

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., August 25, 2015, East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School

MINUTES

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

Absent: John Giannotti, Jr.

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:10 p.m. and Keith Gamache led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Upon motion by Patricia Nicoletti, seconded by Keith Gamache, the minutes of the July 7, 2015, and August 4, 2015, Board of Education meetings were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – June 2015
4. Correspondence – None
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Keith Gamache, seconded by Patricia Nicoletti, the following Items Nos. 1 through 7 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, correct Personnel Item No. 5 on the August 4, 2015, agenda and minutes to read:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Barbara Winters, to the position of senior typist clerk (12 month), effective August 17, 2015, at the prorated Step 3, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Marilyn Von Braunsberg from her account clerk (12 month) effective September 26, 2015.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:

- a. Marisa Solan, teacher aide, effective August 4, 2015
 - b. Jordan Church, part-time (.8 FTE) art teacher position, effective August 18, 2015
 - c. Binafshah Hussan, food service worker, effective August 21, 2015
 - d. Karin Cooney, substitute teacher aide, effective August 20, 2015
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time (.7 FTE) appointment of Kelsey Erwin, to the position of reading teacher, effective September 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, at the prorated MA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
 5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time (.2 FTE) appointment of Alexa Koutsantanou, to the position of Spanish teacher, effective September 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, at the prorated BA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
 6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Karin Cooney, to the position of teacher aide, effective September 1, 2015, at the Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract 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. Alexa Koutsantanou, substitute teacher, effective September 1, 2015

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the following Items Nos. 1 through 6 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda

1. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and The Rebecca Center for Music Therapy at Molloy College for music therapy services for the 2015-2016 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
2. Approve the Related Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and South Shore Physical Therapy, LLP for student related services for the 2015 -2016 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
3. Approve the tuition agreement and rider with Levittown UFSD Gerald R. Claps Career & Technical Center for career and technical programs for one (1) student for 2015 – 2016 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
4. Approve the Letter of Engagement with Keeping Your Books for accounting services for the 2015-2016 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to

execute the Letter of Engagement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

5. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal, the following instruments:

Instrument	Serial Number
FLUTE – BUNDY	296335
FLUTE – ROTH	30357
FLUTE – ARTLEY	198315
CLARINET – BRUNO	58958
CLARINET	92046
CLARINET	92202
CLARINET	9183
CLARINET	90923
CLARINET	91800
CLARINET	33739
CLARINET – PHILIPPE	12483
CLARINET – LA MARQUE	13171
CLARINET – YORK	78884
CLARINET – B & H	14195
CLARINET	9226
CLARINET – EMILLGEN	581803
ALTO SAX – ORPHEUM	2546
ALTO SAX MARCONE &SON	A2430
ALTO SAX – SCHEAFER	4???
TROMBONE- PAN AMERICAN	71571

6. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 135.4(c) (7) (ii) (a) (4) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education provides for a board of education to permit pupils in grades no lower than seventh grade to compete on interscholastic athletic teams organized for senior high school pupils, or senior high school pupils to compete on interscholastic athletic teams organized for pupils in the seventh and eighth grades; and

WHEREAS, these pupils are to be allowed to compete at levels that are appropriate to their physical maturity, physical fitness, and sport skills in relationship to other pupils in accordance with the standards established by the Commissioner of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Education Department issues the competition standards for these pupils to compete under a program called the Athletic Placement Process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the East Rockaway UFSD Board of Education shall permit pupils to compete after successfully completing the Athletic Placement Process for the requested sport and level.

C. Budget Transfers - None

D. CSE Recommendations – None.

E. Upon motion made by Patricia Nicoletti, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters

1. For Review

- a. 1530, Smoking and Other Tobacco Use on School Premises
- b. 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities under the IDEA and New York’s Education Law Article 89
- c. 4321.3, Allocation of Space for Special Education Programs
- d. 4321.8, Impartial Hearing Officer Appointment and Compensation
- e. 5300.30, Prohibited Student Conduct
- f. 5300.70, Public Conduct on School Property

7. Good and Welfare - None

8. Superintendent’s Report:

Ms. Ruiz reported that we are still continuing with the interview and hiring process. A newly hired art teacher just resigned and more positions still need to be filled. She explained that due to an increase in New York State aid, two new AIS teaching assistant positions were created at the Jr./Sr. High School in Math and Reading/ELA. All AIS services will be provided by licensed certified teachers in that area. A plan will be created to provide those services. Reading support was increased at the elementary schools last year and now the same can be done at the Jr./Sr. High School.

New teacher orientation is taking place Thursday and Friday of this week and introduction of new teachers will take place at the September Board of Education meeting. Workshops on lesson planning, APPR, professional responsibilities, and other topics will be presented. She thanked Ms. Guggino-Hastings, Mr. Piccarella and her summer intern for planning these workshops.

The Board of Education conducted the building walk through today. They viewed all the buildings and observed all the work done during the summer. Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. Robinson (a/k/a Tour Guide), Mr. Quercia, and the custodial staff in preparing the buildings for the new school year. The floors were all freshly polished. She expressed her thanks to the entire custodial staff for working through the hot humid summer days. The new floor project in the technology building had begun. This project was a result of a major crack in the floor due to Sandy. The new floor has a wood-like finish and she believes the room will be much more functional. The maintenance garage also being worked on.

During her walk through the buildings, Ms. Ruiz saw the new tablets that were purchased for Gr. 5 and Gr. 9 students. Ms. Ruiz commended Mr. Piccarella for the foresight in establishing the infrastructure to support the tablets and looks forward to the program growing.

Mr. Piccarella added that this September students and teachers in Grades 5 and 9 will be receiving

tablet computers. Each year students in Grade 5 will receive a tablet computer, which will be replaced when they reach Grade 9. Grade 4 will have class sets of Chromebooks to prepare students for their own tablets in Grade 5. The program will be described at back to school night in each elementary school and at the 9th grade parent orientation at the High School. Student and parent responsibilities will be discussed and parents will be able to sign-out the computers for take-home use. Over the past several years the district has prepared for this one-to-one initiative by providing wireless internet access throughout its three buildings, establishing a ten-year capital reserve for technology, and establishing a Google domain for paperless collaboration between and among students and teachers. Teachers were trained by Ms. Schoen, elementary library media specialist, during the summer and took home tablet computers to prepare for this September. These teachers will continue to meet as a group with Ms. Schoen throughout the year. Next steps include training in a variety of Web 2.0 software tools and the delivery of digital content through the Kindle app on the computers.

Ms. Ruiz shared that the ELA/MATH scores were received. There was a large number of opt-outs; 53% of students did not take the ELA exam, and approximately 64% of the students did not take the Math exam. This percentage of students not taking the tests makes using the data for instructional purposes and assessments a little difficult. Additionally, some teachers did not receive scores. Ms. Ruiz stated that we have other reliable classroom assessments such as NWEA. She will continue to work on data analysis with the faculty. ELA/Math score reports will be sent home next week for those students that took the tests.

9. Privilege of the Floor - None

10. Board Member Comments

Keith Gamache:

Mr. Gamache wished teachers and staff a great start to the school year. He thanked the maintenance staff who worked hard to get the buildings ready during the hot summer days.

Neil Schloth:

Mr. Schloth welcomed back Karin Cooney who was reappointed as a teacher aide. Mrs. Cooney was excused and is back to work after having been out a year. Mr. Schloth thanked the custodial staff for their hard work. He reported that the buildings look magnificent and believes that we are closer to working out all the bugs. The staff takes personal pride in all they do, even in the little things that were done and was very impressed with what he saw during the walk through. Mr. Schloth thanked everyone for attending the meeting and looks forward to working with them and seeing them all back in the Fall.

Patricia Nicoletti:

After the walk through, Ms. Nicoletti felt that the goals and visions that were set, are starting to come together and was very impressed with the buildings. She commended the administrative staff and Ms. Ruiz for being organized and able to get the ball rolling to put things into action. Evidence of this was the Steering Committee. She hopes to have a really good school year. Ms. Nicoletti welcomed teachers and parents back. She thanked the audience for attending this mid-August meeting and asked everyone to check out the new Facebook page.

Kristin Ochtera:

Ms. Ochtera echoed the comments of her fellow Board of Education members. She welcomed the East Rockaway School District to the 21st Century officially on Facebook. She also welcomed the

incoming kindergarten class, which will be the class of 2028, and congratulated all for the hard work that we are doing. See you all in September.

11. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Patricia Nicoletti, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm to executive session to discuss negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk