

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 PM, January 15, 2013 – Centre Avenue School All Purpose Room
Preceded by a Presentation of the Andrew J. Stern Memorial Essay Contest Winners, a
Presentation from Jericho High School’s Bring Back the Music Fundraiser
and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Kristin Ochtera; Linda Schmidt, Neil Schloth, Patti Nicoletti, John Giannotti, Jr.; Superintendent, Dr. Roseanne Melucci; and Director of Finance and Operations, Marcy Tannenbaum; District Clerk, Denise Lobascio; staff members and members of the community.

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm by Kristin Ochtera and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Giannotti, Jr.
2. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth, the minutes of the following meetings were unanimously approved:
 - a. December 11, 2012
 - b. December 17, 2012
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – November 2012
4. Correspondence – 3
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the following items #1 – 8 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Allison McKeon, permanent substitute teacher, effective December 21, 2012
 - b. Robert Kennedy, teaching assistant, effective January 1, 2013
 - c. Christie Marrone, teacher aide, effective January 7, 2013
 - d. Maryann Raffaniello, leave replacement teaching assistant, effective January 15, 2013

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Robert Kennedy to the position of special education teacher, (tenure area: Special Education; certification status: initial), effective January 2, 2013, through January 1, 2016, at the prorated MA10, Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2012-2013 school year.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Ashley Tener to the position of reading teacher, (tenure area: reading; certification status: initial), effective January 16, 2013, through January 15, 2016, at the prorated MA, Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2012-2013 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Maryann Raffaniello to the position of teaching assistant, (tenure area: teaching assistant; certification status: Professional), effective January 16, 2013, through January 15, 2016, at the Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2012-2013 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Kelli E. Hughes to the position of teaching assistant, (tenure area: teaching assistant; certification status: initial), effective January 16, 2013, through January 15, 2016, at the Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2012-2013 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the temporary appointment of Bethany Kinkaid to the position of substitute teacher, effective December 17, 2012, through January 15, 2013; and further approve the appointment of Bethany Kinkaid to the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective January 16, 2013, through June 30, 2013, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education for substitute teachers.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignment at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. Allison McKeon, substitute teacher, effective January 2, 2013
 - b. Carly Freiman, short-term substitute teacher, effective January 8, 2013, through January 25, 2013
 - c. Lisa Gallo, substitute teacher, effective January 16, 2013
 - d. Joseph Annoscia, substitute teacher, effective January 16, 2013
 - e. Kerin-Leigh Boghosian, substitute teacher, effective January 16, 2013
 - f. Angela DeBellis, substitute teacher, effective January 16, 2013
 - g. Carlos Mena, substitute cleaner, effective January 16, 2013
 - h. Heather Loughran, substitute teacher, effective January 16, 2013
 - i. Clare Marco, substitute teacher, effective January 16, 2013

- j. Harold Friesleben, athletic supervisor, effective December 28, 2012

- 8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the “emergency, conditional” personnel appointment for the following individuals pending receipt of notification of fingerprint clearance from the State of New York, Department of Education:
 - a. Carlos Mena

B. Other

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items #1 – 6 were unanimously approved:

- 1. Approve the participation in cooperative bids for:
 - a. Eastern-Suffolk BOCES
 - b. EDS Ed Data Services

- 2. Accept the following donations for the purpose of replacing items lost in Hurricane Sandy:
 - a. Kurzweil 150 plus digital baby grand piano valued at \$4,500 from Mr. and Mrs. Rosenthal to the Music Department
 - b. 700 chair slippers from chairslippers.com having a value of \$850 to the Rhame Avenue School
 - c. \$20,000 proceeds from the Jericho Schools, *Bring Back the Music* fundraiser
 - d. Musical instruments valued at \$8,500 from the Jericho Schools
 - e. \$5,000 book grant from www.Firstbook.org to Rhame Avenue School
 - f. \$5,000 from The CAMBR Charitable Foundation for the replacement robotic kits and equipment
 - g. \$250 from NEFCU for stereo equipment
 - h. Board games from donorschoose.org valued at \$557
 - i. Sensory equipment from donorschoose.org valued at \$253

- 3. Accept the following donations to the Rhame Avenue School and authorize an increase in budget code 2110-450-03-0000:
 - a. \$200 from Robert and Grace Schlesier for teaching supplies
 - b. \$350 from Ms. Elizabeth Jane Porter
 - c. \$150 from Marjorie L. Carsen for storm recovery

4. Accept the following donations to the Centre Avenue School and authorize an increase in budget code 2110-450-02-0000:
 - a. \$107.95 from A & E Clothing Corp.
 - b. \$150.00 from Barbara C. Hankerson for classroom supplies

5. Accept a \$2,000 grant from Macy's for the Centre Avenue, Grade 6, Liberty Science Museum Field Trip scheduled for June 13, 2013.

6. Designate Michaelene Abbott-Cooper to serve as the representative of East Rockaway Public Schools on the Nassau BOCES Budget Review Committee for their 2013-2014 proposed budget.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following budget transfer was unanimously approved:
 - a. Transaction No. 13-0003

D. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Neil Schloth, the CSE recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the CPSE recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters

- A. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr. seconded by Patti Nicoletti the following policies were unanimously adopted:
 1. 4000, Student Learning Standards and Instructional Guidelines
 2. 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities under the Idea and New York's Education Law Article 89
 3. 4322, Programs for the Gifted and Talented
 4. 8650, 8650-E, School District Compliance with Copyright Laws and Checklist
 5. 9000, Personnel Policy Goals
 6. 9120.1, Conflict of Interest
 7. 9160, Personnel Records

8. 9170, Meals and Refreshments
9. 9260, Conditional Appointment
10. 9320, Drug-Free Workplace

7. Superintendent's Report

Happy New Year everyone. Thank you for joining us this evening.

I want to thank the Jericho Schools for their very generous donation of \$20,000 and \$8500 in musical instruments. Shortly after the hurricane, my colleague, Mr. Hank Grishman, Superintendent of the Jericho Schools, contacted me to ask how his school district could help ours. When I told him about our high school and the loss of our auditorium, music rooms and instruments he told me that his high school would partner with ours and they would do something to get us back on our feet. That something was an incredible evening called *Bring Back the Music*. It was an amazing talent show by students from both Jericho and East Rockaway. Jericho High School Principal, Joseph Prisinzano, was an outstanding Master of Ceremonies and Mr. Ken Pollitt, Jericho Curriculum Associate, did an extraordinary job to make this all happen. We are grateful and appreciative for all they have done for us. I also want to thank our music staff as well as Mr. Fortgang for coordinating this effort.

I also want to thank the family of Andrew J. Stern for continuing to provide an opportunity for our students to remember September 11, 2001. Andrew was an East Rockaway graduate who was a victim in the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center. Each year his family offers an essay prompt and selects a few students to honor for their writing. Congratulations to our winners: Drew McCartney, John Paretti and Michelle Picciolo.

Earlier this year I mentioned that a 5th grade boy named Eli, from Tritt Elementary School in Marietta, Georgia, sent us a video to kick-off his fundraising effort for Rhame Avenue School. His video is posted on our website. I am thrilled to tell you that Eli and his peers raised almost \$6,000. This was matched by an anonymous donor as well as contributions from their high school for a total of \$12,208.80. Eli, we are grateful and appreciative of your effort.

We also received a gift of \$400 from the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS). This money was used to replace the Athletic Department digital video camera lost at ERHS during Sandy.

Here's what's happening in our schools.

The Centre Avenue National Geographic Geography Bee Was held on January 11th. This year's winner is 5th grader Joseph Acampora. Congratulations Joseph!

Rhame and Centre have received their new Reading Program "Journey's" and have begun implementing the program.

Rhame Avenue students in grades K-6 students are studying the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other notable African Americans. The children are learning how we are all alike.

In grade 3, parent readers are coming in weekly to read with our students and model good reading habits.

Our students in the ERHS Life Skills Program are participating in a Music Therapy Program with Molloy College to provide the students with an enriching music experience.

Please remember to mark your calendars to join us for the upcoming performance of *Seussical*. There will be two performances on Saturday, February 2nd and they will be at the Howard T Herber Middle School in Malverne. One performance will be at 1:30 and the evening performance will begin at 7:30. There are no advanced ticket sales; however, there is a recommended \$12 donation to be collected at the door. Thank you to the Malverne Schools for allowing us to use this space at no charge.

Students in the Nassau All County Chorus, Band, and Orchestra Division 1 performed on Sunday, January 6th at the Tilles Center. Students in the Nassau All County Chorus, Band, and Orchestra Division 2 performed on Sunday, January 13th at the Tilles Center. Also, seventeen students from our district have been chosen to participate in the All-County Music Festival and will be performing at the Tilles Center the weekend of January 19th. Students who are interested in performing a NYSSMA solo this year are in the process of registering, scheduling lessons and selecting music. The festival is in Malverne on March 18 and 19, 2013.

The district Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) plan for teachers and principals has been approved by New York State and is posted on our website. The Response to Intervention/ Academic Intervention Services (RTI/AIS) plan is also posted on our website.

Please be reminded that February 7th is now a full day of school and that school is open the week of February 18th.

Usually at this time of year we adopt the following year's calendar. We have not received the final 2014 Regents schedule yet and that determines the last day of school. Once we receive the schedule we will move forward on next year's calendar. The first week of September 2013 has three holidays—Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah. We will make a decision about the best way to use those two days for the new school year.

Last Thursday I had the pleasure to meet with our Congresswoman, Carolyn McCarthy, and give her a tour of the High School. Mr. Piccarella and Ms. Tannenbaum also joined me. We asked the Congresswoman to please represent us by asking to increase the 75% FEMA share for the restoration of our schools. We also shared our concern of being reassigned to a different FEMA team once the process began. We have been reassigned again and have called to request an extension for filing.

Today you received two messages about a lockout drill. The police arrived at Rhame Avenue and instructed us to implement a lockout. We did the same at Centre Avenue as a precautionary measure. I also informed Mr. Spero of the situation in the event it would impact the high school students' return to Bay Park. The police positioned themselves outside of Rhame

Avenue School. An hour later we were informed that we could lift the lockout and we communicated that message to the public. I also called the 4th precinct to request a police presence at Bay Park for when the 7-12 students returned. At approximately 1:00 we were notified that the police had the identity of the person being sought and an arrest was pending.

There are a lot of rumors about our facilities. If you have questions about what people are saying, especially if you did not hear it from a school district official, please call my office so we can reduce the rumors that could be very upsetting for many people. Here's what we do know. The most recent timeline I have received shows completion of work somewhere around April. The progress report will be posted on our website. We will try to update this report more regularly to keep everyone informed of our progress. Also, we are changing the presentation for next month's Board meeting and expect to have a formal report on the progress of the high school.

I thank you again for all of your patience and understanding as we rebuild our schools. And I want to thank our staff and our students for making the best of a difficult situation. What people are enduring and the efforts that are being made to care for the children and continue to move the district forward cannot be measured by a number. So when you get a chance, please thank the administrators, teachers, aides, clerical staff, custodians, monitors, food service workers and nurses. Although I am not currently in my office at the HS, my phone number is the same while I am working from the BOCES in Westbury.

That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Time line for returning to the high school
- Grant proposal
- Where will the donations be used.
- Plaques for the seats in auditorium.
- Thank you for pushing to get the high school to open in time for graduation.
- Busses for February 18th.
- Safety issues at Baldwin.
- Plan to move forward post Sandy
- Curriculum
- New Go Math Reading Program
- Training with new materials

9. Board Member Comments

Patti Nicoletti – Congratulations to the new hires. Thank you for all the donations, especially Jericho Schools.

John Giannotti, Jr. – Thank you to Jericho Schools, Stern family, Tritt and everyone.

Linda Schmidt – Congratulations to all the Stern winners, thank you to Jericho Schools and

thank you all for coming.

Neil Schloth – As you see the challenges we face, we appreciate anything you can do to help your kids during this tough year.

Kristin Ochtera – Thank you for coming. We appreciate all the support from the community. We are moving forward and will continue – we will not stagnate.

10. Upon motion by Neil Schloth., seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk