

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., April 21, 2020
Preceded by Recognition of Tenure Candidate
Meeting Closed to Public – Live Streamed on Google Meet

MINUTES

Present through Google Meet:

Keith Gamache, Dominick Vulpis, Neil Schloth, Kristen O’Hagan, Peter McNally, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mona Hecht, District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

Absent: None

1. The meeting was called to order by Keith Gamache at 7:00 p.m.
2. Mr. Gamache thanked everyone for joining us this evening for our second remote Board of Education Meeting. This meeting is now in order. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge was recited.

Mr. Gamache then turned the meeting over to Ms. Ruiz. Ms. Ruiz wished everyone a good evening and expressed thanks for joining us in this unusual format. It is new for all of us and the Board is doing a great job in conducting the meeting in this format. It is her pleasure this evening to recognize one of our finest teachers for tenure. She then introduced Mr. Richard Schaffer who will virtually speak on behalf of English teacher Sara Perrone from his home.

Mr. Schaffer made the following statement:

Good evening. I hope everyone is well.

It is my privilege to be here tonight, even if only virtually, to speak on behalf of Mrs. Sara Perrone. Sara began her career in the district in February of 2013 as a Teacher’s Assistant before receiving her appointment as an English teacher at the Jr/Sr High School in September of 2015. It has been a long road to this point, which included the birth of her children, Stephen and Olivia, but there was no doubt in anyone’s mind when it came to whether Sara should be recommended for tenure.

The following email that was sent recently by a parent sums up just how valuable Mrs. Perrone is to our school community:

I really want to tell you how wonderful, encouraging and supportive Ms. Perrone has been the last few weeks... A big thank you to her for making my daughter feel special and appreciated with her private comments on Google Classroom. I will email her but please let her know she is most appreciated!

Now here's the thing...this student was not in Sara's class since the beginning of the year or even since the beginning of the semester. This student was in a class that Sara took over right before schools closed. In just a few weeks, most of which was through remote learning, Sara was able to make such an impactful connection with this student. She looks for the best in all of her students and is acutely aware of the strengths and weaknesses of each. She is always supportive and never punitive. Fortunately, for the rest of our students, Mrs. Perrone is here for the long haul!

Beyond her relationships with our students, Sara's expertise in English instruction is quite extensive. The first thing any observer would notice is that she is a planner; perhaps an over-planner, but in a good way! Her lesson plans allow for thoughtful student groupings, multiple entry points for diverse learners and most importantly opportunities for students to be engaged in their learning. Students are constantly moving around her classroom, are asked to think critically and given opportunities to be successful. Sara's lessons are always based on clear learning intentions and success criteria, affording her students clarity on what they are learning, why they are learning it and what they need to do next. In fact, she ran with this district initiative almost immediately upon the roll out last year. Her use of varied assessments consistently provides her students with feedback that allows them to make improvements to their work. She is reflective, often knowing how to improve her lessons without any recommendations from a supervisor. This reflectiveness allows her to make adjustments to her lessons from period to period and even within the period.

Sara is also a leader within her department. She has encouraged the use of common practices across the English department, allowing students to be clear of what is expected of them from year to year. She is heavily involved in our annual Poetry Madness, which she has committed to ensuring happens one way or another this year. She has served on a number of committees aimed at improving the culture of our school. Finally, she is a constant positive presence in our building, always walking through the hallways with a smile and always willing to help wherever she can.

The students and staff of East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School are extremely lucky to have Mrs. Sara Perrone as a part of the future of our school community. It is for these reasons and many more that I recommend her without hesitation to Superintendent Ruiz for tenure.

Congratulations and all the best in your long and surely successful career in East Rockaway!

Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. Schaffer for Ms. Perrone's tenure recommendation. She congratulated Ms. Perrone and is thrilled to recognize her for tenure. Her tenure item will be coming up in the agenda shortly. She wished her a long and successful career in the District and hopes to

see her in person soon for an actual hug; but for now, is sending a virtual hug.

Mr. Gamache thanked Mr. Schaffer for his statement and congratulated Ms. Perrone on her tenure. He continued with the business portion of the agenda.

3. Mr. Gamache stated:

This evening if you have questions regarding items on the agenda or other school district related items you can email them to boe@eastrockawayschools.org. I will have my email open and will be checking them during the evening. The Board will attempt to answer any questions, if appropriate and able to do so. Please be sure to include your full name and address so a district administrator can respond to your concern in an appropriate manner. 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 Mrs. Hecht and matters involving the budget and facilities should be directed to Mrs. Scio. Mr. Araoz has created an excellent technology FAQ on the district homepage. If you need any further assistance with technology or have issues with a device, please reach out to him for assistance.

4. Mr. Gamache stated that we will now move to Item No. 4 on the agenda. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 24, 2020. May I have a motion to approve?

Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following minutes were approved:

A. March 24, 2020, Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: Mr. Gamache acknowledged receipt of the February 2020 financial reports.

B. Correspondence: Mr. Gamache acknowledged receipt of one correspondence addressed to the Board.

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Gamache asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-E below. There were no questions. Mr. Gamache then asked for a motion to approve Items A-E.

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following

Items A-E were approved on a consent agenda.

Mr. Gamache congratulated Sara Perrone on her tenure recommendation. Tenure recommendations are usually done at the May board meeting. Tenure is an important milestone in a teacher’s career. He asked everyone to stay tuned as we expect to recognize more formal tenure recommendations in the future at the June meeting.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff member on the effective date indicated subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Sara Perrone	English Teacher	May 8, 2020

- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a FMLA leave of absence of Katie Kuck effective September 3, 2020, through November 6, 2020.

- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a FMLA leave of absence of Caroline Drummy effective June 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020.

- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a FMLA leave of absence of Seanna Silver effective September 11, 2020, through December 4, 2020.

- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Denise Cipriano to the position of Summer Textbook Monitor, effective May 1, 2020, at the salary established by the East Rockaway UFSD Monitor and Security Unit and the United Public Service Employee Union agreements for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.

7. Other Items

Mr. Gamache read Items 7 A-L and asked if there were any questions. Ms. Scerio stated that there was an error in the date in Item 7-L. The date should reflect the year 2020 and not the year 2019. Mr. Gamache then asked for a motion to approve Items 7 A-L, with Item 7-L amended in the second date to reflect March 6, 2020 and not March 6, 2019.

Upon motion made by Kristen O’Hagan, seconded by Neil Schloth, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items A-L as amended were approved on a consent agenda.

- A. 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 2020-2021 school year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021),

now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$22,810,873 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.

B. 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 21, 2020, 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, Jean Fichtl, and Eric B. Schultz, 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.

C. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District heretofore adopted a resolution dated March 24, 2020, in connection with the approval of an agreement with SCOPE Education Services for emergency childcare services to resident students; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that the District will instead host an Emergency Child Care Services Program ("Program") provided by SCOPE Education Services which shall be opened to eligible residents of neighboring school districts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby modifies and replaces its March 24, 2020 resolution, nunc pro tunc, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Governor of New York issued Executive Order 202.4, which states that school districts are required to provide emergency childcare services to children of first responders and medical service providers; and

WHEREAS, the School District desires to host eligible students in the Emergency Child Care Services Program ("Program") established in accordance with Executive Order 202.4 as set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, SCOPE EDUCATION SERVICES ("SCOPE") has agreed to provide such a Program for eligible children on the terms and conditions set forth herein; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby approves the Agreement between the School District and SCOPE for emergency child care services for eligible children in said Program in accordance with the terms and conditions therein for the period effective March 23, 2020 through the last date schools are closed by the Governor's Executive Order, at a cost not to exceed \$750 per week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

D. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Section 119-o of the General Municipal Law, School Districts have the power to enter into agreements for the performance one for the other of their respective functions, powers and duties on a contract basis;

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo implemented Executive Order 202.4 which requires all School Districts to provide Emergency Child Care Services to children of first responders and medical service providers; and

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District (hereinafter referred to as "Host District") has agreed to host an Emergency Child Care Services Program ("Program") provided by SCOPE Education Services; and

WHEREAS, neighboring school districts who wish to send their eligible students to attend such Program (hereinafter referred to as "Sending District") have entered into agreements with SCOPE for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District, as Host District, is willing to receive said eligible students from Sending District; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to General Municipal Law §119-o, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby approves intermunicipal cooperation agreements with Sending Districts for the purposes of allowing Sending Districts to send students to the Program run by SCOPE at the Host District ("IMA"), in accordance with applicable law and as provided for in the IMA, for the period effective March 23, 2020 through the last date schools are to remain closed by Executive Order of the Governor, unless earlier terminated or extended as provided therein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said IMA(s) on behalf of the Board of Education.

- E. Approve the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement dated April 2, 2020, between the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District, (“host district”) and the Board of Education of the Island Park School District, (“sending district”) for SCOPE emergency child care services, effective April 20, 2020 through the last date schools are ordered closed by the Governor, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- F. Approve the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement dated April 2, 2020, between the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District, (“host district”) and the Board of Education of the Lynbrook School District, (“sending district”) for SCOPE emergency childcare services, effective April 20, 2020 through the last date schools are ordered closed by the Governor and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- G. Approve the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement dated April 2, 2020, between the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District, (“host district”) and the Board of Education of the Oceanside School District, (“sending district”) for SCOPE emergency child care services, effective April 20, 2020 through the last date schools are ordered closed by the Governor, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- H. Approve the Intermunicipal Cooperation Agreement dated April 2, 2020, between the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District, (“host district”) and the Board of Education of the Baldwin School District, (“sending district”) for SCOPE emergency child care services, effective April 20, 2020 through the last date schools are ordered closed by the Governor, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- I. Approve the Twilight Alternative High School Program Contract (2020-2021) with Nassau BOCES for East Rockaway students for the period September 8, 2020, through on or about June 30, 2021, pending the approval of the 2020-2021 school budget, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to executethe contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- J. 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 2020-2021 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Side Letter Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- K. Approve the revised 2019-2020 Board of Education Meeting Schedule.

L. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, the Board of Education authorized East Rockaway School District to join with several other public school districts in Nassau County to jointly solicit proposals for Special Education Related Services for the 2020-2021 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS proposals were sent to 372 service providers (both individuals and firms) and we received on **March 6, 2020**, proposals from 175 service providers and evaluated them in accordance with the terms of an Inter-Municipal Agreement among the school districts; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that proposals be accepted from the responding vendors for their respective services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the District to prepare formal agreements between the District and the providers indicated below and authorizes the District Clerk to execute said agreement.

PROVIDERS: Abilities, Inc.; Access 7 Services, Inc.; Achieve Beyond; All About Kids, PLLC; All Island Kids Therapy's, LLC; All Points Licensed Behavior Analysts, PLLC; Alternative Communication Services, LLC; Alternative Tutoring, Inc.; Always Compassionate Home Care, Inc.; APEX Therapeutic Services; Ardolino, Rita; Arland, Phyllis; Armstrong, Daniel; Ascent; Ash-Bernstein, Melissa; Athlos; Axel, Elizabeth; Battaglia, Lauren; Baudin, Christine SLP; Bayada Home Health Care, Inc.; Behavior Change Success Corp; Behavior Intervention Psychological Services, PC; Beyond Boundaries Autism Specialists; Beyond Boundaries Therapeutic Services; Bialer, Doreit; Bilingual Professional Agency, Inc.; Bilko, Sheila M.; Blue Sea Educational Consulting Inc.; Bowen, Liz; Brookville Center; Browne, Susan; Calderon, Ricardo; Career & Employment Options (CEO); Carrie's Kids; Childhood Anxiety Solutions; Christian Nursing Registry; Christie, Toni Ann; Clampitt, Melanie; Clinical Staffing Resources; Cohen, Dr. Alan; Comprehensive Psychological Services, P.C.; Comprehensive Resources, Inc.; Consulting That Makes a Difference, Inc.; Corinthian Therapy Management Services; Creedon, Francine; Da Vinci Education & Research; Delio, Patricia M.A.; Delta-T Group; DeMaria, Michele; DeMatteis Keller, Gabrielle; Dotcom Therapy; Doxsee, Thomas; East Norwich Therapeutic Services; Easy A Today; Eden II School for Autistic Children, Inc. d/b/a Eden II /Genesis Programs; Edgewater Consulting; Education Relief, Inc.; EI US, LLC d/b/a Learnwell; Eiger, Gwenn PT; Emerald Investigations, Inc.; Eriksen

Translations Inc.; Estevez, Jo Ann B.S., M.S.; Extraordinary Pediatrics; Family Center for Autism (Life WORC); Family Pediatric Home Care, DIV of Tri-Borough Home Care, LTD.; First Class Tutoring; Foundations Occupational Therapy; Frontier Behavior Services, LLC; Garden City Audiology; Gareau, Kathleen; Gomes, Hilary – Pediatric Neuropsychologist; Greenfield, Terri; Grogan, Virginia; Hart, Dina; Health Source Group; Homayoonfar, Sepideh; Horizon Healthcare Services; Innovative Tutoring; Institute for Children with Autism & Related Disorders; Ippolito, Angelo; Isaakov, Dr. Zaur; iTutor.com, Inc.; Kid Success, Inc.; Kids Learning Loft ABA Services, PLLC; Kirshner, Debra; Klein, Dr. Vicki; Klonsky, Olivia; Kreinik, Kimya Sakhai; L.I. Therapy Management; Lakretz Creative Support Services, Inc.; LaMarca, Dr. Linda (Neuropsychologist); Language Line Solutions; Leibowitz, Judy; Leonard, Karen; LI Orientation and Mobility, LLC; LIDC Long Island Developmental Consulting, Inc.; Limperis, Maria; Linzalone, Dr. Tanya; Little Sprouts Growth and Development, LLC; Long Island Neuropsychological Consultants; Long Island Stuttering & Speech Pathology; Long Island Tutorial Services; Mancuso, Jennifer; Manhattan Psychology Group, PC; Maxim Healthcare Services; Mazza, Marie; McCoy, Irene; McNamara, Barry Ed.D; Melchione, Danielle; Metro Therapy; Milestones In Home Care, Inc.; Mill Neck Interpreter Services; Millenium Children’s Therapy; Miller, Crystal T. PT, DPT, PPLC; Mind Prep Tutoring; Mishkin, Dr. Jodi Alison; MKSA, LLC; Mucciolo, Marilyn; Nassau Suffolk Services for the Autistics, Inc. (NSSA); Navon, Dr. Richard; Nazarieh, Melani; Nicholas Center For Autism; North Coast Psychological Services; North Shore Children’s Physical Therapy, PLLC; North Shore Speech & Language Associations; NPORT Staffing; NY Therapy Placement Services; Oshikanlu, Bolajoko MS ED OTR; Ottosen, Jill; Out East Therapy of New York; Pallotta, Mara; Pediatric Neuropsychology Associates of LI; Perfect Choice Staffing; Perfect Playground, LLC dba The Stepping Stones Group; Plunkett, Lindsay; Positive Behavior Services (PBS); PresenceLearning, LLC; Pro Performance; Public Consulting Group; Reddy Consulting Services, Inc. ; Rivman, Anita; Rose, Eileen; Ruhlig, Christine, PT; Russo, Dr. Connie; S.E.E.D.S of the Willistons, Inc.; Sabatino, Michele; Sabatino-Andrus, Alicia; Sanguedolce, Mary; Sardone, Jennie; Sensational Development Occupational Therapy, PLLC; SignTalk, LLC; Simon, Marlene; SLCD(aka Tiegerman); Solix, Inc.; Strazzeri, Jennifer, LLC; Strong Kids, Inc.; Syosset Home Tutoring; Terranova, Gia; The Hagedorn Little Village School; The Rebecca Center; Therapia Staffing; Tinagero SLP, P.C.; Tracy, Laurette; Tussman, Barry; Tutor Doctor; Tutoring for Life, LLC; Tutoring Service of Long Island; Variety Child Learning Center; Wanderman, Debbie; Weiss, Rona; White Glove Community Care; Williams Speech; World Class Language Solutions; Zamft Tutoring, LLC; Zycron Industries

8. Mr. Gamache asked if there were any questions with regard to the CSE recommendations and

reiterated that there were no CPSE recommendations this month. There were no questions and he asked for a motion to approve the CSE recommendations.

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the CSE recommendations were unanimously approved.

9. Budget Transfers

Mr. Gamache asked if there were any questions regarding the following budget transfer. There were no questions and he asked for a motion to approve the following budget transfer.

Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, and seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the following budget transfer was unanimously approved.

A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer:

1. Transaction No. 20-0016

10. Policy Matters

Mr. Gamache asked if Ms. O'Hagan will be giving a policy report. He then stated that there has been an added policy for review, Policy 4710, Grading Systems. This policy will be reviewed shortly but no meeting date has been set. There is an urgency to adopt this policy because of schools being closed and with distance and remote learning taking place adjustments have to be made to the grading system and the Board will be looking into it at this time. Mr. Gamache also thanked Ms. O'Hagan and Mr. McNally for working with Ms. Ruiz on this subcommittee. He then asked if there were any questions from the Board regarding the policies for review.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the Federal Funds Policy had anything do with the pandemic. Ms. Scio replied that it is a new policy that all school districts are required to have and has nothing to do with pandemic. Ms. Ruiz stated that NYSSBA has a policy service that the District turns to for sample policies. We have to wait until their sample policy is available and Ms. Scio will look it over to make sure it meets the District's requirements.

A. Policy Sub-Committee Report

Ms. O'Hagan provided the following report:

There are no policies up for adoption tonight. We will continue to review the following 6 policies: Grading Systems Field Trips and Excursions Opioid Overdose Prevention Regulation Extreme Risk Protection Orders (The "Red Flag Law") Non-Fraternization Federal Funds Purchasing. At this time we do not have a date that we will be holding a

Policy Sub-committee meeting.

B. For Adoption - None

C. For Review

1. 4531, Field Trip and Excursions
2. 4710, Grading Systems
3. 8121.1-R, Opioid Overdose Prevention Regulation
4. 8130.1, Extreme Risk Protection Orders (The “Red Flag Law”) “New” “Notice”
5. 9150, Non-Fraternization “New”
6. 6705, Federal Funds Purchasing

11. Reports

A. Board President’s Report

Mr. Gamache provided the following report:

We are still awaiting guidance from the state regarding a new date for the budget and trustee vote. The Board does intend to adopt our budget in May, so we are ready to go when that date is determined. I don’t have any other important information, from this month’s work session, to report on that will not be covered by Mrs. Ruiz, Mrs. Hecht, or Mrs. Scio. So, with that said, I want to express continued gratitude for the leadership provided by our central administrative team, Mr. Araoz for the technology instructional leadership and support he has provided to administration, teachers, and families, and to the teachers for their incredible flexibility in learning new technologies and adapting instructional practices to meet the needs of our students. Thank you for delivering quality instruction. Your Zoom and Google Meet “meetings”, personal phone calls, emails, and other means of communication have helped our children and parents feel connected.

B. Superintendent’s Report

Good evening and welcome to our virtual Board of Education meeting!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our central office team, administrative team and teachers for their efforts in providing our remote learning during this very difficult time. Our teachers have really stepped up and are learning new technologies and working very hard to ensure that our students are connected and learning.

We have been holding virtual CSE meetings for the past several weeks. All participants are provided with the necessary documents to provide for a meaningful planning meeting.

Thank you to our parents, psychologists, mental health team, and teachers for their efforts in making this experience successful.

In addition, our social workers have been working closely with students and families to support their social emotional and mental health needs. We will be rolling out a series of virtual parent education support workshops starting next week. These interactive sessions will be open to all families and will allow for open discussions. If you have any topics that you would like to see brought to the sessions, please feel free to email Mrs. Kosser or me directly. As a reminder, the Northwell Health Behavioral Health Clinic in Rockville Center is open and available for video appointments. Please check the announcements on our website for further information or you can reach out to Mrs. Kosser's office.

We are very excited that we are planning a community parade for this Friday, weather permitting. We will be letting parents know the time and location. Our parade will be led throughout the community by our esteemed bus driver Mr. Jimmy Lores. The high school is also planning an event to acknowledge our seniors.

Centre Avenue School

Teachers have been immersing themselves in learning different digital tools to provide meaningful instruction remotely. Teachers in grades K-3 are using *Wakelet* and teachers in grades 4-6 are using Google Classroom. They are connecting with students multiple times a week to check in and see if they need support in any way. Each morning Mrs. Ma sends out the morning announcements with a fun fact and birthday shout outs. Parents have expressed this is helpful for their children as they start their day of learning. Each week Mrs. Ma has also been sending a read aloud for students to listen to.

The staff made a video sending well wishes and letting students know that we all miss them. In addition, Centre Avenue is planning a virtual talent show. All staff and students are welcome to participate. On Friday, April, 24, 2020, a car parade is planned to see the students and to lift their spirits.

Rhame Avenue School

Our 1st, 3rd, and 6th grade teachers have been working collaboratively with the Centre Avenue teachers to plan for instruction, share resources, and explore new technology tools and resources together.

In an effort to maintain a connection with our students, our library assistant made books for kindergarten students and mailed them home, and recently mailed books and an Earth Day project home for second grade students.

Students in grades 3 - 6 are completing a COVID time capsule activity in which they are

recording their thoughts, feelings, and experiences during these uncertain and unprecedented times.

Fifth grade students continue to work on their Entrepreneur Day projects virtually, in preparation of sharing them virtually.

Sixth grade students are reading the book *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* and participating in virtual book discussions with their peers using Google Classroom.

East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School

At the junior/senior high school, students have been engaged in remote learning assignments across all classes since schools have been closed. Teachers have embraced the use of Google classroom, posting many of the assignments through this platform. This has allowed for real time feedback on students' work. Starting this week, all students will engage in virtual class sessions twice in a six-day cycle in each course.

We have conducted two virtual parent sessions, allowing parents to ask questions about Regents exam, the remote learning plan and more. Similar sessions for students will be set up in the next few days. Morning announcements have been pushed out to students every day, giving students and families important information and inspirational messages from Ms. Terranova and Mr. Krauz.

Poetry Madness

Our annual Poetry Madness will continue, with the 32 final poets being announced in the coming days. If we remain closed, we will have a virtual reading of the final 8 poems.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

I just wanted to take a brief moment to share information about our valedictorian and salutatorian. Our valedictorian, Zackary Hirashima, will be attending Harvard University in the fall, while our salutatorian, Gianna Wayar, will be attending Adelphi University. We are extremely proud of these two students, as we are all of our soon to be graduates.

Thank you to everyone that played a role in the success of the class of 2020 and hopefully we will get to see them walk down the aisle in caps and gowns in the not too distant future.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Ms. Hecht who spoke about the continuity of the District's learning plan. Ms. Hecht provided the following report about the third and final phase of our learning plan.

As we have done from the beginning, we are leading with the understanding that these circumstances have affected families in different ways so we want to ensure that we are providing flexibility, support and understanding for what students and their families may be going through. At the same time, we need to ensure that we are continuing to provide a solid academic program for the remainder or the closure and the school year. This third phase includes increased teacher contact with students through opportunities to learn new content and interact with teachers through live sessions. This may look different at different grade levels and in different classrooms – some may include recorded lessons or video from other instructional programs such as Khan Academy, followed by review and support sessions with teachers. Others may include live teacher directed instruction. This phase includes all teachers providing opportunities for live connections, the delivery of new content and the support for students to receive feedback, assistance with the content and to answer questions. We are very appreciative of all that our teachers and administrators have done and continue to do during this period of remote learning. They have done an incredible job transitioning to this phase and we thank them.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Ms. Scio who will speak about where we stand with the budget. Ms. Scio provided the following report:

Our fourth and last budget work session was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. Discussions included the final budget proposal, the District's initiatives, three-part budget, revenue sources and state aid.

On April 1, 2020, the NYS budget was adopted and updated state aid runs were distributed. Based on the state aid runs and economy, many of the anticipated initiatives for the upcoming school year were removed. The budget maintains all current programs and continues to support the District's vision for technology, capital and security. The few initiatives included in the budget are the Mental Health Clinic and new K-6 reading curriculum. In addition, the budget includes the visitor management system as a security enhancement and a few small capital projects to maintain our facilities.

The state budget allows for three assessment periods in which the NYS Budget Director will review the level of expenditures and revenues for the state. Based on this review, the NYS budget can be reduced for the 2020-21 budget year. This could result in loss of state aid for school districts. The District is prepared for a potential loss in state aid.

We have frozen all expenditures for the balance of the school year. Any savings recognized due to the freeze in expenditures and closing of school is earmarked to offset any potential loss in state aid. While we anticipate no loss of program for the upcoming school year, there is much more uncertainty for future years. As the year progresses and the state of the economy becomes clearer, we will develop a plan to address any future

loss of revenue.

The proposed budget increased by \$919,283 with a 2.28% budget to budget increase and tax levy increase of \$686,741 with a 2.24% increase.

All budget presentations are posted on the District's website and I urge you to review them for further information.

Ms. Ruiz thanked both Ms. Hecht and Ms. Scio for their reports.

Ms. Ruiz provided an additional report regarding the spring sports season and asked Mr. Vulpis to also share his thoughts. Today they received news that the spring sports season will be cancelled both in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. This is a huge disappointment to students and especially seniors who wanted to end their time on an East Rockaway team. Mr. Barth will be sending out a formal letter detailing the decision from Section VIII.

Mr. Vulpis added that this was a difficult decision to make but was made out of an abundance of caution. The safety of our student-athletes, coaches, parents, officials and community led to the decision. In making the decision, Nassau and Suffolk Counties joined forces together and stayed "Long Island Strong." Both counties, along with their superintendents, realized in the realm of what's going on with social distancing and the governor constantly updating us it was best to put this to bed at this time. However, there are plans for some type of acknowledgment for our seniors and athletes around the counties. Details should be released shortly for May 1st. Some ideas we are looking is lights on fields at night, or a community "lights on" at 8:20 pm (20:20 military time) as a tribute and farewell to those seniors who could not participate at the end of their senior year. It was a tough decision but the right decision at this time. Ms. Ruiz added that the superintendents struggled with this decision but were holding out to wait and see if anything could be salvaged.

Mr. Gamache thanked Ms. Ruiz and Mr. Vulpis and the Section VIII members who did the best they could to help all of our athletes. He then stated that we would be moving on to Item No. 12 (Good and Welfare) and read those items.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to Francesca Lagnese and family on the birth of her daughter, Antonia Rose, on March 31, 2020
- B. Condolences to Linda Lindsley and family on the passing of her husband, Edward Lindsley, on March 21, 2020
- C. Condolences to Denise Powell and family on the passing of her sister, Debra Powell, on

April 2, 2020

- D. Condolences to Linda Jarmel and family on the passing of her father, Arthur Tonne, on April 11, 2020
- E. Condolences to Donna Smith and family on the passing of her mother, Mary Smith, on April 9, 2020
- F. Condolences to Alex Loveras and family on the passing of his mother, Crecencia Altigracia De Loveras, on April 11, 2020
- G. Condolences to Ksenia (Ferrand) and Jose Brito on the passing of their son, Ryder Lake, on April 9, 2020

13. Public Comments

Mr. Gamache was happy to report that he received one email during this meeting from Donna Smith who asked when the grading plan will be finalized. Mr. Gamache stated that an administrator will be getting in touch. It is the Board's intention to adopt a revised policy in May. It will be reviewed during the next work session and hope to adopt it at the May meeting. If parents have any questions, they should contact their child's teacher or building principal.

Ms. Ruiz added that the buildings have been working with Ms. Hecht to look at the grading guidelines. Please understand this situation has just been put upon us and we want to make sure no student is harmed. There is an expectation that students will participate to do their work. When grading guidelines are finalized and approved by the board it will be in the best interest of all our students. Eleventh grade is an important year and we don't want grades to be sacrificed due to COVID19 which is the prevailing thought behind the new grading guidelines.

14. Board Member Comments

Kristen O'Hagan: Ms. O'Hagan made the following statement:

I recently read this quote entitled, "When it comes to remote learning - Less is more, Quality over quantity, Relationships over rigor, Grace before grades, Patience before programs, and Love before lessons." As an educator and a parent, these words resonated with me and I felt they were important to share. While remote learning is certainly not ideal for anyone, this district administration and staff, partnered with parents and students, are all working tirelessly to ensure kids are receiving the best educational experiences possible. Thank you to all for your hard work, commitment, and continued understanding. Congratulations to Ms. Perrone on your well-deserved tenure. You touch the hearts of all of your students. We are lucky to have you.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth wished everyone a message of hope and good health. He encouraged everyone to continue to work hard and stay engaged with online learning.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis congratulated Sara Perrone on her tenure. He thanked the Central Administration for working like a "TEAM" during this COVID-19 times. There is no "I" in the word TEAM! Like a good coach, everyone on the team works in unison to achieve the best results. Administrators, teachers, students, and parents have all contributed to achieving the best results as a district. He also congratulated this year's valedictorian and salutatorian and hopes they are an inspiration to the class of 2020.

Pete McNally: Mr. McNally congratulated Mrs. Perrone for receiving tenure. It is so well deserved. Both of his children have had the pleasure of being in Mrs. Perrone's class and they are so happy that they had that experience! He thanked all of the teachers and administrators who have been working so hard to continue meaningful instruction for our children. Please stay safe everyone.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache thanked all parents and caregivers for supporting their children as we do our best to meet their instructional needs remotely. As challenging as these weeks have been, it also reminds us of how much we rely on each other to be successful. We have a bright, talented, dedicated and committed staff. Please remember go to our website, email, and or call to get the answers and support you need we are here for you. During the meeting an additional email came in from a resident for the Board which he thought appropriate to share with the community and Board:

“THANK YOU for all of your hard work and efforts during this difficult time for all of us. This Board and all of the East Rockaway administrators have gone above and beyond. This time is another example of why I am so proud for my children to attend this wonderful district. thank you!! ♥“

15. Mr. Gamache asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Neil Schloth, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk