

RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION
River Vale, New Jersey 07675
REGULAR MEETING
Roberge Annex
February 23, 2021 – 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,
Mrs. Rothenberg, Mrs. Waldes**

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Rosini, Mr. Schlereth, Mrs. Senande

**ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Alvarez, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Ippolito, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Ms. Signore, Woodside School Principal
Ms. Dowling, Supervisor, Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Peterson, Director of Buildings & Grounds
Mr. O’Gara, Supervisor, Director of Educational Technology
121 members of the public**

FLAG SALUTE

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mrs. Waldes thanked everyone for attending the meeting and hoped everyone was safe and well. She thanked Dr. Maron for the February 11, 2021 presentation dealing with stress. Part Two will take place on March 9th and Michael Tozzoli (Chief Executive Officer at West Bergen Mental Healthcare) will facilitate a Q&A session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – CHAIRPERSON

- **Buildings & Grounds – None**
- **Communications & Policies – None**
- **Curriculum & Technology – None**

➤ **Finance – Mrs. Pintarelli discussed the following topics:**

• **District Audit**

- Field work for the 2020 FY Audit has been completed. The final Audit report has not yet been released

• **Governor’s State of the Union Address**

- Delivered this afternoon – State Aid figures to be released – no later than Thursday February 25, 2021. Highlights are as follows:
 - * \$6.4 billion FULL Actuarially Determined Pension Contribution
 - * Additional \$578.1 million added to Formula Aid
 - * Additional \$50 million for Pre-School Aid; \$26 million of that amount for 30 new districts
 - * \$50 million for Stabilization Aid
 - * \$25 million additional for Extraordinary Aid
 - * \$75 million for SDA's capital maintenance and emergent needs grants program
 - * \$120 million of the State's ESSER II set aside funds announced last week for the Learning Acceleration grants and mental health services.
 - The Governor’s FY22 budget proposal represents a concerted effort to fund the provisions of the School Funding Reform Act. It presumes that the provisions of S-2 which provide for a reallocation of funds within the formula between districts continues according to the statutory schedule.

➤ **Negotiations – None**

➤ **Personnel – None**

Committee Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Committee
February 23, 2021	6:00 PM	Finance
March 2, 2021	6:00 PM	Finance
March 16, 2021	6:00 PM	Finance
March 23, 2021	6:00 PM	Policy & Communication
April 13, 2021	6:00 PM	Buildings & Grounds
April 27, 2021	6:00 PM	Personnel
May 11, 2021	6:00 PM	Curriculum & Technology
September 14, 2021	6:00 PM	Buildings & Grounds
September 28, 2021	6:00 PM	Curriculum & Technology
October 12, 2021	6:00 PM	Policy & Communication
November 16, 2021	6:00 PM	Negotiations
December 14, 2021	6:00 PM	Finance
January 4, 2022	6:00 PM	Finance

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 School District 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 7:08 P.M.

Public comments:

None

Meeting closed to public comments at 7:09 P.M.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez introduced Kim Dowling, Curriculum Supervisor, and Shelly Klein, Literacy Consultant, who reviewed the District's efforts in the area of language arts/literacy during this school year as well as upcoming plans for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dr. Alvarez then reviewed metrics used to make decisions regarding the schools ability to remain open or to switch to remote-only learning, including the COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI), school-level COVID-19 updates, community data, statewide infection rates and contract tracing reports. He announced that based on the data the elementary school will open for 5-day per week instruction as follows: Grade 3 beginning on Monday, March 8 and Grades 4 and 5 starting Monday, March 22. Plans are being formulated for the return of middle school students, although the data reveals the middle school has been more of a challenge. He anticipates making an announcement in the next week.

BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ms. Ippolito reminded Board Members of regular business items pertaining to forms, registrations and training dates.

Ms. Ippolito spoke about the NJ Department of Education's Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

Ms. Ippolito also discussed the Governor’s State of the Union Address and expected State Aid expectations for the River Vale School District. The Governor’s FY22 budget proposal represents a concerted effort to fund the provisions of the School Funding Reform Act. It presumes that the provisions of S-2 which provide for a reallocation of funds within the formula between districts continues according to the statutory schedule. This would be good news for the District as we are a District that has been underfunded for many years and the provisions of S-2 seek to remedy this situation.

Ms. Ippolito introduced Andrea Kahn, Esq., of McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, Bond Counsel for the Referendum, and presented an Addendum to the Agenda which puts forth the three bond proposal questions to be submitted to voters at the referendum special election scheduled for April 20, 2021.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

G1. MOTION BY Mrs. Pintarelli SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the Minutes from the Board Meeting on February 9, 2021.**

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

G2. MOTION BY Mrs. Pintarelli SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the Closed Session Minutes from the Board Meeting on February 9, 2021.**

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

G3. MOTION BY Mrs. Pintarelli SECONDED BY Mr. Puccio
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon 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
20272304	Windsor Learning Center	Windsor Learning Center	26,082.00	February - June

	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, **approves the transfer of funds for month ending January 31, 2021 in the amount of \$33,993.00 as set forth below:****

**Transfer of Funds
Month Ending January 31, 2021**

T544	FROM	11-000-291-270-10-11-000	HEALTH BENEFITS	-33993.00
	TO	11-000-291-299-10-11-000	UNUSED SICK PAYOUT-NORMAL RETIREMENT	33993.00
	TOTALS			
	FROM			-33993.00
	TO			33993.00

Note: Transaction Date: 1/31/21

	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, **approves the bills list dated February 23, 2021 as follows:****

Fund 10 – General Fund	-	\$1,421,102.58
Fund 10 – Voided Checks	-	\$ 0.00
Fund 20 – Special Revenue	-	\$ 362.20
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	-	\$	215,699.14
Fund 91 – Merchants Account-		\$	0.00
Total			\$1,637,163.92

	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 purchase orders and adjustments for period dated February 23, 2021 in the amount of \$18,736.09.**

	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 transfer of funds for period ending February 23, 2021 in the amount of \$19,830.00 as set forth below:**

**Transfer of Funds
Period Ending February 23, 2021**

T543	FROM	11-000-251-340-10-11-000	BUS OFFICE/PURCH TECH SERVICES	-851.00
	TO	11-000-251-590-10-11-999	BUS OFFICE/OTHER PURCH SERVICES	851.00
T545	FROM	11-000-100-562-10-18-000	TUITION-LEA IN STATE	-18979.00
	TO	11-000-100-566-10-18-000	TUITION-PRIVATE SCHOOL	18979.00
	TOTALS			
	FROM			-19830.00
	TO			19830.00

Note: Transaction Date: 2/23/2021

	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, **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
Kelly Ippolito	Board Office	Analyzing and Constructing Salary Guides	Virtual	3/25/2021	149.00
Kimberly Dowling	Curriculum & Instruction	RULER 2021 Implementation Conference	Virtual	4/28/2021 4/29/2021	132.00
Justin Jasper	Holdrum	RULER 2021 Implementation Conference	Virtual	4/28/2021 4/29/2021	132.00
Kim Ullrich	Roberge	Fluency: The Bridge Between Word Recognition and Comprehension	Virtual	2/25/2021	0.00
Kim Ullrich	Roberge	The Importance of Phonemic Awareness Instruction in the Primary Classroom	TBD	5/14/2021	0.00
Patricia Sayre	Holdrum	10 Crucial Days	Northern Valley	4/26/2021	0.00

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

PERSONNEL RESOLUTIONS

- P1. MOTION BY Mr. Puccio SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **accepts, with regret, the resignation of Olivia Wagner, a Woodside School Special Education Aide, effective March 5, 2021.****

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

- P2. MOTION BY Mr. Puccio SECONDED BY Mr. Pintarelli**
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon 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.**

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

- P3. MOTION BY Mr. Puccio SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli**
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves Northern Region Educational Services Commission with all of their properly certified employees, to provide substitute aide services to the district for the 2020-2021 school year.**

	Mrs. Pintarelli	Mr. Puccio	Mr. Rosini	Mrs. Rothenberg	Mr. Schlereth	Mrs. Senande	Mrs. Waldes
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 School District 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 7:42 P.M.

Public comments:

Matt de la Rosa, 712 Chalmers Ct: Good Evening, thank you for getting kids back in 5 days a week. This is moving in the right direction. School is the safest place for students and staff. Where are we with a longer school day and allowing for lunch in schools?

Dr. Frank Alvarez, Interim Superintendent of Schools, responded that we are not sure that we are ready to move on that just yet however, we plan to continue the discussion.

Madhavi Gibbs, 226 Graney Drive: What is the plan to allow students that are part of the IEP program to go back to 5 day in person?

Dr. Frank Alvarez, Interim Superintendent of Schools, responded that we have brought those students back in the Elementary Schools and are moving to look at the Middle School as well.

Bridget Grant, 36 Bock Drive: - What is the number in total at Roberge had COVID? It seems to me the number is around 10 for the entire school, for almost the entire school year. Why are we waiting till March 22nd when other schools in nearby districts have been five days for some time now. I also asked last week about children who get basic skills being brought back immediately. Has there been any movement on this?

Dr. Frank Alvarez, Interim Superintendent of Schools, responded that we are being cautious, which has served us well so far, and planning out the return of students with safety being the first priority for students and staff.

Bridget Grant, 36 Bock Drive: Will the District be back to full days next year? Has that been thought about yet?

Dr. Frank Alvarez, Interim Superintendent of Schools, responded that the Administration is discussing this now and hopes to advise parents of a plan for September by April.

Jessica Polizzi, 299 River Drive: Will middle school students be allowed to move classes? Or are they going to continue to stay in the same classes?

Dr. Frank Alvarez, Interim Superintendent of Schools, responded that for the time being, kids will not be changing classes however, that could change in the future.

Madhavi Gibbs, 226 Graney Drive: Have they softened the requirements to be accepted into the National Honor Society?

Dr. Frank Alvarez, Interim Superintendent of Schools, responded that I do not believe that to be the case. The Middle School is planning on sending out information on the Junior Honor Society next week.

Rachel Galatt, 421 Margiasso Ct: Thank you for moving to get kids in 5 days a week. In the survey to go out, is the choice 5 days a week and no more cohorts?

Dr. Frank Alvarez, Interim Superintendent of Schools, responded that that was correct.

Meeting closed to public comments at 8:04 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Secretary, Kelly Ippolito, introduced the referendum bond proposal questions to be submitted to the voters at the April 20, 2021:

Ms. Ippolito led the discussion with providing background information as follows:

Our District, in an effort to continue our strategic financial and long term facilities planning, the District Architect was engaged in 2019 to perform a district-wide physical needs assessment. The physical needs assessment was concluded and the report issued in June 2019 it was discussed with the Board and focus groups were held in each Building to solicit feedback from the staff. Many good ideas were presented. One theme throughout the focus groups was the need to address mental health and wellness for students and staff. The realization that if a connecting corridor were built to connect all of the hallways in Holdrum Middle School, this could solve several issues such as crowded hallways, lockers could be removed from the classrooms and relocated to the new corridor, two (2) internal courtyards would be created along with a wellness center space for multipurpose usage and allowing for outside classrooms and/or space in a secure manner.

Ms. Ippolito spoke to the following

1. Funding of Projects Identified

- a. Operating Budget
- b. Capital and Maintenance Reserve
- c. Second Question
- d. Bond Referendum

2. Advantages of a Bond Referendum:

- a. Debt Service Aid (DSA) is still available for eligible projects for up to 40%. Average DSA typically is 34%.
- b. Spread the cost over 20-25 years and continue the same if not less than the current debt which is due to end in 2021.
- c. Referendum question can be separated into multiple questions.

As a reminder, the Community passed a Bond Referendum in 2001 and since that time, the Board has been maintaining the District through its operating budget and partnering with the RVEF and RVPTA to maintain and improve its facilities and programs without asking the Community for additional funding. Specific facility upgrades included replacing all of the boilers at all three (3) school buildings, renovating all of the Science Labs at the Middle School, renovating all of the

Media Centers in all three (3) buildings, installing a stand-alone generator at the Middle School and generator hook-ups at the Elementary Schools, repaving all the parking lots at all three (3) schools, implementing a 1:1 initiative K-8, and installing the Needle Point Bipolar Ionization equipment at all three (3) schools.

The Board had been fiscally responsible and saving to perform the necessary facility and maintenance items however many of the facility and maintenance items, such as the roofs, were big ticket items and they still did not have the savings to pay for all of the facility needs that would be necessary over the next few years. The Board recognized that it was in a unique position with the 2001 referendum being paid off this year and knowing that there is still Debt Service Aid available to Boards that have debt. To that end, the decision was made to seek voter approval for issuing bonds to spread out the cost of the projects, receive the Debt Service Aid and continue, maintain the buildings and provide for the future of student learning. A top priority for the Board was being sensitive to the tax payers and striving to keep the impact to the taxpayer as tax neutral as possible. The Board decided to break the projects into three (3) questions. Question # 1 had all of the roofs, roof top equipment, replacement floor tile, new classroom storage or casework depending on the school, the real nuts and bolts of what is necessary due to the mechanicals coming to the end of their useful lives. The new construction at the Holdrum Middle School to connect the three (3) corridors and create a wellness center was also in Question # 1. Question # 2 includes all of the additional costs associated with providing air conditioning in the areas that currently do not have air conditioning at the three (3) schools. The suggestion of Question # 3 would include new construction at both elementary schools to provide areas for wellness.

All of the projects that were thought to be eligible for Debt Service Aid were confirmed to be eligible by the New Jersey Department of Education. To that end, the District is eligible for 29.3% of the annual principal and interest payments on the bonds it would seek to issue for a 25 year period. That breaks down to an annual increase on the average assessed home over the current debt of \$ 34 for question # 1, an annual increase over the current debt of \$ 89 for question # 2 and an annual increase over the current debt of \$ 25 for question # 3 for a grand total of an annual increase on the average assessed home of \$148. In order to accomplish this and address all of the facility items, the Board is using \$6,770,000 of their Capital Reserve. The analogy is that you find a home to buy that costs \$100K, you have \$20K in savings to use as a down payment, you go to the bank to secure a mortgage and the bank gives you a coupon of \$20K which means that you only need to secure a mortgage in the amount of \$60K. The Board is taking advantage of the State Aid that is available to schools to help reduce the tax burden to the tax payers.

Andrea Kahn, Esq., Bond Counsel, McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC, added that, with low interest rates, this makes it a perfect time to issue bonds for projects that will continue to maintain the schools and property values for the Community which would not otherwise be possible using the Board's regular operating budget.

NB1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the Board, upon recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, **approves the following resolution:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the River Vale Board of Education approves a resolution providing for a special school district election to be held on April 20, 2021 for consideration of three bond proposals by the legally qualified voters of the school district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Township of River Vale, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (with not less than a majority of the full membership of the Board concurring) as follows:

1. It is hereby determined that three bond proposals, together with an interpretive statement, shall be submitted for voter approval at a special school district election to be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. as permitted and required by law. The form of the bond proposal questions and interpretive statement to be submitted to the voters shall read substantially as follows with such adjustments as may be provided by bond counsel:

BOND PROPOSAL QUESTION NO. 1

The Board of Education of the Township of River Vale in the County of Bergen, New Jersey is authorized: (a) to provide for renovations, alterations and improvements and new construction front entrance canopies at Holdrum Middle School, Roberge Elementary School and Woodside Elementary School and new construction for a Wellness Center at Holdrum Middle School, including fixtures, furnishings, equipment, site work and related work; (b) to appropriate \$31,770,463 for such purposes, including \$6,770,000 from capital reserve, and (c) to issue bonds of the school district in the principal amount of \$25,000,463.

The final eligible costs of the projects approved by the Commissioner of Education are \$27,604,597 (with \$12,094,350 allocated to Holdrum Middle School, \$6,191,458 allocated to Roberge Elementary School and \$9,318,789 allocated to Woodside Elementary). The proposed improvements include \$1,408,550 (with \$1,358,500 allocated to Holdrum Middle School, \$21,450 allocated to Roberge Elementary School and \$28,600 allocated to Woodside Elementary School for elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The State debt service aid percentage will equal 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs of the projects. The Board of Education is authorized to transfer funds among the projects approved at this special election.

Do you approve this bond proposal?

BOND PROPOSAL QUESTION NO. 2

(This Proposal No. 2 will only go into effect if both Proposal No. 1 and this Proposal No. 2 are approved by the voters at this election).

The Board of Education of the Township of River Vale in the County of Bergen, New Jersey is authorized: (a) to provide for air conditioning systems at Holdrum Middle School, Roberge Elementary School and Woodside Elementary, including renovations, alterations, improvements, fixtures, furnishings, equipment, site work and related work; (b) to appropriate \$9,025,031 for such purposes and (c) to issue bonds of the school district in the principal amount of \$9,025,031.

The final eligible costs of the projects approved by the Commissioner of Education are \$9,025,031 (with \$3,770,458 allocated to Holdrum Middle School, \$2,675,777 allocated to Roberge Elementary School and \$2,578,796 allocated to Woodside Elementary). The proposed improvements include \$-0- for elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The State debt service aid percentage will equal 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs of the projects. The Board of Education is authorized to transfer funds among the projects approved at this special election.

Do you approve this bond proposal?

BOND PROPOSAL QUESTION NO. 3

(This Proposal No. 3 will only go into effect if both Proposal No. 1 and this Proposal No. 3 are approved by the voters at this election.)

The Board of Education of the Township of River Vale in the County of Bergen, New Jersey is authorized: (a) to provide for Wellness Centers at Roberge Elementary School and Woodside Elementary School, including renovations, alterations, improvements, new construction, fixtures, furnishings, equipment, site work and related work; (b) to appropriate \$1,704,091 for such purposes and (c) to issue bonds of the school district in the principal amount of \$1,704,091.

The final eligible costs of these projects approved by the Commissioner of Education are \$-0-. The proposed improvements include \$88,660 allocated to Roberge Elementary School and \$121,550 allocated to Woodside Elementary School for elements (ineligible new construction space at \$143/square foot) in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The State debt service aid percentage would equal 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs of the projects but no debt service aid would be expected. The Board of Education is authorized to transfer funds among the projects approved at this special election.

Do you approve this bond proposal?

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

If all three bond proposals are approved by the voters at this election, the Board of Education will be authorized to undertake school capital projects for a total cost of \$42,499,585, including \$6,770,000 from capital reserve, and to issue bonds in the total principal amount of \$35,729,585 to fund the projects. The aggregate amount of the final eligible costs of the projects approved by the Commissioner of Education is \$36,629,628 (with \$15,864,808 allocated to Holdrum Middle School, \$8,867,235 allocated to Roberge Elementary School and \$11,897,585 allocated to Woodside Elementary School). The proposed improvements include \$1,618,760 (with \$1,358,500 allocated to Holdrum Middle School, \$110,110 allocated to Roberge Elementary School and \$150,150 allocated to Woodside Elementary School) for school construction elements in addition to the facilities efficiency standards developed by the Commissioner of Education or not otherwise eligible for State support pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-5(g). The State debt service aid percentage will equal 40% of the annual debt service due with respect to the final eligible costs of the projects approved at this election.

2. This Board of Education hereby approves and adopts the bond proposals set forth above, and, subject to the approval of the legal voters of the school district, hereby determines to carry out the improvements described therein (the "Projects").

3. This Board of Education hereby acknowledges and confirms that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:24-16 and 18A:24-17 a supplemental debt statement has been prepared by the chief financial officer of the Township of River Vale (the "Township"), giving effect to the proposed authorization of bonds of the school district in the maximum amount of bonds authorized in the proposals. The supplemental debt statement has been filed in the office of the Township Clerk and in the office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary of this Board of Education prior to the adoption of the proposal and will be filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs prior to the date of the special election.

4. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of the bond proposal questions, together with the interpretive statement, to the County Clerk as required by N.J.S.A. 19:60-2, to request the County Clerk to submit the bond proposal questions and interpretive statement to the voters at the special school district election and to seek the assistance of the county officials and the municipal clerk in conducting the special school district election.

5. The Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt of the Preliminary Eligible Costs (PEC) letters for the Projects from the Department of Education. The Board hereby elects to receive debt service aid pursuant to Section 9 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-1 *et seq.* (the "Act"). The Board further agrees to accept the determination of the space eligible or ineligible for State support and the preliminary eligible costs as final eligible costs as set forth in the PEC letters by the Department of Education and determines

not to appeal. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is authorized, if necessary, to notify the Department of Education of the Board's elections with respect to the eligible spaces and costs and its election to receive debt service aid.

6. LAN Associates, the School District's appointed architect for the Projects (the "Project Architect"), has heretofore been authorized and delegated the responsibility to prepare the plans and specifications for the Projects in consultation with and under the supervision of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who has heretofore been delegated the responsibility to work with the Project Architect for this purpose on behalf of the Board of Education, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-16, and such authorizations and delegations are hereof reconfirmed.

7. The educational plans, where required, and the schematic plans for the construction of the Projects have heretofore been approved by this Board of Education, and such approval is hereby reconfirmed.

8. The Board President, the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, the Project Architect, Bond Counsel and other appropriate representatives of the Board of Education (the "Board Representatives") have heretofore been authorized, and such authorization is hereby reconfirmed, to submit the educational plans, where required, and the schematic plans for the Projects, together with such other information as may be required, to the State Department of Education for approval and to make application to the Commissioner of Education for approval of the educational plans, where required, the schematic plans and the Projects and, if necessary, any required amendment to the long-range facilities plan, in accordance with the requirements of the Act and N.J.A.C. 6A:26-2.1(f), 6A:26-2.3(c), 6A:26-3.1 and 6A:26-3.2, as appropriate.

9. The Board Representatives have heretofore been and are hereby further authorized and directed to submit the plans and any other required information to the Planning Board and the Department of Environmental Protection for review and comment as necessary, and such authorization and direction are hereby reconfirmed.

10. This Board of Education hereby makes the following covenants and declarations with respect to obligations determined to be issued by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary through a public offering or private placement or through a conduit borrower on a tax-exempt basis. The Board of Education hereby covenants that it will comply with any conditions subsequent imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), in order to preserve the exemption from taxation of interest on its bonds or notes if issued as tax exempt, including, if necessary, the requirement to rebate all net investment earnings on the gross proceeds above the yield on its bonds or notes. The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Board of Education to deem any obligations authorized herein as Bank Qualified for the purposes of Section 265 of the Code, when appropriate. The Board of Education hereby declares the intent of the Board of Education to issue bonds or temporary notes in the amount not to exceed the amount set forth in the bond proposal approved by the voters as set forth in Section 1 and to use the proceeds to pay or to reimburse expenditures for the costs of the school capital projects authorized therein. This resolution is a declaration of intent within the meaning and for purposes of Treasury Regulations §1.150-2 or any successor provisions of federal income tax law.

11. The proceeds of the bonds authorized herein shall be spent first for Project costs and any capital reserve money not needed to complete the Projects shall be restored to the capital reserve account.

12. The Board Representatives are hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to implement this resolution. Any actions authorized herein and taken prior hereto are hereby ratified.

The Business Administrator/Board Secretary is further authorized to act on behalf of the Board of Education to make such determinations required of the Board of Education for the conduct of the election as may become necessary.

13. The reference to officers of this school district herein includes any interim, acting or successor officer holding that position.

14. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

NEW BUSINESS

None

MOTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION

MOTION BY Mr. Puccio SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli

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:

7. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation (other than any matter involving a collective bargaining agreement, or the proposals for inclusion in such) in which the Board of Education is or may become a party, or any matter falling within the attorney/client privilege, specifically, the following matter:

- Legal Case

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in closed session by this Board of Education and administrative staff, and the minutes of said closed session discussion will be made available to the public when the reasons for the non-disclosure in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act no longer exist.

Meeting closed to the public at 8:30 P.M.

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

**MOTION BY Mr. Puccio SECONDED BY Mrs. Pintarelli
that the February 23, 2021, Closed Session Meeting be reopened to Regular Meeting at 8:37 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 Mrs. Pintarelli
that the February 23, 2021, Regular Meeting be adjourned at 8:38 P.M.**

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	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