

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:30 P.M., May 12, 2009 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School  
Preceded by a Presentation on Spotlight on Humanities and 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 at 8:03 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marie Girace.
2. Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Linda Schmidt the minutes of the April 21, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports from March 2009.
4. Correspondence - None
5. Action Agenda
  - A. Personnel  
Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth the following items #1-8 were unanimously approved:
    1. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Gloria Topper, from the position of Lead Monitor, effective June 30, 2009.
    2. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Elaine Rauch from the position of elementary teacher, effective June 30, 2009.
    3. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Steven D. Ley from the position of social studies teacher for ALPSS program, effective April 24, 2009.
    4. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Maureen Iadevaio to the position of Account Clerk, 12 months, effective July 1, 2009 at the Step A annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association contract for the 2009-2010 school year.
    5. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Danielle DiChiara to the position of leave replacement mathematics teacher, effective September 1, 2009 through January 29, 2010 at the prorated MA, Step 1 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association for the 2009– 2010 school year.
    6. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Gina Tursi from the position of teacher aide, effective May 15, 2009.
    7. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education:

NONE

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:

Neil Vogel, School District Treasurer, effective May 13, 2009

B. Other Items.

Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Vicki Alspector, the following items #1-9 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD approves the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement dated May 12, 2009 between the District and the East Rockaway Teachers Association and the teacher named in confidential attachment “A” regarding a retirement incentive for said teacher; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

2. Appoint Neil Vogel to the position of School District Treasurer, effective May 13, 2009 through June 30, 2009; and further approve the employment agreement with Neil Vogel, as the School District Treasurer, effective May 13, 2009 through June 30, 2009, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
3. Accept a donation from the Kiwanis Club of East Rockaway in the sum of Three Hundred Sixty (\$360.00) Dollars for the East Rockaway Schools’ Sixth Grade Environmental Greenkill trip.
4. Approve the agreement with Textbook Central, a division of Tel/Logic Inc. d.b.a Central Ed with East Rockaway UFSD for textbook information and management services for 2009 – 2010 school year and authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to execute the Letter of Intent for said services on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the contract for services between the East Rockaway Board of Education and Nancy Nunziata, Pupil Transportation Consultant, for the period May 1, 2009 through May 1, 2010 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement.
6. Approve the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Incorporated Village of East Rockaway and the East Rockaway UFSD for the shared use of the Village’s fueling facilities and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement.
7. Approve the contract with Piil Fence Co. and the East Rockaway UFSD for the installation of fencing at Centre Avenue Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.
8. Rescind the appointment of Michaelene Cooper, as a person to serve on the Board of Registration for the annual District election scheduled to be held on May 19, 2009.
9. Accept the Internal Audit Reports dated April 1, 2009.

C. Budget Transfers

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items #1a – 1c were unanimously

approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:
  - a. Transaction No. 09-0005
  - b. Transaction No. 09-0006
  - c. Transaction No. 09-0007

Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Vicki Alspector the following items D&E were unanimously approved:

D. Approval of CSE Recommendations

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations

7. Policy Matters: None

8. Superintendent's Report

Perhaps you saw Newsday on April 23<sup>rd</sup> where ERHS was one of five districts in Nassau County where 100% of our students scored 65% or higher on the first Integrated Algebra Regents last June. Congratulations to Mr. Cangemi, the math department and the students for this accomplishment.

The 2009 ELA 3-8 assessment results are now available. Our students' performance increased on each grade level. Most notably is the increase in grade 7 from 80 to 89% of the students meeting the state standard and in grade 8 the scores rose from 70-84%. Congratulations to Ms. DePietro, all the teachers of ELA, and our students.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students were administered the NYS Science assessment. The teachers will score the exams on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Also on the topic of science, the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students at Rhame are studying the environment, plants, and plant life cycles. As a hands-on learning project they have planted a garden of flowers and vegetables.

One of our students, Steven Wilhelmsen who attends a BOCES school was recently honored at the BOCES Outstanding Student Award Ceremony. Dr. LoVerde and Mr. Vulpis attended the program.

This month's learning experiences outside of the classroom included:

Enterprise students visited the LI Science Museum in Plandome.

CA Grade 6 attended the Diary of Anne Frank at the Elmont Library.

CA Grade 5 attended Fourscore at the Hofstra Playhouse.

CA Grade 1 attended Junie B. Jones and Grade 2 attended Frog and Toad at the Broad Hollow Theater.

RA Grade 3 visited the Queens County Farm Museum

RA Kindergarten visited the LI Children's Museum

The students in Mr. Cimorelli's and Mr. Howard's classes visited the Cradle of Aviation Museum to compete in the Annual Metric 500 which is a curriculum based activity in which students research, design, test and build CO2 powered cars. The students compete against other schools from Nassau County. The high school students placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This past month provided an opportunity to educate our students on the importance of good health and wellness. With all that was happening in the news about the H1N1 virus our school nurses, teachers and administrators were proactive by making sure the students understood the simplest way to protect themselves—hand washing! Our nurses met with different groups of students to remind them about good hygiene. Thank you to our nurses for keeping all of us informed.

Also in the area of health and wellness RA had a dental program for the Kindergarten students. In addition there were presentations about the dangers of tobacco for students in Grade 6.

Furthermore, for the past three months, the children at Rhame Avenue have discussed ways to make healthier life choices. Calendars and stickers were given to the students to help track their progress. When the child makes 7 healthy choices in a 24 hour period, they place a sticker on the chart. Calendars are collected at the end of each month. The class with the highest percentage of participants was rewarded with an extra PE class.

This is the time of year when our seniors are making final decisions about where to attend college in the fall. Our students have been accepted at some very competitive colleges and universities. Congratulations to our students,

Mr. Emery and Ms. Katzman.

May has been a rainy month in terms of field play. However, we are getting ready for the playoffs in Boys' Baseball beginning on 5/18 at Farmingdale College and Girls' Softball beginning on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Our spring concerts are this month. Thursday is the elementary concert and May 19<sup>th</sup> is the Jr/Sr High concert.

Our students' art work will be on display in the High School small gym on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Broadway by the Bay was a fantastic performance on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Over \$1200 was raised for our music and art scholarships. It was also an opportunity to see one of our students on our local stage before he makes his way to Broadway. That's right; one of our own, junior, Danny Quadrino will be on Broadway next year in the ensemble and as the understudy for Hugo in Bye Bye Birdie! Break a leg Danny!

Earlier this year I mentioned that our MS SEL program was visited last year and we were asked to participate in a NYS publication for guidelines and resources for Social Emotional Development and Learning (SEDL). The draft document has been created and ER is featured on page 15.

The Centre Avenue student council planted approximately 15 Dwarf boxwoods in the courtyard at Centre Avenue School during the student lunch hour. Our maintenance crew, Orlando, Frank and Gene assisted in setting up the planning for the students.

The annual fire inspections were conducted and all buildings did well. There were some electrical repairs brought to our attention and have since been addressed. Also, our fire inspection indicated that we are in short supply of storage space and need to find other means of storing equipment. We are hoping to alleviate this by purchasing an exterior storage container, which is currently an item in the budget.

Congratulations to our teacher and coach, Mr. Joe Lores, for being voted Basketball Coaches Association of New York (BCANY), Section VII Co-Coach of the Year for Class C.

May 19<sup>th</sup> is our annual budget vote. The polls will be open from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM. If you were not able to attend the budget hearing last week, please know that the presentation is available on the website. If you have any questions about it, please call either Mrs. Robinson or my office.

As a follow-up to previous meetings, Mr. Fortgang met with representatives of each of the classes to discuss the year's Rock Rivalry. It was a wonderful opportunity for voices to be heard and for individuals to express themselves and air their differences. Mr. Fortgang and his staff will continue to review Rock Rivalry and bring forward any recommendations that will improve upon our current practice.

Also last month there was a question about online safety information. Mr. Piccarella put together some information for parents, which is available on the back table and also posted on the PTA webpage of our website.

The HS Key Club and Science Leadership club celebrated Earth week by creating a Trash for Treasure table where students and staff could bring in items they no longer wanted and make them available to someone who might want the item. All remaining items were donated to the Salvation Army. Thank you Mr. Fortgang and Ms. Alessandro for working on this with our students.

This concludes my report.

#### 9. Privilege of the Floor

One community member thanked Mrs. Boccuzzi for all her hard work and wished her luck on her future endeavors. Another community member commended the board on creating the budget, a tight and savvy one.

#### 10. Board Member Comments

**Neil Schloth** – Thank you for the Humanities presentation, Mrs. DiPietro, teachers and students. Our new department chairmen have helped raise the bar with higher enrichment, it is very uplifting. Thank you for showing up at the meetings. I am going to miss Mrs. Boccuzzi.

**Marie Girace** – Thank you to the English Department, I enjoyed the poems of the students. For people who are very young their thoughts are very profound. Congratulations to Danny Quadrino. I am sure he will make his mark there. Please come out and vote on Tuesday. Thank you for coming.

**Linda Schmidt** – I would like to thank Mrs. DiPietro and the talented young writers. Congratulations to the upcoming retirees. Welcome Neil (Vogel). I can't believe this is another year end! Please come out and vote.

**Vicki Alspector** – Thank you for the presentation. I find the writings to be amazing. Kristen, thank you for your

comments regarding the budget. Thank you Dr. Melucci and Mrs. Robinson for your hard work. Thank you for coming.

**Mary Boccuzzi** – Welcome Neil (Vogel). This is a great place to work. Congratulations to the students accepted into colleges. Congratulations to Danny – I am very happy for him. Please remember to come and vote on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Dr. Melucci and Mrs. Robinson for the Budget presentation. It made the budget easy to understand. Thank you all for your comments. See you next month.

11. Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Neil Schloth the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm by unanimous vote.

Respectfully yours,

Denise Lobascio

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CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENT “A”