# Rockaway Borough Board of Education

**103 E. Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866**

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

## Tuesday, December 9, 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: Hernandez*** | ***Seconded by: Dahl*** | ***Voice Vote: All*** |
| Motion to Adjourn: | ***Moved by: Hernandez*** | ***Seconded by: Dahl*** | ***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: *(ALL PRESENT)*

***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: 12/5/25 *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*

**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- Commented about Ed. Foundation conversation and shared relevant information.
7. Rockaway Borough Recreation Committee - Mrs. Dorgilles

**C. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco**

1. District Update
2. Student Congress- Students/DeFelice
3. Governor's Educator of the Year/Educational Services Professional of the Year
   TJ: EOY: Antonia Zangara
   TJ ESPOY: Jennifer Marsh
4. Be it resolved, based upon the recommendations of the CSA & BA, to approve and accept the 2024-2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Auditor's Management Report (AMR) as prepared by the Public School Accounting firm of Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, of Fair Lawn, NJ.
   *Motion: Hernandez*
   *Second: Dorgilles*

   *ALL PASSED*

***Audit***

*Kim-* *Commented about frustration. Is anything going to happen with the BA who is no longer here?*

*Khan-* *Commented about being upset, but thinks we need to move forward.*

*Clark-* *Commented about state monitor possibility. Would any of these findings lead to a State Monitor? The superintendent was given a new contract.*

*Rueda-* *Commented about invoices not having backup documents. Whose job is it to oversee all of the things that we need to do?*

*Merrick* *Commented about tax impact.*

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
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 OFFICIAL Results:
   a. Brian Rivieccio: 776
   b. Michael Dougherty: 955
   c. Others: 24

G. **Board Review of Agenda Items**

*Mr. Graf thanked Mr. RIvieccio for his time on the board.*

## 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.

*Clark- Commented about resignation of lunch aide.*

## 5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:

| Grade Level & School | Students June 30, 2025 | Students December 5, 2025 | Difference from June 30, 2025 | Sections (Classes) | Avg. Class Size | Certificated Staff - Teachers | Non-Certificated Staff |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Preschool - Lincoln AM/PM & Full Day | 26 | 27 | +1 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 8 |
| Kindergarten - Lincoln | 67 | 54 | -13 | 3 | 18 | 3 | 3 |
| Grade 1 - Lincoln | 58 | 66 | +9 | 3 | 22 | 3 | 3 |
| Grade 2 - Lincoln | 62 | 56 | -6 | 3 | 19 | 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 | 266 | -13 | 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** | **69** | **+5** | **3** | **23** | **3** | - |
| Grade 7 - TJ | **54** | **66** | **+12** | **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** | **323** | **+12** | **15** | **22** | **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*** | ***597*** | ***-1*** | ***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** | **600** | **-1** | **-** | **-** | **66.5** | **69** |

## 6. Meeting Minutes:

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

1. November 18, 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: October 16th through November 18th.

  $2,104,963.94

- Bills, Claims, and Payrolls List: November 19th through December 9th.

  $669,009.74

**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).

- September/October/November 2025

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

- September/October/November 2025

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

- September/October/November 2025

**E.** BE IT RESOLVED, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Interim Business Administrator, Approves the Contract Agreement with Computer Solutions Inc., for the purchase of proprietary Human Resources and Payroll software and support services for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of $36,990. The total cost includes all licensing fees, data conversion fee, software support and cloud access and storage. *This purchase is exempt from competitive bidding in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 (19).*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Interim Business Administrator, also Approves the Contract Agreement with Computer Solutions Inc. for the purchase of proprietary Budgetary and Accounting software from July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 in the amount of $40,780. The total cost includes all licensing fees, data conversion fee, software support (including the software support for the Human Resources and Payroll software that was already purchased) and cloud access and storage. *This purchase is exempt from competitive bidding in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 (19).*

## 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* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| J. Dobbs | NJ Council for Exceptional Children Annual Spring Conference | Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ | 3/16/26 | $175 Mileage: $13.63 | | Conference includes sessions with UDL & High Leverage Practices in the classroom, and unlocking student success. |
| M. Staropoli | NJ Council for Exceptional Children Annual Spring Conference | Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ | 3/16/26 | $175 Mileage: $13.63 | | Conference includes sessions with UDL & High Leverage Practices in the classroom, and unlocking student success. |

**B.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind approval of **Robert Longo** as Girls Softball Head Coach as previously approved on August 26, 2025.

**C.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Mary Leslie**, for additional instructional class periods (over 6) , on the below listed dates, at an amount of $53.62 per additional instructional period, to be paid via timesheet: Dates: 11/12/25, 11/13/25, 11/14/25, 11/17/25, and 11/18/25.

**D.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Aurora Adame de la Portilla - Kruithof,** Paraprofessional, effective on or about December 15, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Mrs. Kruithof 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.

**E.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Social Studies Articulation Committee Teacher Exchange. The following teachers from Morris Hills and Morris Knolls High Schools will observe Mrs. Amy DeFelice's class on January 27, 2026.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Krystal Beck- Supervisor | Peter Adams | Matt Brogan | Laura Foley |

**F.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Noreen Abed-Rabbo**, General Music Teacher, effective on or about February 10, 2026 through June 30, 2026. Ms. Abed-Rabbo will be paid based on the 25/26 Salary/Guide BA-2, at the rate of $58,165, (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.

**G.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the job description for Transportation Coordinator/Bus Driver/Business Office Secretary, as submitted.

**H.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the job description for Webmaster, as submitted.

**I.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of **Marcy Rattay**, as a Lunchroom/Recess Aide only, effective December 23, 2025. Mrs. Rattay will retain her other position.

**J.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education approves an Agreement with Dr. Giovanni Cusmano to be Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, effective December 10, 2025 through June 30, 2026 or sooner, as approved by the Executive Morris County Superintendent of Schools, as submitted.

## 9. Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment:

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

**B.** Be it resolved, to approve the AMENDED 2025-2026 School District Calendar, as submitted.

**Student Field Trips**

| GRADE | TEACHERS | DATE | TIME: DEPART /RETURN | DESTINATION | # of Pupils | # of Staff | Cost Per Pupil | District Cost | JUSTIFICATION FOR TRIP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Perniciaro | TBD<br>May or June '26 | 9:00<br>2:30pm | TopGolf | 65 | 9 | Approx $50 | | Visiting TopGolf allows students to see real-world applications of physics concepts like force, motion, angles, and energy transfer. This hands-on experience helps them practice designing experiments and makes abstract science ideas more engaging, memorable, and relevant to everyday activities. |
| 7 | Perniciaro | TBD<br>March or April '26 | 9:00am<br>1:00pm | Pyramid Mt./ Boonton | 65 | 9 | TBD | | Pyramid Mtn. offers a hands-on opportunity to explore real-world geological features and processes. The area is home to fascinating rock formations, such as the famous Tripod Rock, which is a glacial erratic left behind by ancient glaciers during the Ice Age. |
| 8 | Perniciaro | TBD<br>March '26 | 8:25am-9:35am<br>9:50am-11:00am<br>12:05pm-1:15pm<br>(3 Groups) | Blue Titan/ Rockaway | 54 | 2-3 each group | $7 | | A self-defense class provides a practical, hands-on application of key physics concepts. Students can explore how forces such as push and pull, momentum, and leverage are used in real-world scenarios to enhance safety and self-protection. |
| 8 | Perniciaro | TBD<br>May or June '26 | 9:00am<br>2:30pm | iFly/ Paramus | 54 | 9 | Approx $50 | | STEM program at iFly is designed to give kids hands-on experience with science, technology, engineering and math principles and get them thinking about how these principles translate to the real world. |
| 8 | Selikoff | 4/23/25 | 9:00- 5:00pm | NYC Circle Line Cruise & The Outsiders | 56 | 11 | TBD | | This is an 8th grade culmination experience that features many cross-curricular educational aspects. |

**District Events List / Miscellaneous**

| School Activity | Loc./School | Date/Time | Participants | District Cost | Adm./ Teacher/ Coach/ Advisor |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RAA Family "Book Tasting" | TJ Media Center | 3/5/26 / 5:00-6:00pm | Up to 20 families in Grades 4-8 | | Samantha Selikoff |

## 10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds:

**A.** N/A

## 11. Policy and NJDOE

A. Be it Resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept the submission of the 2024-2025 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, for Lincoln School and Thomas Jefferson School.*

- Lincoln- 67 out of 78- (85%)
- Thomas Jefferson- 67 out of 78- (85%)

## 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 | | x | | | | |
| Mr. Rivieccio | | x | | | | |
| Ms. Dahl, VP | **Seconded** | x | | | | |
| Mr. Graf, President | | x | | | | |

**ALL PASSED**

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

**Participation in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Program**

**Whereas—The Rockaway Borough Board of Education (or Board of Trustees) seeks to participate in Sustainable Jersey for Schools to focus attention and efforts on matters of sustainability and pursue initiatives that will lead to Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification.**

**Whereas—The Rockaway Borough Board of Education and District Superintendent seek to support and work with school staff and administrators, students, and parents to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students by encouraging our school community to implement sustainable, energy-smart, eco-friendly, and cost-effective solutions.**

**Whereas—Extensive opportunities exist to teach students about ecological, economic and social sustainability, environmental health, and nutrition; to integrate sustainability education into classroom learning; and to support students in becoming leaders in making their schools healthier and more sustainable places.**

**Whereas—Many options and choices exist for schools to use resources more efficiently; to reduce, reuse, and recycle; to follow Green Building Standards for construction and major renovations; to form school partnerships; to eliminate toxic chemicals; to purchase (or produce) clean energy; and to purchase recycled paper, energy-efficient equipment and other green products to protect our global environment.**

**Whereas—Sustainability means using resources wisely, saving money, and reducing our impact on the environment, all of which will ensure the future health, safety, and prosperity of our children.**

**Whereas—The Rockaway Borough Board of Education commits to the formation of at least one Sustainability Leadership Team (also referred to as "Green Team"), based on the guidance of Sustainable Jersey for Schools. (See the "Create A Green Team" action.**

**Your district "Green Team" can be designated from a pre-existing group within the district if desired.).**

**Whereas—Green Team members help schools adopt policies and practices addressing areas such as sustainability education and professional training, green purchasing, waste reduction, indoor air quality, energy-saving initiatives, and community partnerships.**

**Whereas—The Rockaway Borough Board of Education will encourage Green Teams at all district schools by providing networking and educational opportunities.**

**Therefore, it is resolved that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education agrees to participate in Sustainable Jersey for Schools, and it is the board's intention to pursue certification for schools in the district.**

**We hereby appoint Anthony Grieco (Superintendent of Schools) to be the district's liaison to Sustainable Jersey for Schools.**

**We do hereby recognize our School(s) as the agent(s) to carry out our commitment to building a sustainable school district through the implementation of Sustainable Jersey for Schools actions.**

**We agree to complete district actions and to support the district's schools in completing their actions.**

**Signature of Board Secretary** **Date**

_____ _____

## 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.

*Comment about Sustainable NJ- Is it cost neutral?*

*Comment about snack purchase in the cafeteria, as well as conversation with the principal.*

## 15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting- REORGANIZATION:

**A. Wednesday, January 7, 2026**

The public portion of the Meeting will begin at 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria of Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

## 16. Executive Session II (if necessary) - N/A

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

***Moved by:*** ***Seconded by:*** ***Voice Vote:***

**THE BOARD ANTICIPATES BEING IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR APPROXIMATELY ____ MINUTES.**
**BOARD ACTION _____ 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 _9:41 PM pm.

***Moved by:*** ***Seconded by:*** ***Voice Vote:***