

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 26, 2009

Members Present:

Michael Nofi
Diane Burke
Edward Darcey
Michael Ferrra
John Lessler

Also Present:

Carla L. D'Ambrosio, Ed.D.
Gary Bixhorn
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D. (arriving at 6:45 PM)
Anja Groth (arriving at 6:45 P.M.)
David Pearl, Esq. (arriving at 6:45P.M.)
Patricia Jones (arriving at 6:45P.M.)

At 5:30 P.M. a regular public meeting of the Board of Education was called to order in the conference room of the Administration Office by Michael Nofi.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:40 P.M. Diane Burke made a motion and Michael Ferrara seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss particular personnel matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

At 7:29 P.M. Diane Burke made a motion and Edward Darcey seconded to end Executive Session and re-convene to the Regular Public Session in the Rocky Point High School auditorium.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Michael Nofi, President
 Diane Burke, Vice President
 Edward Darcey, Trustee
 Michael Ferrara, Trustee
 John Lessler, Trustee
 Carla L. D'Ambrosio Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
 Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for Finance and Operations
 Anja Groth, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
 Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

Mr. Nofi welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and introduced Mr. Peter Rodriguez, CPA, from the firm of Coughlin Foundotos Cullen & Danowski, LLP. Mr. Rodriguez presented a discussion of the services provided by his firm in its capacity as external auditors for the Rocky Point Union Free School District. Following a detailed report, Mr. Rodriguez summarized his firm's final analysis and reported the Rocky Point Union Free School District was granted the very positive opinion entitled "unqualified opinion" and presented "no material weaknesses" in its internal fiscal controls. Mr. Rodriguez noted his firm issued a management letter that featured a minor comment concerning particular aspects of the school lunch program. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the overall audit report was positive.

Mr. Nofi thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his presentation and asked if there were any questions from members of the board or the general audience. There were no questions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

William B. Caulfield, Principal, Rocky Point High School

- Mr. Caulfield congratulated the Rocky Point Cheerleaders for raising more than \$5,000 for cancer research for the American Cancer Society in observance of National Breast Cancer Awareness month.
- The 2nd Annual Safe Halloween program will take place on October 30th from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the halls of the Rocky Point High School.
- Congratulations to the High School Marching Band for its performance at the annual Newsday Marching Band Festival. Ms. Amy Schecher did an outstanding job at this annual event.
- Congratulations to those students participating in the 2009-2010 *Long Island Challenge*. The program will be taped on November 12, 2009 in front of a live studio audience.

Scott O'Brien, Ed.D., Principal, Rocky Point Middle School

- The first Community Astronomy Night for the 2009/2010 school year was held on October 5th at the Rocky Point Middle School. More than three hundred and fifty people attended, including nearly one hundred and fifty students. Dr. O'Brien thanked Audra Hallock and other teachers from the science department for their efforts and invited all to attend the next scheduled Community Astronomy Night on Tuesday, November 3rd, from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. behind the Middle School.
- Special thanks to Middle School cheerleading coach Donna Collier, and High School cheerleading coaches Anna Spallina and Melissa Hayden, for their roles in the Cheer for a Cure charity walk held last week. Rocky Point staff members, students, sports teams and community members raised over \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society.
- Middle School students participated in the first of a three part series of police smart assemblies last week. All students learned about bully prevention, Halloween safety and violence prevention from a Suffolk County police officer. Cyber bullying and diversity presentations will take place in the coming weeks.

- The first Middle School dance will take place on November 13th from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M. for sixth graders only and from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. for both 7th and 8th grade students. Thank you to the Student Council, under the direction of Mr. Connelly, for sponsoring this fall dance.
- 8th grade social studies teacher, Mrs. Alemaghides, will be participating with nine students at the Eighth Annual Middle School Anti-Bias Tolerance Days to be held later this week.

Carol Tvelia, Principal, Joseph A. Edgar School

- Through the support of the Pederson-Kreig Institute, the students of JAE will again participate in National Red Ribbon Week. Students will hear daily announcements about good character and staying away from drugs and alcohol.
- On October 27th, the students will participate in an apple tasting exercise made possible through the Healthy Kids grant.
- Students participated in the Mystery Reader program last week.
- On October 30th, students will participate in “Favorite Book Character Day.” Children may dress as their favorite book character and will discuss why they chose the character and what the character means to them.
- Fourth graders visited the Longwood Estate today.
- Fifth grade students participated in a live performance at Theatre Three, *The Bully Project*. Special thanks you to Ms. Milleisen.
- On November 5th, third grade students, through the efforts of Ms. Abbato, will be visited by author Richard Torrey.
- On November 10th, the High Notes, under the direction of Mr. Knapp, will perform a “Salute to Veterans.” Special thanks to Mr. Yashowitz and the Student Council members for their assistance with this program.

Courtney Herbert, Ed.D., Assistant Principal, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School

- The Shared Decision Making Team will meet this Wednesday at 8:45 A.M. in the conference room.
- On October 27th and October 28th, the Department of Environmental Conservation will be at FJC for an in-school field trip for first grade. The “trips” will be forty-five minute programs designed to introduce students to some of the wild animals that live with us on the planet.
- On October 29th, first graders will be picking pumpkins on the back fields of the school. This activity will assist students with the concepts of weights and measures.
- The Harvest Day Parade will be held on Friday and will feature teachers, staff members and students dressed as nursery rhyme or book characters in celebration of literacy. The High School Marching Band will perform for the students and visitors.
- Inspired by the book authored by Carol McCloud, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids*, a new program has been adopted at FJC. Program kick-off began last week and will be followed with grade level assemblies each month, culminating with an all-inclusive assembly in the spring.

Leonard Kies, Director of Health, PE, Athletics and Intramurals

- Thank you to Mr. Nick Pappas and congratulations to the athletes who participated for the first time in the Interscholastic Sports for the Challenged on Thursday, October 22nd. The athletes were very proud to receive their medals. Rocky Point was well-represented at this event by both staff and parents. Special thanks to Ms. McLaughlin and Mr. Marchetta.
- Thank you to Coach Connelly and congratulations to Amanda Tascarella for placing first in a field of more than twelve hundred participants in Middle School Cross-Country.
- Nine Rocky Point student-athletes have signed national letters of intent to attend prestigious colleges in the fall of 2010.
- The Varsity and Junior Varsity Volleyball teams and Leaders' Club are conducting the Dig Pink fundraiser for breast cancer on October 31, 2009.
- Mr. Kies expressed his pride in the cheerleaders, coaches, and parents for their participation in the Breast Cancer Walk and "tipped his hat" to this fine program.

Elena Lynch-Dobert, Director of Child Nutrition

- The Rocky Point Child Nutrition Program has been awarded "Best Practices for Increasing Participation in the Breakfast Program" at the Rocky Point High School. One of nine winners throughout all of New York state, the awards were selected based upon community partnerships/sustained excellence, innovation, increased quality of service, sustainability, cost effectiveness and presentation. Ms. Lynch-Dobert singled out Ms. Virginia Yacko for being instrumental in the child nutrition program and for helping to accomplish the goals to win this award.
- The Wellness Committee applied for the New York Action for Healthy Kids Grant entitled *Action for Healthy Kids – Game On*. Out of seven schools selected on Long Island, Rocky Point was awarded grants for both the Joseph A. Edgar School and the Rocky Point Middle School, totaling \$3,000. The grant is intended to make a connection with learning and nutrition and fitness. Ms. Lynch-Dobert extended her gratitude to the PTA volunteers who will cut up approximately four hundred apples to kick-off the first event this week. As the chairperson of the Wellness Committee, Ms. Lynch-Dobert recognized the members of the Wellness Committee and thanked them for their roles in attaining and achieving the goals for the grant: Jenny Andersson, Edward Darcey, Elise Darnell-Boehm, Joanne Davis, Nancy Ford, Lisa Gasparro, Anja Groth, Len Kies, Scott O'Brien, Jennifer Perrotte, Michael Ring, Emily Rutter and Carol Tvelia.

Dr. D'Ambrosio, Superintendent of Schools

- Announcing the month of October is National School Board Recognition Month, Dr. D'Ambrosio noted that board service has become increasingly more demanding, requiring members, who volunteer their services, to willingly spend many hours balancing family responsibilities with work and service to the Rocky Point community. On behalf of the students and staff, Dr. D'Ambrosio thanked the members of the Board of Education for their service and dedication to the Rocky Point School District.

- The district will be proactive in its attempt to reduce the threat of flu among students, faculty and staff. A weekly update from the Suffolk County Department of Health is received and the district will follow its guidelines. Parents are not required to inform the school if their child has the flu, therefore, the district will not have accurate information to report. Parents should consider there is flu in the schools and the community and practice good hygiene habits. Parents will be informed if there is cause for concern. Dr. D'Ambrosio advised there was a detailed statement contained within the district's newsletter that is currently available online for review. Dr. D'Ambrosio invited parents to e-mail her directly with any questions and/or concerns.

Mr. Nofi opened the floor to meeting attendees and invited them to come forward with any questions or concerns.

- Ms. Janet Young, president of the Rocky Point Cheerleaders, presented the board members with tee shirts commemorating the Cheer for a Cure charity walk. Ms. Young thanked the teachers and coaches who participated in the fundraiser and singled out Mr. Kies for his constant and continuous support of the cheerleaders.
- Miss Ally Kaleita, a Rocky Point High School junior and member of the cheerleading squad, read from a prepared statement. Miss Kaleita said she was grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful team and took great pride that the team ranked ninth in the nation. Miss Kaleita thanked Mr. Kies and Ms. Rose Monz for their hard work and support and also thanked the members of the Board of Education and the administration of Rocky Point Schools for their support of the student-athletes.
- Ms. Johannesen thanked the members of the Board of Education for both the cheerleading and the Interscholastic Sports for the Challenged programs and invited all those in attendance to come to the next scheduled event. Ms. Johannesen offered a special thank you to Mr. Marchetta for his assistance in preparing the students for the Interscholastic Sports for the Challenged competition.
- Mr. Pinkenburg revisited his recent discussion of the district's decision concerning the viewing of President Obama's back-to-school speech to students and voiced his disagreement with the manner in which the district responded to the situation, i.e., leaving the decision to view/hear the speech to classroom teachers. Mr. Pinkenburg stated that the Board of Education should represent the majority of the student/parent population and asked how the district could reconcile their final decision concerning the viewing of the speech. Mr. Nofi responded President Obama's speech was a prominent issue in the news and several parents had requested that the speech be banned altogether. Noting that this was not the action the Board of Education adopted, Mr. Nofi stated that the Board of Education reacted to the different concerns expressed by parents and that the calls and e-mails received from parents prompted a rational dialogue to take place among the administration and trustees of the board. Mrs. Burke added to Mr. Nofi's comments by saying the trustees take all concerns of parents very

seriously, and investigate and research each concern thoroughly. Mr. Nofi thanked Mr. Pinkenburg for his comments.

There were no further questions or comments.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education meetings be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, September 21, 2009, Audit Committee Meeting, September 21, 2009, Meeting, October 13, 2009, Meeting, October 19, 2009.**

All in favor – Motion carried 500

TREASURER’S REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Michael Ferrara, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer’s Reports for the months of August and September 2009 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

Upon a motion made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer’s Report for the months of July, August and September 2009 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the months of July, August and September 2009 as presented.

Mr. Nofi noted that revenues were currently over budget, due, in part, to additional non-recurring state aid. Mr. Nofi reminded those in attendance that the board, in its efforts to promote and maintain transparency, would notify the public concerning items pertaining to the funding of capital projects. Towards this end, Mr. Nofi announced that it would be most prudent to place the 1.4 million dollars in the capital funds project fund in an effort to offset looming major expenses, one of which is a new roof for the high school.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2009

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the August and September 2009 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2009

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Michael Ferrara, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the September 2009 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2008-2009 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Upon a motion made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Independent Auditors' Report dated September 21, 2009 with accompanying statements and schedules for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2009, which have been submitted by our external auditors, Coughlin Foundotos Cullen & Danowski, LLP.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2008-2009 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Independent Auditors' Report on Extra-Classroom Activity Funds dated September 21, 2009 with accompanying statements and schedules for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2009, which have been submitted by our external auditors, Coughlin Foundotos Cullen & Danowski, LLP.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2008-2009 INDEPENDENT AUDIT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Independent Audit Corrective Action Plan responding

to Current Year Comment from the district's external auditors, Coughlin Foundotos Cullen & Danowski, LLP, dated September 21, 2009.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN – NYS COMPTROLLER'S AUDIT

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Michael Ferrara, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Corrective Action Plan for the Internal Controls Over Payroll (2009M-83) audit.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

REFUNDING OF OUTSTANDING BONDS OF ROCKY POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Upon a motion made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the following resolution:

Resolution of the Rocky Point Union Free School District, New York, adopted October 26, 2009, ratifying the selection of Roosevelt & Cross, Inc. to serve as the underwriter in connection with the refunding of certain outstanding bonds of the school district.

Mr. Nofi asked Dr. Ring to provide an explanation of this agenda item. Dr. Ring explained refunding of outstanding bonds would provide an opportunity to reduce the district's debt service expenditure over a ten year period and that it was prudent for the district to do so at this time as current market conditions render rates for refunding favorable resulting in an approximate savings of one million dollars over the course of this debt. Dr. Ring also noted that the bond market fluctuates and that the ultimate savings to the district will depend upon the date of issuance for the refunding of the bonds.

There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BOND ISSUE RELATED CAPITAL PROJECT PHASE III CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 (POWER-UP ELECTRICAL)

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts and approves the attached change order reference to bond issue related projects, and authorizes the president of the Board of Education to execute said change order.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BOND ISSUE RELATED CAPITAL PROJECT PHASE II CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 (ROLAND'S ELECTRIC)

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts and approves the attached change order reference to bond issue related projects, and authorizes the president of the Board of Education to execute said change order.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2009-2010 SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTIONAL CONTRACT – DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES INSTITUTE

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Michael Ferrara, 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 for instructional services for a special education student for the 2009-2010 school year as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2009-2010 SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTIONAL CONTRACT – GREENBURGH-NORTH CASTLE

Upon a motion made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by John Lessler, 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 Greenburgh-North Castle for instructional services for a special education student for the 2009-2010 school year as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGREEMENTS 2009-2010

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Diane Burke, 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 service agreements with the following additional list of providers of Speech and Language Therapy Services in accordance with the scope of services submitted in response to the district's request for proposal:

Speech and Language Therapy Services: Complete Rehabilitation Consultants, Inc.; T.E.A.M. Therapy Speech & Language Pathology, P.C.; Mid Island Therapy d/b/a All About Kids.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TUTORING CONTRACT – ST. JAMES TUTORING

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with St. James Tutoring, Inc. for tutoring services at a rate of \$40.00 per hour, as per applicable law, for students temporarily placed in facilities outside of the district.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

REFUND OF COST OF DEFECTIVE CHEERLEADING MATS

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Michael Ferrara, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the refund check of \$5,828.00 from USA Gymnastics and Supply, Inc. for mats purchased in December 2007.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District hereby approves, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to increase the general fund budget by \$5,828.00 as a result of the refund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following budget code be adjusted to reflect that increase:

A 2855 530 04 0000 \$5,828.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

NEW YORK ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS GRANT

Upon a motion made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the \$3,000 grant from New York Action for Healthy Kids.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 10-26-09-A and Schedule 10-26-09- B.

All in favor – Motion carried

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Edward Darcey, 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.

Mr. Nofi announced Mr. Ferrara would abstain from voting on this agenda item as his sister was on the personnel agenda for board approval.

Motion carried – 4-0

Mr. Nofi opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Miss Rebecca Farley, a Rocky Point High School junior, informed the board trustees that the locker room bathrooms were in “horrible condition.” Miss Farley was particularly concerned as an in-house cheerleading competition was scheduled for December 12th and she was embarrassed by the current condition of the facilities. Mrs. Burke asked Miss Farley to be more specific concerning the items in need of repair/renovation so that she could look into the matter and explore possible solutions.

There were no further questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:31 P.M. Edward Darcey made a motion and Diane Burke seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss particular personnel matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:05 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:10 P.M. a motion was made by John Lessler and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Carla L. D'Ambrosio
Superintendent of Schools

