

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 East Rockaway, New York  
 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
 7:30 P.M., April 21, 2009 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School  
 Preceded by a Presentation on Enterprise and a Public Forum

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Marie Girace, Vicki Alspector, Neil Schloth, Linda Schmidt, Superintendent, Dr. Roseanne Melucci; Director of Finance and Operations, Concetta Robinson; District Clerk, Denise Lobascio.

Absent: Mary Boccuzzi

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order by Marie Girace at 8:07 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil Schloth.
2. Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the minutes of the March 24, 2009 board meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Vicki Alspector, the minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.
4. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial – February 2009
5. Correspondence - None
6. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Vicki Alspector, the following items #1 – 8 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff members on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Hugh Howard.....	Technology Education Teacher.....	September 1, 2009
Tina Smith.....	School Psychologist.....	September 1, 2009
Suzanne Volpe.....	Special Education Teacher.....	September 1, 2009
Victoria Longworth.....	Teaching Assistant.....	September 1, 2009

2. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the request for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence of Karin Leary from her physical education teacher position, effective July 1, 2009 through the end of the fall semester of the 2009-2010 school year.
3. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the request for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence of Deanna Mignella from her mathematics education teacher position, effective July 1, 2009 through the end of the fall semester of the 2009-2010 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the request for a child rearing leave of absence of Jeannine Patane from her elementary teacher position, effective April 23, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

5. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Rosemary Bottiglieri from the position of Assistant Cook, effective March 27, 2009 and approve the appointment of Rosemary Bottiglieri to the position of food service worker, effective March 30, 2009 at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway UFSD Food Service & Monitor Union Agreement for the 2008-2009 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Linda Budion from the position of substitute food service worker, effective April 21, 2009 and approve the appointment of Linda Budion to the position of Assistant Cook, effective April 22, 2009, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway UFSD Food Service & Monitor Union Agreement for the 2008-2009 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education:
  - a. Catherine Corapi, substitute ALPSS Administrator, effective March 16, 2009
  - b. Janine Dolce, substitute teacher aide, effective April 22, 2009
  - c. Albert Schuldt, substitute cleaner, effective March 19, 2009
  - d. Herbert Rivera, substitute cleaner, effective March 23, 2009
  - e. Richard Lindner, substitute cleaner, effective March 23, 2009
8. 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 Vicki Alspector, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items #1-11 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the budget to be presented for public vote on May 19, 2009 in the amount of Thirty-Two Million, Seven Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand, Five Hundred Seventy (\$32,733,570.00) Dollars.
2. Authorize the District Clerk to cast one ballot for each of the following individuals for their election to the Board of Cooperative Educational Services: Susan Bergtraum, Michael Weinick, and Iris Wolfson
3. Adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2009– 2010 school year in the amount of Seventeen Million, Nine Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Six Hundred (\$17,984,600.00) Dollars be and hereby is approved by this Board.
4. Appoint the following persons to serve as a Board of Registration for the annual District election scheduled to be held on May 19, 2009: Michaelene Cooper, Jean Barbone, Jane Brezenoff, Francesco Florio, Margaret McKeon, and Alfred Lazzaro.
5. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD authorize and approve the transmission of the property tax report card.
6. Accept a donation from the East Rockaway Education Foundation in the sum of Three Thousand (\$3,000.00) Dollars for the purchase of technology equipment for the Newscasters Club at the Rhame Avenue Elementary School.
7. Accept a donation from the Centre Avenue PTA in the sum of Three Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Three

(\$3,933.00) Dollars for the purchase of fencing for the Centre Avenue Elementary School.

8. Authorize East Rockaway UFSD to participate in the cooperative bidding conducted in conjunction with the Board of Education of the school districts more fully set forth on Attachment “A” for custodial and facilities items for the 2009 – 2010 school year.
9. Appoint Maria Riley as a parent member to the district CSE and CPSE meetings for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
10. Approve the request for proposal of services with New Age Therapy for the 2008 – 2009 school year and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the resulting service contract on behalf of the Board of Education.
11. Approve the purchase of the following textbooks:

Davidson & Staff; Prentice Hall America, History of Our Nation, Pearson Education, Inc. (New York) 2009]

C. Budget Transfers

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Vicki Alspector, the following items #1a & 1b were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:
  - a. Transaction No. 09-0003
  - b. Transaction No. 09-0004

D. Approval of CSE Recommendations - None

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations - None

7. Policy Matters: None

8. Superintendent’s Report

Although the vacation period reduced the number of instructional days this month, there are still a variety of activities happening around the district.

April is poetry month and there are celebrations in the district with students reading and writing poetry.

Grade 4 at Rhame Avenue had a program on electricity, which ties to their science curriculum.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at Centre Avenue are learning about simple machines in science and were treated to a presentation on simple machine physics concepts.

Outside learning for Rhame Avenue students included a visit to the Intrepid Museum.

Centre Avenue, Grade 5 visited the Cradle of Aviation museum to connect with their science curriculum.

Other outside learning will begin next week as our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students embark on the annual Greenkill trip where they explore science concepts through nature.

Second grade students at Rhame and Centre Avenue have been writing to each other this year through a pen-pal program. They had an opportunity to meet each other in person at Rhame Avenue after communicating through letters. They plan to meet one more time in June.

Both elementary schools had their annual Grade 6 Science Fairs before the break. The students’ experiments are always very clever and creative.

The High School English Department is celebrating Shakespeare this month. Thursday is the festival.

English 12 is reading Hamlet

English 11 is reading Othello  
English 10 is reading Macbeth  
English 9 is reading Romeo and Juliet  
English 8 is reading the Tempest  
English 7 is reading Shakespearean Sonnets

The music department will be presenting “Broadway by the Bay” on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. There is no advance sale of tickets. Instead there is a suggested donation of \$10 at the door, which will go to student scholarships  
At Centre Avenue School the PTA sponsored a K-6 assembly program called, Talking about the Environment through Music.

SEL words for this month are:

Grade 6: unique, adapt, discourage, empathy, scapegoat

Grade 7: ambivalent, identify, terror

Grade 8: intimate, sadistic, masochistic

In grade 6, at both schools, Mrs. Strugatz, our elementary computer teacher and Ms. Sullivan, our elementary social worker, conducted presentations on cyber bullying. I would like to remind parents to please talk to your children regarding the appropriateness of information they are sending and receiving through telecommunications.

Last week we had a new drainage system installed on the high school softball field to reduce the flooding on the field.

High School kitchen lighting was updated during the break and new energy efficient fixtures were installed.

Some high school steam traps were replaced and a number of steam leaks were corrected.

Rhame Avenue baseball field got a top dressing of clay and mix to reduce the standing water.

Also at Rhame a new slide was installed on the playground.

At Centre Avenue the basketball court lines were painted.

On Wednesday, a shade tree will be planted at each of the three schools.

Some dates to remember: The annual budget hearing will be held on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at the high school. Please join us to talk about the proposed budget and the impact of state aid.

May 19<sup>th</sup> is the budget vote. If you, or someone you know, is not registered to vote please call the business office x553.

The HS Guidance department is preparing for the annual college expo known as HOLLER which will be held at Molloy College on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

One of our Juniors, Dan Quadrino, is auditioning at a second call-back for the part of Hugo in the upcoming Broadway production of “Bye, Bye, Birdie.” Best of luck to Dan.

Both elementary schools had a successful grandparents/special person’s day.

Centre Avenue Student Council raised \$1045.03 through the Pennies for Patients program for Leukemia and Lymphoma.

Kindergarten registration is happening this week at Centre Avenue and next week at Rhame Avenue.

This week is turn-off-your-TV week at Rhame Avenue. Students are encouraged to read and/or engage in another activity that requires active participation.

This concludes my report.

#### 9. Privilege of the Floor

A community member reported that the Education Foundation dinner was taking place this Friday.

A staff member congratulated her colleagues on their receiving tenure.

A community member asked for a follow up regarding Rock Rivalry. Mr. Fortgang will be holding a meeting for parents regarding this and spoke with the parents and students that were responsible.

Another community member questioned whether the state aid we received last year was reinstated for this year.

Another member asked if we had a policy concerning facilities use for outside concerns.

10. Board Member Comments

**Linda Schmidt** – Thank you Mrs. Healy for the presentation. The children are doing so much at such a young age. Congratulations to all the teachers for receiving tenure; keep up the good work. Please come to the Budget Hearing and bring a friend so you can make a sound decision. Come and see what is in the budget and the hard work that went into it.

Thank you all for coming.

**Vicki Alspecter** – I would like to thank the Education Foundation and the Centre Ave. PTA for their donations. Rock Rivalry has become very frustrating. There seems to always be problems. I don't understand why instead of adults taking the opportunity to teach their children to be better people, they teach them to be creeps. I think the senior prank from last year was worse. I am still mad – that money could have been used for the kids – kind of puts things into perspective. I just want to remind everyone that today is the 10 year anniversary of Columbine.

**Neil Schloth** – Thank you Mrs. Healy. These children are certainly a gifted bunch and it is great to see them motivated. Congratulations to the teachers, you are doing a great job.

I would like to take a few minutes of your time to express my thoughts about a truly dedicated member of our school community. Mary Boccuzzi, our president of the East Rockaway Board of Education will be stepping down from her position in June of this year. It is both a sad and happy time for those of us remaining on the Board as well as Dr. Melucci. We are glad that Mary is finally getting her well deserved rest after serving on the Board of Education for over 12 years. We are sad to lose such a hardworking colleague who tirelessly gave of herself to better the education environment and the environment of all of the students of the East Rockaway Union Free School District.

Mary's leadership on the board has been truly outstanding and exemplary to me. Her considerate and compassionate approach to everyone in the school community is a model of what a Board of Education president should be to others.

On a personal note, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to Mary for her diligence and commitment to me in preparing and educating me to the position of a Board of Education trustee. Mary spent many hours explaining, educating and mentoring me to be prepared for this complex position in our school community. Mary, please accept my gratitude for your dedicated service to the board and to our school community. Your presence on our board will be missed by everyone who has seen your warm and caring ways.

**Marie Girace** – I would like to echo my colleague's comments. I enjoyed Mr. Schloth's speech to Mary. Thank you all for coming, the things you speak about are important and thank you for bringing it to our attention. It scares me that some parents promote that kind of behavior. Thank you Dr. Loverde and Mrs. Healy for the presentation. The children are what it is all about. We need to send them out with the right values.

11. Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Neil Schloth and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio  
District Clerk