

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., September 27, 2018, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School
Preceded by the Introduction of New Staff, Strategic Plan Update and District Data,
Recognition of Retiree Miguel A. Soto, 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. The meeting was called to order by Keith Gamache at 7:04 p.m. Neil Schloth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Gamache welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. He then turned the meeting over to the Superintendent to begin the presentations.

Ms. Ruiz began with the recognition of retiree Miguel Soto. Mr. Soto has had a long standing 40-year career in the District as a custodian, with most of his time spent at Centre Avenue School. Ms. Ruiz thanked him for his many years of service in the District, wished him well on his retirement, and presented him with a recognition award.

Ms. Ruiz then spoke briefly about our new employees and current employee, Russell Pajer, who assumed the role of Dean of Students. She then introduced the new staff members: Bradley Krauz, Assistant Principal, Joianne Cimler-Pietroforte, substitute English teacher, Kimberly D'Agostino, Special Education leave replacement at Rhame Avenue School; Tiffany DiNome, new foreign language teacher; William Gibbons, Chairperson for English and Social Studies and Social Studies teacher; Emily Judge, Special Education math teacher; Kristina Ranieri, fifth grade teacher at Centre Avenue School; Donna Robbins, Guidance Counselor (formerly a teaching assistant in the Guidance Department), Jessica Salaway, elementary music teacher, Elizabeth Stack, substitute English teacher, Luke Tesoriero, Social Studies teacher, and Crystal Valentin, library media specialist.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed all of our new teachers. She is thrilled to have them on board and assured them that there are many people in the community who will reach out to them to make sure they are successful. She wished them a long and prosperous career in the District.

As done in the past, an update of the Strategic Plan was presented by Ms. Ruiz. This thorough and comprehensive presentation covered the third year of the plan as well as what we can expect in year four. She thanked all the administrators, teachers, and support staff

for their hard work in bringing this plan to life. A PowerPoint was shown showcasing the achievements and accomplishments of the past year. Ms. Ruiz stated that the presentation will be posted on the website. She thanked everyone for their attention and time in allowing her to go over details of the plan. Ms. Ruiz asked if anyone had any questions and then turned the meeting over to Mr. Gamache at 8:10 p.m.

Mr. Gamache announced that there will be a short five minute break before beginning the public portion of the meeting. At 8:20 pm the meeting continued. Mr. Gamache pointed out the two emergency exits in the rear of the auditorium as well as the two exits on the side in the event of an emergency.

2. Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, and seconded by Patti Nicoletti, and unanimously approved, the following minutes were approved:
 - a. August 28, 2018, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – June 2018
4. Correspondence - Five
5. Hearing of visitors on items in the Agenda - None
6. Action Agenda

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Items 1 through 11 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

A. Personnel

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Kathleen Keating, senior typist clerk, effective December 28, 2018.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Marilyn Brekke, principal typist clerk, effective December 28, 2018.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Stephanie Lande, substitute teacher, effective August 27, 2018
 - b. Kathleen Owens, substitute teacher, effective August 27, 2018
 - c. Alex Goldberg, Director of Technology & Learning Analytics, effective September 28, 2018
 - d. Thomas DeCrescenzo, cleaner, effective September 7, 2018
 - e. Ann Kerner, substitute teacher, effective August 30, 2018
 - f. Venesia Heyward, substitute teacher, effective August 30, 2018

- g. Robert Brockett, cleaner, effective September 27, 2018
 - h. Marilyn Jackle, substitute teacher, effective August 29, 2018
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2018 fall coaching appointments more fully set forth on the Revised 2018-2019 Fall Coaching Schedule at the stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2018-2019 school year.
 5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Elizabeth Stack to the position of short-term substitute teacher, effective September 4, 2018, through January 29, 2019, at the per diem salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.
 6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Joianne Cimler-Pietroforte to the position of short-term substitute teacher, effective September 20, 2018, through January 25, 2019, at the per diem salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.
 7. Approve the club advisor assignments for the 2018-2019 school year as more fully set forth on the schedule of club/advisor assignments at the stipend salaries established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
 8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Randi Kilcommons to the position of home tutor, effective September 24, 2018, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract at Appendix B, Other Educational Assignments, A. Home Instruction, for the 2018-2019 school year.
 9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Robert Brockett, to the position of Custodian, effective September 28, 2018, at the prorated Step 7 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Custodial Unit agreement for the 2018-2019 school year.
 10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change in the appointment of Ellen Blumlein to the position of Senior Account 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 September 28, 2018.
 11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Brian Barcheski to the position of Security Aide, effective upon Civil Service approval, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual

Salary Schedule.

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by Patti Nicoletti, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, the following Items 1 through 12 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

1. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD, approves the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement with the East Rockaway School Nurses Association, for the period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2022.

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

2. Approve the purchase of the following textbook:

Weiten, Wayne, Kirk, Psychology: Themes & Variations 10th Edition, Cengage Learning 2017

3. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between East Rockaway UFSD and Nancy Kaplan, who will provide training for the coaching staff regarding developing student leaders, on September 20, 2018, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

4. Grant permission for Tariq Chavis to graduate at the end of the 2018-2019 Fall semester in accordance with Policy 4770.

5. Approve the tuition agreement with Great Neck UFSD, for special education services for two (2) students, Student I.D. No. 180006249 and Student I.D. No 180006311 for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

6. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and The Rebecca Center for Music Therapy at Molloy College for music therapy services for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

7. Approve the Enterprise Program Services Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Lynbrook UFSD for Enterprise Program services for the 2018-2019 school year, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

8. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and M. Infantino and Associates, for professional development services for the 2018-2019 school year, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
 9. Authorize Debra Muller, District Treasurer, to be the back-up signatory to sign checks for the extra classroom activities fund in the absence of Laura Risorto, Extra Classroom Activities Central Treasurer.
 10. Authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to extend transportation contracts for the 2018-2019 school year at the Consumer Price Index with the following:
 - a. Acme Bus Corp,
 - b. Bauman Bus Company
 - c. First Student, Inc.
 - d. Independent Coach Corp.
 - e. Suburban Bus Transportation
 - f. Veterans Transportation Company
 - g. WE Transport, Inc.
 11. Approve the awards of the bids for transportation services to the following companies and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. First Student, Inc.
 - i. Barry Tech
 - ii. Nassau Community College / BOCES Career Prep
 - b. Independent Coach Corp.
 - i. Valley Stream Christian Academy
 12. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the following items:
 - a. For disposal, the item listed on the Change of Disposition form dated August 27, 2018
 - b. For disposal, the item listed on the Change of Disposition form dated September 5, 2018
 - c. For disposal/donation, the items listed on the Textbook Removal Form dated September 27, 2018
- C. Budget Transfers - None
- D. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.
- E. Upon motion made by Patti Nicoletti, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

7. Policy Matters

Ms. Ochtera provided an update on the Policy Committee. The policies for adoption tonight are listed below which are continuations of policies already in place with slight modifications and updated language. There are many policies coming up for review. The Committee has started to outline what they are going to work on for the rest of the year.

Mr. Gamache asked for a vote of adoption. The policies were approved for adoption by a unanimous vote.

1. For Adoption
 - a. 4321.4, Independent Educational Evaluations
 - b. 4532, School Volunteers
 - c. 5152, Admission of Non-Resident Students

2. For Review:
 - a. 4321.13, Preschool Special Education
 - b. 4325, Academic Intervention Services
 - c. 4326, Programs for English Language Learners (and related exhibits)
 - d. 4600, Guidance Program
 - e. 5100, Attendance
 - f. 5205, Eligibility for Extra Curricular Activities
 - g. 5300.30, Prohibited Student Conduct
 - h. 5300.40, Disciplinary Penalties, Procedures and Referrals
 - i. 5300.60, Student Searches and Interrogations
 - j. 5500, R, E-1, E-2, Student Records
 - k. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams
 - l. 8410, Student Transportation
 - m. 8413, Transportation for Nonpublic School Students

8. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to Joyce Kenny and family on the passing of her father, Patrick G. Kenny
- b. Condolences to TJ Terranova and family on the passing of her brother, Thomas Terranova
- c. Condolences to Kerry Koehler and family on the passing of her mother, Mary Ann Koehler
- d. Condolences to Brian Crowley and family on the passing of his father, Philip M. Crowley

9. Superintendent's Report – The Superintendent referred the audience to the school's website for tonight's presentation on the Strategic Plan.
10. Public Comment – Mr. Gamache stated that next on our agenda is the public comment period and gave the following directions: 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

Christine DelValle, 71 Wilson Street, East Rockaway: Ms. DelValle stated that during the Strategic Plan presentation, data was available for physics, but not chemistry. She questioned if there was any data regarding chemistry. Ms. DelValle also asked about the process of how policies are up for review and then get approved.

Ms. Ruiz responded that the chemistry data has not been as strong and continues to be an area of focus for the High School. Policies for review are always listed on the website and when revised by the Board will be approved at the next meeting.

Ozzie Lonergan, 60 Garfield Place, East Rockaway: Ms. Lonergan had questions regarding the new "welcoming person." Mr. Gamache responded that the position was approved by the Board and the District has moved forward with the hiring process. He stated that any further questions should be directed to Ms. Ruiz.

Ms. Lonergan asked about the CTE program, and when will more information be released regarding the bond. Mr. Gamache replied that he would address her concerns in his report during board member comments.

11. Board Member Comments

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He thanked Ms. Ruiz for the Strategic Plan presentation which he found very enlightening.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth congratulated the new teachers and wished them well and hopes that they will assist our students in getting to their best level. He thanked the Superintendent and teachers for moving forward with the Strategic Plan. Much hard work went into implementing the plan and he is happy to see the progress that has been made.

When Mr. Schloth went to both elementary schools to deliver flyers for "Fire Prevention Week," he was relieved and happy to see the security enhancements that have been put in place. The security personnel gave him a sense of well-being and a better piece of mind knowing that our children are protected.

This coming Sunday is Fire Prevention Day at Grant Avenue Firehouse. It is a great day for families and children to learn new things and participate in various demonstrations. He welcomed all families to join him.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti congratulated retiree Miguel Soto, as well as Kathy Keating and Marilyn Brekke, whose retirements were announced this evening. She thanked them for their many years of dedicated service to the District. She also congratulated the new staff members and current staff members who have taken on new positions. Ms. Nicoletti recently participated in the Policy Sub-Committee with Ms. Ochtera. She thanked Ms. Ochtera for her work on this Committee and for the efficient system she created to review the policies. Ms. Ruiz's presentation this evening was very comprehensive and lengthy for a good reason. Ms. Ruiz touched on many of the successes of the District. Even though Ms. Ruiz did discuss test scores, success can be measured without test scores which we saw tonight. It is very important to see that the District is taking data on all students; in particular, student engagement in extra-curricular activities. She hopes to see everyone back at next month's meeting.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera spoke about her recent meeting at Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association (NSSBA) and how resolutions are being prepared to take to the New York State School Boards Association's conference advocating for public education. Delegates from individual districts are sent to weigh in on policies.

Ms. Ochtera congratulated the new hires. She stated that she will miss Mr. Soto and wished him a happy retirement and is looking forward to a great year.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache stated that there will be a new part to the regular board meeting which is the President's report. He will discuss in further detail the important updates that were discussed at the September 5, 2018, work session.

Facilities Committee/Bond update: On September 5, 2018, we held a special work session to discuss the work of the Facilities Committee and a possible bond. Putting together a bond is always a major undertaking for the Board and administration, as well as an important decision to be voted on by the community. Districts usually try to coordinate new debt with retiring debt when timing such a major undertaking. Our bond consideration has been made slightly more complicated as we have also been trying to coordinate with GOSR's Living with the Bay Project. Meetings have been held with the GOSR team since 2016. Earlier that day, in another meeting with GOSR, we received information having a direct impact on our timing and plans. Disappointingly, over the last two years the overall cost and scope of the project involving us has decreased. Despite these frustrations, at this time, we believe it is still the most fiscally responsible course of action to take by sticking with the project. We will know more when the project moves into the 90% design phase, which should be in March. As a result, we will be delaying the vote from December to an anticipated vote in the Fall of

2019. We intend to use the extra time to reconvene the Facilities Committee, conduct building tours for the community, and hold additional work sessions as well as a community forum dedicated to the project. The driving force behind the projects throughout the District has been to address various health and safety concerns impacting the teaching and learning environment in our district. Check out the website and listen for future announcements regarding this important topic. All information to date, regarding the Facilities Committee and bond, which includes costs of the projects being considered, is available on the District's website.

Security at Night Events: Security continues to be a top priority for the Board. We have made significant strides the past few years making improvements to our infrastructure, such as camera upgrades, the night hawk at the high school and Centre Avenue, as well as panic buttons and strobe lights, to name a few. We now have security aides placed at all buildings during instructional hours and beyond. We will also be adding additional security for certain night events. We will continue to monitor this financially and make budget adjustments as needed. Unfortunately, some inconvenience comes with enhanced security measures and we have to alter some of our behaviors. We will be limiting entrance and exit locations and request your patience and cooperation as we work through these changes in an effort to minimize disruption while ensuring a safe environment. We are exercising our right to terminate the contract with Summit Security, who provides exterior security of our buildings during the day, effective October 18, 2018, because they have not provided retired law enforcement as agreed upon. We will be contracting with a different firm as of October 19, 2018. Many thanks to our building level administrators, Mr. Daly, and Mrs. Serio for monitoring these services and taking appropriate steps to ensure our schools' safety.

Communications Committee: The application deadline for the committee has passed. Thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest. We plan to review the list, set meeting dates, times, norms, and structure of the committee meetings at our October 9, 2018, work session. Invitations to selected members constituting a representational sample from the community will be sent out by October 15, 2018, with the first scheduled meeting anticipated in November.

Board of Education Retreat: The Board discussed holding a board retreat to review the strategic plan, our vision/mission statement, develop core values, and begin a board self-evaluation process. This will take place on a Saturday and will be scheduled when we can coordinate our schedules.

Music Department Trip: Discussion involving a proposed music department trip will continue. While the Board supports the merits of the trip regarding its capacity to increase opportunities and provide rich and valuable life and learning experiences outside our classrooms for our students, we remain concerned about the time missed from classes in such close proximity to a major school vacation followed shortly thereafter by exams, along with the general overall costs and the distance. While

there is a certain amount of inherent risk associated with travel both near and far, this continues to be an area of concern for us as we evaluate field trips and hope that an alternative time and location can be arranged allowing for a comparable experience for our music students.

CTE Program: Opportunity is one of my proudest achievements of this Board. It was our vision to ask for it, but was the administration's task to make it work in a financially responsible way. The fact that we expanded the numbers and have been able to sustain those numbers within the tax cap, while also expanding many other opportunities, is a testament to Ms. Ruiz's and Mrs. Scio's leadership and planning.

12. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm, and the Board reconvened into Executive Session to discuss the Director of Technology & Learning Analytics' position.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk