

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 19, 2020

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Rocky Point High School.

Present: Susan Sullivan, President
Sean Callahan Vice President
Gregory Amendola, Trustee
Edward Casswell Trustee
Jessica Ward, Trustee
Scott O'Brien Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Susann Crossan, Assistant Superintendent
Kelly White, District Clerk

Absent: Christopher Van Cott, Assistant Superintendent for Business

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:30 p.m. a motion was made by Sean Callahan, and seconded by Ed Casswell, to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel matters and negotiations.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

At 6:25 p.m., on a motion by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Gregory Amendola, the Board suspended executive session for the purpose of meeting with the District's external auditor.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. O'Brien thanked the staff and community for their collaborative efforts in the reopening process. He also announced that Phase 2 of their reopening plan would be released next week. Dr. O'Brien added that this plan addresses concerns with the secondary hybrid model and takes into consideration a need for students to have increased in person learning and synchronous instruction for those learning at home. In closing, Dr. O'Brien advised that the plan that will be released next week, provides our students with increased instructional opportunities.

Mrs. Crossan called Ms. Lisa Puccio up to the front of the auditorium to share some words regarding her recent retirement. She announced that Ms. Puccio had worked in the cafeteria at FJC for 16 years. Ms. Puccio's children Denae and Janelle also attended Rocky Point Schools which allowed her to develop relationships with many of the teachers and staff throughout the buildings. She noted how she loved to dress up during holidays and special occasions as she did today. Mrs. Crossan described her as a dedicated professional who knew all of the students by name. She added that Ms. Puccio's bubbly personality always brought a smile to the children's faces. Mrs. Crossan further described her as genuine, kind, always helpful and said that she will be greatly missed. Mrs. Crossan thanked Ms. Puccio for her contributions to the Rocky Point School District and wished her the best in her retirement.

Mrs. Sullivan opened the floor to questions/comments regarding the agenda.

There were no questions/comments.

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.

III-IX CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

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

- III: Minutes** – Regular Meeting, September 21, 2020
- IV: Budget Transfer Summary** – August & September 2020
- V: Treasurer's Reports** – September 2020
- VI: Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer's Report** – September 2020
- VII: Financials** – September 2020
- VIII: Internal Claims Audit Report** – September 2020
- IX: Committees on Special Education Schedules** 10-19-20-A and 10-19-20-B as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

X DONATION OF AIR PURIFIER

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Ed Casswell, 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 a Homedics Model: AP-T40BK Large Room Ait Purifier from Tesia Brooks, a Rocky Point Schools employee, valued at approximately \$275.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XI SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Upon a motion made by Ed Casswell and seconded by Gregory Amendola, 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 of equipment.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XII USE OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR COVID-19 PERMISSIBLE EXPENDITURES

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

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has created significant challenges for local governments; and

WHEREAS, affected municipalities and school districts need additional flexibility in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and its financial aftermath; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 157 of the Laws of 2020 (Bill No.'s A10492 / S.8417), New York State has permitted the use of the District's Capital Reserve to fund renovations, equipment, machinery, apparatus or furnishings purchased by the District to mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

WHERAS, the District has purchased items such as polycarbonate barriers, desk shields, wall-mounted temperature scanners, cleaning equipment, etc. which are allowable Capital Reserve Fund expenditures under Local Finance Law. Section 11.

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the use of the District's Capital Reserve for this purpose in amount not to exceed \$400,000.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XIII MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan, and seconded by Jessica Ward, 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 Teachers' Association for the purpose of approving a change in the method of payment for stipends for select chair persons (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies and ENL) to be paid in equal increments via remaining 2020-2021 biweekly paychecks as per the attached.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XIV 2019-20 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Ed Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accepts the Independent Auditor's Report with accompanying statements and schedules for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 as well as the Independent Auditor's Report on Extra-Classroom Activity Funds with accompanying statements and schedules for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, which have been submitted by the Board's external auditors, R.S. Abrams.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XV 2019-2020 INDEPENDENT AUDIT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Upon a motion made by Ed Casswell and seconded by Gregory Amendola, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accepts the Independent Audit Corrective Action Plan responding to Current Year Comments from the District's external auditors R.S. Abrams.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XVI DDI SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACT 2020-21

Upon a motion made by Gregory Amendola 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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with Developmental Disabilities Institute, Inc. for special education students' services for Summer 2020 and the 2020-21 school year, under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or District Policy.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XVII CENTER MORICHES UFSD 2020-21 SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan, and seconded by Jessica Ward, 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 Center Moriches Union Free School District for special education students' instructional services for the 2020-2021 school year, as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or District Policy.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XVIII SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Ed Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with Sachem Central School District for special education instructional services for the 2020-21 school year as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or District Policy.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XIX SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES CONTRACTS / ROCKY POINT UFSD AS DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE 2020-21

Upon a motion made by Ed Casswell and seconded by Gregory Amendola, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, Education Law 3602-c states that the Board of Education shall provide special education services to students with disabilities when such students attend schools located outside the Rocky Point UFSD but reside within the Rocky Point UFSD, and

WHEREAS, a request for such special education services had been made by the educating district (District of Location) set forth in student IEP(s); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Rocky Point UFSD as the District of Residence shall pay the District of Location(s) as contracted with the districts providing special education services and facilities for the number of children attending the following schools subject to verification of names and addresses and proof of the services provided.

District of Residence(s):
South Huntington UFSD
West Islip UFSD

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XX SPECIAL EDUCATION 2020-2021 CONTRACT – CAREER & EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS, INC.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with Career & Employment Options, Inc. for specialized career assessment for the 2020-2021 school year, under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or District Policy, as attached.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XXI INDUSTRIAL U.I. SERVICE AGREEMENT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a service agreement with Industrial U.I. Services at no additional cost for the handling of unemployment insurance matters, as per the attached.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

XXII PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Ed Casswell, 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.

Motion carried 4-0

1 abstention – Sean Callahan

XXIII NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Sullivan inquired of the trustees if there was any new business they wished to discuss.

There was no new business.

Once again Mrs. Sullivan invited the meeting attendees for questions/comments.

- Ms. Abran spoke regarding her worries with the current hybrid teaching model. She shared her desire to have her children return to school full time to benefit their mental well-being.
Mrs. Sullivan confirmed that the Board of Education and Administration have been working on that matter.
Mr. Casswell added that they have the same goal and have been working diligently to achieve it in a safe and productive manner.
- Ms. Weisman shared her concerns with the hybrid teaching model. She also pushed for restrictions of phone usage in the middle school to increase socialization.
- Ms. Tavolaro voiced her concerns with the amount of screen time that students have as a result of not having full in-person learning. She also advocated for the return of sports to benefit mental health.
- Mr. Logue expressed his want for a return to full in-person learning. He added that the students require this structure to thrive.
- Mrs. Logue advocated for the use of the school fields by outside sports teams whose members are students of the Rocky Point School District.
Mrs. Sullivan stated that they are working on this matter and support the need for sports.
Dr. O'Brien echoed Mrs. Sullivan's statement and confirmed that they are planning for the return of the sports season on January 4th, which is the Section XI allowable start date.

- Ms. Logue shared her thoughts on why sports are essential to both mental and social health and asked for the support of the Board of Education.
Mrs. Sullivan expressed that the Board of Education is in support of the full return of sports.
- Ms. Bigbie inquired if the middle school students that were on high school sports teams previously would be able to attend the high school team work outs.
Dr. O'Brien stated that information regarding this will be available when the Phase 2 plan is released next week.
- Mr. Carmody communicated his viewpoint regarding the importance of running in-person clubs. He also stated a concern with the enforcement of mask wearing at school.
Dr. O'Brien stated that he had not heard of any concern regarding mask wearing and would follow up with Building Administration.
- Ms. Schwartz spoke of her concerns with there being too much responsibility on the student with the hybrid teaching model. She further asked if there would be additional community discussions regarding future re-opening plans.
Dr. O'Brien advised that there are monthly Board of Education meetings that give community members the opportunity to voice their concerns. He added that he can be reached via email as well.

There were no further questions/comments.

Mrs. Sullivan congratulated Ms. Julianne Warren on her new appointment as an elementary teacher.

She also congratulated Ms. Lisa Puccio and Ms. Dorothy Salerno on their retirements.

XXIV ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m. a motion was made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Ed Casswell, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly White
District Clerk