

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., December 14, 2021, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School Auditorium
Preceded by Recognition of AP Scholars, Technology Update presentation,
and a Public Forum
MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND LIVESTREAMED

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members of the Board of Education: Kristen O'Hagan, Peter McNally, Dominick Vulpis, Daniel DeMatteo, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, James DeTommaso, District Clerk, Nereyda Amaya Moran.

Absent: Joseph Kilgus.

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristen O'Hagan at 7:01 p.m.
2. Mr. Vulpis introduced Rhame Avenue student Grace Palombo who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kristen O'Hagan introduced Mrs. Ruiz who introduced the high school principal, Mr. Schaffer recognized AP Scholars. Superintendent Ruiz then introduced Technology Director, Mr. Ryan Frisk who presented the technology update presentation.

The presentations concluded at 7:33 p.m., and the public portion of the agenda began.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

If you are viewing the livestream of tonight's meeting and you have questions regarding items on the agenda or other school related items, you can email them to boardofeducation@ersd.org This email will be monitored throughout the evening. Please be sure to include your full name and address. I also want to remind you that most concerns are appropriately addressed with your child's teacher and/or building principal. Other general district questions should be directed to Mrs. Ruiz, our Superintendent. Matters involving Curriculum and Instruction should be addressed to Mr. DeTommaso, and matters involving budget and facilities should be directed to Ms. Scio. If you need technological assistance or have issues with a device, please reach out to Mr. Fisk. Anyone who is attending in person, if you would like to make any comments, please complete a comment card. There were no public comments on the agenda items.

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Upon motion made by Mr. McNally, seconded by Mr. Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following minutes were approved:

A. November 16, 2021, Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

A. The Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: The Board acknowledge receipt of the October 2021 monthly financial reports.

B. Correspondence:

1. We received a letter from a search firm, Greenwood Asher, located in Florida to see if we would be interested in their services for the Superintendent Search.

2. We received a couple of holiday cards.

3. We received numerous letters from parents who participated in a shoe drop at both elementary schools taking a stand against mandating the COVID vaccine. Please know that we as a board heard you. We encourage the community to voice their opinions directly to local elected officials and the Governor, prior to the decision being made, so the Governor can fully understand the will of the people she governs.

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-K below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items A- K below.

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

A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignations of the following:

1. Jacqueline Ludwig, substitute teacher aide, effective December 14, 2021
2. Megan Donelan, teacher aide, effective December 10, 2021
3. Matthew Lederer, teacher aide, effective December 23, 2021
4. Elizabeth Freeman, permanent substitute teacher, effective December 1, 2021

5. Diana Servider, substitute monitor, effective December 6, 2021
 6. Molly Butler, permanent substitute teacher, effective December 13, 2021
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- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the previously approved 12-week FMLA leave of absence of Kelly Cabasso to be effective December 3, 2021, through March 14, 2022.
 - C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Amie Laino to the position of short-term substitute art teacher effective December 2, 2021, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jacqueline Ludwig to the position of teacher aide, effective December 15, 2021, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association agreement for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Madison Rudnitsky to the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective December 15, 2021, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a continuation of the leave replacement school psychologist position of Danielle Lundgren, effective January 31, 2022, through June 30, 2022, at the prorated Doctorate, Step 2, annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a continuation of the leave replacement special education teacher position of Stephen Smaldone, effective January 31, 2022, through June 30, 2022, at the prorated BA, Step 1, annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a continuation of the leave replacement school counselor position of Rebecca Mantle, effective January 31, 2022, through June 30, 2022, at the prorated MA, Step 1, plus stipend annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - I. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised winter sports coaching schedule dated December 14, 2021.
 - J. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised ERHS club advisor assignments for the 2021-2022 school year at the stipend salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school

year.

K. 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. Elizabeth Freeman, per diem substitute teacher, effective December 2, 2021
2. Alycia Fahrenkrug, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective December 6, 2021

7. Other Items

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-D below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items A-D below.

Upon motion made by Mr. McNally, seconded by Mr. Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items A-D were approved on a consent agenda.

A. Approve the revised 2021-2022 Non-Contractual Salary Schedule, effective January 3, 2022.

B. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 1174-a of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (the "State Law") and Nassau County Local Law No. 293 of 2019 (the "Local Law"), the County has established a demonstration program entitled the "School Bus Photo Violation Monitoring Program" (the "Program") imposing owner liability for failure of an operator to stop for a school bus displaying a red visual signal and stop-arm; and

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District is authorized under State Law and Local Law to enter into a Participation Agreement with the County for the installation and operation of school bus photo violation monitoring systems on school buses owned, operated by, or under contract with such school districts;

WHEREAS, the County has entered into a contract with American Traffic Solutions, Inc., d/b/a Verra Mobility (the "Camera Operator") for the installation, operation and maintenance of school bus photo violation monitoring systems on school buses owned, operated by, or under contract with such school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District shares the County's interest in ensuring motorist accountability and child safety and wishes to enter into a Participation Agreement with the County to participate in the Program as authorized under State Law and Local Law; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free

School District hereby approves the Participation Agreement with Nassau County and authorizes the District's participation in the Program and the Camera Operator's installation, operation and maintenance of school bus photo violation monitoring systems on school buses owned and operated by the District, in accordance with State Law and Local Law, and authorizes the Board President to execute the Participation Agreement and any further documents required in connection with the Participation Agreement and the Program.

C. Approve the following resolution:

CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR CENTRE AVENUE SCHOOL:

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District retained Chase Building Renovations, Inc., for masonry repairs pursuant to a contract awarded on or about June 16, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the District's architect has recommended modifications to the existing contract as follows: add \$23,486 for additional masonry repairs and deduct \$25,000 for unused allowance for unforeseen conditions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts and approves Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Chase Building Renovations, Inc. resulting in a total reduction of the contract price by the amount of \$1,514 and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent to execute Change Order No. 1 on behalf of the Board.

D. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW YORK, ADOPTED DECEMBER 14, 2021, AMENDING THE BOND RESOLUTION ADOPTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO DISTRICT BUILDINGS AND SITES.

Recitals

WHEREAS, the voters of East Rockaway Union Free School District, in the County of Nassau, New York (the "District") have heretofore on November 14, 2019, approved the expenditure of not to exceed \$27,708,336 for various building and site improvements; and thereafter the Board of Education (the "Board") authorized the issuance of not to exceed \$21,508,336 bonds and the levy of a tax in installments to pay said bonds and the interest thereon to pay a portion of such cost; and

WHEREAS, the Board determined that the cost of such improvements will be accomplished

at a reduced cost, resulting in an unneeded balance of \$4,000,000 of the bonds heretofore authorized; and

WHEREAS, the Board further determined that it is necessary and desirable to undertake building heating and ventilation system improvements at the Rhame Avenue Elementary School and Centre Avenue Elementary School, at the estimated maximum cost of not to exceed \$6,000,000, and to appropriate said amount from the proceeds of the aforesaid \$4,000,000 bonds and \$2,000,000 of funds on hand; and

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2021, a majority of the voters of the District voting thereon approved a proposition authorizing the District to (i) undertake building heating and ventilation system improvements at the Rhame Avenue Elementary School and Centre Avenue Elementary School, substantially as described in a report/plan by John A. Grillo, Architects, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000; (ii) expend \$2,000,000 of available fund balance from the District's 2020-2021 fiscal year to pay a portion of the cost of such building heating and ventilation system improvements, and (iii) to issue \$4,000,000 bonds heretofore authorized by the bond resolution adopted on December 17, 2019 and the tax heretofore voted on November 14, 2019 to finance the balance of the cost of such improvements.

Now, therefore, be it

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all the members of said Board of Education) AS FOLLOWS:

Section (A) The bond resolution of said Board of Education duly adopted by the District on December 17, 2019, entitled:

“BOND RESOLUTION OF THE EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW YORK, ADOPTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO DISTRICT BUILDINGS AND SITES; STATING THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST THEREOF IS NOT TO EXCEED \$27,708,336; APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR, INCLUDING \$6,200,000 CURRENTLY ON-HAND AND AVAILABLE IN DISTRICT CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$21,508,336 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE BALANCE OF SAID APPROPRIATION,”

is hereby amended to read as follows:

BOND RESOLUTION OF THE EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW YORK, ADOPTED DECEMBER 17, 2019 AND AMENDED ON DECEMBER 14, 2021, AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO DISTRICT BUILDINGS AND SITES; STATING THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST THEREOF IS NOT TO EXCEED \$29,708,336;

APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR, INCLUDING \$6,200,000 CURRENTLY ON-HAND AND AVAILABLE IN DISTRICT CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS AND \$2,000,000 OF AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE FROM THE DISTRICT'S 2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$21,508,336 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE BALANCE OF SAID APPROPRIATION

Recital

WHEREAS, at a Special District Meeting duly called and held on November 14, 2019, in the East Rockaway Union Free School District, in the County of Nassau, New York (the "District"), a majority of the qualified voters present and voting approved a Bond Proposition authorizing the construction of alterations and improvements to District buildings and sites, and the expenditure of not to exceed \$27,708,336 therefor; and further authorized the Board of Education of the District to expend \$6,200,000 from the District's "Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II," plus any interest earnings thereon; and to levy and collect a tax to be collected in annual installments to pay the principal of and interest on the not to exceed \$21,508,336 serial bonds authorized to be issued; and

WHEREAS, the Board determined that the cost of such improvements will be accomplished at a reduced cost, resulting in an unneeded balance of \$4,000,000 of the bonds heretofore authorized; and

WHEREAS, the Board further determined that it is necessary and desirable to undertake building heating and ventilation system improvements at the Rhame Avenue Elementary School and Centre Avenue Elementary School, at the estimated maximum cost of not to exceed \$6,000,000, and to appropriate said amount from the proceeds of the aforesaid \$4,000,000 bonds and \$2,000,000 of funds on hand; and

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2021, a majority of the voters of the District voting thereon approved a proposition authorizing the District to (i) undertake building heating and ventilation system improvements at the Rhame Avenue Elementary School and Centre Avenue Elementary School, substantially as described in a report/plan by John A. Grillo, Architects, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000; (ii) expend \$2,000,000 of available fund balance from the District's 2020-2021 fiscal year to pay a portion of the cost of such building heating and ventilation system improvements, and (iii) to issue \$4,000,000 bonds heretofore authorized on December 17, 2019 and the tax heretofore voted on November 14, 2019 to finance the balance of the cost of such improvements.

Now, therefore,

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all the members of said Board of Education) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The East Rockaway Union Free School District, in the County of Nassau, New

York, is hereby authorized to undertake a capital improvement project (the “Project”) substantially as described in a plan prepared for the District by John A. Grillo, Architects, including (as and where necessary): interior building renovations and space reconfiguration; electrical, lighting, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and plumbing system upgrades; masonry, floor, ceiling and lavatory improvements; asbestos abatement; renovations to facilitate access by the physically challenged; construction of new bulkheading and retaining wall; drainage improvements; field elevation; and recreational and athletic improvements, including a new synthetic turf field with running track, ballfield improvements, new bleachers, field lighting, press box, fencing, backstops, dugouts, and related appurtenances; all of the foregoing to include the furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and ancillary or related site, demolition and other work required in connection therewith. The estimated total cost thereof, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, is not to exceed \$29,708,336 and said amount is hereby appropriated therefor, including the appropriation of \$6,200,000 from the District’s “Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II,” plus any interest earnings thereon and \$2,000,000 of available fund balance from the District’s 2020-2021 fiscal year, to pay a portion of the cost of the Project. The plan of financing includes the expenditure of said capital reserve funds hereby authorized, the issuance of not to exceed \$21,508,336 serial bonds of the District to finance the balance of said appropriation, and the levy and collection of taxes on all the taxable real property in the District to pay the principal of said bonds and the interest thereon as the same shall become due and payable.

Section 2. Serial bonds of the District in the amount of not to exceed \$21,508,336 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called “Law”) to finance a portion of said appropriation.

Section 3. The period of probable usefulness applicable to the objects or purposes included in the Project, within the limitations of Sections 11.00 a.11 and 97 of the Law, is thirty (30) years.

Section 4. Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds shall contain the recital of validity as prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds shall be general obligations of the District, payable as to both principal and interest by general tax upon all the taxable real property within the District without limitation of rate or amount. The faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds and provision shall be made annually in the budget of the District by appropriation for (a) the amortization and redemption of the bonds and any notes in anticipation thereof to mature in such year and (b) the payment of interest to be due and payable in such year.

Section 5. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and of the Law and pursuant to the provisions of Section 21.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, Section 30.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bond anticipation notes and Section 50.00 and Sections 56.00

to 60.00 of the Law, the powers and duties of the Board of Education relative to authorizing bond anticipation notes and prescribing the terms, form and contents and as to the sale and issuance of all bonds herein and heretofore authorized and of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, and the renewals of said bond anticipation notes, are hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.

Section 6. The validity of the bonds authorized by this resolution, and of any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, may be contested only if:

- (a) such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the District is not authorized to expend money, or
- (b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of such resolution, or a summary hereof, are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- (c) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Section 7. The proceeds of the bonds authorized pursuant to the Bond Proposition referred to in the Recital hereof, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, may be applied to reimburse the District for expenditures made for the purpose or purposes for which said bonds are authorized. The foregoing statement of intent with respect to reimbursement is made in conformity with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 of the United States Treasury Department. Pursuant to Section 165.10 of the Law, the temporary use of available funds of the District, not immediately required for the purpose or purposes for which the same were borrowed, raised or otherwise created, is hereby authorized to pay costs of the Project referred to in the Recital hereof, and any such funds so advanced to pay costs of the Project may be repaid from the proceeds of bonds or bond anticipation notes issued pursuant to this Bond Resolution.

Section 8. This bond resolution shall take effect immediately, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish the foregoing resolution, in summary, together with a Notice attached in substantially the form prescribed by §81.00 of the Law in the “*East Rockaway-Lynbrook Herald*” and the “*Long Island Tribune*,” two newspapers each having a general circulation within the District and hereby designated the official newspapers of said District for such publication.

Section (B) The amendment of the bond resolution set forth in **Section A** of this resolution, shall in no way affect the validity of the liabilities incurred, obligations issued, or action taken pursuant to said bond resolution, and all such liabilities incurred, obligations issued, or action taken shall be deemed to have been incurred, issued or taken pursuant to said bond resolution, as so amended.

Mrs. O’Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items E-G below. There were none and Mrs. O’Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items E-G below.

Upon motion made by Mr. DeMatteo, seconded by Mr. McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items E-G were approved on a consent agenda.

- E. Approve the agreement with Michael J. Annibale, P.C. for services as a hearing officer for superintendent hearings for the 2021-2022 school year.
- F. Approve the Professional Development Consultant Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Curriculum Associates ("Consultant") for professional development services for the 2021-2022 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 Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Engtze Pan for piano accompaniment for the 2021-2022 junior and senior choirs' winter and spring concerts, and elementary chorus' winter and spring concerts, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

8. Approval of CSE and CPSE Recommendations

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding the CSE and CPSE Recommendations. There were no questions. Mrs. O'Hagan then asked for a motion to approve the CSE and CPSE Recommendations.

Upon motion made by Mr. McNally, seconded by Mr. Vulpis, and unanimously passed, the CSE and CPSE Recommendations were approved.

9. Budget Transfers: None

10. Policy Matters

A. Policy Subcommittee Report:

Ms. O'Hagan: The subcommittee did not meet. The next meeting is scheduled in January to review the 17 policies listed on this agenda.

B. For Adoption: None

C. For Review

1. 0115, 0115-R, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
2. 6705, Federal Funds Purchasing
3. 4000, Student Learning Standards and Instructional Guidelines
4. 8110, School Building Safety
5. 8112, Health and Safety Committee

6. 8220, Buildings and Grounds Maintenance and Inspection
7. 5300, Code of Conduct
8. 5420-R, Student Health Services Regulation
9. 5460, Child Abuse, Neglect, and maltreatment in a Domestic Setting
10. 8635-E, Parents Bill of Rights for Student Data Privacy and Security
11. 0101, Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms
12. 1230, Public Comment at Board Meetings
13. 2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
14. 8505, Charging School Meals and prohibition Against Shaming
15. 9630, Sexual Misconduct
16. 9150, Non-Fraternization “New”
17. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams

11. Reports

A. Superintendent’s Report

East Rockaway High School Pivot to Remote Instruction December 15 to 22, 2021 but the Elementary Schools were not impacted - classes continue as scheduled. We are hoping to resume regular in school classes after the holidays on January 3, 2022. Thank you to our teachers for their hard work and dedication during these unprecedented times with Covid.

Achievement:

Centre Avenue and Rhame teachers as well our Math specialists worked closely with Jillian Chaiken from The Balance Between to engage in a deeper understanding of Thinking Maps and how it can be incorporated into the Math and Reading Intervention classrooms. Both schools collaborated on training on how to engage with Thinking Maps within the Math classroom. East Rockaway Jr./Sr. HS has its first entrant into the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair (LISEF). As part of our Science Research Program, Junior Claire Acuti will represent our school. The following Fall Teams were named Scholar Athlete Teams: Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Cheer, Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer and Tennis 98.92.

East Rockaway had 71 Scholar-Athletes, which was 40% of our Fall participants. At the conclusion of the first quarter at ERHS, 259 students achieved high honor roll and 113 students achieved honor roll. In total, over 60% of students were acknowledged for these achievements. At the December PTA meeting, 67 ERHS students were presented with WE ROCK Awards. The awards recognize the traits of Wisdom, Empathy, Respect, Optimism, Compassion, and Kindness. Students were nominated for these awards by teachers and staff. "College On-Site Admissions" began on November 29th, coordinated by the school counseling department. On-site opportunities to date included: 9 acceptances to Molloy College, 26 acceptances to Nassau Community College, and 7 acceptances to Mercy College. On-site admissions for SUNY Old Westbury, SUNY Farmingdale, and St. John's will take place throughout December.

Opportunity

Centre Avenue Student Council will be taking a trip to the Town of Hempstead offices in order to see the daily operations.

Fifty-six (56) ERHS Art students have entered 213 works of art in this year's Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. The Awards give students opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships. In 2021, students across America entered nearly 230,000 original works in 28 different categories of art and writing. Students in Ms. Horvath's Career & Financial Management class recently participated in The Payback Challenge, sponsored by Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF). This annual scholarship contest helps students earn money for their education, while developing an understanding of what college life is like. Through this interactive game, students were able to make real-time and realistic decisions to help manage their student debt. After playing the game, students were tasked with responding to this reflective prompt: How has the game changed your impression of what college life will be like in the 21st century? Some students were even entered to win scholarship money from NGPF. During the week of December 13th, all ERHS students will have an opportunity to attend the Scholastic book fair occurring in the Library. Students can purchase books and other items, including holiday gifts during this time. In the math department, teachers collaboratively created anchor charts in the form of thinking maps to create supports for student learning. At the Jr./Sr. High School, new Boys & Girls Varsity Winter Track teams were created that currently include 27 Boys and 15 Girls.

Innovation

Centre and Rhame Kindergarten students worked with Ms. Maini in our newly upgraded computer lab and used the upgraded software program, Kid Pix. Students designed computer generated reindeers and snow globes while writing about these images using descriptive vocabulary. Students in Ms. Olsen's 7th Grade Technology Enrichment class are using 3D pens to create holiday ornaments. Additionally, Thanks to generous grants from the East Rockaway Education Foundation, students in our technology classes have access to a new MakerBot 3D printer and WACOM interactive tablets to enhance the quality of their digital creations. New Athletics App is up-and-running as a quick source of information about the Rocks Athletics. You can check the Athletics website, important links, schedules, photos and contact information for Coaches. Save this link to your home screen on your phone: gorocks.glideapp.io/. Junior-Senior High School students in advisory focused on gratitude during the month of November. For the culminating activity, students painted rocks for staff members in appreciation of their efforts.

Connection

Centre and Rhame Avenue students have created a mitten tree. Families worked together to design their own mitten which was posted in each school. Families also generously donated money and toys to support East Rockaway families in need. The 10th Annual East Rockaway Alumni Day included 24 members of the class of 2021. Our recent graduates shared insight with grades 9-12 about careers, college life, preparing for post-secondary plans, and adjusting to the new chapter in their lives. Their first-hand experience about transitioning from East Rockaway to

their prospective institutions was meaningful for our current students and staff. As a thank you, alumni were provided with pies from Cakes by Kat, made by Pastry Artist & Chef, Kat Del Valle, Class of 2017.

During the month of November, our Director of Guidance visited Barry Tech and Long Island High School for the Arts. Our students showcased their work in Animation Media & Digital Media Design, Animal Care, Audio Production, Aviation Operations, Barbering, Video Production, Computer Game Design, Child Care, Computer Technology, Construction Electricity, Culinary, Fashion Design, Network Cabling/Home Technology Integration, Scenic Design, Sonic Arts, Veterinary Science, Video Production, and Welding. Mrs. Bonacorsi learned how to play the Erhu in Programming & Producing Drum-Beats, was graded on a student led sewing assignment, tracked a student's flight status out of Farmingdale and over Port Jefferson, enjoyed delicious pop tarts made from leftover pie crust, viewed student artwork, and more! She was able to observe our students in their classes, connect with their teachers and counselors, and learn about additional Barry Tech and LIHSA opportunities. On December 2nd, 30 students and three members of our school counseling team visited Southern Connecticut State University. Students and counselors were excited to begin visiting college campuses again. Students toured the campus, ate in the dining hall, and learned about opportunities on the campus and in the surrounding area. Long Island Crisis Center met with grades 7-9 to help students learn the difference between positive and negative expressions of emotions. Students were given strategies to deal with their emotions in ways that avoid negative consequences.

On December 4th, the HS Sr. Chorus performed holiday carols at this year's Village Christmas Tree Lighting. The event took place in front of the Grist Mill in Memorial Park. The performance was broadcast live on the Music Department's Instagram page and may still be viewed @eastrockawaymusicdept.

The Rocks Athletics Advisory Committee (RAAC) and held its first meeting on 12/6. Some discussions were about surveying students for potential new teams, addressing the weight room/fitness room, Intramurals, storage space, culture & connecting with our youth/community.

Mr. Michael White from NYC and Vicinity Carpenter Union visited our students to speak about opportunities in the field. Student feedback from the presentation was very positive and several seemed interested in pursuing the opportunities discussed. East Rockaway Junior-Senior High School Science Chairperson, Mrs. Dame Forbes, was a presenter at the 126th Science Teacher Association of New York State's annual conference, held in Rochester, New York. Mrs. Forbes is the section area representative for chemistry, and presented a workshop, "The Shocking Truth About Water," along with Emily Green. For the exciting workshop, participants predicted the properties of solutions and developed and used.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Condolences to Mary Arapas and family on the passing of her brother in-law, Peter DeJesus.
- B. Congratulations to Kelly Cabasso and family on the arrival of her daughter, Evelyn Cabasso, on December 2, 2021.

13. Public Comments

Please be reminded that the meeting is livestreamed and being recorded. I encourage residents to contact the board at boardofeducation@ersd.org and to contact your child's teacher or appropriate administrator with any concerns. At this time if you have a comment, please complete the form prior to speaking.

There were no public comments.

14. Board Member Comments

Ms. O'Hagan: Each month I will update the community explaining what we, as a Board, have been working on in regard to hiring a new Superintendent, and what we plan to do in the coming weeks. We met in executive session last Tuesday to create an overall plan, draft a timeline, and begin drafting a job posting. We would like to appoint the successful candidate no later than April 2022. Over the coming weeks I will be speaking with our school attorney, and I will reach out to the Central Administrative Team, the Administrators Association President, the ERTA President, and all three PTA Presidents to establish attributes they would like to see in the next Superintendent and to discuss stakeholder interviews. I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

Mr. McNally: Wished everyone a well-deserved time off and a happy holiday season.

Mr. Vulpis: We as a Board are very supportive of the initiative of the school bus photo validation program to help keep our students safe. We also thank the community and to Mrs. Ruiz for the work during social media threats and to the local police. Parent partnership is so critical during these times. Thanks to Mr. Fisk for his technology presentation tonight and thank you to Mr. Schaffer for presenting the AP scholars list. Wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

Mr. DeMatteo: Thanking all staff and administration for their continuous efforts and trying to bring some normalcy to our students during this difficult time. Have a Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

15. Upon motion made by Mr. McNally, seconded by Mr. Vulpis, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8: 12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nereyda Amaya-Moran
District Clerk