

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., September 20, 2011 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School
Preceded by the Introduction of New Faculty 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 7:37 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Linda Schmidt.
2. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the minutes of the August 30, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – June 2011
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. Yujin Ham, Teaching Assistant, effective September 16, 2011
 - b. Barbara Casap, Teacher Aide, effective September 16, 2011
 - c. Roberto DeJesus, substitute cleaner, effective September 20, 2011
 - d. Kristen Matthews, substitute monitor, effective September 20, 2011
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Margaret M. O'Brien, R.N, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as school nurse, effective December 31, 2011.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Gary Soccorso, for the purpose of retirement, from the position of custodian, effective June 10, 2011.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment (.3333 FTE) of Philip Linder to the position of teaching assistant, effective September 6, 2011, through June 30, 2012, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2011-2012 school year and further approve the part-time appointment (.4 FTE) of Philip Linder to the position of Social Studies teacher, effective September 6, 2011, through June 30, 2012, at the prorated MA, Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2011-2012 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Marissa Mauro to the position of teaching assistant (tenure area: teaching assistant), effective September 13, 2011, through September 12, 2014, at the prorated Step 4 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2011-2012 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following teacher aide appointments, effective September 21, 2011, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association agreement for the 2011-2012 school year:
 - a. Jill Toy
 - b. Linda Donovan
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following appointments effective September 21, 2011, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union agreement for the 2011 – 2012 school year:
 - a. Ellen Kovitz, monitor
 - b. Beverly Sims, food service worker
 - c. Kristen Matthews, monitor

8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Roberto DeJesus to the position of cleaner, effective September 21, 2011, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by East Rockaway Custodial Unit contract for the 2011 – 2012 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Lina Wax to serve as a committee member on the District CSE and CPSE, effective September 21, 2011.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment of (.2 FTE) of Robert Kennedy to the position of English teacher, effective September 21, 2011, through June 30, 2012, at the prorated MA, Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2011-2012 school year.
11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. Alexandra Curtis, substitute teacher, effective September 21, 2011
 - b. Thomas Dwyer, substitute teacher, effective September 21, 2011
 - c. Maureen Schutta, substitute school social worker for ALPSS, effective September 6, 2011
 - d. Marybeth Graves, substitute teacher aide, effective September 21, 2011
 - e. Kathleen P. O'Mara, substitute food service worker, effective September 21, 2011
 - f. Gaetano Barone, substitute teacher aide, effective September 21, 2011
 - g. Kristi Boyce, substitute teacher aide, effective September 21, 2011

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items #1-9 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the following resolution:

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 August 26, 2011, between the Board and the United Public Service Employees Union (“UPSEU”) representing the employees in the District’s custodial bargaining unit regarding the terms and conditions of employment for the members of the bargaining unit; and

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

2. Approve the terms and conditions of the following contracts for professional development training for 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) RCP Consultants for English Language Arts
 - b) Math Camp, Inc., for Mathematics
 - c) Crossroads for Ed Services, for RTI
 - d) John Brown for AP Calculus
3. Accept a donation from Molloy College of a Cybex Cable Pull System valued at One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Five (\$1,595.00) Dollars for the East Rockaway High School Athletic Department.
4. Approve the club advisor assignments for the 2011-2012 school year as more fully set forth on the schedule of Club/Advisor assignments and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
5. Approve the employment agreement with Robert Guzowski, as the Administrator for ALPSS for the 2011-2012 school year and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.
6. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Schedule, effective July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012.
7. Approve the contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and DANY Consultants, LLC, on behalf of the Research Foundation of C.U.N.Y. on behalf of Brooklyn College for an education project for the period September 1, 2011, through June 24, 2012, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education.
8. Approve the award of the contract for the exterior doors at East Rockaway High School, Capital Improvement Program

No. 28-02-19-03-0-001-030, to the lowest responsible bidder, C & M Door Controls, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

9. Accept a donation in the sum of One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Four (\$1,624.00) Dollars from the East Rockaway Kiwanis to implement the Builders Club, and compensate the club advisor during the 2011-2012 school year, and further authorize an increase in budget code 2850-152-00-0000 by said amount.

C. Budget Transfers - none

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, 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 Linda Schmidt, the following item #1 was unanimously approved:

1. Policies for Adoption:

- a. 4321.8 Impartial Hearing Officer Appointment and Compensation
- b. 6212 Fund Balance

2. Policies for Review:

- a. 0100, 0100-R Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination with 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

7. Superintendent's Report

Welcome back everyone. I know many people from the community had a difficult time during hurricane Irene. I was sorry to hear about what many of our community members had to endure. I hope that everyone has received the assistance they needed and that things are getting back to normal.

Here's what's happening in our schools.

All three schools commemorated September 11th with grade level specific instruction. In addition, the writing prompt for the Andrew J. Stern essay contest was distributed. Students also celebrated Constitution Day by reading *We the People* and by discussing their rights in school.

The COGATS for Gr. 3 and selected 5th graders were administered last week.

Teachers on all grade levels are becoming familiar with the Common Core Curriculum and you will hear more about that at the upcoming Board of Education meetings through our curriculum presentations.

At Rhame, all teachers are placing a greater emphasis on writing and non-fiction this year. Some of the titles our students at Rhame are reading are: *Tale of Despereaux* and *Flat Stanley* in grade 3; Grade 4 is reading, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Where I'd like to Be*; Grade 5 is reading *Rules* and *Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*; and Grade 6 is reading *The Book of 100 Truths*.

The Enrichment Book Clubs at Rhame ("Book Blast!") will be starting next week. 1-2 graders will be reading, *Miss Nelson is Missing*, 3-4 will read *James and the Giant Peach*, and 5-6 will read the Newbery Award winning, *Al Capone Does*

My Shirts.

Please read with your children daily and talk to them about what they are reading.

The high school summer reading assignments will be collected September 22nd.

The new “Mathematic Wall of Achievement” (by room 207) is in place. We congratulate our fist honoree, Cody Hirashima.

The Center for Science Teaching and Learning at Tanglewood donated hundreds of anatomy posters to ERHS. We are very thankful for their contribution.

Marine Biology, our new science elective, got off to an excellent start. Over eighty 11th & 12th graders enrolled in the course!

Our Brook Trout were released late August. Their release culminated a successful third year of the Trout in the Classroom Program.

All the Robotics class students have completed the assembly of their first robot.

The students are now working on their first robotic mission. This was one of our curriculum presentations last year.

Mrs. Hecht and the teachers of our Advanced Placement courses hosted a most informative meeting for the parents of our AP students on Monday night. A similar meeting was conducted on Wednesday night by Mr. O’Driscoll and Mrs. Singer for the parents of our 7th grade students. Parents, when your children see you actively participate in school programs it sends a message to them that school is important. Please continue to be active in your child’s education.

Last June there were seven High School Students who scored a perfect “100” on a Regents exam. They were: Chris Breidenbach, Karina Alvarado, Vincent Arena, Amanda Frias, Dorianna Gross, Felicia Schwarzman and Lindsey Dower. In addition, we had two students to score a perfect paper on one of the 3-8 assessments: Scott Buzzolani and Samuel Bennet. Congratulations to our scholars. You will notice a photo of students in the main lobby of the June 2010 perfect Regents papers. Stay tuned for the 2011 photo.

Elementary classroom teachers have been updated on Activity Works by the physical education teachers. Teachers use Activity Works on off physical education days to complement the physical education program to meet the five day mandate.

Health Smart curriculum will begin on 9/21 at Rhame Avenue and 9/28 at Centre Avenue after Mr. Vulpis has a chance to meet with all teachers to update the program.

Our Varsity Football team won its first game and had a heartbreaking loss at its second game. We wish them good luck in their next game. The JV football team had low enrollment and there was an effort to recruit new players. As a result, the first two games became scrimmages giving the young team an opportunity to get required practice time before league play.

Our combined teams with Malverne have been a challenge because they are installing a turf field at Malverne. Mr. Vulpis has been a magician using fields in Bay Park along with moving football to softball/baseball fields.

Last year Mr. Vulpis began a new program for team captains. The online course will begin on Friday 9/16 to train our captains in leadership skills.

Students at Rhame Avenue in grades 3-6 begin walking club on Monday, September 19th. Students in grades 5-6 begin the After School Sports club that week as well. Both of these clubs provide students at Rhame Avenue with additional opportunities for physical activity.

From the technology reserve summer projects included: HS wireless network, Smartboards district-wide, Windows 7 & Microsoft Office 2010 in HS labs and classrooms.

As you entered this room tonight you walked by our new music showcase. Thank you to our music teachers for celebrating the ways our students are smart in music. The pictures on display in the music hallway are East Rockaway High School students who were All-State musicians.

I want to thank Miranda Balan, one of our HS students, and Mr. Bishop, HS Art Teacher for the beautiful artwork on the cover of our district calendar.

Students in the Life Skills Program participated in the event, Surfers Healing, for the second year. All of the students had an opportunity to surf with a professional surfer who volunteers his/her time to the organization. The experience builds confidence, develops friendships and enables the students to learn appropriate socialization skills.

The Centre Avenue words of the month are motivation and pride.

Rhame Avenue Grade 4 students are learning to read facial expressions and acting out emotion words. Grade 3 students have read *Have You Filled A Bucket Today?* and discussed bucket-filling with students.

The new APPR legislation includes ten days of training for administrators who observe teachers and an additional ten days of training for administrators who supervise principals. Therefore, many of us will be out of the district for many days to be in compliance with the law. The administrative team has already completed two full days of training.

If you were at Centre Avenue recently you would have noticed that the all-purpose room has been painted, the driveway and basketball courts have been repaved, new steam traps were installed on all radiators, classrooms 105 and 104 were painted and classrooms 1, 2, 4, and 5 had an asbestos abatement and new tile was installed.

There is a new state law that eliminates whole milk in the cafeteria. Only 1% or skim milk is available. In addition, water must be available inside the cafeteria and we have put large water dispensers inside each cafeteria.

We have added Fios to our emergency planning brochure. This is another location where you will be able to see school closings and messages.

The Board will be working with NYSSBA to research the feasibility of restructuring the elementary schools into one primary school and one upper elementary. We begin the process with the consultant coming on site on October 11th and 12th to meet with different groups and collect some information. We will be looking to see how a reorganization can

strengthen our instructional services and programs.

Congratulations to Kim McGeary for being selected as a Long Island Young Scholar of Mathematics to participate in the Instituted of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students.

I also want to acknowledge three of our students who volunteered at the Lynbrook Public library this summer: Cassandre Araujo, Isabel Araujo, and Caitlin Monaco. I received a letter from the Head of Youth Services Librarian expressing her appreciation.

Other news includes: Centre Avenue Back to School Night 9/21, Back to School Fair 9/24, Centre Avenue Book Fair 9/19 to 9/23, Centre Avenue Welcome Tea held on 9/9.

That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor – the following topics were discussed through questions raised by community members:

- Free water in the cafeteria
- Parent portal error in English class
- Parent portal ready for use
- Builders Club
- Restructuring of the elementary schools
- Back to school night same as a football game
- Results of state testing
- Low enrollment of JV football
- What can parents do to help raise test scores
- Condition of the Rhame Ave. softball field
- How students explore student scholarships
- How to access past results of state tests.

9. Board Member Comments

Linda Schmidt - Welcome back! I am looking forward to a great year. Welcome new teachers...I see great things ahead.

Congratulations Mrs. O'Brien on your retirement. Thank you for coming out and voicing your concerns. Happy Birthday Roseanne!

Kristin Ochtera – Thank you for expressing your ideas and concerns. We are pleased at your continued feedback. Welcome to our new faculty and staff. It's going to be a great year. You'll notice that the board has been doing a lot of work on our district policies. Please take some time to review them on our district website. I believe that when we are clear about what is expected in East Rockaway in terms of policy and practice, we will begin to see a more effective "climate of learning". Dr. Melucci expressed that idea earlier this evening and I think we are headed in that direction. We open the conversation with you tonight and look forward to your continued support.

Michaelene Abbott-Cooper – Thank you for coming. We are off to a good start. It is very nice to see people and it is nice to share. We are on the same page with some of the things we spoke about. The people who come here and share their comments are helping us to change, whether they are bad comments or good. The communication is what we need and we are listening and acting.

Patti Nicoletti - I want to welcome back everyone to a new school year, especially our newest staff members. I wish you all an enjoyable and productive year.

I want to thank Molloy College for their donation of gym equipment which I am sure will be put to very good use. Also, thank you to the Kiwanis Club for their very generous donation which will fund the new Builder's Club.

I want to reiterate Dr. Melucci's plea for all to become more involved with their children's education to aid in developing a climate of learning. Please encourage your children to take advantage of the extra-help sessions offered each week. This is a valuable resource which is under-utilized in our district.

Neil Schloth – Thank you for coming. I would like to congratulate all the new teachers. Thank you for speaking out. We take your constructive advise to make things better. This district has involved community members. When everyone gets involved in a small way, it builds momentum.

10. Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper and unanimously passed the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk

