

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Rockaway, New York

Meeting of the Board of Education

7:00 P.M., March 22, 2022

East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium

Preceded by a Universal Pre-K 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, 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 7:05 p.m.
2. Mr. DeMatteo introduced Rhame Avenue student Kaiden Greene, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Ruiz welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for coming out. She presented the Universal Pre-K program and included parent's testimonial. Questions were answered after the presentation, which concluded at 7:40 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](mailto: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. February 15, 2022, Meeting of the Board of Education

#### 5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

A. Receipt of Financial Reports: The Board acknowledged receipt of the January 2022 financial reports.

B. Correspondence

1. Email from a monitor regarding a mask issue.
2. Emails from seven community members regarding masks in schools and a letter to Gov. Hochul from the BOE prior to the lifting of the mask mandate.
3. Email from a community member regarding Rock Rivalry spectators prior to the lifting of the mask mandate.
4. An invitation from Kiwanis to an event on 3/21 for police appreciation honoring NCPD PO Jennifer Akron.
5. Email from a community member regarding vaccines and COVID testing.
6. Eleven emails from community members for the displaying of a political flag at sports night.
7. Email from the ERTA.
8. Email from Mr. Schaffer.
9. Email from the ERSA.
10. Email from a parent regarding the high school mock Regents examinations.
11. Email promoting an interactive leadership conference offered on Long Island.

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-N below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items A-N 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-N 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, for the purpose of retirement, of Frank Cuttitta from his foreign language teacher position,

effective June 30, 2022.

- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Antonella Keane, for the purpose of retirement, from her 10-month senior typist clerk position, effective June 30, 2022.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
  - 1. Tiffany DiNome, World Language Teacher, effective March 20, 2022
  - 2. Madison Radinsky, permanent substitute teacher, effective March 2, 2022
  - 3. Kristina Ranieri, elementary teacher, effective April 13, 2022
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change to the effective date of Rebeca Pagan Rodriguez' resignation for the purpose of retirement to be October 12, 2022.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a FMLA leave of absence for Rebecca Pagan Rodriguez from her foreign language teacher position effective February 28, 2022, through April 29, 2022.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Caitlin Kavarsky for a 12-week FMLA leave of absence from her ENL teacher position, effective March 11, 2022, through June 13, 2022, and thereafter a child rearing leave of absence through June 30, 2022.
- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Kelly Cabasso for a personal medical leave of absence from her art teacher position, effective March 15, 2022, through April 24, 2022.
- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jacklyn Breitfeller to the position of short-term substitute art teacher, effective March 15, 2022, through April 13, 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 appointment of Brandon Tompkin to the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective March 23, 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.
- J. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Priscilla Princz-Sitzman to the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective March 23, 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.
- K. 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.

- L. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following proctor assignments, effective May 2, 2022, through June 24, 2022, at the supervision salary rate established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract, Appendix C, for the 2021-2022 school year:
  - a. Elizabeth Stack
  - b. Mary Orzano
- M. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Yigal Edinger to the position of Supervising Groundskeeper effective upon Civil Service approval, at the prorated Step 2 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Custodial Unit agreement for the 2021-2022 school year.
- N. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Carol Hernandez to the position of Part-Time Senior Typist-Clerk, 12-months, effective March 7, 2022, at the prorated Step 12 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association Agreement for 12-month part-time senior typist-clerks for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

7. Other Items

- A. Approve the corrected 2022-2023 school district calendar.
- B. Approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District has previously approved and adopted previous versions of the *“Return to Learn Plan,”* which contains the District’s required safety protocols and preventative measures to combat transmission of COVID-19 at school; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2022, the District was provided with updated guidance from the New York State Department of Health (“NYSDOH”) containing new requirements regarding use of masks at school; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that in accordance with the March 1,

2022, NYSDOH guidance, use of masks inside District facilities and/or on school busses will hereby be optional for all students, staff members, and visitors, with the sole exception of individuals who are on days 6-10 of an isolation period resulting from a confirmed case of COVID-19 or a positive COVID-19 test; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby adopts the March 2022 version of the “*Return to Learn Plan*,” which has been amended in accordance with the above-referenced NYSDOH guidance; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby temporarily suspends any Board policies or administrative regulations that conflict with the March 2022 version of the “*Return to Learn Plan*”; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to amend, modify, or update any part of the “*Return to Learn Plan*” as necessary to maintain compliance with applicable governmental mandates or recommendations, and such changes will be subject to further Board approval and/or ratification in the event of substantial revisions to the Plan.

- C. Approve the following resolution to authorize the expenditure for the Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Replacement II proposition:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District has determined that there is a need to undertake certain technology upgrades to commence during the 2022-2023 school year (“Projects”), as described in the outline contained in the 2022-2023 Budget Proposal on file and available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk (“Report”); and

WHEREAS the Board desires the proposition be presented to the voters of the School District authorizing the expenditure of available funds for that purpose from the District’s existing Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Replacement II; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education is the lead agency for the purposes of SEQRA determinations regarding the proposed Projects; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that, upon the review and recommendation of the District’s Architect, the proposed Projects are hereby determined to be Type II actions, as defined by 6 NYCRR §617.5[c], which will have no significant impact on the environment, and which do not require any other determination, procedure, or additional action under SEQRA; and, therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes and directs that the following proposition

be placed before the voters of the East Rockaway Union Free School District at the Annual District Meeting to be held between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on May 17, 2022, at the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School; and that the District Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to give notice of such proposition to be voted at said Annual District Meeting by publishing a notice thereof, four times within the seven (7) weeks next preceding the district election, the first publication to be at least forty-five (45) days before the election, and to have the necessary ballot labels printed for said vote in the form corresponding as nearly as may be with the requirements of the Education Law and the provisions of the voting machine rules of this school district:

**PROPOSITION NO. 2 (Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Projects):**

RESOLVED, that the East Rockaway Union Free School District, is hereby authorized to undertake certain district-wide purchases and/or replacement of certain technology and telecommunications equipment and software (“Project”) during 2022-2023 as described herein, to be funded from existing reserves at no additional cost to District taxpayers, to consist of the following: (1) Computer Hardware Upgrades; (2) Network Upgrades; and (3) Smart Classroom Upgrades; including equipment, construction and other required work, and preliminary, incidental and financing costs; and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$100,000, to be funded as follows: \$100,000 from the District’s Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Replacement II, established on May 20, 2014; provided that the detailed component costs may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District and can be made without any material change in the scope of the Project.

- D. Approve the following resolution and proposition for establishing a new Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs III:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District has determined that there is a need to create a new capital reserve fund to cover, in whole or in part, the cost of future capital improvements, renovations and/or alterations of School District facilities and property; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that propositions be presented to the voters of the School District authorizing the establishment of capital reserve funds for said purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes and directs that the following proposition be placed before the voters of the East Rockaway Union Free School District at the Annual District Meeting to be held between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 pm on May 17, 2022, at the polling place heretofore established within the District; and that the District Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to give notice of such proposition to be voted at said Annual District Meeting by publishing a notice thereof, four times within the seven (7) weeks next preceding the district election, the first publication to be at least forty-

five (45) days before the election, and to have the necessary ballot labels printed for said vote in the form corresponding as nearly as may be with the requirements of the Education Law and the provisions of the voting machine rules of this school district:

**PROPOSITION NO. 3 (Establishment of Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs III):**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District, is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund, known as the “Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs III,” in accordance with the provisions of Education Law section 3651, for the purpose of funding future district wide improvements, renovations and/or alterations, including but not limited to construction, renovation, improvement, alteration and/or replacement of district wide facilities and property, capital improvements related to changes in future enrollment, other infrastructure improvements and similar projects, and associated or incidental work, services and expenses. Such capital reserve fund shall be for a probable term of fifteen (15) years and will commence on June 30, 2022 and expire on June 30, 2037. The capital reserve fund will be capitalized in a total amount not to exceed fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000), plus accrued interest, during the term of the fund. The source of the funding of the capital reserve fund will be an annual transfer of surplus money, if any, from the District’s General Fund’s unassigned fund balance as may be available as of the end of each fiscal year from June 30, 2022 through and including June 30, 2037, and any other sources permitted by law, including transfers from existing reserves.

- E. Approve the Notice of Budget Hearing and Annual District Election of the East Rockaway UFSD, and the publication of such notice as required by law, in the “Oceanside, Rockville Centre, East Rockaway Tribune,” and “The Lynbrook/East Rockaway Herald.”
- F. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD authorizes and appoints the following individuals to serve in the capacity of election/poll workers in connection with the May 17, 2022, annual school district meeting and election, at the salary set forth on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Deirdre Boller
2. Apolonia Carrasco
3. Carol Kramer
4. Colleen Greene
5. Margaret Plows
6. Ronald Di Rienzo

7. Kelly McLafferty
8. Patricia McLafferty
9. Sheila Sincinito (Poll Coordinator)
10. Rose Trum (Chairperson)

G. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2020, the Board of Education accepted proposals from the service providers listed below pursuant to a Cooperative Request for Proposal for Special Education Related Services for the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the applicable provisions of the General Municipal Law (RFP) and authorized the District to enter into formal agreements with said service providers for their respective services for the 2020-21 school year; and WHEREAS the RFP authorizes the Board of Education to renew its agreements with service providers for additional one year periods upon the existing terms and conditions, including price, provided that in the event that the service provider incurs additional expenses that require a price increase in subsequent years, the service provider may request an annual increase not to exceed the District's allowable growth factor for that school year; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the District to renew its existing agreements with the providers indicated below for the 2022-2023 school year in accordance with the terms of the RFP and this resolution, and authorizes the Board President to execute such renewal agreements:

**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, KimyaSakhai; 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; LIDCLong 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, PLLC; 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 (akaTiegerman); 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.

H. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby approves the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement dated March, 22, 2022, between the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District and the East Rockaway Custodial Unit regarding the creation of the new job title of Supervising Groundskeeper; and

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

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items I-R below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items I-R 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 I-R were approved on a consent agenda

- I. Approve the Renewal License Agreement with SCOPE Educational Services for the After School Child Care 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.
- J. Approve the terms and conditions of the letter of engagement between CBIZ Valuation Group, LLC, and the East Rockaway Union Free School District, for valuation of land and buildings for the 2021-2022 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the letter of engagement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- K. Approve the Affordable Care Act Administration Agreement between the East Rockaway Union Free School District and Seneca Consulting Group, Inc., for administrative services related to the Affordable Care Act for the 2022-2023 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- L. Approve the award of the bid dated March 3, 2022, between Dell Transportation Corp. and East Rockaway UFSD for transportation services to Sequoya High School and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- M. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and Rockville Centre 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.

N. Approve the Parking Stall Lease Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Rolling River Day School and Camp for the use of parking stalls located at the East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School for the period May 21, 2022, through October 22, 2022, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

O. 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 “*Richard J. Meagher School Spirit Award*” to be awarded to one student who embodies East Rockaway High School spirit and who will be continuing their education in the teaching field.

P. Approve the purchase of the following textbook: *College Physics a Strategic Approach*.

Q. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal the items listed on the following forms:

1. Change of Disposition form dated September 3, 2021
2. Change of Disposition form dated September 9, 2021
3. Change of Disposition form dated March 15, 2022
4. Change of Disposition form dated March 15, 2022
5. Change of Disposition form dated March 15, 2022
6. Change of Disposition form dated March 15, 2022
7. Change of Disposition form dated November 23, 2021
8. Change of Disposition form dated June 2, 2021
9. Change of Disposition form dated May 11, 2021
10. Change of Disposition form dated March 15, 2022

R. Approve the following donations:

1. Hack Attack pitching machine valued at \$3,848 from Chris Jarmuz, Class of 1976, for the baseball program.
2. From the Rhame Avenue PTA, a curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$50 for classroom supplies.
3. From the Centre Avenue PTA:
  - a. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$76 for classroom supplies
  - b. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$500 towards a fifth-grade class trip.
  - c. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$50.72 for classroom supplies
  - d. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$35.98 for classroom supplies for the music room
  - e. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$50.00 for classroom supplies
  - f. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$51.75 for classroom supplies

- g. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$500 for a fourth-grade class trip to Old Bethpage.

## 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

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 transfer:

- 1. Transaction No. 22-011
- 2. Transaction No. 22-012
- 3. Transaction No. 22-013

## 10. Policy Matters

Ms. O'Hagan stated that there are no policies for adoption. There are 11 policies up for review to next policy meeting will be held on April 7.

A. For Review

- 1. 1050, Annual District Election and Budget Vote
- 2. 4000, Student Learning Standards and Instructional Guidelines
- 3. 4321.12, Use of Time Out Rooms, Physical Restraints and Aversives
- 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. 5460, Child Abuse, Neglect, and maltreatment in a Domestic Setting
- 9. 8635-E, Parents Bill of Rights for Student Data Privacy and Security

- 10.9630, Sexual Misconduct
- 11. 9150, Non-Fraternization “New”

## 11. Reports

### A. President’s Report:

#### ***The Superintendent Search Update***

An invitation was sent to all stakeholder group leaders to form a District Advisory Committee. The second round of screenings commenced on Thursday March 4th; 8 applicants were screened. On Tuesday March 8th the Board met with Mr. Lederer to discuss the screenings and to plan for the next round of interviews. The Board interviewed four applicants on March 16th. Three candidates will move on to be interviewed by the District Advisory Committee on March 29th. The Board will then review stakeholder input.

Due to the nature of the last board meeting, there were a couple of individuals that should have been recognized by the Board at the end of the evening. Congratulations to Ms. Carol Hernandez on your retirement and to Ms. Jennifer Isik on receiving tenure. This is an exciting time in both of your lives, and we wish you much luck as you move forward in your journeys. Last month Mr. Kennedy also presented on Thinking Maps and he explained in detail how this initiative is being used to further enhance the critical thinking and learning taking place in the District. I have always been impressed with this particular initiative as both a parent and a teacher. Thank you again for sharing with us how Thinking Maps continue to benefit the students. This evening, Superintendent Ruiz presented on the Universal Pre K Program. Seeing the excitement and love for school in our youngest learners is incredible and we look forward to the continued growth of this program in the East Rockaway Schools.

We have two very important events coming up in the District. The first is a Safety and Social Media Forum that will take place on Thursday March 31st at 6 pm here in the auditorium. Dinner will be served at 5 pm, babysitting will be available, and there will be prizes for both kids and adults. This is an opportune time for parents to accompany their children and hear from numerous individuals about the misuse of social media platforms, the ramifications, and the implications of improper usage. I urge you all to attend the Safety and Social Media Forum next Thursday. The second event, the Grand Opening of the Athletic Complex, will take place on Saturday April 2nd. The day will begin with the Education Foundation’s 5K Run/Walk, there will be a softball game in the morning and a baseball game in the afternoon with various events for all ages throughout the day. Thank you, Mr. Gregory and your committee, for working so hard to make this day special.

I would like to transition now to the Budget vote and the Trustee election. First, a big thank

you goes to Mrs. Scio for all your hard work and expertise. You do a tremendous job ensuring the District is in excellent financial standing not only for the upcoming school year, but planning long-term as well. You are transparent in all you do, and you explain each and every component to the Board and the community each month. Whenever we have questions or need clarification, you are always there with the answers. We appreciate all you continue to do. This year's Budget vote and Trustee election will take place on Tuesday, May 17th. There are two seats up this term, myself and Mr. McNally. For those interested in running for the Board, nomination packets are available in the District Clerk's office. Candidates for the Board of Education run at large. You must file your petition with the District Clerk no later than 5 pm on Monday April 18th. This information can also be found on the District Website under the BOE tab.

## B. Superintendent's Report

Strategic Planning committee met in February and will meet again this Thursday, March 24. We have conducted a committee survey which was reviewed, and student survey has been completed and our staff surveys is underway, and the results will be shared with the committee on Thursday. On Monday, a survey for families will go out and after the committee reviews that we will begin to formulate our new goals for the next plan. We expect to have that in final draft form by June.

### ***Achievement***

Rhame and Centre Avenue Teachers continued to work with our Literacy Consultant from the Balance Between on integrating the district's Balanced Literacy Framework with the new Reading program Wonders to guide literacy instruction across all grade levels. Rhame and Centre Avenue 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were recognized for their academic accomplishments on the STAR Honor Roll. Congratulations to Conor Kelly, Keira O'Neill, Julia Passanisi, Katie McMahon, and Maddy Prucha on becoming DECA State Medalists, this means they finished in the top 10 in the state!! ERHS is proud to announce this year's Valedictorian is Madeline Prucha and Salutatorian is Jason Miller. We are so proud of their accomplishments and look forward to honoring them at the June BOE meeting. Our website features a summary of the impressive resume of these two students!

### ***Opportunity***

Our UPK Lottery was held on February 17th 56 families submitted their names for the lottery and 30 free spots were awarded. There are 6 parent direct pay spots that will be offered to interested families. The program has obviously grown in popularity, and we're thrilled to be planning for our second year. Centre Avenue Student Council work together to create a banner in preparation for the Opening Day of the Athletic Complex. Rhame Avenue 1<sup>st</sup> graders celebrated the 120<sup>th</sup> day of school with a "Rocking through the 120<sup>th</sup> Day Celebration". In order to better prepare students for state testing, the high school is administering Mock Regents exams this week. Teachers will use the data from the exams to modify instruction and set the schedule for academies for better student success in June. The high school launched its mentoring program. In this program, students are matched with a ERHS faculty member who

will meet with students to provide support to complete missing assignments, provide organizational strategies, and ultimately create a plan for their success. Students in Ms. Pisano's Culinary I and II classes attended a live taping of the Rachael Ray Show on March 9th. The show included several recipes that students will try out later in the year. Look for East Rockaway in the audience on July 4th! School Counselors brought 11 students to visit Barry Tech for "Taste of Tech." This visit highlights all of the opportunities available at Barry Tech. We are excited to offer spots to 12 new students in the CTE programs next year, bringing our total number up to 23.

### ***Innovation***

Centre Avenue Kindergarten students worked with Ms. Maini using KidPix to create digital images to match student writing about the text, *The Bad Seed* by Jory John. Through the read aloud and creation of digital images, the students were able to understand that it is never too late to change your behavior after even after others still judge you. Rhame Avenue 5<sup>th</sup> graders worked with Mrs. Healy to create game characters programmed to perform specific movements and sounds, using coding strategies in STEAM. Students in Ms. Horvath's Career and Financial Management Class played "Spent", a game that allows the participants to experience what it's like to live paycheck to paycheck. ERHS students in AP Biology and Science Research recently attended the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory where they completed a hands-on bacterial transformation lab. The samples were taken back to the high school campus where they were grown in a school incubator and then studied using black light. In addition, they also had the opportunity to tour The Cold Spring Harbor National Lab Museum.

### ***Connection***

Centre and Rhame Avenue Schools held in person Parent Teacher Conferences focused on helping students to build on identified strengths to support opportunities for growth. Rhame students learned about the tradition of Irish bagpiping with a special presentation and mini parade led by Mr. Joseph Beyrer. The ERHS school counseling department met with juniors to discuss the post-secondary planning process. This allowed students to ask specific questions, view a college search using Super Match in Naviance, and familiarize themselves with the material in the School Counseling Google Classroom. The 86th Annual Rock Rivalry concluded on Friday evening. The Class of 2022 won their second straight cup. The East Rockaway tradition returned its true form this year, including live entrance performances. Congratulations to all of our participants! Students in Advisory are participating in the annual Design the Sports Night T-shirt Contest in preparation for Middle School Sports Night in May. The winning shirt design will be distributed to all students in the coming weeks. On Friday, March 18th, Homeland Security Officer O'Neill provided a presentation for our 7th and 8th grade students on the importance of reporting Suspicious Activity. The presentation highlighted the potential consequences of making a threat to a school and the potential results of inappropriate social media posts and "private" chats/ messages involving threats of violence. Students in Grades 9, 10, and 11 participated in a virtual session entitled, "Creating an Inclusive Culture: We're All Responsible" with Nancy Kaplan. Ms. Kaplan is working with students, teachers, and administrators on the district's DEI initiative.

### **Safety and Social Media Forum**

I would like to remind everyone about our Safety and Social Media Forum, Parents as Partners in Promoting Internet Safety, which will take place on March 31 at 6 PM. Dinner will be served at 5 PM. This event is designed for all families and students in grades 5-12 are invited to attend.

Distinguished guests on our panel include

- Dr. Vera Feuer
- ADA Scannell
- Police from Fourth Precinct
- Our security consultants Altaris
- Administrators
- Social worker

This is a national and local/community problem and one we need to address together so we hope you will join us. Topics covered will include:

- District protocols for inappropriate use of social media
- Negative impact of misuse of social media has on student mental health
- Possible legal, practical, and criminal consequences of inappropriate social media use
- Strategies for families to support appropriate, safe, and positive use of social media and devices.

In addition, there will be

- Raffles and giveaways
- Jr. Sr. HS Students who attend will receive a ticket for extra points they can use on a test
- Homework passes for elementary students
- Babysitting will be provided.

We encourage you to attend in person or view the forum live which will be streaming for families who cannot attend in person. Please join us for dinner and conversation and hear about this important topic. We hope this will open a dialogue that will continue with future events where parents can speak with one another begin to work together as a community to problem solve this issue that is so detrimental to our students.

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

*Our third budget work session was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Discussions included a 4-year review of expenditures including a budget-to-budget increase from the current year to next year and the actual expenditures for both the 19-20 and 20-21 school years allowing creating transparency. In addition, we reviewed BOCES aid, proposed technology projects and a proposal to create a capital reserve fund.*



*Based on the most current information, the tax levy cap for East Rockaway is 3.99%, which represents an increase of \$1,271.952. I would like to reiterate this is the tax levy cap which we are required by law to calculate and report. I do not foresee the Tax Levy for the upcoming budget coming anywhere near 3.99%.*

*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, April 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. We plan to discuss the 2022-2023 District initiatives, 3-part budget, and revenues. At that time, we will have all the necessary information to determine our final budget number and tax levy. We encourage you to join us during these budget work sessions. Thank you.*

## 12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to Megan Librizzi and her husband, Daniel on the birth of their twin boys, Theo and Charlie, born March 1, 2022
- B. Congratulations to Caitlin Kavarsky and husband, Gary, on the birth of their daughter, Vivian Ruth, born on March 10, 2022
- C. Congratulations to Ryan Fisk for earning his doctorate degree on February 28, 2022.
- D. Condolences to Amy Weissman-Canale and family, on the passing of her grandmother, Arlene Zickerman
- E. Condolences to the family of Ralph Grandinetti, former Principal at Rhame Avenue School, on his passing.

## 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](mailto: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.

Frank Passanisi, East Rockaway resident: Reported an incident that occurred during Sports Night. He expressed his disappointment as to how this was presented on social media.

Michelle Gamache, East Rockaway resident: Read comments on behalf of Jennifer Racinelli, addressing an incident that occurred during Sports Night and the aftermath.

Keith Gamache, East Rockaway resident: Read a statement with regards to sport night incident. He also spoke about the comments made at the last February meeting with regards of mask mandates. He thanked the Board and Administrators for their leadership and for entering a partnership with Northwell Health to provide high quality mental health services for the children and families of East Rockaway.

Mark Ginocchio, East Rockaway resident: Read a statement regarding the incident at Sports Night on March 3, 2022. As an ex-alumni and parent of a student, he stated that the community should put aside their ideological differences and celebrate school events; to come together and unite children and to use different outlets to express their beliefs, etc.

Dena Arnold, East Rockaway resident: Expressed her concerns regarding the aftermath of the sports night incident posted on social media.

Dineen Cilluffo, East Rockaway resident: Raised the question about policy 1511. Expressed her disappointment on how recent events were handled and perceived by the community.

Jonathan Meneses, East Rockaway resident: Expressed his opinions regarding the sports night incident and thanked Superintendent Ruiz for demonstrating leadership during this unfortunate circumstances.

Kevin Denis, East Rockaway resident: Read a letter on behalf of a parent from the community in response to the sports night incident and thanked the administrators and current Board for leading the school through difficult moments and keeping the focus on sports night.

Marian Cooney, East Rockaway resident: Thanked the Board for volunteering their time and to the school's leadership in providing the social media education forum for parents and students. Expressed her concerns on the recent events and urged the community to be more involved.

Lucianna Pozo, East Rockaway senior high school student and president of the Dignity Club, expressed her opinions regarding the sports night event. She also spoke about an incident during "black hair-equality awareness" regarding inappropriate comments made against her and some of her fellow classmates.

Jennifer Babiarz, East Rockaway resident: Talked about the sports night incident and is looking forward to seeing parents participating in the Social Media forum to educate the community regarding social media posts, etc.

#### 14. Board Member Comments

Mr. McNally: Thank you to Mrs. Ruiz for the Universal Pre-K program presentation and to the UPK teachers for their wonderful job. Congratulations to the seniors on their second "Rock Rivalry" in a row and everyone who participated. Congratulations to Dr. Fisk for earning his doctorate, very well deserved for your hard work. As a representative of the community, I reiterate that my doors are open for the community to talk, we need to come together and listen to each other even if we do not agree. Thank you.

Mr. Vulpis: I believe that when we listen to the community that is when the Board is effective.

We are proud to give our service back to the community. We will make a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. DeMatteo: It was amazing to see everyone tonight and the students at sport night at Rock Rivalry and it is important for our children's social emotional well-being to focus back on the goals for our kids in our district.

Mr. Kilgus: As a board member, one of my priorities is to represent not only my children but all children in the district. I was happy to see the kids attending both events at sports night and Rock Rivalry. I strongly believe that we have to come together as a community to address all of our differences.

Ms. O'Hagan: We are a close community and I believe we need to do better and keep in mind our children in everything we do.

15. Upon motion made by Mr. McNally and seconded by Mr. DeMatteo, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m. and the Board reconvened to an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Nereyda Amaya Moran  
District Clerk