Rockaway Borough Board of Education

103 E. Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, November 17, 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-

B. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Grieco

- **District Update/Miscellaneous**
- **BA Search Update**
- **Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Auditor's Management Report (AMR)- 2025-2026**

Be it resolved, based upon the recommendations of the CSA & BA, to approve and accept the 2025-2026 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Auditor's Management Report (AMR) as prepared by the Public School Accounting firm of Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, of Fair Lawn, NJ.

Motion:
Second:

- **State Assessment Presentation- 2025-2026**

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

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

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

1. Board of Education Candidates Election Unofficial Results:
   a. Edward Graf: 1,384
   b. Jaclyn D. Long: 1,439
   c. Others: 40

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:

- October 27, 2026, Board of Education Meeting- Regular and Executive Sessions
- November 5, 2026, Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes

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:

  October 28th through November 17th

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).

- October 2026

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

- October 2026

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

- October 2026

E. Approval of 2026–2027 Purchasing Manual

Be it resolved, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and Interim School Business Administrator, hereby approves and adopts the Rockaway Borough School District Purchasing Manual for the 2026–2027 school year, as submitted, to establish purchasing procedures consistent with applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and Board policies.

F. Approval of 2026–2027 Standard Operating Procedures Manual

Be it resolved, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and Interim School Business Administrator, hereby approves and adopts the Rockaway Borough School District Standard Operating Procedures and Internal Controls Manual for the 2026–2027 school year, as submitted, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-6.6, to ensure appropriate fiscal management, internal controls, accountability, and compliance with applicable regulations.

G. Dollar General Literacy Foundation Youth Grant

Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education approves the acceptance of a Dollar General Literacy Foundation Youth Grant in the amount of $2,500 to support literacy initiatives at Thomas Jefferson School.

H. Annual Facilities Comprehensive Maintenance Plan & M-1 Worksheets

Be it resolved to approve the submission of the Annual Facilities Comprehensive Maintenance Plan & M-1 Worksheets for the 2027-28 school year, as submitted.

I. Replenishment of Capital Reserve

Be it resolved, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education hereby approves, retroactive to June 30, 2026, the transfer of $102,500 from available 2025–2026 fiscal year-end surplus to the Capital Reserve Account to replenish capital reserve; and

Be it further resolved, that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized to make the necessary accounting entries to effectuate this transfer.

J. MEMBERSHIP INTO the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC) COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11 (5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC), hereinafter referred to as the “Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2026, the governing body of the ROCKAWAY BOARD OF EDUCATION, County of MORRIS, State of New Jersey, pursuant to N.J.A.C 5:34-7.6 (a), duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows: TITLE This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC), AUTHORITY Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) and N.J.A.C 5:34-7.6 (a), the ROCKAWAY BOARD OF EDUCATION is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC), the Lead Agency. CONTRACTING UNIT The Lead Agency shall comply with the Public School Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

K. Approval of Joint Transportation Agreement – Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative – 2026–2027 School Year

Be it resolved, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education hereby approves the Joint Transportation Agreement with the Hopatcong Board of Education, operating as the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative, for the coordination and provision of student transportation services for the 2026–2027 school year, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, as submitted, including the following administrative fees, calculated as a percentage of actual transportation costs:The agreement further provides for a $20.00 processing fee per B6T Nonpublic School Transportation Application, waived if annual transportation services exceed $500,000, and a $50.00 field trip/athletic trip quotation fee, subject to the waiver provisions outlined in the agreement.

Transportation Category	**Administrative Fee**
Special Education Routes	4.5%
Public Routes	2.0%
Nonpublic Routes	2.0%
Field Trips/Athletic Trips	5.0%

Be it further resolved, that the Board hereby approves the agreement, as submitted, including all applicable terms, conditions, payment provisions, and administrative fees, and authorizes the Board President and Board Secretary to execute the agreement and any necessary related documents on behalf of the Rockaway Borough Board of Education.

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***
Gancarcik	Wilson Dyslexia Conference	Virtual	2/25/27	$79		Training will provide an opportunity to deepen my theoretical and practical knowledge of dyslexia and reading instruction.
Pleger	Payroll and the BA-North	Birchwood Manor	11/12/16	$249		Workshop provides key information on Payroll Systems and current issues.
Yobs, T.	Mid-Atlantic Buildings &	NJ	12/8/26	$0		Networking with vendors

	Facilities Convention	Convention Center				deeing products and what is new that could improve our schools.

A. 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
371	Thomas Jefferson School	11/18/26 (utilizing 6 sick days and 4 unpaid)	12/3/26
626	Thomas Jefferson School	11/23/26 (utilizing 9 sick days)	12/7/26
583	Lincoln School	9/2/26	6/30/27 Extension of LOA
301	Thomas Jefferson School	9/22/26	2/16/27 Extension of LOA

B. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the participation of the Morris Knolls High School Interact Club, under the supervision of Class Advisor Michelle Lis, to assist Mrs. Yobs with the following first-grade activities at Lincoln Elementary School during the 26/27 school year.

- First Grade Ginderbread Day: December 2, 2026
- Earth Day Activity: Tentative date, April 22, 2027

C. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve **Jenna Senatore**, a student from County College of Morris, to complete required classroom observation hours under the supervision of Mrs. Schwarz, for one (1) day, 2026-2027 school year, date to be determined, not to exceed five (5) hours.

D. Be it resolved, based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education approves an extended Agreement with Dr. Giovanni Cusmano to serve as Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, effective January 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027, or sooner upon the Board's hiring of a more permanent Interim School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, at a per diem rate of $800.00, as approved by the Morris County Executive County Superintendent of Schools on November 2, 2026, as submitted.

8. Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment:

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rockaway Borough Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the **District Nursing Services Plan** for the 2026–2027 school year, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.1.

B. 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
Athletic Teams	Onischuk	6/2/27	9:00am/2:30pm	Somerset Patriots	100	8-10	$11		End of year celebration of our athletic accomplishments.
4	4th grade teachers	6/3/26	8:15am/2:45pm	Legoland	67	11 including nurse	$50		This has been an annual field trip for the past few years that supports the CID curriculum.
8	Selikoff Stein	1/21/27 1/22/27 (snow date)	8:30am-1:00pm	MHHS	6	2	$0		G&T showcase
Art Club	Isenberg	2/17/27	9:00am-2:15pm	Morris Arts Museum	20	3	$0		Explore rotating contemporary and historical art galleries, fine caraft, and natural science collections.
3	Hawkes Jones Schumacher	6/10/27	8:45am-2:00pm	Turtle Back Zoo	65	25	$30.50		This real world experience will help students connect classroom learning to the natural world and they will also be able to develop observations, critical-thinking, and scientific skills.
APE/MD	Onischuk Pacheco	12/8/26 or 12/10/26	11:00am-1:35pm	Rockaway Lanes & M&S II Pizzeria	3	4	$0		Reward for completing exercise laps goal; opportunity to try a sport in a real life setting.
4-8 students & families	Selikoff Perniciaro	2/25/27 or 3/11/27	6:00pm-8:00pm	Blue Titan	20	20 parents	$0		Currently 8th grade goes to Blue Tital for a field trip and we would like to spread the knowledge even further to families about self defense as well as what Rockaway Borough has to offer by partnering with this local business.
6-8	O'Brien	1/21/27 and 2/18/27	10:45am-12:15pm	Senior Community Center	8	1	$0		NJHS will be interviewing seniors for a large end of year project where we connect stories across generations.

District Events / Miscellaneous

School Activity	Loc./School	Date/Time	Participants	District Cost	Adm./Teacher/Coach/Advisor
RBEA FAST Funded Family Domino STEM Night	TJ Cafeteria	3/18/27 6-7pm	Families in 4-8 grades		Samantha Selikoff
RBEA FAST Funded Family Pizza & Puzzle Night	TJ Cafeteria	1/14/27 6-7pm	Families in 4-8 grades		Samantha Selikoff
Wax Museum 4th Gr. Book Report Presentation	TJ Gymnasium	2/9/27 1:30-4:30pm	Families in grade 4		Mihaela Tuluca Kellianne Fowler
Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG)	TJ Cafeteria	12/1/26 6:00-7:00pm	District Parents		Stacy McCoy
RBEF & JAM Theater Workshops	TJ & Lincoln Schools	1/13/27 - 5/1/27	Theater Students		Jennifer Turner

9. 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
N/A			

10. 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						

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

12. 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.

13. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

A. **Tuesday, December 15, 2026**

The public portion of the Meeting will begin at 7:30 pm in the Cafeteria of Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

14. 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.

15. 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:***