

# Rockaway Borough Board of Education

103 E. Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 7:30 PM**

Thomas Jefferson School Cafeteria, 95 E. Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

Visit us on the Web: [rockboro.org](http://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.

|                           |                            |                          |                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>Motion to Enter:</u>   | <b>Moved by: Hernandez</b> | <b>Seconded by: Dahl</b> | <b>Voice Vote: ALL</b> |
| <u>Motion to Adjourn:</u> | <b>Moved by: Hernandez</b> | <b>Seconded by: Dahl</b> | <b>Voice Vote: ALL</b> |

## **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, 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- N/A**

#### **B. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco**

-Update

-Strategic Plan Proposal- 4M

#### **C. Board Reports:**

- Mr. Dougherty- Tech Committee Update
- Ms. Dorgilles- TJ Update
- Ms. Dahl- Curric/Instruction/Assessment Update
- Ms. Hernandez- Lincoln Update
- Mr. Graf- Facilities Finance 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**

#### **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.

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.*

VIDEO AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE- [www.rockboro.org](http://www.rockboro.org)

Ms. Clark

Rockaway, NJ

- *Strategic Plan*
- *Enrollment/Staffing*
- *Security Benefit*
- *Basketball Court Repairs*
- *Garbage Can Outside*
- *Curriculum Programs*

## 5. **Enrollment & Staffing Report:**

| Grade Level & School                        | Students as of 6/30/26 | Students as of 9/25/26 | Difference from 6/30/26 |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Preschool AM/PM, Full day                   | 27                     | 23                     | -4                      |
| Kindergarten- Lincoln                       | 55                     | 57                     | +2                      |
| Grade 1 Lincoln                             | 65                     | 50                     | -15                     |
| Grade 2 Lincoln                             | 59                     | 69                     | +10                     |
| Grade 3 Lincoln                             | 63                     | 57                     | -6                      |
| <b><u>Total Lincoln School</u></b>          | <b>269</b>             | <b>256</b>             | <b>-13</b>              |
| Grade 4 - TJ                                | 65                     | 66                     | +1                      |
| Grade 5 - TJ                                | 64                     | 70                     | +6                      |
| Grade 6 - TJ                                | 68                     | 65                     | -3                      |
| Grade 7 - TJ                                | 66                     | 68                     | +2                      |
| Grade 8 - TJ                                | 55                     | 65                     | +10                     |
| <b><u>Total Thomas Jefferson School</u></b> | <b>318</b>             | <b>334</b>             | <b>+16</b>              |
| Out-of-District:                            | 7                      | 4                      | -3                      |
| <b><u>Total Students</u></b>                | <b>594</b>             | <b>594</b>             | <b>0</b>                |

## 6. Meeting Minutes:

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

- August 25, 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: August 26th through September 29th.  
**\$337,570.72 (Correction made at meeting)**

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).

- July 2026

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

- July 2026

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

- July 2026

E. Security Benefit – 403(b) and 457 Plan Provider

WHEREAS, the Rockaway Borough School District ("District") maintains 403(b), Roth 403(b), and 457 plans (collectively, the "Plans") for the benefit of its eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, the District has reserved the right to amend the Plans from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of the District and its eligible employees to amend the Plans to provide an additional approved investment provider;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education hereby approves the amendment of the Plans to add Security Benefit as an approved vendor, effective as soon as administratively practicable following approval of this resolution; and

F. Social Strides LLC – Behavioral Consultation Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves a contract with Social Strides LLC to provide behavioral consultation and related services to the Rockaway Borough School District for the

2026–2027 school year, for the period of August 27, 2026 through June 30, 2027, at a total cost not to exceed \$109,414.00, as follows:

- BCBA/Behavioral Consultation Services: up to 702 hours at \$127.00 per hour;
- RBT Supervision Services: up to 130 hours at \$127.00 per hour; and
- Functional Behavior Assessments: up to two (2) evaluations at \$1,875.00 per evaluation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and/or School Business Administrator/Board Secretary are authorized to execute the agreement and any related documents necessary to effectuate this resolution, subject to the terms and conditions contained in the agreement.

**G. SCHOOL ALLIANCE INSURANCE FUND RESOLUTION TO JOIN FOR ADDITIONAL LINES OF COVERAGE**

WHEREAS, a number of educational entities have joined together to form a Joint Insurance Fund

as permitted by Chapter 108 Laws of 1983 (18A:18B et. seq.); and

WHEREAS, the statutes governing the creation and operation of a Joint Insurance Fund contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of the public interest entrusted to such a Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education, hereafter referred to as "Educational Facility" has previously determined that membership in the School Alliance Insurance Fund hereafter referred to as "Fund" is in the best interest of the Educational Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Facility is currently a member of the Fund and is provided package coverage (property, boiler & machinery, general liability, auto liability and environmental impairment liability), school leaders professional liability coverage, excess general liability coverage and excess school leaders professional liability coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Educational Facility has determined that it is in their best interest to expand their lines of coverage through the Fund; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Educational Facility agrees to participate in the Fund for the following additional coverage effective July 1, 2026 until July 1, 2029.

- Workers' Compensation
- Supplemental Workers' Compensation

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Educational Entity's Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute all other documents signifying participation for the lines of coverage stated above and to deliver same to the Administrator of the Fund.

**H. ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION:** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education hereby accepts the donation from Pastor Jennifer Vogelesang, a Step2 Clubhouse Climber, an outdoor playset designed for toddlers and young children.

**I.** Be it resolved, to renew a purchased services agreement with Best Choice Home Care, LLC, of Hackettstown, NJ, to provide Registered Nursing services, when required and requested, at an hourly rate of \$74.50, with a five-hour minimum, for the 2026-2027 school year.

**J.** Be it resolved, to renew a purchased services agreement with AA East, LLC DBA "AllShifts", of Newark, NJ, to provide Registered Nursing services, when required and requested, at an hourly rate of \$80.49 for the 2026-2027 school year.

**K.** Be it resolved to renew a purchased services agreement with Bayada, of Manalapan, NJ, to provide Registered Nursing services, when required and requested, at an hourly rate of \$72 for the 2026-2027 school year.

**L.** Be it resolved, to renew a purchased services agreement with Delta-T Group North Jersey, Inc., of Woodbridge, NJ, to provide Registered Nursing services, when required and requested, at an hourly rate of \$65 for the 2026-2027 school year.

## 8. Personnel:

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:**

| <u>Staff Member</u> | <u>Workshop Title</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Reg. &amp; Fees</u> | <u>Additional Cost of District</u> | <u>Justification for trip</u>           |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Yobs, T.            | Clean & Maintain Expo | Kenilworth, NJ  | 10/23/26     | No Cost                |                                    | CEU's for CEFM and explore new policies |

|                      |                                                               |                            |                    |                                                   |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Selikoff, S.         | FTE: Environment & the Economy                                | Cleveland, OH              | 10/9/26 - 10/11/26 | No Cost. Paid by FTE & Burton D Morgan Foundation |                                                       | Attending this workshop to bring back resources on STEM and economy after having worked on the climate change standards.                                                                          |
| Selikoff, S.         | NJECC Annual Conference                                       | Montclair State University | 3/12/27            | \$140 covered by Dollar General Grant             |                                                       | This is an annual conference highlighting key topics on both library/media best practices.                                                                                                        |
| Holmes, H.           | Writing with Multilingual Learners in the Elementary Grades   | Cranston, RI               | 11/12 - 13/26      | \$650- Title III Grant                            | Hotel: \$303<br>Mileage: \$220.90 (470 miles @ \$0.47 | Learning about writing instruction that supports the use of the teaching and learning cycle as a way to empower multilingual writers.                                                             |
| Bezold, R.           | School Nurse Symposium 2026                                   | Livingston, NJ             | 10/12/26           | Reg: \$0                                          | Mileage: \$15.32 (32.6 miles \$0.47)                  | Keeping children with Diabetes safe at school. Asthma care and Pediatric Sleep Disorders.                                                                                                         |
| Gallegly, J          | MCAEMSA- Navigating AI in an Elementary/Middle School setting | Randolph, NJ               | 10/6/26            | \$0                                               |                                                       | Learning how AI can streamline administrative tasks, and support high-quality teaching.                                                                                                           |
| Rigas, B.            | Restorative Justice- Tier 3                                   | Virtual                    | 10/13/26           | \$0                                               |                                                       | Restorative Justice is a proactive approach that is used in schools to build community, prevent and address harm and conflict, and help students positively re-integrate in school after absence. |
| Enright, A.          | School Nurse Symposium 2026                                   | Livingston, NJ             | 10/12/26           | \$0                                               | Mileage:\$15.69 (33.4 miles \$0.47)                   | Keeping children with Diabetes safe at school. Asthma care and Pediatric Sleep Disorders.                                                                                                         |
| TBD (3 from Lincoln) | In-Class Resource Class Visit                                 | Wharton, NJ                | 10/7/26            | \$0                                               |                                                       | In-Class Resource Classroom Visits                                                                                                                                                                |

- A.** Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Ryan Pacheco** as a Non-Tenure track Leave Replacement Physical Education Teacher, beginning on or about September 8, 2026 through December 23, 2026. Mr. Pacheco will be paid based on Guide-Step BA-1 with an annual salary of \$58,920 (to be pro-rated from the actual start/end 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.

- B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Megan Bolger** as a Non-Tenure track Leave Replacement Elementary Education Teacher, beginning on September 16, 2026 through December 23, 2026. Ms. Bolger will be paid based on Guide-Step BA-1 with an annual salary of \$58,920 (to be pro-rated from the actual start/end 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.
- C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Michelle Powers**, Paraprofessional at Lincoln School, beginning on or about September 17, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Ms. Powers will be paid based on Aide Step 1, at the hourly rate of \$18.66, not to exceed 15 hours per week, pending successful completion of Criminal History background check required by P.L. 1986 and Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse Disclosure required by P.L. 2018.c.5.
- D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Tara Dyson**, Paraprofessional at Thomas Jefferson School, beginning on or about September 17, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Ms. Dyson will be paid based on Aide Step 1, at the hourly rate of \$18.66, not to exceed 5.75 hours daily, pending successful completion of Criminal History background check required by P.L. 1986 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 change in employment status of **Robyn Bezold**, School Nurse, from Part-time to Full-time, effective September 2, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Mrs. Bezold will be paid based on Guide/Step BA-9 with an annual salary of \$66,320.
- F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a horizontal salary guide movement request from **Cynthia O'Brien**, Teacher at Thomas Jefferson School, for the successful completion of graduate credits from the 2026/2027 MA+30-13 Guide to the 2026-2027 MA+45 (Step 13, \$86,520), effective September 2, 2026.
- G. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a horizontal salary guide movement request from **Michael Onischuk**, Teacher at Thomas Jefferson School, for the successful completion of graduate credits from the 2026/2027 MA+30-12 Guide to the 2026-2027 MA+45 (Step 12, \$83,645), effective September 2, 2026.
- H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a horizontal salary guide movement request from **Samantha Selikoff**, Teacher at Thomas Jefferson School, for the successful completion of graduate credits from the 2026/2027 MA+30-12 Guide to the 2026-2027 MA+45 (Step 12, \$83,645), effective September 2, 2026.
- I. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a horizontal salary guide movement request from **Rosely Urquizu**, World Language Teacher, for the successful completion of graduate credits from the 2026/2027 BA-2 Guide to the 2026/2027 MA-2 Guide, at the annual salary rate of \$63,720, effective September 1, 2026.

- J. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an additional instructional class period (over 6) for the following staff members for the 2026/2027 school year, at an annual amount of \$9,820.

|                |                 |             |                 |              |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Jennifer Bills | Jennifer Grlica | Mary Leslie | Lauren Mitofsky | Hailey Ralli | Antonia Zangara |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|

- K. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following New Teacher Buddy / Mentor for the 2026/2027 school year.

| Buddy / Mentor & Fee             | New Hire        |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Michael Onischuk - Buddy \$275   | Ryan Pacheco    |
| Linda Savercool - Buddy \$275    | Abigail Enright |
| Sarah Schneiderman - Buddy \$275 | Caroline Cawley |
| Jackie Schwarz - Mentor \$550    | Megan Bolger    |

- L. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an additional six (6) hours for **Brianna Rigas**, Lincoln School Counselor, for September student set-up services performed during the summer of 2026. These hours are in addition to the 15 hours previously approved by the Board of Education on June 15, 2026, and shall be paid at the new 2026/2027 hourly rate of \$41.84.
- M. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an additional two (2) hours for **Bryanna Dennison**, Thomas Jefferson School Counselor for September set-up services performed during the summer of 2026. These hours are in addition to the 15 hours previously approved by the Board of Education on June 15, 2026, and shall be paid at the new 2026/2027 hourly rate of \$41.84.
- N. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve a change of position for **Ruben Romero** from Paraprofessional at Lincoln School to Secretary to Special Services (CST), effective on or about October 16, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Mr. Romero will be paid **\$49,500**. All required background checks have been completed.
- O. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Extra-Curricular Activity Establishment Proposal submitted by Sandy Gancarcik regarding the initiation of a Thomas Jefferson School "**Puzzle Club**". As per the CBA with the teacher's association, the teacher shall be compensated for the initial year of the program, \$500. Upon review by the Superintendent, it may be recommended to establish the program for the following year, following successful implementation.
- P. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to rescind the approval of **Eduar Izaguirre** as a Night Custodian, previously approved on August 25, 2026.
- Q. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Eduar Izaguirre**, as a Paraprofessional at Thomas Jefferson School starting on or about September 22, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Mr.. Izaguirre will be paid based on Aide

Step 3, at the hourly rate of \$19.11, not to exceed 5.75 hours daily. Mr. Izaguirre has successfully completed all required background checks.

- R. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Nathaniel Stevens** as a Substitute Custodian for the 2026/2027 school year at the hourly rate of \$25.58. All required background checks have been completed.
- S. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Ellen Secallus** as a Bus Aide for the 2026-2027 school year, beginning September 16, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Mrs. Secallus will be paid based on Aide Guide/Step 6 at an hourly rate of \$20.02. Mrs. Secallus has successfully completed all required background checks.
- T. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve 30 hours field experience for **Abigail Enright**, current district part-time registered nurse, through the Caldwell University Instructional & Non-Instructional School Nurse Program, from September 16, 2026 through June 30, 2027.
- U. *Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following Extracurricular Advisor for the 2026-2027 school year. **Monica Fleming**, Middle School Dean of Students, stipend rate as per 26/27 CBA.*

*Motion to Table U.-*

*Ms. Hernandez- Motion*

*Ms. Dahl- Seconded*

**VOICE VOTE- ALL**

- V. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Eduar Izaguirre** as a Volunteer Girls and Boys Soccer Coach for the 26/27 school year.
- W. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education approve the separation of employment for employee #1035, Paraprofessional at Thomas Jefferson School, effective September 18, 2026.
- X. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Gabriella Filian**, a student at Centenary University, to complete her Clinical Field Experience in the Rockaway Borough School District under the supervision of cooperating teacher Alyssa Lawton, effective on or about September 29, 2026 through December 12, 2026.

## **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:<br>Depart/Return | Destination | # of<br>Pupils | # of Staff | Cost per<br>pupil | District Cost | Justification for Trip                                         |
|--------|------------------|----------|------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| MD/LLD | Zangara<br>Ralli | 10/15/26 | 9:00am / 12:45pm       | Ort Farms   | 17             | 12         | \$20              | N/A           | To enhance our curriculum and interdisciplinary math skills as |

**ROCKAWAY BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**AGENDA**
**September 29, 2026**
**11**

|                 |                                |          |                                 |                                        |    |     |      |     |                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----|-----|------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 | Bills                          |          |                                 |                                        |    |     |      |     | well as foster growth in college and career readiness.                                                                                                       |
| MD/LLD          | Zangara Bills                  | 11/12/26 | 9:00am / 10:10am                | ShopRite                               | 11 | 6   | \$0  | N/A | To enhance our curriculum and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.                                        |
| MD/LLD          | Zangara Bills                  | 12/3/26  | 9:00am / 10:15am                | Walmart                                | 11 | 6   | \$0  | N/A | To enhance our curriculum and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.                                        |
| MD              | Zangara                        | 1/20/27  | 9:30am / 11:30am                | MPAC- Clifford the Big Red Dog Musical | 3  | 3   | \$11 | N/A | To enhance our curriculum and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.                                        |
| MD              | Zangara                        | 2/25/27  | 9:45am / 1:00pm                 | LifeTown                               | 3  | 3   | \$35 | N/A | To enhance our curriculum and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.                                        |
| MD/LLD          | Zangara Bills                  | 3/18/27  | 9:00am / 11:15am                | Pizza Rustica                          | 11 | 6   | \$10 | N/A | To enhance our curriculum and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.                                        |
| MD              | Zangara                        | 4/15/27  | 10:45am / 12:15pm               | Chick Wings & Things                   | 3  | 3   | \$20 | N/A | To enhance our curriculum and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.                                        |
| MD/LLD/<br>PALS | Zangara Bills<br>Grilica Ralli | 5/27/27  | 9:15am / 2:15pm                 | Turtle Back Zoo                        | 22 | 16  | \$25 | N/A | To enhance our curriculum and interdisciplinary math skills as well as foster growth in college and career readiness.                                        |
| 8               | O'Brien                        | 10/30/26 | 9:00am - 1:30pm                 | Pax Amicus Theatre                     | 65 | 7   | TBD  |     | To view a live performance of short stories and poems read as part of the curriculum.                                                                        |
| 8               | O'Brien                        | 1/29/27  | 10:45am - 2:30pm                | Rockaway Lanes                         | 20 | 1-2 | TBD  |     | Yearbook Club Media Day. Students will have fun bowling while differentiating between action shots, team photos, candid, group selfies, and club interviews. |
| 6               | Fleming                        | 4/27/27  | 8:07am - 2:00pm                 | Camp Bernie, YMCA Camp                 | 70 | 6   | \$37 |     | Team Building/Social and Emotional Learning                                                                                                                  |
| K               | Conway Kadus Lawton            | 10/7/26  | Times between 8:45am - 1:00pm   | Rockaway Borough Fire Department       | 57 | 11  | \$0  |     | Kindergarten students will visit the local fire department to learn about fire safety, meet firefighters, and explore fire trucks and equipment.             |
| 1               | Yobs Schwarz Bolger            | 10/15/26 | Times between 10:00am - 2:30 pm | Rockaway Borough Public Library        | 52 | 9   | \$0  |     | To provide students an opportunity to visit their local library, meet some of the librarians, and continue to develop a love of books and reading            |
| 2               | Medore Vlacich                 | 10/15/26 | Times between 8:45am - 11:45am  | Rockaway Borough                       | 72 | 10  | \$0  |     | To enhance the second grade curriculum and make real world                                                                                                   |

|     |          |          |                  |                             |     |     |     |  |                                                                                                                       |
|-----|----------|----------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | Figueroa |          |                  | Historical Museum           |     |     |     |  | connections.                                                                                                          |
| 7-8 | Strapp   | 11/3/26  | 8:45am - 2:00pm  | MKHS-Vocal Music Day        | 25  | 1-2 | \$0 |  | TJ students will get the experience of meeting, working and singing with other choir students from sending districts. |
| 7-8 | Bova     | 11/10/26 | 8:30am - 12:30pm | MHHS-Instrumental Music Day | 25  | 1-2 | \$0 |  | TJ students will get the experience of meeting, working and playing with other Band students from sending districts.  |
| 7-8 | Bova     | 10/16/26 | 4:15pm - 8:45pm  | MHHS Marching Band Day      | 4-6 | 1   | \$0 |  | TJ students will get the experience of meeting and playing with students in high school marching band.                |

**District Events / Miscellaneous**

| School Activity                          | Loc./School     | Date/Time                                                               | Participants                                    | District Cost | Adm./Teacher/Coach/Advisor    |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| ESL Night                                | Lincoln Rm. 108 | 10/20/26/ 6:30-8pm                                                      | Students & Families                             |               | Helena Holmes, Rosely Urquizu |
| Family Coding Night                      | TJ Cafeteria    | 10/22/26 / 6-7pm                                                        | Open to 20 families with children in Grades 4-6 |               | Samantha Selikoff             |
| TJ Back to School Night                  | TJ              | 9/16/26 / 5-9pm                                                         | Faculty & Parents                               |               | All Staff                     |
| Lincoln Back to School Night             | Lincoln School  | 9/22/26 / 5-9pm                                                         | Faculty & Parents                               |               | All Staff                     |
| MHRD Academy for the Performing Arts     | TJ Cafeteria    | 9/24/26 / 9:55-10:40am                                                  | 8th Grade                                       |               | 8th Gr. Teachers              |
| Morris Cty. Vo-Tech 8th gr. presentation | TJ Cafeteria    | 10/8/26 8:30-9:40am                                                     | 8th Grade                                       |               | 8th Gr. Teachers              |
| MHRD Marching Band                       | TJ Gymnasium    | 10/20/26                                                                | All students                                    |               | Nic Bova                      |
| TJ Talent Show                           | TJ Gymnasium    | 10/23/26 6:30-9:00pm                                                    | Students & Families                             |               | Nic Bova & Janet Dobbs        |
| Rockaway Borough Library Visit           | TJ Library      | 10/26/26 9:34-10:30am<br>10/28/26 9:45-10:30am<br>10/30/26 9:45-10:30am | 4th Grade Library classes                       |               | Melissa Okerblom, Librarian   |
| Halloween Dance                          | TJ Gymnasium    | 10/30/26<br>Grade 4-5/ 3-4pm<br>Grade 6-8 6-8pm                         | Grades 4-8                                      |               | TBD                           |
| Vocal Music Day                          | MKHS            | 11/3/26                                                                 | Choir Students                                  |               | Connor Strapp                 |
| Instrumental Music Day                   | MHHS            | 11/10/26                                                                | Band Students                                   |               | Nicolas Bova                  |

|                       |              |                                                    |                     |  |                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TJ Winter Concert     | Rockaway AOG | 12/15/26 Gr. 6-8 7:00pm<br>12/16/26 Gr. 4-5 9:00am | All Students        |  | Nicolas Bova<br>Connor Strapp                                                                                              |
| Teacher Cadet Program | TJ           | January-May 2027                                   | Students from MHRD  |  | Lauren Sherburne, Instructor<br>,Introduction to Education,<br>Morris Hills and Morris Knolls<br>High School and our staff |
| TJ Spring Concert     | Rockaway AOG | 5/25/27 Gr. 6-8 7:00pm<br>5/26/27 Gr. 4-5 9:00am   | All Students        |  | Nicolas Bova<br>Connor Strapp                                                                                              |
| Night of the Arts     | TJ Gymnasium | 5/27/27 6:30-8:30pm                                | Students & Families |  | Cecilia Isenberg                                                                                                           |

## 10. Technology and Buildings & Grounds:

## 11. Policy and NJDOE

- A. Be it resolved to approve the **1st Reading** of the following new and/or updated Board Policies (P) and/or Regulations (R), where applicable:

| Pol. & Reg. | Number | Title                                                    | Reason for Update |
|-------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| P           | 8561   | PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS (M) | Revised           |

- 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 2026-2027 school year.
- C. 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 2026-2027 school year.
- D. **2026–2027 District Goals**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby adopts the following District Goals for the 2026–2027 school year:

1. Strengthen District Operations, Financial Management, and Administrative Infrastructure
2. Expand Community Engagement and Develop a Shared Vision for the District
3. Review and Strengthen Special Education, Basic Skills, Student Support, and Ancillary Programs
4. Modernize District Policy, Procedures, and Governance Practices

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools and District administration are authorized and directed to develop and implement appropriate objectives, action steps, and measures of progress in support of these goals and to provide periodic updates to the Board of Education regarding the District's progress toward their achievement.

**12. Consent Agenda:****A.** Move and Vote on all Agenda Resolutions & Recommendations in One Motion:

| <b><u>Roll Call Vote:</u></b> | <b><u>Moved &amp; Seconded By:</u></b> | <b><u>Aye</u></b> | <b><u>Nay</u></b> | <b><u>Abstain</u></b> | <b><u>Recuse</u></b> | <b><u>Not Present</u></b> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr. Dougherty                 | <b>Seconded</b>                        | <b>X</b>          |                   |                       |                      |                           |
| Mrs. Dorgilles                |                                        | <b>X</b>          |                   |                       |                      |                           |
| Mr. Graf, President           |                                        | <b>X</b>          |                   |                       |                      |                           |
| Ms. Dahl, VP                  | <b>Motion</b>                          | <b>X</b>          |                   |                       |                      |                           |
| Mrs. Hernandez                |                                        | <b>X</b>          |                   |                       |                      |                           |

**8.U.- Tabled/Removed from Agenda****ALL PASSED****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. Gottshall  
Wharton, NJ*

- Email sent to Board of Education speaking to Dr. Cusmano as the Wharton Interim Superintendent and that Counsel in Wharton is the same
- Commended Rockaway Borough Board for structure of meeting

*Ms. Clark  
Rockaway, NJ*

- Dr. Cusmano position at Wharton
- Agenda item 8U.
- BA Search

*Mr. Noor  
Rockaway, NJ*

- Magnet Program

**15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:****A. Tuesday, October 27, 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)- 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 **8:46 pm**.

***Moved by: Dahl***

***Seconded by: Hernandez***

***Voice Vote: ALL***