

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Rockaway, New York

Meeting of the Board of Education

7:00 P.M., June 15, 2021

East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium

Preceded by Recognition of:

Rhame Avenue School Heroes by Senator Todd Kaminsky;

Thank You to Donald X. Clavin, Jr., Town of Hempstead Supervisor and

Anthony D'Esposito, Town of Hempstead Councilman;

Anthony D'Esposito, Town of Hempstead Councilman, Jimmy Lores,

First Responder; Mayor Bruno Romano and Village of East Rockaway Board,

Jimmy Lores, Frontline Hero; Valedictorian, Lucy Temple, and

Salutatorian, Emma Pollackov; Retirees Nicholas Cimorelli and Donna Smith;

Students Frederick and Christopher Devine; Student Athletes;

PTA Installation Ceremony, and a Public Forum

Meeting Open to the Public and Livestreamed

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Dominick Vulpis, Kristen O'Hagan, Daniel DeMatteo, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mona Hecht, District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

Absent: Trustees Peter McNally and Joseph Kilgus

1. Mr. Vulpis called the meeting to order at approximately 7:09 p.m. in the Auditorium of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School.
2. Mr. Daniel DeMatteo introduced Centre Avenue School fifth grade student Jordyn Buckman who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Vulpis welcomed everyone to the meeting and was glad to see so many in the audience. Many recognitions are planned for this evening. He introduced Ms. Ruiz who began the presentations.

Ms. Ruiz invited Dr. Ayesha McArthur, Rhame Avenue School principal, to the stage. Ms. Ruiz spoke about the incident at Rhame Avenue School on June 2, 2021, wherein a driver crashed through the fence and drove on the school grounds while students were having lunch recess. Dr. McArthur spoke about the teamwork of her staff who ushered the students back into the building and took appropriate action. She thanked her staff for their quick response in keeping the students safe.

Ms. Ruiz introduced Senator Todd Kaminsky who acknowledged and applauded the actions of the employees. Senator Kaminsky asked East Rockaway Village Mayor Bruno Romano to assist him in handing out proclamations. Rhame Avenue School staff were called to the stage and given flowers, plants, and certificates. Ms. Ruiz thanked the parents for their support and understanding during this incident and thanked Senator Kaminsky for taking the time to attend this evening.

Ms. Ruiz then asked Town of Hempstead Supervisor Donald X. Clavin, and Town of Hempstead Councilman Anthony D'Esposito, to join her on stage. She thanked them for providing funds for the district to offset costs of COVID. Supervisor Clavin thanked Ms. Ruiz for acknowledging these funds. Supervisor Clavin then presented a proclamation to employee Jimmy Lores. Mr. Lores was recognized for his efforts during COVID for performing many tasks in order to keep the schools open and safe. Mayor Romano and Deputy Mayor Fox also joined Supervisor Clavin in recognizing Mr. Lores' efforts as a frontline hero and presented him with a plaque.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced principal Richard Schaffer who spoke on behalf of Lucy Temple, valedictorian and Emma Pollackov, salutatorian. Both were called to the stage and presented with a recognition gift.

Mr. Schaffer then spoke about retirees Donna Smith and Nick Cimorelli. A video montage was shown. They were both called to the stage and presented with recognition gifts. Ms. Ruiz wished them much success in the future and thanked them for their many years of service in the district.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Centre Avenue School Principal Calia Kelly. Mrs. Kelly introduced Centre Avenue students Freddy and Christopher Devine and recognized their efforts in honoring American veterans and heroes. They were called to the stage and told their story of honoring a particular veteran.

Ms. Ruiz introduced David Barth, Director of Physical Education. Mr. Barth thanked the Board of Education and Superintendent for allowing him the opportunity to honor some of our best and brightest student athletes. Mr. Barth spoke about each athlete, showed a video tribute, and presented each with a certificate.

Ms. Ruiz began the PTA Installation Ceremony by using the theme of flowers and called to the stage all of the officers in the respective school's PTA's. Ms. Ruiz read the oaths to the new members and declared them duly installed officers of the District's PTA's. Ms. Ruiz thanked them for everything they do to support our students and assisting the district in providing the best education for our children. Congratulations and flowers were also given to retiring PTA presidents.

The presentations concluded at 8:35 p.m. and the public portion of the agenda began.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache questioned the discussion at the last work session regarding the bond projects. Particularly if the cost comes in under budget, whether the two contingency projects get funded before any other work is done.

There were no other comments regarding the agenda items.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Vulpis asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following minutes were approved:

A. May 25, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports

The Board acknowledged receipt of the April 2021 monthly financial reports.

B. Correspondence

The Board received a letter from Michael Hacker, Ph.D. regarding Nick Cimorelli. Mr. Vulpis was unable to retrieve his mail from the Board account.

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-E below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Items A-E below.

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

A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Sara Perrone for a leave of absence effective August 31, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Kristina Ranieri for a FMLA leave of absence, effective August 31, 2021, through November 19, 2021.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change in the appointment of Francine Hernandez to the position of Senior Typist Clerk in accordance with the district's request for the promotional examination, the East Rockaway Secretaries Association's collective bargaining agreement, and in compliance with Nassau County Civil Service regulations, effective July 1, 2021.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Linda Ricciardi to the position of Summer Bus Monitor, effective July 6, 2021, through August 13, 2021, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education Monitor and Security Unit Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year.
- E. 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. Christopher Mormando, substitute cleaner, effective upon Civil Service approval
 - 2. Kristyn Smith, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective May 1, 2021
 - 3. Wesley Mailman, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective May 1, 2021

7. Other Items

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-E below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Items A-E below.

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

- A. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2020-2021 school year.
- B. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway UFSD advertised for Requests for Proposals published in *Newsday* on May 22, 2021, for Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program services, opened at the District Office on May 28, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., by remote audio conference, and has determined, upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, that SCOPE Education Services is the lowest responsible bidder meeting the bid specifications; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts this bid and awards the

contract for Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program services to the lowest responsible bidder meeting the bid specifications, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a contract with SCOPE Education Services on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

C. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law §2034(6)(b), after six months have passed since the May 18, 2021, election without any proceeding, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the District Clerk to unseal and open the ballot box and to destroy all of the ballots cast, spoiled and unused in the May 18, 2021, Annual District Budget Vote and Board of Education Election, no earlier than November 19, 2021.

D. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby reaffirms the authorization for the following reserve accounts as prescribed under General Municipal Law and/or Education Law:

1. Capital Reserve for Building Improvements and Repairs II;
2. Capital Reserve for Technology II
3. Unemployment Insurance Reserve
4. Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve (EBALR)
5. Reserve for Employee Retirement System (ERS)
6. Reserve for Teacher Retirement System (TRS) Sub-Fund

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to fund the reserves for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, and assign amounts from the unappropriated fund balance as follows:

Transfer To:	Amount Not to Exceed
Capital Fund for Technology II	200,000
Reserve for Teacher Retirement System (TRS) Sub-Fund	350,000
Reserve for Employee Retirement System	2,500,000

E. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby approves and adopts the terms and conditions of the Stipulation of Settlement resolving a dispute involving transportation services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the President of the Board to execute the Stipulation of Settlement as approved on the Board's behalf.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items F-J below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Items F-J below.

Upon motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items F-J were approved on a consent agenda.

F. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the funds of the Student Activity Extra Classroom Accounts are restricted for the specific purposes of each club within the Student Activity Extra Classroom Accounts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds of the Scholarship Accounts are restricted for the specific purposes of each Scholarship Accounts.

- G. Approve the Disclosure and Consent Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD, Lynbrook UFSD, and the law firm of Frazer & Feldman, LLP for legal guidance and counsel in connection with a Mutual Emergency Evacuation Agreement and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- H. Approve the Mutual Emergency Evacuation Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Lynbrook UFSD for an emergency school evacuation 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 Facilities Use Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Lynbrook UFSD for use of Marion Street School for the East Rockaway High School graduation commencement services 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 Services Agreement Reinstatement for continuation of 403(b)/457(b) administration services by The Omni Group for the 2021-2022 year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items K-O below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Items K-O below.

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

- K. Approve the Student Accident Coverage Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and J. J. Stanis and Company, Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to sign the Student Accident Coverage Request on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- L. Approve the Owner/Architect Agreement Continuation Letter between the East Rockaway UFSD and JAG Architect for the 2021-2022 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the letter agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- M. Approve the Amended Agreement with Doreen Johnson as substitute secretary and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Amended Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- N. Approve the Employment Agreement with Nereyda Amaya-Moran, District Clerk effective July 7, 2021, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Employment Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- O. Approve the following resolution:

For the purpose of participating in Cooperative Bids for Air Filters HVAC; Blinds, Shades & Stage Curtain Cleaning; Burners and Boiler Service; Carpet and Tile Installation; Custodial Equipment Repair; Custodial Supplies and Trash Bags; Custodial Supplies Green Cleaning; Door Installation and Repair; Drag Mop Rental; Dumpsters; Electrical Service; Electrical Supplies; Elevator Maintenance; Equipment Repair; Fence Installation and Repair; Fire Extinguisher Service; Floor Sanding, Refinishing and Repair; Fuel Tank Alarm/Tank/Manhole Repairs; Geese/Dog Service; General AC and Refrigeration Repairs and Service; General Boiler Welding; Grounds Equipment Repair; Gym Folding Door; Heating Plant Maintenance and Repair; Irrigation Installation and Service/Well Installation; Kitchen Equipment Repairs; Locksmith Services; Lumber and Masonry Supplies; PA, Intercom and Master Clock Service; Paint and Associated Supplies; Painting Service; Pest Control Services; Playground Equipment Repair; Plumbing Service; Plumbing Supplies; Pneumatic Systems; Port-a-pottie; Pump and Motor Repair; Roof Repair; Scoreboard Repair/Electric Partition; Doors/Gym Equipment; Signs and Associated Supplies; Site Work Asphalt/Concrete/Parking Lot Sweeping; Slate Roof Repair; Split System AC Units; Steam Traps and Parts; Storm Drains; Suspended Ceiling Installation; Theatrical

Lighting/Stage Rigging; Track/Tennis/Playground Resurfacing Repair; Tree Cutting and Pruning; Uniforms Purchase; Universal Waste Recycling; Window Glass Repairs, Parts, Replacement:

WHEREAS, the Boards of Education of:

Baldwin UFSD	Herricks UFSD	North Shore CSD
Bellmore UFSD	Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD	Oceanside UFSD
Bellmore-Merrick UFSD	Hicksville UFSD	Plainedge UFSD
Bethpage UFSD	Island Trees UFSD	Plainview Old Bethpage UFSD
Carle Place UFSD	Jericho UFSD	Port Washington UFSD
East Meadow UFSD	Lawrence UFSD	Rockville Centre UFSD
East Rockaway UFSD	Levittown UFSD	Seaford UFSD
East Williston UFSD	Long Beach UFSD	Syosset UFSD
Elmont Schools	Lynbrook UFSD	Uniondale UFSD
Floral Park/Bellerose	Manhasset UFSD	Valley Stream CHSD
Freeport UFS	Massapequa UFSD	Valley Stream #30
Garden City UFSD	Merrick UFSD	Valley Stream #13
Glen Cove City SD	Mineola UFSD	Wantagh UFSD
Great Neck UFSD	North Bellmore UFSD	West Hempstead UFSD
	North Merrick UFSD	Westbury UFSD

desire to participate in Cooperative Bids during the 2021/2022 school year as authorized by General Municipal Law Section 119-0, and whereas, the Board of Education through its Director of Finance and Operations, or designee, has assumed responsibility for drafting specifications, advertising for Bids, accepting and opening Bids, tabulating Bids, and reporting the results for each of the respective bids to the participating Boards of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, or designee, on behalf of the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District, be and hereby is authorized to participate in Cooperative bidding conducted in conjunction with the Boards of Education of the aforementioned school districts for the bids noted above. Any award of contract pursuant to these Cooperative Bids will be made by the respective Board of Education in cooperation with the participating Districts.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items P-T below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Items P-T below.

Upon motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, seconded by Kristen O’Hagan, all in favor

AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items P-T were approved on a consent agenda.

- P. Approve the appointment of the East Rockaway instructional and pupil personnel staff as per their certification and licensure for CSE and CPSE meeting, effective July 1, 2021, through August 31, 2021.
- Q. Approve the Tuition Agreement with Anderson Center for Autism, for special education services for one student, Student I.D. No. 180008082 for the 2020-2021 school year effective May 26, 2021, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Tuition Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- R. Approve the Consultant Services Provider Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Dr. Thomas Demaria, for Grief Counseling and Training for Mental Health Staff for 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.
- S. Approve the Twilight Alternative High School Program Contract (2021-2022) with Nassau BOCES for East Rockaway students for the period September 2, 2021, through on or about June 30, 2022, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- T. Approve the Amendment to the Twilight Contract (2021-22) with Nassau BOCES for East Rockaway students to include a provision to permit for distance learning during the Twilight Program for the 2021-22 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Amendment on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

8. Approval of CSE and CPSE Recommendations

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding the CSE and CPSE Recommendations. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve the CSE and CPSE Recommendations.

Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the CSE and CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

9. Budget Transfers

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding the following budget transfers. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve the budget transfers.

Upon motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, seconded by Kristen O’Hagan, 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 transfers:

1. Transaction No. 21-0017
2. Transaction No. 21-0018
3. Transaction No. 21-0019
4. Transaction No. 21-0020

10. Policy Matters

A. Policy Subcommittee Report

Mrs. O’Hagan provided the following report:

Mrs. O’Hagan met with Superintendent Ruiz on Thursday June 3, 2021, to discuss policy 0105, Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education. The policy and regulations will be brought to the entire board in July for further discussion. There are two policies up for adoption this evening:

8131, Pandemic Planning – This policy was initially developed to address pandemic planning for school districts. This is a new local policy that has been updated to address Education Laws that require the inclusion of specific pandemic preparedness protocols referenced in Section 27-C of the Labor Law in the district-wide school safety plans. This policy speaks to a new component of the school safety plan that was presented at the BOE meeting in March.

0100, Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity – This is a required policy that has been updated to reflect various amendments to state Executive Law, Education Law, and Civil Rights Law regarding protection against discrimination on the basis of traits associated with race such as hair texture and styles, religious practices, and gender identity.

We will continue to review the following policies:

0105, Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education
9150, Non-Fraternization “New”
6705, Federal Funds Purchasing
8130, School Safety Plans and Teams
5151, Homeness Children
1900, Parent and Family Engagement

0115, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
5300, Code of Conduct
6240, Investments
6700, Purchasing

Mr. Vulpis asked if there were any questions regarding Item 10B below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to adopt the policies listed in Item B (For Adoption).

Upon motion made by Kristen O’Hagan, seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the following policies listed in Item B (1 and 2) were unanimously approved for adoption.

B. For Adoption

1. 8131, Pandemic Planning
2. 0100, 0100-R, Non-Discrimination, and Equal Opportunity

C. For Review

1. 0105, Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education
2. 9150, Non-Fraternization “New”
3. 6705, Federal Funds Purchasing
4. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams
5. 5151, Homeless Children
6. 1900, Parent & Family Engagement
7. 0115, 0115-R, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
8. 5300, Code of Conduct
9. 6240, Investments
10. 6700, Purchasing

11. Reports

A. Superintendent’s Report

In the interest of time, the Superintendent will post her report on the district’s website. She spoke about some additional items.

Ms. Ruiz thanked Lynbrook Public Schools for hosting this year’s high school graduation ceremony at Marion Street School athletic field. The date was changed to Saturday, June 26th, with a rain date of June 27, 2021. This evening we approved an agreement to use their schools for this purpose as well as an alternate emergency evacuation site.

The district held its first universal pre-k program lottery this afternoon. We had 43 families apply for 30 spots. Cards were folded in a basket and randomly picked. Many thanks to

Mary Volino and Neri Amaya-Moran for their help in coordinating this lottery. Although the grant covered 26 spots, additional funding was found to cover 4 additional spots for a total of 30. There will be one class in each of the elementary buildings. Families that were not picked will remain on a waiting list which the district is required to maintain. Parents will be notified tomorrow of the lottery results. Although the event was in person and livestreamed, we had trouble with the audio. Names were posted on the screen during the live event.

Ms. Ruiz congratulated Ms. Hecht on her new position with Cold Spring Harbor schools. Ms. Hecht will be leaving the district on June 30th. She thanked Ms. Hecht for all the work she has done for the last 10 years in our district and wished her much success in her new position.

Achievement

Centre and Rhame students participated in Entrepreneur Day. Students designed their own invention using recyclable materials and shared their prototypes with the school community. A Google Form and Buncees were created to showcase their hard work.

Congratulations to Elissa Velasquez Gomez. Elissa was nominated and won the 2021 STEM Scholarship sponsored by the Hispanic Heritage Group.

On June 10th, the high school held its annual Senior Awards ceremony. Seventy-two seniors were honored with over 130 awards totaling almost \$42,000 in scholarships and monetary awards distributed.

Congratulations to senior Nicholas Nunez who has been named a recipient of the Hispanic Heritage Group (HHG) Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to Long Island students of Hispanic heritage pursuing a career in one of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering or Math) disciplines.

For the second year in a row, our high school art students swept 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the Congressional Art Competition sponsored by Kathleen Rice. First place winner, Hailey Arnold, will have her photograph entitled "Contamination" hung in the Capitol building for an entire year. Congratulations to our high school art teachers, Mrs. Cabasso and Mrs. Galante, and their students on a job well done!

On Thursday, June 3, 2021, the high school hosted its annual Music and Art Awards and Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction ceremony. Held virtually, our most talented music and art students were honored with various awards and scholarships. Additionally, our

music honor society welcomed several new students that met the criteria for induction.

Congratulations to senior Derek Rivera, who on Thursday, May 27th officially signed with SUNY Oswego to play soccer. A signing ceremony was held in the library with Derek's family and coach.

On Thursday, June 10, 2021, over 70 middle school students were celebrated for their progress and achievement in ELA and Math AIS classes. An outdoor ceremony hosted by Ms. Isik and Ms. Terrio was held and students were treated to a special lunch.

Innovation

Rhame Avenue fourth grade students are working with Mrs. Schoen to learn how to format and create assignments using Google apps.

Students in Ms. Pisano's Culinary II Class participated in the debut of Food Truck Wars. Students spent several weeks creating everything that would be required to have a successful food truck business, such as creating a business plan, menu, social media campaign, and model food trucks. This project was capped off with the students coming up with their "signature dish" that would be judged by three members of the high school administration. After the judges tried their samples, scored them accordingly, and judged the other aspects of the project, a winner was determined – Unlawful Waffles!

On Wednesday, June 9, 2021, the high school music department presented a virtual spring concert. The concert included performances by the Jr. and Sr. high school bands, choruses, and orchestras. The link to the concert is still available on the district's website.

Students in Ms. Horvath's Business Ownership & Marketing Class competed in a Shark Tank inspired project to conclude their semester's long study of the ins and outs of entrepreneurship. Students were required to present their Food Truck businesses to "investors" to raise funds to get their business off the ground. Four groups created the following food trucks: The Breakfast Bus, Rock & (Egg) Roll, Lettuce Feed You, and El Lugar de Riquezas, which was our winner! Special thanks to Mr. Pajer, Ms. Terranova, Mr. Palermo, and Mr. Altamore for participating as our sharks!

Opportunity

Centre and Rhame sixth grade students participated in a series led by Maureen Schutta entitled, "Know Before You Go". This collaborative experience provided students with the opportunity to interact with junior high school staff members and students to support a

smooth transition into seventh grade where they feel included into their new learning environment.

Thirteen students in Mr. Duet's EMT class, under direction from Mr. Barth, met the American Red Cross requirements and were certified in Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED certification.

Students in Ms. Parasmó's AP World History, and Global 10 class participated in the 2020-2021 John Sexton Essay Contest, writing about the Rohingya Refugee Crisis and how it relates to themes from AP World History and Global 10 curriculum.

On Friday, June 11, 2021, members of the class of 2021 had the opportunity to join a senior class trip to Six Flags Great Adventure Theme Park. Students were able to enjoy the rides and camaraderie with their peers. Thank you to class advisors Ms. Best and Ms. Castellano and chaperones for their efforts in making this a memorable experience for our seniors.

Clare Acuti and Kristen Carman participated in the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Conference held on June 5-6. Students spent time exploring leadership from an individual, group, and societal perspective while collaborating with students throughout the state and discussed topics on mental wellness, body positive image and more.

Nearly 20 high school students were honored on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, for being 3-season athletes. Students were recognized for their accomplishments on the field and court and were treated to a bagel breakfast.

Connection

Centre and Rhame sixth grade students participated in a special end of year trip to Adventureland together to provide them with an opportunity to begin to make connections with their future junior high school classmates. They will also be participating in a virtual, collaborative game activity. Centre Avenue students participated in Assemblywoman Griffin's Annual Flag Day Contest. Anissa Jetishi, a third-grade student, was the overall winner for Grades K-6. Maxwell Order, Reagan McNichols, and Gisele Leib were also winners. The students were honored at the Flag Day celebration on Monday, June 14th with support from East Rockaway and Centre Avenue.

Red Nose Day was celebrated on Thursday, May 27th. Red Nose Day is an annual event that raises money and awareness to eradicate hunger and poverty for children in the United States and across the world. In coordination with the Key Club, the high school was able to raise \$300 to support this cause. Thank you to Ms. Weissman for coordinating this event.

On Thursday, June 3, 2021, the Girls Varsity Basketball team sponsored a Spirit Day in the South Rotunda. Students were able to play games, including a tabletop basketball shoot out. Three girls' basketball prize packs were awarded to students who were closest in their guesses of the number of candies in the jar. This event was geared towards promoting the girls' basketball program.

Jason Miller and Brandon Velasquez provided a virtual presentation on a comprehensive "Know Before You Go" series for incoming seventh graders as part of their Cohen Strong Capstone Project. Throughout the year, they attended evening virtual workshops with multiple districts, gained knowledge and insight on skills and traits needed to create supportive and inclusive school environments, and worked with both social worker Ms. Schutta, as well as Northwell Health staff member Dr. Vera Fuera, to prepare and implement this capstone project.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to Jen Melecio and family on the arrival of her daughter Jade Elizabeth on May 25, 2021
- B. Condolences to Dawn O'Shea and family on the passing of her father Mortimer O'Shea

13. Public Comments

Natalia Wilkerson – student Natalia expressed her support to keep Mr. Andrew Kimble on staff for the next school year. She has started a petition for him on change.org. It is her feeling that more teachers similar to him should be on staff. Ms. Wilkerson, Natalia's mother, also spoke on her daughter's behalf and agreed with her that the district should hire teachers that the students can relate to.

Maribel Ugalde, 28 Ocean Avenue, East Rockaway – Ms. Ugalde found Natalia's petition online. She read a statement in support of Natalia's petition and believes a diversity committee should be created.

Ms. Ruiz commented that we do not discuss personnel issues in public. However, staffing needs at the high school have changed and that is the reason why we no longer have a position for Mr. Kimble. The district is looking into alternative hiring platforms in order to attract more diverse candidates.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache questioned if the district has conducted any exit interviews in light of the fact that we have lost three administrators this last year. In September of 2019, the board told the community that they would develop policy on exit interviews and asked if there

was any progress with an exit interview policy. Mr. Vulpis replied that there has been no progress with developing that policy.

Nick Cimorelli – Mr. Cimorelli thanked the board and community for all the kind words that were said about him and Donna Smith this evening. It is his hope that the district will be able to replace his position with a technology trained teacher who will be able to keep the program going. During these past years, both he and Mr. Howard have built a strong foundation for the program and would like it to continue to grow.

Hugh Howard – Mr. Howard (teacher) spoke in support of Mr. Cimorelli’s position. Even with a change in certification, it is Mr. Howard’s hope that a technology trained teacher can be hired.

14. Board Member Comments

Joseph Kilgus: Although absent, Mr. Kilgus provided the following statement which was read by Mr. Vulpis:

I unfortunately had to miss tonight's meeting due to a work engagement, but I did not want to miss this opportunity to recognize the retirement of Nick Cimorelli or as most of us know him as CIM. In our time attending high school all teachers make an impact in our lives, however there's always 1 or 2 that's extra special. CIM is that special teacher for me. In my time at ERHS I took every single Tech class offered whether it was woodworking, design and draw or computer design. It didn't matter as long as CIM was teaching it I was taking it. Senior day 2001, you guessed it - I was CIM. 20 years later I'm thankful to be once again a part of this great district and have the opportunity to recognize the career of a teacher that had such a big part in the man I am today. Here's to you CIM. Congratulations and best of luck on the next chapter of your life.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis thanked Mrs. Hecht for her many years of service to the district and wished her much success on her new position. He stated that the PTA is a grass roots organization as we saw in tonight’s installation ceremony. He implored the PTAs to keep the torch going. Mr. Vulpis thanked Maureen Brower for 22 years of service in the PTA and asked the audience to give her a standing ovation. She sacrificed much time and effort in giving back to the community during her tenure in the PTA. He thanked all the PTA officers for all they do for East Rockaway schools. A fruitful meeting took place about reinvigorating their role and welcoming new parents into our community. Mr. Vulpis thanked them for taking those challenges on.

Daniel DeMatteo: Mr. DeMatteo congratulated all the students who were awarded certificates

this evening. It is with great pride and admiration to see the amount of athletic and academic awards the students received. Mr. DeMatteo was equally impressed by our valedictorian and salutatorian whose GPAs were so close. Mr. DeMatteo shared the following quote:

“So many of us choose our path out of fear disguised as practicality...You can fail at what you don’t want. So you might as well take a chance on doing what you love.” **Jim Carrey**

Kristen O’Hagan: Mrs. O’Hagan stated that tonight was very special with so many individuals being honored and recognized. As the school year comes to a close, I would like to congratulate ALL students on all they have accomplished in a most challenging year. To the 6th graders graduating and moving on to middle school, the 8th graders transitioning into the high school, and the senior class of 2021 – I wish you luck on the next step in your life journey. Continue to find your passions and pursue them, follow your dreams, and make every moment count. Have a wonderful and relaxing summer!

15. Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion made by Kristen O’Hagan, seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk