

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., March 24, 2020
Meeting Closed to Public – Live Streamed on ZOOM

MINUTES

Present through livestreamed on ZOOM members of the Board of Education:

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

Appearance on livestream: District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

Absent: None

1. The meeting was called to order by Keith Gamache at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Gamache stated:

Thank you for joining us this evening in this new format during this unprecedented time in our lives. We are conducting this meeting on Zoom from locations greater than 6 feet away from each other to keep you and ourselves healthy and informed at the same time. Before starting our agenda, on behalf of the Board, I want to extend a public thanks to our administration and entire staff for their tireless efforts in responding to the educational, physical, and emotional needs of our children during this extraordinary time.

2. This meeting is now in order. Please rise for the Pledge. The board then recited the Pledge. Mr. Gamache thanked everyone.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items - This evening there will not be an opportunity for comments on the agenda or a public comment period. This meeting is being broadcast live and is also being recorded. The recording and transcription will be available on the school website. You can contact the board at boe@eastrockawayschools.org. 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.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Gamache stated: at this moment I would like to ask for a motion to approve the minutes from February 11, 2020, as well as the minutes of the Special meeting of the Board on March 10, 2020. Can I have a motion to approve?

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 minutes were approved:

- A. February 11, 2020, Meeting of the Board of Education
- B. March 10, 2020, Special Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

Mr. Gamache stated that we acknowledge receipt of the monthly financial reports and there was no correspondence this month.

- A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: January 2020
- B. Correspondence - None

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Gamache then turned the screen over to Superintendent Ruiz for her recommendations.

Ms. Ruiz: Thank you Mr. Gamache I would like to recommend tonight that the Board accept the following resignations. Ms. Ruiz continued to read all the Items listed in A through F below.

Mr. Gamache: Thank you Mrs. Ruiz. Are there any questions from the board regarding items 6 A-F? There were no questions from the board. Mr. Gamache asked for a motion to approve Items 6 A-F.

Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Neil Schloth, all in favor AYE, opposed, NONE, abstained, NONE, so moved, the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items A – F were approved.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - 1. Elizabeth Rubin, substitute teacher, effective February 28, 2020
 - 2. Joseph Eckert, security aide, effective March 12, 2020
 - 3. Joseph Coughlin, substitute security aide, effective March 9, 2020
 - 4. Juan Carlos Bosques, cleaner, effective April 24, 2020
 - 5. George Carrera, substitute security aide, effective March 24, 2020
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a leave of absence for Francesca Lagnese for the period April 6, 2020 through January 29, 2021.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a 12-week FMLA leave of absence for Valerie Parasmio, for the period September 2, 2020, through November 20, 2020.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of George Carrera to the position of Security Aide, effective March 25, 2020, at the prorated Step 1

annual salary established by the East Rockaway UFSD Monitor and Security Unit and the United Public Service Employees Union agreement for the 2019-2020 school year.

- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Michael Giordano to the position of School Monitor, Part-Time, effective March 25, 2020, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary established by the East Rockaway UFSD Monitor and Security Unit and the United Public Service Employees Union agreement for the 2019-2020 school year.
- F. 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. Philip Eager, substitute cleaner, effective upon Civil Service approval
 - 2. Michael Giammona, substitute bus driver, effective upon Civil Service approval

7. Other Items

Mr. Gamache: We are now moving on to Item 7.

Item 7-A is a resolution to authorize the expenditure for the capital reserve fund for technology replacement II proposition. This right here is our annual proposition for capital reserves for technology in the amount of \$170,000. We are allocated to use up to \$200,000. We have been trying to get ourselves off of reliance on those reserves and I want to remind everyone that this \$170,000 does come from the reserves and so it has no impact on the tax cap.

Item B is to 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,” as well as the “The Lynbrook/East Rockaway Herald.”

Item C is to approve the following resolution. This resolution is to establish poll workers on the non-contractual salary schedule for the 2019-2020 school year and those 13 individuals are listed below.

Item D to 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 Martha & David Yoswin Public Service Award” to be awarded to one female student who exemplifies public service by her actions both in school and in the community.

Item E is to approve another resolution and this right here is a resolution that we just came to terms on a Memorandum of Agreement dated February 20, 2020, between the Board of Education and UPSEU. Are there any questions? There were no questions. Can I have a motion to approve Items 7 A through E?

Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, seconded by Neil Schloth, and unanimously passed, the following Items A – E were approved.

- A. 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 2020-2021 school year (“Projects”), as described in the outline contained in the 2020-2021 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 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on May 19, 2020, 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 2020-2021 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 \$170,000.00, to be funded as follows: \$170,000 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.

B. 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."

C. 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 19, 2020, annual school district meeting and election, at the salary set forth on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2019-2020 school year:

1. Carl Atteniese
2. Ronald DiRienzo (Poll Coordinator)
3. Donald Maclean (Chairperson)
4. Barbara Stern
5. Apolonia Carrasco
6. Deirdre Boller
7. Jerrold Lubliner
8. William Spigonardo
9. Joseph Fragola
10. Carol Kramer
11. Oren Hausner (substitute)
12. Rita Levine (substitute)
13. Samuel Levine (substitute)

D. 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 Martha & David Yoswin Public Service Award*" to be awarded to one female student who exemplifies public service by her actions both in school and in the community.

E. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement dated

February 20, 2020, between the Board of Education and the United Public Service Employees Union (“UPSEU”) representing the employees in the District’s custodial bargaining unit regarding the terms and conditions of employment for the members of the bargaining unit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to execute the resulting collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD.

Mr. Gamache: For items 7 F- I am going to ask for an umbrella motion for a consent agenda on all of those items. Any questions from the board? There were no questions. Can I have a motion to approve Items 7 F-R on a consent agenda?

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Dominick Vulpis, all in favor, AYE, opposed, NONE, abstained, NONE, and so moved, the following Items F - R were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

- F. Approve the Hardship and Eligibility Amendments to the East Rockaway UFSD 403(b) Retirement Plan 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 Summer School Contract (2020) with Nassau BOCES for East Rockaway students for the period July 1, 2020, through on or about August 31, 2020, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- H. Approve the McGraw Hill Textbook Purchase Agreement for the Wonders Reading Program, effective July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2026, to support the elementary reading curriculum in grades K-6 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 McGraw Hill Textbook Purchase Agreement for Wonders Professional Development services for the 2020-2021 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 Avid College Readiness System Services and Products Agreement with the Avid Center, which consists of the Quote and the Standard Terms and Conditions, for the East Rockaway School District for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement 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 2020-2021 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 License Agreement with SCOPE Educational Services for the After School Child Care Program for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- M. Approve the Contract for Services with Ashleigh Gets It Done!, LLC, Transportation Consultant, for the period April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- N. Approve the terms and conditions of the letter of engagement between C-BIZ Valuation Group, LLC, and the East Rockaway Union Free School District, for valuation of land and buildings for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- O. Approve the Tuition agreement with Crotched Mountain School, for special education services for one student, Student I.D. No. 180005899 for the 2019-2020 school year effective February 25, 2020 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- P. Approve the Addendum to the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and RCP Consultants, for professional development services for the 2019-2020 school year for the additional implementation of instructional practices in alignment with ESSA expectations, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, and the Superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- Q. Approve the Agreement between the Sewanhaka Central High School District and the East Rockaway UFSD for a combined JV/Varsity Golf Team for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- R. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and Garden City UFSD for the health and welfare services for the 2019-2020 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.

Mr. Gamache: moving onto Item 7- S. This is to approve the agreement with T-Mobile USA, Inc. and the East Rockaway School District to provide wireless mobile services and devices – this was to provide that service to our families during their remote learning if they do not have access to WIFI.

Item 7-T is to approve the following resolution, which is a rather lengthy resolution

declaring a public emergency pursuant to Section 103(4) of the NY General Municipal Law which essentially gives us flexibility to purchase emergency supplies outside of regular purchasing policies while the Governor's state of emergency is in effect.

Item 7-U declares obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the item listed on the attached Change of Disposition form dated March 2, 2020.

Item 7-V is to accept the donations as listed.

Item 7-W is a late entry and another resolution:

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

WHEREAS, the School District desires to send resident students to 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 resident children of the School District 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 resident children of the School District in said Program in accordance with the terms and conditions therein for the period effective March 23, 2020 through April 1, 2020, subject to further extension by mutual agreement of the parties if required under Executive Order 202.4, 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.

This resolution establishes much needed childcare services for children of emergency first responders, health care workers, and essential workers in our district. Can I have a motion to approve Items 7 S-W (Note: Item 7-W is an added Addendum).

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed, NONE, abstained, NONE, and so moved, the following Items S – V and Other Item 7-W on the added addendum to the agenda, were approved on a consent agenda.

- S. Approve the agreement with T-Mobile USA, Inc. and the East Rockaway School District for wireless mobile services and devices and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the agreement on behalf of the East

Rockaway Board of Education.

T. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION DECLARING A PUBLIC EMERGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 103(4) OF THE NY GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway School District's Purchasing Policies and the New York State General Municipal Law ("GML") provide rules governing the purchase and procurement of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, GML Section 103(4) provides that "Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision one of this section, in the case of a public emergency arising out of an accident or other unforeseen occurrence or condition whereby circumstances affecting public buildings, public property or the life, health, safety or property of the inhabitants of a political subdivision or district therein, require immediate action which cannot await competitive bidding or competitive offering, contracts for public work or the purchase of supplies, material or equipment may be let by the appropriate officer, board or agency of a political subdivision or district therein"; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has designated the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern; and

WHEREAS, a state of emergency has recently been declared on the national, state and local levels in response to the novel coronavirus outbreak; and

WHEREAS, New York's Governor Cuomo has issued Executive Order No. 202, which declared a disaster emergency with regard to the coronavirus on March 7, 2020 and temporarily suspended certain bidding and other requirements relating to the procurement and use of cleaning and maintenance products in schools through September 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to undertake immediate steps to maintain a safe environment for students, staff and District residents, including the purchase and/or procurement of products, materials, supplies, equipment and services to clean, disinfect and maintain District buildings and facilities, which have become increasingly difficult to purchase or procure

NOW, THEREFORE, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, it is hereby

RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the School District as follows:

1. The Board of Education finds and determines that, pursuant to General Municipal Law sections 103(4), the novel coronavirus outbreak is a public emergency affecting the District's buildings and property and the life, health and safety of District students, staff,

and resident requiring immediate action in order to maintain a safe environment in the District, including the purchase and/or procurement of products, materials, supplies, equipment and/or services to clean, disinfect and maintain District buildings and facilities.

2. The ability to purchase adequate and appropriate products, materials, supplies, equipment and/or services in a timely manner is essential to protect the life, health and safety of District students, staff and residents and constitutes such immediate action which cannot await competitive bidding or competitive offering.

3. The Board of Education hereby suspends the rules found in the District's purchasing policies and regulations solely with respect to the purchase and procurement of products, materials, supplies, equipment and/or services needed to clean and maintain school buildings and facilities and combat the novel coronavirus, on a case-by-case basis and until September 7, 2020, unless further extended by Board resolution.

4. The Board of Education hereby authorizes and approves such actions, including the execution of contracts for outside services and the purchase of products, materials, supplies, and/or equipment reasonably necessary or appropriate to address and combat the novel coronavirus in accordance with this resolution.

5. The Board of Education hereby ratifies, nunc pro tunc, such actions taken by the District prior to the date of this resolution, including the execution of contracts for outside services and the purchase of products, materials, supplies, and/or equipment reasonably necessary or appropriate to address and combat the novel coronavirus in accordance with this resolution.

6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

U. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the item listed on the attached Change of Disposition form dated March 2, 2020.

V. Accept the following donations:

1. From The Kiwanis Club of East Rockaway, a check in the sum of \$150 for the Rhame Avenue School K-Kids Club
2. From the Centre Avenue PTA:
 - a. A check in the sum of \$40 for the Centre Avenue Class of 2026
 - b. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$500 for fifth grade students
 - c. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$343 for second grade students
 - d. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$410.36 for kindergarten students

8. Mr. Gamache asked for a motion to approve the CSE and CPSE recommendations:

Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan and seconded by Peter McNally, the CSE and CPSE recommendations were unanimously approved.

9. Budget Transfers – Mr. Gamache asked for a motion to approve the budget transfers:

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved.

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

1. Transaction No. 20-0014
2. Transaction No. 20-0015

10. Policy Matters

A. Policy Subcommittee Report – Ms. O’Hagan provided the following report:

The Policy Subcommittee met on Monday, February 24, 2020, to review six policies, the policy being adopted tonight: Policy for Adoption Student Health Services (5420) and the five policies under review.

The Board recognizes that good student health is vital to successful learning and acknowledges its responsibility to foster a safe and healthful environment for students. This policy has been updated, to reflect changes in immunization requirements, recognizing that “religious belief” is no longer an acceptable reason to refuse immunizations.

We will continue to review the other five policies:

1. Field Trips and Excursions
2. Opioid Overdose Prevention
3. Regulation Extreme Risk Protection Orders (The “Red Flag Law”)
4. Non-Fraternization
5. Federal Funds Purchasing

The Policy Sub-committee was joined by Mr. Araoz at our meeting on Monday, February 24th to determine which methods of parent-teacher-student communication are safest for all stakeholders in compliance with the newly adopted Part 121 regulations of Ed Law 2d. We are continuing to work on this policy as a full board at a future work session for further input. At this time we do not have a date that we will be holding a Policy Sub-committee meeting.

Mr. Gamache asked if there were any questions regarding any of the policies. He then asked for a vote of adoption for the policy listed in Item B below. By a unanimous vote, the policy listed in Item B (1) as approved for adoption.

B. For Adoption

1. 5420, Student Health Services

C. For Review

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

11. Reports

A. Board President’s Report

March 10th feels like a lifetime away at this moment. We held our third budget work session. All details are on the district website and specific questions can be directed to Mrs. Scio. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2020. Please stay tuned to the website for relevant updates. We spent much of the session discussing preparations for a possible school closure. The district also continues working with LWTB and the County Bay Park Effluence project to coordinate with our bond projects, but at this time any public meetings are on hold until our daily lives return to greater normalcy. Any developments will be shared in a timely fashion through meetings and on our website.

B. Superintendent’s Report

Good evening and thank you for joining us. I hope this finds you well and healthy and adjusting to this new and challenging reality. I trust you are making the best of this situation with your families and trying to use this time to find new things to do together.

I would like to first of all thank our teachers, administrators, custodial staff, clericals and our central office staff for all that they’re doing to support our school community during this exceptional situation. This is a new reality that was thrust upon us all with very little notice and I must say that every single person in our school community has stepped up to do their very best to keep our district going and provide quality instruction for our students, outreach to families emotionally, keep the technology up and running and provide meals for any student in the district that would like take advantage of this.

Today we served approximately 70 meals and the numbers have been growing. We know that nothing can replace face to face classroom instruction but we are confident that we are reaching our students and learning will occur. Mrs. Hecht will tell you a little bit more about our continuity of instruction plan in a moment. Please understand our plans have been moving forward in a positive direction and once we know if schools will remain closed, we will continue to evaluate our continuity of instruction plan and

outreach to our students and families. You will be hearing more about this as we move forward.

We have been told that the Governor may issue another executive order regarding the status of public schools later this week. Many things are changing quickly and we will keep you informed as new information becomes available. Many things are in flux from our budget vote to testing to major school events. We are committed to ongoing communication with our community and know that you rely on us for that. We encourage you to stay in touch with our teachers and administrators, with me and any of our central office administrators and let us know how things are going. We also want to hear from you. We want to know how this is working in your household so please feel free to drop us a line or leave a message and we will return your call.

We are pleased to share that tonight the board passed a resolution to open Rhame Avenue School as a child care site for children grades PreK-6 of essential employees who meet the criteria set forth in the Governor's executive order which was outlined in the survey we sent out over the weekend. This includes families whose children attend private schools. This will be provided by our district and run by Scope Education Services at no cost for those families who qualify. If you are in need of this service, please check our website – we expect information to be up by tomorrow afternoon and expect the program to open as early as on Monday, March 30. The hours will be from 7 AM to 6:30 PM. Parents will register directly with Scope Education Services. Thank you to Scope for stepping up to run this and to our board of education for supporting this.

I will now turn it over to Mrs. Hecht and Mrs. Scio who will provide further updates.

Report from Ms. Mona Hecht:

First, I want to thank all the faculty members and administrators who immediately stepped up to make this transition to remote learning as smooth and supportive as possible. We know how special East Rockaway is, but it's times like these that truly shine a spotlight on the willingness of all members of this school district to come together and do what is needed and what is right for students.

Most importantly is staying connected. Social media –Twitter, Instagram; teachers connecting directly with students/families; and morning announcements in all buildings.

Plan for continuity of learning. I am going to share information about the following items:

1. What we have done and where we are today
2. How we are going to plan for the next possible phase of this
3. Updates from the New State Education Department re: what we currently know about

some of this year's state assessments

4. Updates from the College Board regarding their plans for upcoming Advanced Placement exams

First -what we have done and where we are today in relation to what the state is calling a plan for continuity of learning. We were fortunate because we got together at the very onset when there was an indication that we might have to respond in the event of a school closure.

Proactive approach, led by Mrs. Ruiz, that allowed us to put in place the foundation for the next steps, which happened very quickly. We also had the benefit of our superintendent's conference day on Friday, March 13, 2020, which we retooled in the last minute to address the professional needs of our faculty so that they could prepare for this new environment.

We have addressed this transition to our new learning plan in phases and somewhat differently due to grade levels, technology expectations and content differences. For example, while there was an initial focus on maintaining skills at the early grades, the complexity and content of upper grade coursework requires a different approach. Initially –packets and assignments were shared with families and sent home in hard copy. Our early learners received packets of materials when we first closed which allowed them to continue to strengthen their skills without the need for much technology or new learning assigned. Our middle and upper grade students transitioned using tools that they were more familiar with, primarily Google Classroom and other digital applications. We have tried to maintain a focus on what is familiar and known –for the most part not introducing brand new programs that students and teachers are nor familiar with. At the secondary level there has been a combination of digital resources as well as reading/writing and hands on assignments depending upon the course content. Some teachers are providing or may be beginning to provide video tutorials, recorded lesson or virtual class meetings.

Right now, families in the elementary grades have been asked, for the most part to have students complete the work that was done in packets and plan to return it when we reopen. Online submissions are happening in some elementary grades through Google Classroom and other means. The secondary students are expected to complete the work in a shorter period of time – a day or so depending on the individual assignments and return them to the teacher's electronically. Teachers are following up directly with students to ensure there aren't barriers to learning.

We know how important it is to be connected at this time and our teachers are checking in with all students and families and ensuring that there aren't any barriers to learning. Our student support staff – counselors, social workers speech teachers and others who work with our students are also reaching out, connecting, supporting and guiding

students as well. Teachers and support staff are communicating directly with students/families via phone, Zoom meetings or other methods of communication. Our next steps will continue to be established as we work together as an administrative team as we receive guidance and direction about the extent of this closure.

Remote learning is not only digital learning. So, with that in mind, we are careful to share and communicate with families both remotely via email and through digital applications like Google classroom, but we are also connecting with families over the phone regularly and assigning reading, writing and other work that does not require constant screen time.

A couple of other announcements – this week we heard from the New York State Education Department:

All NYS Testing 3-8 Assessments have been suspended for this school year, also the NYSESLAT for our English Language Learners and NYSAA for our students with cognitive disabilities have also been suspended.

At this time, we are still anxiously waiting to hear about this year's Regents Exams.

Additionally, we received information from the College Board about this year's AP Exams which are administered in May – they will now have two date options and will focus on content that most schools would have completed by March – they believe some may want to test early when material is fresher – others may want to wait. The full exam schedule, specific free-response question types that will be on each AP Exam, and additional testing information will be available by April 3, 2020.

Ms. Ruiz thanked Ms. Hecht for her report and then introduced Ms. Scrio who would also be providing a report regarding meals for students and cleaning of our buildings.

Report from Ms. Jacqueline Scrio:

Cleaning

Over the past week and a half our custodial and maintenance crew have been performing a detailed cleaning and disinfecting of the facilities. As each area of the building is completed the section is closed off with caution tape to prevent any further contamination. On Wednesday, as part of a preventive plan to avoid potential spread of the virus, access to the buildings has been limited to a small group of essential employees.

Rhame Avenue was completed today. We expect to finish Centre Avenue and the High School by the end of the week.

Once the initial cleaning is completed, there will be access to a limited part of the High School for essential staff during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The custodial crew will work on a rotational basis to ensure this small area will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Access is needed to address any functions that cannot be done remotely, accommodate repairs for student chrome books and to continue to serve meals to the children of the community.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to recognize the commitment and dedication of our custodial and maintenance crew under the direction of Mr. Daly, Facilities director as they diligently worked in these difficult times to clean and disinfect our district facilities.

Meals

Between the hours of 9:00 am and 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday, we are offering both breakfast and lunch prepackaged meals to all children 18 and under. Beginning this Friday, students will be provided additional meals for the weekend. Since access to the building is restricted we are utilizing the window in the high school cafeteria for distribution of the meals. The window can be accessed from the rear parking lot of the High School. There are signs posted to easily identify where the window for the meal pickup is located. As of today, we are serving approximately 70 children with meals on a daily basis.

Ms. Ruiz thanked Ms. Scio for her report. She also added that the District has been contacted by Island Harvest. If there are any families in need of food donations, or if there are any families willing to donate food, to contact Mrs. Kosser or your building principal. A list of food banks will be posted on our website for our families to access. Island Harvest will be delivering a number of meals and baskets to our District on Friday.

Mr. Gamache thanked Ms. Hecht and Ms. Scio for their due diligence in providing our families with access to these services.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to Will and Jackie Gibbons on the arrival of their daughter, Elliot "Ellie" Max, on February 26, 2020
- B. Condolences to Jill Toy and family on the passing of her father, Thomas Krant, on February 13, 2020
- C. Condolences to Theresa Daube and family on the passing of her mother, Sadie Cantone on February 16, 2020
- D. Condolences to Eileen Hiller and family on the passing of her mother, Lillian Risolo, on

February 26, 2020

- E. Condolences to Terry Owen and family on the passing of her sister, Bridget Feminella, on February 26, 2020
- F. Condolences to the Carrigan family on the passing of Joseph Francis Carrigan, former Mayor of the Village of East Rockaway and graduate of East Rockaway High School, Class of 1950, on February 24, 2020
- G. Condolences to Emily Pisani and family on the passing of her mother-in-law, Rose Pisani, on February 26, 2020
- H. Condolences to Mary McLeod and family on the passing of her husband, Scott McLeod, on February 27, 2020
- I. Condolences to the Cange Family on the passing of Fritzner R. Cange, father of Francky Cange, and grandfather of Fred Cange
- J. Condolences to Jessica White and Family on the passing of her mother, Kathleen Diaz on March 9, 2020

13. Public Comments – Mr. Gamache stated that this evening there will not be an opportunity for comments on the agenda or a public comment period. This meeting is being broadcast live and is also being recorded. The recording and transcription will be available on the school website. You can contact the board at boe@eastrockawayschools.org. 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.

14. Board Member Comments

Keith Gamache: It's impossible to express the gratitude I feel for how well prepared our schools were on such short notice. My nieces attend school in another state (not to be named). Their schools were closed all of last week in order to create a plan. Our schools were ready to go. It starts with the leadership and then relies on the entire team to actually be successful. Thank you Mrs. Ruiz and the administration and to all of our bargaining units for a smooth transition to remote learning. As a parent, I look forward to the morning video announcements being provided adding a personal touch and connection during this otherwise isolated time of our lives.

Peter McNally: I would like to thank Mr. McNally all of the students, staff, and administrators for all of their hard work, patience, and understanding during this difficult time. Please be smart and stay safe everyone.

Kristen O-Hagan: I would like to express my gratitude to the entire staff in the East Rockaway schools. You have all worked painstakingly to ensure the continuous learning for our children, making the transition to Distance Learning appear effortless. This shift is not easy for anyone, and from what I have observed firsthand, our kids have eased into a new

approach to education. While there are always bumps in the road and we all are adapting to our “home schools”, our kids will continue to thrive, and I thank you for all you continue to do. Thank you to the custodial staff who are working daily sanitizing our schools. Your work during these uncertain times does not go unnoticed. To all of the East Rockaway families and all staff members - Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!

Neil Schloth: I would like to thank all of our administrators, teachers and staff for the wonderful job they are doing during this crisis. I urge parents to keep their children involved with all of their assignments. It is very important that the children remain engaged and involved with their work so that the students are ready to resume when the crisis passes.

Dominick Vulpis: I would like to thank the board of trustees, superintendent, central administration, and teachers for what they are doing during this unparalleled time. I ran into Coach Jim Lores who wants everyone to stay ROCK STRONG! Congratulations to the boys and girls basketball teams in celebration of their Long Island Championship! Unfortunately playoff games were stopped short and canceled. Stay safe!

Mr. Gamache also congratulated the boys and girls basketball teams which got over shadowed by the crisis and thanked Mr. Vulpis for reminding us of the teams’ accomplishment.

15. Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Neil Schloth, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Gamache thanked the participants and announced that the board will reconvene to executive session to continue the discussion of the impact of the shut down on contractual employees.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk