

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education (Tuesday, August 30, 2022)**

*Minutes Generated by Nereyda Amaya Moran on Tuesday September 20, 2022*

**Members present**

Dominick Vulpis, Joseph Kilgus, Peter McNally, Daniel DeMatteo, Michael Motherway  
Superintendent, James DeTommaso, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Technology, Sean Murray  
Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations Jacqueline A Scrio, Director of PPS, Vincent Healy  
District Clerk, Nereyda Amaya Moran.

**Meeting called to order at 7:14 PM by Board President, Peter McNally and Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.**

**1. Opening of Meeting**

**A. Call to Order**

B. Pledge of Allegiance

**C. Old Business**

Mr. DeTommaso explained a new agenda item called Old Business, where the district will inform the community about additional information on items previously discussed by the Board.

Ms. Scrio provided an update about different construction projects, equipment status and renovation of playgrounds at Centre Avenue school.

Mr. Daly gave an update about the Bond Projects at the high school art room, bathrooms, science room, etc. Mr. DeTommaso gave an update about the new committee Building Bridges and its agenda for this year.

**D. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

East Rockaway resident concerned about fixing the playground at Centre Avenue and that it might not be ready by first day of school.

Ms. Scrio gave an update and stated that the playground is expected to be ready in a couple of days and that it should not affect the first day of school and students will be able to take recess without any issues.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of

A. July 14, 2022, Organizational and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

B. August 3, 2022, Special Meeting of the Board of Education

Motion by Joseph Kilgus, second by Dominick Vulpis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Dominick Vulpis, Joseph Kilgus, Peter McNally, Daniel DeMatteo, Michael Motherway

**2. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence**

A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: The board acknowledged receipt of the June 2022 monthly financial reports.

B. Correspondence:

\* One email was received from a family regarding one student going to Centre Avenue and one at Rhame Avenue.

\* One email received from a 9 year old regarding community relations.

\* An appeal received regarding a specific student's suspension.

**3. Recommendation of Superintendent: Instructional and Non-Instructional Personnel**

Action (Consent):

Mr. McNally asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-C below. There were none and Mr. McNally asked for a motion to approve Items A-C below

Motion by Daniel DeMatteo, second by Michael Motherway.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Dominick Vulpis, Joseph Kilgus, Peter McNally, Daniel DeMatteo, Michael Motherway

**A. Resignations**

Resolution: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accept the following resignations:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accept the following resignations:

#	Name	Position	Effective Date
1.	Lesly Velasquez	Part-Time Monitor	08/31/2022

#	Name	Position	Effective Date
2.	Dakota Terenzi	Permanent Substitute Teacher	08/04/2022
3.	Crystal Valentin-Espinosa	Library Media Specialist	08/31/2022
4.	Emily Johnson	Special Education Teacher	8/26/2022
5.	Amie Laino	Per Diem Substitute Teacher	08/12/2022
6.	Jessica Risso	Permanent Substitute Teacher	08/28/2022
7.	Elizabeth Freeman	Per Diem Substitute Teacher	08/29/2022
8.	Taylor Dworkin	Permanent Substitute Teacher	08/28/2022
9.	Priscilla Princz-Sitzman	Permanent Substitute Teacher	08/25/2022

### B. Appointments Instructional

Resolution: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following instructional staff:

#	Name	Position	Effective Date	Step	Probationary Period	Tenure Area/Certification	East Rockaway UFSD Contract
1.	Deborah L. Bloomfield	English Social Studies Chairperson	09/01/2022	MA30 Step 9 plus stipend	4 years	School Building Leader/Initial	ERTA
2.	Tracy Collins	Music Teacher	09/01/2022	MA Step 1	4 years	Music/Initial	ERTA
3.	Grayson Valentino	Social Studies Teacher (.8 FTE)	09/01/2022 to 06/30/2022	BA Step 1 prorated	N/A	Social Studies/Initial	ERTA
4.	Jacqueline Diffley	Short-Term Substitute Elementary Teacher	09/01/2022 to 11/30/2022	Short-Term Substitute Teacher	N/A	Elementary/Initial	Non-Unit
5.	Jacqueline Diffley	Per Diem Substitute Elementary Teacher	12/01/2022 to 06/30/2022	Per Diem Substitute Teacher	N/A	Elementary/Initial	Non-Unit
6.	Thomas Moore	Short-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher	09/01/2022	Short-Term Substitute Teacher	N/A	SWD 7-2/Initial Pending	Non-Unit

### C. Appointments Non-Instructional

Resolution: Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of the following non-instructional staff:

#	Name	Position	Effective Date	Step	East Rockaway UFSD Contract
1.	Lesly Velasquez	School Monitor	09/01/2022	Step 5 hourly salary	Monitor and Security Unit agreement for the 2022-2023 school

					year.
2.	Laura Corbett	Teacher Aide	09/01/2022	Step 1 hourly salary	Teacher Aides Association agreement for the 2022-2023 school year.
3.	Gaetano A. Emmolo, Jr.	Security Aide	09/01/2022	Step 1 hourly salary	Monitor and Security Unit and the United Public Service Employees Union agreement for the 2022-2023 school year

**4. Other Items**

Action (Consent):

Mr. McNally asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Other Items A-J below. There were none and Mr. McNally asked for a motion to approve Items A-J below

Motion by Joseph Kilgus, second by Dominick Vulpis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Dominick Vulpis, Joseph Kilgus, Peter McNally, Daniel DeMatteo, Michael Motherway

**A. Cooperative Transportation Agreement with Lynbrook UFSD**

WHEREAS, the District has discussed with representatives of the Lynbrook Union Free School District (“Lynbrook”) entering into a Cooperative Transportation Agreement (“CTA”) for the 2022-2023 school year whereby Lynbrook residents would be transported to the non-public schools they attend by East Rockaway’s transportation contractor, Independent Coach Corporation, simultaneously with East Rockaway 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,

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

**B. Agreement between Town of Hempstead School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program**

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway School District intends to participate in the Town of Hempstead School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program (hereinafter the “Stop Arm Program”). WHEREAS, the Stop Arm Program is authorized under New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1174-a; WHEREAS, pursuant to NYS VTL §1174-a, in order to participate in the Program, the School District must enter into an agreement with the Town. WHEREAS, the East Rockaway School District intends to execute the School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program Opt-In Agreement and enter into the Stop Arm Program.

RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District hereby acknowledges and approves the Town of Hempstead School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program Opt-in Agreement made between the Town of Hempstead, the East Rockaway School District, and Bus Patrol America LLC, and agrees to be bound by its terms

**C. Synthetic Turf Maintenance Agreement (Proposal #22-1102)**

Approve the Synthetic Turf Maintenance Agreement (Proposal #22-1102) between the East Rockaway School District and The Land Tek Group, Inc. for maintenance of the athletic turf field for the 2022-2023 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education

**D. Extend Transportation Contracts 2022-2023 School Year**

Authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to extend transportation contracts for the 2022-2023 school year at the Consumer Price Index with the following:

1. CHEESE Bus Inc.
  - St. Agnes Cathedral
2. First Student, Inc.
  - Crescent High School
  - Holy Trinity High School

- Our Lady of Peace
- Waldorf Garden City

3. Independent Coach Corp.

- Chaminade High School
- Chaminade High School (late bus)
- Kellenberg Latin & High School
- Kellenberg Latin & High School (late bus)
- Sacred Heart Academy
- Sacred Heart Academy (late bus)
- Lawrence Woodmere Academy
- 4 Hour Van In & Out of District
- 6 Hour Van In & Out of District
- 66 Passenger 5 Hour Bus
- Displaced to Centre & Rhame Avenue
- Displaced to East Rockaway High School
- Athletics & Field Trips In & Out of District
- Seaford Manor School
- Lawrence Elementary School

4. We Transport, Inc.

- St. William the Abbot
- Mary Louis Academy

**E. Approval of Transportation Bids**

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:

BOCES

- Barry Tech AM & PM
- GC Tech PM
- Children’s Readiness Center
- Long Island High School for the Arts
- Seaman Neck Middle School
- Willet Avenue School

We Transport

- Brookville Center (AHRC)
- Lawrence Middle School
- Seaford Middle School
- Al-Ihsan Academy
- Long Beach Catholic
- Evergreen Charter School
- Sequoia High School

**F. Approval of Valley Stream students admission to the Special Education Summer 2022 Program**

Approve the admission of the following students to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the Special Education Summer 2022 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:

Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939971890  
 Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939972784

**G. Approval of Valley Stream students admission to attend the East Rockaway Schools 2022-23 school year.**

Approve the admission of the following students to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2022-2023 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:

Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939971889  
 Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939971890  
 Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939971784  
 Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 939972784  
 Valley Stream Central High School District, Student No. 993511904

**H. Special Education Services Contract with Hicksville UFSD**

**I. Donation**

From Jimmy Lores a new three-wheel bike for the Life-Skills program at the High School, valued at approximately \$1,200.00.

**J. Items for Disposal**

Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal the item listed on the Change of Disposition form dated July 27, 2022.

**5. Approval of CSE and CPSE Recommendations**

Action: A. Approve the CSE and CPSE Recommendations  
 Approval of CSE and CPSE Recommendations

Motion by Michael Motherway, second by Daniel DeMatteo.  
Final Resolution: Motion Approved  
Yes: Dominick Vulpis, Joseph Kilgus, Peter McNally, Daniel DeMatteo, Michael Motherway

## **6. Budget Transfers**

Action: A. Approval of Budget Transfers  
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer

Motion by Joseph Kilgus, second by Michael Motherway.  
Final Resolution: Motion Approved  
Yes: Dominick Vulpis, Joseph Kilgus, Peter McNally, Daniel DeMatteo, Michael Motherway

Transaction No. 22-031
Transaction No. 22-032
Transaction No. 22-033
Transaction No. 23-001
Transaction No. 23-002
Transaction No. 23-003

## **7. Policy Matters**

A. Policy Subcommittee Report: Mr. McNally stated that the subcommittee hasn't met during summer and the new date will be determined once school starts.

### B. Policies for Review

- A. 1420, Complaints About Curricula or Instructional Materials
- B. 2160, School District Officer and Employee Code of Ethics
- C. 1900, Parent and Family Engagement
- D. 5151, Homeless Children
- E. 5300, Code of Conduct
- F. 6680, Internal Audit Function
- G. 6700, Purchasing
- H. 8110, School Building Safety
- I. 8112, Health and Safety Committee
- J. 8220, Buildings and Grounds Maintenance and Inspection
- K. 8635-E, Parents Bill of Rights for Student Data Privacy and Security
- L. 9630, Sexual Misconduct
- M. 9150, Non-Fraternization "New"
- N. 9520.2, Family and Medical Leave

## **8. Reports**

### A. Superintendent's Report

As usual summer has been a busy time for us. You may have noticed construction has been ongoing for our bond work and several projects have been completed.

We are excited that we just about finalized the majority of our faculty positions and are looking forward to Superintendent's Conference Day which includes:

- My presentation entitled, "Looking Back, Moving Forward Together."
- A safety and security protocols review by our security consultant, Altaris;
- An update on our new five-year Strategic Plan; and
- Introduction of new faculty

School opens for teachers on September 1 and we welcome all students back on September 6.

### **Achievement**

Centre and Rhame students participated in the Summer Climb program led by Joe Polite and Michelle Healy. This program supported both Centre and Rhame students in the areas of Literacy, STEM, and Art. All students engaged in rich activities and lessons that provided opportunities for deep learning and overall fun during the summer months. Centre and Rhame Avenue welcome Danielle Schnieder, the new Literacy Coach. Ms. Schnieder engaged over the summer with the administrative team and our Thinking Maps Consultant, Jillian Chaiken, to continue the literacy work that reflects the district's vision of a Balanced Approach to Literacy. As part of the summer climb program, Herstory Writers workshop was offered for high school students. Students participated in a memoir writing workshop with a focus on stories that portray the theme of perfection. A culminating event was held in August during which each student shared their final writing pieces.

Our new instructional staff are participating in three days of our New Teacher Orientation program this week. The workshops for the three days include:

- Thinking Maps – A Shared Visual Language for Learning

- Feedback is the Heart of Learning
- Equitable Approaches for Multilingual Learners
- APPR Plan and the Observation Process
- The AVID Program and Its Approaches to Future-Ready Learning
- Technology Orientation – Moving Past Log-ons and Emails
- Visible Learning – The Effect Size of Influences on Student Achievement
- Professional Responsibilities & Participation on the Committee on Special Education

Thank you to our own expert administrative team: Robert Kennedy, Ryan Fisk, Vincent Healy, Sean Murray for their efforts in providing worthwhile, informative workshops for our new staff members.

### **Opportunity**

Centre and Rhame Avenue students worked with our local library to design bookmarks that centered around the theme, Oceans of Possibilities. The winning bookmarks were featured at the East Rockaway Public Library. Students from Centre and Rhame Avenue participated in this program and had their bookmarks shared with the community over the summer months. Summer school courses were offered for high school students in Algebra 1, English, Geometry, Global History, and U.S. History. 24 students received course credit and 5 students received Regents Exam credit.

### **Innovation**

Centre and Rhame incoming 3rd graders will be provided with 1:1 devices. This initiative will provide 3rd grade students with the tools to accelerate their learning to be successful as they enter 3rd grade. We are adding three new engaging apps to our roster for the 2022-2023 school year. With Edpuzzle teachers can create and assign interactive video lessons. Teachers can add voice narration and self-grading questions during the video to check for understanding and provide feedback. With Padlet teachers can curate an online bulletin board, with students contributing text, images, videos, voice, and more, from their own Chromebooks and devices in real-time. With Gimkit, teachers can design fun, engaging, and game-based formative assessment tool with students responding on their own devices. Make your own questions or search for existing sets.

### **Connection**

Centre and Rhame Avenue students participated in the Summer Playground Program led by Joe Lores. The summer program culminated in fun activities that celebrated the summer months. Students across the district engaged in a Talent Show that was held at Centre Avenue and Knock Hockey Tournament while all along strengthening friendships. All students had smiles on their faces as they collaborated with their peers on these events. In the final week of the Elementary Summer Climb, the students wrapped up their ongoing summer book and portfolio projects in literacy and art, and completed a wide variety of mini challenges in STEM. We are so proud of the hard work our students put in this summer and the enthusiasm they showed each day. Our teachers did an outstanding job creating fun and engaging educational opportunities for our students. These activities kept our students coming back each morning with smiles on their faces!

Nassau BOCES conducts a Diversity Recruitment Fair each spring for participating districts and assists districts in recruiting qualified diverse candidates. Promotional materials are developed in cooperation with each district. Advertising is done through a variety of sources. I am interested in finding qualified candidates to support our vision of inclusivity at East Rockaway and participating in this consortium.

Orientation for incoming 7th graders and students new to the district is scheduled for Wednesday, August 31st. Students will meet various members of the ERHS staff, participate in a building tour scavenger hunt, enjoy lunch provided by the PTA, and set up their lockers.

## **9. Good and Welfare**

1. Condolences to Karin Cooney and family on the passing of her mother-in-law, Miriam Cooney-Lisker.
2. Condolences to Chris Caputo and JJ Wolek, on the passing of their grandmother and great-grandmother, Claire Crowley.
3. Condolences to Noreen Sheehy, on the passing of her mother, Anne Sheehy.
4. Condolences to Debbie Iannico, on the passing of her father, Charles Bennett.
5. Congratulations to Kellie Hughes and family on the arrival of her daughter, Emilia Jean on July 19, 2022.
6. Congratulations to Joe Polite and family on the arrival of his son, Joseph James on July 21, 2022.
7. Congratulations to Luke Tesoriero and family on the arrival of his son, Vincent Salvatore on July 22, 2022.
8. Congratulations to Tracy, Mike D'Amelio and family on the arrival of their daughter, Cameron on July 29, 2022

## **10. Public Comments**

Public Comments:

Ms. Randi O'Moore, East Rockaway resident: Inquired about new principal Jack Bixhorn's role as an evaluator, inquired about snow days update in the calendar and the reason why some Valley Stream students are attending East Rockaway.

Answers were provided by Superintendent DeTommaso and board trustee Dominick Vulpis. Mr. Healy stated that Valley Stream students attending our school are part of the special education program and paying tuition.

Mr. Jim Munz, East Rockaway resident: Congratulated Mr. DeTommaso on his promotion as Superintendent. He inquired about the use of solar panels for energy savings.

Ms. Scio replied that energy performance contracts should provide energy savings. We can have a better idea how much we save after all the work is done.

We upgraded our ventilation because we wanted to have a cost savings of our new system and this will be determined after analysis on the energy cost on the new equipment.

## **11. Board Member Comments**

A. Board Comments

Mr. Kilgus: The new units that are getting installed in the buildings are energy efficient, run by a building management system. We anticipate the new functionality will be improved in the kitchens, science rooms and art rooms they are all looking great. They did an amazing job and looking forward to see the final project once is done.

Mr. Motherway: Agreed with Mr. Kilgus, and thanked everyone involved in the project.

Mr. Vulpis: Thanked Ms. Scio for her hard work and for a satisfactory agreement with our nurses. Thanked for the work done at Centre Avenue's playground and wishes everyone a good school year.

Mr. McNally: We were able to tour the buildings and are so happy with all the upgrades, technology and the construction done in the buildings, Ms. Scio did a great job planning and organizing the finances to make all this happen. Congratulations to Ms. Bloomfield on her new appointment and welcome to the family. Wish everyone a great year!

## **12. Adjournment**

Action: A. Adjourn

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus and seconded by Dominick Vulpis and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yes: Dominick Vulpis, Joseph Kilgus, Peter McNally, Daniel DeMatteo, Michael Motherway

Motion made to enter Executive Session to continue discussions of teacher negotiations.

Motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, seconded by Joseph Kilgus

All in favor