

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., October 22, 2019, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School
Preceded by a Salute to the Board of Education, Recognition of Tenure Candidate,
Life is Too Short to Speed Through Video,
Report on the District's Five-Year Strategic Plan, and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Keith Gamache, Dominick Vulpis, Neil Schloth, Kristen O'Hagan, Peter McNally, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mona Hecht; District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

1. The meeting was called to order by Keith Gamache at 7:02 p.m. in the auditorium of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School. Mr. Gamache thanked the athletes and cheerleaders for the introduction and greeting. He reminded the audience that the agenda and minutes are available.
2. Peter McNally introduced East Rockaway senior high school student, Nicholas Rivera, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Students Justin Morris, Mairead Connor, and Ashley Proto followed with the singing of the national anthem.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to the meeting. October is Board of Education appreciation month. This year the event is hosted by the East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School staff. There are many festivities planned for this evening in honor of our Board of Education. Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Richard Schaffer who will continue with the festivities.

Mr. Schaffer introduced the East Rockaway cheerleaders who performed a thank you cheer for the board of education. Mr. Barth then addressed the audience and thanked the cheerleaders for their performance. He also thanked the Board of Education for all they do for our students. Mr. Barth introduced Class of 2020 student, Kaitlyn Reddy, who read a letter of appreciation to the Board of Education. The cheerleaders then presented the entire Board of Education with wood plaques made by the art students. Individual board members were also given sports jerseys with their names. A video was shown which included students and staff members thanking the board. Students and staff were involved in various tasks which was made possible through the support of the Board of Education.

Ms. TJ Terranova then introduced Matthew Machovec who also read a letter of appreciation to the Board of Education. His letter highlighted the goals accomplished as a result of the implementation of the District's Five-Year Strategic Plan. Mr. Schaffer returned to the podium to thank all the athletes, cheerleaders, teachers, as well as Ms. Terranova and Mr.

Barth who assisted in putting tonight's festivities together. He also thanked the Board of Education for their support and hard work. Ms. Ruiz thanked the entire administrative team, students, Mr. Barth and Mr. Schaffer for a wonderful presentation.

Ms. Ruiz continued with the second presentation which was her recommendation to the Board of Education to grant tenure to Rhame Avenue School fourth grade teacher, Sarah Kane. Ms. Ruiz introduced Dr. Ayesha McArthur who spoke on Ms. Kane's behalf and recommended her tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

At 7:25 pm Mr. Gamache announced a short recess and invited everyone to the lobby for refreshments. At 7:42 pm the Board returned to the table. Mr. Gamache introduced Vice-President Dominick Vulpis. Mr. Vulpis spoke about a meeting he attended at East Rockaway Village Hall regarding a traffic safety campaign. He then shared a short video produced by the Town of Hempstead in partnership with the Village of East Rockaway, promoting safe driving. Mr. Vulpis also thanked the administrators and teaching staff for continuing to push the idea of safe driving in our schools.

Ms. Ruiz thanked the Village and Town of Hempstead for creating the video. She encouraged parents to speak to their kids about obeying all traffic and safety rules, especially when it comes to railroad crossings.

Ms. Ruiz then presented her report on the District's Five-Year Strategic Plan. She stated that this report is usually given in September but was delayed until October this year due to the bond forum taking place last month. She thanked the Board of Education for their continued support of the plan and the budget. She also thanked the administrative team for providing leadership during the years and to the teachers who are in the classroom everyday implementing the changes. A PowerPoint was shown outlining the goals of the plan which will also be posted on the website. Ms. Ruiz asked if there were any questions. Mr. Gamache thanked the Superintendent for a thorough presentation.

At 8:45 pm the presentations concluded. The Board 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, seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and unanimously passed, the following minutes were approved:

A. September 17, 2019, Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

- A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: August 2019
- B. Correspondence – Five (5)

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Upon motion made by Kristen O’Hagan, seconded by Peter McNally, and unanimously passed, the following Items A through J were approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 1. Lucia Cruz-Castro, monitor, effective October 4, 2019
 2. Kristen Martin, substitute nurse, effective November 18, 2019
 3. Andrew Rosenberg, Director of Guidance, effective November 22, 2019

- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff member on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Sarah Kane	Elementary Teacher	October 21, 2019

- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Tracy Gatto to the position of Summer Curriculum writing, effective August 14, 2019 at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract, Appendix B, D. Summer curriculum Work.

- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Cindy Dower for a leave of absence for personal medical reasons from her teaching assistant position, effective October 1, 2019, through December 17, 2019, inclusive of special sick leave compensation for four years of service from November 18 through December 17, 2019.

- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Joseph Lores to the position of short-term substitute teacher, effective October 10, 2019, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for 2019-2020 school year.

- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Joseph Lores to the position of Athletic Record Keeper, effective October 23, 2019, at the stipend salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for 2019-2020 school year.

- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised club advisor assignments for the 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 school year and authorize the President

of the Board of Education to execute the charters.

- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the winter sports coaching schedule dated October 22, 2019.
- I. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revision to the appointment of Lisa Zeilberger to the position of teacher aide, effective September 18, 2019, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association agreement for the 2019-2020 school year.
- J. 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. Ann Kerner, substitute teacher, effective October 23, 2019
 - 2. Elizabeth Rubin, substitute teacher, effective October 23, 2019
 - 3. Joseph Lores, substitute teacher, effective October 23, 2019
 - 4. Christine Ostendorf, substitute teacher aide, effective upon Civil Service approval
 - 5. Melissa Sheremeta, substitute teacher aide, effective upon Civil Service approval

7. Other Items

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Neil Schloth, and unanimously passed, the following Items A through R were approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Schedule dated October 22, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year.

- B. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the financial audit and corrective action plan prepared by Nawrocki Smith, LLP, for the year ended June 30, 2019.

- C. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD authorizes and appoints the following individuals to serve in the capacity of election/poll workers in connection with the November 14, 2019, Bond Vote at the salary set forth on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2019-2020 school year:

- 1. Carl Atteniese
- 2. Richard Erben
- 3. Deirdre Boller
- 4. Barbara Bastin

5. Apolonia Carasco

D. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT, the Special District Meeting called to authorize the expenditure of monies for school purposes and the levy of a tax therefor, to be held on Thursday, November 14, 2019, from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., will take place in the gymnasium of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School, 443 Ocean Avenue, East Rockaway, New York.

E. Adopt the East Rockaway UFSD Comprehensive District-Wide School Safety Plan for the 2019-2020 school year.

F. Approve the Enterprise Program Services Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Lynbrook UFSD for Enterprise Program services 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.

G. Approve the members of the Professional Development Team pursuant to policy 9700, Staff Development:

Mona Hecht, Chairperson Lee Araoz Melinda Best Caitlin Castellano Toni Ann Donald William Gibbons	Vincent Healy Bradley Krauz Ayesha McArthur Pam Murano Petra Schoen
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H. Approve the tuition agreement with John A. Coleman School for special education services for one (1) student, Student ID No. 180008151, for the 2019-2020 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.

I. 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 2019-2020 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.

J. Accept the IDEA – Part B, Section 611 Federal Funding Grant Award for the funding dates of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 with an approved budget total of \$309,457.

K. Accept the IDEA – Part B, Section 619 Federal Funding Grant Award for the funding

dates of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 with an approved budget total of \$11,877.

- L. Approve the Music Department trip to Hershey Park, Pennsylvania, leaving on April 24, 2020, and returning on April 26, 2020.
 - M. Accept the following donations:
 - 1. From Club Rock, \$1,500 for the girls' and boys' basketball programs
 - 2. From COSTCO Wholesale Club, a \$75 gift card for the Skills and Achievement Program (Café 217)
 - 3. From the Centre Avenue PTA, a check in the sum of \$594 for student field trips
 - N. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the following items:
 - 1. For disposal, the textbooks listed on the Textbook Removal Forms dated October 11, 2019
 - 2. For disposal, the items listed on the Change of Disposition form dated October 16, 2019
 - O. Approve the side letter agreement dated October 10, 2019, with the ERTA establishing the Video Club as a Group IV club on Schedule C of the ERTA 2017-2021 agreement and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the side letter on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
 - P. Approve the employment agreement with Thomas Ganes as the Interim Guidance Director, effective October 2, 2019, through January 24, 2020, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
 - Q. Approve the Professional Development Consultant Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Dorothy Ahl dated September 17, 2019, for professional development services for the 2019-2020 school year, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
 - R. Approve the formation of the Board of Education Policy Subcommittee for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize Board Trustees, Kristen O'Hagan and Peter McNally to serve as chairpersons.
8. Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, the CSE and CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.
9. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Peter McNally, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:
 - 1. Transaction No. 20-0001
 - 2. Transaction No. 20-0002
 - 3. Transaction No. 20-0003
 - 4. Transaction No. 20-0004

10. Policy Matters

Mr. Gamache asked for a vote of adoption for the policies listed in Item A below. By a unanimous vote the policies in Item A (1 and 2) were approved for adoption.

- A. For Adoption
 - 1. 5152, Admission of Non-Resident Students
 - 2. 6700, Purchasing
- B. For Review
 - 1. 4531, Field Trip and Excursions
 - 2. 4710, Grading
 - 3. 4750, Promotion and Retention of Students
 - 4. 5300, Code of Conduct
 - 5. 5605, Voter Registration for Students
 - 6. 6240, Investments
 - 7. 9620, Child Abuse in an Education Setting

11. Reports

A. Board President's Report

Bond update: The campaign promoting the bond has begun. Banners have been placed at prominent locations at our three schools. Soon a video will be placed on the district website. I'd also like to thank the Village for placing a notice on the electronic message screen at the library. We hope that you will come out to vote on Thursday, November 14th because it is "Our kids, your choice, their future!"

Cyber Security: Mr. Araoz provided an in-depth report on the digital security measures in place as well as those being explored for possible future implementation. As with most things, enhanced security measures come with a cost, so we aren't rushing into any. We are confident with our current systems in place and will continue to educate staff on the best digital practices to reduce vulnerability and risk.

Northwell Health: Since September we've been exploring a possible partnership with

neighboring school districts and Northwell Health to open a mental health clinic in order to help better address emergency, mental health crisis in our schools. This type of model is brand new, and while exciting in the health care opportunity it would provide, the initial costs and details gave us significant pause. We are now at a stage where the cost has decreased from \$90,000 to \$55,000. The hours have also been expanded and we will have representation on an advisory board. Once the contract is reviewed and cleared by our attorney, we anticipate entering into the agreement. We consider this a smart investment in the well-being of our children and our schools. As with all new programs, it will be carefully monitored and reviewed for effectiveness.

External Audit: We had an excellent meeting with our external auditing firm allowing us to once again file these important year-end financials on time with the state. They reported that our district is in excellent financial standing with sound business practices in place and praised the work of the entire business office under the leadership of Mrs. Scio.

Communications Committee: Having acted on all of the major recommendations of last year's Communications Committee, the work of the committee will continue for a second year with representatives from the PTA's along with new interested members. If you've already expressed interest, you will be contacted soon. A tentative first date is December 3rd and is subject to change.

Policy Committee: Regularly updating policy is a core responsibility of the Board. Reviewing and updating policy has been challenging to do as an entire board during our already quite full work session agendas. Mr. McNally and Mrs. O'Hagan will be our new Policy Sub Committee working with Mrs. Ruiz to review policies and recommend changes to the Board. I want to extend a special thank you Mr. McNally and Mrs. O'Hagan for taking on this important responsibility.

B. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent did not read her report but stated that it will be posted on the website for the community to read.

Achievement

Centre and Rhame kicked off professional learning for all teachers in Writing Workshop. The new focus on conferring will help teachers to support student learning beyond writing, as structured conferring will also support learning in math and reading.

High school AP teachers have created rosters on "AP Classroom", a new service from the College Board which will allow students to better prepare for the AP test by exposing teachers and students to previously unreleased questions and essay topics.

Eighth and ninth grade students that were given Honors by Achievement designations last year were honored at the October High School PTA meeting. Students receive the designation in classes in which they earn an 85 or better for the school year.

All students in 7th grade Spanish and 8th grade Home and Careers are working diligently to develop research skills through participation in the Research Continuum. Seventh graders are completing projects on a cultural component of a Spanish speaking country and students in 8th grade Home and Careers are conducting a career exploration.

On Sunday, October 27, 2019, Spencer Senzon, Mairead Connor, Ashley Proto, Angela Polizzi, and Samantha Marx will be performing with the eVoco mixed ensemble at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City. eVoco is a choir made up of professional musicians and music educators. Mrs. Silver is a member of eVoco and will be singing alongside her students.

Innovation

Sixth grade teachers received training on the new Techbook in math and science. This initiative helps to provide consistency with instruction across grades 6-12. Teachers started the year using the new online resource to support math and science instruction.

On October 8th, 10th, and 11th science, social studies and math teachers received a full day of training in the new Discovery Education TechBook. This is the first of two full day trainings to advance teachers' awareness of how to best integrate this new digital resource into their classroom practice.

Opportunity

Centre and Rhame Avenue schools will celebrate Red Ribbon Week beginning Monday, October 21, 2019. We will celebrate a theme for each day that focuses on helping students to make healthy choices and being united as a school community.

On October 16, 2019, all 10th and 11th grade students were able to take the PSAT exam. For 11th grade students, this gives them the potential to earn National Merit Recognition. Also, on that day, all 7th and 8th grade students went on a field trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Ninth and 12th grade students engaged in activities aligned to National Bully Prevention Month. They watched the documentary *Bully* and participated in debrief sessions with our support staff.

Cafe 217 is open for the new school year! Our skills and achievement students open their classroom to high school staff on Fridays and serve coffee, hot chocolate, tea and an assortment of baked goods. It is a great real-world experience for our students and great way for our staff to end their week!

On October 17, 2019, the annual *Broadway By the Bay* talent show took place. There were 18 student acts, including a finale by the High School Senior Chorus. The event was well attended with donations for the night going to the Music Department Scholarship Fund.

On October 17, 2019, the AP Art Students attended "Portfolio Night" at the Heckscher Museum of Art in Huntington. While at the event, the students got to show and discuss their artwork with representatives from many different colleges. This event affords the students an experience in presenting and explaining their work while providing insight to potential schools of choice after they graduate high school.

Students in AP Environmental and Marine Biology conducted experiments at the Oceanside Marine Study Area on October 2, 2019. Students worked directly with Michael Farina, a conservation biologist, to draw conclusions based on their observations and experiments in a salt marsh ecosystem. Experiments included data collection of water quality and marine and plant species diversity sampling.

Connection

Rhame Avenue's PTA donated pumpkins for all students' pumpkin patch and will be hosting their annual Halloween Fest on October 25, 2019. Centre Avenue's PTA donated pumpkins for kindergarten and first grade students' pumpkin patch. Students used the pumpkins as a learning tool for math and science activities.

On October 8th, 2019, 12th grade students in economics took a field trip to the New York Stock Exchange and the 9/11 Memorial. Students experienced the typical work commute on the railroad, were present for the opening bell and toured the stock exchange floor.

In coordination with National Bullying Prevention Month, all middle school English classes had push-ins with the buildings social workers to discuss the Dignity for All Students Act.

Students in advisory have worked to develop group unity by creating an advisory identity. In October, students are exploring bullying prevention opportunities in honor of Bully Prevention Month and to further improve building culture.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to the Brockett family on the arrival of grandson, Ronan Thomas O'Brien on September 16, 2019
- B. Condolences to Doreen Johnson and family on the passing of her mother, Pauline Anderson, on September 22, 2019

- C. Condolences to Cathy Corapi and family on the passing of her son, Matthew on September 20, 2019
- D. Condolences to Susan Glickman and family on the passing of her father, Honorable Jules Spodek, on October 11, 2019

13. Public Comments – None

14. Board Member Comments

Peter McNally: Mr. McNally was lucky enough to attend *Broadway By the Bay* this past week. He was very impressed with the students' performance and enjoyed the evening. He attended the annual Walk-Along for Lupus at Eisenhower Park on October 20, 2019. He was moved to see Mrs. Kenny at the walk with 34 students from the district. It meant a lot to him to see so many kids participating in the walk.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth thanked the athletes and cheerleaders who honored the Board this evening. He also thanked the high school administrative team and teachers for their hard work in putting tonight's festivities together. Mr. Schloth was very thankful to receive the gifts from the art students and the sports jersey. He stated that he was recently made aware that his place of voting was changed by the Nassau County Board of Elections from a firehouse to Centre Avenue School. His feeling, as is shared by the Board and administration, is that voting should not take place in a school building. Staff is not permitted to screen voters which makes it difficult to control who enters the building. Mr. Schloth stated if anyone felt the same way, they should write and/or call the Board of Elections to seek out other buildings for elections, such as fire departments, etc. He had an opportunity to speak to County Executive Laura Curran who agreed with him whole-heartedly about keeping voting out of school buildings. Mr. Schloth thanked everyone for staying late.

Kristen O'Hagan: Ms. O'Hagan thanked all the students who participated in the PSA video *Life is Too Short to Speed Through*. The video, which was produced by the Town of Hempstead in partnership with the Village of East Rockaway, promotes a traffic safety campaign and she is excited to share the video with the community. Mrs. O'Hagan enjoyed the heart-warming recognition the Board received this evening from the athletes, cheerleaders and students. It is performances like this, and letters of commendation received by the District from other schools and communities about our students, that reinforces that everyone is doing their part. Our young students are fine examples of who we are. They are being raised to be kind and caring individuals. She appreciates that parents and teachers are playing a vital role in our children's lives. Mrs. O'Hagan thanked everyone for staying late.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis agreed with the comments of his fellow board members. He remarked on the beauty of Friday night's football game. He is hopeful once the bond passes

the community can continue to watch evening games with permanent lights on the field. It is such a heart-warming community feeling to watch the students play. He thanked Mr. Barth for supporting these endeavors.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache thanked Ms. Ruiz for the update on the five-year strategic plan. He thanked the entire staff responsible for accomplishing these tasks and reaching these goals on a daily basis. His favorite part is the area of opportunity. He is very impressed to see over the years the increased opportunities that have been made available to students. Tonight's recognition was awesome and exciting. The cheerleaders did an excellent job and he would say "a job well done" on all of this evening's presentations. He thanked everyone for coming out.

15. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk