASS.

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

N/A

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-*
  -She stated that Mr. Bova did a great job at the concert.
  -She thanked Ms. Hernandez for helping to organize town food drive.
  -She read statement about an online post by Mr. Rivieccio.
- *Ms. Rueda- Rockaway, NJ-*
  -She followed up about online post.
- *Ms. Hamilton- Rockaway, NJ-*
  -She followed up about online post.
- *Ms. Brainard- Rockaway, NJ-*
  -She asked about Rockaway Borough Education Foundation.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

A. Tuesday, December 9, 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)

N/A

17. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:18 pm.

Moved by: Ms. Dahl Seconded by: Mr. Rivieccio Voice Vote: ALL AYES