

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., August 8, 2017 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by a Public Forum

MINUTES

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

Absent: Kristin Ochtera, John Giannotti, Jr.

1. The meeting was called to order by Patti Nicoletti at 7:09 p.m. Keith Gamache led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the minutes of July 6, 2017, were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports - None
4. Correspondence - Four
5. Hearing of visitors on items in the Agenda – None
6. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the following Items 1 through 13 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Maryann Raffaniello-Zirbes, teaching assistant, effective August 30, 2017
 - b. Joseph Spero, Principal of East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School, effective August 10, 2017
 - c. Joseph Toderò, substitute teacher, effective July 14, 2017
 - d. Kathleen O'Mara, assistant cook, effective August 8, 2017
 - e. Lynn Kinneary, food service worker, effective August 8, 2017
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, correct the language in Personnel Item No. 3 on the June 13, 2017, agenda and minutes to read:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four year probationary appointment of Bryan Palermo to the position of physics teacher, (tenure area: science;

- certification status: Initial), effective August 31, 2017, through August 30, 2021, at the MA, Step Entry annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2017-2018 school year.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Elizabeth Freeman to the position of short-term substitute elementary teacher, effective August 31, 2017, through November 22, 2017, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2017-2018 school year.
 4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Kassie Tillem-Spero to the position of elementary teacher, (tenure area: elementary; certification status: Initial), effective August 31, 2017, through August 30, 2021, at the MA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2017-2018 school year.
 5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Timothy O'Hagan to the position of junior varsity head football coach, effective August 16, 2017, through November 26, 2017 at the stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2017-2018 school year.
 6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Denise Powell to the position of Security Aide, effective August 31, 2017, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2017-2018 school year.
 7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Nicole Winters to the position of teacher aide, (6 hours per day), effective August 31, 2017, at the Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association Agreement for the 2017-2018 school year.
 8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Stephen Raimondi to the position of summer Regents academy instructor, effective August 1, 2017, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for Other Educational Assignments, Appendix B, Step A, for the 2017-2018 school year.
 9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Judith Fahrenkrug to the position of Regents academy proctor, effective August 1, 2017 at the supervision rate established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract, Appendix C for the 2017-2018 school year.
 10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Judith Fahrenkrug to the position of special education summer school teacher aide, effective August 3, 2017, through August 30, 2017, at the Step 14 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2017-2018 school year.

year.

11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Diana Collins as a special education teacher for summer CSE/CPSE meetings, effective July 1, 2017, through August 31, 2017, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2017-2018 school year.
12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the appointment of Michelle Croce as a substitute monitor effective immediately.
13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments upon the terms and conditions established by the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. Samantha Milwich, substitute teacher, effective September 5, 2017
 - b. Donna Skelly, substitute food service worker, effective September 5, 2017
 - c. Valentina Guerrero, substitute food service worker, effective September 5, 2017

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Items 1 through 10 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda .

Ms. Nicoletti stated that Item 11 on the Addendum was added. This Resolution denies an appeal for a disciplinary hearing.

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Neil Schloth, Item 11 on the Addendum was unanimously approved.

1. Approve the employment agreement with Neil Lederer as the interim principal of the East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School, effective August 14, 2017, through June 30, 2018, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education; and further approve the appointment of Neil Lederer to serve as the Dignity Act coordinator, effective August 14, 2017, through June 30, 2018.
2. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that, in accordance with the provisions of New York State Education Law §3012-c and Subpart 30-2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District (“District”) hereby certifies Neil Lederer as qualified lead evaluator.
3. Approve the Professional Development Plan for the period July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.

4. Approve the free and reduced lunch program income eligibility schedule for the 2017-2018 school year.

5. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the following budget of the necessary claims and expenditures in East Rockaway UFSD (#19) in the Town of Hempstead, for the school year 2017-2018, amounting to \$38,274,432.00 be and the same is hereby accepted.

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$29,126,399.00, the amount which must be raised by taxation for East Rockaway UFSD (#19) of the Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, NY, for the year 2017-2018 be levied upon the taxable property of the said school district as said property has been certified by the Assessor for the school year 2017-2018.

RESOLVED, that the District Clerk of this School District is hereby authorized and directed, pursuant to Section 6-20.0 and amendments thereto of the Nassau County Administrative Code, to file a certified copy of these resolutions with the Nassau County Legislature and the Department of Assessment, Mineola, NY, on or before August 15, 2017.

6. Approve the Professional Membership Affiliation Agreement between SCOPE Education Services and East Rockaway Union Free School District and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
7. Approve the Contract for Oasas Youth Drug Abuse Services between the East Rockaway UFSD and the Nassau County Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities Services, for chemical dependency services, for the period January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017, and authorize the President of the East Rockaway Board of Education to execute the Contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
8. Approve the tuition agreement with Rockville Centre UFSD for special education services for one (1) student ID No. 180005900, for the 2017–2018 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
9. Approve the tuition agreement with Manhasset Public Schools for special education services for one (1) parentally placed student ID No. 180006311 for the 2016 – 2017 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
10. Approve the following donations:

- a. A cashier's check in the sum of \$4,079.30 for the East Rockaway Junior Varsity Softball Team
- C. Budget Transfers - None
- D. Approval of CSE Recommendations - None
- E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations - None
- 7. Policy Matters - None
- 8. Good and Welfare
 - a. Condolences to the family of Francesco ("Frank") Riera, Class of 2009, on his sudden passing
 - b. Condolences to the family of Linda Donovan on the passing of her mother, Fran Reisert
 - c. Condolences to the family of Carol Hernandez on the passing of her father, Edward Wilkinson
 - d. Condolences to the family of Andrew Rosenberg on the passing of his grandfather, Lawrence Rosenberg
- 9. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Ruiz was happy to announce that tonight the Board of Education appointed Mr. Neil Lederer as interim principal for the Jr./Sr. High School for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Lederer comes to East Rockaway with a wealth of experience in the field of education having served as a teacher, science chairperson, middle school principal and assistant principal, high school principal and superintendent of schools. Mr. Lederer has a 50-year career in education. Upon his retirement, Mr. Lederer served in these roles in various districts, including Long Beach, Hauppauge, Baypoint/Blueport, and Shoreham Wading River. He will be in the District tomorrow but will officially start on Monday. An opportunity to meet with him will take place with parents and staff. Ms. Ruiz is confident that he will do an excellent job. She invited parents to stop in after August 14th to say hello. Official "meet and greets" are being planned.

After many months of searching, a new security aide has been appointed for the front desk. Ms. Powell is a former corrections officer and has a 21-year career in that field. She also worked in the Syosset School District as a security aide and understands the role that she will play in our building. Ms. Ruiz is hopeful that down the road, security aides will be placed in the elementary buildings.

Staff hiring for the summer has been completed. Many new teachers have been hired as well as new administrators. She welcomes everyone to the District. All the new administrators have hit the ground running. Even though they are on vacation, they are busy working with students and parents and getting ready for the opening of school.

Ms. Ruiz thanked the custodial crew, who is also working hard to get the buildings ready for the start of school.

10. Privilege of the Floor - none

11. Board Member Comments

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache thanked Mr. Spero for his many years of service to the District. Mr. Spero played a significant role in obtaining the “Schools of Opportunity Silver Award” for the East Rockaway UFSD. This distinction was awarded for the many opportunities that are currently provided to our students including, clubs, academics, art, music, etc. He is reminded of a conversation he once had, when someone answered that the most amazing experience for them was a trip to the Hayden Planetarium. Our school is increasing opportunities for students to do, see and be a part of. Mr. Gamache is very appreciative of Mr. Spero’s efforts on behalf of increased opportunities for students. Mr. Gamache also welcomed Mr. Lederer to the District.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth reported that last week he met with Congresswoman Kathleen Rice and others regarding the fiscal needs of the District. Ms. Rice told him that she is going to try to help the District with more aide. He is very happy to establish and develop this relationship with the Congresswoman, who also indicated that she would like to visit our schools. He is working on making those arrangements.

Mr. Schloth wished Mr. Spero good luck in moving forward. He was very grateful for his help during Superstorm Sandy; and at other hard times. He is confident that Mr. Spero appreciates a job closer to his home. Mr. Schloth is looking forward to working with Mr. Lederer, who has vast experience. He believes Mr. Lederer is a good fit for the District and will help the District continue to move forward. He thanked Ms. Ruiz and Ms. Scio for bringing Mr. Lederer to the District. He thanked Jimmy Lores for coming to the meeting tonight and for the fundraising check from the J.V. Softball team. Mr. Lores is one of the “unsung heroes” who does so much for the District and doesn’t get the credit deserved, including fundraising and safely driving our students. He wished everyone a good night.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti shared the sentiments of both board members. She thanked Mr. Schloth for taking the time to meet with Congresswoman Rice and advocating for our students and District, which he consistently does. She welcomed Mr. Lederer to the District and asked the community to welcome him as well. She is confident he will be a good fit as an interim principal for our District. Although she has been relaxing and enjoying her vacation, she is aware that the administration is working very hard to get our students ready for September. She wished everyone a happy and healthy rest of summer and looks forward to seeing everyone in September.

12. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Keith Gamache, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi

District Clerk