

RIVERDALE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RIVERDALE, NEW JERSEY

June 15, 2021
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES FOR PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETING

FORMAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING

I. Call meeting to order/Flag Salute

Board President Jessica Muzzio-Rentas called the Public Business Meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of Riverdale to order on May 11, 2021. The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. with a flag salute.

II. Presiding Officer's announcement regarding notification of this meeting to the public.

Mrs. Muzzio-Rentas, Board President read the following public announcement
The Notification requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied by the inclusion of the date, time, place and purpose of this Public Business Meeting in a legal advertisement in the Suburban Trends (January 17, 2021) and The Record (January 15, 2021) with copies posted in the Riverdale School, Municipal Building, Town Library, and filed with the Clerk of the Borough of Riverdale

I direct that this public announcement is entered in the minutes of this meeting.

III. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken by Mr. Morelli

Present: Jessica Muzzio-Rentas, Marybeth Thomas, Kelly Norris, Keith Hamilton, Kathleen Miceli, Ann Marie Nadiroglu, and Russell Hatzel

Absent:

Late:

Also Present: Mr. Jayson Gutierrez Acting Superintendent, Mr. Paul Kobliska Principal, and Carl Morelli Acting Assistant BA/BS

IV. Recognition of visitors: 85

V. Presentations:

- Student Recognition - Superintendent's List – 3rd Marking Period of 2020-2021 school year
- Student Recognition - Morris County Student Awards

The president called for a recess at 7:15 pm to allow the students and parents time to enjoy the refreshments.

The meeting continued at 7:21 pm

VI. Oral Communication on Agenda Items only:

At this portion of the meeting, time has been allotted for public comment by members of the public. Each speaker may be allotted up to three (3) minutes and may only have one (1) opportunity to speak on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. When recognized by the President, please state your name, address, and group, if any, that you represent prior to commenting on an agenda item.

All meetings at which the Board transacts official business must be public (18A:10-6). As stated in Board Policy: "Meetings of the Board are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the school, and therefore, are not public meetings, but meetings held in public."

Therefore, once oral communication is closed by the President, no other questions or comments will be permitted until the "Oral Communication" portion at the end of the agenda. At that time, questions do not have to be confined to agenda items.

- Mrs. Ferrara, 115 Newberry Place, asked the following questions:
 - What are Mr. Gutierrez's current roles besides Acting Superintendent and Business Administrator
 - What is the status of the new Superintendent
 - What is the status of the Assistant Business Administrator
 - Was her statement from the previous BOE meeting entered into the meeting minutes
 - Are the minutes from Executive Sessions public
- Mr. Gutierrez responded that he also has other roles in the district, the Assistant Business Administrator term has been extended to July 31, 2012, her statement was entered into the previous BOE meeting minutes, and Executive meeting minutes are not made available to the public due to the nature of the items discussed such as personnel issues.
- Mrs. Rentas responded that the Superintendent's Contract has not been finalized.

VII. Approval of Minutes

- A. It is recommended by the Acting Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the following **Minutes**:

I would like to make a motion to approve:

Public Business Meeting	May 11, 2021
Executive Meeting	May 11, 2021

Motion By:	Mrs. Muzzio-Rentas	Second by:	Mr. Hatzel
Discussion:			
Roll Call Vote:			
Russell Hatzel-Yes	Ann Marie Nadiroglu-Yes	Kathleen Miceli-Yes	Keith Hamilton- Yes
Kelly Norris-Yes	Marybeth Thomas-Yes	Jessica Muzzio-Rentas-Yes	

VIII. Committees

A. FINANCE

1. Committee Report - Marybeth Thomas:

2. Items to be approved:

It is recommended by the Acting Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the following items. I would like to make a motion to approve **Finance** items, a-aa

Motion By:	Mrs. Thomas	Second by:	Ms. Norris
Discussion: Mr. Gutierrez- "g & h" Rates remain unchanged from 20-21 to 21-22. More importantly, at this time, unless the state changes it otherwise, breakfast and lunch will still be free to all students. The only difference will be that the state has not approved weekend and holiday meals for the fall. "w" We are authorizing up to this amount. The actual amount will be dependent upon our 20-21 audit. "aa" We normally refuse Title III funds but will now be able to utilize them with our ESL program.			
Roll Call Vote			
Russell Hatzell- Yes	Ann Marie Nadiroglu - Yes	Kathleen Miceli - Yes	Keith Hamilton - Yes
Kelly Norris- Yes	Marybeth Thomas - Yes	Jessica Muzzio-Rentas- Yes	

a. Approve the payment of the following bills and claims:

Payroll for the period ending May 28, 2021	\$172,348.19
Payroll for the period ending June 15, 2021	\$176,891.26
Bills List dated May 18, 2021 Warrants # 18730	\$3,445.00
Bills List dated May 30, 2021 Warrants #128 to 130	\$6,180.60
Bills List dated June 15, 2021 Warrants #18731 to 18789 and 197-201, 119-121	\$189,807.81
Void Check #17813	\$27.00
Void Check # 17901	\$200.00

Void Check # 17937	\$30.00
Health/Prescription plan premiums (SEHBP) for June	\$82,651.90

- b. Approval of the attached line item transfers for April 2021.
- c. Be it resolved that the Riverdale Board of Education certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)3, as of April 30, 2021, no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(a); and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Riverdale Board of Education certifies that pursuant to NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(c)4 that subsequent to the review of the board secretary's and treasurer's monthly financial reports and with the advice of district officials, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6A:23A-16.10(b).

- d. Renewal of the student accident insurance coverage for the 2021-2022 school year with Bollinger, Inc. at an annual premium of \$5,013.
- e. Approve the School Food Authority (SFA) to School Food Authority (SFA) agreement between Wayne Board of Education and Riverdale Board of Education for food service for the 2021-2022 school year at a fixed cost of \$1.80 per breakfast and \$3.00 per lunch.
- f. It is recommended by the Acting Superintendent and Business Administrator/ Board Secretary that the Board of Education approve authorization for Wayne Public Schools to select the commodities for Riverdale Public School for the 2021-2022 school year.

- g. Approve the following 2021-2022 breakfast rates:

Breakfast	Rate
Student Paid Breakfast	\$1.85
Reduced Breakfast	\$0.40
Adult Breakfast	\$2.35

- h. Approve the following 2021-2022 lunch rates:

Lunch	Rate
Student Paid Meal	\$3.05
Reduced Lunch	\$0.40
Adult Lunch	\$3.75

- i. WHEREAS, the law firm of Sciarillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC has the expertise and experience to provide professional services to the Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of appointing the law firm of Sciarrillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC, to provide professional legal services to the Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board appoints the law firm of Sciarrillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC as Board Attorneys at the rate of \$170 an hour for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement which shall be maintained on file in the Business (BOE) Office. The Board President and the Board Secretary are hereby authorized to execute the Agreement and any and all other documents necessary to effectuate the terms of this resolution. The Board Secretary is hereby directed to publish a notice of this award in the official newspaper of the Board.

- j. Approve the appointment of Brown & Brown Benefit Advisors as broker of record for the district's dental benefits program for the 2021–2022 school year in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:18A-5 (awarding contracts for professional services) and P.L. 1999, c.440.
- k. Appointment of the firm of AM Consultants as Fixed Asset inventory consultants for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with NJSA 18A:18A-5 (the awarding of contracts for professional services) and P.L. 1999, c.440 at a fee not to exceed \$750.00.
- l. Approve the appointment of the firm of Lerch, Vinci, & Higgins as School auditor as of and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, in accordance with NJSA 18A:18A-5 (the awarding of contracts for professional services) and P.L. 1999, c.440 at a fee of \$21,500 In accordance with the terms and conditions of the engagement agreement, the hourly rate of \$150-\$175 (for partners) shall apply for other related financial advisement and services in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth in the agreement, which shall be maintained on file in the Business (BOE) Office The Board Secretary is hereby directed to publish a notice of this award in the official newspaper of the Board.
- m. Approve the appointment of Polaris Galaxy Insurance, LLC. as broker of record for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with NJSA 18A:18A-5 (awarding of contracts for professional services) and P.L. 1999, c.440.
- n. Approve the renewal of the district's Flexible Spending Account manager with AmeriFlex for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, with an administrative cost of \$6.00/participant per month, with a monthly minimum of \$90.00.

- o. Approve a contract with Horizon Dental through the Public Employer Trust, to provide the employee dental program for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, at the following monthly rates for the full two year period: \$60.50 for single coverage and \$243.39 for family coverage.
- p. Approve the following contract renewals for the 2021-2022 school year as follows:

Company	Description	Cost
Frontline Technologies	Absence and Substitute Management/Central Office	\$ 3,246.36
Frontline Technologies	Central Office	\$1,355.71
Frontline Technologies	IEP	\$ 5,350.41
OnCourse Systems	Lesson Planner, SIS, Gradebook, and Evaluation software.	\$12,562.00
Strauss Esmay	Policy Maintenance Services	\$2,690.00
School Messenger	Instant Alert	\$1,250.00
CivicPlus/Virtual Towns & Schools	Website Hosting and Support	\$1,575.00
Asbury Park Board of Education Information Technology Center	Payroll and Budgetary Services	\$11,150.00
Payschools	Cafeteria POS Software	\$1,808.00

- q. Establishment of tuition rates for the 2021-2022 school year as follows, said rates reflecting the 2021- 2022 budget statement tuition calculations;

GRADE	2021-2022 TUITION RATES
Kindergarten	\$14,188
Grades 1-5	\$14,379
Grades 6-8	\$14,487
LLD Program	\$20,063
MD Program	\$59,067

- r. WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2, a board of education must establish a maximum dollar limit for professional services and public relations, as defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-9.3(c)14

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Riverdale Board of Education hereby establishes the following maximums for the 2021-2022 year as follows:

Architecture/Engineering	\$40,000
Legal	\$39,125
Audit	\$24,000

Physician \$ 1,500
For a total amount of \$104,625

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Business Administrator tracks and records these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

- s. Approve the appointment of Solutions Architecture, as Architect of Record effective for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with NJSA 18A:18A-5 and P.L. 1999, c.440 at the following hourly rates. The Board Secretary is hereby directed to publish a notice of this award in the official newspaper of the Board.

Architect	Rate
Principal	\$165.00/hr
Associate Principal	\$145.00/hr
Project Manager	\$125.00/hr
Project Coordinator	\$115.00/hr
Construction Admin	\$125.00/hr
Production/CAD	\$80.00/hr
Architectural Support	\$65.00/hr
Project/Interior Design	\$105.00hr

- t. WHEREAS, the Riverdale Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") is desirous of effectuating certain economies and achieving cost savings to improve the financial condition of the Riverdale School District; and

WHEREAS, in the best interests of the Riverdale School District, economies could be effectuated and cost savings achieved by unilaterally providing for cash-out insurance incentives to eligible Board employees; and

WHEREAS, the Public Employee Benefits Reform Act, codified under N.J.S.A. 43:3C-1 et seq., (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") allows the Board to provide for cash-out insurance incentives to Board employees eligible for health benefits through the State Health Benefits Program (hereinafter referred to as the "SHBP") who waive their entitlement to health insurance benefits, as long as the said incentive does not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total savings achieved by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code and the Act require the Board to implement a health plan providing eligible Board employees with the option to either accept the SHBP coverage or waive the SHBP coverage and receive a cash incentive (hereinafter referred to as the "Section 125 Plan").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby adopts the cash out insurance incentive program effective January 1, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cash out incentive paid to eligible Board employees shall be equal to:

MARITAL STATUS	DIRECT 15	NJEHP
Single	\$1,500	\$1,500
Parent & Child	\$2,200	\$2,200
Employee and Spouse/Domestic Partner	\$3,300	\$3,300
Family	\$3,800	\$3,800

And

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cash out incentive paid to eligible Board employees waiving their dental benefits is \$79.41.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this program shall be in compliance with the statutory requirements of N.J.S.A. 43:3C-1 et seq.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby adopts and authorizes implementation of a Section 125 Plan pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code effective January 1, 2017.

- u. 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 Education Services Commission of Morris County, 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 May 16, 2018, the governing body of the Riverdale Board of Education, County of Morris, State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Riverdale Board of Education; and Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing

Agreement with the Lead Agency; and The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

- v. Approve the 2021-2022 Bid Purchasing Contract with the Educational Services Commission of Morris County for a fee of \$1,310. for the term of July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.
- w. RESOLVED, WHEREAS, NJSA 18A:21-2 and NJSA 18A:7G-13 permits a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year-end, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permits a board of education to transfer anticipated excess current revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by board resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Riverdale Board of Education wishes to deposit the anticipated current year surplus into the Capital Reserve account at year end if available, and

WHEREAS, the Riverdale Board of Education has determined that an amount not to exceed \$900,000 may be available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Riverdale Board of Education that it hereby authorizes the district's Business Administrator to make this transfer consistent with all applicable laws and regulations, having been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee

- x. RESOLVED, WHEREAS, NJSA 18A:21-2 and NJSA 18A:7G-13 permits a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year-end, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permits a board of education to transfer anticipated excess current revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by board resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Riverdale Board of Education wishes to deposit the anticipated current year surplus into the Tuition Reserve account at year end if available, and

WHEREAS, the Riverdale Board of Education has determined that an amount not to exceed \$100,000 may be available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Riverdale Board of Education that it hereby authorizes the district's Business Administrator to make this transfer consistent with all applicable laws and regulations, having been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee

- y. RESOLVED, WHEREAS, NJSA 18A:21-2 and NJSA 18A:7G-13 permits a Board of Education to establish and/or deposit into certain reserve accounts at year-end, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned statutes authorize procedures, under the authority of the Commissioner of Education, which permits a board of education to transfer anticipated excess current revenue or unexpended appropriations into reserve accounts during the month of June by board resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Riverdale Board of Education wishes to deposit the anticipated current year surplus into the Maintenance Reserve account at year end if available, and

WHEREAS, the Riverdale Board of Education has determined that an amount not to exceed \$50,000 may be available for such purpose of transfer;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Riverdale Board of Education that it hereby authorizes the district's Business Administrator to make this transfer consistent with all applicable laws and regulations, having been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee

- z. Approve the submission of IDEA grant application for the 2021 - 2022 school year as follows:

Grant Fund	Amount
IDEA Basic	\$71,532
Preschool	\$ 3,221

- aa. Approve the submission of the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act, formerly NCLB) entitlement grant application for the 2021-2022 school year as follows:

Grant Fund	Amount
Title I Part A	\$44,974
Title II Part A	\$8,818

Title III	\$400
Title IV	\$10,000
Total	\$64,192

B. PERSONNEL

1. Committee Report - Kathleen Miceli: No meeting

2. Items to be approved:

It is recommended by the Acting Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the following items. I would like to make a motion to approve **Personnel** items, a-cc

Motion By:	Mrs. Miceli	Second by:	Mrs. Nadiroglu
Discussion: Mr. Gutierrez – “p” We are using some of the grant monies received through the ESSER grants for the Summer Learning Academy “cc” We had a professional development day that was changed to June 16 th .			
Roll Call Vote:			
Russell Hatzel-Yes	Ann Marie Nadiroglu - Yes Abstain-(p)	Kathleen Miceli - Yes	Keith Hamilton - Yes
Kelly Norris- Yes	Marybeth Thomas -Yes	Jessica Muzzio-Rentas-Yes	

- a. The Board approves the board Secretary to send correspondence to the New Jersey Commissioner of Education, via the Executive County Superintendent for Morris County's Office, requesting approval for an extension for Mr. Jayson Gutierrez to continue as the Acting Superintendent of Schools effective June 16, 2021, thru June 30, 2021, and in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-13.1.
- b. BE IT RESOLVED that the Riverdale Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") appoints Jayson Gutierrez as the Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the Riverdale School District for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Employment Agreement, has been submitted to and approved by the Executive County Superintendent, according to standards adopted by the Commissioner of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7- 8(j).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves the Employment Agreement, with Jayson Gutierrez for the position of Business Administrator/Board Secretary for the foregoing period of appointment, which Employment Agreement is attached to this Resolution and made a part hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary to execute, on

behalf of the Board, the Employment Agreement by and between the Board and Jayson Gutierrez.

- c. Approve the attached job description for the Technology Support Administrator.
- d. Approve the payment at the contractual rate of \$50 per hour for the following:

Name	Description	Hours not to exceed
Stefanie Gosse-Batory	Media Specialist	50

- e. Approve additional summer hours for 2021, as approved by the Acting Superintendent, for the following:

Name	Description	Hours not to exceed	Rate per hour
Stefanie Gosse-Batory	Media Specialist	20	\$50.00

- f. Approve Lynn Hutman to be paid at the contractual rate for additional hours and board-related meetings starting May 1, 2021, not to exceed \$307.50.

- g. Award the following certified tenured professional teaching staff a contract for the 2021-2022 school year as follows:

Name	Step	Salary	Service Increment
Tiffany Herbert	BA ST 8	\$59,185	
Kathleen Paldino	MA ST 16 (.8)	\$59,444	

- h. Rescind the following certified tenured professional teaching staff a contract for the 2021-2022 school year as follows:

Name	Step	Salary	Service Increment
Tiffany Herbert	BA ST 8	\$60,385	
Kathleen Paldino	MA ST 15 (.8)	\$59,444	

- i. Rescind the following certified non-tenured professional teaching staff a contract for the 2021-2022 school year as follows:

Name	Step	Salary
Reudebeth Colaku	BA ST 8	\$59,185

- j. Approve additional summer hours for 2021, as approved by the Acting Superintendent, for the following:

Name	Roll	Hours not to	Rate per hour*
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		exceed	
Selda Reci	Clerk	50	\$13.00
Lumy Rodriguez	Clerk	150	\$13.50

- k. Award the following stipend contracts to the following non-certified, non-tenured, twelve-month personnel effective July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022:

Name	Stipend	2021-2022
Dan DeNude	School Van Driver Level II, Extended School year	\$485
Juan Cazorla	School Van Driver Level II, Extended School year	\$485

- l. Rescind the following stipend contracts to the following non-certified, non-tenured, twelve-month personnel effective July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022:

Name	Stipend	2021-2022
Dan DeNude	School Van Driver Level II, Extended School year	\$990

- m. Appointment of the following personnel, as coaches and advisors, for extra-curricular activities for the 2021-2022 school year at the listed stipends*:

Name	Position	Stipend
Kristen Caufield	Co-Student Council Advisor	\$909.50 (Step 3 - \$1,819 X .5)
Tiffany Herbert	Co-Student Council Advisor	\$796.00 (Step 1 - \$1,592 X .5)
Jennifer Corbett	Co-Yearbook Advisor	\$909.50 (Step 3 - \$1,819 X .5)
Kristen Caufield	Co-Yearbook Advisor	\$909.50 (Step 3 - \$1,819 X .5)
Tom Schneider	Boys Basketball	\$2,842 (\$1,705 + 1,137) yr. 10+
Leanne Pittelkow	Co-NJHS Advisor	\$796 (Step 2- \$1,592 X .5)
Eric Klein	Co-NJHS Advisor	\$796.00 (Step 1 - \$1,592 X .5)
Tom Schneider	Boys Baseball	\$2,842 (\$1,705 + 1,137) yr. 10+
Rebecca Lillenthal	Girls Basketball	\$1,705
Tom Schneider	Athletic Coordinator	\$1,705
Nicole Gelok	Co-8th Grade Advisor	\$852.50 (\$1,705 X .5)
Annmarie May	Co-8th Grade Advisor	\$852.50 (\$1,705 X .5)
Randy Hanas	Band Director	\$1,933 (Step 3)

Randy Hanas	Chorus Director	\$1,933 (Step 3)
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*Full payment pending completion of the event.

- n. Approve the payment at the contractual rate for the following pending scheduling of event*:

Name	Event	Hours
Victoria Evans	Puberty Talks	2 hours
Lisa Moro Zemaitis	Preschool Open House	2.5 hours
Erika Langert	Preschool Open House	2 hours
Tiffany Herbert	Science Fair	2 hours
Randolf Hanas	Winter Wonderland Celebration	1.5 hours
Leanne Pittelkow	Winter Concert Supervision	1.5 hours
Tiffany Herbert	Winter Concert Supervision	1.5 hours
Leanne Pittelkow	Spring Concert Supervision	1.5 hours
Tiffany Herbert	Spring Concert Supervision	1.5 hours
Lynn Nardino	Home Instructor \$35/hour	As needed
Lori Hecht	Home Instructor \$35/hour	As needed
Lynn Nardino	Teacher In-Charge \$99/Day (prorated)	As Needed
Lori Hecht	Teacher In-Charge \$99/Day (prorated)	As Needed
Victoria Evans	Teacher In-Charge \$99/Day (prorated)	As Needed

*Full payment pending completion of the event.

- o. Approve the appointment of the following personnel for the Extended School, Year program, July 1, 2021, to July 29, 2021, pending sufficient enrollment:

Staff Member	NTE/ Hours Weekly	Rate	Role
Jennifer Corbett	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Eric Klein	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Erika Langert	12.0	\$50/hour	Speech
Marianne McCarthy	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Lisa Moro-Zemaitis	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Lynn Nardino	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Sheila Walsh	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Judy Lombard	16.5	\$14.81	Aide
Cari-Ann Synol	16.5	\$17.54	Aide
Lumy Rodriguez	16.5	\$13.50	Aide

- p. Approve the appointment of the following personnel for Basic Skills Academy and/or Summer Learning Academy, July 1, 2021, to July 29, 2021, pending sufficient enrollment:

Staff Member	NTE/Hours Weekly	Rate	Role
Jennifer Corbett	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Victoria Evans	17.5	\$50/hour	Nurse
Lori Hecht	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Tiffany Herbert	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Eric Klein	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Marianne McCarthy	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Lynn Nardino	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Leanne Pittelkow	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Andrea Swanson	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher
Judy Lombard	16.5	\$14.81	Aide
Cari-Ann Synol	16.5	\$17.54	Aide
Joseph Soto	As needed	\$40/Session	Substitute Teacher/Aide
John Prezioso	As needed	\$40/Session	Substitute Teacher/Aide

- q. Award contracts to the following 12-month non-certified personnel effective July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022; pending receipt of a favorable criminal history review.

Name	Job Description	Tenure	Salary
Ambiorix Nunez	Technology Support Administrator	No	\$50,000

- r. Approve the hourly rate of \$40 per hour for the Assistant BA/BS not to exceed 40 hours per week from 06/16/21 - 06/30/21.
- s. Approve the hourly rate of \$40 per hour for the Assistant BA/BS not to exceed 40 hours per week from 07/01/21 - 07/31/21.
- t. Approve the individuals named on the attached list as substitute teachers/aides/nurses for the 2021-2022 school year.
- u. Approve Tiffany Herbert to intern with Mr. Paul Kobliska for a principal certification from July 2021, through December 2021.
- v. Approve (25) twenty hours of clinical observation by the following students from June 16, 2021, thru July 30, 2021; pending receipt of a favorable criminal history review.

Student	Teacher
Lindsey Hanas	Randolf Hanas
Casandra Sutter	Randolf Hanas

- w. The Board, upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, approves a Maternity Disability Child Rearing leave of absence for Megan Sylvester from September 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The employee will substitute sick days in order to receive salary from September 1, 2021 through September 7, 2021. The remainder of the employee's leave shall be unpaid. The employee shall return to the District as of the first staff reporting day of the 2022-2023 school year.
- x. The Board, upon the recommendation of the Acting Superintendent of Schools, approves a Maternity Disability Child Rearing leave of absence for Teresa D' Anna from September 13, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The employee will substitute sick days in order to receive salary from September 13, 2021 through October 11, 2021. The remainder of the employee's leave shall be unpaid. The employee shall return to the District as of the first staff reporting day of the 2022-2023 school year.

- y. Approve the payment at the contractual rate of \$50 per hour for the following:

Name	Position	Hours not to exceed
Victoria Evans	Nurse	10

- z. Approve the appointment of the following personnel for the Summer Learning Academy, July 1, 2021, to July 29, 2021, pending sufficient enrollment:

Staff Member	NTE/Hours Weekly	Rate	Role
Randolph Hanas	17.5	\$50/hour	Teacher

- aa. Appointment of the following personnel, as a coach, for the 2021-2022 school year at the listed stipend*:

Name	Position	Stipend
Nicole Gelok	Girls Softball	\$1,705 (Step 3)

*Full payment pending completion of the event.

- bb. Approve the appointment of James Tasker as a per diem Maternity Leave Middle School Science Teacher at a salary of \$325 per day (prorated) without health benefits, effective on or about September 1, 2021, to on or about October 15, 2021.

- cc. Approve the additional hours for the following staff members for the Co-teaching workshop on June 16, 2021

Name	NTE/ Hours	Rate Per Hour
Lindsay Bura	1.5	\$50.00

Patricia Jewell	1.5	\$50.00
Kathy Paldino	1.5	\$50.00

C. POLICY

1. Committee Report - Russell Hatzel: Committee meeting was on June 8th.
2. Items to be approved:
It is recommended by the Acting Superintendent/Business Administrator that the Board of Education approve the following items.
I would like to make a motion to approve **Policy** items, a-e

Motion By:	Mr. Hatzel	Second by:	Ms. Norris
Discussion: Ms. Norris asked why statement A has to be read and Mr. Gutierrez responded because individual BOE members tend to change.			
Roll Call Vote:			
Russell Hatzel- Yes	Ann Marie Nadiroglu-Yes Abstain-(a)	Kathleen Miceli-Yes	Keith Hamilton-Yes
Kelly Norris-Yes	Marybeth Thomas-Yes	Jessica Muzzio-Rentas-Yes	

- a. WHEREAS the Riverdale Board of Education is required to comply with the requirements of the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program Act and specifically the requirements as a sending district; and WHEREAS the Riverdale Board of Education has concerns for the number of students from this school district that participate in the school choice program and elect to attend a school in another school district as students leaving this school district may have an adverse financial and educational impact to this school district; and WHEREAS the Riverdale Board of Education is concerned about the potential adverse financial and educational impact to this school district as a result of students participating in the school choice program; and WHEREAS the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program Act permits a sending school district to limit the number of its students participating in the school choice program; and NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Riverdale Board of Education shall, in accordance with the provisions of the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program Act, limit the number of its students that may participate in the school choice program and attend a school in another school district under the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program Act to ten percent of the number of students per grade per year in the district. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution shall be in effect from its date of adoption until the

Board of Education takes official Board of Education action to rescind or modify the limitation as outlined in this resolution.

- b. Approve the Live Streaming Memorandum of Understanding between Education and Law Enforcement Officials for the 2021-2022 school year.
- c. Approve the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials for the 2021-2022 school year.
- d. Approval of the first reading of the following new and revised Policies and Regulations:

Policy Number	Regulation Number	Policy/Regulation Name
0167(ByLaw)		Public Participation in Board Meeting
4250		Working Periods
	7510	Use of School Facilities

- e. It is recommended by the Acting Superintendent that the Board of Education abolish the following Policies:

Policy Number	Regulation Number	Policy/Regulation Name
1649		Federal Families First Coronavirus(COVID-19) Response Act

D. TECHNOLOGY/FACILITIES/TRANSPORTATION

- 1. Committee Report - by Mr. Hamilton: No meeting

- 2. Items to be approved:

It is recommended by the Acting Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the following item

I would like to make a motion to approve **T/F/T** items, a-h

Motion By:	Mr. Hamilton	Second by:	Mrs. Thomas
Discussion:			
Roll Call Vote:			
Russell Hatzel- Yes	Ann Marie Nadiroglu - Yes	Kathleen Miceli -Yes	Keith Hamilton - Yes
Kelly Norris-Yes	Marybeth Miller - Yes	Jessica Muzzio-Rentas-Yes	

- a. Approve the disposal of the technology items on the attached list.

- b. Approve the renewal of transportation contracts with Student Transportation of America Ltd. for the 2021-2022 school year as follows:

Route	Location	Amount
Route #1	Pompton Lakes H.S.	\$26,647
Route #2	Pompton Lakes H.S.	\$26,647
Route #4	Riverdale School	\$26,647
Route #5	Riverdale School	\$31,632
Route #10	Riverdale School	\$23,005
Route #11	Riverdale School	\$26,647
Route #6	After School (Late Bus)	\$23,005

- c. Approve the Parental Contract for Student Transportation to The Gramon School in Fairfield, NJ from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, at a cost of \$1,150 per month not to exceed \$13,800. A copy of the parent's license, registration, and liability insurance has been provided as required by law.
- d. Approve the Parental Contract for Student Transportation to The Calais School in Whippany NJ from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, at a cost of \$1,150 per month not to exceed \$13,650. A copy of the parent's license, registration, and liability insurance has been provided as required by law.
- e. Appointment of Solutions Architecture, as Architect of Record effective for the 2021-2022 school year in accordance with NJSA 18A:18A-5 and P.L. 1999, c.440 at the following hourly rates. The Board Secretary is hereby directed to publish a notice of this award in the official newspaper of the Board.

Architect	Rate
Principal	\$165.00/hr
Associate Principal	\$145.00/hr
Project Manager	\$125.00/hr
Project Coordinator	\$115.00/hr
Construction Admin	\$125.00/hr
Production/CAD	\$80.00/hr
Architectural Support	\$65.00/hr
Project/Interior Design	\$105.00/hr

- f. Approve the Shared Services Agreement for Technology Support with Pompton Lakes Board of Education, in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A.40A:65-1 et seq., in the total amount of \$15,000 for the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022; and further, authorize

the Business Administrator to execute the contract for said services.

- g. It is recommended by the Acting Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education to approve the revised Out of District transportation costs for the 2020-2021 School Year for special need student as follows:

Student	Location	Provider	Cost	Dates
350003	Academy 360 Upper School	ESCMC	\$20,249.00	9/1/20-6/30/21

ESCMC = Educational Services Commission of Morris County
(incl 4% Admin. Fee)**Includes the cost of a shared aide

- h. Approve the Out of District placements for 2021-2022 School Year programs as follows:

Student	School	Tuition	Dates
340155	Calais School	\$82,652	7/1/21 - 6/30/22
340355	New Beginnings	\$85,368	7/1/21 - 6/30/22
340002	Gramon School	\$91,601	7/1/21 - 6/30/22
350003	Academy 360- Upper School	\$81,336	7/1/21 - 6/30/22
7559531937	Phoenix Center	\$78,700	7/1/21 - 6/30/22
2810416831	Calais School	\$82,652	7/1/21 - 6/30/22
13069661	Shepard School	\$65,016	7/1/21 - 6/30/22

E. CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION/SPECIAL SERVICE/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

1. Committee Report - Ann Marie Nadiroglu: Committee had a meeting today.

2. Items to be approved:

It is recommended by the Acting Superintendent that the Board of Education approve the following items

I would like to make a motion to approve **CISS/CR** items, a-h

Motion By:	Mrs. Nadiroglu	Second by:	Ms. Norris
Discussion: Mr Gutierrez commented that the school counselor maternity leave position was for 180 days.			
Roll Call Vote:			
Russell Hatzel- Yes	Ann Marie Nadiroglu - Yes Abstain - (a)	Kathleen Miceli - Yes	Keith Hamilton - Yes Abstain - (a and c)
Kelly Norris-Yes	Marybeth Miller - Yes	Jessica Muzzio-Rentas-Yes Abstain - a	

- a. Approve the following volunteers, who have or will complete the required volunteer training, for school events, for the 2020-2021 school year:

Names	Names
Lori Douma	Maggie Morano
Jill Morano	Lauren McMahon
Vanessa Turan	Laurie Silverman
Nadia Hicks	Ann Marie Nadiroglu
Jessica Muzzio-Rentas	Anthony Rentas
Rebecca Leeming	Brandon Valdivia
Melanie Marino	Alexis Pierkarsky
Kimberly Orsillo-Scott	Michele Miller
Meghan Moyle	Janine Sampong
Karen Vizqueta	Susan Campbell
Kyna Wentink	Bonnie Watts
Aja Tweitmann	Danielle Joseph

- b. Approve the following list of approved Doctors to provide student evaluations as needed.

Neurologist	Psychiatrists	Developmental Pediatricians
Dr. Adler	Dr. Bryan Fennelly	Dr. Kathleen Fadden
Dr. Heilbroner	Dr. Ellen Platt	Dr. Nancy Holahan
Dr. Harvey Bennett	Dr. Sandra Cammarato	
Dr. Isabel Detrizio Carotenuto		

- c. Appointment of Dr. Deingeniis-Depasquale or certified designee from High Mountain Health, PA as School Physician for the 2021-20212school year at a fee of \$15.00 per physical/\$7.50 per scoliosis screening/re-evaluation at a cost not to exceed \$1,500.00 said appointment made in accordance with NJSA 18A:18A-5 and P.L. 1999, c.440.
- d. Approval of the contract with Julie Willis as a consultant to the district for social work services at a per diem rate of \$350 a week for 40 weeks.
- e. Approval of the contract with Brett DiNovi & Associates, LLC agreement from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, consultations at a cost of \$133/hour not to exceed nine (9) hours a week, therapy at a cost of 55.00/hour.
- f. Approval of the contract with Progressive Therapy of New Jersey agreement from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, for student #350003

for the sum of \$115.00 per hourly rate for coordination consultation by BCBA/Masters Level Equivalent; 4 hours per month, not to exceed \$460/month as well as \$70 per hourly rate for direct therapy, 4 hours per week, not to exceed \$395 per week.

- g. Approval of the Letter of Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year with Northern Regional Education Services Commission for a Physical Therapist (Stacy Wanat-Porowski) at the rate of \$95.00 per hour
- h. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Riverdale Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") hereby approves any travel and related expenses for regular school district business as defined in Policy 6741, for the 2021-2022 school year, incurred by any Riverdale School District employee for travel within the State of New Jersey, as well as allowable reimbursement for same, where such travel and related expenses have been previously approved in writing by the Superintendent of Schools, and where the Superintendent of Schools has determined such travel and related expenses to be: (1) educationally necessary and fiscally prudent; (2) directly related to and within the scope of the employee's current responsibilities; (3) promoting the delivery of instruction or the efficient operation of the Riverdale School District, in accordance with the Accountability Regulations (annual maximum amount not to exceed \$500 per employee) OR

WHEREAS, the Riverdale School District Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, a Board of Education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member where prior Board approval shall not be required unless this annual threshold for a staff member is exceeded in a given school year (July 1 through June 30); and

WHEREAS, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq., but deemed by the Board of Education to be necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel, not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.1 et seq. as being necessary and unavoidable as noted on the approved Board of Education Out of District Travel and Reimbursement Forms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-1.2(b), to a maximum expenditure of \$14,590. for all staff and board members.

H. POMPTON LAKES LIAISON

1. Committee Report - Kelly Norris:

- Ms. Norris gave an update on Pompton Lakes

Non Action Items:

A. Letters and Communications - Jessica Muzzio-Rentas:

B. Superintendent's Report - Jayson Gutierrez

- Mr. Gutierrez presented a DRAFT version of the Riverdale Plan for Safe Return in 21-22.
- Mrs. Rentas answered questions from the audience regarding the plan and school reopening for September.

C. Enrollment as of June 15, 2021

PreK-8	291
PLHS - Tuition	132
Option III	0
Academy/Vo-Tech	14
Out of District (Prek-8th grade)	2
Out of District (9th grade +)	7
Charter	1
Home Instruction	0
School Choice	4

D. BA/BS REPORT - Mr. Gutierrez

E. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Time has been allotted for public comment by members of the public. Questions, at this time, do not have to be confined to agenda items. Each speaker may be allotted up to three (3) minutes and may only have one (1) opportunity to speak on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. When recognized by the President, please state your name, address and group, if any, that you represent.

All meetings at which the Board transacts official business must be public (18A:10-6). As stated in Board Policy: "Meetings of the Board are conducted for the purpose of carrying on the business of the school, and therefore, are not public meetings, but meetings held in public."

- Lori Silverman, 30 Hillside Avenue, and Alexis Stone, 7413 Coventree Ct., asked questions regarding the Rosh Hashanah holiday and the beginning of school on our calendar. Mrs. Rentas responded that the board will take their request under consideration.
- Melanie Marino, 80 Cottage Place read a statement regarding masks and the potential effects on students. (She gave copies of her statement to the BOE members)
- Mrs. Ferrara asked a question about her OPRA request, student vaccines, masks, and curriculum for the September opening. Mrs. Rentas responded that the staff was offered vaccines several months ago. Mr Gutierrez responded that any guidance and direction would be coming from the New Jersey DOE/BOH regarding vaccines for students. Mrs. Rentas also stated that standards for curriculum have not been updated by the state since 2014. Mrs. Ferrara's questions and comments are attached as per her email dated 06-21-21.
- Mrs. Ferrara also asked about the 200k lab budget and Mr. Gutierrez stated that the difference of money budgeted and spent has not been used.
- Melissa Siljanovski, 11 Cedar Street, had three proposals to present to the BOE:
 - 1 - Anonymous reporting to police and school regarding bullying
 - 2 - Curriculum updating for sexual harassment and bullying for the school
 - 3 - Early morning care for students that the school had several years ago and that several parents would be interested in again.
- Mr. Gutierrez responded by asking her to send an email with the proposals.

F. Information and Questions from Board Members

IX. Future Meeting and Important Dates were reported by Mrs. Muzzio-Rentas

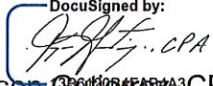
July 20, 2021	Public Business Meeting	7:00 p.m.
August 17, 2021	Public Business Meeting	7:00 p.m.

XI. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Muzzio-Rentas, seconded by Ms. Norris at 9:20 pm to adjourn from the public business meeting.

Carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

3601267157A3
Jayson Gutierrez, CPA
Acting Superintendent
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

My name is Lisa Ferrara. I live at 115 Newbury Pl.

6/15/21

I currently have 3 girls in this school, 1st, 6th and 8th grade.

1. In March/2021 - - The New Jersey legislature (A4454 Diversity & Inclusion) the Assembly passed bill A4454 requiring sexual orientation and gender identity (transgender) lessons be taught in all public schools beginning in kindergarten. This is an overreach of the state and I do not agree with a change in curriculum to teach this to my children. If we as parents want to explain different identities or sexual preferences, then that's our prerogative and our choice. This is not a decision for the school system, and this is not a decision for the Legislature.

Mr. Kobliska informed me that there are 2 lessons where LGBTQ is mentioned in middle school.

So we can be informed on what our children are going to be exposed to, I have submitted an **Opra Request** - which is a written request that clearly references OPRA (open public records act.) The document can be found on the RPSNJ website under Board Of Education. Anyone is entitled to do this. Response is due to requestor as soon as possible, but no later than seven business days. Requests may even be submitted anonymously.

My request dated 6/8 is for the lessons, tests and worksheets, library & classroom books utilized in the current year and for the up and coming 2021/2022 school year that relate to Diversity & Inclusion. Mr. Gutierrez is working on getting the information.

1) Labeling & Singling out – Vax vs Unvax (EUA Jabbed vs. Unjabbed)

Everyone is right in their own decisions whichever stance you take on this issue. We all advocate for our own belief and try to do what we feel is in the best interest of our children. If you've chosen an EUA vaccine, you should feel safe in your decision, regardless of the decision the people around you have made. In our school, this is what's going on.

- a) I've heard of teachers asking to raise your hand if your parents are vaccinated?
- b) Raise your hand if you know someone who was vaccinated
- c) When you turn 12 you can get vaccinated
- d) A group of students in the hallway and a teacher says, "she's the only one that's safe to be around, she's vaccinated."
- e) A teacher saying only she can have a drink at her desk because she's vaccinated...
- f) Someone asking me if I wanted to share who was vaccinated so she could update her records.

This behaviour is unacceptable. Do you single out children with religious exemptions? Our kids are living in fear. They are scared to say something for fear that their teacher is going to treat them differently. People like this CANNOT BE the

everyday influencers of our kids. This has to stop. If you've gotten a vaccine, why do you care what the person next to you did?

- 2) **Will vaccines be funded and pushed through our schools?**
<https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/what-does-american-rescue-plan-mean-educators-and-students> Just to be clear, the EUA vaccines were approved by the United States, but are NOT FDA approved. Department of Education's - The American Rescue Plan includes nearly \$170 billion in dedicated public education funding. That money can be used to reduce class sizes and modify spaces to comply with social distancing; [modernize HVAC systems](#); hire more [school custodians](#), nurses and [counselors](#); and facilitate social distancing on transportation services with additional buses and drivers. The funding can also be used to add supports to address student trauma and learning loss. The plan will **accelerate the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines across the country and increase testing capacity**. President Biden has encouraged states to **prioritize educators in their distribution plans**.

Is this Grant going to be used to educate our teachers on how to push the Experimental vaccine on our children and be distributed in the schools? Will this plan be listed on the website as public record? Nasal swabs are sterilized with Ethylene oxide which is a proven carcinogen which causes cancer. EO = ETHYLENE OXIDE. This is harmful when used repeatedly.

- 3) **Can a child consent to a vaccine without parental consent? Is it possible?**
In Philadelphia, PA & San Francisco, CA 12 years and up can consent to an EUA vaccine without a parent. If we don't pay attention to the legislature, this can very easily happen in NJ.
- 4) **Governor Murphy loosened the reigns** on masks giving each school their OWN power to let our children go to school with or without a mask.

After having a nice conversation with the Riverdale Administration at the end of May, I was hopeful at the implied intent on reaching out and speaking up regarding "unmasking our children." However, in following up, I realized intent was only that...nothing more.

Letter to Jayson & Paul 6/10/21

Well, given this open opportunity to unmask our children, you let it go and have not taken the position to do what's in the best interest of our children.

Our children are expected to wear masks for 5+ hours everyday, when in reality, most adults can't even tolerate it for a few minutes just to go into a store. In the state of NJ, it is currently considered safe to go into a restaurant and remove your mask once you are

seated at your table. So why is it not equally safe for our kids to take their masks off at their desks in school?

Masks were never designed to be worn all day by children. They were originally intended to be worn by medical professionals who have been specially trained in how to properly wear them (ie. following strict protocols to avoid cross-contamination, having it fitted specifically to the individual's face, etc). Our children are not following these protocols, nor should they be expected to. They are constantly touching their faces with their dirty hands to adjust their mask, which is actually spreading even MORE germs! When they get a "mask break", they are placing them down on dirty surfaces, such as their backpack or even the ground!), then they put it right back on their face. They are also wearing them in extremely unsanitary environments, such as into the bathrooms and during gym class, where they become soaked in sweat, which creates a breeding ground for bacteria. How can anyone consider this safe or healthy?

Studies have proven that children ages 5-17 are virtually unaffected by severe disease from COVID. The data shows that there have been NO deaths in that age group in our state. Many more children get sick and die from the annual flu than they do from COVID, yet nobody has ever forced them to wear a mask during flu season (nor should they!) The CDC has also shown that transmission from student-to-student and from student-to-adult, is highly unlikely. If teachers and other staff members are concerned for their own safety, then they have the choice to get vaccinated to protect themselves, if they choose. Therefore, our children pose absolutely no threat to them.

I would also like to point out a very obvious fact. On the packages of masks, each box clearly states "These masks do not protect the wearer from illness or prevent the transmission of any virus, including SARS/COVID-19". So my question to you is, "Why are we forcing our children to wear a mask that is not even designed to protect anyone from transmitting or contracting COVID in the first place?"

In addition to masking, our children have also been forced to sit at their desks behind plexiglass barriers. On March 19, 2021 the CDC reversed this guideline. They announced that physical barriers have not proven to make any difference whatsoever, and are no longer recommended. So why are our children still being forced to use them?

School used to be a place most kids looked forward to going, where they could not only learn, but also socialize and make friends. As adults, it is our job to do what is best for our children to grow physically, academically and emotionally. By keeping them masked, we are failing at our jobs! They are being tortured by being forced to cover their faces, restricting their oxygen flow, and being stuck behind a plastic barrier like a caged animal. This is inhumane and it needs to stop immediately.

We are well over a year into this pandemic and now have numerous treatments and THREE vaccines that all adults can take, if they choose to. We can not expect to keep our children masked, while jeopardizing their physical and emotional health, just to give

others a false sense of security. It is time for everyone to take personal responsibility for their own health and let our kids go back to being normal kids!

Thanks for "thinking" about asking for clear guidance.. Inaction speaks volumes. Governor Murphy put this decision in YOUR hands. His guidelines are up for interpretation. Plenty of other districts have done it although they too have air conditioning. Like I said, you always have a Choice.

I am aware the current school year is coming to a close, but I urge you to please consider everything I have written and DO everything in your power to ensure our children can go back to normal in September.... NO masks, NO physical barriers, and NO forced vaccines

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Lisa Ferrara