

East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., December 15, 2015 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Including Recognition of Tenure Recipients,
Art Teacher of the Year, Beth Brody, Student Athletes,
a Presentation on Music, a Presentation on Smart School Bond Act and a Public Forum

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 7:05 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patricia Nicoletti.

Board President Kristin Ochtera turned the meeting over to the Superintendent. Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to a full and exciting agenda. Ms. Ruiz then introduced Ms. Beth Brody who was selected as the Nassau County Art Educator of the Year by the NYS Art Teachers' Association. She congratulated Ms. Brody and presented her with flowers.

Ms. Ruiz then spoke about the tenure process and how it is a special event in a teacher's professional life. Ms. Ruiz introduced Ms. Laura Guggino-Hastings who spoke about, and then recommended Robert Kennedy and Marie Anderson for tenure. Ms. Guggino-Hastings then introduced Mr. Silk and Mr. Piccarella who spoke about and then recommended Ashley Tener for tenure. Mr. Silk and Mr. Piccarella then introduced Mr. Walter who spoke about and recommended tenure for Maryann Raffaniello. Ms. Ruiz then called all newly tenured teachers for a group photograph and congratulated all teachers and recommended their tenure to the Board of Education.

Ms. Ruiz introduced Mr. Dom Vulpis who spoke about the recipients of the New York State Scholar Athlete's Award. Mr. Vulpis thanked Ms. Ruiz, the Board of Education and all teachers for having a role in the exemplary student athletes in the District. This award is given to any varsity team who maintains a 90% average or higher throughout the season. The students each represented their teams and spoke about what it takes to be a scholar athlete. The following students made their presentations: Stephen Millar (boys soccer), Kristen Mihalich (girls soccer), Fallon DeStefani (girls volleyball), and Valencia Poorajah, (girls cross country.) Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. Vulpis for structuring the evening's presentation.

Mr. Piccarella then introduced Mr. Schloen, Chairperson of Fine Arts. Mr. Schloen spoke about the District's use of technology in music. He spoke about various programs that are used in school, at home, in the recording studio, etc. Mr. Schloen introduced Mr. Ceglio, Ms. Weill, and Ms.

Silver who then spoke about different components of the technology, such as Smart Music, Garage Band, Rehearse Trax, and Pro Tools. Mr. Schloen also spoke about the District's participation in the River East Rockaway Project. Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. Schloen, Mr. Ceglie, Ms. Weill and Ms. Silver for this wonderful experience for our students and for putting the presentation together.

Ms. Ruiz surprised Ms. Ochtera with a bouquet of flowers. Ms. Ruiz recently attended a concert during which Ms. Ochtera performed in a choir and wanted to recognize her achievement in that performance.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Piccarella and Mr. Robinson who spoke about the Smart Schools Bond Act. Mr. Piccarella informed the audience that the draft will be posted on the school website for 30 days and then will be sent to New York State for approval. Comments and questions will be addressed before the plan is sent to New York State.

At 8:30 p.m. the meeting was turned over to Ms. Ochtera who continued with the agenda.

2. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the Minutes of the November 17, 2015, meeting was unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – October 2015
4. Correspondence – One (1)
5. Action Agenda

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Patricia Nicoletti, the following Item No. 1 was unanimously approved.

A. Personnel

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff members on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Robert Kennedy	Special Education Teacher.....	January 2, 2016
Marie Anderson	ESL Teacher.....	February 3, 2016
Ashley Tener	Reading Teacher	January 16, 2016
Maryann Raffaniello-Zirbes.....	Teaching Assistant.....	January 16, 2016

Upon motion made by Patricia Nicoletti, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the following Items Nos. 2-4 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a child rearing leave of absence from her probationary art teacher position for Kelly Cabasso, effective

February 22, 2016, through May 24, 2016.

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Mary Doris Muscat to the position of typist clerk (10-month), effective January 4, 2016, at the prorated Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
4. 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. Loreen Peknic, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective November 1, 2015
 - b. Meaghan Pickard, short-term substitute teacher and concert supervisor, effective December 9, 2015 through February 5, 2016
 - c. Margaret O'Neill, substitute teacher, effective December 16, 2015
 - d. Linda M. Artusa, substitute nurse, effective December 16, 2015
 - e. Marilyn T. Walsh, substitute nurse, effective December 16, 2015
 - f. Nicole Winters, substitute teacher aide, effective December 16, 2015
 - g. Frederick Cange, athletic supervisor (day/evenings) and substitute monitor, effective December 16, 2015.

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by Patricia Nicoletti, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Items Nos. 1 through 11 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

Mr. Gamache asked for clarification regarding "B. Other Items, No. 3." It was confirmed that it should have been read as "2016 calendar year" instead of "2016 school year."

1. BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby abolishes the position of Director of Curriculum and Technology, effective June 30, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby establishes the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology (tenure area: Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology), effective July 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby appoints Mr. John Piccarella to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology (tenure area: Assistant

Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology), effective July 1, 2015, to a four year probationary appointment, on the terms set forth in an employment agreement dated December 14, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the President of the Board be authorized to execute said employment agreement on behalf of the Board.

2. Accept the following donations:
 - a. A \$40,000.00 scholarship from Dorothy Hughes to be awarded as the Robert D. Hughes Music Scholarship in honor of her late husband.
 - b. A grant award from the East Rockaway Education Foundation in the amount of \$9,138.43 in support of district-wide educational programs.
 - c. Office furniture from Weil, Gotshal & Manges valued at approximately \$5,000.
3. Approve the Flexible Compensation Agreement with Brown & Brown of New York, Inc. d/b/a Fitzharris & Company for the 2016 calendar year and authorize the President of the East Rockaway Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
4. Approve the East Rockaway School District's participation in the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance in order to receive benefits for purchases made at Home Depot and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the Health and Welfare Services Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Malverne UFSD for health and welfare services for the school years 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreements on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
6. Approve the Contract for Services between the East Rockaway UFSD and Nancy Nunziata, Pupil Transportation Consultant, to assist in state filings for transportation contracts, day to day operations, and other related tasks, in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
7. Approve the Agency Tutoring Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Alternative Tutoring, Inc. for tutoring 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.
8. Accept the IDEA – Part B, Section 619 Federal Funding Grant Award for the funding dates of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 with an approved budget total of \$11,687.

9. Approve the preliminary Smart Schools Bond Investment Plan (SSIP) in the amount of \$236,000 which will be posted on the East Rockaway School District's website for public comment from December 15, 2015, through January 15, 2016.
10. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal or recycling the textbooks more fully set forth on the Textbook Removal Form dated December 15, 2015.
11. Approve the participation in the Unified Sports Program Basketball League, a Special Olympics inclusive program, for the spring 2016, and accept a grant in the sum of \$2,000 from Special Olympics to support the program.

C. Budget Transfers – None

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

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

6. Policy Matters

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following polices were unanimously approved for adoption.

1. For Adoption

- a. 8110, School Building Safety
- b. 8112, Health and Safety
- c. 8220, Building and Grounds Maintenance and Inspection
- d. 9520, FMLA

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to Cindy Dower, and her family on the passing of her mother, Gail Silverstein
- b. Condolences to Tina Fazi and family on the passing of her mother, Antonia Rossi
- c. Condolences to Kirsten Miolan and family on the passing of Flor Miolan, grandmother
- d. Congratulations to Susan Glickman on the birth of her granddaughter, Lilah Hettie Meer, born November 23, 2015
- e. Congratulations to Sarah Kane on the birth of her baby girl, Landon Avery, born December 8, 2015.

8. Superintendent's Report

Elementary

K-KIDS

The K-Kids Clubs at both elementary schools are conducting a mitten decorating fundraiser which are on display in the lobbies of each elementary school. Each mitten represents one dollar that will be donated to support a local family in need this holiday season. The K-Kids Club of Centre Avenue is funded by the East Rockaway Kiwanis Club and is the elementary version of Kiwanis.

Rhame Avenue held elections for this year's inaugural officers on Thursday afternoon. President, Emily McLaughlin; Vice-Presidents, Clare Acuti and Kiera O'Neil; Treasurer, Kristen Carman; Secretary, Lily Stern; and Sergeant at Arms, Michael Watson were all voted into office.

The officers for the Centre Avenue K-Kids Club are: President, Anthony Desano; Vice-President, Nick Dilapi; Treasurer, Jason Miller; Secretary, Stephanie Lynch; and Sargent of Arms, Dylan Monaco.

ACHIEVE 3000

The professional developer from Achieve 3000 (a new software based differentiated reading program) will be working in classrooms this week across both elementary schools in Grades 3-6. She will be conducting model lessons and helping teachers plan accordingly to help facilitate the program's implementation. Students need daily practice with text at their independent reading level to develop reading strategies and to provide access to grade-level content. Achieve 3000's 5-Step Literacy Routine is designed to build the skills for close reading of informational text with the explicit purpose of finding the evidence necessary to respond to a written prompt.

REFLECTIONS

This year's Reflection Contest theme is "Let Your Imagination Fly." The National PTA Reflections Program welcomes students of all grades and abilities to explore and be involved in the arts. Students reflect on a theme, create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts and earn positive recognition for their achievements. At Centre this was the first PTA Reflections contest. Judging was held last week in both elementary schools and the judges were hard at work deciding which pieces will be selected to move onto the next round. Thanks to the PTAs for their efforts, once again, this year to help support "the arts" across both elementary schools.

The Centre Avenue PTA sponsored a BMX Bike and character education assembly to motivate students to make responsible decisions. Verizon Fios was at Centre to film the event.

Centre Avenue fourth grade social studies students are demonstrating their knowledge of Native Americans in New York State by completing a unit assessment. Students are writing an essay comparing and contrasting the Iroquois and the Algonquian using details from lessons taught in the unit. This will take place over two days: Day 1 - creating a graphic organizer and planning their response; Day 2 - using their plan to write their essay.

Centre Avenue sixth grade students are learning to analyze the concept of justice by discussing two cases using modern scenarios as discussions. Is the outcome fair to the accused? Victim? Is the outcome best for society? Students will complete graphic organizers about U.S. laws in small groups. Each group will cite evidence from passages and report to the larger group about laws, equal justice and punishments.

Rhame Avenue Students were recently treated to a Prismatic Laser Assembly that focused on the science of lasers with a Patriotic Theme.

The Rhame Avenue PTA and school social workers organized a Thanksgiving Food Drive to support local families in need. A special thanks to parent, Billy Quaranto, for helping to coordinate. Contributions were received from families and staff. Food baskets were made and went directly to families within the East Rockaway School District and the additional donated items were given to the food pantry at St. Raymond's.

At Rhame, Dr. Parker was back in the building this past Tuesday conducting Fall Progress Monitoring Meetings with individual teachers to discuss student progress and services being provided. It was a day filled with rich conversation about teaching and learning.

East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School

A consultant from Thinking Maps visited East Rockaway High School last Friday to work with teachers and administrators as part of the ongoing rollout of the initiative. Students have been working with the maps for several weeks and will continue to be introduced to other components of the program in the following months. Many staff members and students have been inspired by the maps and look forward to their continued implementation.

Progress Reports are being worked on by teachers through Wednesday, December 16th. Please visit the portal to view the report or call Guidance for a copy.

PSAT score reports are expected to arrive in the coming days. Students should check their email accounts for more information from the College Board. The Guidance Department is working with groups of students to better understand the reports and develop strategies for improvement.

Please be reminded that students continue to work on the research initiative introduced this year across all grade levels. Please see the December mailing for more information and reach out to Mr. Spero with any questions.

Eric Graves and Jennifer Dalton were honored at the Outstanding Physical Education Student Award Dinner hosted by the Nassau Zone of the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance on Monday, December 14, 2015 at the Crest Hollow Country Club.

In the spirit of giving, East Rockaway High School is hosting a blood drive for families in need. The drive is taking place on Saturday, December 19th, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the small gym.

On December 3, 2015, the East Rockaway School District Prevention Task Force hosted a Substance Abuse Forum in the auditorium. The forum was organized by Assemblyman Todd Kaminsky and Ms. Guggino-Hastings. It was very well attended by East Rockaway and surrounding community members. Many compelling personal stories were shared regarding substance abuse. The message delivered inspired hope for families impacted by this serious health issue. Many thanks to Assemblyman Kaminsky and Ms. Guggino-Hastings.

On December 8, 2015, I attended a community education forum at the Oceanside Public Library entitled "Diploma Options for Students" hosted by Assemblyman Kaminsky. Joining me were Ms. Ochtera, Mr. Gamache, Ms. Guggino-Hastings, Ms. Peterson and Ms. Hernandez. Representatives from the State Education Department as well as NYS Regent Roger Tilles were present. They heard first-hand the issues facing families whose children with disabilities cannot pass certain Regents exams and the lack of diploma options for these students. It is hoped that the message will be brought back to Albany and changes made.

There were some changes passed by the NYS Regents this week regarding teacher evaluations. Mr. Piccarella reported that the change eliminates the use of state test scores in teacher evaluations for the next four years. There is no final plan yet and further guidance will be forthcoming.

9. Privilege of the Floor - None

10. Board Member Comments

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache congratulated Beth Brody on her Art Teacher of the Year Award. He also thanked and congratulated all the newly tenured teachers and wished them all long careers. He commented that as a parent of Centre Avenue students he was happy to see a great show of support from Centre Avenue staff for their colleagues who received tenure.

Neil R. Schloth: Mr. Schloth joined Mr. Gamache in congratulating all the honorees. He commented on their dedication not only in their teaching, but as well as getting involved in other school related activities. He believes the district is moving forward in a positive direction. Mr. Schloth also thanked John Piccarella for upgrading technology in the school and taking the time to research and keeping the district ahead of the curve in technology. A thank you also to Mr. Robinson for upgrading security in schools and making substantial changes. He wished everyone a happy holiday season and for continuing to be involved in school and for staying as

late as you did for this evening's meeting.

Patricia Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti shared the same sentiments as Mr. Gamache and Mr. Schloth in verbalizing their congratulations to newly tenured teachers and Ms. Brody. She also thanked Mr. Robinson and Mr. Piccarella for their presentations. She expressed how nice it is at the end of the calendar year to celebrate so many positive things going on in the District. With the music technology programs that have helped our students become better musicians, the Hughes family donation, and the recognition of Ms. Brody from the NYS Art Association, it is apparent that the "arts" are very strong. She thanked everyone for coming out tonight; wished everyone a happy holiday and looks forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera echoed all her fellow trustee comments. She congratulated Mr. Piccarella on the change in his new job title, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology. She reminded everyone that the Strategic Plan newsletter was mailed out and is posted on the school website. She thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and appreciates the time and dedication to our students, not only in district, but supporting them outside the district, i.e., at the Oceanside Library. She thanked all for their hard work and looks forward to seeing everyone in 2016.

11. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Patricia Nicoletti, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. to discuss matters of negotiation.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk