

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., January 18, 2022, East Rockaway Jr./ Sr. High School Auditorium
Preceded by Andrew J. Stern Essay Contest Winners, Literacy Update presentation,
and a Public Forum
MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND LIVESTREAMED

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members of the Board of Education: Kristen O'Hagan, 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.

Absent: Peter McNally

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristen O'Hagan at 7:06 p.m.
2. Mr. DeMatteo introduced High School student Charlotte Webster, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Ruiz thanked everyone for coming out and began tonight's presentations with the winners of the Stern Essay Contest. She then introduced Ms. Lisa Burch who will be presenting the winners. Ms. Burch spoke about her brother, Andrew J. Stern. Mr. Stern, a former graduate of East Rockaway High School, was killed in the terror attacks on September 11th. The Stern family continues to honor the memory of Andrew by sponsoring this contest each year. Ms. Burch introduced her family members in attendance: Mrs. Barbara Stern, and brother Michael Stern. Ms. Burch stated that the Stern Family is extremely grateful to Ms. Ruiz and the District for allowing the family to continue this contest. This year's topic was:

Reflect on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and discuss what has been learned and what still affects society today.

The following students were chosen as winners: Valerie Sirchia (middle school); Christopher Murphy-Perry (elementary), and Matthew Lacey (high school). Valerie was able to attend the meeting and read her essay in-person. Christopher Perri pre-recorded his essay, and board trustee Dominick Vulpis read Matthew's essay. Ms. Ruiz thanked the Stern family for this opportunity and presented Mrs. Stern and Ms. Burch with flowers. She also congratulated the winners and thanked the students as well as their teachers and parents for their guidance.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced elementary school principals Dr. Ayesha McArthur and Mrs. Calia Kelly who presented the Literacy Update and conducted the power point presentation. Questions were asked and answered.

The presentations concluded at 7:52 p.m., and the public portion of the agenda began.

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 public comments on the agenda items.

There were no public comments.

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 Mr. Vulpis, seconded by Mr. DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following minutes were approved:

A. December 14, 2021, Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: The Board acknowledged receipt of the November 2021 monthly financial reports.

B. Correspondence

1. Holiday and thank you messages.
2. Email regarding air safety and air purification equipment.
3. Email from an Elwood School District parent asking the district to send a letter to Governor Hochul regarding the universal mask mandate and other COVID related concerns.
4. Email from the Five Towns Community Center introducing their counseling services.

5. Email from a community member regarding the importance of the superintendent search.
6. Email from a community member regarding the posting for the position of Superintendent.
7. A letter from a community member regarding the mask mandate supporting County Executive Blakeman's recent stance.

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

Upon motion made by Mr. Kilgus, seconded by Mr. Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items A-M were approved on a consent agenda.

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the amended resignation of Carol Hernandez, for the purpose of retirement, from her 12-month senior typist clerk position, effective January 28, 2022.
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignations of the following:
 1. Hedwig Renee Macchio, substitute typist clerk, effective January 5, 2022
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Diana Sporer for a 12-week FMLA leave absence effective December 22, 2021, through March 31, 2022.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Dakota Terenzi to the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective January 3, 2022, through June 30, 2022, 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.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jacklyn Breitfeller to the position of short-term substitute art teacher, effective January 7, 2022, through March 14, 2022, 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.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Rachel Lynn Kearns to the position of short-term substitute special education teacher, effective January 7, 2022, through March 31, 2022, 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.

- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Michelle Cinnamo to the position of short-term substitute school counselor, effective February 16, 2022, through June 30, 2022, 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 probationary appointment of Alexis Freudenberg (certification: SWD 1-6; status: Initial) to the position of special education teacher, effective January 3, 2022, at the prorated BA, Step Entry annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher's Association Contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- I. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment of Cheryl Carroll to the position of ENL teacher (.4 FTE), effective January 19, 2022, at the prorated MA30, Step 8 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher's Association Contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- J. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Elizabeth David to the position of teacher aide, effective January 3, 2022, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association agreement for the 2021-2022 school year.
- K. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Patricia J. Manganaro 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.
- L. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jody Condon to the position of part-time monitor, effective upon Civil Service approval, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway UFSD Monitor and Security Unit and UPSEU Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year.
- M. 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. Anthony Barbieri, per diem substitute teacher, effective January 19, 2022.

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

Upon motion made by Mr. DeMatteo, seconded by Mr. Kilgus, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items A-D were approved on a consent agenda.

7. Other Items

A. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law §2034(6)(b) and NYS LGS-1, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District hereby authorizes the District Clerk to unseal and open the ballot boxes and to destroy all of the ballots cast, spoiled and unused in the November 15, 2021, Special District Election (Bond Expansion Vote) after one year following the conclusion of the election, i.e., November 16, 2022.

B. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law §2034(6)(b), the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District hereby authorizes the District Clerk to unseal and destroy all of the unused ballots prepared for, but not cast in, the November 15, 2021, Special District Election (Bond Expansion Vote) six months after the conclusion of the election, i.e., May 16, 2022.

C. Approve the following resolution:

Whereas, the State of New York, acting by and through the Department of Environmental Conservation has invoked its power of eminent domain to appropriate certain interests in District real property and, in particular, a permanent 20 foot wide subsurface right of way and easement under portions of the parking lot and athletic fields of the High School property known as Nassau County Tax Map Section 38 Block A Lot 4 (6B) as depicted on a certain map entitled Western Bays Resiliency Initiative - Bay Park Conveyance Project Map No. 24 Parcel No. 24, produced by the Nassau County Department of Public Works, and

Whereas, the State has offered to pay the District the sum of \$88,000.00, representing its estimate of the fair market value of the property interest appropriated, as an advance payment to be made pursuant to an agreement with the District, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the aforesaid offer of and agreement to accept the sum of \$88,000.00 as an advance payment against the fair market value of the District's property interest so appropriated be and the same is hereby approved, and be it further

Resolved, that the President of the Board of Education be and is hereby authorized to execute the said agreement and any other necessary paperwork in connection with said offer of payment.

D. Approve the following resolution:

CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR CENTRE AVENUE SCHOOL:

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District retained Irwin Contracting, Inc. for general construction repairs pursuant to a contract awarded on or about November 17, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the District’s architect has recommended modifications to the existing contract as follows: add \$3,383.30 required to complete floor penetrations in four (4) classrooms and deduct \$58,000 for unused allowance for unforeseen conditions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts and approves Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Irwin Contracting, Inc. resulting in a total reduction of the contract price by the amount of \$54,616.70, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent to execute Change Order No. 1 on behalf of the Board.

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

Upon motion made by Mr. Vulpis, seconded by Mr. DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items E-J were approved on a consent agenda.

E. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the President of the Board of Education is authorized to establish the “Matthew C. Cordaro Memorial Scholarship” to be awarded to one student pursuing a major in science, math or engineering.

F. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and Uniondale UFSD for the health and welfare services for the 2021-2022 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.

G. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and Malverne UFSD for the health and welfare services for the 2021-2022 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.

H. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and

Lynbrook UFSD for the health and welfare services for the 2021-2022 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 Special Education Services Contract with Rockville Centre UFSD for special education services for two (2) parentally placed students, for the 2021-2022 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- J. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal the items listed on the Change of Disposition form dated January 13, 2022.

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 Mr. Kilgus, seconded by Mr. Vulpis, 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 Mr. DeMatteo, seconded by Mr. Kilgus, 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. 22-008
- 2. Transaction No. 22-009
- 3. Transaction No. 22-010

10. Policy Matters

- A. Policy Subcommittee Report:

Mrs. O'Hagan stated that there is one policy up for adoption this evening. The next meeting is scheduled for the last week in January. We will continue to review the 16 policies listed in Item C below.

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding the policy for adoption. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve policy B-1 below.

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

B. For Adoption

1. 0101, Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms

C. For Review

1. 0115, 0115-R, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
2. 6705, Federal Funds Purchasing
3. 4000, Student Learning Standards and Instructional Guidelines
4. 8110, School Building Safety
5. 8112, Health and Safety Committee
6. 8220, Buildings and Grounds Maintenance and Inspection
7. 5300, Code of Conduct
8. 5420-R, Student Health Services Regulation
9. 5460, Child Abuse, Neglect, and maltreatment in a Domestic Setting
10. 8635-E, Parents Bill of Rights for Student Data Privacy and Security
11. 1230, Public Comment at Board Meetings
12. 2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
13. 8505, Charging School Meals and prohibition Against Shaming
14. 9630, Sexual Misconduct
15. 9150, Non-Fraternization "New"
16. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams

11. Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

In the most recent news, there has been a number of changes through the CDC and NYS DOH regarding Covid quarantine periods as well as isolation periods, in addition, there have been some changes that have been made regarding contact tracing as well. Their guide is to have schools working with their local health departments to ensure that members of the school community including students, staff and teachers who test positive for develop symptoms of or after exposed to covid have access to information they need and take appropriate steps to protect themselves and others. Parents must continue to monitor their children for symptoms very closely. We have made test available for students. We just received another shipment of tests that we will be distributing for home use, and we encourage families to use those tests to check their children if they do show symptoms of covid.

Achievement

Centre and Rhame Avenue Reading Teachers are beginning to pilot the new computer-based program, i-Ready, to provide reading intervention services. After receiving a full day of intensive training, they rolled out the diagnostic assessment upon return from the winter break.

East Rockaway High School Librarian, Crystal Valentin, was approved for and won a \$500 grant from Jovia Financial Credit Union's "Funding Your Ideas" Teacher Grant. Ms. Valentin's project was "Social, Emotional, Mental Health & Wellness" and the library will purchase Rosen's Teen Health & Wellness Database with the funds.

Students in 7th grade science classes conducted month long research and presented their findings to their classmates using presentation boards and the scientific method. Congratulations to Gabby Folk, Katrina Ipce, Leslie Madera, Kieran Panzella, Zara Soofizada, and Stacy Molina on their acceptance into the Drexel Photography High School National Competition. Only 116 images were chosen nationwide!

Katy Howard was named as an All State Player in girls volleyball by the New York Volleyball Coaches Association. Riley O'Hagan was named Top 100 Girls Basketball Players by Newsday, and Brian Cooney was named Nassau County Conference 4 Unsung Hero for his work with our Varsity Football Team.

Opportunity

On January 11th, 2022, Centre Avenue students celebrated College Awareness Day. Students wore shirts of a college of their choice as well as wore colors for local colleges to showcase the various opportunities that they have for college and career readiness. Earth science and 9th grade AVID students attended a webinar with horticulturalists to begin work on a proposal to create a school community garden at the Jr./Sr. High School.

Seniors Maddy Prucha and Katie McMahon participated in the Marketing Regionals Exam for DECA.

This year's Curriculum Fair took place on January 12th, 2022. This virtual event allowed families to learn about the course sequences and course offerings for the 2022-2023 school year, as we prepare for programming meetings for next year.

Innovation

Rhame and Centre Avenue kindergarteners worked with Mrs. Maini to create pictures in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in connection with their learning about him in the classroom using Kid Pix.

Ms. Cordaro is implementing Wipebooks in her classroom. The Wipebook allows students to work collaboratively in stations and scan their work in order to create a digital notebook.

Students in Ms. Olsen's Multimedia Class began using WACOM digital tablets, supplied by an Ed Foundation Grant. These tablets allow the feel of drawing with pen and paper while it creates the digital image on the computer. Students will continue to use them to enhance their digital creations.

Work was completed for the new sound system in the big gymnasium and has been in use for both Athletics and PE classes. Junior-Senior High School students in Mr. Howard's Introduction to Engineering class are making their own "Heads or Tails" electronic circuit board game. The activity followed lessons on components that make up an electronic circuit board and lessons on soldering.

Connection

Rhame's kindergarteners led a community service project collecting coloring books and crayons for children who are hospitalized. This project was spearheaded by a 6th grade student who is a cancer survivor. Centre Avenue had two students who participated in *Principal for A Day*. Both students participated in learning walks and wrote emails to teachers sharing all the positive student engagement activities that they witnessed.

Café 217 is back in business at the Jr./Sr. High School. Students in the skills and achievement classes practice their communication and work-based skills and staff are treated to a variety of hot and cold drinks. This month's theme in middle school advisory is beginning the year on a positive note by dreaming big and setting obtainable, measurable goals.

Councilman Anthony D'Esposito visited the high school on December 14, 2021, to discuss the importance of local government with all of the AP Government and Politics students. East Rockaway high school students Bashan Jones, Grace Wayar, Isabella Schaefer, Jonah Tasca and Stephen Cooney volunteered at Camp ANCHOR's Holiday Fest under the guidance of staff member Maureen Schutta. Volunteers assisted in prepping the gingerbread design tables, craft tables, selfie backdrops, and the outdoor karaoke.

School Counselors at the Jr/Sr. High School visited all classrooms to help students identify feelings about school, gather information about involvement, and continue providing opportunities for student support. The data collected will be used to drive individual counseling meetings. Counselors also met with 10th and 11th grade students to explain PSAT results. The 10th grade presentations included an overview

of Barry Tech and the process to apply for 11th grade. Additionally, the School Counseling Committee met to plan for National School Counseling Week in February. Members include high school counselors, support staff, administrators, and teachers from three departments.

School Counseling Committee meeting took place to plan for National School Counseling Week in February. Members include high school counselors, support staff, administrators, and teachers from three departments.

Ms. Ruiz asked Ms. Scio to provide a budget update. Ms. Scio stated the following:

Our first budget work session was held on Tuesday, January 11. Where we reviewed: Budget Process, Status of the current year initiatives, Allocation of Federal Stimulus Funds and Taxcap.

We have 2 out of the 5 components used in the Tax Cap Calculation. Four are unique to each district and the other is the CPI which is the same across the state.

The formula uses 2% or CPI, whichever is lower. 2021 CPI is 4.7%. Therefore, we will be using 2% in our calculation.

The other variable we know is the tax base growth factor. This is measured by the change in real property value due to construction and capital improvements located in the district. This is provided to us by the real property assessment office. The remaining three variables are still not determined.

Currently, I am very close to completing the rollover budget which considers the costs to maintain our current programs and staffing. This includes projecting out all contractual increases.

We are awaiting the individual school aid runs based on the Governor's proposal which is expected within the next week.

The budget presentation has been posted on the district's website. Please continue to check our website as all future presentations will be posted.

Our next budget work session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m.

12. Good and Welfare

A. Congratulations:

1. Birth of Landon Chase Sporer to Diana Sporer on December 21, 2021
2. Congratulations to Ester Morreale and family on the arrival of her grandchild, Gavin Anthony Bilmes, on January 14, 2022

B. Condolences:

1. Passing of Virginia Tricarico, mother of East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School monitor, Gina Tricarico-Manos and grandmother of students Gianna and Aleyah Manos.
2. Passing of Vita Parinello, mother of ToniAnn Donald, teacher at Centre Avenue, and grandmother of Giana ('19) and Danielle ('14).
3. Passing of Nancy Nucci, mother of East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School monitor, Rose Bottiglieri and grandmother of former student Alexandra Bottiglieri.

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.

Mr. Kilgus read an email received from Ms. Clifford, regarding elementary curriculum being taught. Mrs. O'Hagan replied that Mr. DeTommaso will follow up.

Mr. Kilgus read an email received from Ms. O'Moore, regarding the superintendent search job posting requirements. Mrs. O'Hagan responded that this is just the first posting as we are looking into drawing internal candidates as our first look around.

Lauren Galante, East Rockaway resident inquired about windows being left open for a long period of time during the cold season. She also expressed concerns over masking and would like to see a possibility of relaxing the mask mandates soon.

Jennifer Babiarz, East Rockaway resident inquired about a time frame to evaluate and relax mask mandates. She would like to see some consistencies when it comes of masks in school.

Mr. Matthews, East Rockaway resident was also concerned about mask mandates and how it is affecting his kids. He spoke about the recent news regarding authority to remove mask mandates. Mr. Matthews would like to see a change and removal of the mask mandate soon.

Ms. Maureen Doyle, East Rockaway resident had concerns about construction and the tunnel under the field.

Mrs. Ruiz's replied as follows: (1) Due to the pandemic, it is recommended to have air flow. However, if the windows are open for a long period of time during winter, a notification should have been sent to the school's principal to address the issue. (2) Regarding masks, we are on the path to getting back to normalcy and we must follow the CDC and DOH protocols in place and the mandates from NYS. We are planning a strategic planning and we will be asking the community for their feedback regarding masks and social distancing.

Mr. DeMatteo commented that he sympathizes with parents in the middle of this pandemic. He assured the community that we are looking for what is in the best interest of the students.

Mr. Vulpis replied that as a board we are looking forward to finding a balance and we are listening to your concerns. The board has agreed to follow the NYS Governor and State Education Department protocols along with the legal perspective.

Mr. Kilgus spoke about the construction on the field. He stated that we have been advised that the method of construction involves a “micro tunneling” and therefore the surface of the ground will not be disturbed.

Mrs. Scerio commented that the district will be monitoring the construction closely to see if there is any kind of vibration, field disruption, etc., from the construction. The advance payment of \$88,000 will be put aside as an advance payment against the fair market value of the district's property.

14. Board Member Comments

Mrs. O’Hagan: Before the holiday recess a survey was sent to all stakeholder groups asking about the character traits and leadership style, they were looking for in their next district leader. The Board met in executive session on Saturday January 8th to interview Mr. Lederer as a consultant for the search process and to discuss the services he would offer. At that time, we solidified a timeline, evaluated stakeholder input, and drafted a job posting. The position is currently posted on the district website, and it closes on February 4th. This is an initial posting giving priority to qualified administrators in district. If there are no viable candidates to move through the process, the job will be posted externally. A District Advisory Committee will be formed in the coming weeks and interviews will commence after candidates have been vetted. I met with Syntax, our PR Firm, to discuss their role and I will be speaking to legal counsel this week. Updates to the community will continue monthly at each board meeting. It is our goal to appoint the successful candidate in the Spring.

Congratulations to the winners of the Andrew J. Stern Essay Contest Winners. It is so important that we always remember that fateful day and I thank the Stern Family for allowing our kids to not only reflect on 9/11 but to connect to what they see happening in their world today.

Lastly, thank you to Dr. McArthur and Ms. Kelly for your leadership and providing the Literacy Update. This is a fundamental program, and the district is doing an amazing job meeting the needs of the students with programs like this. Building a solid foundation at the elementary level paves the way for success in high school and beyond.

Mr. Vulpis: The Board met prior to this meeting and spoke about SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis for our strategic planning that is

coming up soon. We believe we are in a good place to start off this new strategic plan for the next five years and continue to move the District forward. We are happy as a board to be part of it!

Mr. DeMatteo: Thank you to the parents who spoke this evening. We want the community to be involved, whether in agreement or not. We are trying to do the best we can with all the regulations. Any decisions that are made, will be in the best interests of our students, including their social, emotional well-being and safety.

Mr. Kilgus: Thank you to the parents who voiced their opinions tonight. We need to hear the community. We are making the best decision for all the children in the district. Thank you to all students that participated in the Andrew J. Stern Essay Contest and to the winners. It is very important to continue with this tradition to remember all the people we lost on that day. Thank you also to Dr. McArthur and Ms. Kelly for the presentation. Congratulations to Superintendent Ruiz on her birthday.

15. Upon motion made by Mr. DeMatteo seconded by Mr. Vulpis, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nereyda Amaya Moran
District Clerk