

RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION
River Vale, New Jersey 07675
REGULAR MEETING
Roberge Annex
October 13, 2020 VIRTUAL MINUTES

Ms. Ippolito welcomed everyone to the virtual board meeting and explained how the meeting would run.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.

Mrs. Waldes called the Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, the Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting has been sent to all school offices, officially designated newspapers, filed with the Township Clerk and posted in the Board of Education Office, forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

MEMBERS

PRESENT VIA

TELEPHONE:

**Mrs. Pintarelli, Mr. Puccio, Mr. Rosini, Mrs. Rothenberg,
Mrs. Senande, Mr. Schlereth, Mrs. Waldes**

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT:

**Dr. Alvarez, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Ippolito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Ms. DeGaetano, Supervisor of Special Services
Ms. Dowling, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Peterson, Director of Buildings & Grounds
Ms. Signore, Woodside School Principal
Mr. Wren, Roberge School Principal
117 members of public**

FLAG SALUTE

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Waldes welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Mrs. Waldes read the following statement:

COMMITTEE REPORTS – CHAIRPERSON

- **Buildings & Grounds – None**
- **Communications & Policies – Mrs. Senande reported that the committee met tonight and talked about communications and policies to be discussed at a later date.**
- **Curriculum & Technology – None**

- **Finance** – None
- **Negotiations** – None
- **Personnel** – None

Committee Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Committee
October 13, 2020	6:00 PM	Communications & Policies
November 17, 2020	6:00 PM	Negotiations
December 15, 2020	6:00 PM	Finance
January 5, 2021	6:00 PM	Finance
January 19, 2021	6:00 PM	Personnel
February 9, 2021	6:00 PM	Buildings & Grounds
February 23, 2021	6:00 PM	Finance
March 2, 2021	6:00 PM	Finance
March 16, 2021	6:00 PM	Finance
March 30, 2021	6:00 PM	Communications & Policies
April 27, 2021	6:00 PM	Personnel
May 11, 2021	6:00 PM	Curriculum & Technology

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only

THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION IS committed to encouraging the citizens of River Vale and employees of the River Vale School District to speak directly to Board Trustees. In order to facilitate this communication, residents and employees are requested (1) to sign in before speaking; (2) to maintain an appropriate sense of decorum; and (3) to limit their remarks to no more than five minutes. The Board will also take under advisement the written comments and opinions of non-residents that are submitted to the Board Secretary. Being mindful of its responsibility to maintain the orderly conduct of meetings, the Board retains the right to rule on such matters as the speaker’s right to address the Board as well as the appropriateness of the subject being presented. The Board’s decision in such matters is final.

The Board also reminds all members of the public that while it subscribes, without reservation, to the principle of keeping the community informed, by policy and law, it cannot allow public discussion of personnel matters nor can Trustees comment on any current or pending litigation. If a matter concerning an employee of the River Vale Public Schools is of interest or concern to a resident, the matter should be referred to the responsible building principal or the Interim Superintendent of Schools by telephone, letter or email.

Meeting opened to public comments at 7:14 P.M.

Public comments:

Kevin McCahill, 628 Red Oak Drive: Thank you for considering to bring back K-2 students to the live schools. I believe many River Vale families will appreciate this. Please keep this atop your priority list. Thank you!

Cheryl Berkowitz, 570 Wayne Drive: no need to put me on. Kelly can read. I wanted to thank Mrs. McGuire for all of her amazing hard work publicly.

Amy Dahl, 608 Abbe Court: Hi I have a question. Is there any way to post the BOE meeting info on a Facebook page so it's easily accessible?

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Ms. Ippolito responded that the information regarding Board meetings is on the District Website under the Board Home Page and agendas and minutes.

<https://www.rivervaleschools.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=146193&pageId=32587024>

However we will look into making this easier to find. Thank you.

Stephen Presa, RVEA President: I would like to share our statement at the appropriate time.

Mr. Presa read the following:

To the members of the River Vale Board of Education:

The River Vale Education Association Liaison Committee called a meeting with our interim superintendent and building principals on Thursday, September 24, 2020. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Superintendent's proposed changes to the district reopening plan, calling for the elimination of the A/B hybrid model currently in place and the combining of the A/B kindergarten and first grade cohorts to create larger, in-person instructional groups which would jeopardize the safety of staff and students.

The Board needs first to understand that the members of the Association have been willing participants in this reopening plan, in spite of any reservations that we, individually or collectively, may have had with the safety measures outlined in the plan, or any concerns we may have had with the practicality of juggling the myriad pieces of this model. We have, true to form, acted with the utmost professionalism and dedication to the students, district, board and superintendent, and we have voiced our support of this plan in the community. We have made this reopening plan work under very difficult circumstances, in spite of our doubts about its true concern for the health and safety of our members and our students. We have, in good faith, signed a sidebar agreement that has significantly increased student contact time and saddled our teachers with additional responsibilities, but the district's give back is in no way truly equal to the amount of additional work that is required of us. We, the Executive Board of the Association, have heard from many members who have voiced very real concern about and anxiety over the safety measures outlined in this plan and have expressed both exhaustion and frustration over the almost insurmountable amount of preparation that is required of them to make it work. And yet they carry on. We have had to assure our members time and time again that the district is looking out for our wellbeing, based on what is contained in the current plan.

The sidebar agreement was developed with the understanding that there would be strict adherence to the published reopening plan which requires social distancing and a hybrid model

based on A/B cohorts, and that any change to the plan or the safety measures therein would be determined by the latest statistics concerning the Coronavirus and new recommendations from the CDC, NJDOE and/or NJ Department of Health based on those statistics. It was understood that any changes to the plan would occur when there is broad agreement among the superintendent, principals, teachers and parents that a change is both reasonable and warranted.

The district is operating under the current hybrid instructional model directly and fully because of the Coronavirus. Any changes to this model should be dictated by numbers, scientific evidence and this deadly virus itself and not for any other reason. The proposed changes to the plan by the superintendent are not insignificant and will endanger the health and safety of every student, teacher and staff member involved.

The proposed changes to the plan do not allow for social distancing and eschew the very guidance for safety set by the CDC, NJDOE and/or NJ Department of Health and, indeed, the Board's own reopening plan, ostensibly designed to keep the students, staff and their families as safe as possible. In our discussions with Dr. Alvarez, both in the liaison meeting and privately, it has been clearly communicated to us that there is a willing sacrifice of all but the minimum safety precautions by the district in the name of bringing back larger groups of children, to perhaps appease a very small but vocal group of parents. He stated directly that partitions or barriers, as well as social distancing, would not be necessary as long as children and staff were masked.

We find this unacceptable.

This contradicts Appendix B in the reopening plan, which states: Students will be separated by at least 6 feet. Student desks will face the same direction, while wearing mandatory face coverings to help reduce transmission. Partitions and barriers will be installed in classrooms equipped with tables, where 6 feet cannot be maintained. (Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools, BOE, Fall 2020, p. 53)

Moreover, Appendix N of the district reopening plans states: All schools will follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC. This will require a reduction in class size to increase opportunities for social distancing and will require placing students in cohorts. (Restart and Recovery Plan to Reopen Schools, BOE, Fall 2020, p. 72)

Furthermore, according to the New Jersey Covid-19 Information Hub, as of October 9, 2020, Bergen County has the distinction of having the second highest number of new cases of Covid-19 in the state (covid19.nj.gov). To pack classrooms with additional students and yet deny those students and their teachers the appropriate PPE, social distancing requirements and other safety precautions seems irresponsible.

The district is now planning to implement Phase 2 of its reopening plan on October 19, allowing parents to change their instructional models and opt to send their formerly all-remote children back to school, which will result in an increase in the number of students in each classroom. Again, it appears that this will occur without proper PPE provided to every student and teacher and without ensuring that every classroom can maintain social distancing while accommodating

a larger number of students. Without desks to replace tables, Plexiglas shields on every desk, and square footage measurements of every classroom to help ensure proper social distancing for every person who will populate that classroom, it once again appears that the district is unprepared to continue its reopening plan and effectively protect the health and safety of its students and teachers to the fullest extent possible.

In addition, school districts immediately surrounding River Vale are now reporting student cases of Covid-19, so it would appear that the crisis is far from over. It may be a far wider choice indeed to proceed with the utmost of caution and with strong regard for health and safety.

We do not believe at this point that the Board can deny that the health and safety of the students and staff of the River Vale School District should be of the utmost importance when considering any alterations to the district reopening plan. The Association feels very strongly that it should be the first priority of the Board to protect the physical and emotional wellbeing of its staff and students, and that the Board should reject any plan that would severely compromise the health and safety of its employees and community members.

We call on the Board to stand firm in its original decision and keep the current instructional model as stated in the reopening plan, without alteration, to protect the health and safety of the members of this community until the data concerning the spread of Covid-19 in the state of New Jersey dictates otherwise. Furthermore, we ask that the Board first ensure that PPE is fully available to all students and teachers and that classrooms are properly measured so that social distancing is guaranteed in every classroom before either altering the reopening plan or increasing the number of students in any classroom.

Howard Weber, 573 Green Lane: Hi are you going to announce something? Not sure what we should be commenting on if no announcements have been made.

Meeting closed to public comments at 7:35 P.M.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez made the following statement:

We are rapidly approaching what we have referred to as Phase II. Our plan, for the most part, is working and continues to keep everyone safe using a cohort approach. For the time being, we will continue with this model at all grade levels. We have not compromised support services to students and continue to offer related-arts programs to complement our core curriculum.

During Phase II, all *elementary* students with IEPs for special education services will return to school 5-days per week. Additionally, we have a number of remote learners who will join us in-person in either Cohort A or B, which was always part of the Restart Plan.

Our combined enrollment at Roberge represents an increase of 37 students; Woodside's enrollment reveals an increase of 51 students; and Holdrum realizes an increase of 16

students. Number of students per Cohorts at the elementary level range from a low of 5 to a high of 14. At Holdrum, student Cohort enrollments range from a low of 8 to high of 13.

Finally, our parent surveys were positive over all; with the majority of parents wishing to return to a more traditional model of schooling—5-days per week.

There is a resolution on the Board Agenda this evening to make a small modification with regard to bringing back students with IEPs for special education services. Otherwise, our Restart Plan remains the same.

We continue to explore bringing back other students and had discussed the possibility of kindergarten and grade one. The RVEA, the teachers Union, has been quite vocal in trying to ensure safety for its members, although the administration feels we have a safe plan and have addressed any concerns the Union has raised. We are attempting to resolve our differences at this time. We continue to be open to ideas and suggestions from the Union and look forward to working cooperatively.

With regard to Mr. Presa's statement, the Administration has been committed to reopening our schools, particularly to younger students (specifically Kindergarten and grade one students) who are most challenged by remote learning.

The Restart Plan is and was always intended to be a flexible document. The date of October 19, although an arbitrary date on our part, was always intended to signal a time for change. That remains true and should not come as a surprise to the Union or to any member of the public.

School districts were directed by the NJDOE that the first core guiding principle is to "Lead with health, safety, and wellness of students and staff as the top priority." I am confident that the District has followed this guidance to date. As a matter of fact, anything that has been brought to our attention by staff or parents has been dealt with immediately. We've implemented Needlepoint Bi-Polar Ionization in every classroom and have provided PPE as necessary.

The guidance from the NJDOE to maintain 6 ft. of social distancing "when practical" or "as able" has been and continues to be part of our plan. However, NJDOE guidance has been clear from the start, that when schools are unable to meet 6 ft. of social distancing that desk shields and personal masks (now required of all school personnel and students) would need to be in place. We are able to meet this mandate as well.

Finally, the Union has been invited to meet with the Administration on several occasions over the last few weeks. We have been willing to listen to the Union's concerns and the Administration expressed a genuine willingness to accommodate any concerns. What would it take to have teachers feel more comfortable? What is it that we are not doing that we could do better? What would it take for you to feel supported? We heard many concerns, but no tangible recommendations.

The Union's correspondence reflects their position to retain the current model and, in my view, unwillingness to problem-solve. Again, I invite the Union to sit with the Administration and

strategize a more robust return-to-school for all of our students, while ensuring everyone’s safety.

BOARD SECRETARY’S REPORT

Ms. Ippolito reported to the Board that the Needlepoint Bi-polar Ionization System project has been completed. She also informed the Board that the heat was turned on in all the buildings today.

Ms. Ippolito informed the Board that the New Jersey School Board Association’s Annual Workshop will be a virtual workshop from October 20, 2020 through October 22, 2020. Details regarding the workshop will be sent in an email.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

- G1. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the Minutes from the September 22, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.****

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√		√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED					√		

- G2. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the Closed Session Minutes from the September 22, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.****

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√		√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED					√		

- G3. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **accepts and approves the Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet. (See Attachment G3)****

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

G4. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting “required” maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the River Vale School District are consistent with these requirements; and

WHEREAS, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the River Vale Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the River Vale School District in compliance with Department of Education requirements. *(See Attachment G4)*

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

G5. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education requires school districts to certify the maximum capital reserve amount for the 2020-2021 school year;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the River Vale Board of Education does hereby certify that the capital projects listed in the District’s long range facility plan (submitted to the State Department of Education) have not yet been initiated; and be it

RESOLVED, that the River Vale Board of Education does hereby certify that the total estimated cost for these projects is \$23,525,839.80 and that the State support (40%) is \$9,410,335.92; and be it

RESOLVED, that the River Vale Board of Education does hereby certify that the estimated total local monies (60%) needed to implement the capital projects not yet initiated is \$14,115,503.88 which will equal the district's maximum capital reserve amount. *(See Attachment G5)*

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

- G6. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio**
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the School Safety and Security Plan Statement of Assurance for the 2020-2021 school year.** *(See Attachment G6)*

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

- G7. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio**
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the 2020-2021 District Evaluation Advisory & Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee as set forth below:**

Name	Position
Frank Alvarez, Ed.D	Interim Superintendent of Schools
James Cody	Holdrum Middle School Principal
Justin Jasper	Holdrum Middle School Assistant Principal
Stephen Wren	Roberge Elementary School Principal
Melissa Signore	Woodside Elementary School Principal
Joelle DeGaetano	Supervisor of Special Services
Kimberly Dowling	Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction
Lisa Adamek	Faculty Member
Jennifer Quevedo	Faculty Member
Kristin Boyce	Faculty Member
Lisa Murdock	Faculty Member
Frank Merli	Faculty Member
Lisa Nilsson	Faculty Member

Deborah Chinnici	Faculty Member
Craig Yaremko	Faculty Member
Richard Orgera	Faculty Member
Kirsten Ommundsen	Faculty Member

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

- G8. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio**
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the following resolution:**

BE IT RESOLVED by the River Vale Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) that the terms, stipulations and conditions as established in the Settlement Agreement and Release (hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”) between the Board and the Parents of a student, ID #20342019, whose name is on file in the Interim Superintendent’s office, which is annexed to this Resolution, are hereby adopted and approved by the Board. The Board President and Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement, and any other documents necessary to effectuate the settlement.

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

- G9. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio**
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the 2020-2021 school year. (See Attachment G9)**

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

- G10. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio**
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the**

Annual Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between the River Vale Public Schools and the River Vale Police Department for the 2020-2021 school year. (See Attachment G10)

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

**G11. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the contract for mental health assessment and clearances with the Pascack Valley Council for Special Education, Region II School Districts and West Bergen Mental Healthcare for the 2020-2021 school year.****

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

**G12. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the Biosecurity Management Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. (See Attachment G12)****

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

**G13. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the Special Education out-of-district placement tuition costs for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:****

Student Id#	Program	LEA	Tuition	Duration
20342137	Pre-K Archways to Learning	Upper Saddle River	\$83,204	July- June

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

G14. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the appointment of Wendy Diaz as the Superintendent’s designee for the River Vale Library Board as authorized by N.J.S.A. 40:54-29.10 effective October 14, 2020 through December 31, 2021.**

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

G15. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the following resolution:**

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor has declared a state of emergency and a public health emergency, and ordered all schools closed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year ; and

WHEREAS, in response the continued COVID-19 pandemic the Governor announced Reopening guidance for New Jersey Schools for the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, the guidance announces that, absent a change in public health data, public schools will open for in-person instruction and operations in some capacity at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year; and

WHEREAS, each district will be expected to develop, in collaboration with community stakeholders, a plan to reopen schools in the fall that best fits the district’s local needs.; and

WHEREAS, the District did develop, in collaboration with community stakeholders, a plan to reopen schools in the fall that best fits the district’s local needs;

WHEREAS, the District shall amend the District’s Restart and Recovery Plan effective October 19, 2020 to accommodate the return of students receiving Special Education Services through an IEP, at the elementary level to a 5-day per week program; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the amendment to the District’s Restart and Recovery Plan which was submitted to the Department of Education on July 29, 2020 and to be implemented effective October 19, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year.

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

B1. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, approves the **Financial Report of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Monies** for the month ending **August 31, 2020** in the following balances:

Fund 10	-	\$10,525,438.65
Fund 20	-	\$ (269,836.87)
Fund 30	-	\$ 111,949.94
Fund 40	-	\$.39
Total		\$10,367,552.11

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

B2. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator /Board Secretary, approves the adoption of the monthly certification(s) of Major Budgetary Account and Fund Status as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has accepted and reviewed financial reports for the period ending **August 31, 2020** including the Report of the Secretary, A-148, and the Secretary’s certification; and

WHEREAS, the Board has received and reviewed financial reports issued by the Business Administrator;

WHEREAS, the Board has had consultations with the appropriate school administrators;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of the Board of Education do hereby certify that to the best of our knowledge, no major accounts appear to be overextended in violations of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4, and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district board of education’s financial obligations for the remainder of the year.

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

B3. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, **approves the revised bills list dated September 30, 2020** as follows:

Fund 10 – General Fund	-	\$ 400,730.91
Fund 10 – Voided Checks	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 20 - Voided Checks	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 30 – Capital Projects	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 40 – Debt Service	-	\$ 0.00
Unemployment Trust Acct.	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 60 – Milk Account	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 65 – Enterprise Fund	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 90 -Trust & Agency	-	\$1,556,456.83
Fund 91 – Merchants Account-		\$ 0.00
Total		\$1,957,187.74

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

B4. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, **approves the purchase orders and adjustments for period dated September 30, 2020 in the amount of \$631,394.16.**

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

- B5. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, retroactively approves the transfer of funds for month ending September 30, 2020 in the amount of \$4,350.00 as set forth below:**

**Transfer of Funds
Month Ending September 30, 2020**

T221	FROM	11-000-266-300-30-14-000	RA-SECRTY INSTALL/PURCH PROF SV	-3100.00
	TO	11-000-262-420-60-14-000	W-GROUNDS/MAINTENANCE SERVICES	3100.00
T231	FROM	11-000-261-420-60-14-000	W-BLDG REPAIR/MAINTENANCE	-1250.00
	TO	11-000-263-420-60-14-000	W-GROUNDS/MAINTENANCE SERVICES	1250.00
	TOTALS:			
	FROM:			-4350.00
	TO:			4350.00

Note: Transaction Date: 9/30/2020

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

- B6. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves the bills list dated October 13, 2020 as follows:**

Fund 10 – General Fund	-	\$482,044.92
Fund 10 – Voided Checks	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 20 - Voided Checks	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 30 – Capital Projects	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 40 – Debt Service	-	\$ 0.00
Unemployment Trust Acct.	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 60 – Milk Account	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 65 – Enterprise Fund	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 90 -Trust & Agency	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 91 – Merchants Account-		<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total		\$482,044.92

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

B7. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, **approves the purchase orders and adjustments for period dated October 13, 2020 in the amount of \$327,763.40.**

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

B8. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, **retroactively approves the transfer of funds for period ending October 13, 2020 in the amount of \$2,280.00 as set forth below:**

**Transfer of Funds
Period Ending October 13, 2020**

T259	FROM	11-190-100-610-60-60-046	W-GENERAL SUPPLIES	-65.00
	TO	11-190-100-610-60-60-068	W-MUSIC SUPPLIES	65.00
T261	FROM	11-190-100-610-40-40-046	R-INSTR SUPPLIES	-300.00
	TO	11-190-100-610-40-40-068	R-MUSIC SUPPLIES	300.00
T262	FROM	11-000-221-580-10-17-000	CURRIC. & INSTR. TRAVEL EXPENSES	-915.00
	FROM	11-190-100-610-20-20-046	H-INST SUPPLIES	-1000.00
	TOTAL			-1915.00
	TO	11-190-100-610-10-65-024	INSTRUCTIONAL SOFTWARE/RENEWALS	1915.00
	TOTALS:			
	FROM:			-2280.00
	TO:			2280.00

Note: Transaction Date: 10/13/2020

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

**B9. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, **approves the following Travel and Conferences for the staff indicated below for professional improvement or development, for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.****

Name	School/ Dept.	Conference	Location	Date(s)	Cost
Kathleen Waytowich	Roberge	Writing Workshop Teacher Toolkits	Demarest, NJ	3/22/21	0.00
Kimberly Dowling	Curriculum & Instruction	Ed Leader 21 Annual Conference	Virtual	10/13/20 10/14/20	0.00
Melissa Signore	Woodside	Ed Leader 21 Annual Conference	Virtual	10/13/20 10/14/20	0.00
Angela Rossi	Woodside	“Art in Focus” – Art Educators of NJ Annual Conference	Virtual	10/24/20	140.00
John Garretson	Holdrum	“Art in Focus” – Art Educators of NJ Annual Conference	Virtual	10/24/20	140.00
Kimberly Dowling	Curriculum & Instruction	Portfolio Training for Evaluators	Virtual	10/21/20	125.00
Kimberly Dowling	Curriculum & Instruction	Teacher Evaluation in Blended and Virtual Environments	Virtual	10/23/20	0.00
Melissa Signore	Woodside	Portfolio Training for Evaluators	Virtual	10/21/20	125.00
Stephen Wren	Roberge	Teacher Evaluation in Blended and Virtual Environments	Virtual	10/23/20	0.00

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√		√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED						√	

**B10. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, **accepts the State Department of Education's approval of a major amendment to the District's Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) pursuant to the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, P.L. 2000, c. 72 (N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-1 et seq.) as amended by P.L. 2007, c. 137 (Act), N.J.A.C. 6A:26-1 et seq. (Educational Facilities Code), and the Facilities Efficiency Standards (FES). (See Attachment B10)****

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

**B11. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION** that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, approves the **renewal of the transportation contract for School Related Activities with Rinaldi Transportation** of Closter, New Jersey, for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:

16 passenger \$303.06
24 passenger \$333.58
54 passenger \$343.75

* Renewal rate equals the CPI of 1.70% as set by the State of New Jersey Department of Education.

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

**B12. MOTION BY Mrs. Rothenberg SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION** that the Board, upon recommendation of the School Business Administrator, **appropriates the revised 2019-2020 Extraordinary Aid into the 2020-2021 budget as allowable and as awarded by the New Jersey State Department of Education during the 2019-20 fiscal year in the revised amount of \$182,455** as follows:

11-000-216-320-10-18-118	Purch Prof Svcs Cons	\$10,000
11-000-217-320-10-18-000	Purchased Prof Ed Servi	3,000
11-000-230-331-10-11-049	Legal Services Exp Sp. Ser	36,611
11-000-230-334-10-11-000	Architectural/Engineering Srvs	31,268
11-000-230-339-10-11-000	Other Professional/ Srvs	25,000
11-000-251-340-10-11-000	Bus Office/Purch Services	15,000
11-000-252-610-10-65-022	Non Instructional Software/Re	61,576
	Total:	\$182,455

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

**P1. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **appoints the**

following faculty member to the extra-compensation position for the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the contract with the RVEA:

GROUP "B" - STUDENT ACTIVITIES					
	Position	Location / Description	Compensation	Staff Member	Account No.
B19	Woodside Art Club	Woodside	\$697.00	Angela Rossi	11-401-100-100-60-11-041

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

P2. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the following student intern placements for the 2020-2021 school year:**

LOCATION	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	TYPE	TEACHER	COLLEGE/SCHOOL
RES/WES	Taylor	Bischoff	Student Teacher	Lindsay DeAngelis & Rachel Hadley	Dominican College
WES	Dante	Capurso	Student Teacher	Sue Polonsky	Montclair State Univ.
CST	Rayanne	Burns	Student Practicum	Christine Casbar	Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.
CST	Jennifer	DeTorrice	Student Practicum	Christine Casbar	Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.
CST	Jesanya	Deleon	Student Practicum	Christine Casbar	Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.
CST	Liya	Kowlessar	Student Practicum	Christine Casbar	Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.
CST	Raizy	Worcman	Student Practicum	Christine Casbar	Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.
CST	Jessica	Stinson	Student Practicum	Christine Casbar	Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

P3. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves for the 2020-2021 school year the change in hours for the following Aide as listed below:**

Employee	From	To	Account No.
Kaelah Byrom	Woodside School LLD Aide (5 hours per day)	Woodside School LLD Aide (5.75 hours per day)	11-204-100-106-60-11-000

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

- P4. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the appointment of Raniua Bajati to the position of Confidential Secretary to the Director of Buildings and Grounds and School Business Administrator for the 2020-2021 schools year, pending criminal history review, at a prorated annual salary of \$52,000; and approves the terms and conditions of the contract.**

Account No. 11-000-251-105-10-11-094

Pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:16-17A a contribution of the employee’s annual base salary would be required if he or she did not waive coverage, currently a specified percentage of the cost of coverage for health care benefits for the employee’s salary range, but not less than 1.5% of the employee’s annual base salary, as required by N.J.S.A. 18A:16-17, and as may be amended by the legislature.

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

- P5. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **appoints Custodial/Maintenance personnel for the 2020-2021 school year at the salary, in accordance with the Agreement between the River Vale Board of Education and United Public Service Employees Union (UPSEU), as set forth below, pending completion of the Criminal History Review Process and post offer medical examination:**

Name	Location	Base	Boiler License	Stipend	Total	Account Number
Lumturie Sellaj	WES Night Custodian	\$42,000	1,100	0	\$43,100	11-000-262-110-60-11-000

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

- P6. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION** that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **transfers the following District Aides from the Instructional Aide Guide to the ABA Aide Guide for the 2020-2021 school year, having completed the necessary training and demonstration of skills, effective October 19, 2020:**

<u>Employee</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Account No.</u>
Marcella Bruno	LLD Aide, Step 1 (\$15.50)	ABA LLD Aide, Step 1 (\$18.50)	11-204-100-106-60-11-000
Caitlin O'Brien	LLD Aide, Step 1 (\$15.50)	ABA LLD Aide, Step 1 (\$18.50)	11-204-100-106-60-11-000
Sonia Tracy	LLD Aide, Step 1 (\$15.50)	ABA LLD Aide, Step 1 (\$18.50)	11-204-100-106-60-11-000

	<u>Mrs. Pintarelli</u>	<u>Mr. Puccio</u>	<u>Mr. Rosini</u>	<u>Mrs. Rothenberg</u>	<u>Mr. Schlereth</u>	<u>Mrs. Senande</u>	<u>Mrs. Waldes</u>
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

P7. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves ESS Northeast, LLC, with all of their properly certified employees, to provide substitute teacher, secretary and substitute aide services to the district for the 2020-2021 school year.**

	<u>Mrs. Pintarelli</u>	<u>Mr. Puccio</u>	<u>Mr. Rosini</u>	<u>Mrs. Rothenberg</u>	<u>Mr. Schlereth</u>	<u>Mrs. Senande</u>	<u>Mrs. Waldes</u>
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

P8. MOTION BY Mr. Rosini SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves Northern Region Educational Services Commission with all of their properly certified employees, to provide substitute services to the district for the 2020-2021 school year.**

	<u>Mrs. Pintarelli</u>	<u>Mr. Puccio</u>	<u>Mr. Rosini</u>	<u>Mrs. Rothenberg</u>	<u>Mr. Schlereth</u>	<u>Mrs. Senande</u>	<u>Mrs. Waldes</u>
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

PUBLIC COMMENTS – General Items

THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION IS committed to encouraging the citizens of River Vale and employees of the River Vale School District to speak directly to board trustees. In order to facilitate this communication, residents and employees are requested (1) to sign in before speaking; (2) to maintain an appropriate sense of decorum; and (3) to limit their remarks to no more than five minutes. The Board will also take under advisement the written comments and opinions of non-residents that are submitted to the Board Secretary. Being mindful of its responsibility to maintain the orderly conduct of meetings, the Board retains the right to rule on

such matters as the speaker's right to address the Board as well as the appropriateness of the subject being presented. The Board's decision in such matters is final.

The Board also reminds all members of the public that while it subscribes, without reservation, to the principle of keeping the community informed, by policy and law, it cannot allow public discussion of personnel matters nor can trustees comment on any current or pending litigation. If a matter concerning an employee of the River Vale Public Schools is of interest or concern to a resident, the matter should be referred to the responsible building principal or the Interim Superintendent of Schools by telephone, letter or email.

Meeting opened to public comments at 7:47 P.M.

Howard Weber, 573 Green Lane: Can the union representative explain how other towns are safe but we are not? Plenty of neighboring towns are deemed safe. Can someone please explain what makes us different?

Interim Superintendent Dr. Alvarez responded that the Union has shared their concerns and at this time, the concerns are being addressed and there is open communication between both the District and the Union. While not in total agreement, we are committed to finding a resolution that results in all parties being comfortable.

Jamie Assor, 512 Bernita Drive: Also, from my understanding I thought the classroom windows are supposed to be open to help with the ventilation in the classroom, but many of the classroom windows are closed. I'm not sure if this has to do with the new Needlepoint system or not. If they are supposed to remain open, can you please let your staff know?

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary Ms. Ippolito responded that opening the windows certainly is the practice and allows for additional vitalization and fresh air to be brought into the classrooms however we did install the needle point bipolar ionization system to purify the air while staff and students are in the rooms and knowing that opening the window is weather dependent. As temps drop, we will need to close down dampers as to avoid causing freezing issues to the HVAC systems or creating rooms that are too cold for the occupants. Open dampers which pull in outside air, open windows, increase ventilation and are best practices as long as the outside temperatures allow it. We have asked our professionals for additional guidance on the amount of outside air that needs to be brought in through our HVAC system without compromising the building systems or having the staff and students be too cold even though the boilers are running.

Jennifer Weber, 525 Dorchester Drive: stated her disappointment in the District's decision not to bring back the K & First grades back five (5) days a week. The children lost so much of their learning last year and now this year again. These are formable years and these younger children are struggling. I am a nurse in a school district and I am aware of the challenges and supportive of the teachers however, we need to go in.

Morrison and Oliver Sklerov, 305 Spring Street: Hello. Is RTI still being used in the school?

Morrison and Oliver Sklerov, 305 Spring Street: I'm sorry I lost you when I tried to unmute. I am concerned about the curriculum. It seems like a lot of review and I was under the impression that kids who were on various levels could join lessons with kids on similar skill levels. I have to supplement a lot because the information right now seems very basic.

Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction Ms. Dowling thanked her for her question and stated that we have created curriculum compacting documents in the spring to ensure that the skills taught during the months of March-June were retaught or assessed to ensure mastery. Additionally, Ms. Dowling stated that many teachers are just finishing completing assessments which will better allow for differentiated instruction; such as TC and Renaissance Assessments. Ms. Dowling also welcomed her to call her at any time to discuss specific curricular concerns for her child.

Matthew de la Rosa: Can you elaborate on the Union issues with K and 1st?

Interim Superintendent Dr. Alvarez stated that he would not be elaborating on the Union issues however will again repeat that the lines of communication are open and that we are working towards a solution.

Amy Dahl, 608 Abbe Court: Is there a possibility to zoom for longer periods of time with the younger children if they can't go in five days a week?

Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction thanked Ms. Dahl for her comment and said that more Zoom instruction seems like a good compromise. All staff is either on Zoom or Google Meets some teachers are on longer than just the minimum and that she'd be happy to look into this.

Helen Riehle, 277 Ford Avenue: Are the discussions ongoing with the union with the mutual goal to have at least the younger kids back 5 days a week?

Interim Superintendent Dr. Alvarez stated that he would not be elaborating on the Union issues however will again repeat that the lines of communication are open and that we are working towards a solution.

Jaime Caruso, 698 Alexander Court

Kate Dalton, Jimmy Dalton, 695 Wicklow Way: What is the union doing to provide PPE for the safety of employees?

Howard Weber, 573 Green Lane: (fixed my IT issues I promise) Can the union be held accountable for driving the decision and respond to these questions? Can they explain what our neighboring towns are doing that we cannot do? Can the union please explain why those other districts are safe? Murphy just reopened indoor sports.

Jeff Binder, 497 Rehill: Hi.

Stephen Presa, RVEA President: We have a short statement.

"The RVEA continues to be open to communicating with the administration and the board. The RVEA remains committed to ensuring a healthy and safe environment for its members and students."

Lori Murphy, 580 Stellman Drive thanked the teachers and the District for all they are doing. Ms. Murphy asked if desk shields are available.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Alvarez stated that they were.

Ann Marie Zihal, 731 Beechcrest: Can you elaborate on the school's utilization of large spaces, i.e. library, gym etc. and is it in the plan to evaluate if more teachers are needed?

Interim Superintendent Dr. Alvarez stated that the gyms in the Elementary schools are right now set up for the ACE before and aftercare program however, there are classes that are cycling through the gyms. At the present time, we are trying to deal with less disruption and able to continue with the staff we already have and are not looking to hire additional teachers at this point.

Sheba Koshy, 627 Doriskill Court: Would it not help to provide additional support staff for the K-1 teachers. An aide could make a huge difference while the teachers teach online and in person with the A/B schedule. It really is not that easy to teach with little ones in person while the teachers also teach directly online.

Board President Waldes stated that due to the State's regulations the District is not permitted to have instructional aides that are not without an IEP.

Matthew de la Rosa: What are the health & safety issues that the Union has raised and what are the numbers?

Interim Superintendent Dr. Alvarez stated that the public comments portion of the meeting is an opportunity for the public to comment and not to engage in a public debate.

Naomi Zeliger, 532 Alosio Drive: Can you please let parents know Mr. Presa is Librarian at Roberge so they understand his position as well as being the union rep. I am a Roberge parent and I know, but others may not.

Kelly Adeboye, 517 Hermann Ave: What are the number of students that are coming back from the fully remote learning to in person?

Interim Superintendent Dr. Alvarez indicated that he had stated this earlier in the meeting but Roberge is seeing an increase in Cohort A returning of 16% and an increase in Cohort B returning of 18%. Woodside is seeing an increase in Cohort A returning of 27% and an increase in Cohort B returning of 29%.

Naomi Zeliger, 532 Alosio Drive: It sounds like helpful information and we think Mr. Presa is wonderful.

Howard Weber, 573 Green Lane: Question regarding timing of phase 3? Members of the Board that are up for re-election what is your take on this and how can parents do better?

Board President Waldes stated that a Board is only active as a Board when they sit at the Board meeting and the Board does not endorse candidates.

Howard Weber, 573 Green Lane: I'm here! What do the Board Members think?

Board Vice President Rosini stated that the Board works to reach consensus and I don't think it is the best forum for this nor is it appropriate.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Alvarez stated that part of this evening felt like a battle however all of the teachers are doing a tremendous job. This is a family and families have disagreements. You need to walk away knowing that the teachers are appreciated. There may be disagreements but the teachers are respected & appreciated. We will continue to keep the lines of communication open and find a resolution.

Board President Waldes stated that she echoed Dr. Alvarez's words and that the teachers have always put the students first. We are trying to come up with solutions and will figure this out. We value feedback and input. We appreciate the publics' comments. We are a family of educations and will get through this. Thank you Mr. Presa for attending.

Meeting closed to public comments at 8:49 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

MOTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION

**MOTION BY Mr. Puccio SECONDED BY Mrs. Senande
that the **October 13, 2020 Regular Meeting** be closed to the public at **8:50 P.M.****

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b), the Board of Education of the Township of River Vale may exclude the public from that portion of a public meeting at which the Board discusses any of the matters described at N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) (1)-(9);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education shall forthwith enter into closed session to discuss matters relating to:

8. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or discipline of any current or prospective officer or employee, unless all individual employees or appointees request in writing that such matter be discussed in public, specifically, the following matter:

- Personnel Issues

MOTION BY Mrs. Senande SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
that the **October 13, 2020 Closed Session Meeting** be opened to the public at **9:46 P.M.**

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Mr. Puccio SECONDED BY Mr. Schlereth
that the **October 13, 2020 Regular Meeting** be adjourned at **9:47 P.M.**

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
AYE	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
NAY							
ABSENT							
ABSTAINED							

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Kelly Ippolito
Board Secretary/School Business Administrator