

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., August 28, 2018, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School
and a Public Forum

MINUTES

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

1. The meeting was called to order by Keith Gamache at 7:03 p.m. Patti Nicoletti led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and unanimously approved, the following minutes were approved:
 - a. July 5, 2018, Organizational and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
 - b. August 1, 2018, Special Meeting of the Board of Education
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – None
4. Correspondence – Two
5. Hearing of visitors on items in the Agenda - None
6. Action Agenda

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following Items 1 through 13, and Item 14 on the Addendum, were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

A. Personnel

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Jennifer Lemus-Maldonado, part-time monitor, effective June 25, 2018
 - b. Natalie Melaniff, special education teacher, effective August 13, 2018
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an unpaid child rearing leave of absence of Sara Perrone from her English teacher position effective September 24, 2018 through January 25, 2019.

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of William M. Gibbons to the position of Social Studies/English Chairperson, (tenure area: social studies; certification status: professional), effective August 30, 2018, subject to applicable laws and regulations regarding the granting of tenure, at the MA30, Step 8, (plus stipend) annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for the 2018-2019 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Bradley Krauz to the position of Assistant Principal, (tenure area: assistant principal; certification status: initial), effective August 30, 2018, subject to applicable laws and regulations regarding the granting of tenure, at the Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Administrators Association contract for the 2018-2019 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Emily Judge to the position of special education teacher, (tenure area: special education; certification status: supplemental), effective August 30, 2018, subject to applicable laws and regulations regarding the granting of tenure, at the MA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for the 2018-2019 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2018 fall coaching appointments more fully set forth on the Revised 2018-2019 Fall Coaching Schedule at the stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2018-2019 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Kimberly D'Agostino to the position of short-term substitute elementary teacher, effective August 30, 2018, through November 7, 2018, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the termination on probation of Kerri-Ann Cucciniello, Senior Typist Clerk, effective August 30, 2018.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Patricia Daly Louw to the position of Senior Typist Clerk (12 month), effective August 29, 2018, upon Civil Service approval, at the prorated Step 3 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association Agreement for the 2018-2019 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jennifer Lemus-Maldonado, to the position of Monitor, effective August 29, 2018, at the Step 4 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitors Union Agreement for the 2018-2019 school year.

11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Diane Drakopoulos to the position of Monitor, effective September 4, 2018, at the Step 2 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitors Union Agreement for the 2018-2019 school year.
12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Thomas Saitta to the position of Security Aide, effective upon Civil Service approval, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule.
13. 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 2018-2019 school year:
 - a. Philip Neidecker, substitute cleaner, effective upon Civil Service approval
 - b. Stephanie Hector, substitute teacher, effective September 4, 2018
 - c. Stephanie Lande, substitute teacher, effective September 4, 2018
 - d. Kimberly D'Agostino, substitute teacher, effective August 30, 2018
 - e. Samantha Partos, athletic supervisor (day/evening) effective August 29, 2018
 - f. Allyson Reynolds, substitute teacher, effective September 4, 2018

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, the following Item 1 was unanimously approved.

1. Approve the following resolution:

Unemployment Reserve:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby directs that the Business Office take the necessary action to transfer excess funds remaining as of the close of the 2017-18 school year from the District's Unemployment Insurance Reserve Fund, in the amount of \$400,000.00, into the District's Capital Reserve Fund, pursuant to Section 6-m of the General Municipal Law.

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Item 2 was unanimously approved.

2. Approve the following resolution:

Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve:

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District has determined that the Employee Benefits Accrued Liability Reserve Fund ("EBALR") is no longer needed; and

WHEREAS, the District has conducted an audit of the EBALR and has certified the amount necessary to retain in such fund to satisfy all claims and liabilities incurred or accrued against it as of the close of the 2017-18 school year; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby declares that the EBALR fund is closed except to pay said incurred or accrued claims and liabilities, and directs that the Business Office take the necessary action to transfer excess funds remaining as of the close of the 2017-18 school year, in the amount of \$782,728.00, from the EBALR Fund into the District’s Capital Reserve Fund, pursuant to Section 6-p of the General Municipal Law.

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, the following Items 3 through 10, and Item 11 on the Addendum, were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

3. Approve the Professional Development Plan for the period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2020.
4. Approve the terms of the Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and AVID for *Avid College Readiness System Services and Products* during the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that, in accordance with the provisions of New York State Education Law §3012-c and Subpart 30-2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District (“District”) hereby certifies Bradley Krauz, Assistant Principal, as a qualified lead evaluator.

The District hereby authorizes the above-listed individual to conduct and/or complete the annual professional performance reviews of classroom teachers within the District.

6. Approve the tuition agreement with John A. Coleman School for special education services for one (1) student, Student ID No. 180008151, for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
7. Authorize the Following Petty Cash Fund:
Curriculum and Instruction.....Mona Hecht..... \$100
8. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the following items:

- a. For disposal, the item listed on the Change of Disposition form dated July 16, 2018
 - b. For disposal, the item listed on the Change of Disposition form dated July 25, 2018
 - c. For disposal, the items listed on the Change of Disposition forms dated August 14, 2018
9. Accept checks in the total sum of \$280.00 from various donors delivered to the District by Stacy Lane for the “Keith Lane Visual & Media Arts Scholarship.”
10. Accept the following donation:
- a. From Club Rock, the sum of \$2,500 for the Athletic Department

C. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:
 - a. Transaction No. 18-0027
 - b. Transaction No. 18-0028
 - c. Transaction No. 18-0029
 - d. Transaction No. 19-0001

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

E. Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

7. Policy Matters

Ms. Ochtera spoke about the policy being adopted tonight and gave a brief update of the progress of the policy sub-committee. Mr. Gamache asked for a vote of adoption. The policy was approved for adoption by a unanimous vote.

1. For Adoption:
 - a. 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities Under IDEA
2. For Review
 - a. 4321.4, Independent Educational Evaluations
 - b. 4321.13, Preschool Special Education

- c. 4325, Academic Intervention Services
 - d. 4326, Programs for English Language Learners (and related exhibits)
 - e. 4532, School Volunteers
 - f. 4600, Guidance Program
 - g. 5151, Homeless Children
 - h. 5152, Non-Resident Students
 - i. 5205, Eligibility for Extra Curricular Activities
 - j. 5300.30, Prohibited Student Conduct
 - k. 5300.40, Disciplinary Penalties, Procedures and Referrals
 - l. 5300.60, Student Searches and Interrogations
 - m. 5500, R, E-1, E-2, Student Records
 - n. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams
 - o. 8410, Student Transportation
 - p. 8413, Transportation for Nonpublic School Students
8. Good and Welfare
- a. Congratulations to Christopher Caputo and family on the birth of his son, Henry James Caputo, born on July 5, 2018
 - b. Condolences to Denise Powell and family on the passing of her mother, Louise Powell
 - c. Condolences to Dom Vulpis and family on the passing of his mother-in-law, Mary Ruane
 - d. Condolences to the Cimkowski family on the passing of Jillian Cimkowski, a former Rhame Avenue and East Rockaway High School student
 - e. Condolences to Jennifer McKeon and family on the passing of her mother, Helen Schmidt
 - f. Condolences to Wendy Gorman and family on the passing of her father, Michael Beauchesne
9. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Ruiz reported that the District has been busy hiring, interviewing and conducting demonstration lessons. She thanked the students for coming in over the summer who sat for demonstration lessons. Ms. Ruiz thanked the administrators who reviewed the many resumes to find the best possible teacher candidates for the District. She welcomed new hires, William Gibbons and Bradley Krauz to the District.

New teacher orientation, provided by our administrative team and Mr. Kennedy, is taking place Monday through Wednesday of this week. Eight new teachers are participating, and much information will be shared.

All faculty will report back to school on Thursday, August 30th, 2018, for Superintendent's

Conference Day. Keynote speaker, Karen T. Flories will conduct a Visible Learning presentation. Many thanks to Ms. Hecht for arranging this presentation.

Today the Board participated in the annual “walk-through” of the District’s facilities. Many thanks to Jim Daly and the custodial staff who have worked tirelessly over the summer under adverse conditions getting the buildings ready. Our buildings are beautiful, fresh, and ready to receive our students. This was not an easy feat as there were many hot and rainy days. Special thanks to our summer seasonal helpers for their hard work as well.

Our teachers worked in various curriculum committees over the summer:

Literacy Framework Development;

Grades 6-7 Math - moved topics to ensure appropriate sequence and student preparation for universal acceleration in grade 8;

Grades 6-8 Science - reviewed current topics versus next generation learning standards and aligned units/topics;

Grades 3-5 Eureka math lesson design for the initial unit and creation of curriculum map outlining topics and timeline for the school year;

Balanced Literacy Framework K-6: Rich and robust literacy framework created to guide reading and writing instruction in K-6 classrooms

Many thanks to the teachers who worked on these committees and to Ms. Hecht for coordinating the committees.

Thank you to the parents and community members who volunteered to be part of the Communications Committee. The Board will be working on launching this in the Fall.

Ms. Ruiz asked Ms. Hecht to give an update on the summer school program held at the high school. Ms. Hecht reported that this was the first-time summer school has been held in the District. This has provided a great opportunity for our students. Thirteen courses and nine Regents exams were held. Sixty-five students received credit and 59 earned Regent’s credit on examinations. Ms. Hecht thanked the Board of Education for providing this opportunity. Ms. Ruiz also thanked Mr. Kennedy, summer school principal, and the teachers who came in every day.

Ms. Ruiz asked Ms. Scio to provide an update on the facilities’ projects that took place during the summer.

Ms. Scio reported that this afternoon we conducted our annual facility walk through with the Board of Education. Cleaning the entire facilities is a challenge in itself and she thanked Mr. Daly for his leadership in ensuring our buildings were ready for the opening day. In addition to the annual cleaning, Ms. Scio spoke about several additional projects which were completed.

In our continued effort to increase security the following was done:

- Replaced the fencing around the garage and back of the fields at Centre Avenue.
- Added a secured side gate by the K-1 Wing at Centre Avenue
- Finalized the installation of the Night Hawk security at both Centre Avenue and the High School fields
- Installed door alarms on six locations in the High School
- Added fencing in the back of the High School to prevent access to the new generator and alley way by the gym
- Installed room numbers on the exterior windows for first responders to easily identify locations
- Installed room numbers on the inside of the doors in every room district wide
- In preparation for the security vestibules projects, we relocated the principal's office in Centre Avenue, so we can quickly move forward with the project once approved by NYSED

In addition, a total renovation of the Special Education and PPS office was completed.

Ms. Ruiz also asked Ms. Scrio to provide an update on the District's Facilities Committee.

Ms. Scrio reported that the Committee met five times this year, between the months of February and June. During this time period, the committee inspected all of the district's buildings and identified a list of potential projects. In addition, the committee discussed the security concern with students having to leave the High School for technology classes. The Committee inspected the technology building and discussed the relocation of the technology classes to the high school as an added security measure. All projects identified by the Committee over the past several meetings were reviewed, as well as the estimated costs associated with each project.

Last night, an open public work session was held to discuss the results of the Facilities Committee. A power point presentation was shown in order to provide a visual description of many of the projects identified. This can be found on our website.

The District's Architect was present to answer any questions from the Board of Education regarding the projects identified, as well as the associated costs for each project. In addition, the status of our current debt service payments was discussed, as well as the anticipated balance of the District's capital reserve. The two resolutions approved this evening transferred additional funds into the capital reserve in anticipation of future capital projects.

Ms. Scrio stated that all information has been posted on our website. She encouraged everyone to check the website and feel free to contact her for any additional information.

Ms. Ruiz thanked Ms. Scrio for all her hard work this summer and for making the funds available so that many of these projects were done internally by our custodial staff.

Ms. Ruiz reported that security training was conducted today for our security aides and monitors at all the buildings. Representatives from Altaris Security Consulting presented the training. Altaris is the consulting firm hired by the District, whose employees are former law enforcement specialists. They will be coming back on September 12, 13, and 14, 2018, to train our building emergency response teams.

We accepted two donations tonight. Many thanks to Club Rock for their donation and to the family of Keith Lane for the donation to the Keith Lane Scholarship fund.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed back everyone to the new school year. She wished everyone an enjoyable last week of summer and looks forward to seeing everyone back for the September meeting.

10. Public Comment - None

11. Board Member Comments

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera stated that there is much preparation and hard work that goes into opening the buildings for the new school year. She is thrilled with the progress being made as seen today during the Board's walk-through. She was also happy to see teachers in the building, who are in earlier than opening day, getting their classrooms ready. Ms. Hecht's report on the summer school program is a testament to all the wonderful things happening in our district. She welcomed new staff and new administrators. She is looking forward to watching it unfold. Ms. Ochtera welcomed the audience back and wished everyone an enjoyable last few days of summer.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti shared Ms. Ochtera's thoughts. While summer is a time to relax for some school staff, it is not a time to relax for our custodial staff and Ms. Scerio. We saw evidence of that today during our Board walk-through. Ms. Nicoletti welcomed new staff members who were present. She thanked the community for attending board meetings and reminded everyone to check our website for monthly meeting dates. We would like to see and hear from all community members. She wished everyone a good end to the summer.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth echoed the comments of his fellow board members with regard to the upkeep of the buildings. Many of the projects that were completed were paid for by the District and done internally by our custodial and grounds staff. Many thanks to Mr. Daly and staff for doing such a great job. The buildings are shiny and in good condition. Mr. Schloth commented that the Communications Committee will be starting up in the Fall and he would like to see the community become involved. Mr. Vulpis as well as himself are also on the Committee. It is important that communication remains open. As Ms. Scerio reported in her Facilities' Committee report, there are many things being discussed and quite a few things that our schools are in need of. It is good to get input from the community. Thank you for attending tonight and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis thanked Jimmy Lores for providing the bus transportation for the Board on today's walk-through. Immediately afterwards, Jimmy was seen cutting shrubbery on the fields. He thanked him for the many things he does for the District. Mr. Vulpis also thanked Mr. Daly and his custodial staff. Mr. Daly was very detailed in his explanations of all the work that has been done. It was a great learning experience for him and he realized how much work the custodial staff is involved in. Mr. Vulpis also thanked Mr. Gamache for his counsel and advice and for taking him "under his wings" which means a lot to him.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache echoed the comments of his fellow board members and wanted to add a few other items which were not mentioned. The deadline for volunteers for the Communications Committee is September 17th. You simply need to fill out and submit the request form that is posted on the website.

Generally, more people attend Board meetings, which can be fun and informative, as opposed to work sessions. Mr. Gamache stated that work sessions are equally important and he would like to see more people attend. The work session is held in the Conference Room of the High School. A new special work session has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 5, 2018, in the Band Room of the High School. The regular monthly work session has been rescheduled for September 12, 2018, and will also be held in the Band Room. The September 5th work session will focus on the findings of the District's Facilities Committee. This is a big endeavor and it is important to have the community involved. There may be an informational meeting, tentatively scheduled for September 17th, where the Board hopes to present its decision to the public. There have been some changes to our regularly scheduled board meetings. The Board wants to make an effort to share information with the community and keep you updated.

Mr. Gamache thanked Mr. Schaffer and Mr. Krauz for tonight's meet and greet. It was very well attended.

Ms. Ruiz responded to a question regarding Back to School Night, which was also scheduled for September 17, 2018.

12. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk