

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., September 21, 2010 – 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

1. The meeting was called to order by Linda Schmidt at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil Schloth.

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper the following items #2 & 3 were unanimously approved:

2. Approval of Minutes –August 12, 2010
3. Approval of Minutes – August 30, 2010
4. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports, December 2009 through June 2010
5. Correspondence – One
6. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Kristin Ochtera the following items #1-10 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Evelyn Wing, teaching assistant, effective September 2, 2010
 - b. Christine Sausa, teacher aide and substitute teacher, ALPSS, effective August 19, 2010
 - c. Vanessa Rivero, teacher aide and substitute teacher, ALPSS, effective August 20, 2010
 - d. Karen Wansor-Polito, Junior High Cross Country Coach, effective August 30, 2010
 - e. Dineen Cilluffo, food service worker, effective August 31, 2010
 - f. Jennifer Gentile, substitute teacher aide, effective September 6, 2010
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following teacher aide appointments, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2010– 2011 school year:
 - a. Courtney DeMarco, Step A, effective September 2, 2010
 - b. Erica Nadel, Step 2, effective September 2, 2010
 - c. Jennifer Gentile, Step A, effective September 7, 2010
 - d. Melissa Hawxhurst, Step A, effective September 15, 2010
 - e. Linda Lindsley, Step 1, effective September 7, 2010
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Elisa Kerin to the position of school media specialist (library), (tenure area: school media specialist; certification status: Permanent), effective September 1, 2010, through August 31, 2013, at the MA, Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2010-2011 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following part-time appointments for the ALPSS

program, effective September 7, 2010, through June 30, 2011, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education for the 2010-2011 school year.

Emanuela Alessandro..... Science Teacher
Anna Aviani..... Special Education Teacher
Joseph DeMarco..... English Teacher
MaryBeth Palazzolo..... Mathematics Teacher
Alan Freeman..... Social Studies Teacher
Marcello Baez..... Physical Education Teacher
Dana Levenberg..... Physical Education Teacher
..... and Health Education Teacher
Malka Witt..... Art Teacher
Marisa Rascionato..... Guidance Counselor
Maureen Schutta..... School Social Worker
Megan Lynch..... School Social Worker
Kathleen Hannan..... Substitute Teacher
Kathryn Klock..... Substitute Teacher
Allison McKeon..... Substitute Teacher
Anthony Weber..... Substitute Administrator-in-Charge
Christian Soto..... Substitute Administrator-in-Charge
Frank Cuttita..... Substitute Administrator-in-Charge
Eileen Weidman..... Substitute Administrator-in-Charge
Jeanne Abrami..... Teacher Aide
John Denny..... Teacher Aide/Substitute Teacher
Michael Lawson..... Monitor

5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised fall coaching assignments more fully set forth on the attached 2010-2011 Coaching Schedule at the stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2010 – 2011 school year.
6. Approve the club advisor assignments for the 2010-2011 school year as more fully set forth on the attached schedule of Club/Advisor assignments and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following part-time home tutor appointments, effective September 7, 2010, through June 30, 2011, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for home instruction for the 2010-2011 school year:
 - a. Kathleen Hannan
 - b. Eleanor Perri
 - c. Anthony Zito
 - d. Anna Aviani
 - e. Joseph Whalen
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind Personnel Item 8 from the August 30, 2010, agenda and minutes, appointing Stennett McCarthy to the temporary position, part-time bus driver.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the hourly salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education:

None
10. 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

Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Kristin Ochtera the following item #11 was unanimously approved:

11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Stennett McCarthy, to the position of part-time bus driver, effective September 22, 2010, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2010-2011 school year.

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items #1-19 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the employment agreement with Denise Lobascio as the Business Office Confidential Secretary and District Clerk, effective July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, and authorize the Superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
2. Approve the employment agreement with Robert Guzowski as the Administrator in Charge for the ALPSS program, effective July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, and authorize the Superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
3. Approve the employment agreement with Anthony Quercia as the Director of Facilities, effective July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, and authorize the Superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
4. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Mary Volino as the Secretary to the Superintendent/Board of Education, effective July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, and authorize the Superintendent to execute the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the District's Director of Finance & Operations and the District's legal counsel, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the Settlement Agreement and Release resolving a certain matter between and among the District, ECS Mechanical Contracting, Inc. and Utica Mutual Insurance Company, relating to a construction contract, and be it further RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Board President to execute said Settlement Agreement and Release on behalf of the District.

6. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District establishes a part-time bus driver position, 10 months, non-competitive civil service position, effective September 21, 2010, which position shall be filled in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Rules governing such positions.

7. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2010-2011 school year.
8. Approve the terms and conditions of the contract with RCP Consultants Inc. for professional development workshops for the period September 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education.
9. Approve the terms and conditions of the contract with SEL Media for professional development workshops, Emotional Literacy in the Classroom, Grades 3 – 5, on September 30, 2010, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education.
10. Approve the terms and conditions of the contract with Jacquelyn Neilson for the FAFSA (Financial Aid)

workshop to be held on November 8, 2010, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education.

11. Approve the terms and conditions of the contract with John Steve Kerge for the FAFSA (Financial Aid) workshop to be held on January 5, 2011, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education.
12. Approve the tuition agreement with Levittown UFSD for career and technical programs education for six (6) students for the 2010-2011 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract.
13. Approve the tuition agreement with Hicksville UFSD for special education services for one (1) student for the 2010-2011 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract.
14. Approve the admission of Lynbrook UFSD Students I.D. Nos. 20220959 and 20220072 to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools special education 2010 summer school program and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement between the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD and the Board of Education of Lynbrook UFSD.
15. Approve for purpose of disposal as obsolete the textbooks specifically listed on the attached Textbook Removal Form.
16. Accept a donation from Astoria Federal Savings & Loan Association of one (1) Acer 17" LCD Monitor and Ienovo ThinkCentre CPU, Serial No. 0841A5US5AAXTG, computer to the Rhame Avenue School as a result of student, Meagan Ochtera's winning essay contest entry.
17. Approve the purchase of the following textbooks:

McDougal Littell; Avancemos!, New York; Copyright 2008
18. Approve the admission of Lynbrook Student I.D. No. 20137089 to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2010-2011 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement between the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD and the Board of Education of Lynbrook UFSD.
19. Approve the admission of Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD Students I.D. Nos. 14209, 16479, and 18028 to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2010-2011 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement between the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD and the Board of Education of Hewlett-Woodmere UFSD.

C. Budget Transfers

- a. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers: None

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items D&E were unanimously approved:

D. CSE Recommendations

E. CPSE Recommendations

7. Policy Matters: None

8. Superintendent's Report.

Welcome back everyone. Thank you for being with us this evening.

First I'd like to introduce our new staff who are here this evening. Ashley Cole, Kate Masterson, Marisa Paider, Fran Tursi, Elisa Kerin and Yujin Ham. We welcome them to East Rockaway.

Here's what's happening in our schools.

I am proud to report to you that Erin Eschbach, Chris Chiaffitelli and Cody Hirashima were named AP Scholars by the College Board. You may have seen this in last week's Herald. Congratulations to each of them on this accomplishment.

Cody also has another reason to be proud. Cody earned the highest composite score of 36 on the ACT® college admissions and placement exam. On average, less than one-tenth of one percent of all test takers earns the top score! To put this in perspective, 1.5 million 2009 graduates took the test and of that number just 638 earned the top score.

Congratulations also go out to Joe McGeary, one of our 7th grade students. Joe was selected as a Long Island Young Scholar of Mathematics to participate in the Institute for Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students for the academic year 2010-2011. Excellent recognition for Joe!

Last year, the Board of Regents made several changes to the 3-8 testing program: The English language arts assessment was moved from January to April and the mathematics assessment was moved from March to May. As a result of moving the assessments, the 3-8 tests contained a broader range of material. The State Education Department (SED) also increased the score required to demonstrate proficiency (sometimes called the "passing score") which means students needed to answer more questions correctly in order to be considered "proficient." For example, on the Grade 3 ELA exam administered in 2008-2009 a child needed to answer 73% of the test correctly to achieve a passing score. For this past year, the 2009-2010 administration, a child needed to answer 88% of the test correctly to achieve a passing score. In addition, the state redefined Level 2 as meeting the basic standard. In the past it was defined as partially meeting the learning standards. Similarly they have redefined Level 3 as meeting the proficiency standard, whereas in the past it was defined as meeting the learning standard.

As a result of these changes, fewer of our students, like other students in the County and State, attained Levels 3 or 4 on the assessments for 2009-2010. As we compared our results to the County we see that in English Language Arts, our students performed better than or equal to the County average in Grades 4, 6, and 8 and not as well as the County average in Grades 3, 5, and 7. In mathematics, our students performed as well as or better in all elementary grades (3, 4, 5 and 6) and not as well as the county average in Grades 7 and 8. These results will be analyzed closely and addressed throughout the school year. Please know that your child's individual scores have not been sent to us from SED but as soon as they are we will send them home.

Also the 5th and 8th grade social studies assessments have been discontinued by SED in an effort to save money.

Our secondary science teachers continue to bring live science and nature into their classrooms. Aside from science-related posters in the classrooms, you could find living animals in most science classroom. This includes two boa snakes, a guinea pig, a tortoise, a variety of lizards (i.e. chameleon, gecko), fish, and, of course, our Living Lab.

The new course, Business Skills for the 21st Century, has begun the new curriculum which will incorporate a culminating project that highlights our 9th grade students' technology skills.

The technology department teachers will be implementing new Lego robotics projects in the Electronics classes.

Two Good for Drugs program will be instituted this year in grades K-6; 7th grade health classes; 11th grade health classes. Mr. Vito, Mr. Rinn and the district social workers attended training in June to deliver the program.

Health Smart Program: Grades 4-6 will be added to the program to cover K-6 health curriculum in the elementary schools. Classroom teachers will deliver the lessons during the school year.

In an effort to meet the Physical Education mandate K-3, we will institute "Activity Works" program beginning mid November after a training session is held in each elementary school.

Annual September 11th essay contest, sponsored by the Stern family, is underway.

Thank you to the Education Foundation for providing funds to each of our three libraries to increase their collections.

Our Varsity football team opened with a win over Floral Park and another against Valley Stream. They appeared on MSG Varsity as the 3rd ranked team in conference. Participation numbers are low on the JV football team. We hope to stay healthy! Varsity Volleyball has a very young team and JV Volleyball has a new coach in Rachele Kempton, teacher at Rhame Ave. Varsity Cross Country has returning State Qualifier Jonathan Schloth to lead the pack. Varsity/JV Boys/Girls Soccer is combined with Malverne for another season. Each team captain will complete an on line training program to help them in being an effective leader among their peers. They have met with Mr. Vulpis two evenings to this date to discuss a playbook that must be completed for course certification.

CAPTA/PHYS ED collaboration trying to win a \$ 1,000.00 Grant from the National PTA to provide pedometers for all students.

The first meeting for this year's musical, "The Sound of Music", will be held on Tuesday, October 12th. Auditions will take place during the last week of October.

The senior chorus will be performing at next week's Back-to-School Night. The chorus has also been invited to sing "America the Beautiful" at an Islanders' game on November 17th.

New showcases to display student artwork were purchased and installed before school began. We look forward to filling them and admiring the work of our students.

Centre: Art Classes are working on self-portraits, elements and principles of design.

Our SEDL program continues to flourish. Mrs. Singer will present a SEL overview to the elementary school teachers on September 20 (RA) and on September 29 (CA). Superintendent's Conference Day (September 30) will include the following training:

Grades K-5- SEL training; Grades 6-8- SEL Refresher Workshop with Dr. Marc Brackett; Grade 9- Service Learning Workshop with Cathy Berger Kaye.

Students are scheduled to attend the Nassau BOCES Outdoor and Environmental Education/Teambuilding Program. 7th graders will go on September 23rd and the 8th graders went on September 17th.

Another out of classroom learning experience for SEL occurred on Wednesday, 9/15 when our students from the Life Skills program participated in Surfers Healing in Long Beach. This is a program for students with autism and related disorders. There was no cost to the district. ER was able to participate in this program that has a long waiting list due to the efforts of Kristina Imandt, teacher of the Life Skills students. She made a connection with one of the surfers and was able to get our students included in this event. Dr. Lo Verde also attended the event. Eight of our nine students went in the water on the surf boards. Two of the parents also attended. Debbie said it was amazing for the children to have this opportunity. I had an opportunity to talk with the students the following day to see to see the pictures and the video. We will be invited back again next year. Thank you Ms. Imandt, Mr. Collins and our teacher aides for providing this memorable experience for our students.

Elementary SEL words this month are: Motivation and Pride.

You may have noticed how fantastic our buildings look. Thank you to Mr. Quercia and his staff. In August the Board, along with Mr. Quercia our Director of Facilities conducted its annual walk-through of the buildings to make some notes for work to be accomplished this year. This week Mr. Quercia will work with the architect to address the building condition survey that will be submitted to the State Education Department for review.

You may have noticed the new parking lot at Rhame Avenue, which will keep parked cars off of the street and also keep cars from around the oval. The security camera project is finished and the administrators are being trained on how to access and review the video. 14 security cameras cover the perimeter of Centre Avenue School.

Our maintenance staff installed 11 new Smart Boards this summer. There are more on the way. Many teachers attended Smart Board workshops this past summer. Some teachers are also going to BOCES sponsored workshops this fall/winter. We will continue our efforts in staff development to assist the teachers in using this technology.

We received our recycling report and learned that ER Schools helped save 75 trees with our recycled efforts last year from March through June. We recycled paper, plastics and cans and cardboard. Total materials collected were 5.85 tons. We will continue this practice this year.

That concludes my report.

9. Privilege of the Floor

One community member asked what the difference in the cost of transporting private schools students last year and this year was.

Another community member asked for clarification of the out of district students who are attending our schools.

Three community members brought questions regarding testing, scoring of tests and changes.

There was a discussion concerning our Guidance Department.

10. Board Member Comments

Kristin Ochtera – This was a good conversation and thank you for bringing it up. When asking about test scores, college, etc. you can bring it up to the PTA and there you will find out if there is an issue for the board. Thank you for the clarification as to where the responsibility lies. There is a chain of command. Thank you for bringing us your perspective and I hope the meetings continue to be populated with parents who want to move forward as a district so we can make East Rockaway the best it can be. Welcome to the new teachers. I look

forward to October.

Neil Schloth – I am looking forward to a positive year with growth. We appreciate your input of what needs to be fixed. If you have a problem with a School please talk to the Teacher first. If that fails go to the Principal next. After that, you could bring it to the Superintendent. and then to the Board of Education.. If you use the Chain of Command there is a better chance of resolving the problem in the proper manner.

As a parent of a senior last year I can tell you that it is very important to get involved with guidance as soon as possible. My wife and I did and our experience was great. You can't wait till the last minute because there are so many things to do. Apply to the colleges as soon as you can so if you have problems they can be addressed and corrected right away. It hurts to know these things happen. Thank you for coming.

Michaelene Abbott-Cooper – Thank you for coming. Your comments are great. Your concerns are greater. We will talk about it and get back to you.

Patricia Nicoletti – This was a great meeting. You have brought up some very valid points. We are listening and striving forward together. Please come out next month and bring a friend. Welcome to new staff.

Linda Schmidt – Thank you for coming out. Thank you to the new staff. Welcome Patti and Kristin. Thank you Tony and the custodians for making the building look great. If you get a chance walk by the art room to see the cases that will be filled with the students' artwork. See you next month.

11. Adjournment

Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Neil Schloth and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk