

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Rockaway, New York

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

7:30 P.M., May 10, 2011 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School

Preceded by a Curriculum Presentation – Business, *Business Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* 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 by Linda Schmidt at 8:05 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kristin Ochtera.
  1. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper the minutes of the April 12, 2011 and the April 27, 2011 meetings were unanimously approved.
2. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – March 2011
3. Correspondence – One
4. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the following item #1 was unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff members on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Susan Glickman.....	Elementary Teacher.....	October 1, 2011
Susan Periera.....	Teaching Assistant.....	October 15, 2011

Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Kristen Ochtera the following items #2 – 6 were unanimously approved:

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Barbara Winters from the position of monitor, effective May 1, 2011.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Mona Hecht to the position of Director of Guidance (tenure area: Director of Guidance; certification status: Permanent), effective July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2014, at the annual salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education for the 2011-2012 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Therese Sgro from the position of monitor, effective May 9, 2011.
5. 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. Christie Marrone, substitute teacher aide, effective April 12, 2011
  - b. Francesca DeVivo, substitute clerical, effective May 11, 2011

c. Wendy Crocco, substitute food service worker, effective May 11, 2011

6. 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:

None

## B. Other Items

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Neil Schloth the following items #1 – 8 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the agreement with Textbook Central, a division of Tel/Logic Inc. d/b/a Central Ed with East Rockaway UFSD for textbook information and management services for 2011-2012 school year and authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to execute the Letter of Intent and agreement for said services on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
2. Approve the Special Education Services Contract for a Parentally-Placed Non-Public School Student with Malverne UFSD for special education services for the 2010-2011 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contracts on behalf of the Board of Education.
3. Approve the award of the contracts to First Student, Inc., as the lowest responsible bidder, for transportation services for one student attending St. Martin of Tours School and one student attending Martin de Porres Academic High School, effective May 4, 2011, through June 30, 2011, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting contracts.
4. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement dated May 5, 2011, between the Board of Education and the East Rockaway Teachers Association, with respect to the terms and conditions of employment for the members of the teachers bargaining unit for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.
5. Accept a donation of a musical instrument (drums) valued at One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars from Rosanna Licitra for the music class at the Rhame Avenue School.
6. BE IT RESOVLED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District withdraws the Civil Service Law Section 75 charges previously preferred against the person named in “Confidential Attachment A.”
7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the District Clerk to be available for the purpose of registering qualified voters of the District at the following times and locations:

Wednesday, May 11, 2011: 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Rhame Avenue School

Thursday, May 12, 2011: 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Centre Avenue School

8. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms of the Letter Agreement dated May 10, 2011, between the Board of Education and the East Rockaway Administrators’ Association, concerning the placement of the newly established Director of Guidance position in the East Rockaway Administrators bargaining unit agreement, and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Letter Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

## C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Kristin Ochtera the following budget transfer was unanimously approved:
  - a. Transaction No. 11-0026

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, 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:

1. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott Cooper, seconded by Patti Nicoletti the following items a, b & c were unanimously adopted:
  - a. ER 004.6 Investment Policy
  - b. ER 007.24 Homeless Children
  - c. ER 007.24-R Homeless Children Regulation
2. For Review
  - a. ER 003.1 Goals and Objectives Administrators
  - b. ER 003.2 Superintendent of Schools
  - c. ER 003.21 Duties of the Superintendent
  - d. ER 003.7 Administrative Reports

## 7. Superintendent's Report

Here's what's happening in our schools:

Last week was the first administration of the new and revised New York State ELA

Assessments. This week we are administering the new assessments in mathematics.

At the secondary school we are also in the midst of Advanced Placement testing. Thank you to the administrators and teachers who coordinated all of these schedules and created appropriate test taking conditions.

Rhame Avenue third grade students had a presentation on simple machines given by the Cornell Cooperative Extension. Students learned that force times distance = work, and that simple machines make work easier.

Here's what our student at Rhame are reading: Grade 2—*Ibi*, *Humphrey the Whale*, and *The Whipping Boy*; Gr. 3 is reading *Charlotte's Web*; Grade 4DS is reading *39 Clues* while 4C is reading *Everything on a Waffle*; and Grade 6 is reading *Holes* and *The Outsiders*.

Before spring break our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from both Rhame and Centre participated in the annual outdoor environmental program at Greenkill. A good time was had by all. We thank Mr. Silk and the teachers for continuing to give their time to attend this event.

In celebration of Earth Week, the high school science department held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual poster and bumper sticker contest. The projects can be viewed in the science wing (hallway near rooms 213 and 215). The winners of the competition are:

Posters--1<sup>st</sup> place ~Extinction by Casey Gioe; 2<sup>nd</sup> place ~It's Not Trashy Unless you Trash It – Miranda Balan; 3<sup>rd</sup> place How Many Things Can you Recycle by Jack Capetola

Bumper Stickers-1<sup>st</sup> place~~ Save the Planet by Jennifer Weinrib; 2<sup>nd</sup> place~~ Water Pollution by Erin Sweeny; 3<sup>rd</sup> place~~ Find the Solution to Water Pollution by Jake Caraccioli.

East Rockaway HS has also done great job with recycling. Our environmental science class facilitates the recycling of paper in all ERHS classrooms. Also, the students in the environmental science class will visit Cedar Creek Sewage Treatment Plant on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

On Wednesday, May 25th, we will host our Senior Seminar Fair; thirty-two of our students will be displaying their internship projects in the small gym. Invitations will be sent next week to all the sponsors, parents administrators and BOE members.

The annual Poetry Madness Contest concluded in April. The winning poems and pictures will soon be posted in the English Wing. Brendon Mitchell once again won first place. 2<sup>nd</sup> place Stefanos Drakopolous; 3<sup>rd</sup> place Jenee Eady; 4<sup>th</sup> place Amara Yahya

Also from the English Department, here are the titles our students are reading this month: the 7th grade is beginning the study of The House on Mango Street; 8th grade is working on a Shakespearean Unit on The Tempest; 9th grade students are beginning Romeo and Juliet; English 11R students are concluding the study of Othello; 12th grade concluding Hamlet and starting the senior thesis process.

From the Social Studies Department, 7th grade is critically evaluating causes and effects of War of 1812 and beyond. 8th grade studying post WWII US History, 9th grade students are learning about post-Reformation Age, 10th graders are analyzing Post Cold-War Era and gearing up for the Regents, 11th graders are studying post WWII US History/Nixon/Vietnam/Watergate as well as gearing up for Regents, and PIG and ECO students considering contemporary issues.

The Boys Baseball and Girls Softball are heading into the playoffs as the regular season comes to a close next week.

Lacrosse Day 2011 was held this past weekend at Malverne. The junior high programs were given an instructional program by the varsity teams before playing in their game.

Varsity Boys/Girls track will conduct an afternoon of activities for students in our life skill classes at the request of Maureen Schutta.

JH Baseball did a community service project at the recreation department Easter Egg Hunt.

Students in the Life skills program will participate in the Nassau County "Victory Challenge" on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Mitchell Field. We will also send 25 students to work the games.

Boys Varsity Baseball and Girls Varsity Badminton won the New York State Team Scholar Athlete Award for the spring!

In Health classes, a Sexting presentation was conducted by the Nassau County police department in all 11<sup>th</sup> grade health classes.

Centre Avenue students are completing a unit on Square Dancing.

On April 27 the Rhame Avenue Mileage Club resumed. Students in grades 1-6 have the opportunity to run, jog, or walk laps around the grass field at recess. Each time a student completes a lap they receive a sticker on a card. After a student receives 20 stickers they earn a sneaker charm that they can wear on a necklace or shoelaces to display their accomplishment. 20 laps is equivalent to 3.3 miles. All completed cards will also be displayed on a bulletin board outside the gymnasium at Rhame Avenue.

At Rhame, this school year, Mrs. Brody started a small group art enrichment program during her extra help time for third and fourth graders who have shown a special interest in art.

At Centre Avenue Grade 5 students will be taking a field trip to the Museum of Modern Art on May 25th.

The Junior/Senior High School Concert will take place on May 17 at 7:30pm. The district art exhibit will be on display on May 17 from 6:30am until 9:30 pm. Broadway by the Bay will be on Friday, May 20 at 7:00pm

One hundred eighty of our students participated in this year's NYSSMA Festival, and the results were very positive. Six of our students' NYSSMA auditions were at the All-State Festival with 5 of them scoring an A+ and the other receiving an A rating. Felicia Schwarzman earned a perfect score of 100 on her cello audition.

Congratulations to all of our students who participated.

Our SEDL words of the month are:

Centre Avenue Grade 6 - Anxiety and self-esteem

Rhame Avenue Grade 6 – Anxiety. In addition, students were taught strategies to overcome anxiety with the upcoming NYS exams.

SEL at Rhame this month for grade 3 addressed the topic of being excluded or seeing someone excluded. In Grade 4 students discussed different feeling words. Students were asked to consider what are the facial expressions, body language, and vocal cues that they display when they feel and experience several different emotions; such as joy, sadness, disgust, and fear to name a few. Grade 5's word of the month is determined.

At the Junior/Senior High the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students discussed the words: terror, ambivalent, and devastated. Grade 8 completed their vocabulary words for this year.

Here is an example of SEL in action. We received a lovely note from a teacher in Oceanside complimenting a group of ERHS boys: Nick Ulip, Brian DeMott, Ryan Starkman, Corey Lachner, Brendon Mitchell and Billy Morgan who take the time to interact with a young man from Oceanside who is part of a Life Skills program. In this program this young man is receiving job skills training at a pizza place. Our students have shown kindness and compassion to

this young man and the teacher felt they should be recognized for these positive character traits.

In other news around the district, Centre Avenue Walk-to School week is May 23rd, CA Career Day is on May 26th, The Memorial Day Parade is on May 30 at 10 AM, The World's Greatest Concert is on May 20, and the Centre Avenue Reading Partners Celebration is on May 20.

At Rhame Avenue, the manager of Astoria Federal Savings visited to speak with the students about the importance of saving.

Mr. O'Driscoll has been visiting 6th graders to discuss career goals and the transition to the ERHS.

Follow-up From Prior Meeting

The Rock Rivalry schedule is reviewed each year and Mr. Fortgang and Mr. Cimorelli continue to try to make it better each year. It is also often discussed at site based. Modifications have been made through the years and will continue to be made to address areas of concern.

Academic Events on the calendar—Since outside organization dates may change from year to year and are not always ready when the calendar is developed we will not be trying to include them on our school calendar.

SAT Prep Course-SAT vocabulary is taught as a unit in English 12 and also incorporated into the curriculum in English 11. Vocabulary development is included at all grade-levels and next year, we are looking to develop inter-department vocabulary in English and social studies at each grade level to make the vocabulary relevant and further bolster what students know.

Science Research—Mr. Cangemi is looking into ways to increase science research into the curriculum.

Thank you to the members of the community who attended the Budget Hearing last week. There is still time to register to vote. We noticed that out of 815 families in the district approximately 51% are registered to vote. Please encourage neighbors and friends to call the business office and register to vote. They can register until Thursday of this week.

Please check our website for budget information.

That concludes my report.

#### 8. Privilege of the Floor

- Kindergarten class size at Centre.
- Available space at Rhame Avenue
- Coalition for Youth – dates on calendar.
- Difference in class size between Rhame and Centre Ave.
- Summer camp and basketball camp

#### 9. Board Member Comments

**Patti Nicoletti** – Thank you all for coming out tonight and I would like to encourage the students who are here tonight to continue to take part in your community even when you are not required to! Don't forget to come out on May 17<sup>th</sup> to vote on the school budget and bring a friend. Thank you to Mr. Pager and Thea for the informative curriculum presentation. Congratulations to Mrs. Glickman and Ms. Periera on their tenure and again to Mrs. Rodriguez.

**Kristin Ochtera** – We are encouraged by your willingness to get involved. We value your input. Thank you very much.

**Neil Schloth** - Congratulations to Ms. Glickman on her Tenure attainment. I recall how she helped my son's class several years ago when she stepped into to a 5th Grade class in early spring to finish out the year and she did a wonderful job with the children. Congratulations Ms. Pereira for attaining tenure and I wish you good luck in your future years. Parents be sure that we will do everything possible within our tight budget to work with the large class size at Center Ave. Thank you for coming.

**Michaelene Abbott-Cooper** – Thank you for coming. Mr. Pager was great. Thank you for joining us. Please come out and vote on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Linda Schmidt** – Thank you for coming. Congratulations to the tenured teachers. Welcome Ms. Hecht.

#### 10. Adjournment – Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio  
District Clerk