

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., February 23, 2016 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Including Student Recognition –PTA Reflections Contest Winners,
Danny Fusco, Student Athlete, a Budget Development
Process Presentation and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Kristin Ochtera, Patricia Nicoletti, Neil R. Schloth, John Giannotti, Jr., Keith Gamache; Superintendent, Lisa J. Ruiz; Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, James P. Robinson; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, John Piccarella, District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:05 pm and Keith Gamache led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board President Kristin Ochtera turned the meeting over to the Superintendent. Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone and was excited to speak about tonight's students' recognitions. Ms. Ruiz introduced Mr. Dominick Vulpis who spoke about student athlete Danny Fusco and remembered him growing up as a young boy. Mr. Vulpis then introduced Mr. Joe Lores and invited the basketball players to join the presentation. Mr. Lores thanked the Board for recognizing the accomplishments of Danny who is now the school's all-time leading scorer in basketball. A basketball with his name on it signifying 1,000 points was presented to Danny. Mr. Vulpis introduced Danny's parents, invited them to join their son, and thanked them for being a part of their son's success. Ms. Ruiz also congratulated Danny, his parents, and the members of the basketball team.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced elementary school principals, Mr. Erik Walter and Mr. Tim Silk. Mr. Walter and Mr. Silk showed an informational video of the PTA Reflections Contest, a volunteer arts program and contest, that both schools were involved in. This year Centre Avenue School joined Rhame Avenue School in participating.

Mr. Walter introduced Mr. Silk who spoke about the Centre Avenue School PTA Reflections Contest. He thanked the Rhame Avenue School PTA for their assistance with the program. Mr. Silk introduced PTA co-presidents Ms. Jeanine Araoz and Ms. Michelle Gamache. Ms. Gamache was excited to report that 16 students participated and thanked Mr. Silk, the Rhame Avenue School PTA, judges, students, and Centre Avenue School staff for their help. She also thanked Ms. Maini for creating the video of the students' work. The video of all the students' entries was shown. Ms. Gamache called all the participants and presented them with certificates. It was also announced that Sean Sommer's entry was moving onto the New York State level. She thanked and congratulated all the students and families who participated.

Mr. Walter then spoke on behalf of the Rhame Avenue School. He thanked Ms. Elias, the judges, Ms. Maini, and all the families who participated. Ms. Ochtera was presented with a certificate for judging the entries. A video, created by Ms. Maini, was shown of the Rhame Avenue School entries. Mr. Walter read the names of all the winners, and presented them with certificates. He also announced that Megan Acuti's entry is moving onto the New York State level. Ms. Ruiz thanked both PTA's, and parents for hosting this contest and congratulated all the winners and participants. She looks forward to seeing this program grow.

Ms. Ruiz introduced Mr. James P. Robinson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations. Mr. Robinson presented a budget development process and capital reserves presentation. He then introduced Mr. John Piccarella, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology. Mr. Piccarella spoke about the history of the technology reserve. Mr. Robinson then continued speaking about the five year capital plan and capital reserve history. Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. Robinson and Mr. Piccarella for their presentations.

At 8:10 p.m. the meeting was turned over to Ms. Ochtera who continued with the agenda. Ms. Ochtera asked if there were any questions regarding the items on tonight's agenda and reminded the audience that there will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting.

2. Upon motion made by John Giannotti, Jr., and seconded by Patricia Nicoletti, the minutes of the January 19, 2016, regular meeting and the January 25, 2016, special meeting, were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – December 2015
4. Correspondence - One
5. Action Agenda

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the following Item Nos. 1 through 8 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

A. Personnel

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Roopa Khaneja, substitute teacher, effective January 30, 2016
 - b. Juan Carlos Bosques, substitute cleaner and food service worker, effective February 24, 2016
 - c. Michele Bonziglia, food service worker and school monitor (part-time), effective June 30, 2014
 - d. Marilyn Walsh, substitute school nurse, effective January 10, 2016

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the spring sports coaching schedule dated February 23, 2016.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Gregory Razzano to the position of short term substitute teacher (.5 FTE), effective January 22, 2016, through April 8, 2016, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for short term substitute teachers for the 2015-2016 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Rachel Dilmanian to the position of short term substitute teacher (.8 FTE), effective February 4, 2016, through May 24, 2016, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for short term substitute teachers for the 2015-2016 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a FMLA leave of absence for Denise Lobascio from her position as 12-month typist-clerk, effective March 7, 2016.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Juan Carlos Bosques to the position of groundskeeper, effective February 24, 2016, at the Step A annual salary established by East Rockaway Custodial Unit agreement for groundskeeper for the 2015-2016 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for substitute workers for the 2015-2016 school year:
 - a. Sallyann Agro, substitute nurse, effective February 24, 2016
 - b. Linda Donovan, teacher aide substitute and substitute typist clerk, effective February 24, 2016
 - c. Deanna Giovinco, teacher aide substitute effective February 24, 2016
 - d. Joseph Toderò, substitute teacher, effective February 24, 2016
 - e. Gregory Razzano, substitute teacher, effective January 22, 2016; and athletic supervisor (day/evening) and activity supervisor, effective February 4, 2016
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the “emergency, conditional” personnel appointment for the following individual pending receipt of notification of fingerprint clearance from the State of New York, Department of Education:
 - a. Sallyann Agro

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by John Giannotti, Jr., and seconded by Patricia Nicoletti, the following Other Items 1 through 14 were unanimously approved.

1. Approve the 2016-2017 school district calendar.
2. Accept the Title I A&D – Federal Funding Grant Award for the funding dates of September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016 with an approved budget total of \$98,668.
3. Accept the Title IIA – Federal Funding Grant Award for the funding dates of September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016 with an approved budget total of \$31,279.
4. Accept the Title III Immigrant Education – Federal Funding Grant Award for the funding dates of September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016 with an approved budget total of \$21,595.
5. Accept the Title IIIA LEP – [Consortium between Lynbrook and East Rockaway] Federal Funding Grant Award for the funding dates of September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016 with an approved budget total for East Rockaway of \$4,116.
6. Approve the purchase of the following textbook:

Bedford/St. Martins: The Language of Composition, Second Edition; Boston/New York; Copyright 2013
7. Accept the following donations:
 - a. A grant award from the East Rockaway Education Foundation in the amount of \$1,000.00 in support of district-wide educational programs
 - b. Two bookcases with five shelves from Jorge Salazar valued at \$100.00
 - c. \$700 from the Centre Avenue Class of 2015 for the purchase of new shrubs for Centre Avenue School
 - d. \$1,362.00 from the Kiwanis Club of East Rockaway to be applied to the club advisors' stipend for the "new" K-Kids Elementary Club
8. Approve the Health and Welfare Services Agreements between the East Rockaway UFSD and the following school districts for health and welfare services for the 2015-2016 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. Uniondale UFSD
 - b. Malverne UFSD
 - c. Hicksville School District

9. Approve the terms of the Letter of Intent with Nassau BOCES for a five-year lease for one Xerox multi-task copy machine and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Letter of Intent on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
10. Approve the terms of the Letter of Intent with Nassau BOCES for a five-year lease for two Xerox multi-task copy machines and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Letter of Intent on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
11. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract with the following consultants to accompany the pit orchestra for the district musical, *Mary Poppins*, leading up to and including the public performances and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. Kevin McKeon
 - b. James Anemone
12. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and The S.L.A.T.E. Project, guest speaker for Human Relations Day at East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
13. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Carol Nivens, R.N. and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
14. Approve the terms of the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release in the action entitled Whitsons School Nutrition Corp. v. East Rockaway Union Free School District, pending in the Supreme Court, State of New York, County of Nassau, under Index No. 606963/2015 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

C. Budget Transfers – None

D. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Upon motion made by Patricia Nicoletti, and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the following policy was unanimously approved for adoption.

1. For Adoption

- a. 5500, Student Records

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to Mary Ellen Haggerty and family on the passing of her husband, Michael Haggerty

8. Superintendent's Report

Elementary

Although February is a short month, so many things are happening which are providing great opportunities for our students. Congratulations to Centre Avenue sixth grader, Maddy Prucha, for being the overall winner for the National Geographic Geography Bee. This is Maddy's second time as school champion and she also made it to the states last year. Let's hope Maddy goes to the State level again this year. We hope to bring this to the other schools. Try this question for size: Q. More than one-fourth of the world's bananas are exported from a South American country whose capital is Quito. Name this country. A. Ecuador. We hope to move this to the other buildings.

Dr. Doda, our staff developer for our Middle School concept, has been working closely with Centre and Rhame Avenue sixth graders and teachers to promote and refine instruction given to this unique age group.

Mr. O'Driscoll, our High School Guidance Counselor, met with the sixth graders to prepare them for the middle school experience. Mr. Cuttita, High School Spanish and Italian teacher also visited the elementary schools to orient students to taking a foreign language

Kindergarten students in both buildings celebrated the 100th day of school with various educational and celebratory events. This is always one of the most special days in Kindergarten.

The fifth graders are currently learning about various careers. They are preparing for their trip to Commerce Plaza in March. Ms. Weissman led students in completing an interest inventory. She then helped students match their interests with possible future career paths. Students are currently exploring the different types of decisions that businesses need to make, such as what

hours they should be open, how much they should sell their product for, where the best location for the business is, etc. The students are very excited to showcase what they learned when they visit Commerce Plaza next month.

Ms. Ragone and Dr. Nunes have been visiting the fifth graders to discuss cyberbullying.

Students learned that they need to think before using social media sites and apps. They learned tips for using the internet safely and protecting their reputation by controlling what is posted online.

The elementary puberty meeting for parents has been rescheduled for March 1st. in the high school band room at 7 p.m. The meeting highlights the curriculum that will be presented to students after the parent meeting.

It's Focus on Careers Week in the elementary schools during the week of February 29th with presentations in the classrooms by professionals in our area. Thanks again to Dawn Ragone for coordinating the program.

Elementary parents will once again be able to schedule parent/teacher conferences coming up in March. The Canyon Creek software will be made available to parents March 7th through 18th. A letter from the principals is scheduled to go home on March 1st to guide parents through the process.

The Rhame Avenue PTA hosted this year's Founders' Day Celebration and did a fabulous job helping to orchestrate the agenda for the night, invite past honorees, distribute flowers to this year's recipients and provided refreshments for the after-party! It was a memorable night filled with emotions and we thank all those that attended and congratulate this year's honorees for their dedication to the children and families of East Rockaway.

All three buildings in grades K-8 held a "Nobody Eats Alone Day" on February 11th. Students were encouraged to mix it up and make new friends. This program is run by school social workers, Ms. Ragone and Ms. Weissman.

East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School

Rock Rivalry season is underway. Mr. Cimorelli presented an overview to a large crowd of host families at the last PTA meeting. Please note that Senior High Sports Night has been moved to Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00 p.m. We are also proud to highlight the official addition of Quiz Bowl to the Rock Rivalry program. The event will take place on Wednesday as well. A special bell schedule will be in place to allow for an assembly after period 9 for all students to see the competition with a regular dismissal time of 2:50.

Our Thinking Maps initiative is going strong. All teachers were trained at our last Superintendent's Conference Day, and teachers are enthusiastically applying the training to their teaching.

The now third annual Robotics Tournament will take place this Saturday, February 27th in the gymnasium beginning at 8:00 a.m. and will run throughout the day. Please come support our Robotics program. Thank you to Mr. Cimorelli and Mr. Howard for putting this together.

Thank you to all involved in this year's musical production of Mary Poppins. The show was a wonderfully produced spectacle of the many talents of our students across the district.

Programming for the 2016-2017 school year is well underway. Please reach out to your child's guidance counselor with any questions.

Our District presentation "7 Million Minutes - Part 2" was rescheduled to April 7th to include students. Please plan to attend.

Today I met with Assemblyman Brian Curran. Also present were Ms. Ochtera, Mr. Schloth, and Mr. Robinson. We spoke about the needs of our school district and it was a great opportunity to speak with him person on this topic.

9. Privilege of the Floor

Liz Romero: a parent of a sixth grade boy at Rhame Avenue School inquired about the possibility of a wrestling program at the East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School. Her son currently participates in the Lynbrook Titans Wrestling Program. She presented the Board with letters from parents who would also be interested in a wrestling program as well as a list of the current children in the Lynbrook program. She also asked the Board to support Mr. Vulpis in any joint proposal for the program with neighboring school districts. Ms. Ochtera thanked her for sharing the background information and will review it within the confines of the budget.

Ms. Ozzie Lonergan: a community member thanked the Board for taking such great pride in the school district and for all the "behind the scenes" work that is done. She asked if the rockman mascot was chosen. Ms. Ochtera reported that they are looking at a few models and should have an answer in the near future. She also questioned why the Rock Rivalry brunch was changed. Ms. Ochtera reported that this was a building level decision and she should reach out to Mr. Spero. Ms. Ruiz stated that she would be happy to meet with her as well.

Mr. Daniel Caracciolo: president of the East Rockaway Education Foundation and a member of the East Rockaway High School Alumni Association spoke about the Rock Rivalry brunch. He said the East Rockaway High School Alumni Association is holding a Rock Rivalry alumni brunch on March 19, 2016, and extended a paid invitation for the school leaders to attend the alumni brunch. Ms. Ruiz and Ms. Ochtera reported that there may be a confusion between the two brunches that have been spoken about tonight. Ms. Ruiz said she will contact Mr. Caracciolo to clarify.

10. Board Member Comments

Patricia Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti congratulated all PTA Reflections participants. She was honored to be a judge at Centre Avenue School. She found it difficult because each child had their own perspective and were so creative; children have an openness about them and really did let their imaginations fly. She thanked the PTA and staff members who gave them this opportunity. She said we should not lose site of the importance of arts in education. Ms. Nicoletti also thanked and gave a shout out to all participants in the Mary Poppins district musical. This was a fantastic opportunity for the kids to showcase their talents. There are an incredible amount of talented kids in our district. She thanked the audience for attending tonight's meeting and encouraged them to keep attending.

John Giannotti, Jr.: Mr. Giannotti, Jr., stated that it appears when it is time for the Board to congratulate and thank the students who received recognitions during the meeting, the students are not present and most likely are home. He did point out that Lindsay was in the audience and the "sole survivor." He thanked everyone for coming out on a nasty night and looks forward to seeing everyone back in March.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache thanked all people, old, young, small, big. He said although test scores are important, people are more important and let's not lose sight of that. He couldn't believe that there were actually two flying pigs with bacon wings.

Neil R. Schloth: Mr. Schloth thanked everyone for staying and echoed the comments of Mr. Gamache. The PTA Reflections contest was a great opportunity to give young people an opportunity to express themselves and expand their minds. It was nice to see Rhame and Centre Avenue schools both participating. He reminded everyone that a part-time security guard was hired at the high school. This was a great effort on Mr. Robinson's part to make the schools safer. He salutes the administration for getting this together and for moving forward to get more resources to protect staff and students. He will be going to Albany this weekend with some PTA members in the hope of telling our government representatives that we need our fair share of the money.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera thanked the audience for coming to tonight's meeting. She acknowledged and congratulated the Founders' Day honorees who dedicated much time and energy in supporting our schools. She said that it was an incredible privilege to be able to sit in this position and watch children grow from kindergarten to high school and then through their high school career, such as Danny Fusco who is now a top athlete. During the winter break she accompanied Ms. Kristen Mednick and Mr. Andrew Rinn, who took their time to represent the District at the Nassau County Heroin Summit. She echoed all the comments of her fellow trustees. Ms. Ochtera thanked Ms. Elias and Ms. Araoz for coordinating the Reflections Contest. She also thanked Mr. Nick Cimorelli for leading the charge in Rock Rivalry, an 80 year tradition and acknowledged that every year Rock Rivalry presents new challenges with phenomenal results. She invited everyone to this year's March 18th performance.

11. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk