

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 18, 2017

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

Present: Susan Sullivan, President
Scott Reh, Vice President
Sean Callahan, Trustee
Edward Casswell, Trustee
Joseph Coniglione, 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
Kelly White, District Clerk

Absent:

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5 p.m. a motion was made by Scott Reh and seconded by Joseph Coniglione to adjourn to Executive Session, to confer with Mr. Kevin Seaman, District Counsel, to discuss student discipline issues, residency issues, personnel matters and transportation issues.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:58 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ring welcomed the meeting attendees and wished them Happy Holidays. He extended his hopes for everyone to take the time to relax and unwind in the upcoming winter break.

Dr. Ring announced that the first budget workshop for the 2018-19 budget will be conducted at 6pm in the high school library. He encouraged all to attend.

Dr. Ring stated that he had been alerted by parents and building administration over the weekend about concerns regarding the planned changes to enhance and directly engage more students during recess at the JAE school. He offered his apologies for the lack of thorough communication with parents prior to the recess enhancements being discussed with students. Dr. Ring continued, explaining that the activities previously being offered at recess, such as basketball and soccer, will not be eliminated. He stressed that the goal of this new program is to enhance activities, and not to limit what is already in place. He stated that direct inclusion of all students in recess activities is core to what the school is attempting to achieve. Dr. Ring shared his hopes that they will be successful in their efforts and are able to engage more students. Dr. Ring encouraged any parents with concerns to please reach out to him or building administration.

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

- Dr. Pinkenburg expressed concerns of taxpayer money being spent on the appointment of staff for the purpose of curriculum writing for the parent guide for the newly revised elementary school report cards. Dr. Deluca advised that there are extensive rubrics involved for each content area of the K-5 report cards. She explained that in addition to the grades, there are specific benchmarks that are required to be completed at the end of each quarter.

There were no further questions/comments at this time.

Dr. Ring referenced the comments at the previous two Board of Education meetings in regards to the AIS letter that was sent out by the Middle School. He stated that the AIS letter has since been modified in order to eliminate any lack of clarity.

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 Scott Reh and seconded by Joseph Coniglione, 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, November 20, 2017
- IV: Budget Transfer Summary** – November 2017
- V: Treasurer’s Reports** – November 2017
- VI: Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer’s Report** – November 2017
- VII: Financials** – November 2017
- VIII: Internal Claims Audit Report** – November 2017
- IX: Committees on Special Education Schedules 12-18-17-A and 12-18-17-B** recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

X VFW POST NO. 6249 DONATION TO RPHS WALL OF HONOR

Upon a motion made by Joseph Coniglione and seconded by Edward 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 \$500.00 donation from VFW Post No. 6249.

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 \$500.00 as a result of the donation from VFW Post No. 6249.

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

A 2020 500 03 0000 \$500.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked VFW for their donation.

XI DONATION FROM GREAT AMERICAN OPPORTUNITIES

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 and accepts the donation from Great American Opportunities in the amount of \$20.00, as per the attached.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District hereby approves the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to increase the general fund budget by \$20.00 as a result of the donation.

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

A 2110 500 02 0000 \$20.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked Great American Opportunities for their donation.

XII SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

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, that the Board of Education approves for surplus the following list of equipment.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XIII RESOLUTION TO AWARD A BID – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PHASE 2 BID / REBID
SED NO.: 58-02-09-02-0-001-014 (JAE)
SED NO.: 58-02-09-02-0-005-032 (MS/HS)**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education award the Capital Improvements contract the lowest responsible bidder as follows:

Contract No. 4A: Electrical Construction DP Daly & Sons, Inc.

JAE - Work Location No. 13 – ADA Lift Reconstruction \$ 14,000
Work Location No. 14 – Ceiling Replacement \$ 544,000

Total At All Work Locations – JAE: \$ 558,000

HS/MS – Work Location No. 1 – Men’s/Women’s Toilets at Main Lobby \$ 8,000
Work Location No. 2 – Boys/Girls Toilets 1st Fl. South Wing \$ 24,000
Work Location No. 3 – Boys/Girls Toilets 1st Fl. North Wing \$ 21,000
Work Location No. 4 – Boys/Girls Toilets 2nd Fl. South Wing \$ 25,000
Work Location No. 5 – Boys/Girls Toilets 2nd Fl. North Wing \$ 19,000
Work Location No. 6 – Men’s/Women’s Toilets 2nd Fl. Library \$ 15,000

Total At All Work Locations – HS/MS \$ 112,000

Total At All Work Locations – Both Schools: \$ 670,000

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XIV ONE-TIME EXCEPTION TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 7110

Upon a motion made by Joseph Coniglione 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 hereby grants a one-time exception to Board of Education policy 7110, Rocky Point School District’s Comprehensive Attendance Plan, allowing a student made known to the Board of Education to be excused from school on December 11, 12 and 13, 2017 for the purpose of participating in a program for children of military fallen heroes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XV APPEAL OF STUDENT SUSPENSION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that after careful consideration of Board Policy and review of the record and appeal of the suspension of a student made known to the Board, the Board of Education hereby upholds the disciplinary decision of the Superintendent of Schools in the suspension of said student.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XVI PERSONNEL

Discussion ensued

a.) 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 tables the following Personnel changes.

Curriculum Writing

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

b.) 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 attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XVII NEW BUSINESS

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

There was no new business at this time.

Mrs. Sullivan once again invited the meeting attendees to come forth with any questions/comments.

- Ms. Ward stated that she appreciated the apology offered by Dr. Ring in regards to the lack of thorough communication about the recess changes. She inquired as to what had prompted the changes.
Dr. Ring explained that the School District received a U.S. Department of Education grant, known as the “RESPECT Grant” approximately three years ago, which was specifically allocated to JAE. Dr. Ring went on to state that the grant is centered around building character education programs and creating a more respectful and accepting school community. One small part of this grant provided for a process to make recess activities more inclusive as well as promoting direct participation for all students.

Ms. Ward stressed her concerns regarding the way in which building administration presented the changes to the students. She added that she is in favor of keeping free play to allow the students who thrive from unstructured play to exert their energy.

Mr. Casswell expressed his agreement that students require unstructured play to blow off steam. He added that the lapse in communication is a concern of the members of the Board of Education that they are looking into.

Ms. Ward asked which school employees are implementing this program.

Mrs. Sullivan advised that the Board of Education will look into this and provide an update once the details have been provided to them.

- Dr. Pinkenburg inquired if any recess activities will be removed at this point.

Dr. Ring stated that nothing will be taken away at this time. He added that additional activities will be available to the students.

- Mr. Carlson questioned if any recess activities will be removed or if there will be enhancements only.

Dr. Ring reiterated that there will not be any recess activities removed. He commented that there will be additional activities to allow more direct participation but that no current activities will be removed.

- Ms. Lombardi-Curtin expressed her feeling that the students should be allowed to play, run and be themselves during recess. She added that she will be forming a parent group and circulating a petition to be submitted to stop the removal of specific recess activities.

Mr. Callahan clarified that the Board of Education is not allowing any activities to be removed.

- Ms. Alabi shared that her son as well as other students were told by building administration that there would be restrictions during recess.

- Ms. Picarra-Pinkenburg stated that NYS has a 60 minute/day requirement for physical activity. She inquired how Rocky Point meets this requirement.

Dr. DeLuca explained that recess is not considered physical activity in the guidelines. She added that they are required to have 120 minutes/week. This is met by partaking in physical education classes twice per week as well as 10 minutes/day doing smartboard exercises.

- Ms. DeRosa explained that she sits on the shared decision board and would like to look into the ten minutes that it takes to walk to and from recess. She recommended to try to do something within that time to allow for more play time.

Mr. Callahan advised that this particular issue has been looked into and they found that the physical layout of the school is their biggest hurdle. He stated that there is no solution at this time but encourages any ideas to be brought forth.

Mrs. Sullivan added that the third line in the cafeteria was one attempt at a possible solution to cut back on any lost recess time.

- Ms. Sobczak & Mrs. Sussman came forth as President and Vice President of the PTA. Ms. Sobczak expressed that she appreciated the emailed response she received from Dr. Ring regarding the current topic of recess at JAE. She stated that she does not agree with any limitations in recess as students need the activity. Ms. Sussman stated that she has found, both as the PTA and as a parent,

that there is a disconnect when it comes to communication with building administration at JAE.

- Mr. Lisa expressed his concerns with limiting activities at recess. He stated that he appreciated the Board of Education's response regarding this issue. Mr. Lisa inquired as to the progress of the Technology Committee and the timeline of the technological upgrades as a result of the Bond that was passed in 2014. Dr. Ring commented that JAE installed a second computer lab over the summer which is expected to open soon and that the same is scheduled for FJC in 2018. Mrs. Wilson explained that the State is overwhelmed with all of the Smart Schools technology plans that have been submitted for review, which has caused a delay in proceeding with some of the work. She added that the Wi-Fi must be installed prior to completing any additional upgrades. Mrs. Wilson stated that January 25th is the next scheduled Technology Committee meeting and urged Mr. Lisa to attend.
- A speaker inquired if Rocky Point School District would be offering foreign language and musical instruments at an elementary level as some other school districts currently do. Dr. Ring stated that there are no plans to have foreign language introduced at the elementary level. He added that STEM is a big focus and plans are in place to expand STEM programs at the elementary schools. Dr. Ring urged the speaker to get involved with the shared decision-making discussions to come up with additional potential improvements.
- Dr. Pinkenburg addressed the panel regarding science curriculum writing and urged that it be reviewed. Mrs. Sullivan recommended that Dr. Pinkenburg speak with the Science Chairperson to address his concerns.
- Ms. Nixdorf expressed her feelings that JAE building administration should make sure that the children understand what will be allowed at recess. She added that there are many students that need the time to exert energy in order for them to stay in control for the remainder of the day. Mr. Callahan stated that the Board of Education expect that implementation to be clear to the students. Ms. Nixdorf also shared her concerns with children that are repeatedly in trouble in school and urged something to be done about it.
- Ms. Kelly inquired as to the procedure set in place in reference to a building implementing a change in program. Dr. Ring stated that the building Principals have broad latitude to administer operations within their respective schools, however, if there is a large program change, questions are expected to be addressed and answered in advance. He assured the meeting attendees that he has spoken with building administration regarding this specific concern and will follow up again to discuss the feedback brought to his attention at this meeting.
- Ms. Malinowski expressed her concerns of the accessibility of playground equipment to the disabled students as well as the recent removal of playground equipment.

Dr. Ring advised that the piece of equipment removed was due to safety concerns but that a new piece of equipment was installed in its place.

- Dr. Pinkenburg commented on the Connect Ed sent regarding the updated recess activities.

XVIII ADJOURNMENT

At 8:01 p.m. a motion was made by Sean Callahan, and seconded by Edward Casswell to adjourn the meeting,

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Sullivan wished everyone a wonderful Holiday season.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly White

District Clerk