

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., December 19, 2017, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School
Preceded by Recognition of Fall Scholar Athletes, a Guidance Program
Presentation and a Public Forum

MINUTES

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

Absent: John Giannotti, Jr.

1. The meeting was called to order by Patti Nicoletti at 7:08 pm. Keith Gamache led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board President Patti Nicoletti welcomed everyone to the meeting. She stated that tonight's presentations were the recognition of the Fall Scholar Athletes and a Guidance Program presentation, followed by the public meeting. Ms. Nicoletti introduced Ms. Ruiz. Ms. Ruiz welcomed and thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She then introduced Mr. David Barth, Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health.

Mr. Barth thanked the Board of Education and Ms. Ruiz for honoring the scholar athletes at tonight's meeting. He said the teams have had success on the field, on the court, on the trails, off-field and in the classroom. He described the criteria for achieving the recognition. He then introduced Coach Anderson of the Boys Cross Country team. Mr. Anderson announced the names of the scholar athletes and awards were given to those in attendance. Mr. Barth then introduced Coach Lores of the Girls Soccer team. Mr. Lores announced the names of the scholar athletes and awards were given to those in attendance. Mr. Barth announced the scholar athlete of the Girls' Tennis team. Mr. Barth then introduced Coach Falvo of the Girls Cross Country team. Ms. Falvo announced the names of the scholar athletes and awards were given to those in attendance. Mr. Barth announced the names of the scholar athletes on the Girls Volleyball team and awards were given to those in attendance. Mr. Barth congratulated all the scholar athletes, thanked everyone for coming out tonight, and wished the audience a happy holiday.

Ms. Hecht thanked Mr. Barth and congratulated all the teams. She then introduced Andrew Rosenberg, Director of Guidance, Jennifer Melecio, School Counselor, Jim O'Driscoll, School Counselor, and Donna Robbins, teaching assistant for Guidance, who were presenting the Guidance Program. Mr. Rosenberg thanked the Board of Education and Ms. Ruiz for allowing tonight's presentation. A PowerPoint presentation was shown which was in alignment with the components of

the District's Five Year Strategic Plan. Mr. Rosenberg thanked the Board of Education for supporting the program. Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. Rosenberg and the counselors. She asked if there were any questions for the presenters. She also thanked Ms. Hecht who had put many things in place under her leadership in the Guidance Department. Ms. Ruiz also thanked parents, some of whom were in the audience, for their input. Ms. Ruiz encouraged the continuation of communication with parents and the community through committees such as the Family Engagement Committee.

At 7:44 pm Ms. Nicoletti resumed the public portion of the agenda. She stated that audience members will have an opportunity to question any items on the agenda.

2. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the minutes of November 21, 2017, were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – October 2017
4. Correspondence – Two
5. Hearing of visitors on items in the Agenda: Ms. DelValle questioned Item B (7).
6. Action Agenda

Ms. Ruiz commented that the creation of the new position in Item 2 below was a result of the work of the Family Engagement Committee. A need for a new approach to the registration process was brought to the Committee's attention. She was happy to report that the new hire will assist new families and streamline the registration process as well as other job related tasks. Although a bilingual candidate was sought, it was difficult to find someone within the guidelines of Civil Service.

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following Items 1 through 7 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

A. Personnel

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Francine Hernandez, food service helper, effective December 8, 2017
 - b. Julia Evans, cheerleading coach, effective December 6, 2017
 - c. Kevin McTigue, groundskeeper, effective December 31, 2017
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Francine Hernandez to the position of typist clerk (12 month), effective December 13, 2017, at the prorated Step B annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association Agreement for the 2017-2018 school year.

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Stephen Raimondi to the position of home tutor, effective December 20, 2017, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for Home Instructional Programs for the 2017-2018 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised 2017-2018 winter coaching schedule at the stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2017-2018 school year.
5. Approve the revised high school club advisor assignments for the 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment of Patricia Soriano to the position of foreign language teacher (.35 FTE), effective December 12, 2017, through June 30, 2018, at the prorated MA, Step 2, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2017-2018 school year.
7. 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 for the 2017-2018 school year:
 - a. Nancy Hochman, per diem substitute teacher, effective December 20, 2017
 - b. Linda Lang DeCurtis, substitute typist clerk, effective upon Civil Service approval
 - c. Patricia Soriano, per diem substitute teacher (prorated), effective December 12, 2017
 - d. Lidia Artusa, activity supervisor (day/evening), effective November 30, 2017
 - e. Mariana Pineda, activity supervisor (day/evening), effective December 9, 2017

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Items 1 through 8 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda

1. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District, in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery ("GOSR") and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"), is developing projects to address flooding issues at the East Rockaway High School and its facilities, to be funded in whole or in part under the GOSR's Living with the Bay Project; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education hereby ratifies and approves the Right

of Entry Permit and Release dated as of November 30, 2017, authorizing GOSR and HUD to access District property for that purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to said Right of Entry and Release on behalf of the Board.

2. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement dated December 14, 2017, between the District and the East Rockaway Secretaries Association regarding the terms and conditions of employment for the District's unit members for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2020, and

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.

3. Approve the consultant services contract with Nancy S. Kaplan, Ed.D., for professional development and consultant services for the period December 4, 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.
4. Approve the consultant services contract with Child Abuse Prevention Services for professional development for DASA investigations and procedures, for the period January 1, 2018, through January 31, 2018, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the consultant services contract with RCP Consultants for professional development grant writing services for the period June 1, 2018, through August 31, 2018, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
6. Accept the following donations:
 - a. A check in the sum of \$731.85 from the Funding Factory for computer room supplies at Centre and Rhame Avenue schools
 - b. A grant award from the East Rockaway Education Foundation in the amount of \$3,000 in support of District-wide educational programs
 - c. A check in the sum of \$400 from the Centre Avenue PTA for curriculum enhancement
 - d. A check in the sum of \$630 from the Centre Avenue PTA for student field trips
 - e. A weight bench for the Athletic Department from Club Rock valued at \$350
7. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for 2017-2018.

8. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling:
 - a. Items listed on the attached Textbook Removal forms dated December 19, 2017
 - b. Xerox Work Centre 4150
 - c. Twenty-five (25) boys lacrosse helmets from the Athletic Department

C. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the following budget transfer was unanimously approved.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:
 - a. Transaction No. 18-0009

D. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

7. Policy Matters

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, and passed unanimously, the following policy was adopted.

1. Policy for Adoption
 - a. 5300, Code of Conduct
2. Policies for Review
 - a. 0100, Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity
 - b. 0115, Student Bullying, Prevention and Intervention
 - c. 4531, Field Trips and Excursions
 - d. 5151, Homeless Children
 - e. 5332, Use of District-Owned Cell Phones
 - f. 5405, Wellness
 - g. 6700, Purchasing
 - h. 8140, Unsafe School Transfer Choice
 - i. 9630, Sexual Misconduct
 - j. 9645, Disclosure of Wrongful Conduct (Whistleblower Policy)

8. Good and Welfare

- a. Congratulations to Debra Muller and family on the arrival of daughter, Sophia Grace, born on December 8, 2017
- b. Condolences to Mary Arapas and family on the passing of her mother-in-law Roberta Arapas

9. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Ruiz reported that there was a great turn out on December 4th for the Vaping presentation. Many were in attendance from within and outside the community.

Connection

This coming week the elementary schools will hold its first in a series of Family Engagement committee meetings. Members include the building administration, parents and teachers. The committee will look at best practices to foster the partnership between the school and home. Then they will create action steps to enhance the communication between the school and home and develop family engagement activities to further increase parental involvement.

On December 20th, Centre Avenue will host a site visit for teachers from Franklin Square to see our Foundations and LLI (Leveled Literacy Intervention) Program. They will watch model lessons and debrief with a kindergarten teacher and the reading teachers. In the future, the staff would like to visit their school to research the literacy programs they currently use.

The fifth grade students in Mrs. Donovan's and Mrs. Kennedy's classes joined forces with their kindergarten buddies in Mrs. Gorman's and Mrs. Beufve's class to create a special video presentation with a voice thread. First, they read and discussed *We're All Wonders* by R.J. Palacio. Then, the kindergartners worked with their buddies to illustrate and write about one way to be kind to others. Students took turns recording their voices to showcase their ideas. The two classes then met to view their final project. The voice thread is a reminder of the "Rhame Avenue Promise" - to be kind to others and always treat everyone with respect.

The elementary and Senior Chorus performed at the East Rockaway Village Winter Festival on Friday December 1st. It was the first time that the Senior Chorus performed at this community event and was well received.

The entire eighth grade participated in the Pearl Harbor Ceremony on December 7, 2017. After the laying of the wreaths at the waterfront, the students walked to the American Legion Hall for lunch and conversation with local veterans. Thank you to Don Poland and Tony DiNardo from the Legion for coordinating this for our students.

Ms. Francis, accompanied by A.P. Government students, attended the Hofstra Political Discussion Breakfast deliberation to two prominent political analyses. They deliberated with students from 20 other high schools on select political issues of today.

The first meeting of the Family Engagement Committee took place on December 14, 2017. The

Committee consists of administrators, faculty and parents.

The Senior Orchestra hosted a fundraising talent show in which students and staff members showed off their talents. The \$5 entrance fee collected will benefit UNICEF. Many thanks to staff members, James DeTommaso, Robert Kennedy, Pete Ceglie, James Zervas and Marichelle Weill who performed.

The East Rockaway School District hosted a presentation by Mr. John Halligan on Thursday, December 14, 2017, entitled "If I Could Have A Do-Over." Mr. Halligan shared his personal experiences of the detrimental effects of bullying on students. His presentation will be posted on our website as well as information regarding a new movement entitled "Wait Until 8." This movement encourages cell phones for students starting in eighth grade. More information will be forthcoming.

Achievement

Centre Avenue is always looking for ways to enhance the interdisciplinary learning that takes place not only in the classrooms, but in special areas. Recently, Mr. Smyle created a kindergarten relay race activity in physical education classes that required students to work in teams to identify letters and problem solve to see which missing letters they needed to retrieve to create sight words. The students enjoyed the physical and academic aspects of this lesson.

Teachers in both elementary schools have been working with the literacy consultant to focus on author's craft. They have seen model lessons, co-taught with the consultant, and turn-keyed the information to the rest of the staff. In the coming weeks, inter-classroom visitations for all classroom teachers will take place so teachers can become familiar with how to delve deeper into the text with a focus on author's craft to help students become better readers and writers.

Teachers from both Rhame and Centre Avenue Schools recently met with Dr. Parker to help prepare for upcoming progress monitoring meetings where we will be discussing individual students and how we can best support their academic needs through a variety of targeted interventions. Dr. Parker provided us with a new set of ideas to pair with some recently purchased resources like RAVE-O (a comprehensive research based reading fluency and comprehension toolkit developed out of TUFTS University) to better meet the needs of our students.

Teachers in Grades 3-4 recently began to use a new computer based software program names "ST MATH" under the guidance of our Math Specialist, Mr. Bixhorn, using their ChromeBooks and the Computer Lab. This new program is designed to help students develop critical thinking skills in math to become better problem solvers by completing puzzles and interactive games that involve visual models to represent numbers.

The high school administration continued meeting with parents and students who are failing multiple subjects in the hope of improving grades and seeking ways to engage the families with the school in support of the students' academic efforts.

The administration is looking at research regarding math and science sequence changes that would impact student's opportunity to be accelerated in those areas.

Dr. David Fryling, the Director of Choral Activities at Hofstra University visited the Senior Chorus for a workshop on Thursday December 7th. Dr. Fryling, who just conducted the New York All State Choir, worked with the students on their upcoming Winter Concert selections.

Innovation

The next elementary STEAM module is Makerspace and Mrs. Healy and Mrs. Brody have teamed up to complete this unit. Students will be designing and creating functional arcade games that they will build from recycled materials. Once the students finish with their project in STEAM, they will artistically embellish their games and create authentic signage for their games in their art classes. Upon completion, the students will have the opportunity to play each other's games.

Integration of Related Texts

Students in Grades 5 and 6 have been utilizing the TMLC website on their 1:1 devices to create Thinking Maps to support learning. This new software was introduced on Superintendent's Conference Day and the teachers and students have already taken off with it! Each student has access to a bounty of resources and an interactive learning space to create Thinking Maps of any kind and share ideas with one another. Most recently, the students created a double-bubble map to compare and contrast the movie and the book titled Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff. The students are also creating Thinking Maps to organize their research on Latin American countries that will be used for the upcoming writing unit on Research Based Reports.

The Junior High Vex Robotics Tournament took place at the high school on December 9, 2017. There were 40 teams from the Metropolitan area with about 150 students participating in 76 tournament matches. This year the tournament was broken up to have a separate high school tournament which will take place in February. There was a significant increase of female participation in the tournament.

Opportunity

Student Council members at Centre Avenue are currently working on creating a survey about the cafeteria food. The survey will be completed by students in Grades 3-6 to gather input on which entrees are desirable and suggestions for future options. Mrs. Scio and Mrs. Ma are planning on meeting with the Student Council members in January to review the survey results, gather their feedback, and implement any necessary changes.

This month, the Centre Avenue K-Kids members ran The Mitten Tree fundraiser. Students sent in decorated mittens with \$1 or more and a beautiful bulletin board was created from all the mittens. About \$200 was raised for local families in need. Ms. McCabe, the elementary social worker has also been organizing the Giving Tree. The staff and community purchase gift cards to local restaurants, stores, and super markets to give to families for the holidays.

Selected fourth grade students from Rhame and Centre Avenue Schools recently attended the Parents, Educators and Kids (PEAK) Festival sponsored by the Nassau Music Educators Association. The students participated in workshops of their choosing including Pitch Perfect Acapella, Let's Dance, African Drumming and were able to use Australian Rhythm Sticks too. Parents participated with their children throughout the day in the various classes offered. The students learned two songs that were performed at the end of the day with other students from across the country (314 kids in all!). It was an amazing day of musical activities and performances for all to enjoy.

Student council members will be working on a cafeteria survey. Ms. Scerio will be working with these students to determine student concerns.

Review academies for Math, Science and Social Studies have begun and will continue through January in preparation for Regents exams and mid-terms.

There was an inaugural Women's Chorus performance at the Winter Concert this year. This intergenerational chorus consisted of over 70 women from the Junior Chorus, Senior Chorus, and faculty members (Pam Murano, Nicole Mihalek, Rebeca Rodriguez, Alissa Longo, Briar Falvo, Patricia Refino, and Bethany Kinkaid). The women performed "Still I Rise", a song about female strength, courage, and acceptance.

On Wednesday December 20th, 2017, the Senior Chorus will be performing at Radio City Music Hall. The students will be opening for the Rockettes by singing Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer before the Radio City Christmas Spectacular Show. With over 100 family members and friends joining us in the audience for the performance, we look forward to sharing this event with our community.

10. Privilege of the Floor

Randi O'Moore: Ms. O'Moore asked that the spelling of her last name be corrected in the minutes from the last Board meeting. She also wanted to clarify that the open school night she spoke about at the last Board meeting took place at the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School. Ms. O'Moore commented on the fabulous job Ms. Robbins has done in the Guidance Department. She stated that she has elected not to take the District issued tablet for her daughter as she would prefer to supply it herself.

11. Board Member Comments

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth thanked everyone for staying tonight. He thanked the Guidance Department for their great presentation. He stated that the program continues to evolve and makes it a better experience for our students as they begin to immerse themselves in the college hunting process. Our children are getting more opportunities to see what they are interested in. Many thanks for their enthusiasm and good work.

Many thanks also to the Prevention Task Force, Mr. DeTommaso and Ms. Mednick for their involvement with the Vaping presentation on December 4, 2017. The presentation was well attended. The Prevention Task Force is doing a good job in helping to get the word out to our kids about drugs and destructive behaviors. Thanks also to the presenters for inviting surrounding districts. This helps us target the issue better with more resources. Many thanks to Senator Kaminsky for his assistance in sponsoring this presentation.

Mr. Schloth also thanked the PTA's and community members for their participation in our programs. They are the backbone of our school community and do many things to improve our children's experiences. Their devotion to our schools continue to improve our school experience. He wished everyone a happy holiday season and a productive new year.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera stated that tonight's report reminded her of an article about school climate and school culture. How you speak to students is school climate and school culture is how you speak about students when they are not around. Tonight's presentation and the past opportunities remind me of what an impressive job the staff and faculty are doing in improving both. She wished everyone a happy break.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache stated that the recent tree lighting ceremony which took place in the Village reminded him of the consistent presence that is shown by our staff and administrators. They are just not at school events, but they are at community events as well. This presence means a lot to him, especially since his children will be attending the Jr./Sr. High School in the future. Staff and administrators can be seen at fundraising events like "Empty Bowls," concerts, talent shows, etc. He thanked them for the time spent at these events. He also wished the audience a happy holiday.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti congratulated the scholar athletes who manage their time so well. Most of them participate in more than one sport and keep their grades up; a skill that will help them in life. She thanked Mr. Rosenberg and the Guidance Department. Their presentation was informative with many new initiatives. The program gives us an opportunity to see the strategic plan come to life, touching on all items. She wished everyone a happy break, rest up, and hopes to see everyone in January.

12. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk