

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Rockaway, New York

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

7:00 P.M., August 25, 2021

East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School

Preceded by a Reentry Plan Presentation for the 2021-22 School Year and a Public Forum
Meeting Open to the Public and Livestreamed

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members of the Board of Education: Kristen O'Hagan, Peter McNally, Dominick Vulpis, Daniel DeMatteo, Joseph Kilgus, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, James DeTommaso, District Clerk, Nereyda Amaya Moran.

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristen O'Hagan at 7:10 p.m.
2. Ms. O'Hagan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. O'Hagan welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced Ms. Ruiz who began the presentation.

Mrs. Ruiz provided a power point presentation which detailed the District's Reentry Plan for the new 2021-2022 school year. The presentation concluded at 7:58 p.m. and the public portion of the agenda began.

The following board of education members commented on the presentation:

Mr. McNally stated that with universal masking, he understood both sides, as a parent and as teacher; he believes that kids are learning more when they attend in person. However, we have to comply if this is required for the safety of everybody including new guidelines regarding 3 feet apart for social distancing.

Mr. Vulpis: I believe we are a nation that thrives on the fact of everybody having something to contribute to society and to the communities that we live in. Regarding metrics, these are a real indicator for us of moving forward. I am looking forward to the future and to see if this community shows good metrics.

Mr. Kilgus: Stated that there is no right or wrong, but we must do what is right for our safety. We will be following the new guidelines.

Mr. DeMatteo stated we have to do what is best for the students. We all want a safe

environment for our children. We will follow the new guidelines and we thank all families for their patience and understanding

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

If you are viewing the livestream of tonight's meeting and you have questions regarding items on the agenda or other school related items, you can email them to boardofeducation@ersd.org This email will be monitored throughout the evening. Please be sure to include your full name and address. I also want to remind you that most concerns are appropriately addressed with your child's teacher and/or building principal. Other general district questions should be directed to Mrs. Ruiz, our Superintendent. Matters involving Curriculum and Instruction should be addressed to Mr. DeTommaso, and matters involving budget and facilities should be directed to Ms. Scio. If you need technological assistance or have issues with a device, please reach out to Mr. Fisk. Anyone who is attending in person, if you would like to make any comments, please complete a comment card.

There were no comments on the agenda items from the public.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Dominic Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following minutes were approved:

- A. July 7, 2021, Organizational and Regular Meetings of the Board of Education
- B. July 20, 2021, Special Meeting of the Board of Education
- C. August 2, 2021, Special Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

- A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports- The board acknowledge receipt of the June 2021 monthly financial reports.
- B. Correspondence – Emails were received from the ERTA, ER Secretary's unit and Teacher Aides, School Monitors' unit and Administrators' unit, regarding mask mandates.

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-O below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items A-O below.

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the

following Items A-O were approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
1. Dakota Terenzi, substitute monitor and substitute teacher aide, effective July 20, 2021
 2. Nanci Brockett, part-time monitor, effective August 18, 2021
 3. Renende St. Vil, short-term substitute family & consumer science teacher, and per diem substitute teacher positions, effective July 23, 2021
 4. Jessica Signorello, leave replacement media arts teacher, effective July 30, 2021
 5. Joseph Cohen, permanent substitute teacher, effective August 19, 2021
 6. Megan Librizzi, leave replacement school counselor, effective July 26, 2021
 7. Christine Polizzi, teacher aide, effective August 20, 2021
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change in the effective date of the appointment of Gary Gregory as the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics to be August 27, 2021.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Alissa Stegner for a child rearing leave of absence from her mathematics teacher position, effective August 31, 2021, through January 28, 2022.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following correction to Item 54.E, July 7, 2021, minutes to read as follows:
- Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Alison King to the position of leave replacement English teacher effective, August 31, 2021, through June 30, 2022, at the MA15, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Jana Guber to the position of reading teacher, (tenure area: reading; certification: permanent) effective August 31, 2021, subject to applicable laws and regulations regarding the granting of tenure, at the MA, Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Megan Librizzi to the position of part-time school counselor (.8 FTE) effective August 31, 2021, through June 30, 2022, at the prorated MA, Step Entry (plus stipend) annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year and further approve the appointment of Megan Librizzi to the position of per diem substitute teacher (.2 FTE) at the prorated per diem salary established by the East

Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.

- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jessica Risso to the position of short-term substitute physical education teacher, effective August 31, 2021, through October 8, 2021, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.
- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Alexis Freudenberg to the position of part-time special education teacher (.5 FTE) effective August 31, 2021, through June 30, 2022, at the prorated BA, Step Entry annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year and further approve the appointment of Alexis Freudenberg to the position of per diem substitute teacher (.5 FTE) effective August 31, 2021, through June 30, 2022, at the prorated per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.
- I. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Rebecca Mantle to the position of leave replacement school counselor, effective August 31, 2021, through January 28, 2022, at the prorated MA, Step 1, annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- J. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Sheila Olsen to the position of leave replacement media arts teacher effective, August 31, 2021, through June 30, 2022, at the BA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- K. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Stephen Smaldone to the position of leave replacement special education teacher, effective August 31, 2021, through January 28, 2022, at the prorated BA, Step Entry annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2020-2021 school year.
- L. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of James Hickey to the position of Athletic Placement Process Evaluator effective August 26, 2021, at his daily rate established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- M. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Matthew Lederer to the position of teacher aide, effective upon Civil Service approval, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association agreement for the 2021-2022 school year.

- N. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the appointment of Christopher Mormando, as a substitute cleaner, approved by the Board of Education on June 15, 2021, effective August 25, 2021.
- O. 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:
1. Ashley Tavormina, substitute teacher aide, effective September 2, 2021
 2. Kristin Clarke, substitute nurse, effective September 2, 2021
 3. Amanda Crawford, substitute monitor, effective upon Civil Service approval
 4. Diana Servider, substitute monitor, effective upon Civil Service approval
 5. Cathy Matthews, substitute monitor, effective upon Civil Service approval
 6. Gregory Feil, substitute cleaner, effective upon Civil Service approval
 7. Alycia Fahrenkrug, substitute teacher aide, effective upon Civil Service approval

7. Other Items

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item A. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve Item A below.

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Dominick Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and Item A was unanimously approved.

A. Approve the following resolution for the District's Re-Entry Plan:

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway UFSD lies within an area currently designated by the Centers for Disease Control ("CDC") as having a "High" (red) transmission rate for COVID-19; and |

WHEREAS, on August 5, 2021 the CDC issued updated guidance to all K-12 public school districts recommending the adoption of preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within schools; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health and the Nassau County Department of Health have endorsed the CDC's K-12 guidance for COVID-19 prevention; and

WHEREAS, on August 13, 2021, the New York State Education Department issued guidance which further encouraged school districts to adopt preventative measures against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed and considered the guidance above, and has prepared a school re-entry plan designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among students, staff members, and visitors to the District’s schools;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby adopts the “East Rockaway School Re-entry Plan for 2021-22” and directs the Superintendent of Schools to implement the COVID-19 prevention policies therein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby temporarily suspends any Board policies or administrative regulations that conflict with any aspect of the East Rockaway School Re-entry Plan for 2021-22; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to amend, modify, or update any part of the East Rockaway School Re-entry Plan for 2021-22 as necessary to maintain compliance with applicable governmental mandates or recommendations, and such changes will be subject to further Board approval and/or ratification in the event of substantial revisions to the Plan.

Mrs. O’Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items B-E. There were none and Mrs. O’Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items B-E below.

Upon motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, and seconded by Joseph Kilgus, the following Items B-E were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

B. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, the Board of Education hereby:

Approves the award of bids to enter into service agreements with the following service providers as indicated in the Request for Proposal published in *Newsday* on July 30, 2021, and opened at the District Office on August 18, 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year and authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the agreements on behalf of the Board of Education:

1. Dr. Richard L. Addes for school physician services
2. Capital Markets Advisors, LLC for financial advisor services

3. Hawkins Delafield & Woods LLP, for bond counsel services
- C. Approve the Contract for OASAS Youth Drug Abuse Services between the East Rockaway UFSD and the Nassau County Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities Services, for chemical dependency services, for the period January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, and authorize the President of the East Rockaway Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
 - D. Authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to extend transportation contracts for the 2021-2022 school year at the Consumer Price Index with the following:
 1. CHEESE Bus, Inc.
 - a. St. Agnes Cathedral
 2. First Student, Inc.
 - a. Crescent High School
 - b. Holy Trinity High School
 - c. Lawrence Elementary School
 - d. Our Lady of Peace
 - e. Waldorf Garden City
 3. Independent Coach Corp.
 - a. Chaminade High School
 - b. Chaminade High School (late bus)
 - c. Kellenberg Latin & High School
 - d. Kellenberg Latin & High School (late bus)
 - e. Sacred Heart Academy
 - f. Sacred Heart Academy (late bus)
 - g. Lawrence Woodmere Academy
 - h. 4 Hour Van In & Out of District
 - i. 6 Hour Van In & Out of District
 - j. 66 Passenger 5 Hour Bus
 - k. Displaced to Centre & Rhame Avenue
 - l. Displaced to East Rockaway High School
 - m. Athletics & Field Trips In & Out of District
 4. We Transport, Inc.
 - a. St. William the Abbot
 - b. Mary Louis Academy
 - E. Approve the awards of the bids for transportation services to the following companies and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting

contracts on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:

1. BOCES
 - a. Barry Tech AM & PM
 - b. CCA Net
 - c. Children's Readiness Center
 - d. Long Island High School for the Arts

2. Independent Coach Corp.
 - a. Lawrence Elementary School
 - b. Seaford Manor School

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items F-O below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items F-O below.

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, the following Items F-O, were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

- F. WHEREAS, the District has asked to enter into an Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement ("IMA") with the Malverne Union Free School District whereby during the 2021-2022 school year Malverne would, for a monthly fee, transport East Rockaway residents to the non-public school they attend and to which Malverne already transports residents, and

WHEREAS, such an agreement is in the best interests of both school districts, and

WHEREAS, District counsel has disclosed that they also represent Malverne and have accordingly asked whether the District wishes them to represent it in connection with the drafting of such an agreement, and if so, to approve and execute a Disclosure and Consent Agreement,

Now Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Disclosure and Consent Agreement enabling District counsel to represent both Districts in the drafting of IMA with Malverne, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement with the Malverne Union Free School District, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education be and is hereby authorized to execute both the Disclosure and Consent Agreement and the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement on behalf of the District.

- G. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the District has discussed with representatives of the Lynbrook Union Free School District (“Lynbrook”) entering into a Cooperative Transportation Agreement (“CTA”) for the 2021-2022 school year whereby District residents would be transported to the non-public schools they attend by Lynbrook’s transportation contractor, Independent Coach Corporation, simultaneously with Lynbrook residents and with the Districts splitting the monthly fee for such transportation services, and

WHEREAS, such an agreement is in the best interests of both school districts, and

WHEREAS, District counsel has disclosed that they also represent Lynbrook and have accordingly asked whether the District wishes them to represent it in connection with the drafting of such an agreement, and if so, to approve and execute a Disclosure and Consent Agreement, Now Therefore Be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Disclosure and Consent Agreement enabling District counsel to represent both Districts in the drafting of the CTA with Lynbrook, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Cooperative Transportation Agreement with the Lynbrook Union Free School District, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education be and is hereby authorized to execute both the Disclosure and Consent Agreement and the Cooperative Transportation Agreement on behalf of the District.

- H. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and Lawrence Public Schools for the health and welfare services for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the Superintendent and the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- I. Approve the admission of the following students to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the Special Education Summer 2021 Program and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreements between the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD and the Board of Education of the sending school districts:
 - 1. Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939971889
 - 2. Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939971890
 - 3. Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939971784
 - 4. Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939972784
 - 5. Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 993511904
- J. Approve the admission of the following students to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreements on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of

Education:

1. Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939971889
 2. Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939971890
 3. Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939971784
 4. Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939972784
 5. Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 993511904
- K. Approve the tuition agreement with Lawrence UFSD for special education services for one (1) Student ID No. 180008401 for the 2021-2022 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.
- L. Approve the Tuition agreement with Devereux Foundation, for special education services for one student (1), Student I.D. No. 180006490 for the 2021-2022 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- M. Approve the admission of one Massapequa Public Schools, for special education services for one student, Student I.D. No. 218071020, to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Special Education tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- N. Approve the Tuition agreement with Brookville Center for Children’s Center, for special education services for one student, Student I.D. No. 180006944 for the 2021-2022 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- O. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the items listed on the following textbook removal forms:
1. Textbook removal form dated July 13, 2021
 2. Textbook removal form dated July 18, 2021
 3. Textbook removal form dated August 19, 2021
8. Approval of CSE and CPSE Recommendations

Mrs. O’Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding the CSE and CPSE Recommendations. There were no questions. Mrs. O’Hagan then asked for a motion to approve the CSE and CPSE Recommendations.

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, and seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, and unanimously passed, the CSE and CPSE Recommendations were approved.

9. Budget Transfers

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding the following budget transfers. There were no questions. Mrs. O'Hagan then asked for a motion to approve the budget transfers.

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Dominick Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following budget transfers were unanimously approved.

A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:

1. Transaction No. 22-001
2. Transaction No. 22-002

10. Policy Matters

A. Policy Sub-Committee Report

Peter McNally: The entire Board, Superintendent Ruiz, and Assistant Superintendent DeTommaso met on July 20th to discuss policy 0105, Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education. This policy has been a work in progress, and we are proud to be adopting the final document this evening. We will continue to review policies listed in item C.

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, the policy listed in Item B-1 was unanimously approved for adoption.

B. For Adoption

1. 0105, Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education

C. For Review

1. 0115, 0115-R, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
2. 4710, Grading Systems
3. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams
4. 9150, Non-Fraternization "New"
5. 6705, Federal Funds Purchasing
6. 8413, Transportation for Non-Public Schools

11. Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

As usual, summer has been a busy time for us. You may have noticed construction has been ongoing from our bond work and a number of projects have been completed. Mrs. Scerio will provide an update shortly.

We have been planning for the return to school, not only regarding to our COVID protocols but also with hiring. We have 15 new teachers on board.

Welcome to Mr. Gary Gregory who was hired to serve as our new Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics. He will officially begin on Friday.

Our UPK program is all set to open on September 2. We have two classes, one at each elementary school. Rhame Avenue school currently has 18 students and Centre Avenue school has 16 students with two available self-pay spots. Scope Education Services will be running our program and we are all very excited to welcome our 4 year old's to our buildings. There are 26 spots that are funded through the Universal Prekindergarten grant, 4 spots that were funded by the district and 3 in each school which are available for self-pay by parents.

As you are aware school opens for teachers on August 31 with two days of training and we welcome all students back on September 2.

Our students will be welcomed back to a new system for entering the building called Scholar Chip. This system will be used for student management, daily attendance, and visitor management. It is also helpful in an emergency to know who is in the building. 11th and 12th graders will need to scan in and out. This will enhance security and facilitate visitor management and keep track of students who leave the building. Mr. Schaffer has informed parents of this new technology. Students are receiving new ID badges that they will scan upon entry. Thank you, Mr. Schafer Mr. Kraus, and Mr. Fisk, for their assistance in evaluating and implementing this new tool.

Mr. DeTommaso will speak about our summer programs as well as our new teacher orientation and Superintendent's Conference Day coming up next week.

Mr. DeTommaso: We were so excited to have our new teachers in their first orientation session today. Our administrative team welcomed them and helped them to begin acclimating to the culture of East Rockaway and begin their journey as part of the family. We have planned several exciting workshops for them to help them to start build a solid instructional foundation. Today Mr. Kennedy introduced Thinking Maps to the teachers and had them actively mapping by the end of the day. Tomorrow Mr. Healy and Ms. Ruiz will be making presentations on Cultural Proficiency and Family Engagement. Mr. Fisk will be running a technology orientation and I will be presenting information on our APPR Plan and the observation process. On Friday, we will finish up the orientation with a visible learning presentation led by Ms. Ruiz and myself and a special education presentation on professional responsibilities by Mr. Healy. We are all excited about providing a rich learning opportunity for our new staff. We look forward to introducing the new faculty to the community at our next BoE meeting.

We can't wait to start the year by welcoming our faculty back next week. We have two days filled with professional development opportunities for all. We have Wonders and Thinking Maps specialists running workshops as well as department and faculty meetings led by our administrative team. In addition, we are presenting our safety plans that include COVID -19 protocols as well as a Tech camp for the secondary teachers in which they self-select the workshop of their choice. We look forward to these two professional days to of course...set the stage to welcome back our students on Thursday.

There were several summer climb programs offered this summer. We ran a high school summer school program that included Algebra 1, Earth Science, Global 9, Global 10, Living Environment, and US History. We had 27 high school students enrolled in these classes. The results were outstanding. The students passed 34 out of 39 classes and were able to earn Regents credit by the exemption granted by NYS. We were very excited about these positive results.

We also offered a Middle School Summer Climb Program.

There were 4 sections of AIS; 7th grade math, 8th grade math, 7th grade English and 8th grade English. Each class was a combination of iReady and teacher created materials. The I-ready program help improve student deficiencies and skills which we believe closed the summer slide gap. The English classes studied the "I am Malala" novel, which is our One School One Book initiative. We have 18 students registered between all 4 sections. There was flexibility built into the program to provide opportunities for the students to attend other camps

At the elementary level, the following programs were offered: Literacy (1-6), STEM (1-3) and Story Art (1-3). We had 54 different students enrolled in our literacy classes. The literacy classes were taught by our own teachers, using eSpark, a new web-based reading program, along with other resources our teachers use during the school year. Students typically bring home a hands-on project they have created each week. I observed them building and creating Ferris wheels out of paper towel rolls and other supplies. They looked amazing!

The Physical Fitness Summer Climb program was opened to all students in grades 7-12, regardless of if they played on a sports team ...73 different students registered. During each day, students rotated between the weight room, Yoga, and agility.

The program's success was be based on the fact that enrollment increased as the program continued. The good word spread!

Thank you to Mr. Gibbons for his outstanding leadership for our summer programs. He has done an exemplary job scheduling, administering, and supervising our programs with the assistance of Mrs. Michelle Healy.

Mrs. Ruiz introduced Mrs. Scrio to provide an update on the Bond work.

Ms. Scrio: We are excited to welcome back our staff and students for an exciting and safe school year! We had two projects this summer at Centre Avenue.

The masonry project work has been substantially completed. This consisted of extensive masonry repair and waterproofing throughout the entire building. A punch list of items that need to be addressed has been developed by the District and Park East Construction, our construction manager. The list is comprised of minor items and will not impact the opening of school.

The HVAC system at Centre Avenue has been installed. As of today, there are a few classrooms sinks that still need to be connected. The sinks will be installed prior to the start of the school year. Unfortunately, the switch gear needed to power up the new HVAC service has been delayed. When it is received, it is estimated that it will take 3-4 days to install. During the installation, the building will be without power. To avoid interference with school, this will need to be scheduled during a recess period. The current service is still operational, and the building will have power and ventilation. We will not be able use the newly installed air conditioning units until the new service is in place. However, the window air conditioners were all left in place so the classrooms will have air conditioning at the start of the school year.

We were just notified that there are further delays with the delivery of materials needed to complete the athletic fields. Unfortunately, there continues to be a shortage in supplies and materials due to the pandemic. Early in the summer we were notified of a delay in receiving the necessary electrical supplies needed to power the lights, scoreboard, and sound systems. On Thursday we were notified the synthetic turf has been delayed several weeks. The delay in the turf significantly impacts the completion of the project. The turf must be laid down prior to finalizing the track, fencing, entrance archway and parking lot. Based on the new timeline, we will not be able to have fall sports on the complex.

However, we are trying to get the fields to the point where we can hold the pep rally on October 15, 2021, and the homecoming game on October 16, 2021. These would be the only two events to be held on the complex this fall. The work would recommence on October 18, 2021. We hope to have a completion date before the winter months.

On another note, I know there have been many concerns raised about the rubber tire material at the playgrounds at both elementary buildings. There is a substantial cost associated with replacing this material. To address this concern, without impacting the taxpayer, we requested funding through our federal stimulus grant to support the replacement at both buildings. The application is currently under review, and we are hopeful this will be approved. Once approved we will share this information with the community.

12. Good and Welfare

A. Condolences to the Friesleben family on the passing of Harry Friesleben.

B. Congratulations to Sara Perrone and family on the arrival of her daughter Evelyn (Evie) Rose Perrone on August 19, 2021.

C. Congratulations to Valerie Parasmó and family on the arrival of her son Luke Anthony Parasmó on August 24, 2021.

13. Public Comments

Please be reminded that the meeting is livestreamed and being recorded. I encourage residents to contact the board at boardofeducation@ersd.org and to contact your child's teacher or appropriate administrator with any concerns. At this time if you have a comment, please complete the form prior to speaking

Christine Del Valle- 71 Wilson Street, East Rockaway -Ms. Del Valle expressed her concerns as a parent with a 17-year-old daughter with a compromised immune system. She thanked the Board for making the decision of having in mind the wellbeing of the students in reinforcing universal masking and Covid protocols.

Lawrence Connors – 62 Phipps Avenue, East Rockaway- Mr. Connors wanted to know more about the adopted Policy 0105, Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education. Mrs. Ruiz replied and advised that our policies are available on the school's website and that the goal of the school district is to provide equitable, inclusive, and diverse opportunities for all students to reach their highest potential.

14. Board Member Comments

Mr. Kilgus: Thanked Ms. Scio and Mrs. Ruiz, for all the projects accomplished during the summer and welcomed everybody back to a happy and good school year.

Mr. DeMatteo: Thanked Mr. Daly with facilities and Mrs. Scio for the amazing job they have done. He wished all of our students, teachers, administrators and all staff a great school year. To the parents of our district: We are doing everything we can to get our kids back to normal as quickly and safely as possible.

Mr. Vulpis: A little quote character is revealed when pressure is applied. Thank you very much and I appreciate everyone's comments and expressed how you feel and what is important to you, and I promise you it hit us in the heart and in the brain and really do appreciate it. It is apparent tonight how hard the central administration has worked along with the Board of Education seeing two things, one is the bulkhead which saved the district over a million dollars and the second one was the resources in the backup system in the event we do lose power and the immense savings that also came to the district. He thanked Mrs. Ruiz for putting together the re-entry plan along with administrators from all the buildings that are here tonight.

In regards of the passing of Mr. Friesleben, I can't say enough about the man he was, he meant a lot to the students and staff members and coaches. His funeral was a testament to who he was at East Rockaway and what he did for us during his pioneer years. Also, I want to thank to Mr. Jim Lores, thank you for the hat, I will be wearing it every sunny day!

Mr. McNally. Welcome back to all students and teachers. They are in good hands. They did a fabulous job last school year, and they will have a great environment, I am sure they will do great this new year. We know that safety is important, and we want to make sure that we follow all the protocols as well.

Mrs. O'Hagan: Thank you very much Jim for the hat and for driving us today on the building walkthroughs. Thank you to Mr. Healy and Mrs. Scio, is very exciting seeing the improvements on the bond projects coming to fruition. Wish all students and staff the best of luck as they begin a new academic school year. To quote Malala Yousafzai the author of the book "*I am Malala*" read by our middle and high school students this summer...
"One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world".

I look forward to seeing how the young people in this district being big, achieving their personal goals and making every moment of this school year. Thank you!

15. Upon motion made by Peter McNally and seconded by Joseph Kilgus and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:48p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nereyda Amaya-Moran
District Clerk