Rockaway Borough Board of Education

103 E. Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, October 27, 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:***	***Seconded by:***	***Voice Vote:***
Motion to Adjourn:	***Moved by:***	***Seconded by:***	***Voice Vote:***

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

- **Strategic Plan Presentation- NJSBA**
- **District Update/Miscellaneous**
- **District Goals Report/Update- 25/26 and 26/27**
- **Student Safety Data System- SSDS Report- 25/26**

C. Board Reports:

- **Mr. Dougherty**
- **Ms. Dorgilles**
- **Ms. Dahl**
- **Ms. Hernandez**
- **Mr. Graf**

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.

5. Meeting Minutes:

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

- September 29, 2026, Board of Education Meeting- Regular and Executive Sessions

6. 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: September 30th through October 27th.

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).

- August/September 2026

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

- August/September 2026

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

- August/September 2026

E. Verkada Visitor Management System

Be it resolved, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the purchase of the Verkada Visitor Management System, including associated hardware and software, from MRA International, Inc., through New Jersey State Contract BC-BID-24-38 (Computer Equipment and

Peripherals – COOP), at a total cost not to exceed $8,425.88, in accordance with Quote #Q-070529 v1, dated July 13, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to execute the necessary purchase order and related documentation to effectuate this purchase, subject to applicable purchasing requirements.

F. Lincoln Elementary School Stairwell Improvements

Be it resolved, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the proposal from LBJ Interior Solutions for stairwell improvements near the gymnasium at Lincoln Elementary School, including floor preparation, materials, and installation of new stair treads with visibility strips and associated underlayment, through ESCNJ Cooperative Contract #65MCESCCPS – #23/24-14, at a total cost not to exceed $6,281.42, in accordance with Proposal #Q-1175, dated October 2, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to execute the necessary purchase order and related documentation to effectuate this project, subject to applicable purchasing requirements.

7. 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:

Staff Member	*Workshop Title*	*Location*	*Dates*	*Reg. & Fees*	*Additional Cost ot District*	*Justification for trip*
Argenziano	NJSBA'S Workshop 2026	Atlantic City, NJ	10/19/26-10/22/26			
Cusmano Dahl Dorgilles Hernandez	NJSBA's Workshop 2026	Atlantic City, NJ	10/19/26-10/22/26			
Chandler	2026 USDA Food Conference	Edison, NJ	12/3/26	$0	Mileage: $48.41	Notification of upcoming changes in the food service programs.
Onischuk	GMCJSCA League Meetings	Varied locations	10/7/26	$0		Necessary for the

			1/6/27 4/7/27 2 dates TBD			scheduling and smooth run of our athletic programs.
Christine Savini	OSPEP's Basic K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Training (Online)	Virtual	11/19/26	$0		As a member of BTAM this training will be very beneficial to support Lincoln School in maintaining school safety.
Lauren Stein	NJ ECC Annual Conference	Montclair State University	3/12/27	$140	Mileage $19.74	This is an annual conference highlighting Key topics on library/media and technology best practices and resources.
Fleming	OSPEP's Basic K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management Training (Virtual)	Virtual	11/19/26	$0		Trains multidisciplinary school teams to identify students with concerning behaviors, assess violence risks, and deliver early intervention strategies
Savini	OSPEP's Basic K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management Training (Virtual)	Virtual	11/19/26	$0		Trains multidisciplinary school teams to identify students with concerning behaviors, assess violence risks, and deliver early intervention strategies

A. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve **Monica Fleming** to provide Targeted Reading Support services at an hourly rate of $70.77.

B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a longevity payment to **Sally Ascoli**, in recognition of her years of service to the District, in accordance with the terms of her employment agreement.

C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Christopher Caramucci,** as a Night Custodian at Lincoln School starting on or about November 2, 2026 through June 30, 2027. Mr. Caramucci will be paid based on the Custodian Guide/Step 5 rate of $45,210, 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.

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

Staff #	Location	From	To
#301	Thomas Jefferson	9/22/26 (utilizing sick days)	11/13/26

E. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Heather DeGrose** and **Christine Capen** to prepare additional lesson planning, as needed, during the absence of staff # 301, effective October 5, 2026, and continuing until such services are no longer needed, not to exceed two (2) hours per week each, at the Curriculum Writing hourly rate of $41.84 per hour.

F. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following Substitute Nurses, **Jane Rivers and Deborah Zemietra** for the 2026-2027 school year at the current rate of $250 per diem, 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 **Danielle Luisi** for paraprofessional duties at the Paraprofessional Aide Step 1 rate of $18.66 per hour as follows:

- September 8-19, 2026: One (1) hour per day , retroactively, in place of the previously approved lunch aide rate for those hours.
- Effective September 22, 2026: performing paraprofessional duties.

H. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the LFTF Program (Lead From The Front), under the direction of Cornell Thomas, at Thomas Jefferson School, beginning November 2026 through April 2027. The program will accommodate approximately 20-35 students and include an introductory keynote presentation, monthly themed sessions of 40-45 minutes, and a final session and graduation ceremony.

I. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Eve Gada**, a student at Montclair State University and current district substitute teacher, to complete two (2) hours of classroom observation at Lincoln School, with staff to be determined as part of her university coursework, to be completed by November 10, 2026.

J. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following Extracurricular Advisors for the 2026/2027 school year.

Program	Advisor	26/27 Stipend
Middle School Dean of Students	Monica Fleming	$1,166
Girls Basketball- Assistant Coach	Amy DeFelice & Laura Perniciaro	$1,236 - split. DeFelice:$1,036 Perniciaro:$200

9. <u>Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment</u>:

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
2	Medore Vlacich Figueroa	10/27/26 Date Correction	Times between 8:45am - 11:45am	Rockaway Borough Historical Museum	72	10	$0		To enhance the second grade curriculum and make real world connections.
7/8	O'Brien Leahey	11/18/26	9:00am-2:30pm	MHHS	45	2	$0		To view a Shakespearian play, and take part in the workshops offered to our middle school students.
6-8	Selikoff	11/6/26 (school closed for teachers convention)	9:00am-12:00pm	Nourish NJ/ Dover, NJ	15	15 parents	$0		Nourish NJ reached out to me to see if students would be interested in volunteering and after volunteering there myself, I would love for both parents and students to experience Nourish NJ from a volunteer perspective.
8	Perniciaro	4/22/27	9:00am - 2:00pm	iFLY- Paramus	70	7	$55		The 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 principals translate to the real world.
7	Perniciaro	11/13/16	9:30am - 12:30pm	Top Golf Parsipany	70	7	$30		Visiting Top Golf allows students to see real-world application of physics concepts like force, motion, angles, and energy transfer.
7-8	O'Brien Leahey	3/5/27	8:30am - 2;30pm	MHHS	45	2	$0		Attending the spring musical at our sending high school provides students with an authentic opportunity to experience literature through live performance while supporting ELA instruction.
1	Schwarz Yobs Jacinto	4/23/26	9r00am - 2:00pm	Tranquility Farms Andover, NJ	50	17	$29		Students will have the opportunity to see an interactive lesson on how milk gets from cow to you, various dairy products, and ice cream. They will then make it. Finally, they will visit the farm animals where they will learn about their environment and the animal needs and wants.
5	Mannello	4/9/27	10:30am-2:00pm	Dave & Busters, Wayne, NJ	65	5	$55		Relates to 5th grade Math standard

District Events / Miscellaneous - N/A

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

B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Rockaway Borough Board of Education approves the following school, athletic, and staff social media accounts for the 2026–2027 school year, to be used for school/district-related communications, activities, and educational purposes, in accordance with District policies and guidelines.

Lincoln Elementary School

- Facebook: @lincolnschoolrb
- Instagram: @lincolnschoolrb

Thomas Jefferson Middle School

- Facebook: @RockboroTJMS
- Instagram: @RockboroTJMS

Staff Social Media Accounts

- Samantha Mannello – Instagram: @mrsmannellosmiddles
- Samantha Selikoff – X (formerly Twitter): @MsSelikoff
- Alyssa Summer – Instagram: @summer_stars2023

Thomas Jefferson Middle School Athletics

Mike Onischuk, Athletic Coordinator

- Facebook: Thomas Jefferson Rams Athletics
- X (formerly Twitter): @tj_athletics
- Instagram: @tjrams_athletics

TJ Musical Social Media - @TJ Players - Facebook, Instagram, TikTok

All approved accounts shall be maintained in accordance with District policies regarding social media use, student privacy, and appropriate school communications.

10. Policy and NJDOE

A. Be it resolved to approve the ***2nd 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 to approve the annual Student Safety Data System report, for the 2025-2026 school year (Violence, Vandalism, Substances, Weapons and HIB Confirmed), as submitted.

11. 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						
Mrs. Dorgilles						
Mr. Graf, President						
Ms. Dahl, VP						
Mrs. Hernandez						

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

14. Public Hearing: Limited to 3 minutes each.

Please state your name.

The President will open the floor for the Board to hear the public and then close the floor.
Please direct all dialogue to the President. Board replies are not required.

15. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

A. Tuesday, November 17, 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 _____, 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 _____ pm.

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