Rockaway Borough Board of Education

103 E. Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 6:30 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.

1. Call to Order: 6:30 PM

The public portion of this meeting will be called to order at approximately 6:30 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, posted on our website and at town hall. Official action will be taken."

2. Board Member Roll Call:

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. SGO Student Reports

Updates from students.

B. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco

-Pomptonian Presentation

-DCA Grant

-Budget Hearing-2026-2027- Presentation

Public Comments on 2026-2027 Budget

- Ms. Mattison- Comments about technology integration.
- Ms Clark- Comments about maintenance, technology, capital reserve amount, adequacy budget, administrative costs, classroom supplies, legal, tax levy, and superintendent salary.
- Ms. Rueda- Comments about state aid and overall budget.

C. Board Reports:

- **Mr. Dougherty-** School play, tech update, etc.
- **Ms. Dorgilles-** Thank you to HSA, TJ Update, 8th grade trip, etc.
- **Ms. Dahl-** Curriculum update, etc..
- **Ms. Hernandez-** Lincoln update, HSA Tricky Tray thank you, NJSLA, etc.
- **Mr. Graf-** Facilities report, HSA Thank you, etc.

D. Board Secretary's/Business Office Report:

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

N/A

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

F. Board Review of Agenda Items

4. 2026–2027 District Budget Presentation & Public Hearing

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education approves the final budget for the 2026–2027 school year using the 2026–2027 state aid figures, and authorizes the Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to submit the following final budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

Current General Expense (Fund 11)	$14,576,702
Capital Outlay (Fund 12)	$0
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	$14,576,702

Special Revenue (Fund 20)	$474,000
Debt Service (Fund 40)	$755,175
TOTAL EXPENDITURE/APPROPRIATIONS	$15,805,877

Be It Further Resolved, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education approves this budget which includes **$200**,**000** from surplus, for the General Fund, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the need for and the amount of the unused spending authority be included in the base budget; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education approves the use of the Prebudget Year Enrollment Adjustment of **$205,337** as well as the Banked Cap for Healthcare cost increase of **$592,330**, and Regular Banked Cap of **$18,238** Totaling **$815,905,** and

Be It Further Resolved, that the **GENERAL FUND** tax levy **$11,825,552** is approved to support Current General Expense for the 2026-2027 school year budget.

5. 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.

During the board meeting, the Board offers members of the public an opportunity to comment on issues regarding the operation of our schools. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand and proceed to the podium. When called on by the President, state your first name, last name, and municipality of residence. The President may limit each statement made by a participant to three (3) minutes in duration. The President may also interrupt, warn, and/or terminate a participant's statement, question, or inquiry when it is too lengthy or the inquiry is abusive, obscene, or may be defamatory. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard.

Our goal is to maintain the formality, decorum, and efficiency of our meetings according to District Policies and state law. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board, and the President may direct a response after the public comment session.

Members of the public should be courteous and aware of others' rights when speaking. Families and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey and therefore be advised:

- *The Board bears no responsibility nor will it be liable for any comments made by members of the public.*
- *Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected by or identified in their comments.*
- *Members of the public should be aware that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments.*

The Board also encourages community members to follow the chain of command—beginning with the classroom teacher and progressing through the Administrative hierarchy. When the chain of command is

used properly, it improves communication and permits the Board to act as the final arbiter on issues that have not been resolved at other steps in the chain.

- Ms. Clark- Comments on district travel cost budget, personnel recommendations, and about a comment.
- Ms. Rueda- Comments about update on large expenses (Mind's Eye, etc.).

6. Meeting Minutes:

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

- April 7, 2026, 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: April 8th through May 5th.
  $1,214,513.74

B. Be it resolved to approve and accept the Board Secretary's Financial Report(s) 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).

- March 2026

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

- March 2026

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

- March 2026

E. WHEREAS, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to an within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and
nowTHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of $48,000 for the 2026-2027 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*	*Additional Cost to District*	*Justification for the Trip*
Pleger, L.	Transportation Transtable Meeting	Denville, NJ	5/6/26	Free Mileage: $1.66		Annual Certification deadline dates have changed to Aug. 15th - discussing how it effects training dates.
Pleger, L.	Sussex Cty. Regional Co-Op Annual Conference	The Grove, Randolph, NJ	5/14/26	Free Mileage: $5.08		Annual school transportation updates, Route coordination and compliance.

B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Scott Schafran** as a part time Bus Driver, beginning April 20, 2026 through June 30, 2026 at an hourly rate of $32.20. Mr. Schafran has successfully completed all required background checks.

C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve and accept the resignation of **Elisa Greuter**, paraprofessional, effective June 30, 2026 for the purpose of retirement.

D. 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
0755	District	Therapist	9/1/26 NJFLA . Will claim NJFLI	2/28/27 Return: 3/1/27
0583	Lincoln School	Teacher	9/2/26 Utilize 20 sick days. NJFLA. Will claim NJFLI	12/23/26 Return: 1/4/27

E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to confirm/approve a REVISED leave of absence, previously approved 2/24/26, for the following personnel:

Staff #	Location	Position	From	To
394	Thomas Jefferson	Teacher	5/28/26 (utilizing 3 unpaid & 13 sick days: NJFLA. Will claim NJFLI)	11/20/26. Returning 11/23/26

F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the board of education confirm/approve the request to re-appoint **RBEA** staff for the 2026/2027 School Year. (as submitted).

G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the board of education confirm/approve the request to re-appoint **RBAA** staff for the 2026/2027 School Year (as submitted). *This currently includes: Mrs. Jamie Argenizano and Mr. Leon Samuels.*

H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the board of education confirm/approve the request to re-appoint **Executive & Administrative** staff for the 2026/2027 School Year (as submitted).

I. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the board of education confirm/approve the request to re-appoint **Alex McBride**, IT intern for the 2026/2027 school year at an hourly rate of $26.

J. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the board of education confirm/approve the request to re-appoint **Dr. Jean-paul Bonnet**, School Physician for the 2026/2027 school year, at an annual salary of $10,043.

K. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Krista Gore** as a long-term substitute teacher assigned to a temporary instructional vacancy at Lincoln School, effective February 9, 2026, through April 13, 2026 (***AMENDED END DATE***), at a daily rate of $175, reflecting responsibilities beyond those of a daily substitute, including planning and instructional continuity. Ms. Gore has successfully completed all required background checks.

L. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an employment contract for **Allen Kaye**, as a Non-Tenure track Leave Replacement Social Studies Teacher, beginning on or about September 2, 2026 through November 20, 2026. Mr. Kaye 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. Kaye has completed all required background checks.

M. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the request of **Ashley Adumchuk** to complete observation hours in the preschool program, with dates and hours to be determined. Ms. Adumchuk is a student enrolled in the Early Childhood Development program at County College of Morris.

N. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the request of **Nicole Sanders** to complete observation hours at Lincoln School, with dates and hours to be determined. Ms. Sanders is a student enrolled in the Early Childhood Development program at County College of Morris.

O. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a request of a high school junior enrolled in the Morris County VoTech Allied Health Program at Pequannock Township High School, who is pursuing a career in speech-language pathology, to complete shadowing hours with Sara Schneiderman, district Speech-Language Pathologist, during May 2026 on dates and times to be determined.

P. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Tyler Klein**, as a substitute custodian, pending successful completion of required background checks.

Q. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the resignation of **Eric Kovacs-Schrader**, Night Custodian at Lincoln School effective on or about May 22, 2026.

R. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Sean Mogee** as a substitute teacher for the 2025/2026 school year, pending successful completion of required background check.

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
5	Officer McQuestin	6/4/26	10:30/1:15	Rockaway Lanes, Rockaway, NJ	66	4	Free	Nurse	LEAD Program completion celebration.
7	Perniciaro	5/22/26 date change	9:00/12:30pm	Pyramid Mt.Boonton, NJ	65	7	Free		Pyramid Mountain offers a hands-on opportunity to explore real world geological features and processes.
1	Yobs Jacinto Schwarz	6/15/26	8:45/11:00am	Rockaway Borough Police Dept. & Heady Park	67	9	Free		To provide students with an opportunity to see, understand, and observe what our local police department does while being part of our community and to work on social skills by playing together at the Community Park.

District Events List / Miscellaneous

School Activity	Loc./School	Date/Time	Participants	District Cost	Adm./ Teacher/ Coach/ Advisor
Thomas Jefferson Graduation	Morris Hills HS	June 17, 2026- 5:00 pm			
Thomas Jefferson Awards	TJ Gym	June 12, 2026- 12:00 pm			

10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds:

A. N/A

11. Policy and NJDOE

A. 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
Mr. Dougherty	S			X- 8F		
Mrs. Dorgilles		X				
Mr. Graf, President		X				
Ms. Dahl, VP	M	X			A35860	
Mrs. Hernandez					A35679	

ALL PASSED

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

14. Public Hearing: Limited to 3 minutes each.

- Ms. Dahl- AD HOC Meeting for Safety and Security
- Mr. Dougherty- AD HOC Policy
- Ms. Natale- Comments about safety concerns regarding pedestrian traffic
- Ms. Clark- Comments about safety concerns regarding pedestrian traffic
- Ms. Rattay- Comments about safety concerns regarding pedestrian traffic

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.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

A. **Tuesday, June 23 , 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 _____legal matter_____, the nature of which will be made public only when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Moved by: Jen Dahl ***Seconded by: Faride Hernandez*** ***Voice Vote: ALL YES***

THE BOARD ANTICIPATES BEING IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR APPROXIMATELY _15___ 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 ___9:30___ pm.

Moved by: Jen Dahl ***Seconded by: Faride Hernandez*** ***Voice Vote: ALL YES***