

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., August 25, 2020
Centre Avenue School Library
Meeting Closed to Public – Live Streamed

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Dominick Vulpis, Kristen O'Hagan, Peter McNally, Daniel DeMatteo, Joseph Kilgus, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mona Hecht, District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

Absent: None

1. Mr. Vulpis called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. He apologized for the late start. The work session ran late. In the future if we are running late, we will put a notice on our website, and you will be able to join the work session.
2. Joseph Kilgus led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Vulpis stated that board trustee Pete McNally will be managing board of education email items this evening. If you have any questions regarding the agenda times, now is the time to contact the board's email. You will also have an opportunity at the public comments section to contact the Board.

I also want to remind you that most concerns are appropriately addressed with your child's teacher and/or building principal once school opens. Other general district questions should be directed to Mrs. Ruiz our Superintendent. Matters involving curriculum and instruction should be addressed to Mrs. Hecht and matters involving the budget and facilities should be directed to Mrs. Scio. Mr. Araoz has created an excellent technology FAQ on the district homepage. If you need any further assistance with technology or have issues with a device, please reach out to him for assistance.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Vulpis asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following minutes were approved:

A. August 11, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

Mr. Vulpis stated that there were no monthly reports this month to acknowledge.

A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports - None

B. Correspondence – two items of correspondence were received

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-I below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Items A-I.

Upon motion made by Kristen O’Hagan, seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items A-I were approved on a consent agenda.

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

1. Lisa Marie Coscia, monitor, effective August 11, 2020
2. Paula Sands Singer, substitute monitor, effective August 19, 2020
3. Theresa Hempstead, substitute teacher, effective August 3, 2020

B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change to the leave of absence requested by Crystal Valentin to be effective September 2, 2020 through September 10, 2020.

C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change to the leave of absence requested by Katie Kuck to be effective September 2, 2020 through November 6, 2020.

D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Heather Figliozzi for a FMLA leave of absence effective October 19, 2020, through December 14, 2020.

E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Kristen Scalice to the position of short term substitute music teacher, effective September 2, 2020, through December 4, 2020, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2020-2021 school year.

- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a medical leave of absence for Monica O’Kane effective September 2, 2020.
- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Robert E. Thomas, to the position of Head Custodian I, effective September 14, 2020, at the prorated Step A annual salary established by the East Rockaway Custodial Unit agreement for the 2020-2021 school year.
- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Shannan Pearsall to the position of Account Clerk, 12-month, effective September 14, 2020, at the pro-rated Step 1 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Secretaries Association Agreement for 12-month account clerks for the 2020-2021 school year.
- I. 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. Joseph Lores, substitute teacher, effective September 8, 2020
 - 2. Joseph Cohen, substitute teacher, effective September 8, 2020
 - 3. Richard Hess, substitute teacher, effective September 8, 2020
 - 4. Jhasmin Herrera-Guzman, substitute cleaner, effective upon Civil Service approval

7. Other Items

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item 7-A below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Item 7-A.

Upon motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, seconded by Joseph Kilgus, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Item 7-A was unanimously approved.

- A. Approve the designation and appointment of the following individuals to serve as COVID-19 Health & Safety Coordinators for the 2020-2021 school year:
 - 1. Lisa J. Ruiz, Superintendent of Schools
 - 2. James Daly, Director of Facilities
 - 3. David Barth, Director of Physical Education, Health & Athletics

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item 7-B below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Item 7-B.

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Kristen O’Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Item 7-B was unanimously approved.

- B. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and Hempstead UFSD for the health and welfare services for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize the Superintendent and the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item 7-C below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Item 7-C.

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Item 7-C was unanimously approved.

- C. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the District has discussed with representatives of the Lynbrook Union Free School District (“Lynbrook”) entering into a Cooperative Transportation Agreement (“CTA”) whereby District residents would be transported to the non-public schools they attend by Lynbrook’s transportation contractor, Independent Coach Corporation, simultaneously with Lynbrook residents and with the Districts splitting the monthly fee for such transportation services, and

WHEREAS, such an agreement is in the best interests of both school districts, and

WHEREAS, District counsel has disclosed that they also represent Lynbrook and have accordingly asked whether the District wishes them to represent it in connection with the drafting of such an agreement, and if so, to approve and execute a Disclosure and Consent Agreement,

Now Therefore Be it:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Disclosure and Consent Agreement enabling District counsel to represent both Districts in the drafting of the CTA with Lynbrook, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Cooperative Transportation Agreement with the Lynbrook Union Free School District, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education be and is hereby authorized to execute both the Disclosure and Consent Agreement and the Cooperative Transportation Agreement on behalf of the District.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item 7-D below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Item 7-D.

Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Item 7-D was unanimously approved.

D. Adopt the East Rockaway UFSD Comprehensive District-Wide School Safety Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

8. Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding the CSE and CPSE Recommendations dated August 11, 2020. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve the CSE and CPSE Recommendations.

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Joseph Kilgus, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the CSE and CPSE Recommendations dated August 11, 2020, were unanimously approved.

9. Budget Transfers

Mr. Vulpis asked if there were any questions regarding the following budget transfer. There were no questions and he asked for a motion to approve the following budget transfer.

Upon motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the following budget transfer was unanimously approved.

A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer:

1. Transaction No. 21-0003

10. Policy Matters

A. Policy Subcommittee Report

Mrs. O'Hagan provided the following report:

The Policy Sub-Committee met on Thursday, August 13th and reviewed the following policies for adoption.

Policies for Adoption:

4526, Computer Use in Instruction - Mr. Araoz joined the subcommittee to discuss the updates to this policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement. This policy was updated to

include language for virtual learning and proper etiquette.

5420, Student Health Services - This policy was updated to reflect the current state requirements for immunization removing references to religious exemptions.

We will continue to review the following policies:

5300, Code of Conduct – (Two sections of the Code of Conduct have been updated to reflect new rules due to the pandemic, 5300.25, Student Dress Code; and 5300.30, Prohibited Student Conduct. Pursuant to Education Law Section 2801, the Code of Conduct policy may be adopted by the school board only after at least one public hearing. We will hold this hearing immediately preceding the September 3, 2020, special board meeting and with the Board’s approval, plan to adopt the Code of Conduct policy at the September 15, 2020, board meeting.

8635, Information and Data Privacy Security Breach - This is a required policy that has been updated to reflect changes to State Technology Law Section 208. The adoption of this policy has been extended to October 15, 2020. Mr. Araoz is giving this policy a final review. We anticipate having this policy ready for review at the next policy subcommittee meeting.

4531, Field Trips and Excursions
8121.1-R, Opioid Overdose Prevention Regulation
9150, Non-Fraternization “New”
6705, Federal Funds Purchasing

We have a Policy Sub-Committee Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Vulpis asked if there were any questions regarding Items 10 B-1 and 10 B-2 below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to adopt the policies listed in Item B (For Adoption).

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Joseph Kilgus, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the following policies listed in Item B were unanimously approved for adoption.

B. For Adoption

1. 4526, Computer Use in Instruction
2. 5420, Student Health Services

C. For Review

1. 4531, Field Trip and Excursions
2. 5300, Code of Conduct

- a. 5300.25, Student Dress Code
- b. Prohibited Student Conduct
3. 8121.1-R, Opioid Overdose Prevention Regulation
4. 9150, Non-Fraternization “New”
5. 6705, Federal Funds Purchasing
6. 8635, Information and Data Privacy Security Breach

11. Reports

A. Superintendent’s Report

We have been busy continuing to plan for our reentry process. School administrators are back to work full time even though everyone worked during the summer to develop the plan. We are in the process of implementing the plan and making sure it is safe for our students and staff to return. Many thanks to our nurses, Gail Beyrer, ERTA President, and representatives of other units who gave up their time this summer. They all provided input for our plan. We offered a full remote model for families with circumstances. That application process is now closed. Approximately 185 students will be participating in full remote learning. A meeting took place with our teachers about the remote model. Families participating in remote learning will get a link for a meeting during which we will discuss the remote learning model.

School districts are required by Governor Cuomo to develop a tracing and testing protocol plan. That document has been placed on our website. The District will not require employees or students to be tested. We are required to discuss and share with the community how we will participate in tracing and testing. The District will work closely with the Department of Health if there is a potential case of COVID 19. We will follow their guidance and will be recommending a conservative approach if we have a case of positive COVID-19. The plan contains a flow chart and each case can be different. The document is on our website in English and Spanish.

A parent health check letter will be sent home shortly which will provide you with a CDC checklist. Parents need to be vigilant with keeping sick children home as well as employees who may be sick. If you have any questions, please consult with our school nurses. The CDC has not recommended that schools do temperature checks, but rather parents are required to take temperature checks at home. Please call your building principal, nurse, Mr. Barth, or myself for any questions. The most appropriate person is your doctor and/or school nurse.

Recently over the weekend I saw a news article about aerosol spray and how the virus can spread more easily indoors. New information seems to reveal that there is a secondary aerosol spray that stays in the air longer. Therefore, we will be tightening up our mask

policy. Masks should be worn all the time. We will follow the guidance from NYS regarding mask breaks. They take place at lunch when students are eating and during physical education classes when social distanced. Students will be asked to have quiet mask breaks at their desks when they are not speaking and elementary students will have outdoor breaks. We are in the process of hiring additional teachers for teachers who have requested leaves, as well as additional monitors, aides, and cleaners.

Ms. Ruiz asked Mrs. Scio to provide an update on the facilities; followed by an update by Mrs. Hecht on activities planned for Superintendent's Conference days on September 2, 3, and 4, 2020.

During one of our elementary virtual ZOOM meetings an incident incurred where "bad actors" appeared in the meeting and displayed inappropriate conduct. This has been reported to the police and to ZOOM. It appears the intruders were out of the country who seem to be targeting school districts. Be assured we have changed our procedures, settings, purchased additional accounts so they are more secure to limit any type of intrusion again. Zoom links are sent out only by email. Zoom links are private and we ask parents to not share or post links. We are using password protected meetings which will be sent out prior to the meeting. When school opens teachers will be using Google Meet to hold their lessons and not ZOOM. Links will be shared internally with students through their East Rockaway issued email.

Thank you to all our parents for their patience and support and for recognizing all that we have done. This has been a difficult task. Please keep questions coming; we want to cover all bases. Email your principals, any of the administrators, or your child's teacher.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Condolences to Donna Smith and family on the passing of her father John Smith, on August 13, 2020
- B. Condolences to Peter Ceglie and family on the passing of his father, Frank Ceglie, on August 15, 2020

13. Public Comments

Mr. McNally stated that the Board did not receive any email comments this evening.

14. Board Member Comments

Peter McNally: Mr. McNally stated that he is looking forward to school reopening. Not only as a parent, but as teacher and getting his students to return to a sense of "normalcy."

Joseph Kilgus: Mr. Kilgus stated that the District’s hard work on reopening is coming into fruition and he thanked everyone who has been a part of the reentry plan. School supplies arrived at his home the other day and it was almost like Christmas. Even though it will not be full time in person, he is grateful that school is returning.

Daniel DeMatteo: Mr. DeMatteo shared the following quote from George Bailey: *“All you can take with you is that which you’ve given away.”* “Hats off” to everyone on this team, our board trustees and administration for getting our kids back to normalcy. This is our number one priority and the team is doing that as quickly and safely as possible.

Kristen O’Hagan: Mrs. O’Hagan thanked the parents in the community that have been so involved throughout the reopening process, especially in the virtual building meetings over the last couple of weeks. I recently read the quote, “Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be.” I think this is fitting in the midst of the plethora of emotions we are feeling at this point in time. I wish all our teachers, staff, and students a smooth as possible and safe return to school.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis thanked his fellow board members for their time and dedication during these past few months. He did not know he was signing up for another full-time job. All board members and administration have risen to the occasion. Today Mrs. Scio informed us that there will be a reduction in state aid but was able to secure us another transportation contract with Lynbrook which will save the District money. Money is starting to get tight and hopefully we will get help from the federal government. Superintendent’s Conference Day schedule is an ambitious schedule. Staff will be involved with training and dealing with all the COVID19 changes. Many thanks to Lee Araoz for monitoring the camera for all our meetings. We plan to hold our next meeting live back in the high school as well as being livestreamed and recorded. Mr. Vulpis thanked the policy subcommittee and Mr. Araoz for their work on the policies. He also thanked Ms. Ruiz; for someone so busy he is at a loss as to where she gets all her energy from; and not looking worn down in the least. This is a result of teamwork which feeds off each other. Ms. Ruiz is constantly present, attending all the meetings, following up with every question that comes from our parents, putting programs together with the building administration and central administration, meeting with union membership, attending meetings with attorneys, etc. She is doing a fine job to make this reopening the best it can be during these challenging times.

15. Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Joseph Kilgus, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk