

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., April 20, 2017– East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by a Budget Adoption, a Vocational Skills Program Presentation,
Recognition of Joseph Lores, Basketball Coach, and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Patti Nicoletti, Neil Schloth, John Giannotti, Jr., Superintendent, Lisa J. Ruiz; Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology; John Piccarella; District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

Absent: Keith Gamache

Late: Kristin Ochtera

1. The meeting was called to order by Patti Nicoletti at 7:04 p.m. Neil Schloth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board President Patti Nicoletti welcomed everyone to the meeting. She stated that before this evening's Vocational Skills Program presentation, the Board would like to pay tribute to retiring basketball coach Joe Lores. Ms. Nicoletti turned the meeting over to the Superintendent. Ms. Ruiz stated that tonight was a special evening. Mr. Lores will be stepping down from his position of varsity basketball coach. He has been a staff member for 35 years and tonight's recognition is to honor him in this role. Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Vulpis.

Mr. Vulpis invited Mr. Lores to the podium and spoke about his accomplishments and his teams' victories as varsity basketball coach, soccer, and softball coach. He also thanked the Board for giving him an opportunity to recognize Mr. Lores tonight. Ms. Nicoletti presented Mr. Lores with a personalized basketball marking his years of service with the "Rocks." Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. Vulpis for his presentation and Mr. Lores for his many years of service.

Ms. Ruiz spoke about the Vocational Skills Program on tonight's agenda. She thanked Ms. Schutta, Ms. Crowley, Ms. Mallor, Ms. Guggino-Hastings, and the teacher aides who are involved in this work-based program. She then introduced Ms. Guggino-Hastings who gave a brief description of this program which transitions students with special needs into the work force when they leave school. Ms. Guggino-Hastings then introduced Ms. Crowley and Ms. Schutta. Ms. Crowley showed a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the program and explained in detail how the students are transitioned into the work force by having work experiences at local retail stores and places of business. Two students shared their experiences and choice of places that they would prefer to work at. Ms. Guggino-Hastings stated that she is very proud of this program and considers it one of her greatest accomplishments. She thanked her team, teachers and support staff,

for all of their hard work and support.

Ms. Ruiz stated that she cannot emphasize enough what an amazing program this is. She saluted Ms. Guggino-Hastings for her leadership and looks forward to the program growing. It is a challenge for many of these students to find employment after school. Ms. Guggino-Hastings answered questions and a photo was taken of the group.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed Mr. James Daly, our new Facilities Director, to the District. Mr. Daly started on April 3, 2017.

Ms. Ruiz turned the meeting over to Ms. Nicoletti at 7:45 p.m.

2. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the Minutes of March 21, 2017, were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – February 2017
4. Correspondence - One
5. Hearing of visitors on items in the Agenda - None
6. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Ms. Ruiz reminded the audience that all retirements will be formally recognized at the June 13, 2017, Board of Education meeting.

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following Items 1 through 16 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Dominick Vulpis, from his position as the Director of Physical Education, Health & Athletics, effective June 30, 2017.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Anne Smyth, from her elementary teacher position, effective June 30, 2017.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Gloria Spratt, from her elementary teacher position, effective June 30, 2017.

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Randi Kilcommons, from her special education teacher position, effective June 30, 2017.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Mary McLeod, from her elementary teacher position, effective October 13, 2017.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Jessica Giliberti, from her teacher aide position, effective June 30, 2017.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Eileen M. Rogers, from her teacher aide position, effective June 30, 2017.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Jodi Neckles, monitor, effective March 22, 2017
 - b. Meridyth Hansen, mathematics teacher and Chairperson for Mathematics and Science, effective June 30, 2017
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Gabrielle Velasquez to the position of part-time (.2 FTE) foreign language teacher, effective April 3, 2017, through June 30, 2017, at the prorated BA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for the 2016-2017 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Christine Ericson for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.
11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Marie Anderson for a FMLA leave of absence for the period September 5, 2017 through November 20, 2017.
12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Kirsten Miolan for a FMLA leave of absence for the period August 31, 2017 through November 27, 2017.
13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Ashley Donovan for a FMLA leave of absence for the period August 31, 2017 through October 16, 2017.

14. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a continuation of the appointment of Katie Rich as a short term substitute teacher through May 5, 2017.
15. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Kathleen Gicewicz to the position of AP Proctor, effective May 1, 2017, through June 30, 2017, at the supervision salary rate established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract, Appendix C, for the 2016-2017 school year.
16. 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 2016-2017 school year:
 - a. Michelle Croce, substitute monitor, effective upon Civil Service approval
 - b. Lisa Zeilberger, substitute monitor, effective upon Civil Service approval, and athletic supervisor (day/evening) effective April 21, 2017
 - c. Julia Garvey, substitute teacher, effective April 21, 2017

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by John Giannotti, Jr., and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Items 1 through 23 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

1. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement dated April 5, 2017, between the Board of Education and the East Rockaway Teachers Association, concerning a one-time retirement incentive for members of the teachers bargaining unit and authorize the Superintendent to execute the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

2. Approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, It is the plan of the Boards of Education of Garden City UFSD, Herricks UFSD, Mineola UFSD, Great Neck UFSD, Levittown UFSD, North Shore Central School District, Port Washington UFSD, East Rockaway School District, Roslyn UFSD, Long Beach UFSD, Island Park UFSD, Floral Park-Bellerose School District, Plainedge School District, Jericho School District, and East Williston UFSD, Bethpage UFSD, County of Nassau, New York, Southampton UFSD, County of Suffolk, New York to bid jointly for Materials & Supplies (Bus & Auto Parts & Transmission); and

WHEREAS, The East Rockaway School District is desirous of participating with other school districts in Nassau County in the joint bidding of the commodities

mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0; and

WHEREAS, The East Rockaway School District wishes to appoint a committee to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, reporting the results to the Boards of Education and making recommendations thereon; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District hereby appoints David C. Murphy, Jr., for the Garden City School District to represent it in all matters related above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the East Rockaway School District Board of Education authorizes the above mentioned committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned commodities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the East Rockaway School District Board of Education agrees to assume its equitable share of the costs of the cooperative bidding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the East Rockaway School District Board of Education agrees (1) to abide by the majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards: (2) that unless all bids are rejected, it will award contracts according to the recommendations of the committee: (3) that after award of contract(s) it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

3. Approve the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that approval is hereby granted to enter into an agreement with the following individuals/firms for student related services, as indicated, in the Requests for Proposal published in *Newsday* on March 2, 2017, for the 2017-2018 school year, opened at the District Office on March 23, 2017, at 10:00 am, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting service contracts on behalf of the Board of Education.

PROVIDERS: Abilities Inc., The Viscardi Center, Abilities Inc. d/b/a Kornreich Technology Center; Access 7 Services, Inc.; All About Kids; Alternative Tutoring; Bilinguals Inc. d/b/a Achieve Beyond; APEX Therapeutic Services; Ardor Health Solutions; Blue Sea Educational Consulting, Inc.; Career & Employment Options, Inc.; Carina Hamel, LMHC; Creative Tutoring, Inc.; Eden II School For Autistic Children, Inc. d/b/a Eden II/Genesis Programs; Elite – Immigration Consulting Services Corp.; Frontier Behavioral Services, LLC; Helping Hands Children Services; Homecare Therapies LLC d/b/a Horizon Healthcare Staffing; Human Touch Translations; Institute for Children with Autism; Islip Tutoring Services, Inc.; Jennifer Fitzgerald,

OT. P.C.; John Groshans; Marra & Glick Applied Behavior Analysts, PLLC; Dr. Barry McNamara; Metro Therapy Inc.; Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism; New York Therapy Placement; Positive Behavior Support & Consulting & Psychological Resources, P.C.; Providastaff DBA EDU Healthcare; South Shore Pediatric Physical Therapy, LLP; Successful Potty Training; Syosset Home Tutoring, Inc.; Therapy Source; The Execu Search Group; TLC Kids Therapy, Inc.; JNC Services d/b/a/Top Grade; Tutoring Service of Long Island; US Medical Staffing; Variety Child Learning Center

4. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Nassau County Board of Elections for use of the optical scan voting systems on May 16, 2017, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the following Resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD authorizes and appoints the following individuals to serve in the capacity of election/poll workers in connection with the May 16, 2017, annual school district meeting and election, at the salary set forth on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2016-2017 school year:

- a. Carl Atteniese (poll worker)
- b. Jennifer Corbett (poll worker)
- c. Donald DiRienzo (poll worker)
- d. Aileen Hummel (poll worker)
- e. Nancy Landerer (Chairperson)
- f. Donald Maclean (Chairperson)
- g. Samuel Schwarzman (poll worker)
- h. Rose Trum (poll worker)
- i. Rocco Saragusa (substitute poll worker)

6. Approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (hereinafter "Nassau BOCES") has proposed and presented its Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2017-18 school year (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018), now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2017-18 school year in the amount of \$21,128,180 be, and hereby is, approved by this Board.

AND authorize the District Clerk to execute the Ballot and Clerk's Certificate and file

same with Nassau BOCES.

7. Approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the filling of three (3) vacancies on the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County will be determined by votes of component school district boards of education to be conducted at regular or special meetings of such boards to be held on April 20, 2017, and

WHEREAS, the trustees or board of education of each component school district, by resolution, may cast one vote for each vacancy to be filled, provided that no more than one (1) vote may be cast for any candidate, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District, hereby elects by a majority vote of its members three of the candidates listed below (in alphabetical order) for such vacancy on the Board of Cooperative Educational Services: Deborah Coates, Eric B. Schultz, Stephen B. Witt; and authorize the District Clerk to cast one ballot for each of the said individuals for their election to the Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

8. Approve the following resolution:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 (2017-2018 School Budget for East Rockaway Union Free School District:

RESOLVED, that the Proposed Budget of \$38,274,432 for the East Rockaway Union Free School District of the Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York, for the fiscal year 2017-2018 be adopted and that the amount of said budget be raised by tax upon the taxable property of the School District after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources.

Ms. Nicoletti asked Ms. Scrio to speak about and explain the budget being proposed tonight.

9. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD approves the Real Property Tax Report Card prepared by the District's Business Office for the 2017 Annual District Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said report card shall be submitted to the State Education Department by the end of the next business day following this approval.

10. Approve the License Agreement with SCOPE Educational Services for the After School Child Care Program for the 2017-2018 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
11. Approve the contract for consultation services with Nancy Nunziata, d/b/a JN Business Services, Pupil Transportation Consultant, for the period July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
12. Approve the Contract for the Services of General and Labor Counsel with Frazer & Feldman, LLP, for the period commencing July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
13. Approve the Consultant Service Contract Addendum for professional development services with IDEAL Consulting Services, Inc. for the contract period April 1, 2017, to June 30, 2017, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
14. Approve the agreement with Global Investigations, Inc., for residency monitoring services, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Ms. Nicoletti stated that there has been a concern that there are families who do not reside in the District but their children attend school here. A reason for this is that these families are displaced or do not have permanent housing. In this case, under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, these children are allowed to attend school here even if they do not reside here. For families that don't fall into this category, the District will be hiring an investigative service to check on these residences.

Ms. Ruiz stated that when an issue arises, it is always looked into. We do not hire frivolously, but only when we feel there is a basis for further investigation. If we suspect a family is not living in the District, we will investigate.
15. Approve the agreement with Textbook Central, a division of Tel/Logic Inc. d/b/a CentralEd with East Rockaway UFSD for textbook information and management services for the 2017-2018 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the agreement for said services on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
16. Accept the Federal Single Audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, as submitted by R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP.

17. Approve the Affordable Care Act Administration Agreement between the East Rockaway Union Free School District and Seneca Consulting Group, Inc., for administrative services related to the Affordable Care Act for the 2017-2018 school year, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
18. Approve the Parking Stall Lease Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Rolling River Day School and Camp for the use of parking stalls located at the East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School for the period April 1, 2017, through October 28, 2017, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
19. Approve the Emergency Contract with First Student, Inc. for one East Rockaway student attending Sagamore Children's Center Day Hospital, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations and President of the Board of education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
20. Approve the consultant services contract with John Perricone, Educational Consultant, for the keynote presentation, on August 31, 2017, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
21. Accept the Title IIA – Federal Funding Grant Award for Amendment No. 1 transferring \$200 from Supplies and Materials to Travel Expenses.
22. Accept checks in the total sum of \$675 from various donors delivered to the district by Stacy Lane for the “Keith Lane Visual & Media Arts Scholarship.”
23. Accept the following donations:
 - a. From the Centre Avenue PTA a check in the sum of \$400 for a curriculum enhancement
 - b. A check in the sum of \$500 from the Bishop Family for the “John Bishop Memorial Scholarship”

C. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the following Budget Transfer was unanimously approved.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer:
 - a. Transaction No. 17-0004

- D. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.
- E. Upon motion made by John Giannotti, Jr., and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

7. Policy Matters - None

8. Good and Welfare

- a. Congratulations to Doreen Ansel on the engagement of her step-son, Kevin, to Jacqueline Jacoby
- b. Condolences to Claire Maini and family on the passing of her father, Gerard Meehan

9. Superintendent's Report

Achievement:

Our central office and high school team will be providing a presentation for the Promising Practices Symposium as part of the Long Island Consortium for Excellence and Equity. This presentation is on the work the District, and specifically our Junior/Senior High School, has accomplished by implementing innovative programs in order to advance achievement for our students.

Both elementary schools recently had progress monitoring meetings with the reading teachers and classroom teachers in Grades K-4. The goal of these meetings was to analyze data and provide alternate strategies for interventions during classroom instruction. Teachers in both building also recently turn keyed Thinking Maps training with a focus on academic vocabulary to the rest of the staff. In the coming weeks, select teachers will conduct lab sites and open up their classrooms for other teachers to watch a demonstration lesson using specific Thinking Map tools.

Students in Grade 6 presented their Scientific Research Projects at Rhame Avenue's 2nd Annual Science Fair on April 6th. Each student prepared a 3-sided project display board that included a guiding question, hypothesis, procedure, data and conclusion. The students also integrated technology by using their 1:1 devices to research a topic, create 3-dimensional graphs and showcase videos of themselves working through the entire scientific process. The audience interacted with the students as they presented their findings and explained their thinking in an engaging and articulate fashion throughout the evening.

The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation has recognized the East Rockaway School District as one of 527 Best Communities for Music Education across the nation. This honor recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who work together to ensure access to music learning for all students as part of the school curriculum. Congratulations East Rockaway!

Opportunity:

Centre and Rhame Avenue students in fifth and sixth grade, along with Student Council members, recently participated in a letter writing campaign. They wrote letters to Senator Todd Kaminsky and Assemblyman Brian Curran to advocate for the equitable distribution of state aid. This was an opportunity for students to have their voices heard in an authentic and powerful way. Through research and discussion, students realized that the lack of funding directly impacts the needs of the district. They are hopeful that their letters will make a difference in a positive way.

Our Kiwanis K-Kids Club was very fortunate to have a representative from the office of Senator Todd Kaminsky join them for a presentation about local government and public service before the spring vacation. The students prepared questions and engaged in conversations about their efforts within the East Rockaway community as they prepare for the Memorial Park Clean-up scheduled for this Saturday in partnership with the Department of Public Works.

Just a reminder that May 2-4 will be Reverse Days for the administration of Math State testing in Grades 7-8. Students will report to their period 9 class to begin the day. After that, the testing administration will begin. Students who miss their lunch period can eat lunch at the end of their test.

Our 8th grade students are headed to Washington May 8-9 for their annual trip to tour the nation's capital and support understanding of government and history.

Our Music students are visiting Boston this week to participate in a music competition.

Connection:

April 4th was "Positive Post-it Day" at Centre Avenue. This day was inspired by a Canadian student who was being bullied in her school. Writing positive messages on "post-its" was a way to fight back against bullying in a productive and peaceful way. On this day, students received various post-its with meaningful compliments written on them. One was from his/her classroom teacher, one was from a classmate, and one was written by themselves to themselves. The goal of the day was to make all students feel special and know that they are a valued member of the school community.

The week of April 3rd was Community Readers' Week at Centre Avenue. The Reading Action committee planned this week to build excitement and spread the love of reading. The guest readers from the community included: two public librarians, a volunteer fire fighter, a Board member, a district administrator that lives in town, and the President of the East Rockaway Education Foundation. Assemblyman Curran had to reschedule for a later date. Students were excited to connect with the guests by listening to a read-aloud and asking their special guest questions about their lives.

Rhame Avenue held its 1st annual "Grade Level Performance Week for Special Visitors" before the

vacation and it was a great success! Grades K-4 put on shows that were directly connected to curriculum as the students showcased their knowledge and talents for the audience. This was a week filled with excitement and team spirit as teachers, students, parents and special visitors were able to create some amazing memories together. Fifth graders held their annual “Entrepreneurs Day” event and presented their inventions and products to parents and staff in hopes of making a sale. This year, our students used their 1:1 tablets to create an innovative approach to showcasing their designs and even incorporated “QR Codes” that guests were able to scan using their own smartphones to bring up the websites that each entrepreneur created.

The high school music department has continued to partner with River East Elementary school on its annual River East project. The project is a collaboration between our students and the students at River East that leads to composing rap songs. All involved have grown to truly enjoy this tradition.

Students visited Wagner College on April 19th.

We are excited to show Screenagers on April 26th at 7:00 in the auditorium. The film depicts some of the dangers of the technology age and will be followed by a panel who will answer questions and offer suggestions to parents and students. Many thanks to Town Supervisor Santino and Councilman D’Esposito for providing the funds for this presentation.

The work of our Engage Every Family committee has continued. We reviewed the results of the survey and are now working on our mission and vision statements and core beliefs. We will begin the process of developing our action plans for the five target areas which include Welcoming Environment, Communication, Supporting Student Success, Empowering Families, and Engaging the Greater Community at our next meeting.

Innovation:

During library and computers with Mrs. Schoen, the fifth graders are creating Glogster multimedia posters based on their research on a Modern art style. These posters will be on display during the Art Show on May 16th at the high school. A kiosk will be set up and the community can search through to view what they have learned.

The sixth graders are wrapping up their interactive country posters using ThingLink. They will be creating multimedia presentations for kindergarten through third grade on internet safety. These presentations will be at least five minutes long, incorporate an online component, and will be presented to the younger grades to teach them (and themselves) about how to stay safe online. This idea was suggested at a recent Centre Avenue PTA meeting.

10. Privilege of the Floor

Mrs. Araoz questioned if there are any plans for creating “mantraps” in the buildings, in light of the recent San Bernardino shooting. Ms. Ruiz replied that the Board has been speaking about it and

has received cost proposals.

Mrs. Lonergan was concerned with the late arrival of coach buses for the recent Frost Valley and Boston trips. She asked if there were any other companies we can look into. She also asked if the Board could reconsider adding one snow day to the calendar. Her last concern was the cost of graduation, in particular, senior year. She said the cost of senior photos, yearbook, etc. have become very expensive and suggested we look at alternate vendors. Ms. Nicoletti stated that we will look into her concerns.

11. Board Member Comments

John Giannotti, Jr.: Mr. Giannotti, Jr. thanked Ms. Guggino-Hastings for her presentation and the Vocational Skills program which looks wonderful. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight and looks forward to seeing them at the May meeting.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth thanked all the parents, students, and PTA members who wrote letters to our government representatives. This is a good move in the right direction. He also thanked Joe Lores for his dedicated service to the East Rockaway School District. He is an outstanding and admired staff member and will be missed. Mr. Schloth thanked Carol Sanders for her attendance at every board meeting. A special thanks to the Village of East Rockaway for honoring the Robotics Team and Mr. Howard for their recent accomplishments. Mr. Schloth agreed with Ms. Araoz's comments in advocating for school security. His experience in law enforcement makes him a strong proponent for security in our buildings. The school district has moved forward in that direction and he hopes to see it continue that way. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera cannot stress enough how much work goes into the fiscal planning for the District. Much time and effort is spent in preparing a well balanced budget. She hopes that more community members will come to the budget hearing next month. Even though the District is conservative in its spending, people do not realize how many programs and support staff have been put in place over the past few years; in addition to keeping the buildings well maintained. This process makes for an extraordinary effort in maximizing what we offer our children while at the same time being incredibly sound financial planners with taxpayers' money. Residents will be pleased with what they will hear at the budget hearing.

Ms. Ochtera commended the teachers on what they are doing inside and outside of the classroom. She attended Visitors' Week at Rhame Avenue School and was impressed with all the student performances and projects the students completed. The kids looked like "rock stars." Ms. Ochtera saw two performances; the students were nervous and parents were excited. The students performed beautifully. She commended Mr. Walter and his staff. The music, scenery, and script were very well done and supported good teaching. Ms. Ochtera expressed gratitude to the teachers; a sign of master class educators.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti shared her feelings with Ms. Ochtera when watching the musical performances of students. She is impressed with how the students present themselves. Their

learning is beyond the classroom. She also shares the sentiments of her fellow board members in expressing gratitude to the business office and staff. For example, the recent student council blood drive which is held twice a year. Their efforts are very much appreciated. She stated that the budget hearing is scheduled for May 9th and asked the audience to encourage people to attend the hearing. Details of the budget will be discussed including the low tax levy increase. Please spread the word and come out on May 16th to vote not only for the budget but also for the two open seats on the board.

12. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk