

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Rockaway, New York

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

7:00 P.M., February 15, 2022

East Rockaway Jr./ Sr. High School Auditorium

Preceded by a Presentation by Ryan Patrick O'Shea Foundation, recognition of Retiree
Carol Hernandez, and a Presentation on Thinking Maps
and a Public Forum

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND LIVESTREAMED

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members of the Board of Education:

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

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristen O'Hagan at 7:07 p.m.
2. Mr. Kilgus introduced Centre Avenue student Harper Ying, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Ruiz welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming out. She proceeded to introduce Mr. John O'Shea who presented the Ryan Patrick O'Shea Foundation donation which will be used toward the costs of implementing the Sources of Strength program. Mrs. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Ryan Fisk who presented a video tribute to honor retiree Carol Hernandez. Also in attendance was a representation of the clerical unit who also honored Ms. Hernandez.

This evening a staff member will be recognized for tenure. Ms. Ruiz spoke about the process of how tenure is granted. She then introduced Mr. Richard Schaffer, High School Principal. Mr. Schaffer spoke about the accomplishments and successes of Jennifer Isik, English teacher. A video tribute was shown. Mr. Schaffer was happy to recommend her tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education. Thereafter, Superintendent Ruiz introduced Mr. Robert Kennedy who directed the Thinking Maps Presentation.

The presentations concluded at 8:00 pm 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. McNally, seconded by Mr. Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following minutes were approved:

A. January 18, 2022, Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgement of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

A. Receipt of Financial Reports: The Board acknowledged receipt of the December 2021 financial reports.

B. Correspondence

1. Letters from the ERTA and Clerical Unit regarding the mask policy.
2. Emails from 5 community members regarding masks in schools.
3. Two emails from community members regarding Rock Rivalry.
4. Email from a community member regarding transportation.
5. Email regarding an injury of a student at Centre Avenue.

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

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

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Theresa Daube, for the purpose of retirement, from her 12-month

senior typist clerk position, effective May 3, 2022.

B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the following resignations, for the purpose of retirement:

1. Katherine M. Curcio-Payne, English Teacher, effective June 30, 2022

2. Doreen Ansel, Social Studies Teacher, effective August 23, 2022

C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to Jennifer Isik, tenure area, English, effective March 5, 2022, subject to continued satisfactory evaluation.

D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change to the previously approved leave of absence request of Megan Librizzi for a leave of absence from her part-time school counselor (.8 FTE) position, and her per diem substitute teacher (.2 FTE) position effective February 7, 2022, through June 30, 2022.

E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind Personnel Item 6.G. from the January 18, 2022, minutes and agenda; and further approve the appointment of Michelle Cinnamo, to the position of part-time, leave replacement school counselor (.8 FTE), effective February 8, 2022, through June 30, 2022, at the prorated MA, Step Entry, annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year; and further approve her appointment to per diem substitute teacher (.2 FTE), effective February 8, 2022, through June 30, 2022, at the prorated per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.

F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Tanya Cusumano, to the position of part-time special education teacher (.7 FTE), effective February 7, 2022, through June 30, 2022, at the prorated MA15, Step 4 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher's Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year, and further approve her appointment to per diem substitute teacher (.3 FTE), effective February 7, 2022, through June 30, 2022, at the prorated per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.

G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Kirsten Anderson (tenure area: elementary; certification: initial) effective February 14, 2022, subject to applicable laws and regulations regarding the granting of tenure, at the MA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Marissa Defrin to the position of short-term substitute teacher, effective January 31, 2022, through February 18, 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.
- I. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the spring sports coaching schedule dated February 15, 2022.
- J. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised ERHS club advisor assignments for the 2021-2022 school year at the stipend salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- K. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Anthony Barbieri to the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective February 28, 2022, through June 30, 2022, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher's Association Contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- L. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of John Wolek Fitch 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.
- M. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the resignation of Hedwig Renee Macchio, approved at the January 18, 2022, Board of Education meeting, and reinstate her position as a substitute typist clerk effective January 21, 2022.
- N. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the appointment of Jody Condon, part-time monitor, approved at the January 18, 2022, Board of Education meeting effective January 26, 2022.
- O. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for substitute workers:
 - 1. Alycia Fahrenkrug, substitute typist-clerk, effective upon Civil Service approval

7. Other Items

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

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

A. Approve the 2022-2023 school district calendar.

B. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the Corrective Action Plan to the Independent Accountant's Risk Assessment Update Report prepared by Cullen & Danowski, LLP, for the period ended June 30, 2021.

C. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the Corrective Action Plan to the Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures prepared by Cullen & Danowski, LLP, for the period ended June 30, 2021

D. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the updated Corrective Action Plan prepared by Nawrocki Smith, for the period ended June 30, 2021.

E. Approve the following resolution:

Approval of Grant Disbursement Agreement

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District gratefully accepts a grant from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ("DASNY") in the amount of \$125,000, awarded to it under a State and Municipal Facilities Program, to be used towards the purchase of flexible seating furniture for its schools ("Project"); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board establishes itself as lead agency for the purposes of State Environment Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") determinations regarding the proposed Project; and that, upon the review and recommendation of the District's Architect, the proposed Project is hereby determined to be a Type II action, as defined by 6 NYCRR §617.5[c], which will have no significant impact on the environment, and which does not require any other determination or procedure under SEQRA regulations; and, therefore, be it further

RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the execution of the Grant Disbursement Agreement ("GDA") between the District and DASNY in connection with said grant, and authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute said GDA on behalf of the Board.

F. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT the Annual District Election and Budget Vote of the Board of Education by the qualified voters of the East Rockaway Union Free School District will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at the East Rockaway

Jr./Sr. High School, 443 Ocean Avenue, East Rockaway, New York, to vote upon the appropriation of funds to meet the necessary expenditures for the school year 2022-2023, on all propositions duly filed with the Board of Education, and to fill two vacancies on the Board of Education. The polls will remain open from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and as much longer as may be necessary to enable the voters then present to cast their ballots.

G. 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 “The United for Change Memorial Scholarship” to be awarded to one need-based black or African American senior in good academic standing who possesses a strong sense of social responsibility, is empathetic, passionate, and sensitive to the needs of others.

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

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

- H. Approve the Agreement with Carol Hernandez as substitute secretary and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- I. Approve the revised letter agreement outlining additional duties and compensation for district clerk services with Nereyda Amaya-Moran, District Clerk, effective February 15, 2022, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- J. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Nassau County Board of Elections for use of the optical scan voting systems on May 17, 2022 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- K. Approve the Renewal License Agreement with SCOPE Educational Services for the UPK Program for the 2022-2023 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- L. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and Hicksville 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.

- M. Approve the Dell Transportation Corp. 30 Day Emergency Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Dell Transportation Corp. dated February 11, 2022 and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- N. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between East Rockaway UFSD and CMG Ed Group, LLC to work with ENL Teachers and Co-Teachers to develop strategies to adapt instruction and support immigrant learners for 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.
- O. Accept the following donation:
 - 1. From Ryan Patrick O'Shea Foundation \$750.00 for the Sources of Strength program.

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. McNally, seconded by Mr. Vulpis, and unanimously passed, the CSE and CPSE Recommendations were approved

9. Budget Transfers – There were no budget transfers this month.

10. Policy Matters

Mr. McNally: The policy committee reviewed the policies below up for adoption the evening on January 25th.

0115, 0115-R, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention: The Dignity Act expands nondiscrimination of students in public school under New York State law. The description of race now includes language reflecting The Crown Act, which was signed into law in 2019 as an amendment to the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). The DASA complaint form has been updated and is included in the Regulations.

1230, Public Comment at Board Meetings: This policy has been updated to better reflect the role of the public at Board meetings. Open Meetings Law requires that board meetings conducted to discuss school district business be open to the public. Public comments at board meetings not only contributes to good decision making, it also fosters good public attitudes about those decisions.

2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination: This is a local policy that addresses how agendas should be developed and disseminated. The update reflects changes to the

Public Officers Law which requires districts to post online and make available the agenda and supporting materials to be discussed at the board meeting 24 hours before the meeting. While we already follow these procedures, members of the district are currently receiving training for Board Docs, a paperless meeting management software system for the agenda and supporting documents which is set to launch in July 2022.

5420-R, Student Health Services Regulation: The Regulations to this policy have been updated to better reflect state law and regulations for students in the process of obtaining proof of immunizations. No changes are needed to the actual policy. This regulation conforms to state law and regulations about immunizations, medication administration, medical exams, and other areas related to student health.

6705, Federal Funds Purchasing: This required policy applies to contracts for purchases, services, and public works wholly or in part funded with federal financial assistance (direct or reimbursed). These are the rules the district must follow when using federal funds. It was recommended by the district auditors to adopt this policy.

8130, School Safety Plans and Teams: Emergencies and violent incidents in schools are critical issues that must be addressed in an expeditious and effective manner. State regulations now require that district-wide plans must address the role of security personnel and school resource officers and include provisions for a health crisis such as COVID-19. All plans must be submitted to the respective authorities by October 1 each year.

8505, Charging School Meals and prohibition Against Shaming: This policy has been updated to reflect updates to Education Law. On occasion, students may not have or may forget to bring sufficient funds to purchase a meal. To ensure that students do not go hungry, students who do not have enough funds in their account may charge the cost of the meal to be paid back at a later date.

A. Policy Subcommittee: Next meeting is to be determined. The committee will continue to review policies under Item C.

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

Upon motion made by Mr. McNally seconded by Mr. Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the policies listed in Item B-1-7 were unanimously approved for adoption

B. For Adoption

1. 0115, 0115-R, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
2. 1230, Public Comment at Board Meetings
3. 2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
4. 5420-R, Student Health Services Regulation
5. 6705, Federal Funds Purchasing
6. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams

7. 8505, Charging School Meals and prohibition Against Shaming

B. For Review

1. 4000, Student Learning Standards and Instructional Guidelines
2. 4321.12, Use of Time Out Rooms, Physical Restraints and Aversives
3. 8110, School Building Safety
4. 8112, Health and Safety Committee
5. 8220, Buildings and Grounds Maintenance and Inspection
6. 5300, Code of Conduct
7. 5460, Child Abuse, Neglect, and maltreatment in a Domestic Setting
8. 8635-E, Parents Bill of Rights for Student Data Privacy and Security
9. 9630, Sexual Misconduct
10. 9150, Non-Fraternization “New”

11. Reports

A. Superintendent’s Report

Strategic Plan Update

Last week we held the second meeting of our strategic planning committee in person here at the high school. The committee had an opportunity to review the results of the committee survey. The committee also reviewed the questions on the actual survey for the inclusion or changes to any questions for the survey which will be shared with all families in the East Rockaway School District. Please keep your eye out as that will go out to all families when we return from the February break. We will also be surveying our students in the coming weeks as well.

We are thrilled to have four students on our strategic planning committee: Jordan Lu, Claire Acuti, Bashan Jones and Xavier Thompson. They made significant contributions to their sub committees, and we look forward to hearing more of their perspective at the coming meetings. Committee members made some great suggestions and all of our facilitators reported that a rich dialogue took place regarding their particular area of the plan which includes as you know Achievement, Opportunity, Connection and Innovation. We look forward to the next meeting which will take place at the end of March.

With regard to COVID-19, we have been receiving regular deliveries of COVID-19 self-tests to share with our school community. This serves as a reminder that these are available, and parents may come to their child's school and pick up tests at the front desks if they would like. Governor Hochul has suggested that families test their children at the end of the break to ensure that they return healthy and covid free. I believe this information may be used to help make a determination with regard to the mask mandate. Therefore, please come up and pick up a few tests for your family if you would like to test your children prior to returning to school after the February recess.

Achievement

Rhame and Centre Avenue teachers worked with our literacy consultant, from the Balance Between, to unpack the instructional units in our reading program Wonders to align with our Balanced Literacy Framework. Teachers also engaged in actively co-teaching with her in their classrooms. We are looking forward to beginning our next Literacy Cycle with her after the winter break.

Mrs. Forbes has been selected into 2022 SUNY Master Teacher's Program. We are very proud to have Mrs. Forbes represent our district in this prestigious program and we look forward to hearing about her endeavors.

East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School received the 2021 AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to AP Computer Science Principles. East Rockaway is one of only 760 schools to be recognized. Joseph Lazazzaro and Grace Wayar were selected as NYSAHPERD (Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) Outstanding Physical Education Students. Congratulations to these two outstanding student athletes.

Students in Science Research are participating in the Northwell Health SPARK challenge. This challenge is ongoing and ignites students' interest in STEM health career fields. Students are charged with creating a poster and a career video about their selected health field. Roughly 50 schools compete in the competition, and we wish our students continued success through the rounds of competition.

Twenty-two high school art students received a total of 32 awards in this year's Northeast Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards! This year's artists received: 7 Gold Keys, 16 Silver Keys, and 9 Honorable mentions. Gold Key recipients will go on to be adjudicated at the national level.

The math department began its first inquiry cycles in the middle school. The inquiry process allows teachers to analyze data and dig into student misconceptions to identify student needs and create student supports to ensure the success of all students.

Our Girls Basketball team have made it to the playoffs! The first game vs. Locust Valley is this Monday, 2/21 at 1:00PM. The game will be played at Hofstra University. We are so proud of our girls' and coaches' achievements this season and we wish them the best of luck as they move forward in the competition. Thank you to Coach Poland for her efforts

Opportunity

Rhame and Centre Avenue students celebrated Career Week and Spirit Week leading into the winter break. Students participated in a full week of parent presentations that were interactive and engaging, exposing them to a wide range of careers. They learned about the skills needed for their career, training needed, what's most challenging, what they enjoy most, and about their career as students. Students also dressed up according to daily themes for career week. Both elementary schools celebrated World Kindness. Students completed hearts showcasing their random acts of kindness.

East Rockaway senior seminar students have begun participating in their

internships. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of career internships including education, health and fitness, and IT support.

Twilight English at the high school is scheduled to begin during the last week of February, creating an opportunity to ensure seniors are on track to graduate. ERHS is now offering Intramurals for JHS Winter II Sports including Boys Volleyball, and Girls Basketball. The Music Department is happy to announce that this year's musical is "Into the Woods, Jr." The performances are scheduled for: Friday, April 8th in the evening, Saturday, April 9th, matinee and evening. We are very excited to be back on track with a new director who will be joining our team for this performance.

Student Council is developing an application process for clubs and teams to be granted a portion of the monies raised by the Buy a Brick program. We thank the community for their support of all of our school programs! ERHS students Madeline Prucha and Claire Acuti participated in this year's Virtual Model G20 Summit, where thousands of students from across the globe come together to discuss issues of economic importance. In Maddy's second year, she participated as a judge, and advisor. Claire was involved in creating policies that included conservation, preservation of historical monuments, and cyber security. Both students commented on the value of the experience and represented our district well!

Innovation

Michelle Healy is working with Rhame fifth graders to create a virtual pet to be featured in the online game that they create. Students are learning how to use different functions and sprites to create behaviors for their pets to embody during their game. Centre Avenue third grade students researched various habitats and ecosystems. From their research they created a Google Slide presentation and shared their research with their classmates.

The athletics department has upgraded their registration process and will now be using FamilyID. A presentation on how to use FamilyID was held, and the recording will be posted to the athletics website shortly.

The Music Department completed the video recordings of this year's Jr/Sr HS and Elementary Winter concerts. Both concerts are posted to the district's website for viewing. I commend our students and music teachers for these beautiful performances and if you haven't had a chance to view them, please do so. Thank you for all the hard work.

The Jr./Sr. High School science department 7-12 has been trained on GIZMOS and is piloting over the next few months. GIZMOS allows science classrooms to engage in virtual laboratory experiments.

Connection

Rhame's K-Kids sponsored a "Have A Heart Fundraiser" to raise funds for three students to attend the 2022 Kiwanis Summer Sleepaway Camp. Students created a poem, picture, or any decoration inside of a heart creatively showing why they love Rhame. Rhame and Centre Avenue's K-Kids and Student Council members created Valentine's for Veterans.

Individual students and classes that participated were presented with a certificate from Councilman D'Esposito highlighting their generous and thoughtful cards.

National School Counseling Week kicked off with the start of students scheduling for the 2022-2023 school year. Announcements in homeroom included coping strategies, mindfulness, and other support that counselors provide. Counselors partnered with a variety of building stakeholders to share this information together. Career Week will take place the week of February 14th. All grade levels will be visited virtually. I know the high school has a great array of visitors who will be sharing their career path and knowledge and expertise with our students. The Jr./Sr. High School chapter of GSA welcomed guest speaker Cathy Renna to their meeting last week. Ms. Renna spoke about her career as a LGBTQ advocate and answered students' questions about the work currently being done on Long Island and throughout the country.

On Monday, February 14th, members of the ERHS Key Club visited the East Rockaway Recreation Center to participate in Valentine's Day activities with East Rockaway Pre-K students like: Simon-Says, calisthenics, and a craft project of making mailboxes.

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

Our second budget work session was held on Tuesday, February 8th. Where we discussed:

- Tax Cap Update*
- Governor's Proposal*
- Technology*
- Capital Projects*
- Proposed Capital Reserve*

This year the CPI, which is a key component of the tax cap formula, is 2%. There are multiple variables unique to each school District that are used in the tax cap calculation. The CPI is the only variable that is consistent across the state.

The estimated tax levy cap, Not the LEVY proposed, for East Rockaway based the formula as of today. (last year 2.6 Cap 1.6 Levy) is 3.99%

The Governor's proposal was released on January 18th the proposal provides a Decrease of \$49,700 in aid from the State aid amount used to build the budget for the 21-22 school year. The state budget last year promised to fully fund foundation over a 3-year period. This is the 2nd of the 3 years. The District received an additional \$402,125 in foundation aid. This is 50% of the balance of foundation aid owed to East Rockaway.

Building aid expired this year and is the reason why the increase in foundation aid is not easily recognized. We were full prepared for the decrease in state aid for the 2022-23 school year. Back in 2017 we began planning for this decrease and

aligned our 2019 bond with reduction.

Because the district has not completed many of the bond projects the building aid that is anticipated for the 2022-2023 school year is not reflected in the state aid number. Building aid is triggered when the final cost report is filed. That report cannot be filed until the projects are complete. I calculated the anticipated building aid on projects based on the anticipated completion dates. This will generate an additional 369,999 in building aid.

I want to take this opportunity once again to reiterate the District is in a financially strong position.

The budget presentation is 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, March 8th at 7:00 pm.

We will be reviewing expenditures and making a final determination on the Technology and Capital reserve propositions.

We encourage you to join us during these budget work sessions.

12. Good and Welfare

1. Passing of Natalio Mendez, grandfather of Crystal Valentin
2. Passing of Carol Ann Schutta, mother of Maureen Schutta
3. Passing of Eileen Walker, grandmother of Frank Altamore

13. Public Comments

Mrs. O'Hagan invited Mr. Vulpis to read the letter to the school community on mask mandate.

Mr. Vulpis read the letter released on January 28, 2022, after the board meeting on January 18, 2022. A copy of the letter is available on the school district's website.

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.

Patty Pignataro, East Rockaway resident: Inquiry regarding wearing blue in support of and in gratitude of police.

Jean Maxwell, East Rockaway resident: Expressed her opinion regarding mask mandates and how this has impacted her kids in the musical aspect and her younger

daughter.

Jennifer Babiarz, East Rockaway resident: Talked about mask mandates and police activity at the elementary school.

Daniel Caracciolo, East Rockaway resident: Thanked the board, the athletic department and Mr. Schaffer for supporting and signing up for the East Rockaway Education Foundation and upcoming 5K race.

John Mathews, East Rockaway resident: Expressed his opinion regarding mask mandates, Dignity Act and recent rulings regarding masks in schools.

Amy Clifford, East Rockaway resident: Thanked the board for having the legal counsel at the last work session and inquired regarding the consequences of not following mask mandates imposed by the state.

Matthew Corrado, East Rockaway resident: Spoke about mask mandates and the way communication was presented to the community. He expressed his disappointment regarding mask mandates in school.

Rocco Corrado, East Rockaway student: Expressed his feelings about wearing a mask in school and would like to have the option to not wear a mask in the class.

Ms. DeMatteo, East Rockway resident: Concerns about masks and how extracurricular events have been affected and some games do not have spectators. Also expressed her concerns about how this situation is affecting her child's artistic creativity.

Lauren Galante, East Rockaway resident: Concerns about guidelines regarding masks in the district in comparison with other schools, the use of air filters in classroom, etc.

Danielle Lanazzar, East Rockaway resident: Spoke regarding mask mandates and concerns about mental health.

Dineen Cilluffo, East Rockaway resident: Opinions regarding school liability and the possibility of giving the parents the option to opt out of mask in school.

14. Board Member Comments

Ms. O'Hagan: The Superintendent's position was posted on the district's website and on OLAS with a closing date of February 11th. In the past month I have spoken with Syntax, the district's public relations firm, and legal counsel. The Board held a work session on Saturday February 5, 2022. We adjourned into an executive session to meet

with Mr. Lederer, our consultant, to review applicant resumes (as of February 4, 2022), created a list of applicants for initial screenings, and updated our timeline. On February 8th and 10th, there were five applicants screened. Additional resumes will be reviewed this week and additional screenings will take place the week after Winter Recess. An invitation was sent to all stakeholder group leaders to form a District Advisory Committee. The Board intends to conduct initial interviews on March 16th and candidates will be interviewed by the District Advisory Committee on March 21st. Updates to the community will continue monthly at each board meeting. It is our goal to appoint the successful candidate in the Spring.

Mr. McNally: Thank you for the all the comments regarding mask updates, as a teacher, I understand your concerns, and as a Board, we are in favor to optional masks. Thank you everyone for coming out this evening.

Mr. Vulpis: As an educator one of the greatest accomplishments in the schools is to see the smiling faces of students and we want to move forward; we are all working together to get back to normal soon. East Rockaway has always been a community that stands by each other and as a family member of a police officer I appreciate the support and I want to encourage the community to stay together. We are here for all students, and we will do our best. Thank you.

Mr. DeMatteo: Thank you to all families that came in tonight. We are with you, and we agree with you, we want to move forward together. Please feel free to contact us and send us an email. We want you to be involved. Thank you.

Mr. Kilgus: It is great to see everybody and as a current parent of East Rockaway students, I understand your concerns and we are here to listen to you and work together. We appreciate you and we support you and working together as a team we will get through this. Thank you.

15. Upon motion made by Mr. McNally and seconded Mr. DeMatteo, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nereyda Amaya Moran
District Clerk