

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., June 12, 2012 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by 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 7:45 by Neil Schloth and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper.
2. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the minutes of the May 17, 2012 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – April 2012
4. Correspondence – None
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items #1-17 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Camillo Caparelli, for the purpose of retirement, from his custodial position, effective July 31, 2012.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby discontinues the probationary appointment of Elisa Kerin, as a library media specialist, effective July 13, 2012.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Maureen Iadevaio from the position of account clerk, 12-month, effective June 30, 2012, and approve the provisional appointment of Maureen Iadevaio to the position of senior account clerk, 12-month, effective July 1, 2012, at the prorated Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association contract for the 2012-2013 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Driver and Traffic Safety Instructor appointments, effective June 26, 2012, through August 3,

2012, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years:

Christian Soto
Dominick Vulpis

5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Phyllis Jencius to the part-time position of reading teacher (FTE .8) for the 2012-2013 school year, at the prorated MA, Step 24 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2012-2013 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Marissa Mauro from her probationary teaching assistant position, effective August 29, 2012, and approve her appointment to the position of leave replacement mathematics teacher, effective August 30, 2012, through the end of the fall semester of the 2012-2013 school year, at the prorated MA, Step 1 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2012-2013 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an extension of her unpaid child rearing leave of absence for Ann Marie Kenny from her school psychologist position, effective July 1, 2012, through the end of the fall semester of the 2012-2013 school year.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an unpaid child rearing leave of absence for Myriam Spadafora from her school social worker position, effective August 30, 2012, through the end of the fall semester of the 2012-2013 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Melinda Best to the position of ESL teacher for the Jump Start Program, effective July 30, 2012, to August 3, 2012, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2012-2013 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following special education summer school appointments, effective July 2, 2012, through August 10, 2012, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2012-2013 school year:

Kathleen Crowley	Special Education Teacher
Kristen Donovan	Special Education Teacher
Allison Gerbert.....	Special Education Teacher
Randi Kilcommons	Resource Room Teacher
Peter Mancuso.....	School Psychologist

11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following special education summer school teacher aide appointments, effective July 2, 2012, through August 10, 2012, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2012-2013 school year:

Jessica Giliberti
Janet Block
Marisa Solan

12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Janine Milazzo to the position of summer school nurse for the special education summer school program, effective July 2, 2012, through August 10, 2012, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2012-2013 school year.

13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Francesca DeVivo to the position of summer monitor, effective July 2, 2012, through August 10, 2012 at the Step 10 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitors Union agreement for the 2012-2013 school year.

14. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following appointments for summer CSE/CPSE meetings, effective July 1, 2012, through August 31, 2012, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2012-2013 school year:

Frank Cuttitta	General Education Teacher
Laura Peterson	General/Special Education Teacher
Eileen Weidman.....	Special Education Teacher
Tina Smith.....	School Psychologist
Peter Mancuso.....	School Psychologist

15. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the fall coaching assignments more fully set forth on the 2012-2013 Fall Coaching Schedule at the stipended salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2012-2013 school year.

16. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary *summer* assignments, effective July 2, 2012, through August 10, 2012, at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2012-2013 school year:

Alice Calabrese, substitute summer school nurse
Esterina Morreale, substitute summer teacher aide
Gaetano Barone, substitute summer teacher aide
Joann Ricciardi, Denise Cipriano and Claudia Marx, substitute summer monitors

17. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the “emergency, conditional” personnel appointment for the following individual pending receipt of notification of fingerprint clearance from the State of New York, Department of Education:

Janine Milazzo

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the following items #1-7 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the contract dated May 30, 2012, with Stuyvesant Energy L.L.C. d/b/a Hess Small Business Services, HESS Corporation, as the natural gas service provider for the period July 1, 2012, 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.
2. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance & Operations, or designee, on behalf of the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District, be and hereby is authorized to participate in cooperative bidding conducted in conjunction with the Boards of Education of the participating school districts for bids for the items and services as more fully set forth in Attachment “A”. Any award of contract pursuant to these cooperative bids will be made by the respective Board of Education in cooperation with the participating school districts.

3. Approve the resolution to issue Tax Anticipation Notes in the sum not to exceed Ten Million (\$10,000,000.00) Dollars as more fully set forth on the attached Schedule “A.”
4. Approve the second year contract extension with AssetWorks Appraisal to provide professional valuation services for the appraisal of capitalized assets for 2011-2012 financial reports.
5. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District has heretofore duly established the following reserves:

- a. Capital Reserve for Building Improvements and Repairs
- b. Capital Reserve for Technology
- c. Reserve for Retirement Contributions
- d. Reserve for Unemployment Insurance

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to fund the reserves as follows:

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount Not to Exceed
General Fund's Unappropriated Fund Balance		\$1,340,000.00
	Capital Reserve for Building Improvements and Repairs	\$200,000.00
	Capital Reserve for Technology	\$200,000.00
	Reserve for Retirement Contributions	\$900,000.00
	Reserve for Unemployment Insurance	\$40,000.00

6. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Education Law section 2034(6)(b), the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District orders the opening and the unsealing of the ballot box for the May 17, 2011, Budget Vote and Election and for all previous District meetings and elections and orders the destruction of all ballots contained therein.

7. Approve the purchase of the following textbooks and workbooks:

- a. Holt - McDougall; *World History: Patterns of Intervention*, Orlando, FL; 2012
- b. Holt - McDougall; *Literature*, Orlando, FL; 2012
- c. Houghton-Mifflin; *Go Math!*, Orlando, FL; 2012

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Patti Nicoletti the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:

- a. Transaction No. 12-0019
- b. Transaction No. 12-0020
- c. Transaction No. 12-0021

D. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Linda Schmidt the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Linda Schmidt the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters - None

7. Superintendent's Report

Congratulations to Mr. Reider. It's never too late to receive your high school diploma. Here's what's happening in our schools.

At Centre Avenue School, 6th Grade students researched and reported on selected countries. The study culminated in a two-day country festival where students dressed in their countries' attire and sampled cultural foods.

During the first two weeks of June, students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 are taking their Local Assessments in ELA and Math as per the new APPR legislation.

Learning outside the classroom this month includes: 1st grade visiting the Queens Zoo as a culmination to an animal research unit in Science/ELA. They will also be visiting the library to encourage summer reading; second graders visited the Fire Island Lighthouse to learn about the history of the lighthouse and the Coast Guard; 3rd grade visited Safety Town in Eisenhower Park to learn about traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety, which relates to our Health Smart curriculum; third grade is also going to King Kullen in Rockville Centre to learn about proper nutrition and how the store codes foods by their health value; Grade 6 students visited the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City as well as an orientation visit to the Jr/Sr High. Students in grade 4 from both Rhame and Centre will be visiting the Lynbrook Public Library for the annual Lynbrook/East Rockaway Historical Retrospective. Parents are invited to attend the programs that take place in the evening.

Grade 6 students at Rhame Avenue are preparing items to refill the Time Capsule that was opened last month.

Third Grade culminated their world studies unit by having an International Day. Students created projects in art and computer classes as well as in class. Students presented electronic reports of various countries to share their research.

On June 8th, the United Veterans Organization presented the history of the American Flag for students in grades 3-6 at Rhame Avenue.

Here are some titles to read along with your children. Grade 1 - *The Chocolate Touch* by Patrick Skene Catling, and *The Summer Vacation from the Black Lagoon* by Mike Thaler. Grade 3 - *Upchuck and the Rotten Willy* by Bill Wallace, *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes. Grade 5 and 6 Book Blast is reading, *Loser*, by Jerry Spinelli.

At the secondary school, students are preparing for upcoming finals and Regents examinations. Teachers are offering additional extra-help and academy sessions. Also, AP students are peer tutoring students based on availability.

The summer reading assignment will soon be posted on the website and distributed to all students. This year there will also be a summer math assignment for current 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. It is optional for grade 6. This is an electronic

assignment through Castle Learning so students can sharpen their math skills over the summer.

This year's annual Senior Seminar Job Fair was an overwhelming success. The students' hands-on experiences were not only meaningful, but enabled some students to make connections with future employers. The Job Fair included financial advisors, lawyers, nurses, medical field technicians, teachers, tradesmen, and real estate brokers. More than half of next year's seniors have requested this course for next year. We are looking forward to the continued success of the program.

All students, 7-12, now have accounts set up on the Portal of Infinite Campus. Students can monitor their performance progress including lateness, attendance, state assessments and up-to-date grade status at any time. Thank you to Mr. Piccarella for making this possible and to Mr. DeTommaso and Mrs. Hecht for teaching the students how to do this.

Last year a new statistic was introduced known as the Aspirational Performance Index. The name has been changed and is now known as reaching the state mark on exams. This is supposed to predict if students are ready for college. To be considered college ready a student must score at least 75 on the Comprehensive English Regents, which is taken in 11th grade, and at least an 80 on one of the math Regents exams. In June 2010 the HS Aspirational Performance Index was 36%. For June 2011 the HS Aspirational Performance Index is 43.6% We are making progress. For the class of 2012 we anticipate continued growth to approximately 50% of the students meeting these benchmarks. Parents we need your help in encouraging your child to reach beyond a passing grade of 65. Another statistic that is used to compare schools is the percent earning an Advanced Diploma. We are at the bottom when compared to similar schools. Parents, we need your support in encouraging your children to take and pass Algebra 2 and Trigonometry. This is the course that keeps this statistic lower than it should be.

In athletics, our Varsity Softball and Baseball teams both won the Nassau County "C" Classification Championships this spring. Varsity Track and Field had James Geiser compete in the Long Jump and 400 meter run and Jonathan Schloth competed in the 1600 and 3200 run in the County Finals and State Qualifiers. Varsity Badminton reached the final 8 in doubles competition for the County Tournament! They were the only non-conference 1 team to make it that far! Elementary field days are scheduled for June 15th during the morning session. It's also a half day with an 11:45 AM dismissal/clerical day.

I am pleased to share that Mr. Vulpis, our Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics, is part of the central committee representing Nassau County at the state level for New York State Public High School Athletic Association. We thank him for participating in this professional learning community.

The Senior Band won first place with a Gold Rating in their Division, High School Concert Band with HS enrollment less than 800. The Percussion Ensemble won first place with a Gold Rating in their Division, High School Percussion Ensemble with HS enrollment less than 800. The Senior Band also won Festival Grand Champions - this is an award that we are very proud of because we are judged against every performing group at the festival, including groups that come from high schools much larger than ERHS. The group with the highest score is crowned Festival Grand Champions.

Next year's musical will be Seussical.

Both the elementary and high school bands made us all proud during their performances at the Memorial Day Parade. Current and former students performed at our school's Broadway by the Bay concert on Friday, June 1st. The soloists and ensembles were amazing, singing and playing musical selections from Broadway shows. And we had a special surprise when Mr. Fortgang appeared from behind the curtain playing the trumpet one last time!

Centre Avenue grade 3 recorder concert was held June 8th and proved to be a fine performance for parents and students. At Rhame Avenue the recorder concert will be on June 13th.

We end our year with the following 6th Grade SEDL words of the month: obsession and rebellious. Rhame Avenue 3rd grade students received "Good Character" bracelets for being Extreme Bucket Fillers.

Each year there are three half days built into the calendar for staff development. Next year's first half day for professional development for the staff will be the first day of school, September 4th. The next two days will be October 17th and February 7th. These days were set based on the implementation of the new Annual Professional Performance Review legislation which includes implementing additional testing at every grade level and setting student learning objectives based on data collected. The single page calendar has been updated on the website.

This summer the instructional administrators will complete an eighth day of training on teacher evaluations. This will take place at BOCES.

The elementary schools are being set-up for wireless internet this summer. Last year we completed this project at the high school. At Centre Avenue this summer the drop-off and behind the new wing are being repaved as part of the reserve work.

In other news, our Enterprise students participated in the Stock Market Game for the Spring 2012 session. I am pleased to announce our winners--6th Grade students Sarah Donnelly, Katie Sweeney, and Andrew Schwarzman. They placed 1st out of 219 Long Island Elementary School Teams. 1st out of 1815 Elementary, Middle, and High School Teams on Long Island. 3rd out of 4382 Elementary, Middle and High School teams in New York State. Teams receive a hypothetical \$100,000 to invest over a ten week period. This team earned over \$13,000 in profits during that time.

Congratulations to 4th grade student, Isabella Alfieri for receiving an award from Assemblyman Curran from the 2012 Flag Day Essay/Art Contest. The ceremony was on Sunday at Greis Park. Mr. Schloth and I, along with Isabella's family, attended.

The 2012 yearbook has been inducted into the Walsworth Publishing Company's Gallery of Excellence and can claim its place among the best yearbooks printed by Walsworth in 2012! We received a letter of recognition as well as plaque that will be placed in the lobby of the high school. As part of the honor students and advisers across the county will see our yearbook as an example of a high-quality publication. Congratulations to Mr. Schloen, Ms. Smith and our student members of the yearbook committee.

Students from the Key Club worked as volunteers at the annual Huckleberry Frolic on Saturday. Rhame Avenue Student Council helped with the reading action team's summer reading program by making posters and getting the students excited to read during the summer break.

Recreation and the 12 month summer program for special education students are being housed at Centre Avenue this summer. In addition to these programs, the East Rockaway Village offers many summer camps and programs for the students. Please visit their website for additional information.

Last year we asked the community to participate in a survey. Unfortunately only 275 people responded. Although this is a very low rate of return we are reviewing the results and comments to see what we can learn and how we can use the information to move forward. As an example, one of the comments recommended putting a SMARTboard in every classroom. Done! Another comment suggested we publicize the minutes of the meetings. Please know that all the minutes are posted on the website and I have begun to post the Superintendent's report on my webpage. Another comment suggested additional extra curricula activities. We would certainly like to see that as well and if the budget is not able to support more activities, at this time, perhaps some local organizations would be interested in funding some activities, similar to the way the East Rockaway Kiwanis Club covers the stipend for the Builders Club. Many of the suggestions had a cost associated with it so as we consider the suggestion we also have to consider the increased expenditure as there were also comments about the increases to school taxes.

Our very best wishes to our retirees: Camillo Caparelli, William Fortgang, Fran Kohn, Lorraine Liberti, Cindy Singer, Adrienne Stender, and Sol Yousha. Thank you for your service to the children of the East Rockaway Public Schools.

Follow-up From Prior Meeting--NONE

That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor - none

9. Board Member Comments

Michaelene Abbott-Cooper – Thank you all that come to these meetings. Anyone who supports East Rockaway Schools is a friend of mine. Until next time.

Linda Schmidt – Thank you for coming. Tonight's presentation was emotional and wonderful. Congratulations Kristin and Patti. Good luck to all the retirees. I look forward to moving forward.

Kristin Ochtera – Tonight is a very special evening; congratulations to our graduate and now we're wrapping up for the summer. Thank you for your continued support. Welcome, Mr. Giannotti.

Patti Nicoletti – Thank you for your support. Have a happy and restful summer.

Neil Schloth – Thank you for rallying for the budget and thank you to the PTA. Thank you to the community for getting involved and seeing that the Governor is trying to shift the budget burden to the districts. Happy summer.

10. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully yours,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk