

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., March 15, 2011 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School
Preceded by a Curriculum Presentation – Health and a Public Forum

MINUTES

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:55 pm by Linda Schmidt and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kristin Ochtera.
2. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Kristin Ochtera the minutes of the February 15, 2011 Board of Education meeting were approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports – January 2011
4. Correspondence – None
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items #1-7 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Cecilia M. Verity for the purpose of retirement, from her position as the Director of the After School Program, effective June 30, 2011.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, correct Personnel Item 8 on the July 6, 2010 agenda and minutes to read:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Anthony Zito to the position of part-time social studies teacher (.6 FTE; 3 classes), effective September 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, at the prorated MA, Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2010 – 2011 school year, and further approve the appointment of Anthony Zito to the position of part-time teacher assistant (.3333 FTE; two classes), effective September 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, at the prorated Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Teacher Assistants for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Kathleen Brophy from the position of substitute teacher, effective February 15, 2011.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Susan Berman, for the purpose of retirement, from her elementary teacher position, effective June 30, 2011.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Joyce E. Ginocchio, for the purpose of retirement, from her elementary teacher position, effective June 30, 2011.
6. 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 the 2010-2011 school year:
 - a. Brianna Adamczyk, athletic supervisor, effective March 28, 2011
 - b. Louis Perri, athletic supervisor, effective March 7, 2011

7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the “emergency, conditional” personnel appointments for the following individuals pending receipt of notification of their fingerprint clearance from the State of New York, Department of Education:
 - a. Brianna Adamczyk

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items #1-14 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the employment agreement with Dr. Roseanne C. Melucci as Superintendent of Schools, effective July 1, 2010, upon the terms and conditions of employment set forth in the attached agreement dated March 15, 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Board of Education be authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

2. BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District establishes the 11 month position of Director of Guidance (tenure area: Director of Guidance), effective July 1, 2011.
3. Approve the transfer of the account balance remaining in the Centre Avenue Class of 2008 account in the sum of \$734.73 because there has been no financial activity in said account since the 2008-2009 school year, to the Extraclassroom Account, East Rockaway Class of 2014.
4. Approve the terms and conditions of the Energy Offer from National Grid – Transition to Firm Gas Service and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the offer on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District hereby abolishes two (2) positions in the teaching assistant tenure area effective June 30, 2011. The Superintendent is directed to notify the affected staff members of this action.

6. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District be authorized to expend from the Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs, established by the voters of the East Rockaway Union Free School District at the Annual District Meeting held on May 20, 2008, an amount not to exceed \$192,800 for the purpose of funding the following projects at no additional cost to District taxpayers: High School – Boiler repairs, compressor upgrades and steam leak repairs; Rhame Avenue Elementary School – Replacement of exterior doors; Centre Avenue Elementary School – Blacktop and new walkway and curb; provided that the detailed costs of the components of the projects may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District and no material change is made to the scope of the projects.

7. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District be authorized to expend from the Technology Replacement Fund, established by the voters of the East Rockaway Union Free School District at the Annual District Meeting held on May 20, 2008, an amount not to exceed \$177,471 for the purpose of funding the following technology improvements at no additional cost to District taxpayers: smart classroom upgrades necessary to complete the outfitting of all classrooms with interactive whiteboards and LCD projectors; network upgrades and replacement; and software upgrades and replacement; provided that the detailed costs of the components of the improvements may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District and no material change is made to the scope of the improvements.

8. Approve the Notice of Budget Hearing and Annual District Election of the East Rockaway UFSD and the publication of such notice as required by law in the "Oceanside, Rockville Centre, East Rockaway Tribune" and "The Lynbrook/East Rockaway Herald."
9. Accept the Single Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010.
10. Approve the award of the service agreement for the collection of garbage to the lowest responsible bidder, Winters Bros., effective July 1, 2011, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the service agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
11. BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement dated March 7, 2011, between the Board of Education and the East Rockaway Teachers Association, concerning a one-time retirement incentive for members of the teachers bargaining unit.
12. WHEREAS, the Baldwin Union Free School District, the East Rockaway Union Free School District, the Island Park Union Free School District and the Oceanside Union Free School District wish to jointly and cooperatively solicit bids for the purchase of various commodities and/or services in connection with their school breakfast and/or lunch programs ("Food Services") for the 2011-2012 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned public school districts have determined that it would be in their best financial interests to join together for the purpose of forming a Cooperative (hereinafter, the "Cooperative") to procure said Food Services on a cooperative basis; and

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District desires to enter into an intermunicipal cooperative agreement pursuant to New York General Municipal Law ("GML") section 119-o for the purpose of soliciting competitive bids for said Food Services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the East Rockaway Union Free School District to join the Cooperative and hereby authorizes and appoints the Oceanside Union Free School District to act as the Lead Participant for purposes of facilitating and coordinating the solicitation of competitive bids for said Food Services, in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Intermunicipal Cooperative Food Services Agreement attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Intermunicipal Cooperative Food Services Agreement attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

13. Accept a donation from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County for the donation of a Thornless Honeylocust "Sunburst" tree valued at \$275.
14. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District agrees to submit the forms required by the New York State Department of Civil Service to enable the employee named in Confidential Attachment A to apply for a waiver of premium for the New York State Health Insurance Program ("NYSHIP") in accordance with NYSHIP regulations and authorize the Director of Finance & Operations, or her designee, to complete the employer section of the waiver form on behalf of the District.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:
 - a. Transaction No. 11-0022
 - b. Transaction No. 11-0023

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the following items D & E were unanimously approved:

D. Approval of CSE Recommendations

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations

6. Policy Matters for Review

7. Superintendent's Report

Here's what's happening in our schools.

There are many opportunities for experiential learning this month. The 7th grade students studying Italian will attend the opera, Cinderella by Rossini. Some of our seniors attending ALPSS will visit the NYC Empire Beauty School next month for career exploration and readiness training. The annual Enterprise overnight trip took place on Wednesday, March 2nd and Thursday, March 3rd. They traveled to Philadelphia, PA and visited the Franklin Institute and IMAX, the National Constitution Center, Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, Elfreth's Alley, and the Edgar Allan Poe House. Enterprise students also attended the Nassau County Math Olympiad Tournament. The students were selected based on their scores on their Continental Mathematics League meets. The students who participate were Peter Wilson, Gabriella Walsh, Declan Louw, James Tierney, and Kimberly McGeary. Although they did not bring home a winning certificate, the students should be very proud of their success. The Newscasters Club and Advanced Video class went to MSG studios on Friday, March 4th in Woodbury where they were exposed to a real working studio and learned about marketing, editing, and studio production, including lighting and camera work.

At Centre Avenue this month students are learning about Polar Regions in Grade 2. Grade 3 students are studying Simple Machines and Grade 4 is learning about electricity. In Grade 5 students are working on fractions and Grade 6 students are getting ready for the Science Fair

At Rhame Avenue School, 80 children participated in the Six Flags Read to Succeed program. In May, the students will be receiving their free tickets to Six Flags.

Grade 5 is working on a Famous Women research project. Students research a famous woman and create a 3-D display. They memorize a speech and also present this to our special visitors on March 24th.

Rhame Avenue School's Media Specialist, Mrs. Kerin, has scheduled author Brian Heinz to visit the school on March 16th. He is a former elementary science teacher and he will discuss his books and the wonderful adventures which motivated him to write.

Castle Learning is now in full gear for our all 7th, all 8th, and select 9th grade classes math & science classes. Each student is given a web-based review assignment and about one week to complete it. Once finished, each teacher can review a report analysis sheet for that particular assignment to determine which content areas need additional review.

Senior Seminar students started their internships and are out in their field getting experience. The internship/projects vary from an advertising agency in Manhattan, a local law firm in East Rockaway to the elementary schools.

Business Skills for the 21st Century is one of our new courses at the high school this year. Join us for the May 12th, 2011 BOE meeting to get a better look at how the course is progressing.

The Technology Department is utilizing the services of MSG Varsity. Our students have been filming sporting events and announcing the games, as well as editing film. Mr. Howard has been attending workshops, working closely with Cablevision and MSG, and striving to improve our studio and video communications classes.

The Spring Sports Tip-off night on March 31st will feature a presentation by Dr. Steven Dewey on "The Effects of Drugs on the Brain". All are invited to attend.

The Life Skills class played in a Challenger League basketball game against Garden City last week. All twelve students participated in the game. It was the first away game for the team. There will be a home game on March 28th, which is open to the public, against Oceanside.

We had another successful year with the peer aids educators visiting and talking to our elementary students.

The elementary physical education classes held the Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart community event. As a result, Centre Avenue will be receiving a \$300 gift certificate to U.S. Games for P.E. equipment and Rhame will be receiving a \$400 gift certificate. In addition, the students at Centre Avenue School raised \$ 2,755.00 and the students at Rhame raised \$4,954.

MSG Varsity covered the 75th annual sports night and it was very exciting to see our students run through the blast tunnel. All videos and pictures posted on the MSG Varsity Web site under East Rockaway.

Our students in Grade 5 are involved in an interdisciplinary project combining Computer, Art and Library. This project will culminate in a field trip to MoMA.

We have three Centre Avenue students and three Rhame Avenue students whose art work is hanging in the Long Island Art Teacher's Association Youth Art Month Exhibit at the Broadway Mall in Hicksville from March 7- April 10. The three students from Centre are Abigail Calabrese, Ardina Perezic and Natalie Heinrich. The three students from Rhame are Emily Cuba-Gadja, Susan Hanson and Declan Louw.

Our SEDL words of the month are:

Centre-- devastated and impulsive; Rhame--arrogant and attitude; Grade 7--communicate, loyalty, impulsive, pessimism; Grade 8--hostile, obsession, prejudice, deprivation.

I want to remind the public that at this May's vote we will once again have three propositions: The operating budget, the technology reserve and the facilities reserve. Using the reserves keeps these items out of the budget. To spend from the reserves requires voter approval. We will be posting the particulars of the reserves on our website under the Business Office Information page. The next BAC meeting is Wednesday, March 16th.

During the recent winter break all district fields were groomed and are now ready for baseball season. In addition, the old carpet on the steps in the Centre Avenue gym was replaced with rubber matting. Also, the curtains in the all-purpose room are in the process of being cleaned and refurbished. New carpet was installed in the music room at Rhame Avenue.

Our seventh grade students participated in the St. Jude's Math-a-thon and collected \$1800.00 for this worthwhile cause. The Centre Avenue Student Council is also sponsoring the St. Jude's Math-a-thon. The students are working on math problems to sharpen their skills as well as fundraise for children with cancer.

The HS staff collected \$375 last month for LI Toy Lending Center for Children with Disabilities.

Six of our high school students visited the 6th grade classes at Centre and Rhame to talk to students about life at the secondary school and all the great experiences that await them.

Please know that nominating petitions for seats on the Board are available in the District Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing petitions is 5:00 PM on April 18th. Although the school is on recess, the District Clerk will be here to receive your petitions.

We have added cards to the Did You Know link on our website: One is for the Enterprise program and the other is for the Food Service Program.

The Robotics team finished in 2nd place in the "Teamwork" category at the FIRST LEGO Robotics Competition on March 6th at Longwood HS. Congratulations to the Robotics Team!

Our Quiz Bowl Team finished their undefeated season in first place. The playoffs will begin at the end of the month. Congratulations to our students and their advisor, Mrs. Orzano.

Our Mock Trial team also made the playoffs, but was eliminated in the first round. We congratulate the students and their advisor, Mr. Yousha, for a good season.

Our spring edition of Insights will be in the mail within the next two weeks as well as posted on our website.

Kevin Dugan, a 12th grader from East Rockaway High School, has been chosen to attend this year's *Students Inside Albany* program sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation, Inc. This ninth annual *Students Inside Albany* program will take place from April 10-13, 2011, and will bring approximately 40 students from across the state to Albany to get a first-hand education about their state government. The program is designed to increase high school students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and provide information about the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility.

This past year the East Rockaway Board of Education set a goal to complete a baseline survey gauging parent/community satisfaction as it relates to academics, athletics, extra-curricular activities, budget, and technology, as well as parent/community participation in our schools. The survey for this goal has been developed through a partnership with St. John's University. The survey will be available on our website and is scheduled to go live in April.

Before closing, I want to thank the staff and community for their support during the tragic loss of our kindergarten student, Carleena. The tree that is being donated by the Cornell Cooperative Extension will be planted in Carleena's honor. That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Retirement incentive for teachers
- Staff changes at Centre
- Class size
- Children washing hands
- Teacher's contract
- Dress code

9. Board Member Comments

Kristin Ochtera – Thank you for coming. Thank you Mr. Vulpis for the presentation. I want to acknowledge all the wonderful things happening in our schools. There are some things in our budget that we have no control over. The teachers have been present at the BAC meetings and we need to understand the needs of the children. We are working together. Are you going to say no when we have no control over these things? There are things in this budget that you think we should not have to pay for but with the new mandates, we do. We are able to keep the budget from big increases; at the cost of living or lower. But with the mandates, it will inhibit us from providing the program so join us on March 24th at Hofstra to tell the government. The school district now pays for stuff that the county government shifted over to our responsibility. Our kids only get to go to school once; we need to see what is important.

Neil Schloth – Thank you Mr. Vulpis. I would like to thank the staff at Centre Avenue for their professionalism during this tragic situation. It is very sad for all of us. I would like to remind everyone that Rock Rivalry is Friday and it is a great learning tool. It helps the kids learn to be independent which is unique to our school. Thank you for coming.

Patti Nicoletti – Thank you Mr. Vulpis for your presentation. I love the way this program crosses curriculum. Congratulations to Mrs. Ginocchio and Mrs. Berman on your retirement. Collectively, you have 60 years of teaching. I would like to echo both Kristin and Neil – the governor is targeting the schools making us responsible for their deficits. The Committee to Save NY is made up of business people who to shift the balance of high taxes from the state government to your local schools. Do these people have our students' best interest in mind, or their own? Thank you.

Michaelene Abbott-Cooper – I spent the weekend with Carleena's family. Her father wanted you to know that everyone has been great to them. For all of you who ask what you can do for the family, he says do what you have been doing; it's what they need. Thursday night is Rock Rivalry preview – and the 75th commemorative brochure is wonderful. The Education Foundation is having a party. Tickets are on sale for \$10.

Linda Schmidt – Thank you Mr. Vulpis. It is wonderful to see what our children are doing in school. Congratulations to Mrs. Ginocchio and Mrs. Berman on their retirement. Good luck to all the classes in Rock Rivalry. There are two seats up for board trustee and I am running. I would like your support in the May vote. There are great people here who care about the community. Thank you for coming.

10. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Kristen Ochtera and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk

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CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT "A"