

**Rochelle Park Board of Education**  
Special Meeting/Public Budget Hearing Minutes  
Thursday, May 2, 2024  
7:00 P.M.

**I. Call meeting to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

Board Member	Present	Absent
Mr. Scott Kral, Vice President	X	
Ms. Christina Holz	X	
Mr. Joseph Marolda		X(7:03)
Mr. Jorge Martinez Jr.	X	
Ms. Elaine Rainone	X	
Mr. Charles Schaadt	X	
Mr. Matthew Trawinski, President	X	

Others Present:

Dr. Sue DeNobile, Superintendent

Dr. James Riley, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mrs. Ellen Kobylarz, Board Recording Secretary

**III. MEETING NOTICE STATEMENT**

**Mr. Trawinski**

In accordance with Chapter 231, Public Law 1975 of the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided as specified in the Act. Notices announcing the date, time and place for this Special Meeting were sent at least 48 hours prior to the time of this meeting to all concerned individuals, associations and sent to the, The Record, and The Our Town, posted on the district website.

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Not Needed)**

**Mr. Trawinski**

Be it resolved that the Rochelle Park Board of Education will convene in Executive Session to discuss confidential matters pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 which include matters pertaining to matters confidential by law and protecting public safety, matters of personnel, and matters of property.

**V. CALL TO ORDER and FLAG SALUTE**

**VI. PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

**Dr. Riley**

**2024-2025 Public Budget Presentation**

Dr. Riley presented the budget to the public. The tax impact on the average assessed home of \$334,813. will be \$9.33 per month. The budget presentation can be viewed on the school website under Administration, Business Office, District Budget, 2024-2025.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT on the 2024-2025 Budget Only**

**Mr. Trawinski**

The Board of Education reserves the right to hold public comment on agenda items, at its discretion, at its regular monthly public meetings. Public comment will be limited to three minutes per person. Citizens should come to the podium, sign in, and give their name and address when recognized to speak. All questions should be directed to the Board President.

Mrs. Judge Cravello- resident Howard Ave. asked about the increase in transportation costs. You also mentioned a decrease in commercial/retail properties where did that information come from.

*Dr. Riley explained that the district does utilize shared services in several different ways to cut costs. There's an agreement with Maywood both districts have students say going to the same high school, and so they can share a bus, but there may only be 3 students on that bus. South Bergen Jointure Commission is another shared service we use for our Special Education out of district students. We may have one student going to a particular school and one or two other towns may have one student so going through SBJC we can combine the 3 students on one bus and save costs. We have a student who needs an ambulance transport. That's one student and due to the needs it is at a higher cost. The decrease in commercial/retail properties is public knowledge you can find on the internet. It is an important piece of information with regard to the school budget because it affects the towns ratables. You have a lower tax base therefore the tax burden increases for the remaining properties.*

*Mr. Kral asked if it would be cost effective for the school district to purchase a bus.*

*Dr. Riley explained due to compliance and regulations it is a cumbersome process. Legislators are currently looking at policies that would change that. The costs would have to offset the hiring of personnel and related expenses to maintaining the program.*

Mrs. Judge Cravello added that you also have a shared service with the Township in regard to purchasing gasoline, anything else you can share services on.

*Dr. Riley confirmed and added he is always looking for other ways to share cost savings.*

*Mr. Kral commented that the school security grant will be used for cameras.*

*Dr. Riley confirmed that it would, about 20,000.*

*Mr. Kral Special Ed aid stayed the same*

*Dr. Riley stated ex aid is a reimbursement of a % of what we paid out. Comes in as revenue after the budget is over.*

## **VIII. CLOSE PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

### **IX. OPEN TO PUBLIC- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

The Board of Education reserves the right to hold public comment on agenda items, at its discretion, at its regular monthly public meetings. Public comment will be limited to three minutes per person. Citizens should come to the podium, sign in, and give their name and address when recognized to speak. All questions should be directed to the Board President.

No one from the public chose to speak

### **X. ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION - Resolutions**

#### **ROUTINE MATTERS:**

None

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

None

#### **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:**

None

#### **FINANCE:**

### **F1. FINAL BUDGET ADOPTION-2024-2025-**

Adoption of the FINAL BUDGET as approved by the Interim Executive County Superintendent  
(unchanged)

WHEREAS, the Rochelle Park Board of Education adopted a TENTATIVE budget on March 18, 2024, and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

WHEREAS, the TENTATIVE budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on March 26, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the TENTATIVE budget was advertised in the legal section of The Record newspaper on April 28, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the FINAL BUDGET was presented to the public during a public hearing held in the Midland School Multipurpose Room, 300 Rochelle Ave., Rochelle Park, NJ, on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 7pm.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves the adoption of 2024-2025 school district budget, with a total budget of \$16,756,296 with \$13,893,625 to be raised by local tax levy for the General Fund and the following fund expenditures:

11 Fund Current Expense	\$16,095,266
12 Fund Capital Outlay	\$
20 Fund Special Projects	\$ 189,842
40 Fund Debt Service	\$ 471,188

ADDITIONALLY, \$310,984 to be raised by local tax levy for the payment of previously voter approved Debt Service.

F2. ADJUSTMENT FOR BANKED CAP

RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Rochelle Park Board of Education includes in the final budget the adjustment for banked cap in the amount of \$42,266. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), the district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used for the increased costs of healthcare. The Board of Education will complete this by June 30, 2025 and it acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

F3. TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENDITURES FOR 2024-2025

WHEREAS, the Rochelle Park 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:23A-7.3 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, the Rochelle Park Board of Education established \$15,000.00 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$5,155.87 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$15,000.00 for the 2024-2025 school year.

**F4. TRAVEL AND RELATED EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

WHEREAS, The 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, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 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, a board of education may establish, for regular district business travel only, an annual school year threshold of \$150 per staff member or district board of education 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, travel and related expenses not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 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 BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves all travel not in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7 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 includes in the tentative budget travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A Subchapter 7, to a maximum expenditure of \$1500 for all staff and board members for SY 2024-2025.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall track and record these costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded.

F1-F2 Motion Mr. Schaad, Second Mr. Marolda  
Roll Call 4-3 (Holz, Rainone, Trawinski)  
F3-F4  
Roll Call 7-0  
Motions Carried

**PERSONNEL:**

**P1. Appointments-Non-Certificated/Certificated**

RESOLVED: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following non-certificated/certificated staff.

	Name	Role	Step	Salary	Start	Replaces	Acct.
a	Kaitlyn Foley*	Teacher	MA 2	\$67,092	9/1/2024 - 6/30/2025	employee# 43870XXX	11-130-100-101-001

b	Howard Klein	Substitute Teacher	N/A	\$120.00 Per diem	4/27/2024		
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\*Pending criminal history background authorization and physical clearance.

P1  
Roll Call 7-0  
Motion Carried

*Dr. DeNobile noted that Ms. Foley has both a Teacher of Mathematics of Middle School and dual certification in Special Education. She believes having her on our team will support both our needs in Special Ed and Math.*

**XI. Public Comment: Agenda and non-agenda items**

The Board of Education reserves the right to hold public comment on agenda and non-agenda items, at its discretion, at its regular monthly public meetings. Public comment will be limited to three minutes per person. Citizens should come to the podium, sign in, and give their name and address when recognized to speak.

Mrs. Judge Cravello informed the board that at the last Township meeting they approved their budget with a tax increase of 20 dollars on an assessed house of 334,000. Which amounts to \$1.66 a month.

**XII. Announcements**

The next Regular Meeting will be held on May 14, 2024 at 7:30 P.M. in the Midland School Gymnasium. Executive session will be held prior at 6:30PM.

**XIII. Executive Session**

Be it resolved that the Rochelle Park Board of Education will convene in Executive Session to discuss confidential matters pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 which include matters pertaining to matters confidential by law and protecting public safety, matters of personnel, and matters of property. Action will not be taken.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 all in favor.

*This document is subject to additions, withdrawals, and modifications without notice.*