

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., March 26, 2019, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School
Preceded by a Universal Acceleration Plan for Implementation
Presentation and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Keith Gamache, Kristin Ochtera, Neil Schloth, Patti Nicoletti, Dominick Vulpis, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mona Hecht; District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

1. An Audit Committee Meeting was conducted in the Conference Room of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School at 5:30 pm. Thereafter, at 7:10 p.m., the regular monthly meeting was called to order by Keith Gamache in the auditorium of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School.
2. Mr. Gamache introduced Liliana Germani, a second grade student from Rhame Avenue School, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced Ms. Mona Hecht, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, and principal Richard Schaffer who spoke about tonight's presentation, the District's Universal Acceleration Plan. Ms. Hecht provided updates on the plan and discussed future steps to be taken to further implement the plan. The goal is for students to be able to take Regents and AP level coursework starting in eighth grade. Mr. Schaffer spoke about the work that has been done this year and what is expected next year. Questions were asked and answered. Ms. Ruiz thanked Ms. Hecht and Mr. Schaffer for the presentation and for their leadership as the plan further develops.

At 7:35 p.m. Mr. Gamache continued with the public portion of the agenda

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items – None
4. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and unanimously passed, the following minutes were approved:

A. February 26, 2019, Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

- A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: January, 2019
- B. Correspondence – (Two)

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Upon motion made by Patti Nicoletti, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following Items A through P were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Brigid Mulvaney, from her mathematics teacher position, effective June 30, 2019.
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Catherine Corapi, from her Family and Consumer Science teacher position, effective June 30, 2019.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Barbara Gerber, from her school psychologist position, effective June 30, 2019.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Mary Beth Palazzolo from her mathematics teacher position, effective June 30, 2019.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Emily Pisani, Senior Typist Clerk, effective August 30, 2019.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change in the effective dates of Cheri Nelson Poland's leave of absence for personal medical reasons to be effective January 31, 2019, through March 15, 2019.
- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Elias Gaston, from the position of Junior High Track Coach, effective February 27, 2019.
- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised 2019 Spring Coaching Schedule dated March 26, 2019.
- I. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change to the request for a FMLA leave of absence of Wendy Gorman previously approved at the January 22, 2019, meeting to be effective March 7, 2019, through June 13, 2019.
- J. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change to the administrative leave of absence of Julia Garvey previously approved at the February 26, 2019, Board of Education meeting to be effective March 7, 2019, through June 13, 2019; and further

approve a change in the effective date of her appointment as a short term substitute elementary teacher previously approved at the January 22, 2019, Board of Education meeting to be effective March 7, 2019, through June 13, 2019, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.

- K. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Ann Kerner to the position of temporary teaching assistant, effective March 11, 2019, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.
- L. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Lauren Henriques to the position of short term substitute school counselor, effective March 25, 2019, through June 26, 2019, at the per diem salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.
- M. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change to the request for a 12-week FMLA leave of absence of Marissa Diamond previously approved at the February 26, 2019, meeting to be effective March 20, 2019.
- N. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Dana Stuono to the position of short term substitute teacher, effective March 20, 2019, at the per diem salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.
- O. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Margaret Schlatter to the position of part-time Public Information Aide, effective March 27, 2019, at the hourly salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.
- P. 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 for the 2018-2019 school year:
 - 1. George Carrera, substitute security aide, effective upon Civil Service approval
 - 2. Anthony Nash, substitute cleaner, effective upon Civil Service approval
 - 3. Wesley Mailman, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective February 28, 2019
 - 4. William Gibbons, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective March 11, 2019
 - 5. Tamar Hiltzik, per diem substitute teacher, effective March 27, 2019
 - 6. Roxanne Lalama, per diem substitute teacher, effective March 27, 2019
 - 7. Lavern White, per diem substitute teacher, effective March 27, 2019
 - 8. Celeste Magluilo, per diem substitute teacher, effective March 27, 2019

7. Other Items

Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, and unanimously passed, it was agreed that Item 7-I would be voted on separately.

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, the following Items A through Q, excluding Item I, were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following Item I, was approved by a vote of four to one. Trustees Keith Gamache, Kristin Ochtera, Patti Nicoletti and Neil Schloth voted in favor of the motion and Trustee Dominick Vulpis opposed the motion.

A. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Scheduled dated March 26, 2019.

B. 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 *“Interim Student Scholarship”* to be awarded to one college bound, graduating senior who was not enrolled for the entire four years of high school, but has made a positive contribution to the school.

C. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education adopts the following Mission Statement for the East Rockaway UFSD:

The East Rockaway School District respects our diverse community and proud traditions by engaging every student in an innovative and challenging educational program which inspires learners to become self-directed, ethical, creative and globally conscious citizens.

D. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education adopts the following Vision Statement for the East Rockaway UFSD:

Setting a course for excellence.

E. Approve the following resolution to authorize Capital Reserve Fund Expenditure 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 2019-2020 school year (“Projects”), as described in the outline contained in the

2019-20 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 21, 2019, 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 2019-20 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 \$200,000.00, to be funded as follows: \$200,000 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.

- F. 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.”

- G. Approve the terms of the Side Letter Agreement dated March 26, 2019, between the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD, and the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association, and authorize the Superintendent to execute the Side Letter Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- H. Approve the Summer School Contract (2019) with Nassau BOCES for East Rockaway students for the period July 1, 2019, through on or about August 31, 2019, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- I. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Shannon Kelly for assistance in preparing students for the Regents Chemistry exam for the period from March 19, 2019 to June 25, 2019 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- J. 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 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.
- K. Approve the License Agreement with SCOPE Educational Services for the After School Child Care Program for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- L. Approve the Contract for Services with Ashleigh Gets It Done!, LLC, Transportation Consultant, for the period April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2020, 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 Health and Welfare Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Uniondale UFSD for health and welfare services for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the Superintendent and President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- N. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Hicksville Public Schools for health and welfare services for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the Superintendent and President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

O. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and the Rockville Centre UFSD for health and welfare services for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the Superintendent and President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

P. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and the Garden City UFSD for health and welfare services for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the Superintendent and President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Q. Accept the following donations:

1. From the Centre Avenue PTA:

a. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$80 for kindergarten classroom resources

b. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$100 for classroom resources for the music room

c. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$49.67 for classroom resources

2. From the East Rockaway Village Foundation, a check in the sum of \$500, to offset the cost of the Kevin Alter presentation

3. From TJ Terranova, for the Physical Education Department, two lacrosse sticks valued at a total of \$120

8. Upon motion made by Patti Nicoletti, and seconded by Neil Schloth, and unanimously passed, the CSE and CPSE Recommendations were approved.

9. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Patti Nicoletti, and unanimously passed, the following budget transfers were approved.

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

1. Transaction No. 19-0013

2. Transaction No. 19-0014

3. Transaction No. 19-0015

4. Transaction No. 19-0016

10. Policy Matters

Ms. Ochtera reported that it has been difficult finding time for the Policy Committee to meet. The Committee did meet yesterday and continued their work on reviewing the policies. They are ready to move on adopting some of the policies listed below and will make

recommendations to the Board. She anticipates the Committee to meet its goals for the year

A. For Adoption – None

B. For Review

1. 0110, Sexual Harassment
2. 2120.1 Candidates and Campaigning
3. 5150, 5150R, School Admissions
4. 4710, Grading
5. 4750, Promotion and Retention of Students
6. 4770, 4770-R - Graduation Requirements
7. 4772, Graduation Ceremonies
8. 4773, Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities
9. 1120, School District Records
10. 1230, Public Participation at Board Meetings
11. 1400, Public Complaints
12. 1530, Smoking and Other Tobacco Use on School Premises
13. 1741, Home Schooled Students
14. 2340, Notice of Meetings
15. 4311.1, Display of the Flag
16. 4526.1, Internet Safety
17. 4531, Field Trip and Excursions
18. 5205, Eligibility for Extra Curricular Activities
19. 5225, Student Personal Expression
20. 6900, Disposal of District Property
21. 8630, Computer Resource and Data Management

11. Reports

A. Board President's Report

Legislative update: Mr. Schloth met with State Assembly Women Missy Miller and Judy Griffin to advocate for our district's financial needs at Lobby Day. Mrs. Ruiz and Mrs. Scrio attended the REFIT breakfast. REFIT stands for Reform Educational Financing Inequities Today. It is a consortium of fiscally challenged school districts advocating for adequate state aid, tax cap relief, and a fair, equitable foundation formula that considers regional costs in meeting state mandates, high stakes testing, and other imposed accountability measures placed on our districts. These individuals should be commended and thanked for their efforts in looking out for our district's financial needs. We are better off as a result of their dedication and efforts.

Budget work sessions: On March 19, 2019, Mrs. Scrio gave her third Budget work

session presentation focusing on our technology expenditures. Tonight we are approving the Capital Reserves Resolution for Technology to be included in May's Budget Vote. The next Budget work session is scheduled for April 9, 2019. All Budget work session information to date has been posted to our website. Please contact Mrs. Scio if you have any questions.

Vision and Mission Statements: Tonight we also formally adopted by resolution our District's Vision and Mission statements. "Setting a Course for Excellence," which has been used as a district slogan since the creation of our five-year strategic plan, is now officially our Vision statement. The Mission statement was developed during our Board Retreat back in January. We hope that both statements help provide aspirational and inspirational guidance to our district.

Facilities tours and Pre-bond update: Our second scheduled facilities' tour was held on March 23, 2019. Six residents attended offering comments and asking questions that will help inform our decision making. We are hoping to have representatives from GOSR/Living with the Bay present a forum to the public on their project in April so they can answer questions and hear concerns from the community. The Board is also meeting with our district architect at 5:30 p.m. on April 8, 2019, to review projects, and get answers to additional questions as we continue in this pre-bond process. The reason for our tardiness tonight was due to a brief meeting we had with Nassau County Department of Public Works regarding the sewage outflow pipe. There is talk that the pipe could be coming under and through our property. This brief meeting was a start to gaining information and adds another element to the mix as we come up with a good plan to move forward.

Altaris Security Support: We are considering additional advisement and security support from Altaris, our security support consultant. School security and safety protocols are becoming more and more specialized and vital to our school's safe and smooth operations. Reviewing protocols and providing support and training to administration and staff in an ongoing and consistent manner is important and necessary. We are looking into providing this expertise in the most cost effective manner possible.

Budget Newsletter and Voting Update: The Department of Justice has communicated to Nassau and Suffolk School Districts that they must comply with the Voting Rights Act requiring the publication of all voting related materials in both English and Spanish. We have been advised by counsel to comply with this directive. This year's Budget Newsletter will be bi-lingual and many of our voting related documents have already been translated and posted to our website. The legal notices published in the LI Herald and LI Tribune, our board designated papers, will also be

published the same amount of times in both languages. In other voting news - it's a positive sign that the board of elections is listening to our safety concerns regarding the use of schools as voting places. This year they pushed the Primary Day vote to June 25, 2019. Unfortunately, due to the late ending of our school year, school is still in session. We will continue to advocate for more change, but feel optimistic that this is a move in the right direction.

B. Superintendent's Report

Achievement

The buildings have been very busy. The entire teaching staff and team of administrators participated in a day of learning with Dr. John Almarode on Friday during Superintendent's Conference Day. The day's work focused on assessment capable visual learners, which is when students take ownership of their learning and know what the next steps are to achieve success. This requires teachers to create an environment in which students are aware of what they're learning, why they're learning it and know how to progress through the learning process.

Mr. Poland took four seventh grade Quiz Bowl (It's Academic) students to UCP for an academic challenge. The team came in fourth place.

Students in Grades 6-8 Math and ELA AIS classes have begun individualized lessons on a program called i-Ready. These lessons are matched to each student based on the skills that the i-Ready diagnostic have identified as appropriate for that student. Teachers will continue their professional development on using the i-Ready software with trainers from i-Ready this month.

Students in 7th Grade LOTE are continuing to work on their cultural research projects. Students have had a series of lessons on source evaluation and thesis development. They will soon experience guided peer editing.

Twenty-two high school art students won a total of 39 awards this year across seven categories at the 2019 Northeast Regional Scholastic Art Awards. The 11 Gold Key winners' artwork will go on to be judged at the national level. The District had a silver medal awarded to one of our students.

Nicholas Stebner performed in Kansas City, Missouri with the ACDA National Honor Choir on February 27th - March 2, 2019.

Opportunity

Centre Avenue K-Kids students and club advisors volunteered at this weekend's Education Foundation 5K run. They passed out refreshments and cheered on the participants as they crossed the finish line. Rhame K-Kids are working on TERRIFIC Kids journals. These journals focus on specific character traits that they strive for. (TERRIFIC= thoughtful, enthusiastic, respectful, responsible, inclusive, friendly, inquisitive and capable.)

Poetry Madness begins with the creation of original poems in all Grade 9-12 ELA classes. Another edition for middle school students occurs later in the year.

Eighth grade social studies students participated in the "If I Were A Mayor" essay contest.

AP US Students and AP Government Students participated in the Evaluation of Presidential Leadership Symposium for High School Students essay contest at Hofstra University. This is the eighth consecutive year Hofstra has hosted the event, and East Rockaway High School AP, 11th and 12th grade students will attend the event later in the month.

DECA students Edward McCann, Edward Gorsky, Annie Desrosiers and Marie Clarissa Lisondra competed in the three-day DECA New York State Career Conference in Rochester, NY. Our students qualified by finishing in the top five in their respective events at the Freeport DECA Regional competition in January.

East Rockaway High School students will have the opportunity to stay for extended homework help on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for the rest of the year. We will be piloting this for this year. Students will be able to get help from a teacher, have access to school computers and other resources to ensure assignments can be complete and students have a safe place to study.

Victoria Fraumeni and Madeline Mistretta performed with the eVoco Voice Collective on Sunday March 17, 2019, at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City. Ms. Silver is also a member of that choir.

East Rockaway Music Department hosted the NYSSMA festival this year on March 19 & 20, 2019. We had 172 District students participating and hosted over 800 students.

Innovation

Students in Grades 3 to 6 are currently engaged in the Makerspace module in STEAM.

They have combined the robotics materials from the Lego WeDo 2.0 kits with other craft materials to create Rube Goldberg inspired contraptions. The focus is on the engineering by design process. As students work at being makers, they are also applying the skills they learned earlier in the school year in the coding and robotics modules.

On March 2, 2019, East Rockaway High School Hosted the VEX Robotics Southern New York State Championships. Over 30 teams across the Southern Region of New York State competed. Three teams from East Rockaway High School Robotics competed. Many thanks to Mr. Cimorelli and Mr. Howard for their continuous work with our students.

High School AP Teachers are piloting Albert.io, an online test and review program designed to help students prepare for their upcoming AP exams.

Two East Rockaway Middle School Robotics Teams competed in the Vex IQ Southern New York State Middle School Robotics Championship, held in New York City on Saturday, February 9, 2019. This was the first time the East Rockaway Middle School Robotics Team had a rookie elementary school team qualify for a state championship.

Students in Mr. Howard's Video Communications class are making silent films. Students will shoot various clips using our district owned video cameras. Then they will edit the clips into short films using Adobe Premiere software.

Connection

Our elementary schools recently held parent teacher conferences. In an effort to engage more families in our school community, the staff made a concerted effort to connect with as many families as possible. Productive conversations were held to discuss way to help increase each student's success in school.

Students are continuing to develop their service learning projects in Advisory classes, including school beautification projects, creation of a food pantry, a sensory board and an activity center in the cafeteria. Thank you to our Advisory teachers.

On March 6, 2019, the Prevention Task Force hosted a Book Club/Discussion on The Teen Formula. The event was well attended. Many thanks to the Prevention Task Force, Mrs. Elias, Mrs. Bruzzo, for their efforts, and the Education Foundation for the funds to purchase the books. Dinner was donated by our local restaurants, LaFavorita, Villa Maria and Greek Express. Please thank them when you visit those establishments.

The Music Department held its annual 6th grade orientation on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. The current sixth grade students visited the high school to become familiar with the music

program when they enter middle school in the fall.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to Wendy Gorman and family on the arrival of her daughter Summer Hailee Gorman, born on March 6, 2019
- B. Congratulations to Brad Krauz and family on the arrival of his son, Keith Jay (KJ) on March 13, 2019
- C. Congratulations to Marissa Diamond and family on the arrival of her daughter, Sophie Faye, on March 19, 2019
- D. Condolences to the Risorto family on the loss of Laura Risorto, senior account clerk in the Business Office

13. Public Comments: Mr. Gamache stated that next on our agenda is the public comment period. Please note that anyone wishing to speak at this time should fill out a card and comply with all provisions of board policy. Please keep your comments to three minutes, refrain from addressing topics related to personnel matters or individual students. Such concerns should be discussed privately with an administrator or the superintendent at an appropriate time. The board is here to listen and cannot provide immediate feedback or engage in open dialogue. Any necessary follow up will be noted and provided at a later date.

Mrs. Tara Elias: Mrs. Elias had a three-part question regarding the chemistry extra help provided by the newly hired consultant: (1) when will parents and students be notified; (2) how will the after school activities component be handled; and (3) why was there opposition by Trustee Vulpis to approving the consultant contract. Ms. Hecht, Ms. Ruiz, and Mr. Vulpis responded to questions.

Sally Agro: Ms. Agro, a Centre Avenue School parent, thanked the Board for the education her children are receiving and thanked Ms. Ma for the positive changes at Centre Avenue School. She was concerned with the number of students in one of the sixth grade classes (29) at Centre Avenue School. She questioned the residency/registration requirements of new families and whether there was any state law capping student class size. Ms. Ruiz, Ms. Hecht, and Mr. Gamache replied stating that they are aware of the class size and are monitoring the same. Ms. Hecht stated that all registration requirements are posted on the website and all procedures are strictly adhered to. Mr. Gamache stated that residency concerns are taken very seriously and anything suspicious is followed through with an investigation.

14. Board Member Comments

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti thanked Mr. Schaffer for his overview regarding the middle school changes. Much work went into it and she appreciates the effort to give our students

more opportunities. She thanked the Education Foundation for sponsoring this weekend's 5K run despite the cold weather. She encouraged residents to go to the school's website to provide feedback for the possible bond. The Board cannot make a decision unless the community provides their input.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth attended his 11th Rock Rivalry. He was super delighted to see this year's performances and was not biased towards any particular grade. Rock Rivalry has come a long way. The kids are amazing in how they learn to project and act. He, along with other board members, truly enjoyed the performances.

There were seven people who participated in this weekend's facilities tour. They were very engaged and knowledgeable. It was a very productive tour and input was received from a different perspective. The more involved community members are, the better informed we will be to make a well-rounded decision that meets the needs of our community. Mr. Schloth was very impressed with the Universal Acceleration Program. Clearly, Ms. Hecht and Mr. Schaffer have come up with a program that gives students an opportunity to accelerate and gives them a chance to take an AP course later on in high school. Many thanks for making it work and putting in the time and effort. Mr. Schloth also spoke about the Policy Committee and how much time and thought goes into making sure protocols are in place. He salutes Ms. Ochtera and Ms. Nicoletti for chairing this Committee and doing the work required to update all policies.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis congratulated Coach Joe Lores who was inducted into the NYS Basketball Hall of Fame. It is a great honor as he joins many other famous names. There were 45 community members that made the trip to Glens Falls, New York, to join him in this accomplishment. Many thanks to Ms. Scio and Mr. Daly for the facilities' tours they conducted. They continue to go above and beyond by handling all the questions that came up by residents. Questions ranged from finance to construction and they were able to answer all questions.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera echoed the comments of her fellow trustees. She has really been excited to watch the District grow over the past 9 years that she has been on the board. She looks forward to the work being put into the District. Ms. Ochtera was not able to attend the Founders' Day celebration this year. She applauds the work of the PTA's as they continue to advocate for our children. It is one of the most important things that the PTA, and the Board does and she is very proud of that. She thanked her fellow trustees for their continued support.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache thanked the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School PTA for sponsoring and bringing "Stop the Bleed" program to the District. This will take place on April 11, 2019. The Board is looking for the community to provide feedback regarding the

proposed bond. He thanked everyone who expressed concerns to him and his school on the tragic suicide of a student at his school. He reminded everyone to hug their children and to look out for and recognize mental illness. Children can easily become overwhelmed in today's society.

15. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk