

**Rochelle Park Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
April 2, 2012**

- I. Call to Order and Flag Salute**
- II. Roll Call**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Mr. Robert Verhasselt , Vice President	x	
Mr. Sam Allos	x	
Mrs. Teresa Cravello	x	
Mr. Jay Esposito	x	
Mrs. Maria Lauerman	x	
Mr. Mark Scully		x
Mrs. Patricia Bilka, President		x

Others Present:

- Bert Ammerman, Superintendent
- Ellen Kobylarz, Board Recording Secretary

**III. Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P. L. 1975 Announcement – by Board President**

In accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, I wish to announce that: “The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. Notices announcing the date, time and place for this Regular Meeting were sent to all concerned individuals, associations and sent to the Star Ledger, The Record and The Our Town, in accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.”

- IV. Superintendent’s Report-** Mr. Ammerman reported no change since his report at the caucus.
- V. Business Administrator’s Report-**same
- VI. Public Questions on the Resolutions (Agenda Items Only)**

During this portion of the meeting, the residents are invited to address the Board regarding agenda items only.

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mr. Allos, to open public comment at 7:47 p.m.  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

None

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman, seconded by Mr. Esposito, to close public comment at 7:48 p.m.  
Roll Call 5-0

**VII. Items for Board Action - Resolutions**

**Note: Resolutions marked with an asterisk are as a result of Executive Session Discussion.**

**Routine Matters R 1 to R 5**

**POLICY # 0168 – APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

**R1. RESOLVED:** that the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the minutes of the following meetings as amended:

- March 5, 2012 Caucus Meeting & Executive Session
- March 12, 2012 Regular Meeting
- March 28, 2012 Special Budget Meeting & Executive Session

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman seconded by Mr. Esposito  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**POLICY #5200 - ATTENDANCE**

**R2. RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education approves the attendance report for the month of March 2012 as listed:

<u>Enrollment</u>		<u>Left</u>	<u>Entered</u>
Midland School	467		
Hackensack H.S.	127		
Academies/ Technical Schools	10		
<b>Total</b>	<b>604</b>		

  

<u>Pupil Attendance</u>		<u>Teacher Attendance</u>	
Possible Days	10274.	Possible Days	1031.8
Days Present	9774.5	Days Present	1000.8
Days Absent	499.5	Days Absent	38
% Present	95.1%	% Present	96.9%
% Absent	4.9%	% Absent	3.1%

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman, seconded by Mr. Esposito  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**Policy #8420 – EMERGENCY & CRISIS SITUATIONS**

**R.3. RESOLVED:** that the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the following Fire and Security drills for February and March 2012 for the Rochelle Park School District.

- February
- Fire Drill – February 1, 2012
- Security Drill- February 23, 2012

**March 2012**  
**Fire Drill – March 13, 2012**  
**Security Drill- March 30, 2012**

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman seconded by Mr. Esposito  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**Policy #5512.01 – HARASSMENT- INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING**  
**R.4. RESOLVED: that the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the following HIB Report for February and March 2012 on behalf of the Rochelle Park School District.**

**February 2012**  
Reported Incidents: 9  
Number of Incidents determined to be HIB: 1  
Number of Incidents determined not to be HIB: 8

**March 2012**  
Reported Incidents: 0  
Number of Incidents determined to be HIB: 0  
Number of Incidents determined not to be HIB: 0

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman seconded by Mr. Esposito  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**POLICY #8210 - SCHOOL YEAR**

**R5. RESOLVED: on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education approves changes to the School Calendar for the 2011-2012 school year as submitted.**

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman seconded by Mr. Esposito  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**Personnel Matters P1 to P2**

**POLICY #3240 – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**P1. RESOLVED: on the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education approves the participation of the persons named at the following workshops/conferences:**

**T. Budanskaya to attend “Cisco Systems BYOD” on March 28, 2012 in Iselin at no cost to the district for registration**

*Mr. Allos- asked what this workshop was on and how it would benefit the district.  
Mr.Ammerman stated it would help us in moving the district forward, implementing our next technology plan using wireless.*

Motion by Mr. Esposito seconded by Mr. Allos  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**POLICY # 2340 – FIELD TRIPS**

**P2. RESOLVED:** on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following field trip requests:

**S. Sacco, B. Weiner, L. Oles, & L. Fletcher to accompany the Band 5-8 and Chorus 6-8 to The Rochelle Park Senior Center on May 10, 2012 at a cost to the board for busing.**

Motion by Mr. Esposito seconded by Mr. Allos  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**ADDEMDUM P3-P4**

**POLICY #4431.1 – FAMILY LEAVE**

**\*P3. RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education does hereby approve the request of Ms. Jeanmarie Corrigan to go on maternity leave effective May 11, 2012 until the end of the 2011/2012 school year.

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mr. Allos  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion carried

**POLICY #4117.2 - RETIREMENT**

**\*P4. RESOLVED:** that the Board of Education accept with regret, Dorothy Slotwinski's resignation and retirement letter dated March 30, 2012 from the Rochelle Park School District effective April 1, 2012. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mr. Allos  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion carried

**FINANCE AND INSURANCE F1 to F7**

**Upon the recommendation of the Business Administrator to the Superintendent:**

**POLICY #6460 – PAYMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES**

**F1 RESOLVED:** that the Rochelle Park Board of Education approve the April 2012 Bill List as approved by the Finance Committee, attached and listed below:

A. Regular Bills - Fund 11 \$285,580.15

B. Regular Bills - Fund 20	\$ 12,449.04
C. Capital Projects – Fund 30	\$ 0.00
D. Debt Service – Fund 40	\$ 0.00
E. Food Service – Fund 50	\$ 9,988.72
F. Enterprise – Fund 51	\$ <u>12,449.04</u>
<b>TOTAL APRIL BILLS</b>	<b>\$298,029.19</b>

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** **\$ 298,029.19**

**SUPPORT DOCUMENT 1**

Motion by Mr. Allos, seconded by Mrs. Cravello  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**Secretary’s Report**

**F2 RESOLVED, that the Rochelle Park Board of Education accepts the Board Secretary’s Financial Report for the months of February 2012.**

**SUPPORT DOCUMENT 3**

Motion by Mr. Allos, seconded by Mrs. Cravello  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**Treasurer’s Report**

**F3 RESOLVED, that the Rochelle Park Board of Education accepts the School Treasurer’s Financial Report for the month of February 2012.**

**SUPPORT DOCUMENT 4**

Motion by Mr. Allos, seconded by Mrs. Cravello  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**POLICY #6820 – FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Monthly Budgetary Line Item Status Certifications**

**F4. RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary for the Rochelle Park Board of Education certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A:23-2.11 (c) 3, as of February 29, 2012 that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23-2.11(a); and**

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rochelle Park Board of Education certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A:23-2-11 (c) 4 that after review of the board secretary’s and treasurer’s monthly financial reports and the advice of district officials, we have no reason to doubt that no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23-2.11 (b).**

Motion by Mr. Allos, seconded by Mrs. Cravello  
Roll Call 5-0

Motion Carried

**Transfers**

**F5. RESOLVED**, that the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the line item transfers for March 2012.

**SUPPORT DOCUMENT 2**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Source Account</i>	<i>Target Account</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Amount</i>
3/30 /12			See Attachment	\$62,111.12
			<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$62,111.12</b>

Motion by Mr. Allos, seconded by Mrs. Cravello  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**POLICY #7510 – USE OF FACILITIES**

**F6 RESOLVED:** that the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the application for use of school facilities made by the following groups/organizations listed below. The Board reserves the right to schedule school activities at any time.

<b>Group/Organization</b>	<b>Use Purpose/Room</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Rental Fee</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>RP Daisy Girls Scouts</b>	<b>Flower planting/outside Kdg. Room and along William Street (within the railroad ties)</b>	<b>Thursday, April 19, 2012 and Thursday, May 17, 2012 from 2:46 PM to 4:00 PM.</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Rochelle Park/Maywood Girls Softball</b>	<b>Practice and Games/Softball field</b>	<b>Sundays- starting 4/29/12 to 6/10/12 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>None</b>

*Mr. Ammerman stated at the last meeting the board had refused the fee for A flight in half. They refused and will not be using the field.*

Motion by Mr. Allos, seconded by Mrs. Cravello  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**POLICY# 6450 CHOICE OF VENDER**

**F7. RESOLVED:** that the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the purchase a Toro Grounds master 7210 Model #30363 commercial lawn mower and leaf mulching kit from Storr Tractor Company through Bergen County Purchasing Cooperative at a total price \$19,541.12.

Motion by Mr. Allos, seconded by Mrs. Cravello  
Roll Call 5-0  
Motion Carried

**VIII. Reports – Committee Action Items**

**Finance-** *VP Verhasselt reported that the board adopted the budget on March 28<sup>th</sup>.*

**Education –** *Nothing to report*

**Transportation-** *No report*

**Building & Grounds-** *VP Verhasselt reported that the district purchase of a new tractor. It has a 10 year life expectancy, snow attachment is available but at this time the district doesn't have the money to purchase one.*

**Community & School Activities-***No report*

**Legislation** *No report*

**Policy** *Mr. Allos stated all is well*

**Board/Staff Relations** *Mrs. Lauerma had nothing new to report*

**Negotiating-** *No report*

**Joint Boards Coordination** *Mrs. Cravello reported that Hackensack would be off this Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> along with the week of April 9-13<sup>th</sup>. There is a 1/2 day at the High School on April 17th and the next Hackensack Board Meeting will be held on May 1, 2012.*

*VP Verhasselt asked about a bullying film he saw in the paper, done by a Hackensack Student.*

*Mrs. Cravello had heard about it but had no other information regarding the film.*

**Bergen County School Boards-** *nothing to report*

**New Jersey School Boards-** *Mrs. Lauerma reported that the next meeting will be held on May 1, 2012 no location given. Candidate's nomination packets see the Board Secretary.*

**Municipal Alliance-** *Mrs. Cravello reported that we have a new police Chief Robert Flannery; she wished him great success and also best wishes to Richard Zavinsky in his retirement.*

*Mr. Ammerman spoke about Chief Zavinsky' dedication to the school and the town. Chief Zavinsky, Mrs. Oles, and Mr. Ammerman have been actively involved in a case before the courts system and he stated that he believes due to the efforts of the Chief that the experience has been a positive one with results seen.*

*VP Verhasselt- expressed that the Chief has always been on hand to help, he is sorry to see him go.*

*Mr. Valenzuela – RP Township Committeeman was on hand- he stated that with the new Chief they were able to hire two new police officers who will be sworn in on April 18, 2012. Due to the retirement the township was able to hire two new candidates at a better rate. The general budget has not been adopted yet. He also took this opportunity to state to the Board that Mr. McGrath (Interim Principal) is doing an excellent job.*

*Mr. Ammerman stated he will be meeting with Mr. Scarpa (Township Committeeman) on the 19<sup>th</sup> to further discuss how the town and school can work together.*

**IX. Open to the Public (Any Item)**

During this portion of the meeting, the residents are invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns that may be in respect to the operation of their school.

Motion by Mr. Allos, seconded by Mrs. Cravello to open public comment at 8:37 p.m.

Roll Call 5-0

Motion Carried

*Mrs. Weiner- Music Teacher/Musical Director publicly thanked Mr. and Mrs. Pascarella, Mrs. Leakas, Mrs. Lauerman and Mr. Esposito for their help with the play, Mrs. Weiner went on to ask the board with regard to the Secretaries and IT person, could the board explain the process of negotiations with this group of personnel.*

*Mr. Ammerman answered by stating the people mentioned have to negotiate for themselves and they are not in a union. The Union is under your formalized contract negotiations you can't compare the two, they are like apples and oranges.*

*Mrs. Denise Greico- 66 Peek St. RP- inquired about class trips and would the students have class trips this year.*

*Mr. Ammerman- the only thing he was made aware of was something with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip. He has only received one inquiry on field trips. In the scope of things this is not that big of an issue. There are two issues here- value of the field trip and loss of academic time. The amount of field trips and assemblies away from instruction are not good. This effects integrity of instruction. We hope to schedule a meeting with the teachers, staff and PTA in May and put together a schedule for next year. This would include field trips and projects. I understand PTA has already cut down on the number of assemblies*

*When they told me about the 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip and that it was team building I wondered what was the connection to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Shouldn't that be student council? Other schools go to Philadelphia for the day. In May we will review trips for next year.*

*Mrs. Porto- 161 W. Oldis St- expressed that as a class mother she feels both honored and privileged to go on a trip Her son was excited to find out she was class mother and could go on his trip. If there is no trip she will be disappointed.*

*Mr. Ammerman- Surprised that it is now April and this is the first time he has heard of this. Normally 1<sup>st</sup> grade is in the fall. Middle school is where there is more importance; we will be dividing the school into a K-5 & Middle School. Mr. Grossman went to see another school district that has been doing wonderful things. In bringing back information, we will be having an orientation in June for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders, but with regard to field trips I have only seen trips approved in the music/art department.*

*Mrs. Maldonado – 27 Chestnut St.-stated that many people have e-mailed the teachers regarding trips- just because you haven't heard doesn't mean parents haven't asked.*

*Mr. Ammerman- stated "If I don't know I can't act on it". We will always review but it may not have the answer you want to hear. One thing for certain rumors' spreading doesn't get anything done. If you come in, I will listen. I might not have the answer but we will get back to you, especially class mothers. The first line is the teachers then go to the Principal. If it's still an issue, then come to me.*

*Mr. Esposito- asked Mrs. Maldonado what was the teacher's response to the e-mail.*

*Mrs. Maldonado- stated that it would not be until after the testing period. Told daughter they are looking into it.*

*Mrs. Metclafe- Special Ed. Teacher- stated with the health benefits give backs. Some teachers may be receiving less in net pay.*



*VP Verhasselt- asked what the NJEA told you. Have they told you that you have made the most money you will get?*

*Mr. Ammerman- stated it's happening across the state. You are now feeling what the private employees have felt.*

*Ms. Johnson- PreK + Teacher- How much money has the board allocated in the current budget for raises?*

*Mr. Ammerman- we can't get involved because of negotiations'. Certain amount has been budgeted. Settle above that I will have to let teachers go. NJEA knows where every school is settling. I guess that when it's done you will be close to the county average.*

*Mrs. Carney- Computer Teacher- In the past the Board of Education had to give back \$400,000.00 in surplus. Could that have been used for salary?*

*Mr. Ammerman- State is not giving state aid as they did in the past. A few years ago we lost all state aid, we have not recouped it all, still short \$220,000.00.*

*Mr. Esposito- stated that fact was pointed out at the budget meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>- last Wednesday.*

*Mr. Ammerman- If we had that money we could have money for textbooks, the money given back was absorbed into tax relief.*

*Mr. Cannici- negotiations- is it true that when Dr. Oberkehr was Superintendent, Mr. Fogarty would not be available for the month of November.*

*Mrs. Cravello I don't know that.*

*Mr. Hornes- questioned the board on having money to spend on a tractor and a new website, he felt the old website was sufficient.*

*Mr. Ammerman- stated- decisions are being made. He made the decision to change the website. It was a manager's decision, I made that decision. I still have to look at the technical end of it and the facilities. 1<sup>st</sup> night I was here parents wanted baseball/softball. I felt that it was important to the middle school. Some may question why he is spending that money. Sensitive issues but I still need to make decisions. Last month I said I need \$100,000.00 for textbooks another \$50,000/60,000 for technology. I don't have the money, I know you are working on your settlement- but I still have to move forward.*

*Mr. Hornes- what makes this website better for \$7,000.00*

*Mr. Ammerman- user friendly-appealing- I wanted to make a movement in a new direction.*

*Mrs. Serpineto- Special Education Teacher- Board is saving money thru retirement, health benefits and you found money to do the website and give the secretaries a raise.*

*Mr. Ammerman- the retirement and health benefits got us down to the 2% so that we could make cap. There is money for a settlement.*

*Mr. Ramirez- with teachers paying health benefits what are you doing with this new acquired funds.*

*VP Verhasselt- 1.5% of your salary, we don't get the funds- they are applied to offset your health care costs. We don't get it the state gets it.*

*Mrs. Rainone- RPEA President addressed the board members reading the following statement- the RPEA gathered in unison to request a copy of the offer made to the union in January, as stated over and over again the union has no recollection of the offer- no offer was made by or declined by this office. Could that have been thru casual conversation between Fogerty and Tondi- can't we set a date to meet-It would cost nothing- the association believes they had committed to tentative settlement. The association members continue to teach with enthusiasm in*

*this village we call Midland School. We have helped with state monitoring and helped with state testing. Set a date to meet before April 17<sup>th</sup> isn't open communication they way to respond.*

Motion by Mr. Esposito, seconded by Mrs. Lauerman, to close public comment at 8:40 p.m.

Roll Call 5-0

Motion Carried

**X. Announcements**

**The Next Board Caucus/Regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 14, 2012 starting at 7:00 P.M., with the regular meeting immediately following the caucus in the Library/Media Center**

**XI. Adjournment**

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman, seconded by Mrs. Cravello, to adjourn meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Roll Call 5-0

Motion Carried