

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., November 18, 2008 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by a Presentation on Science Research/Living Lab 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 8:05 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil Schloth.
2. Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Vicki Alspector, the minutes of the October 14, 2008 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged receipt of financial reports for August and September, 2008.
4. Correspondence - 3
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items #1 – 14 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, correct Personnel Item 8, October 14, 2008 agenda to read:

Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Susan Pereira from the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective October 15, 2008 and approve the appointment of Susan Pereira to the probationary position of Teacher Assistant, effective October 16, 2008 at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for Teacher Assistants for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

2. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following part-time appointments for the ALPSS program, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

Nicole Bernor..... Substitute Teacher, effective October 2,
2008 through June 30, 2009

Steven Ley..... Special Education Teacher,
effective, October 16, 2008 through June 30, 2009

John Griffin..... Science Teacher, effective October 16, 2008
through June 30, 2009

Joseph DeMarco..... English Teacher, effective October 23, 2008 through
June 30, 2009

Nicholas Cimorelli..... Substitute ALPSS Principal, effective October 23,

2008 through June 30, 2009

Frank Cuttita..... Substitute ALPSS Principal, effective October 23,
2008 through June 30, 2009

Christian Soto Substitute ALPSS Principal, effective October 23,
2008 through June 30, 2009

Augustine Tornatore..... Substitute ALPSS Principal, effective October 23,
2008 through June 30, 2009

Christine Sausa..... Substitute Teacher, effective October 24, 2008
through June 30, 2009

3. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Cindy Dower from her position as substitute teacher effective October 19, 2008, and approve her appointment to the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective October 20, 2008 through June 30, 2009 at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Antonino Profeta from his position as Cleaner, effective October 27, 2008, and approve his appointment to the probationary position of Maintainer, effective October 28, 2008, at the Step B salary set forth in the East Rockaway Custodial Unit contract for the 2008-2009 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Mary Ellen Haggerty to the position of part-time monitor, effective October 30, 2008 through June 30, 2009 at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitors Unit agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Nora Anemone, from her position as substitute teacher aide, effective October 30, 2008, and approve her appointment to the position of teacher aide, effective October 31, 2008 through June 30, 2009 at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Erica Nadel to the position of teacher aide, effective November 17, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the Step A hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
8. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Maria Acampora from her position as substitute teacher aide, effective November 4, 2008, and approve her appointment to the position of teacher aide, effective November 5, 2008 through June 30, 2009 at the Step A hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Gina Sardegna to the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective November 19, 2008 through June 30, 2009 at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Robert Brockett to the probationary position of cleaner, effective November 6, 2008, at the Step A salary set forth in the East Rockaway Custodial Unit’s Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
11. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Jennifer Laut to the position of teacher aide, effective November 17, 2008 through June 30, 2009 at the Step 2 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

12. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve a request for a child rearing leave of absence for Thomas Barrett from his position as head custodian, effective November 24, 2008 through January 20, 2009.

13. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the hourly salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education:

Kathleen Kelly, substitute monitor, effective November 6, 2008
Patricia Russell, substitute monitor, effective November 19, 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:

Mary Ellen Haggerty, monitor
Robert Brockett, cleaner

B. Other Items.

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Vicki Alspector, the following items #1 – 12 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
2. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Mary Volino as the Secretary to the Superintendent/Board of Education, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, and authorize the superintendent of schools to execute the memorandum of agreement.
3. Approve the contract with Shari Berman for choreography and consultation services for the period November 1, 2008 through February 7, 2009 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract.
4. Approve the contract with Christina Lalama for pianist accompaniment services for the period December 5, 2008 through December 11, 2008, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract.
5. Approve for purpose of disposal as obsolete the equipment more specifically listed on the attached Inventory Control Forms.
6. Accept a donation from John Acquafredda of a Treadmill, Model Pacemaster Pro Plus, valued at Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars for the East Rockaway Jr/Sr. High School Athletic Department.
7. Accept a donation from the Class of 2008 in the sum of One Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Six and 90/100 (\$1,266.90) Dollars for the purpose of offsetting the cost of repainting the cupola.
8. Accept a donation from Target in the sum of One Hundred Seventeen and 30/100 (\$117.30) Dollars for teaching supplies for the Rhame Avenue Elementary School and approve an increase in budget code A2110-450-03-0000 (teaching supplies) by the amount of \$117.30.
9. Approve the Member District Service Agreement for *Connect-ED* services with Nassau BOCES County

Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the period January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement.

10. Approve the agreement with Rockville Centre UFSD for educational instructional services for the 2008-2009 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement.

11. Approve the request for proposal of program and services with Gersh Academy for the 2008 – 2009 school year and authorize the superintendent of schools to execute the resulting service contracts on behalf of the Board of Education.

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Vicki Alspector, the following items #C & D were unanimously approved:

C. CSE Recommendations

D. CPSE Recommendations

6. Policy Matters – None

7. Superintendent's Report

There are many wonderful things that happen in our school on a daily basis. Here are some of the highlights of the past month.

As you know, we have a partnership this year with SUNY Albany for AP Bio, AP Physics and Science Research projects. A professor from Albany visited and observed Mr. Cangemi's AP Bio class. I met with him afterwards and he spoke favorably about what he saw. At a later date, we will be visited from someone from the physics department.

The Trout in the Classroom program is underway and there are many eggs that are being prepared to hatch.

Last week our 5th grade students participated in the NYS Social Studies Assessment. We have finished scoring the papers and are waiting for the state to post the passing score equivalents.

Our elementary ELA academies are beginning after school in preparation for the ELA Assessments in January.

This year's Presidential election created a great deal of motivation for students to become educated about government and politics. Students created posters representing the candidates and their platforms. Mock elections were held in the schools.

Outside the classroom learning took place at the East Rockaway Firehouse in celebration of Fire Safety month in October. Also, grade 4 students at Rhame visited the NY Hall of Science. Our Grade 8 students will have a cultural experience tomorrow when they attend a Flamenco Dance performance at Lincoln Center.

Our students are reading many wonderful works of literature in their classes. Some of the titles at Centre Avenue are: Heidi; Moby Dick; and Secret Garden.

At Rhame students are reading The Penderwicks on Gardam Street; The Talented Clementine; How Tia Lola Came to Stay; Charlotte's Web and Skylark. I encourage you to read some of these books along with your child.

I am pleased to report that our Girls Varsity volleyball team are the Long Island Champs and 3rd in New York State. Jalissa Barnes has been named 2nd team All Star Player.

The cast is set and rehearsals have begun for this year's musical, Oliver. The performances will be on Friday, 2/6, Sat, 2/7, and Sunday afternoon, 2/8. This is a change from what appears in the calendar.

The senior chorus will perform at Monday's 11/24, Senior Citizen Flu immunization

program at Rhame Avenue.

We have also begun rehearsals for our holiday concerts. 12/11 is the elementary concert and 12/18 is the Junior/Senior High concert.

Congratulations to our students, Andrew Machovec, John Machovec, and Scott Reill for award winning posters and an essay on Fire Safety and Prevention.

The PTA Reflections contest is underway. This year's theme is WOW!

Our Social Emotional Words of the month are:

Grade 6: Compromise, responsibility, pride, motivation

Grade 7: Pessimism, Discourage, Humble

Grade 8: Prejudice, internalize, irrational, inhibition

We received a compliment for our teachers who attended a workshop on interventions training. The presenter stated how professional and involved the teachers were with the new information. He also said that it was evident that they are committed to moving forward with a plan for their school. They left a positive impression.

We continue to train our teachers on co-teaching models for inclusion. We've already have had a staff developer at Centre and Rhame and she will visit with the high school next week. Many of you may have read or heard about the Governor's proposed cuts. He has proposed to cut 6.51% of this year's aid that we are counting on to get through the school year. This amounts to \$364,420. We are watching to see what will happen next.

Some of you may have noticed a police car sitting in front of the high school from time to time. One day last month the car was there all day and I knew it had nothing to do with the high school. When I called the 4th precinct they told me that sometimes they park there and monitor the traffic.

There was a 9th grade parent meeting on 10/20. Very few parents were able to attend the meeting. I encourage you to please stay involved with the school as your children enter high school. We still need your support and appreciate your partnership.

As you know, there were parent-teacher conferences in addition to the Back-To-School-Night this fall. There will be a parent-teacher conference night in the spring as well. Dates are to be determined.

The Key Club is coordinating a food drive for Ronald McDonald House from all three schools.

Our It's Academic Team won its' first competition.

Last month we talked about a conflict between the High School Band and athletics. The Site Based Management team met and it was decided that athletes who are also in band will be excused from Band when a sanctioned sporting event is scheduled at the same time.

I wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

That concludes my report.

I hope to see you next month.

8. Privilege of the Floor

One community commented on the ISS room.

Another community member commented on the financial situation in Albany.

Another community member thanked Mr. Piccarella for the presentation on education in the 21st century.

9. Board Member Comments

Linda Schmidt – Thank you to Mr. Cangemi, Ms. Rudolph and the students for coming out tonight. Having a 7th grader and a 4th grader it is exciting to see what they have to look forward to. Thank you to the parents for speaking your concerns. Have a nice Thanksgiving.

Vicki Alspector – Thank you for the presentation. I truly believe that the hands-on experiences are what you remember from school. You never forget stuff like that. Thanks Mr. Aquafredda and congratulations to the Volleyball team. Have a nice Thanksgiving.

Neil Schloth – Thanks (to the community) for showing up tonight. We have tough times ahead and knowing you are there helps us. Thanks to Mr. Cangemi and the students for showing us some of the alternative learning methods. I also would like to thank Dr. Melucci and Joe Cangemi for the speed sign on Ocean Ave. Have a nice holiday.

Marie Girace – First, I would like to suggest that when the kids win these conferences in sports we have a better sign to congratulate them. Someone should make a decent sign of congratulations for their efforts. I am very impressed with the science program. When I went to school we didn't have anything live but the teachers...maybe I would have gotten through Chemistry a bit easier. We finally have a good science program and I am very encouraged by the effort. I want to thank everyone for coming and wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Mary Boccuzzi – I also want to thank Joe Cangemi, Vanessa Rudolph and the students. I do believe the hands-on stuff leaves a different impression and I am encouraged by the program. I feel good about that. Congratulations to the volleyball team, it is a great thing. Thanks to the music department for the candy. I would like to comment on the governor's "cost reduction" which he does not call "cuts". We are looking at difficult times ahead and it seems to be a sign of the times. I am not sure what is ahead but whatever it is we will work together on it. You will find a brochure on the table which explains the board meetings, dates and how the meetings are run. I cannot take all the credit for the brochure, I saw something similar at the Board Convention and I am always into more information so here it is. Thanks to everyone for coming. We want you all to be involved and state your concerns. Have a Good Thanksgiving.

10. Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Vicki Alspector and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk