

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
4:45 P.M., December 17, 2008 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by a Public Forum

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

MINUTES

- 1. The meeting was called to order by Mary Boccuzzi at 4:55 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Linda Schmidt.

Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Marie Girace, the following items # 2 – 3 were unanimously approved:

- 2. Minutes of November 18, 2008 Board Meeting
- 3. Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 9, 2008
- 4. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports - October, 2008
- 5. Correspondence - 2

6. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

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

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

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Allison Gerbert.....	Special Education Teacher.....	January 3, 2009

Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Marie Girace, the following items #2-14 were unanimously approved:

- 2. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the request of Karin Leary, for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence from her physical education teacher position, effective January 30, 2009 through June 30, 2009.
- 3. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the request of Deanna Mignella, for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence from her mathematics teacher position, effective January 30, 2009 through June 30, 2009.
- 4. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Sebastiana Oliveri, from her position as monitor, effective December 2, 2008.
- 5. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the continuation of the appointment of Danielle DiChiara as the leave replacement mathematics teacher, effective January 30, 2009 through June 30, 2009, at the prorated MA, Step 1 entry level salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for

the 2008-2009 school year.

6. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the continuation of the appointment of Marissa Mauro as teacher assistant, effective January 30, 2009 through June 30, 2009, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for Teacher Assistants for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, terminate the services of Robert Brockett, effective November 28, 2008.
8. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, change the end date of the child rearing leave of absence granted to Olga Caldarera on September 16, 2008 from February 2, 2009 to February 1, 2009.
9. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Karen Wansor-Polito to the position of leave replacement physical education teacher, effective January 30, 2009 through June 30, 2009, at the prorated MA, Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, change the effective date of the appointment granted to Jennifer Laut on November 16, 2008 from November 17, 2008 to November 20, 2008.
11. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Suzanne M. Baccarella to the part-time position of family and consumer science teacher, effective September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 at the MA+10, Step 4 annual salary schedule (prorated) as set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2008 -2009 school year; and approve the appointment of Suzanne M. Baccarella to the part-time position as permanent substitute teacher, effective September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the per diem salary (prorated) set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education for substitute teachers for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
12. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Yelena Crimmins to the part-time position of ESL teacher (.60 FTE), effective September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the MA+30, Step 3 annual salary (prorated) as set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2008 – 2009 school year; and approve the appointment of Yelena Crimmins to the part-time position of teacher assistant (.40 FTE), effective September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 at the Step 3 annual salary (prorated) as set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Teacher Assistants for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
13. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the hourly salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - Linda Budion, substitute food service worker, effective December 8, 2008
 - Andrea Faranda, substitute monitor, effective December 17, 2008
 - Lisa Stamile, substitute teacher aide, effective December 8, 2008
14. 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:

Andrea Faranda, substitute monitor

B. Other Items.

Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items #1 – 11 were unanimously approved:

1. Acceptance of the independent audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.
2. Approve the First Amendment to the Employment Agreement dated March 20, 2007 between the Board of Education and Roseanne C. Melucci, Ed.D, as the Superintendent of Schools and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the First Amendment on behalf of the board.
3. Approve the employment agreement with Fred Smith as the part-time Assistant Business Manager, effective December 24, 2008 through March 31, 2009 and authorize the Superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.
4. Approve the employment agreement with Nancy Foders as the temporary clerk/secretary, effective January 5, 2009 through June 30, 2009 and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Accept a donation of a 4 x 8 foot illuminate message board from the Rhame Avenue PTA and the East Rockaway Alumni Association valued at \$2,500 for the Rhame Avenue School.
6. Approve the request for proposal of services with Alternative Tutoring Agency 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.
7. 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 a Settlement Agreement between the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District and Audrey Scheyer relating to the return of Medicare reimbursement payments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Board of Education be authorize to execute said Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

8. Approve the use of the IRS mileage reimbursement rate, effective January 1, 2009, to compensate employees for use of personal vehicle for district business.
9. Approve Change Order No. 2, Bond Issue Related Capital Improvement Program – Phase II – REBID, Contract No. 1 – Masonry Reconstruction, Capitol Restoration, Centre Avenue Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent of Schools and President of the Board of Education to execute the change order.
10. Approve and adopt the 403(b) Retirement Plan as amended and restated effective January 1, 2009 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Adoption document on behalf of the Board of Education.
11. Accept a donation of a display case from the East Rockaway Alumni Association, valued at \$1,000.00 for the Science Department at East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School.

Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Linda Schmidt the following items C&D were unanimously approved:

C. CSE Recommendations

D. CPSE Recommendations

6. Policy Matters for Review:
 - a. 6.73A Graduation Requirements
 - b. 6.73A-R Graduation Regulations
 - c. 6.73B Grading Systems
 - d. 6.73B-R Grading Systems Regulations

7. Superintendent's Report

Welcome to our December Board of Education meeting.

As many of you know we began a new phonics program in September called Foundations. I have been around to visit the program in action and I am impressed by the students' engagement and participation. Recently our kindergarten teachers from Rhame and Centre, who are involved with this new program, visited the Malverne Schools where it has been in use for a few years. It was a great professional development opportunity for our teachers to see the program in action and learn from other teachers who have experience with the program.

At Rhame Avenue the 4th grade students demonstrated their learning of Indian culture by presenting a POW-WOW. Also at Rhame Avenue, the students participated in Star Lab, which connects to their science curriculum.

At Centre Avenue they held a decade day where students came to school dressed in period costumes of that decade to gain an understanding of the culture of that time.

Rhame students in grade 4 are reading the novel, *Skylark* and the grade 6 students are reading *Crash*. I had an opportunity to read *Crash* with the students at Centre Avenue last year and if your child is involved in reading this book I recommend it to you as it creates opportunities to talk to your children about things that are important in life.

At Centre Avenue Grade 5 is reading *Bridge to Terabithia* and students in Grade 4 are reading individual novels for book reports.

At the secondary school the reading class finished the book *Twilight* and will be taking a field trip this week to see the movie and make a comparison between the author's words and the screenwriter's.

Our evening high school, ALPSS, had a Thanksgiving feast on November 25th. The students learned how to prepare a meal as though they were working in a restaurant. They needed to create a plan, budget for the meal, organize the work involved and prepare the food. They invited and served members of their families.

We've begun the transition of our 6th grade students to the high school. Mr. O'Driscoll, our middle school guidance counselor, has been visiting the elementary schools and meeting with the students. In addition, Mrs. Singer has arranged for the 6th grade students to come to the secondary school on Tuesday and participate in an assembly with the 7th and 8th grade students. This assembly will include a speaker from the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. This connects to our social studies curriculum for all three grade levels.

Good news from our Athletics program—the following Varsity teams achieved a 90.0% average for the required players to receive the team scholar award. Girls Soccer, Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, and Volleyball. Also, the Girls volleyball team had two members named to the all State Team: Jalisa Barnes-1st team and Chrissy Feil-2nd Team. In addition, Monica Mielinis and Brice Reynolds received the Nassau Zone Outstanding Physical Education Students of the Year Award. Congratulations to our athletes.

Also from the Athletics Department, the Tip Off Night Program is now available on the district website under High School Athletics.

Our fine arts program continues to flourish. Last Thursday evening was the elementary holiday concert. It was wonderful. This Thursday is the secondary school holiday concert. It is always a relaxing and enjoyable experience. Everyone is invited to attend.

Also from fine arts, last month I mentioned that the PTA Reflections contest was underway. We had a total of 128 students participate.

SEL words this month are: unique, envious, anxiety, apprehension, guilty, humble, remorse, elation.

There will be some work completed over the holiday break. This will include removing the carpet in the PPS office, which also involves asbestos removal. Also during the break seven Smartboards will be installed: 1 at each of the elementary schools, one in the middle school wing and four in high school classrooms. Five of the Smartboards are from a grant from Assemblyman Bob Barra.

In addition various locations will be painted.

We had two Nassau TRACT Grant winners, both from Rhame Avenue School. Mrs. Hiller, grade 1, received a \$500 grant for science materials and Mrs. Smith, school psychologist received \$538 to facilitate a collegial circle on positive behavioral support in the elementary school. The book that the staff will be reading together is *Positive Discipline in the classroom: Developing Mutual Respect, Cooperation and Responsibility in your Classroom*, by Jane Nelson.

Our Its academic teams, varsity and JV won their matches against West Hempstead last week.

Each school is conducting a toy drive for the holidays.

On December 8th the students from our elementary schools participated in the annual Make a Soldier Smile event which is sponsored by Dees' Nursery. This project sends trees to the troops in Iraq.

Two pieces of information to follow-up:

Last month when I announced the results of some of the high school teams I was asked why I don't announce the middle school teams. Mr. Vulpis tells me that we do not keep score for those teams.

Also, in October I shared the parameters for a Blue Ribbon School. Centre Avenue has been invited to apply for the award based on last year's Grade 6 scores in ELA and math. The process is underway and we will know the results in August 2009.

That concludes my report.

8. Board Member Comments

Vicki Alspector – Congratulations (Allison Gerbert) on your tenure. Thank you for coming. Happy holidays.

Linda Schmidt – Congratulations on your tenure. It is nice to hear such wonderful things are happening in the schools. Happy holidays.

Neil Schloth – Congratulations on your tenure. Have a happy and healthy holiday season. Next year will be a tough one but we can work through it together.

Marie Girace – Thank you for coming. Congratulations on your tenure. Happy holidays to all and I hope you have a restful vacation. Next year will be difficult but we will deal with it. See you next year.

Mary Boccuzzi – Last night's meeting was cancelled due to the weather. Congratulations on your tenure, this is a great place to work. Over the years I have heard great things from teachers; very positive. I am sorry the kids are not performing tonight. Thank you for bringing the standards (building scaffolding at Centre Ave.) to our attention. Have a happy holiday and a Happy New Year!

9. Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Neil Schloth and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk