

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 PM, March 19, 2013 – Centre Avenue School All Purpose Room
Preceded by a Presentation from the President of the
East Rockaway Education Foundation, a
Presentation on Advanced Placement Programs
and a Public Forum

MINUTES

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

Absent: John Giannotti, Jr.

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 8:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil Schloth.
2. Upon motion by Neil Schloth and seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the minutes of the February 12, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – January 2013
4. Correspondence - None
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Patti Nicoletti the following items #1 -11 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignation:
 - a. Ellen Kovitz, monitor, effective March 1, 2013
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the following resignations, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2013:

- a. John Bishop, Art teacher
 - b. Donna Katzman, Guidance Counselor
 - c. Jody A. Delegianis, R. N., School Nurse
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an extension of a child rearing leave of absence of Deanna Mignella from her mathematics teacher position, effective July 1, 2013, through the end of the fall semester of the 2013 – 2014 school year.
 4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an extension of a child rearing leave of absence of Myriam Spadafora from her school social worker position, effective July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.
 5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a child rearing leave of absence of Kristen Mednick from her school social worker position, effective April 5, 2013, through the end of the fall semester of the 2013-2014 school year.
 6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an extension of a child rearing leave of absence of Ann Marie Kenny from her school psychologist position, effective July 1, 2013, through the end of the fall semester of the 2013 – 2014 school year.
 7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Lesley Velasquez to the position of monitor, effective March 20, 2013, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union contract for monitors for the 2012-2013 school year.
 8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised spring sports 2012-2013 coaching assignments as more fully set forth on the 2012-2013 Spring Coaching Schedule dated March 19, 2013.
 9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Mary Jo Keane from her position as substitute monitor, effective March 19, 2013, and approve the appointment of Mary Jo Keane to the position of monitor, effective March 20, 2013, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union contract for the 2012-2013 school year.
 10. 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 2012-2013 school year:
 - a. Joseph Cangemi, substitute teacher, ALPSS, effective February 18, 2013

- b. Frank Cuttitta, substitute ALPSS, Administrator in Charge, effective February 11, 2013
- c. Noreen McDougal, substitute teacher, effective March 20, 2013
- d. Jacklyn Kaszubski, substitute teacher, effective March 20, 2013
- e. Harold Friesleben, athletic supervisor, effective November 15, 2012
- f. Cliff Krug, athletic supervisor, effective March 4, 2013
- g. Brianna Adamzyek, athletic supervisor, effective March 4, 2013
- h. Carlos Amaya, substitute teacher, ALPSS, effective March 20, 2013
- i. Justin Ciccotelli, athletic supervisor, effective March 20, 2013

11. 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. Justin Ciccotelli

B. Other

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Neil Schloth the following items #1 – 9 were unanimously approved:

- 1. Accept the following donations for the purpose of replacing instructional items lost and/or for the restoration of district facilities damaged in Hurricane Sandy:
 - a. \$50,000.00 from the East Rockaway Education Foundation for restoration of the district’s facilities and deposit said funds to the Special Aid Account
 - b. \$1,500.00 from Lynbrook High School Tri-M Music Honor Society for music department and increase budget code 2110-450-01-0028
 - c. Armstrong Flute, valued at \$250.00; LeBlanc Bb Clarinet, valued at \$175; and a Yamaha Tenor Saxophone, valued at \$750.00 from Deanna Howarth
 - d. \$30.00 from Natalie Morales, a 5th grade student at Rhame, and increase budget code 2110-450-01-0000
 - e. Two \$600.00 Staples gift cards for each school temporarily closed due to Hurricane Sandy
 - f. Two Lowes gift cards totaling \$233.51 to replace tools

2. Accept the following donations to the Rhame Avenue School and authorize an increase in budget code 2110-450-03-0000:
 - a. \$560.00 from the Harborfields High School Tri-Fit Club for the sixth grade Greenkill trip and deposit said funds into the East Rockaway Student Activity Account for that purpose
 - b. \$500.00 from Franklin Early Childhood Center PTA
3. Accept the following donations from the Rhame Avenue PTA:
 - a. \$6,580.00 to be used for the purchase of ten (10) iPads for academic instruction and increase budget code 2630-200-08-0000
 - b. books valued at \$1,100.00 for grade level classroom libraries
 - c. 50 elementary science trade books valued at \$1,200.00 from Maria Cady for the Rhame Avenue School's media center
4. Accept a grant from DonorsChoose.org for a Kindle Fire Bundle, quantity of 3, valued at \$159.99 each.
5. Accept the Grant-in-Aid of \$25,000.00 to be used for the purchase of a Rack Body Truck and increase Revenue Code A3289 and Expenditure Code A1620-200-00-0000.
6. Approve, as obsolete for the purpose of disposal, the textbooks specifically listed on the attached Textbook Removal Form.
7. Approve the contract with Open Systems for fire alarm maintenance for the period March 5, 2013, through June 30, 2013, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
8. Approve the admission of one Lynbrook UFSD student, Student I.D. No. 20137089, to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2012- 2013 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.
9. 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."

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items #10 – 15 were unanimously approved:

10. Approve the application to State Environment Quality Review for the 2012-2013 Capital Improvement Program:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD is the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Process for the purpose of required determinations respecting the proposed Capital Improvement Projects as follows:

- a. East Rockaway High School, SED #28-02-19-03-0-001-033
 - Exterior Door Replacement
 - Exterior Gutter Replacement
- b. Centre Avenue Elementary, SED #28-02-19-03-0-003-015
 - Exterior Door Replacement
 - Fire Escape Reconstruction

WHEREAS, in 1995, amendments were made to the SEQRA Regulation (Part 617) to classify projects, which will be excluded from the requirements for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (Type II Actions). The projects mentioned above are now classified as Type II Actions as determined by 6NYCRR§617.5 and

WHEREAS, these projects fall under the following categories:

- A. Routine Maintenance and Repair 6NYCRR§617.5 (c)(1): Maintenance or repair involving no substantial change in an existing facility.
- B. Replace or Rehabilitation 6NYCRR§617.5 (c)(2): replacement or rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, unless the work exceeds a threshold for a Type I action in 6NYCRR§617.4.

THEREFORE, as the lead agency for the SEQRA determination, all the above referenced projects fall under Categories “A” or “B” above. The procedure for Type II Actions, with regard to the SEQRA Process for Capital Projects noted above is “No Additional Required Action under 6NYCRR§617.5(a)”.

11. Approve the following resolution:

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 February 4, 2013, between the District and the East Rockaway Teachers Aides Association regarding the terms and conditions of employment for the District's teacher aides unit employees for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute the resulting collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

12. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, (a) that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District ("District"), is hereby authorized to undertake certain school building improvements ("Project"), as described in a Capital Projects 2013-2014 report on file and available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk ("Report"), all at no additional cost to District taxpayers; said Project to commence during the 2013-2014 school year and to consist of the following capital improvements, renovations and/or alterations: (1) crawl space ventilation and spray foam insulation of the auditorium at the East Rockaway High School; (2) drainage ring in the parking lot at Rhame Avenue Elementary School; (3) replacement of fibar playground safety surfacing at Centre Avenue Elementary School; and (4) security camera and security software upgrades district-wide; all of the foregoing to include equipment, construction and other work required in connection therewith, as well as preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof; provided that the detailed costs of the components of the Project as set forth in the Report 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 shall be made in the scope of the Project; and.

(b) that an amount not to exceed \$200,000 is hereby appropriated for said purpose from the District's Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs, heretofore established by the voters of the District on May 20, 2008, and such sum is hereby authorized to be transferred into the District's Capital Fund to be expended and applied toward the cost of the Project. In addition, \$55,000 from prior years' Capital Reserve surplus for Building Improvement and Repair is appropriated for use toward the above mentioned 2013-2014 proposed projects.

13. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District ("District"), is hereby authorized to expend from the District's Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Replacement, heretofore established by the voters of

the District on May 20, 2008, an amount not to exceed \$181,728.00 to undertake the district-wide purchase and/or replacement of certain technology and tele-communications equipment and software ("Project"), as described in a report entitled "Proposed Technology Reserve Spending 2013-2014" on file and available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk ("Report"), all at no additional cost to District taxpayers; said Project to commence during the 2013-2014 school year and to consist of the following: (1) smart classroom projects necessary to complete the outfitting of all classrooms with interactive whiteboard technology; (2) network upgrades and replacement; and (3) Storage Area Network upgrades; (4) music/tech lab upgrade; (5) replacement of computer hardware; (6) Point of Sale system for district Food Service Program; all of the foregoing to include equipment, installation and other work required in connection therewith, as well as preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof; provided that the detailed costs of the components of the Project as set forth in the Report 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 shall be made in the scope of the Project.

14. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that Carol Hernandez be appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Registration for the annual District Election to be held on May 21, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes Carol Hernandez, a member of the board of registration, to be available for the purpose of registering qualified voters of the District at the following times and locations:

March 18-22, 2013 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Centre Avenue Elementary School
April 8-12, 2013 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Rhame Avenue Elementary School

15. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the financial audit prepared by R. S. Abrams and Co., for the year ended June 30, 2012.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following budget transfer was unanimously approved:

a. Transaction No. 13-0004

D. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters - None

7. Superintendent's Report

Here's what's happening in our schools.

This year's High School Valedictorian is Lindsay Dower and Vincent Arena is the Salutatorian. Congratulations Lindsay and Vincent!

Student work from the various subject areas and grade levels have been on display around both Shubert and Milburn. Posters are on display from students who participated in the Long Island Language Teachers poster contest.

The Student Advisory council at the middle school has been busy tallying the number of grade level students who attend extra help sessions across the content areas for the middle school's "EX" factor competition.

Advanced Placement Biology students recently visited the Dolan DNA Center in Lake Success. Among the activities, they genetically engineered bacteria and constructed an electrophoresis. Students in the science research program are in the process of finding a mentor in their field of interest. In a few weeks, our 7th grade life science students will begin the unit on evolution. Students will read the play, *Inherit the Wind*; as part of their studies in 7th grade science. This unit addresses the literacy component of the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) for Science. Each teacher in the science department, in preparation for the Next Generation Science Standards, will attend a full day workshop. The algebra and geometry teachers will also attend a workshop to help them prepare for next year's implementation of the new CCLS-based algebra and geometry courses.

Students in grades 3-8 are participating in academic academies in preparation for the state assessments. The ELA assessments will begin on April 16th. Assessments in mathematics will begin on April 24th. We expect every student to be in attendance and to participate in the assessments. We use the results to monitor our curriculum and instruction as well as to plan for appropriate academic interventions and placements. Please make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast.

Centre and Rhame Grade 6 Students will attend their Outdoor Environmental Education Field trip this week on March 20, 21, 22. We thank Mr. Silk and our teacher chaperones for their continued willingness to participate in this overnight adventure.

March Reading Madness programs are flourishing at Centre and Rhame this month.

It is a school-wide event that was created to encourage students to read for enjoyment and/or recreation.

Congratulations to Karin Leary for receiving the honor of Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year! Congratulations to Joe Lores for being named the Nassau County Conference B Coach of the Year! It should also be noted that basketball players, David McClure, Kevin Blessington, and Dan Fusco, made it to the all-conference team. Congratulations to our students Joanna Durando, Jonathan McGuinness, and Matthew McGuinness for completing the South Shore 5K Run to benefit local little leagues damaged by the hurricane.

We thank Adelphi University for offering us their field for 7 of our 9 “home” games for Varsity Boy’s Baseball. CW Post also offered us a “home” game space. All free of charge.

Elementary school students in grades 4-6 are practicing and preparing for this year's FITNESSGRAM assessments. FITNESSGRAM is a program used to paint a picture of a student's health-related fitness. Reports will be mailed home that reflect a student’s cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition.

The Rhame Avenue gym opened today with a schedule that enabled all students to participate in physical education in the new gym. News 12 was onsite to witness this milestone in our facilities restoration. Thank you Mr. Hickey for working with Mrs. Guggino to design and celebrate this special day.

In celebration of artistic talent, the annual All-County Art Exhibition was held on Sunday, March 17th at the Ruth S. Harley University Center at Adelphi University. Eight East Rockaway students participated. At the Elementary level we congratulate Jaclyn Ragusa and Marly Fogelberg. At the Jr/Sr High School level we congratulate Abigail Calabrese, Marco DiLuca, Kayla Cimkowski, Jessica Cerasoli, Shenan Howard and Mara McKenna. Shenan Howard also received the East Rockaway Art Supervisor's Leadership Award. In celebration of Youth Art Month, the Long Island Art Teachers Association is hosting its 4th Annual Art in Heart Exhibit at The Broadway Mall in Hicksville March 9 thru April 21. We congratulate the following artists from Rhame Avenue for having their art work on display-- Alyssa Salles, Carly Kane and Kaitlyn Maltempi.

March is Music in Our Schools Month. Students are singing, listening, and performing some of their favorite songs this month. In addition, music students performed their NYSSMA solos at the festival in Malverne on Monday, March 18 and today, Tuesday, March 19. Approximately 30 students from Rhame Avenue participated.

Also in celebration of Music in our Schools Month, yesterday, March 18, students from the musical, *Seussical*, performed in Times Square at Duffy Square, along with three other schools to celebrate the lives of Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Weber at the annual event, Musicals in on Schools Week. Our students were chosen by iTheatrics, the organization that sponsored the High School auditorium re-building project with Lowe's and NBC.

Our instructional supervision team of Directors, Principals, Assistant Principals and Chairpeople have been attending professional development sessions at BOCES to increase their skills in classroom observations.

At Centre Avenue new security cameras have been installed. Four new cafeteria tables have been purchased to replace aging tables. And the All Purpose room fire escape is being measured for replacement.

Last week a set of new exterior doors were installed in the 1967 wing at the HS. We are in the process of installing new exterior doors in the HS Gym. In addition, we have ordered new exterior front doors and exterior back rotunda doors for the HS. This work is not related to the hurricane; it was part of the facilities reserve for 2012-2013.

We are in the process of enhancing security at the high school by purchasing a key-card security system. Some of you may have heard that the State is offering additional state aid on enhancing security for the schools and we will be taking advantage of that offer. Once the system is in effect guests will have to be buzzed into the school, similar to the practice at Rhame and Centre Avenue.

We are making progress at the HS. Over the next two weeks many of the projects will be coming to conclusion. We are still anticipating returning the students to ERHS some time in April. At this time I have not been given an exact date.

The last Budget Advisory Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 8th and it will be at Centre Avenue. At the moment there is still a \$575,000 gap to close to meet the tax levy limit of 3.43%. We are hopeful that the Governor will support the Senate's and Assembly's recommendations to restore all of our high tax aid, in which case we will be able to maintain our current services and programs. We should have an answer by the end of the week. If that does not happen, then we go back and revisit items that are not mandated such as our extra curricula activities and the additional positions that were added this year—two teaching assistants and an elementary reading teacher. If you have not already written to the Governor please contact him and ask him to support our schools.

Congratulations to three of our third grade Enterprise students for winning UCPN's 2013 3rd and 4th Grade Division of Trivia Challenge. Our winning team included Mark DiLapi, Jason Miller, and Madeleine Prucha.

I want to thank our 5th grade student, Natalie Morales, for being inspired by the students from Tritt elementary school and donating \$30 to ERHS for the restoration of the school. Rhame Avenue Student council is creating a photo story for Tritt Elementary to continue collaborating with this school that was so generous to us.

I want to thank everyone for their very generous donations to rebuild our schools whether they came to the district directly or through the Education Foundation.

Project Hope visited the middle school and spent a morning with the students and staff to offer support services for the members of our school who suffered through the hurricane. They were also onsite at Rhame Avenue today.

The Insights publication for spring 2013 has been posted to the website. If you are not receiving email blasts please contact Carol Hernandez to update your email address.

I wish everyone a restful spring break and happy holidays to those who will be celebrating.

That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Status of the athletic field
- 12/12/12 Concert – aid for schools

9. Board Member Comments

Kristin Ochtera – We are putting up the budget vote in May. Every year seats expire; this year it is my and Patti’s seat. If you want to run, the positions run at large. Interested parties should pick up the packet from the district clerk and have the petition signed by at least 25 residents. We will be having a Meet the Candidates night in May.

Linda Schmidt – Thank you for coming out. Thank you everyone for the donations. Congratulations and best wishes to the retirees.

Neil Schloth – Thank you Meredith and Christine for speaking with the representatives. They are very eager to help. We need to put some pressure on the Governor. Please write to the legislators to help. I was not at the last meeting , so I would like to thank Roseanne for her help over the past 5 or 6 years. Her desire to help the school district is amazing.

Patti Nicoletti – Thank you to the Education Foundation for their continued generous donations to our district, as well as the many other generous donations we have received. Thank you to the administrators, teachers and our PTAs who have participated in our focus groups to help us in our search for a new superintendent. I encourage everyone to stay for a few extra minutes tonight to participate with our community group.

10. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk