Rockaway Borough Board of Education

103 E. Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 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 14, 2026, posted on our website and at town hall. Official action will be taken."

2. Board Member Roll Call: *ALL PRESENT*

Mr. Michael Dougherty

Elected 2025 to 1st term (3-year seat to Dec. 31, 2028)

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)

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)**:**

- Curriculum/Special Education: *Jen Dahl/Vanessa Dorgilles- **1/15, 1/20***
- Finance/Facilities: *Ed Graf/Faride Hernandez*
- Technology: *Michael Dougherty/Vanessa Dorgilles*
- Negotiations (RBEA): *Ed Graf/Vanessa Dorgilles*
- Negotiations (RBAA): *Ed Graf/Jennifer Dahl*
- Strategic Planning: *Jennifer Dahl/Faride Hernandez*
- Safety & Security/Policy/Athletics & Activities: *AD HOC*

B. Liaison Reports (as needed)**:**

New Jersey School Boards Association:	Faride Hernandez
Morris County School Boards Association:	Ed Graf
Rockaway Borough Home and School Association:	Vanessa Dorgilles
Rockaway Borough Education Foundation:	Faride Hernandez
Rockaway Borough Council:	Ed Graf
Rockaway Borough Recreation Committee:	Michael Dougherty
Morris County Education Services Commission Assembly	TBD

C. Representative/Liaison Appointment

President to make Representative/Liaison Appointments for 2026 now (or at a later date):

Organization	Rep/Liaison	Alternate
Morris County Education Services Commission Assembly:	Jen Dahl	Vanessa Dorgilles

D. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco

- Lincoln Governor's Educator of the Year/Educational Services Professional of the Year
  - ☐ EOY: Aileen Schumacher
  - ☐ ESPOY: Liz Hartwig
- District Goals Update
- Technology Department/Infrastructure Update
  -Jen Dahl spoke about the plan.
  -Michael Dougherty spoke about the plan.

E. **Board Secretary's/Business Office Report**: N/A

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

F. **Administration Monthly Reports (as needed):**

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

G. **Any Other Items/Comments for the Good of the Order**

1. Board Retreat (Ms. Hernandez)- Spoke about the upcoming meeting.

H. **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.

- Mr. Onischuk-
  Comments about the day to day technology is going to look with Mind's Eye.

- Ms. Clark-
  Comments about tech agenda item.
  Comments about grant on agenda.
  Comments about music position.
  Comments about a teacher going to space camp.
  Comments about HIB on agenda.

5. Enrollment & Staffing Report:

Grade Level & School	Students June 30, 2025	Students January 15, 2026	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	57	-5	3	19	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	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**	**57**	**-8**	**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**	**322**	**+12**	**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***	***596***	***-2***	***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**	**599**	**-2**	**-**	**-**	**66.5**	**69**

6. Meeting Minutes:

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

- January 7, 2026, Reorganization 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: December 10th through January 20th.- **$791,098.62**

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).

- December 2025

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

- December 2025

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

- December 2025

E. Be it resolved, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education approves the Complete Care Managed Information Technology Agreement, with proprietary equipment, software and computer services features outlined in the attached proposal, in the total amount of $1,798,995.00 for a 5-year (60 months) term, using 2025-26 NJ Edge Co-Op contract #00278834 and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5:

Year 1: (2/1/26-1/31/27)- $335,799 plus $120,000 (set-up fee)
Year 2: (2/1/27-1/31/28)- $335,799
Year 3: (2/1/28-1/31/29)- $335,799
Year 4: (2/1/29-1/31/30)- $335,799
Year 5: (2/1/30-1/31/31)- $335,799

TOTAL: $1,798,995.00

F. BE IT RESOLVED the Rockaway Borough Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Interim Business Administrator to approve and accept the 2024-2025 Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the auditor's findings and recommendations (Public School Accounting firm of Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, of Fair Lawn, NJ), as submitted.

G. Resolution of Support from the Rockaway Borough Board of Education authorizing the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Small Grant Application

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; and;

WHEREAS, The Rockaway Borough Board of Education
Board of seeks 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, Rockaway Borough Board of Education
is participating in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program is to provide resources to school districts to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Small Grants Program;

THEREFORE, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education
has determined that Rockaway Borough School District should apply for the aforementioned grant program, in the amount of $10,000. The grant will be used as an initiative to transform underutilized outdoor areas within the Rockaway Borough School District into climate-resilient, sustainable learning environments. These outdoor zones will provide students with safe, shaded, and environmentally responsible spaces for instruction, wellness, and hands-on environmental learning while strengthening the district's commitment to sustainability, climate preparedness, and student well-being.

The project will establish two functional outdoor learning zones that incorporate green infrastructure, native landscaping, and stormwater management features. These spaces will serve as both instructional settings and living laboratories, modeling best practices that can be replicated across additional district sites in future phases.

The proposed improvements extend beyond routine operational funding and align directly with the goals and expectations of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant program by advancing environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and community engagement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that of the Rockaway Borough Board of Education, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned. Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grant.

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*
Dennison, B	485: HIB Law Update	Morris Union Jointure Commission PD Center, New Providence, NJ	2/26/26	$195 Mileage: $17.86	N/A	HIB Specialist
Samuels, L.	485: HIB Law Update	Morris Union Jointure Commission PD Center, New Providence, NJ	2/26/26	$195	N/A	Appropriately apply the NJ HIB Law.
Samuels, L Skomial, J.	Morris Cty. Principals Roundtable	Mount Olive Middle School	1/22/26	$0	N/A	Discussion of best practices.
Selikoff, S.	Space Symposium	Colorado Springs	4/13/26 To 4/17/26	$3,000 Covered by grants	Sub	I am grateful to have been accepted to this prestigious program with educators from all over the world where I can network with them as well as industry professionals. One of the goals of our district's STEM articulation group is to increase awareness of the diversity of careers that exist and I am eager to bring back what I learn.
Chandler, W	NJASBO Annual Pensions & Benefits	Birchwood Manor, Whippany, NJ	1/13/26	$145 Mileage: $8.47	N/A	It is important to understand all of the yearly changes that happen with the TPAF, PERS, and DCRP systems.
Marsh, J	Dyslexia- Best Targeted Interventions	Virtual	2/2/26 2/3/36	$695	N/A	This conference will help strengthen dyslexia interventions and train me to give dyslexia workshop PD's for the district.
Samuels, L. Skomial, J.	Educational Leadership Inst.	Ramapo College	2/23/26 4/22/26	$0	N/A	Workforce pipeline retention & union negotiations, emergent technologies, AI, and digital wellness.
Morgenland, N.	Transtable Meeting	Mt. Olive Twp. BOE	1/20/26	$0 Mileage: $7.29	N/A	Bus driver & bus aide training specific. Required by the State.

B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an extended absence for the following staff member:

Staff #	Location	Position	From	To
518	Lincoln School	Paraprofessional	1/5/26- Utilizing 20 sick days, remaining days-unpaid	2/12/26

C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the resignation of **Christine DeCagna**, Paraprofessional, effective February 12, 2026.

D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve additional instructional class periods (over 6) for the following staff member, **Mary Leslie**, beginning December 3, 2025 through the remainder of the 2025/2026 school year, at an amount of $53.62 per additional instructional period, to be paid via timesheet.

E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Paul Dylan Jacobus**, 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 an internship for a senior at Parsippany High School, as part of that district's Senior Internship Program. The program will run from May 18, 2026 through on or about June 23, 2026. Internship program requirements are as follows: 15-20 hours per week, for a total of 80 hours. The student will intern with district nurse, Denise Jacobus.

G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Robin Ghebrea**l, as a Paraprofessional, effective on or about January 30, 2026 through June 30, 2026. Ms. Ghebreal will be paid based on Aide/Guide Step-1, at an 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.

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

Program	Advisor	Stipend
Girls Softball Head Coach	Neal Healy	$2,174
Webmaster- (New)	Bryanna Dennison	$2,500

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
APE/MD	Onischuk	1/22/26	10:45/1:15	Rockaway Lanes/ M&S II Pizza	7	7	$0		Reward for exercise based incentive programs and to give students an opportunity to try sports in a non-PE setting.
6-8	Onischuk	5/27/26	9:00 / 2:30	Somerset Patriots, Bridgewater, NJ	75	7	$25		End of year celebration/team building for all TJ athletes.

6-8	Onischuk Bogart	5/1/26	8:30 / 2:15	Morris Hills HS- Fitness Combine	27	2	$0		Participate in MHRD articulation events which allows TJ students to showcase their fitness skills against sending districts.
8	Selikoff	4/9/26 **Date Change**	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.
8	Isenberg, C	3/25/26	8:45-1:15	Montclair Art Museum/ Montclair	12	3	$20		This field trip is an MHRD articulation trip that brings together students from all middle school sending districts. Students will articulate together while connecting with high school students from across the district, fostering collaboration and a sense of shared community.

District Events List / Miscellaneous- N/A

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

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds:

N/A

11. Policy and NJDOE

- Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the following Superintendent's HIB decision(s) in the following instances as numbered:
  -Tracking Number 299800_TJM_11192025- Conclusion- Founded

- Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept and approve the following Superintendent's HIB decision(s) in the following instances as numbered:
  -Tracking Number 298041_TJM_10212025- Conclusion- Unfounded

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**		**11. A.**		
Mrs. Dorgilles	**Seconded**	**X**				
Mr. Dougherty		**X**		**11.**		
Ms. Dahl, VP	**Moved**	**X**				
Mr. Graf, President		**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.

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. Onischuk-
  Comments about Physical Education (changing in locker rooms).

- Ms. Clark-
  Comments about Physical Education (changing in locker rooms).

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

A. Tuesday, February 24, 2026

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: Hernandez Seconded by: Dahl Voice Vote: All Yes

THE BOARD ANTICIPATES BEING IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR APPROXIMATELY 25 MINUTES.
BOARD ACTION *WILL NO*T 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 ___9:15___ pm.

Moved by: Henrnandez Seconded by: Dahl Voice Vote: All Yes