Riverside Minutes | September 24, 2026
Regular Meeting | SKOLastic Commons

A Regular Meeting of the Riverside School Board was held on the above date in the SKOLastic Commons at the Riverside Jr-Sr High School with President Mattioli presiding and the following members present: Carol Armstrong, Barbara Fedor, Linda Joyce, Laura Kobeski, Brandi Luckasavage, Mary Antoniacci McHugh, and Marion Maurer. Absent: Mary Burke.

Also present was Daniel L. Gilroy and Attorney Kyle Callejas.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Armstrong to approve minutes of August 20, 2026 Regular Meeting and to dispense with the reading and accept as delivered. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Ms. Maurer to approve payrolls of 14 August 2026 of $421,677.71 and 28 August 2026 of $425,086.11. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Joyce to approve estimated payrolls of 11 September 2026 of $440,000 and 25 September 2026 of $450,000. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Joyce to approve Treasurer's Reports for July 2026 and the unreconciled balances as of August 31, 2026. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Ms. Maurer to approve and pay bills when found correct and funds are available. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Kobeski to appoint Helene O'Boyle as Secretary effective September 8, 2026 at a $17.50 per hour. Roll call vote: YES, Armstrong, Fedor, Joyce, Kobeski, Luckasavage, Antoniacci McHugh, Maurer, and Mattioli.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Armstrong to appoint Robert French as LCSW counselor effective the 2026-2027 school year at a salary of $61,800. Roll call vote: YES, Armstrong, Fedor, Joyce, Kobeski, Luckasavage, Antoniacci McHugh, Maurer, and Mattioli.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Maurer to appoint Lori McCullon as Special Education Teacher Mentor effective the 2026-2027 school year at a stipend of $1,254.50. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: YES, Armstrong, Fedor, Joyce, Kobeski, Luckasavage, Antoniacci McHugh, Maurer, and Mattioli.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Ms. Antoniacci McHugh to approve the Resolution for the PA Public School Facilities grant for continued work to upgrade the HVAC system at Riverside Elementary West. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Maurer to approve an Agreement for Title I services with NEIU 19 to serve a student at St. Mary's Mt. Carmel. Total cost is $1,274 for the year unless other non-public Title I funds become available. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Ms. Maurer to approve the updated Riverside School District Safety Plan. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Ms. Maurer to approve the readings of the following Policy Guides: 214 – Class Rank – 3rd reading; 249 – Bullying/Cyberbullying – 3rd reading; 916 – School Volunteers – 2nd reading; and 208.1 – Drop Out Prevention – 1st reading. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Armstrong to approve a tenure contract for Corie Ructor having completed three satisfactory years of teaching at Riverside School District. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Armstrong to approve the following Use of Facilities Event(s): **SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENT(S): Lady Vikes Basketball Booster Club** – Riverside Jr-Sr High School Auxiliary Gym – Shoot Out Fundraiser – October 3, 2026 (Alternate Date October 17, 2026) – 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.*; **Lady Vikes Basketball Booster Club** – Riverside Jr-Sr High School Cafeteria – 3rd-6th Grade Dance – October 10, 2026 - 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.*; **Lady Vikes Basketball Booster Club** – Riverside Jr-Sr High School Gym – 2nd Annual Lady Vikes Alumni Game – November 28, 2026 – 4:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.*; **Lady Vikes Basketball Booster Club** – Riverside Jr-Sr High School Gym and Cafeteria –- Late Night with the Lady Vikes –December 19, 2026 - 3:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.*; **Riverside Basketball Booster Club** – Riverside Jr-Sr High School Cafeteria – Cash Bingo – November 22, 2026 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.*; **East**

Student Help Fund – Riverside Jr-Sr High School Cafeteria and Commons – Annual Santa Breakfast – November 28, 2026 – 6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*; **National Honor Society** – Riverside Jr-Sr High School Cafeteria – Veterans Breakfast – November 11, 2026 – 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.*; **National Honor Society** – Riverside Jr-Sr High School Auditorium – National Honor Society Induction – November 18, 2026 – 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.*; **Riverside Vikings PTA** – Riverside Elementary East Multi-Purpose Room – Fundraiser Distribution – November 15, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.* *The School Board recognizes that this is a school-sponsored event. Use is contingent upon adherence to the District Policy on Use of Facilities. ON THE QUESTION: Mrs. Armstrong questioned what Late Night. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Armstrong to appoint Mohamed Ganim as Fall Weightlifting Instructor effective the 2026-2027 school year at a stipend of $800.00. Roll call vote: YES, Armstrong, Fedor, Joyce, Kobeski, and Antoniacci McHugh. NO, Luckasvage, Maurer, and Mattioli. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Joyce to appoint Brady Pavalonis as Fall Weightlifting Instructor effective the 2026-2027 school year at a stipend of $800.00. Roll call vote: YES, Armstrong, Fedor, Joyce, Kobeski, Luckasvage, Antoniacci McHugh, Maurer, and Mattioli.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Joyce to approve the Extended Leave Request for Meghan Borzell, Special Education Teacher, as outlined in her letter on file in the Superintendent's Office. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Armstrong to approve the Lease Agreement between the Borough of Taylor and Riverside School District regarding Noakes Park. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Joyce to appoint Michael Rogan as Technology Technician at $28.50 per hour. Roll call vote: YES, Armstrong, Fedor, Joyce, Kobeski, Luckasavage, Antoniacci McHugh, Maurer, and Mattioli.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Ms. Maurer to accept the Letter of Intent to Resign as STEM Club Advisor and FBLA Club Advisor from Travis Toth. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Armstrong to appoint Marli Hoskins as STEM Club Advisor effective the 2026-2027 school year at a stipend outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Ms. Maurer to approve the Leave Request of Erin Dempsey, Aide, as outlined in her letter on file in the Superintendent's Office. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Joyce to accept the Letter of Intent to Resign from Peneorah Reyes, Aide, effective September 17, 2026. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Mrs. Armstrong to appoint Jaime Thomas as Aide. This position is for 6 hours per day, ½ hour unpaid lunch, at $15.50 per hour. Roll call vote: YES, Armstrong, Fedor, Joyce, Kobeski, Luckasavage, Antoniacci McHugh, Maurer, and Mattioli.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to Authorize Counsel to Proceed in Alliance Sanitary Landfill Assessment Appeals. The Riverside School District Board of Directors authorizes Joyce, Carmody & Moran, P.C., as counsel for the District, to take all actions reasonably necessary to represent the District in the pending real-estate assessment appeals captioned Alliance Sanitary Landfill v. Lackawanna County Board of Assessment Appeals, Nos. 2025-CV-10201, 2025-CV-10205, 2025-CV-10206, and 2025-CV-10209, including engaging Valbridge Property Advisors/Lukens & Wolf, LLC for appraisal and related expert services. The Board further authorizes the Superintendent, Business Manager, and Board President to execute any documents and make payments necessary to implement this authorization. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Mrs. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Kobeski to approve the settlement of the real estate tax assessment appeal for tax years 2021 and forward filed by Hotel Scranton II LP, concerning the property located at 19 Radcliffe Drive, Moosic Borough, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, tax map No. 18601-010-01209, pending in the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas at docket No. 2020-CV-03959, for an assessed value of $6,300,000.00 in accordance with the proposed Stipulation and Order; to authorize the District Solicitor to negotiate and finalize the amount, calculation, allocation, timing, and method of payment of any tax refund, credit, interest, or other amount payable by the District pursuant to the settlement; and to authorize the Board President, Board Secretary, Superintendent, District Solicitor, and/or other appropriate District personnel to execute the proposed Stipulation resolving the appeal and take any actions necessary to effectuate and fully resolve the assessment appeal. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Armstrong to accept a charitable donation in the amount of $10,000 from the Turock Family Foundation for the benefit of Riverside High School students, to be administered in accordance with the District policy and the donor's requested allocation as follows: $1,000 for the National Honor Society; $1,000 for the Ski Club, $1,500 for the Cross Country Program; $1,500 for the World Cultures and Language Club; and $5,000 for the Riverside High School Principal's Discretionary Fund for non-athletic and application District policy. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Ms. Maurer to apply for the BJA FY 2026 Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing School Violence Program (STOP) grant. This grant does not require a match and is for mental health and behavioral health support. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to approve the request submitted by Core 5 Industrial Partners, LLC for participation in the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance (LERTA) program and to direct the District Solicitor to prepare a Resolution implementing the Board's action. Roll call vote: YES, Antoniacci McHugh and Mattioli. NO, Armstrong, Fedor, Joyce, Kobeski, Luckasvage, and Maurer. MOTION DID NOT CARRY.

Education Committee – Mrs. Joyce reported that the school year is off to a great start.

NEIU 19 – Mrs. Joyce reported that the NEIU is ready for the new school year. A new center has been opened in Hawley.

Board Policy Committee – Mrs. Luckasavage reported that everything is good. She will be meeting with Mr. Pentasuglio in the near future.

Maintenance Committee – Mrs. Fedor stated that she received comments from teachers and nurses stating they were happy with the cleanliness of their rooms. She stated that despite Mr. West being off on jury duty, his team did a great job getting everything ready for the new school year.

Finance Committee – Ms. Antoniacci McHugh talked about tax assessments and gave a financial report.

Sports Committee – Mr. Mattioli reported on the success of our fall sports teams.

Student Affairs Committee – Ms. Kobeski stated that committees are starting up. She reported on the success of the Miss Viking reunion at the last home football game.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Callejas thanked everyone for all their efforts.

Superintendent's Report – See attached

OLD BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ron Gallagher, Taylor, asked if the pep rally could be rescheduled. Mr. Mattioli and Mr. Gilroy responded that the pep rally would be rescheduled. Mr. Gallagher asked if the gym floor would be ready for basketball season. Mr. Gilroy responded that it will be ready.

Motion by Ms. Kobeski, seconded by Mrs. Luckasavage to adjourn. Roll call vote: All in favor.