



## Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, December 18, 2024  
**Time:** 7:30 pm Regular Board Meeting  
**Location:** Multi-Purpose Auditorium

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Board President at **7:33 pm**, in the Multi-Purpose Auditorium, Rumson, New Jersey.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Notice of Meeting**

Announcement of this meeting has been sent to the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times. An Agenda has been posted in the Deane-Porter and Forrestdale Schools, Rumson Borough Hall and the Oceanic Library, and an agenda has been posted on the Rumson School District website.

**4. Roll Call**

|               |         |             |                           |             |         |
|---------------|---------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Mr. Brown     | Present | Mrs. Finney | Present                   | Mrs. Sahadi | Present |
| Mrs. DeSena   | Present | Mr. McManus | Present (Arrived 7:45 pm) | Mrs. Scoble | Present |
| Mrs. Esposito | Present | Mr. Roberto | Present                   | Mrs. Swain  | Absent  |

**5. Welcome Visitors**

**6. Correspondence**

**7. Communications**

To permit the fair and orderly expression of comments, on agenda items, we ask that the public:

- Wait to be recognized
- Preface comments with your name and address
- Direct all comments to the presiding officer
- Discuss only concerns that have been previously addressed through proper administrative channels
- Refrain from using any pupil or staff member's name

The Board is happy to listen to all comments, but this may not be the forum for any and all questions.

**8. Approval of Minutes**

RECOMMENDATION

Approved the following board minutes:

- November 13, 2024 Regular & Executive Session Meeting Minutes

**Motion: Mr. Brown      Seconded: Mrs. Finney**

**All in favor: AYES: 8      Absent: Mrs. Swain**

9. **Report of the Superintendent**

The Superintendent reported on the following items:

• **Educators of the Year for 24-25**

- The following educators are to be congratulated and will be recognized at the May 28th Board of Education Recognition Ceremony:
  - Loreen Haldane - FD Teacher of the Year
  - Allie Copman, FD Educational Services Professional of the Year
  - Brooke Huff, DP Teacher of the Year
  - Jodi Cocchiola, DP Educational Services Professional of the Year

• **SSDS Period 1 Report** - Presentation by the Superintendent for the **Period 1 Report SSDS 9/01/2024 - 12/31/2024**  
Incident, Trainings & Programs

• **School Suspensions for the period of Nov. 14, 2024- Dec. 18, 2024**

| Deane-Porter | Forrestdale | District |
|--------------|-------------|----------|
| 0            | 0           | 0        |

• **Enrollment** – As of December 18, 2024

| Deane-Porter | Forrestdale | District |
|--------------|-------------|----------|
| 410          | 498         | 908      |

• **SSDS Report Presentation**

Presented the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) report for Nov. 14, 2024 - December 18, 2024

| Incidents   | Forrestdale | Deane-Porter | District | Incident #  |
|---|-------------|--------------|----------|-------------|
| # of total SSDS Incidents   | 0           | 0            | 0        | 0           |
| # of HIB Investigations   | 1           | 0            | 1        | FD 24-25 #2 |
| # of HIB Incidents determined                                       | 1           | 0            | 1        | FD 24-25 #2 |
| # of Principal Determinations not resulting in an HIB Investigation | 0           | 0            | 0        | 0           |

• **Acceptance of Safety and Security Drill Report**

Accepted the Safety and Security Report for Nov. 14, 2024 through December 18, 2024

| School | Type of Drill                          | Occupants Involved   | Date and Time      |
|--------|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| DP/FD  | Bomb Drill (internal) with evacuation  | All Staff & Students | 11/15/24 @ 2:15 pm |
| DP/FD  | Internal Active Shooter Lockdown Drill | All Staff & Students | 12/16/24 @ 9:30 am |
| DP/FD  | Fire Drill                             | All Staff & Students | 12/18/24 @ 8:45 am |

Approved the following consent agenda item (a-b), which are being presented upon the recommendation of the Superintendent:

Motion: Mr. Brown      Seconded: Mrs. Finney

All in favor: AYES: 8      Absent: Mrs. Swain

a. **SSDS Report Approval**

Approved the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) report for - October 17 , 2024 - November 13, 2024

| Incidents   | Forrestdale | Deane-Porter | District | Incident # |
|---|-------------|--------------|----------|------------|
| # of total SSDS Incidents   | 0           | 0            | 0        | NA         |
| # of HIB Investigations   | 0           | 0            | 0        | NA         |
| # of HIB Incidents determined                                       | 0           | 0            | 0        | NA         |
| # of Principal Determinations not resulting in an HIB Investigation | 0           | 0            | 0        | NA         |

b. **Election Results**

Resolved: That the Rumson Board of Education accepts **Certified Statement of Election Results** of the Election held November 5, 2024 from the Board of County Canvassers.

**Rumson Board Members 3 - 3-Year Terms**

|                   |       |       |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| Mr. Gerry Brown   | 2,330 | Votes |
| Mrs. Lee Esposito | 2,388 | Votes |
| Mr. Jamie McManus | 2,652 | Votes |

10. **Education Committee**

- **Report of Meeting**
- **Approved the following consent agenda items (a-d) which are being presented upon the recommendation of the Superintendent:**

Motion: Mr. Brown      Seconded: Mrs. Finney

All in favor: AYES: 8      Absent: Mrs. Swain

a. **Donation Acceptance**

Approved accepting the generous donation of **\$7,162.95** from the **Rumson PTO Innovation Fund** to support the following projects:

- **Stop the Bleed:** Supplies needed for the district for Stop the Bleed training and implementation, implemented by the school nurses.
- **RASA Marble Run STEM Kits:** STEM kits for students participating in the Rumson After School Academy.
- **Coding Ninjas in Training:** This project aims to engage 4th and 5th grade students in hands-on science and STEAM learning using LEGO SPIKE Prime robots to teach coding.
- **The Book Buddy:** Resources to support the development of executive functioning through organization for sixth graders.
- **The Cooking Librarian:** An interactive and fun project designed to engage 4th and 5th grade students in a hands-on cooking activity that combines literacy, creativity, and culinary skills, all while fostering a love for reading.

**b. School Events / Fundraisers**

Approved the following School Events / Fundraisers:

| Grade / Staff  | Event / Fundraiser   | Date / Time        | Location       |
|--|--|--------------------|----------------|
| <b><u>Grade 3 Leadership Club</u></b><br>Jennie Lucci  | K-8 collection of toys/crayons for Toys for Tots and Shore House | 11/25/24 - TBD     | DP Front Lobby |
| <b><u>Grade 8</u></b><br>Jen Gibbons<br>Tricia Zifchak | K-8 collection of toiletry items for Lunch Break                 | 12/20/24 - 2:00 PM | FD Cafe        |

**c. Field Trips**

Approved the following field trips and staff chaperones:

| Class / Staff  | Location of Trip              | Date / Time   | Cost to Student                                 |
|--|-------------------------------|---|---|
| <b><u>Gr. 6, 7, 8 Ski Trips</u></b><br>+staff chaperones | Elk Mountain,<br>Pennsylvania | <b>1/11/25</b> -<br>5:00 am - 6:00 pm<br><b>1/25/25</b> -<br>5:00 am - 6:00 pm<br><b>2/15/25</b><br>5:00 am - 6:00 pm | \$180/student<br><br>\$220/student<br>w/rentals |

**d. Home Instruction Extension**

1. Retroactively and in-advance approved home instruction, as needed, provided by **Kristen Greeley** for SID #243118 from 11/01/24 to a time to be determined for up to 10 hours per week at \$53.00/hour.
2. Retroactively approved **Integrated Care Concepts** for Home Instruction for SID# 244059 effective 11/18/24 until further notice at \$45.00/hr for up to 10 hrs / week.

**11. Personnel Committee**

- **Report of meeting**
- **Approved the following consent agenda items (a- k) which are being presented upon the recommendation of the Superintendent:**

**Motion: Mr. Brown      Seconded: Mr. Roberto**

**All in favor: AYES: 8      Absent: Mrs. Swain**

**a. Resignations**

1. Approved accepting the resignation notice from **Amber Gorney**, P/T School Psychologist/BCBA, effective February 3, 2025.
2. Approved accepting the resignation notice from **Caroline Stratton**, P/T Cafeteria/Recess Aide, effective January 10, 2025.

**b. Rescinded Appointment**

Retroactively approved rescinding the appointment of **Rocco Nannarello**, as a Permanent Substitute in the Rumson School District, approved on the 11/13/24 BOE agenda.

**c. Permanent ESS Substitute Appointment**

Retroactively approved that **Heidi B. Sheehan**, has been independently contracted from and will be paid by ESS at the rate of \$150/day as a permanent substitute teacher to begin on 12/06/24, during the 24-25 school year. This is for a time to be determined by the Board of Education and the time served in this position does not contribute toward acquiring tenure.

**d. Intermittent Leave of Absence**

Approved the intermittent leave for **Michael Snyder** to commence on 12/03/24 to a time to be determined.

**e. Leave of Absence**

1. Approved the maternity leave of absence request from **Rebekah Schneider** to commence on/or about 3/10/25 using 16 sick days from 3/10/25 to 3/31/25 and 18 sick days for 4/01/25 thru 5/02/25. Following completion of maternity/disability leave to be placed on leave of absence in accordance with the NJFLA commencing on 5/05/25 to conclude on/or about 10/03/25. The first 12 weeks to be covered through NJFLA insurance, estimating the date of return to work to be on/or about October 6, 2025. The accuracy of these dates will depend on when the baby is born barring any complications that may occur during pregnancy.
2. Approved the maternity leave of absence request from **Emily Bagnell** to commence on/or about 4/08/25 through 5/13/25 using 20 sick days; and from 5/14/25 to 6/11/25 using 20 sick days. Then taking unpaid personal leave of absence starting on/or about 6/11/25 until the end of the 24-25 school year. Following completion of maternity/disability leave. Then requesting to be placed on NJFLA for 12 weeks. The 25-26 school calendar shows 9/02/25 as the first day of school, the leave will commence on/or about 9/02/25 and conclude on 11/21/25 (tentative dates pending BOE approval of the 25-26 calendar). The first 12 weeks will be covered through NJ Family Leave Insurance, establishing a tentative date for returning to work as 11/24/25. The accuracy of these dates will depend on when the baby is born barring any complications that may occur during pregnancy.
3. Approved the medical leave of absence request from **Kathryn Benny** to use a total of 34 sick days requesting time off commencing on/or about 2/03/25 to on/or about 3/24/25 and planning to return to work on/or about 3/25/25.

**f. Appointment**

Retroactively approved the appointment of **Jennifer Drach**, MD 1:1 Instructional Aide, Step 7 - \$20.28/hour, at a salary of \$25,348 of the negotiated agreement between the Rumson Board of Education and the Rumson Education Association, to begin on/or about December 9 2024, pending Criminal History Review, Pre-employment medical, and Child Protective Measures approval.

**g. Change of Position**

Retroactively approved the change of position for **Madelaine Barbeito**, from P/T Cafeteria/Recess Aide to F/T MD 1:1 Instructional Aide, Step 1 - \$19.02/hour, at a salary of \$23,773 of the negotiated agreement between the Rumson Board of Education and the Rumson Education Association, to begin on/or about November 20, 2024.

**h. Leave Replacement**

1. Approved that the Rumson Board of Education independently contracted **Brian Adams** from and to be paid by ESS at the rate of \$240/day commencing on/or about 12/02/24 through on/or about 6/19/25 including as a Gr. 7 ICR Leave Replacement with 6.5 sick days and 2 personal days, This is for a time to be determined by the Board of Education and the time served in this position does not contribute toward acquiring tenure.
2. Approved that the Rumson Board of Education independently contracted **Kaitlin Feeny** from and to be paid by ESS at the rate of \$310/day commencing on/or about 3/3/25 through on/or about 3/24/25 including as a Mindfulness Teacher Leave Replacement. This is for a time to be determined by the Board of Education and the time served in this position does not contribute toward acquiring tenure.

**i. Additional Compensation**

Approved the following additional compensation: (\*retroactive approval)

| Staff Member                        | Assignment / Date                       | Hours / Amount Paid                                  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| M. Panas*                           | Homework Club Substitute<br>AS NEEDED   | AS NEEDED  |
| R. Gordon*                          | Girls Locker Room Supervision           | After school 3:15 - 3:30 pm per day at<br>\$53.00/hr |
| M. Panas*<br>Sub - DJ Martino       | Basketball Door Duty                    | All home games<br>\$53.00/hr - Up to 2.5 hrs/game    |
| R. Gordon*<br>Sub - S.Pignataro     | Girls Home Basketball Game<br>Chaperone | All home games<br>\$53.00/hr - Up to 2.5 hrs/game    |
| J. Bellavance*<br>Sub - S.Pignataro | Boys Home Basketball Game<br>Chaperone  | All home games<br>\$53.00/hr - Up to 2.5 hrs/game    |

**j. New Staff Bulldog Buddy**

Approved the following Bulldog Buddy.

| Staff Member | Position                          | Bulldog Buddy/Mentor                  | Mentor Fees            |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Michael Rue  | DP Counselor<br>Leave Replacement | Joanna Minnis<br>Bulldog Buddy/Mentor | \$550 paid through ESS |
| Brian Adams  | Gr. 7 ICR Leave<br>Replacement    | DJ Martino<br>Bulldog Buddy           | NA                     |

**k. Personal / Unpaid Day Request**

Approved the following unpaid day request: (\*Retroactive approval)

| Staff Member    | Date(s) Requested | Personal Day Less Sub Pay/<br>Unpaid Day |
|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Sara Stanziola  | 1/17/25           | Personal Day Less Sub Pay of \$207       |
| Aimee Dougherty | 2/07/25           | Personal Day Less Sub Pay of \$207       |
| Alecsa Unrath   | 1/17/25           | Personal Day Less Sub Pay of \$207       |

**12. Finance and Facilities Committee**

- **Report of meeting** -No meeting held
- **Approved the following consent agenda items (a-i) which are being presented upon the recommendation of the Superintendent:**

**Motion: Mr. Roberto      Seconded: Mrs. Finney**

**All in favor: AYES: 8      Absent: Mrs. Swain**

**a. Bills & Claims**

1. The Board approved the December 2024 bills presented for payment as per the attached Bills & Claims.

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Fund 11</b> | <b>\$ 744,147.45</b> |
| <b>Fund 20</b> | <b>\$ 26,622.99</b>  |
| <b>Fund 60</b> | <b>\$ 70,558.03</b>  |
| <b>Fund 61</b> | <b>\$ 1,160.68</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 842,489.15</b> |

2. Approved the following gross payroll expenses:
- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>November 30, 2024</b> | <b>\$ 606,826.22</b> |
| <b>December 15, 2024</b> | <b>\$ 652,619.44</b> |
| <b>December 30, 2024</b> | <b>\$ 601,484.85</b> |

**b. Board Secretary's Report**

Accepted the Board Secretary's Report to the Board of Education for the months ending October 31, 2024 and November 30, 2024 including report of amounts appropriated, expended and transferred into or out of any item of appropriation, and to note that the report has been reconciled with PANDA, LLC Reconciliation Service.

**c. Transfers**

Approved the Board to ratify transfers made in the past 30 days by the Chief School Administrator within the 2024-2025 budget. See attached.

**d. Board Secretary's Monthly Certification**

Accepted the Board Secretary's Monthly Certification Budgetary Line Item Status Report:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, I certify that as of November 30, 2024 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**e. Monthly Certification Budgetary Major Account Fund Status Report**

Accepted The Monthly Certification Budgetary Major Account Fund Status Report:

RESOLVED: that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2-11(c)4 the Board certifies that as of November 30, 2024 after review of the Board Secretary's and monthly financial reports, in the minutes of the Board each month no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b).

**f. Travel and Related Expenses / Professional Development**

Approved the following Professional Development: (\*retroactive approval)

| Name  | Date      | Event / Location  | Cost   | R/T Mileage / Other costs |
|---|-----------|---|--|---------------------------|
| David Dallas                                | 12/09/24* | Bureau of Educational Research Virtual: Strengthening Students' Social Studies Skills       | \$295.00   | Virtual                   |
| CST Counselors<br>Principals<br>Supervisors | 3/14/25   | "Student Disability, Today: Addressing Need in the Moment (504s)"<br>Rumson School District | \$8,500.00<br>(\$125 fee/person for out-of-district participants to defray cost) | N/A                       |

**g. Use of Facilities**

Approved the following facility use requests:

| Organization                            | Use Request              | Date(s) /Time (s)             | Location  | Fee(s)                                  |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Rumson Education Association (REA)      | REA Winter Fun Night     | 2/03/24<br>5:00 pm - 9:00 pm  | MPR, Concession Stand, FD Gym, Gr. 8 Hallway & Classrooms | NA                                      |
| Rumson Recreation Charlie Hoffman       | Referee Training         | 12/16/24<br>6:00 - 6:30 pm    | DP Gym  | NA                                      |
| RFH Youth Wrestling Club - John Qualter | RFH Youth Wrestling Meet | 1/04/25<br>7:30 am - 12:30 pm | FD Gym  | FD Gym: \$100/hour<br>Custodial Fee TBD |

**h. ESEA Grants 2024-2025**

**Approved amending the ESEA Grant for 24-25 as follows:**

1. Title IIA- To include carryover in the amount of \$ 7,364 from the 23-24 Title IIA grant. This money will be used for Professional Development.
2. Title IV- To include carryover in the amount of \$ 2,200 from the 23-24 Title IV grant. This money will be used for the additional cost of programs at the CCHANGE Center and for STEM supplies.

**i. Nursing Services Plan 2024-2025**

Approved the **Nursing Services Plan** for 2024-2025 for the Deane-Porter School and Forrestdale School.

**13. Planning Committee**

- **Report of meeting** - No meeting held

**14. Policy Committee**

- **Report of meeting** - No meeting held

**15. New Business**

- PTO Liaison report
- REF Liaison report
- BOE Meeting and Committee Meeting Dates for January - August 2025

**16. Communications**

To permit the fair and orderly expression of comments we ask that the public:

- Wait to be recognized
- Preface comments with your name and address
- Direct all comments to the presiding officer
- Discuss only concerns that have been previously addressed through proper administrative channels
- Refrain from using any pupil or staff member's name

The Board is happy to listen to all comments, but this may not be the forum for any and all questions.

**17. Executive Session**

RECOMMENDATION:

Approved the following resolution at **7:49 p.m.**

I move that the Board of Education recess to an Executive Session for consideration of issues dealing with

- **Negotiations**

Action may be taken on these items when the Board later returns to Public Session. Minutes of the Executive Session will be released to the public after the reasons for non-disclosure no longer exist.

**Motion: Mr. Roberto      Seconded: Mrs. Finney**

**All in favor: AYES: 8      Absent: Mrs. Swain**



**18. Roll Call upon return to public session at 9:30 pm**

|               |         |             |         |             |         |
|---------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Mr. Brown     | Present | Mrs. Finney | Present | Mrs. Sahadi | Present |
| Mrs. DeSena   | Present | Mr. McManus | Present | Mrs. Scoble | Present |
| Mrs. Esposito | Present | Mr. Roberto | Present | Mrs. Swain  | Absent  |

**19. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

**Motion: Mr. McManus    Seconded: Mr. Brown**

**All in favor: AYES: 8    Absent: Mrs. Swain**

**Respectively submitted by,**

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**Denise McCarthy, SBA/BS**

**Dated: 12/19/24**