

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:30 P.M., October 18, 2011 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School  
Preceded by a Salute to the Board of Education and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Neil Schloth, President; Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, Vice President; Linda Schmidt, Patti Nicoletti, Kristen Ochtera, Roseanne Melucci, Superintendent of Schools; Marcy Tannenbaum, Director of Finance and Operations; Denise Lobascio; District Clerk, staff and members of the community.

1. The meeting was called to order by Neil Schloth at 7:40 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper.
2. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott Cooper, seconded by Linda Schmidt the minutes of the September 20, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports – July and August 2011
4. Correspondence – Two
5. Action Agenda

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following numbers #1-8 were unanimously approved:

A. Personnel

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
  - a. Cameshia Jones, food service worker, effective September 27, 2011
  - b. Ranero Esver, food service worker, effective September 28, 2011
  - c. Kathleen O'Mara, substitute food service worker, effective October 18, 2011
  - d. Joseph Wasniewski, substitute cleaner, effective October 18, 2011
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Harriet E. Palmer, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as senior account clerk, 12 months, effective December 31, 2011.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following food service worker appointments, effective October 19, 2011, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union contract for the 2011-2012 school year:
  - a. Kathleen O'Mara, food service worker, Step 1
  - b. Joseph Wasniewski, food service worker, Step 3, Driver
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Michael Stern to the position of lead custodian, effective October 19, 2011, at the prorated stipend set forth in the East Rockaway Custodial Unit contract for the 2011-2012 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Gina Carrillo to the part-time position of school social worker for the ALPSS program, effective October 19, 2011, through June 30, 2012, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2011-2012 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Carolyn Fernandez to the position of teacher aide, effective October 19, 2011, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2011-2012 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Angela Iadevaia to the position of Special Education Teacher for the After School Program, effective October 11, 2011, through June 24, 2012, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for other educational assignments for the 2011-2012 school year.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education:

- a. Kathryn Klock, substitute teacher, ALPSS, effective September 15, 2011
  - b. Debra McCoy, substitute food service worker, effective October 19, 2011
  - c. Gail Hyland, substitute monitor and substitute teacher aide, effective October 19, 2011
  - d. Christine Polizzi, substitute teacher aide, effective October 19, 2011
  - e. Allison Siegfried, substitute teacher, effective October 19, 2011
9. 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 Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items #1-10 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the club advisor assignments for the 2011-2012 school year as more fully set forth on the schedule of Club/Advisor assignments dated October 18, 2011, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the winter sports 2011-2012 coaching assignments as more fully set forth on the schedule of winter sports coaching assignments dated October 18, 2011.
3. Approve the following resolution:

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:

December 15, 2011..... 6:30 – 8:00 p.m..... ERHS Auditorium  
December 21, 2011..... 6:30 – 8:00 p.m..... ERHS Auditorium

4. Declare broken and/or obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling the equipment more fully set forth on the Inventory Control sheets.
5. Approve the terms and conditions of the following contracts for consultant services during the 2011-2012 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education:
  - a) Jacquelyn Nealon, Ed.D., Financial Aid Workshop
  - b) Shari Berman, Choreography
6. Approve the terms and conditions of the contract with The Long Island Home d/b/a South Oaks Hospital for the period September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
7. Approve the admission of the following students to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2011-2012 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreements between the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD and the Board of Education of the sending school districts:
  - a) Lynbrook student, I.D. No. 20137089
  - b) West Hempstead student, I.D. No. 99900588
  - c) Hewlett-Woodmere students, I.D. Nos. 16479, 14209, and 18028
  - d) Valley Stream District 13 student, I.D. No. 083110001
  - e) Freeport student, I.D. No. 1000452

8. Approve the purchase of the following textbook:

Finney, Demana, Waits, Kennedy; Calculus Graphical, Numerical, Algebraic AP\* Edition, Pearson Education, Inc.; Boston, MA; Copyright 2012

9. Approve for the purpose of disposal and/or sale as obsolete the textbooks specifically listed on the Textbook Removal Form dated October 18, 2011.
10. Accept the following donations:

- a) \$500.00 from the Friends of Bridge Foundation, Inc. for the purchase of library books and authorize an increase in budget code A2610-450-01-0000 (supplies and materials) by said amount
- b) \$153.95 from Target for teaching supplies for the Rhame Avenue Elementary School and approve an increase in budget code A2110-450-03-0000 (teaching supplies) by said amount
- c) \$280.00 for deposit into the Student Activity Fund Account Life Skills Program from SEPTA for supplies for the Life Skills Program.

C. Budget Transfers

- 1. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:
  - a. Transaction No. 11-0040
  - b. Transaction No. 11-0041

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, 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:

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper the following items #I a – t were unanimously approved:

- 1. Policies for Adoption:
  - a. 0100, Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination  
0100-R Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination Regulation
  - b. 6000, Fiscal Management Goals
  - c. 6110, Budget Planning  
6110-R, Budget Planning Regulation
  - d. 6150, Budget Transfers  
6150-R, Budget Transfer Regulations
  - e. 6240, Investments
  - f. 6410, Authorized Signatures
  - g. 6600, Fiscal Accounting and Reporting
  - h. 6645, Inventory and Capital Assets Accounting  
6645-R, Inventory and Capital Assets Accounting Regulation
  - i. 6650, Claims Auditor  
6650-R, Claim Auditor Regulations  
6650-E, Claims Auditor Exhibit
  - j. 6660, Independent/External Audits  
6660-E, External Audit Guidance for School District Officials
  - k. 6680, Internal Audit Function
  - l. 6690, Audit Committee
  - m. 6740, Purchasing Procedures  
6740-R, Purchasing Procedures Regulations
  - n. 6741, Contracting for Professional Services
  - o. 6800, Payroll Procedures
  - p. 6830, Expense Reimbursement  
6830-R, Expense Reimbursement Regulation
  - q. 6900, Disposal of District Property
  - r. 7000, Facilities Development Goals
  - s. 7100, Facilities Planning
  - t. 7365, Construction Safety  
7365-E, Construction Safety Exhibit
- 2. Policies for Review:
  - a. 1000, Community Relations Goals

- b. 1050, Annual District Election and Budget Vote
- c. 1120, School District Records
  - 1120-R, School District Records Regulation
  - 1120-E.1, Application for Public Access to Records
  - 1120-E.2, Agency Response to Request for Records
- d. 1130, News Media Relations
- e. 1230, Public Participation at Board Meetings
- f. 1400, Public Complaints
- g. 1420, Complaints about Curricula or Instructional Materials
  - 1420-R, Complaints About Curricula or Instructional Materials Regulation
- h. 1500, Public Use of School Facilities
  - 1500-R, Application Procedures for Use of District Facilities
  - 1500-E.1, Facilities Use Requirements
  - 1500-E.2, Application for Use of District Facilities
- i. 1511, Advertising in the Schools
- j. 1530, Smoking & Other Tobacco Use on School Premises
- k. 1740, Relationships with Non-public Schools
  - 1740-R, Relationships with Non-public Schools Regulation
- l. 1800, Gifts from the Public
- m. 1925, Interpreters for Hearing-Impaired Parents
  - 1925-E.1, Interpreters for Hearing Impaired Parents Accommodation Request
  - 1925-E.2, Response to Request for Accommodations

## 7. Superintendent's Report.

My personal thanks to the members of the Board of Education. I truly enjoy working with you and appreciate all the time and energy you spend to make decisions that are fair, economical and enhance teaching and learning. Thank you also to the PTA, teachers and students for their presentation to the Board.

There is a lot going on in our schools this month but I am not going to read the entire report because I want to take some time to talk about the Princeton Plan. I will post my full report on the website through the minutes.

Here's what's happening in our schools.

Last month we talked briefly about the 3-8 assessment scores and I shared that the results were disappointing. I would like to add that there are many academically talented students whose performance should be celebrated. Last month I shared the names of the students who scored a perfect paper on a June 2011 Regents exam. Here is a list of students who exceed the proficiency standard for both ELA and mathematics in grades 3-8: Grade 3: Alexis Guilz, Kaitlyn Maltempi; Grade 4: Philip Bonet, Kaitlyn Collison, Russell Conevery, Kyle Cote, Layla Huckabey, Emma Neary; Grade 5: Peter Wilson

Grade 6: Samuel Bennett, Katharine Calabrese, Natalia Cuttitta, Peter Liotta, Declan Louw, Justin Schmidt, Alex Sharkey; Grade 7: Mariah Capone, Sarina Gonzalez, Andrew Huthwaite, Nora Louw, Kristen Mihalich; Grade 8: Erin Trotta. Congratulations to our scholars.

One of our high school students, Sheri Reichelson, has been named a "Commended Student" by the National Merit Scholarship Program. She placed among the top 5% of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2012 competition. There was a lovely write-up in last week's Herald. Congratulations Sheri!

With respect to our scores and how we compare to the County the results are mixed by grade level and by subject area. East Rockaway Schools scored similar to or outperformed the County average in ELA for grades 3, 4, 5, and 7. Our math scores were not as good and we only out performed the County average in Grade 7. We are working with a math consultant through Federal funds to improve our math performance. We have also hired a math certified teaching assistant to work with the elementary school students. Principals are working in the buildings with the teachers to use data and provide interventions for students who are in need of additional support.

With respect to our Regents results East Rockaway High School outperformed the County average in Earth Science, Living Environment, Italian and Spanish. We are addressing the other subject area Regents exams by working with the department supervisors, teachers, students and parents to improve student performance.

One of the ways we will improve student performance is through the use of data. All students in grades K-3 were assessed in reading with Running Records and Dibels to determine a baseline for the year. Principals will be meeting with the teachers to analyze the data and plan for improvement.

In grades 4-8, students are taking the local assessments in ELA and Math. This is diagnostic data that will be used to provide interventions so that all students can meet the standards. This is also part of the new legislation for the Annual Professional Performance Review Plan. Please do not look upon assessment as a bad thing as it is data to help improve the students' performance, as well as to strengthen the curriculum and instruction. Assessment is part of effective teaching. It measures progress. Ongoing assessment is used in planning to produce change.

Students in Marine Biology, a new science course at the HS, will take their learning outside of the classroom and attend an ocean excursion on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> on the Miss Point Lookout III.

Jr/Sr High Students are reading: *The Things They Carried*; *The Awakening*; *The Catcher in the Rye* and *The Great Gatsby*; *Fahrenheit 451*; *Night*. I encourage you to read along with your child and discuss what he/she is reading.

In the Career/Finance/Marketing course, the students are studying the job process. They created cover letters

and resumes and will be practicing mock interviews next week.

Sports, Entertainment & Marketing students are planning trips to various sports venues, such as the Nassau Coliseum, Madison Square Garden and CitiField. In class, they have been creating JV and Varsity game programs that are being utilized at all our sporting events.

Students from the Life Skills class went on a trip to the Bethpage Bike Trail in Massapequa. They rode, “scootered” and walked the trail while observing nature. They then went shopping and practiced some of the skills they’ve been learning: making change, communicating clearly, etc. They’ve also been using the iPads daily, as a reward and incentive and use the COWs weekly to practice computer skills.

Other learning outside the classroom includes: Rhame Grade 4 trip to Garvies Point, Glen Cove. The [Museum](#) is a center for research on Long Island geology and a valued resource in the study of the Island's [Native American archaeology](#).

One of our themes this year is to establish a culture for learning. We are encouraging, and noticing, more parents and students buying into the idea that school and doing well in school is important. Mrs. Hecht was pleased to report that on Saturday the PSAT was administered and there were 82 out of 107 juniors who took the test. This is 77% of the junior class. This is an increase in participation from 2010 (72%) and 2009 (66%). We need to keep this momentum going. This is important. Parents, you are the strongest influence on your children for how they view their job as students.

East Rockaway High School appeared in the fall edition of MSG Varsity for winning the Home Field Advantage contest. Also related to athletics and physical education, Mrs. Leary promoted the Knights of Columbus community run/walk at Bay Park last Saturday in the school resulting in a number of our students participating in the event.

The Pep Rally will be held on Friday, October 21 at 7:00pm in the gym. We will induct one member into the community hall of fame - Larry Pashaian and two members into the hall of retired numbers Cheri Nelson Poland class of '89 Basketball and John Bresnihan class of '52 Track & Field. The Homecoming Game is on Saturday, October 22nd at 1:30pm vs. Clark High School. Pregame ceremonies will begin at 1:00pm

There is a change in the way we recognize the accomplishments of our athletes. In the past we have held a banquet at the end of the year. We are trying something different this year as we have realized that many students are not attending the banquet.

For the fall sports awards - all teams will hold their own awards celebration at the end of the season. Letters were mailed home explaining the change from the past awards dinner in June. The goal is to increase student participation in this celebration from the past (48%). We will review how effective this is and continue or modify for future seasons.

If you haven't already taken a look, please walk by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade wing and see the beautiful mural created by one of our sub teachers, Malka Witt, and many of our students. New artwork is now on display in the front lobby (elementary school students) and in the hallway showcases (HS work).

A general meeting was held on October 11th for those students interested in participating in this year's musical, Crazy for You. Auditions will begin on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Centre Ave: Primary grades are learning Halloween songs. Intermediate grades are working on Opera, “The Magic Flute”.

SEDL words of the month are: 7<sup>th</sup> grade words: Identify; Patience; Communicate; Terror

8<sup>th</sup> grade words: Pride; Deprivation; Hostile; Internalize. Centre Avenue words are: compromise and agony. Rhame Avenue words are: pride and motivation.

October is National Bullying Month and Rhame Avenue Student Council is raising awareness! Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> students wore orange to rally against bullying.

As part of our Professional Development Plan, Mr. Piccarella conducted mentor training for twelve teachers who are now able to mentor teachers that are either new to the profession or new to East Rockaway. The teachers who participated volunteered for this assignment and I thank them and Mr. Piccarella for the investment in our work force.

Administrators have been at BOCES for training as members of the new Building Inquiry teams. This is an outgrowth of Race to The Top. The purpose is to teach team members how to make use of data to improve instruction. The Building Team members are also being trained on the new Common Core curriculum, which you will learn more about at upcoming Board meetings.

Mr. Cimorelli, one of the high school technology teachers, will be presenting at the Fall Technology Educators Conference at SUNY Oswego. The primary focus of his presentation will be about how he is infusing STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) into his daily lesson planning.

In other news this month, Centre Avenue has scheduled PTA assemblies on character education (anti-bullying) and Fire Safety. Centre Avenue teachers were trained on "Discovery", a computer based instructional video website that can be used on our Smartboards to increase student engagement with the curriculum.

Students in grades K-2 visited the firehouse, for Fire Safety month, and learned about fire safety and arson. Parents were encouraged to create evacuation plans at home

The HS It's Academic Team has been selected to participate in the MSG Varsity television show, “The Challenge” on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### Follow-up From Prior Meeting

There were some questions last month that did not have to wait until the Board meeting to be asked. Please follow the Who do I call list so that the information that you would like to have could be given to you in a more timely manner.

A parent asked what parents can do to improve student performance. Please keep encouraging your child to make learning a priority. There was an article in Newsday recently that I have available for you, that addresses this.

Rhame Avenue fields—The fields have been groomed. We lost some time with the hurricane cleanup. Also, we are no longer allowed to use certain pesticides and that has made the task more difficult.

Historical data in Infinite Campus parent portal is available.

Athletic Scholarships—Mr. Vulpis had not received any calls about this. Our procedure is that students, parents and notified at a team meeting, tip off nights and school web site. Every varsity coach is also given a letter to distribute on the Core Course GPA. If this affects your child directly, please speak to Mr. Vulpis and your child’s guidance counselor. That concludes my report.

#### 8. Privilege of the Floor

- A lengthy discussion took place regarding the research for the elementary school reconfiguration. It was first explained by Dr. Melucci and then there were many community member comments.
- Over scheduled sixth period lunch.
- Underage drinking.
- Tuitioning in students.
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade class size at Centre Avenue
- Sending out reminder of Board of Education meetings
- Academic level not being where it should be.

#### 9. Board Member Comments

**Patti Nicoletti** - I want to begin by thanking the Rhame Ave. students and staff that did a fabulous job 'filling our buckets' tonight! Secondly, I want to lend some clarification to a few issues brought up at tonight's meeting.

The main responsibility of the BOE is to provide fiscal oversight, set policy and act as a liaison between the district and community. We do not micromanage the every day happenings of the district. We encourage you to deal directly with the staff members most closely related to the specific incidents which concern you as this is the most effective route of communication. I hope this alleviates any frustrations you may have.

The other issue of concern is transparency about the Princeton Plan. This was first discussed at an agenda meeting last spring which was attended by two parents. The board continued to discuss the plan at future agenda meetings and finally hired a consultant to investigate the feasibility of the plan working for East Rockaway. I can't be adamant enough when I say there was never any intention to keep this study from the public.

**Michaelene Abbott-Cooper** – Thank you for coming. I just want to read some of the thank you flags from the students; “For all you do” and “how you care for students”. This is why we are here.

**Linda Schmidt** – Thank you to the kids, parents, teachers and administration for the sweet presentation and for reminding me why I sit up here as a board trustee. It's all about the kids and that's what we all have to remember. Thank you to the parents for coming out and voicing your opinions. We take everything that is said very seriously and we appreciate your comments. I look forward to seeing you all next month and have a good evening.

**Kristin Ochtera** – I was very excited about this meeting regarding the Princeton Plan and we will take the time to answer any questions and encourage you to ask more. After reading letters and asking many questions, we still don't know if it will work for us.

Traffic patterns, etc. maybe should have been looked at for an objective report. Thank you, it was a wonderful meeting and beginning of conversation. Please continue to contact us. Thank you for coming.

**Neil Schloth** – I join with Kristin in saying this was an eye opener and I think it was positive and respectful for the most part. We take what you say seriously, so we hear what goes on and fix things. Thank you for coming.

10. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio  
District Clerk