

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2015**

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School and read aloud the reminder regarding public comment.

Present: Susan Sullivan, President
Scott Reh, Vice President
Melissa Brown, Trustee
Sean Callahan, Trustee
Edward Casswell, Trustee
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Deborah De Luca, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
Gregory Hilton, School Business Official
Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services (arriving at 7:05 p.m.)
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ring invited Mrs. Crossan to the podium to begin the building reports.

MRS. SUSANN CROSSAN, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL

- Grade level assemblies were held to review the code of conduct and student expectations.
- 9th grade parent orientation was held on Thursday, September 24th, prior to Open School Night. Parents were provided with the club and activity guide along with a document entitled Positive Attitude and Actions Will Make a Difference, a listing of ten tips summarizing important items upon which students are asked to focus. Guidance and support service staff members were introduced and parents were given an overview of graduation requirements, the attendance policy and the code of conduct. Parents proceeded to follow their child's schedule in ten minute class periods in order to meet each teacher and learn about curriculum, course requirements and grading policies.
- Mrs. Crossan thanked Mr. Rich Acritelli for putting together a 9/11 ceremony for the 11th and 12th grade students. Speakers Kevin Lyle, Owen McCafferty and Chris Hardej shared their experiences with the students in order to preserve history and keep alive the memory of the many heroes.
- Several students performed at the Rocky Point Fire Department September 11th Memorial Ceremony. Students played background music at the event while other

students sang the *National Anthem* at the opening of the ceremony and *God Bless America* at the close. Mrs. Crossan expressed her pride in the students for their involvement in community events.

- Two students have been selected to represent RPHS at the 2015 NYSSMA All-State Conference in Rochester in December. Senior Thomas Loomis has been chosen to sing with the Mixed Chorus and Senior Daniel Infranco has been chosen to play French horn with the Symphony Orchestra and also sing with the Mixed Chorus. Both students obtained a score of 100 at their All-State auditions last spring. Mrs. Crossan noted that both students were also All-State and All-County Musicians at last year's conference. Several students were also chosen for the All-County Festival to be held in November: Women's Choir – Samantha Giacoia and Prima Mandolfo; Mixed Chorus: Breanna Garske, Daniel Infranco, Nick LoCastro, Thomas Loomis and Rosa Valente; Symphonic Band: Daniel Infranco, Nicolas Amato and Justin Zorcik.
- Mrs. Crossan also proudly announced that seventy-two students were recognized as AP Scholars. Thirty-six of the students received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams; thirteen students were recognized as AP Scholars with Honors for receiving an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams; twenty-one students were recognized as AP Scholars with Distinction for receiving an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Two students were recognized as National AP Scholars for receiving an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.
- Thirty members of the BANN club worked alongside civic-minded people to assist with the clean-up of West Ramp Beach in Sound Beach. The students collected trash and logged in what they retrieved in order to help supply data to the Ocean Conservancy to better relay information about the impact that trash has on recreation, tourism, shipping and transportation. Mrs. Crossan noted that the BANN club has also been working with the international Coastal Cleanup program to help inspire young people to make a positive impact on the world and be part of the solution to the problem of pollution.
- Class Ring Night for students and parents who may be interested in purchasing class rings is scheduled for October 8th.
- The Pep Rally is scheduled during seventh and eighth periods on October 9th to kick-off Homecoming festivities. A Powder Puff football game is scheduled for 7 p.m. on the turf field.
- On Saturday, October 10th, Homecoming will begin with a parade featuring floats from each of the classes based on the theme "Classic Video Games." The parade will begin at 12:30 p.m. This year the Class of 1975, the first graduating class, will be honored. Several members of this class will be recognized as they mark their 40th year reunion.
- On October 14th the PSAT exams will be administered to all students who previously signed up through the guidance department.
- The Marching Band will participate in the *Newsday Marching Band Festival* at 7 p.m. at Hofstra University.

- On October 17th the Varsity and Junior Varsity Volleyball teams will host the “Dig Pink” fundraising event to support needy families and the Side-Out Foundation.

DR. SCOTT O’BRIEN, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Dr. O’Brien extended his gratitude to teachers, staff and parents at the middle school for a successful school opening.
- Dr. O’Brien advised that sports and clubs have begun and directed parents to access the club guide link on the website for information on all clubs, club advisors and meeting dates. Dr. O’Brien also noted that the RPMS bi-weekly flyer is posted on the website and that this flyer contains the most updated and current information regarding school-wide events and after-school activities.
- Open House was held on September 17th for grades six, seven and eight. Parents and guardians followed their child’s schedule and learned about student curriculum, class expectations and communication procedures. Dr. O’Brien thanked all those who attended.
- Next week is “Spirit Week” and students will celebrate with themed days including Rocky Point School Colors Pride Day.
- The third annual Pep Rally and PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) kick-off assembly will be held on October 9th. Dr. O’Brien explained that the PBIS program assists in recognizing and rewarding the positive behavior of students. Dr. O’Brien offered special thanks to all teachers and staff who have been busy helping to make this event possible.
- Dr. O’Brien congratulated student Bryant Michael Liu, one of the thirty national finalists in the 2015 BROADcom MASTERS middle school science competition. Bryant will compete in the national finals from October 1st through October 7th in the San Francisco Bay area. Bryant will present his original research project to judges and the public and will compete in hands-on STEM challenge activities with fellow finalists. All finalists will receive \$500.00 and will have the opportunity to win other prizes through their competition performance, including trips to STEM summer camps, iPads, or the top award of \$25,000.00. More than 2,200 students entered this year’s competition, each student representing the top 10% of projects at their local science fairs. Dr. O’Brien expressed the middle school’s absolute pride of Bryant and his accomplishment. Dr. O’Brien also announced that in recognition of the school’s support of Bryant, Broadcom Foundation and Society for Science & the Public will award Rocky Point Middle School \$1,000 to support science, math, or engineering education.
- Dr. O’Brien advised that last year the RPMS was approached to participate in a new initiative entitled Invitational Education. Members of the school community were invited to participate in a survey to provide feedback to the principles of creating, sustaining, and enhancing positive learning environments that support students and staff in reaching their full potential. An Invitational Education team was created to support the notion that schools can move “beyond the tests” to ensure that students, staff, and parents have a more positive and successful school year. Dr. O’Brien announced that through this process the Rocky Point Middle School has been named a nominee for the 2016 International School of Invitation

Award with the results of this process being increased academic success, attendance, effort, collaboration, positive behaviors, and morale. Dr. O'Brien said that he was very excited to share that the Rocky Point Middle School is one of four schools in the state of New York to be selected as a host school to more than sixty international administrators, teachers, and students on October 20th. Educators from Japan, China, Mexico and Italy will be visiting the RPMS as a model of Invitational Education. Dr. O'Brien expressed his excitement and pride in this opportunity to share positive climate initiatives with the visiting educators from around the world.

MS. LINDA TOWLEN, PRINCIPAL, JOSEPH A. EDGAR SCHOOL

- Ms. Towlen reported that JAE had a wonderful start to the school year as new third grade students and returning fourth and fifth grade students were welcomed.
- Open Houses were well-attended. Parents had the opportunity to view a brief PowerPoint presentation in the old gym prior to visiting their child's classroom and meeting their child's teacher. Ms. Towlen thanked all the parents and teachers for their support of the event.
- "Spirit Week" was celebrated during the week of September 16th. To demonstrate their school spirit, students wore blue and white, crazy socks, and their favorite sports team jersey.
- The students are creating a banner to be carried in the Homecoming Parade on October 10th. Ms. Towlen thanked Ms. Maggio, Ms. Craig and Ms. Lopez for all their work on this event.
- The first PTA meeting is scheduled for October 6th.
- Ms. Towlen advised picture days are scheduled for October 27th, 28th and 29th and Family Folk Dancing will be held on the evening of October 28th.

MRS. VIRGINIA KELLY-GIBBONS, PRINCIPAL, FRANK J. CARASITI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Students demonstrated their Rocky Point school spirit last week as they participated in Blue and White Day, Team Day and Crazy Sock Day.
- Kindergarten Open House is scheduled for October 29th; First Grade Open House is scheduled for September 30th, and Second Grade Open House is scheduled for October 1st. Open House attendees will receive current information on their child's progress thus far and pertinent information will be provided to FJC families by representatives of the PTA, cheerleaders and members of the Boy Scouts organization.
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons provided meeting attendees with information about "Go for the Gold" - Pediatric Cancer Awareness and thanked Michelle Bowen and Jamie Adamski for organizing the event.
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons also extended her gratitude to Mrs. Leary and Mrs. Adamski for organizing the kick-off Character Education Assembly to be held in October.
- Ms. Kenwood is preparing for second grade chorus and will soon choose this year's holiday theme.
- School picture days are scheduled for September 30th, October 1st, and October 2nd. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked the PTA for the organization of this event.

- Everyone is looking forward to the annual Fire Department visit with kindergarten students in October.
- The students are anxiously awaiting the Harvest Day Parade and the first graders are looking forward to picking pumpkins in the pumpkin patch.

Dr. Ring thanked the principals for their reports. Dr. Ring made note of a change in venue for the first meeting of the PTA scheduled on October 6th at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the library of the Rocky Point Middle School instead of JAE.

Mrs. Sullivan opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Reading from a prepared statement, Mrs. Patricia Scalone referenced agenda item XI – Adoption of the Revised and Updated Next S.T.E.P. Five-Year Strategic Plan. Mrs. Scalone spoke specifically to Goal AE-2, the proposed continuous hiring of teaching assistants during the 2015-2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years. Mrs. Scalone voiced her disagreement with the district’s objective to hire additional teaching assistants if said teaching assistants would supplant the current and/or future teacher aides. Mrs. Scalone expressed her opinion that the district gave “little consideration” to the elimination of teacher aides. Mrs. Scalone also objected to the additional costs taxpayers would bear for the salaries of teaching assistants in comparison to the salaries of teacher aides. Mrs. Scalone admonished Mrs. Brown for serving on the Next S.T.E.P. sub-committee wherein the hiring of teaching assistants was decided upon and for not recusing herself from voting on a personnel agenda that included the hiring of a family member as a teaching assistant.
- Following her reading of the Next S.T.E.P. Mission Statement, Mrs. Anne Quartararo stressed the vital role teacher aides provide in the nurturing and supporting of a student-centered environment. Mrs. Quartararo provided an overview of the functions teacher aides perform for the benefit of both the students and their teachers and expressed her opinion that the elimination of teacher aides amounts to a disservice to the students and is also a contradiction of the mission statement. Mrs. Quartararo asked that the board trustees rescind the proposal to hire teaching assistants at the expense of school teacher aides. Mrs. Quartararo expressed her opinion that Mrs. Brown was in violation of BOE Policy 6123 - Nepotism and Policy 6217 – Employment of Relatives of Board of Education Members.
- Ms. Jenny Fabricatore asked for the names of those who served on the Next S.T.E.P. sub-committee. Following Dr. De Luca’s response to Ms. Fabricatore’s request, Ms. Fabricatore announced that those who served were well-respected individuals and that she is personally offended by the remarks that the sub-committee was a sham. Ms. Fabricatore also requested a recap of the plans for the employment of teaching assistants and the proposed number of teaching assistants at the middle school during the 2016-2017 school year.
- Mrs. Sullivan reminded meeting attendees that the Next S.T.E.P. plan is a fluid plan that it is reviewed and approved yearly. Mrs. Sullivan also reminded meeting attendees that two months ago when the plan for the addition of teaching

assistants was presented to the board trustees for approval the trustees amended the timeline for the hiring of teaching assistants for each of the next three school years to only one school year.

- Dr. Ring added to Mrs. Sullivan's remarks concerning the plan and noted that various aspects of the plan require individual Board of Education action beyond the approval of the Next S.T.E.P. plan itself. Dr. Ring further noted that the Board adopted a resolution to hire teaching assistants in July and that the resolution to approve the Next S.T.E.P. plan is being presented this evening.
- Mrs. Quartararo, referencing the excessing of four teacher aides with one returning in conjunction with the terms of the union contract, inquired as to why Goal AE-2 references teaching assistants in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 if that aspect of the plan was not being voted on during this meeting. Dr. Ring stated that he accepts the proposals of the action plan team as a recommendation/framework and that tonight's vote does not alter what the trustees voted on in July. Dr. Ring further explained that the proposal was written and presented to him whereupon, subsequent to his review, he passes it on to the trustees for their review and consideration. Dr. Ring was asked if he was the author of the narrative. Dr. Ring responded that he was not.
- Reading from a prepared statement, school teacher aide, Ms. Sandy Valente, stressed her hope that she be appreciated for the work that she does and her hope that everyone can work together in harmony.
- Joseph A. Edgar student, Leanna Mood, shared that she loves all of the teacher aides and that she would be very sad to see any of them continue to be let go.

Mrs. Sullivan announced that the period of time (not to exceed fifteen minutes) had expired for the first public comment session of the meeting and she advised that those who wished to make additional comments would have the opportunity to do so at the end of the business portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed below are presented as part of the Consent Agenda which can be adopted by the Board of Education under a single motion followed by a second and then a formal vote. The Consent Agenda items are listed below in their regular order within a group. Before an actual vote is taken, any Consent Agenda item may be removed by a Board member without a formal motion or second. If this occurs, the indicated resolution will be discussed during its regular order on the agenda and voted on individually.

II-VIII CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the following agenda items as one item.

- II: Minutes** – Special Meeting, August 24, 2015; Regular Meeting, August 31, 2015; Special Meeting September 17, 2015

- III Budget Transfer Summary – August 2015**
- IV: Treasurer’s Reports – July and August 2015**
- V: Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer’s Report – July and August 2015**
- VI: Financials – June, July and August 2015**
- VII: Internal Claims Audit Report – August 2015**
- VIII: Committees on Special Education Schedules 8-31-15-A and 8-31-15-B as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

IX TAX LEVY

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Edward Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the tax levy of \$47,724,854 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year be approved.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

X SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves for surplus the following attached list.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XI ADOPTION OF THE REVISED AND UPDATED NEXT S.T.E.P. FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendents of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the revised and updated Next S.T.E.P. Five-Year Strategic Plan as heretofore submitted.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XII ST. CHARLES HOSPITAL CONSULTANT CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with St. Charles Hospital for a sports medicine physician/physician's assistant, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XIII REVIEW, REVISION, ADOPTION AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES (SECOND READING)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reviews and adopts the following policies (*second reading*):

- 6214 Probation and Tenure
- 6215 Disciplining of a Tenured Teacher or certified Personnel
- 7131 Education of Homeless Children and Youth
- 7555 Student Gender Identity (New Policy)

Mrs. Brown requested that the adoption of Policy 7555 - Student Gender Identity (New Policy) be tabled in order to allow for additional review of same by the trustees of the Board of Education. The resolution was amended as follows:

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Edward Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reviews and adopts the following policies (*second reading*):

- 6214 Probation and Tenure
- 6215 Disciplining of a Tenured Teacher or certified Personnel
- 7131 Education of Homeless Children and Youth

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Upon a further motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education tables the motion to review and adopt the following policy:

- 7555 Student Gender Identity (New Policy)

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XIV APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON; BOARD OF REGISTRATION; CHIEF INSPECTOR; POLL CLERKS; TELLERS; AND SUBSTITUTE TELLERS AND SUBSTITUTE

**POLL CLERKS FOR THE SPECIAL BOND REFERENDUM
VOTE TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 2015 AND
APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR THE
SPECIAL VOTER REGISTRATION TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER
19, 2015**

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoints the Chairperson; Board of Registrations, Chief Inspector; Poll Clerks; Tellers and Substitute Tellers and Poll Clerks at an hourly rate of \$10.00 as per the attached list.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XV DONATION – TEAL PUMPKINS AND HALLOWEEN CRAFT KITS

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation of forty-seven (47) teal pumpkins and six-hundred and forty (640) Halloween craft kits donated by Mrs. Heely, valued at approximately \$600.00.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

On behalf of herself and the trustees of the Board of Education, Mrs. Sullivan thanked Mrs. Heely for her very generous donation.

XVI MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Education and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association for the purpose of a one-time exception allowing a unit member to coach both Junior Varsity and Varsity Volleyball.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XVII MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL

DISTRICT AND THE ROCKY POINT ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Edward Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Rocky Point Administrators' Association for the purpose of permitting one-time monthly stipends of \$1,000 (Science 6-12), \$750 (Science K-5) and \$500 (Advanced Placement) for Association members who will oversee the coordination of K-5 and 6-12 Science responsibilities and 9-12 Advanced Placement responsibilities for the period of October 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XVIII PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XIX NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Sullivan inquired of the trustees if there was any new business they wished to discuss. There was no new business.

Mrs. Sullivan opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Ms. Ernestine Franco thanked the trustees and the administration for mailing the Renovating Rocky Point flyer to the homes of district residents. Ms. Franco engaged Dr. Ring and Mr. Hilton in detailed discussion concerning the financial particulars of the bond referendum, including interest rates and New York State building aid. Ms. Franco asked if the district receives reimbursement as various projects are completed. Mr. Hilton provided Ms. Franco with information concerning debt services and explained that the district will receive a 70% reimbursement rate on the approved projects. Dr. Ring advised that as the monies are reimbursed the district uses those funds to pay both principal and interest on debt incurred to complete the approved capital projects. Ms. Franco concluded her remarks by asking the district to remember that state aid is not free as district residents pay the taxes.
- Referring to the attendance policy and detention for those students who arrive late to school, Dr. Pinkenburg commented that it is his belief that the attendance

policy is counterproductive and motivates students not to go to school at all if they are late because of the resultant punishment. Dr. Pinkenburg also stated it is his belief that detention is a waste of time for students and teachers alike.

- Referencing the Wellness Policy, Dr. Pinkenburg commented that his son's classroom is an allergy-free zone and as a result, healthy foods such as milk, are prohibited. Dr. Pinkenburg stated that he understands the need to maintain peanut-free allergy zones but believes it to be excessive in the case of milk. Mrs. Sullivan asked Dr. Pinkenburg to provide her with a copy of the letter he received from JAE concerning this matter. Dr. Pinkenburg complied with Mrs. Sullivan's request.
- Dr. Pinkenburg mentioned JAE students were required to bring sixty pencils to school for the 2015/2016 school year and expressed his opinion that this was excessive amount.
- Ms. Fabricatore revisited the teaching assistant/teacher aide controversy. In response to her questions concerning the number of teacher aides exceeded, Mrs. Wilson responded that of the four aides exceeded over the last three months, two were recalled. One of the aides declined to be recalled and one accepted recall. In summary, Ms. Fabricatore asked Mrs. Wilson to confirm that only one teacher aide was exceeded due to the hiring of teaching assistants. In an emotional statement, Ms. Fabricatore said that she had been deemed by some to be "anti-aide" because she had advocated for teaching assistants to support the needs of her daughter and other students with disabilities who are in need of additional certified teaching professionals. Ms. Fabricatore also stated the importance of teacher aides in her daughter's life for all that they do to nurture and care for the students entrusted to their care.
- Mrs. Donna McCauley inquired about the monies and interest rate associated with the bond referendum vote. Mrs. McCauley asked what recourse the district would have if it is determined that the district cannot be reimbursed at the rate of 70%. Mr. Hilton explained that the district will know early in the process if a project was not able to be reimbursed at 70% and the district would then have the option to pull that project. Dr. Ring confirmed that the district would be notified if state aid was not available for a specific project and that if that was the case, he would recommend not proceeding with said project.
- Mrs. McCauley inquired about the SMART School Bond Act and asked if any of the items on the capital improvement project bond referendum might be considered for aid under the SMART School Bond Act.
- Mr. Callahan confirmed that the amount of the bond is the maximum amount the district can borrow and that if the state does not approve a specific project the district would take that project off the table. Mr. Callahan assured everyone that the district is not borrowing monies that are not necessary. Referencing the bidding process, Mr. Callahan explained that if bidding comes in low the costs will be lower and if bidding comes in high for a specific project than that project can go out for rebidding or be removed. Mr. Callahan remarked that the district does not have reserves to cover the costs of the projects included on the bond referendum.

- Mrs. McCauley stated that some “sharpening of the pencil” needs to be done regarding the spending of the dollars of district residents.
- Ms. Melanie Connelly shared personal family medical information with those in attendance at the meeting and concluded that because of her first hand dealings with heartbreak she refuses to be lectured on her sensitivity.
- Ms. Connelly referenced legislation authored by Assemblyman Phil Ramos wherein the Brentwood School Board created positions which he believed to be in violation of the public trust as said positions cost the Brentwood homeowners additional tax dollars. Ms. Connelly then referenced the associated additional costs to district taxpayers resulting from the hiring of teaching assistants as opposed to school teacher aides in Rocky Point.
- Ms. Connelly provided an overview of several of the familial relationships of employees to both other employees and board members currently working within and serving the school district, respectively.
- In reference to the upcoming Bond Referendum vote, Ms. Connelly reviewed previous capital improvement project informational mailings sent out by the district concluding that the mailing for the October 26, 2015 vote appeared to be very similar.
- Ms. Connelly reiterated her request that the district consider the hiring of a permanent part-time nurse.
- Ms. Bea Ruberto requested general clarification by the district of items that may be deemed “unaidable” by the state. Dr. Ring responded that those projects could be done away with or the board trustees could choose to fund them through capital reserves, etc.
- Ms. Denice Shaughnessy identified herself as an employee of the district currently employed as secretary to Dr. O’Brien. Ms. Shaughnessy stressed her concerns that there is a need for more security. Ms. Shaughnessy explained that quite often she is in the middle school at the end of the day by herself and that she is in need of additional assistance in order to serve the students of the district. Ms. Shaughnessy also implored the district to hire additional guards particularly during school bus drop-offs and pick-ups as she reported that students dodge between buses and the propensity of some parents to illegally pass stopped school buses. Ms. Shaughnessy stated that she and one guard were not enough to effectively handle the present situation.
- Ms. Marianne Barber read a letter written by former NYSUT vice president, Paul Pecorale, praising the contributions made to school districts by school-related professionals and stressing the need to maintain the employment of said professionals.
- Ms. Mary Carman advised that she is concerned with the air quality at the middle school. Ms. Carman cited three instances of employees with medical issues that she fears may be related to the air quality. Dr. Ring responded that he would ask Mr. Hilton to have the ventilation in the middle school checked to ascertain that it was indeed up to code. Dr. Ring further stated that to his knowledge there were no complaints filed at the middle school regarding air quality.

- Ms. Connelly, referring to the 2010 REMS grant wherein the district purchased lock/key boxes that were later deemed not to be necessary, asked for an explanation as to the ultimate distribution of said lock/key boxes.
- Ms. Heely asked why the board tabled the adoption of Policy 7555. Mrs. Sullivan responded that the trustees were seeking more information regarding the specifics of Policy 7555 and that the policy needed to be revisited in more depth before being considered for adoption by the board.
- Mr. Pete Scalcione identified himself as the head custodian of RPMS. Mr. Scalcione spoke in detail regarding the unacceptable conditions he repeatedly finds in the weight room. Mr. Scalcione shared that the weight room is constantly dirty with trash not being deposited in the appropriate receptacles and food being thrown on the floor. Mr. Scalcione reported that upon his return to work on Monday mornings he finds the middle school “trashed” following Friday night and weekend use of the facilities by various sports teams and clubs utilizing the school. Mrs. Sullivan indicated that she had not been made aware of this situation until now. Mr. Reh recommended that Mr. Scalcione speak directly with the building principal regarding this matter to ensure that those responsible for overseeing the functions taking place on school property are held accountable.

There were no further questions or comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 p.m. a motion was made by Scott Reh and seconded by Sean Callahan, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk