

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

Mr. Sanseverino called the meeting to order at 7:41 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Joseph Sanseverino, President
Margaret Smith, Vice President
Edward Darcey, Trustee
Diane Burke, Trustee
Michael Nofi, Trustee
Carla L. D'Ambrosio, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Sherry J. Alessandro, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for HR/Administration
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for Finance and Operations
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Mr. Sanseverino welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and invited anyone with questions, comments and/or concerns to step forward.

- Ms. Beatrice Ruberto of the Sound Beach Civic Association announced that two scholarships would be awarded by the Sound Beach Civics to senior student residents of Sound Beach; one for a student attending the Rocky Point School District and one for a student attending the Miller Place School District. Applications may be obtained from the Association's website (www.SoundBeachCivics.org) beginning February 1, 2009. Completed applications and all supporting documents are due by April 30. The application committee will review the applications and make recommendations to the Boards of Education of each school district. At this time, the amount of the scholarship is unknown and will depend upon fundraising.

Mr. Sanseverino and Dr. D'Ambrosio expressed their gratitude to Ms. Ruberto and the Sound Beach Civic Association members for inviting Sound Beach students attending the Rocky Point UFSD who meet the eligibility requirements to apply for this noteworthy scholarship.

- Matt Ross, a son of parent volunteer wrestling Coach Matthew Ross, and several of his wrestling team teammates, read from prepared statements in support of Mr. Ross' continuation as a parent volunteer for the wrestling program.
- Mr. Steve Dutton spoke in support of Mr. Ross and the entire Rocky Point wrestling program. Mr. Dutton provided a brief history of the sport of wrestling, stressing its ability to help build character and foster positive values among its participants. Mr. Dutton also expressed his approval of the decision to reinstate Coach Ross as a parent volunteer.

- Mr. Matthew Ross briefly explained the circumstances leading up to his initial involvement as a parent volunteer assistant coach and expressed his gratitude to one of the members of the Board of Education for listening to his concerns and reviewing the matter. Mr. Ross stated that he was speaking out about the particulars leading up to the initial notification that he was being relieved of his duties as a volunteer coach so that incidents such as this could be avoided in the future. Mr. Ross thanked the members of the Board of Education for taking the time to listen to the student athletes and the parents who supported him for reinstatement as a parent volunteer wrestling coach. Mr. Ross also extended his sincere gratitude to the wrestlers for their support.
- Ms. Charlene LaCascia, speaking on behalf of the Friends of Music, expressed her gratitude to the administration for hosting the Rocky Point Idol Finals. Ms. LaCascia noted that trophies and ribbons were provided for the winners and the participants. The event raised \$5000.00 which the Friends of Music will utilize to benefit the music programs at Rocky Point Schools. Ms. LaCascia extended a special thank you to Rocky Point Middle School assistant principal, Joseph Tapler, and presented Mr. Tapler with a ribbon of his very own.

There were no further questions or comments.

Dr. D'Ambrosio introduced Mr. Michael Friscia, president of the Rocky Point Teachers Association. Mr. Friscia and Mr. Anthony Nobre, vice president of the Rocky Point Teachers Association, announced that they would be recognizing the four winners of the annual Long Island President's Council for their winning essays. In the K-2 category, the winner was Gabrielle Pagano; in the grades 3-5 category, the winner was Daniel Infranco; in the grades 6-8 category, the winner was Ryan Hibbard; in the grades 9-12 category, the winner was Jamie Kirsch. Mr. Friscia presented each winner with a small cash prize and certificate of achievement. Mr. Friscia noted that Miss Pagano and Mr. Infranco were both finalists at the regional level.

Dr. D'Ambrosio presented school board members Diane Burke and Michael Nofi with Developmental Achievement Citations issued by the New York State School Boards Association. These certificates are in recognition of Mrs. Burke's and Mr. Nofi's completion of forty credits of NYSSBA leadership development opportunities. Dr. D'Ambrosio thanked Ms. Burke and Mr. Nofi for their dedicated service as school board trustees.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. William B. Caulfield, principal, Rocky Point High School/Interim principal, Rocky Point Middle School:

- ELA testing will take place at the Middle School from 1/28/09 through 1/30/09.
- Regents Exams will be administered from 1/27/09 through 1/30/09 at the High School.

- The annual Patriotic Concert will take place on Thursday, February 5th in the High School auditorium.
- The Long Island String Festival will feature the top string musicians of Suffolk County.

Ms. Carol Tvelia, principal, Joseph A. Edgar School:

- Ms. Tvelia extended her congratulations to Daniel Infranco for his winning essay.
- Ms. Tvelia thanked both Monica DiGiovanni and Laurie Varriale for their technological efforts to ensure that JAE students were able to watch, via the internet, the historic inauguration of the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama.
- Ms. Tvelia thanked the PTA for its sponsorship of the “Journey into Indian Territories” interactive program for fourth grade students.
- Beginning February 12th, the physical education department will sponsor the Jump Rope for Heart Health program to raise money for the Heart Association.
- On February 13th, third graders will once again participate in the Valentine Soirée at 1:30 PM in the cafeteria.

Dr. Scott O’Brien, principal, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School:

- Annual Author’s Day program featured visiting author, Jarett J. Krosocza. The students enjoyed listening as Mr. Krosocza read aloud from one of his published books.
- Kindergarten registration for the 2009-2010 school year will begin in March. Dr. O’Brien outlined the necessary criteria for enrollment and invited anyone with questions or concerns to contact Lisa Alter at the district office for further information and/or clarification.
- The PTA sponsored Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) program this week. Dr. O’Brien thanked Susan Wilson’s high school web design class for its contribution to this program. The two-week program encouraging parents and students to read together nightly will conclude on Saturday, February 7th, with the annual PARP Character Pancake Breakfast.
- Second grader, Heather Kuhn, was featured in the Sunday, January 25th edition of *Newsday*. Heather mailed 20 goody bags containing batches of her “Snowman Soup,” a homemade concoction of hot chocolate mix, marshmallow and candy canes, to troops stationed in Iraq. Lisa Rinaldo, FJC aide, assisted by helping pack and mail the care packages to her nephew’s unit overseas. In addition to the homemade soup, each bag contained new gloves or hand warmers purchased using funds left over from the cookie sales. To recognize Heather’s efforts, a Caring for the Troops award was presented at a school assembly last month.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith 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, December 22, 2008, Personnel Workshop/Executive Session for Personnel Meeting, January 12, 2009.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TREASURER’S REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer’s Report for the month of November 2008 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of November 2008 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of November 2008 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2008

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith 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 November 2008 Budget Transfer Summary.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino asked for an explanation of the transfer of \$60,000.00 from an outside special education student account to a special education private tuition account. Dr. Ring provided Mr. Sanseverino with a detailed response concerning the particulars involved with this budget transfer.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – DECEMBER 2008

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the December 2008 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BUDGET TRANSFERS TO FUND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Upon a motion made by Michael Nofi 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 attached list of budget transfers in the amount of \$640,468.00, necessary to fund additional special education costs for the 2008-2009 school year.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino inquired about the impact of transferring monies from specific accounts to fund the additional special education costs for the 08/09 school year. Dr. Ring confirmed that the transfer of monies would impact these accounts, however, the transfer of the monies was necessary and cut backs in other areas would assist in funding the required special education costs. Mr. Sanseverino asked Dr. Ring to identify the accounts impacted in order to fund the additional costs. Dr. Ring responded that certain currently frozen accounts and/or construction accounts would be utilized to fund these additional special education costs. Dr. Ring further commented that special education costs can not always be predicted and that the special education costs for students with special needs must be met. Mr. Sanseverino thanked Dr. Ring for his response.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the External Audit Report Corrective Action Plan as attached.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino explained that the corrective action plan addressed key items such as the hiring of a part-time purchasing agent and the collaborated efforts of the information technology staff and the technology committee to create a formal disaster plan to prevent loss of computer equipment and data. Dr. Ring offered information regarding the necessity of maintaining the business functions of the district and the importance of keeping district funds operational in the event of an operational failure.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2009-2010 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR - REVISED

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith 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 adopts the revised 2009-2010 Budget Development Calendar as attached.

Mrs. Burke noted that the current calendar featured on the district's website is indeed the correct calendar. Mr. Sanseverino invited all in attendance to attend and participate in the district's scheduled budget workshops.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

403 (B) RECORDKEEPING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH FIDELITY

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Michael Nofi, 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 the attached Recordkeeping Services Agreement with Fidelity Employer Services Company, LLC.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS

Upon a motion made by Michael Nofi and seconded by Diane Burke, the following motion was offered:

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

Mentorship Partnership of Long Island: \$1,197.13;

MESTRACT – Design for the Web with Dreamweaver: \$1,050.00;

Exploring the Letters Around Us: \$1,500.00;

Books, Bags & Beyond: \$1,500.00;

Prize Possession: \$1,500.00;

Researching Famous Long Islanders, Innovations & Flowers: \$1,500.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that budgets in the following Federal Fund budget codes be established as follows:

<u>Mentor Partnership of Long Island</u>	\$1,197.13
F2070.400-09-CITI	\$800.00
F2070.500-09-CITI	\$397.13
<u>Design for the Web with Dreamweaver</u>	\$1,050.00
F2070.150-09-DES	\$1,050.00
<u>Exploring the Letters Around Us</u>	\$1,500.00

F2070.500-09-LTR \$1,500.00

Books, Bags & Beyond \$1,500.00

F2070.500-09-BOOK \$1,500.00

Prize Possession \$1,500.00

F2070.400-09-PRIZE \$500.00

F2070.500-09-PRIZE \$1,000.00

Researching Famous Long Islanders,
Innovations & Flowers \$1,500.00

F2070.500-09-FLOWE \$1,500.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino thanked each and every grant donator and expressed his sincere appreciation for the grants, particularly during this time of economic downward turn.

AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION ON PRIVATE ROADS – THE TERRACES

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Margaret Smith, 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 an agreement with The Terraces on the Sound Property Association to allow the district to provide transportation within its property.

Mr. Sanseverino noted that this resolution would not cost the district any additional monies for the transportation provided within the private community of the Terraces.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TUTORING CONTRACT – TOP GRADE

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith 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 Purchasing Agent to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Top Grade 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.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino asked about the number of students this resolution might impact. Dr. Ring advised that Top Grade was a new vendor and an additional resource for providing services for students in need of outside tutoring.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

DONATIONS TO CHALLENGE DAY

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donations totaling \$170.00 in memory of Sean Johns, to be used for *Challenge Day*.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino, on behalf of the Board of Education, extended his gratitude and appreciation to those who donated monies in memory of Sean Johns.

DONATION OF SIGN FOR BOYS LACROSSE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Upon a motion made by Michael Nofi 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 donation of a sign in recognition of the 2008 Lacrosse State Championship Varsity Boys Lacrosse Team, to be installed in a location and for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino expressed his thanks to Tom Palasek, Justin Annunziato, Jesse Pasiglia, Matt Palasek, Dan Kramer and Billy Magee, 2008 captains of the Boys Varsity Lacrosse Team, for the donation of this sign in recognition and honor of the accomplishments of the 2008 NYS Championship Boys Lacrosse season.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Margaret Smith, 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 01-26-09-A and Schedule 01-26-09- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith 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.

All in favor –Motion carried 5-0

RESOLUTION FOR AN EXAMINATION OF A DISTRICT EMPLOYEE

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

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

WHEREAS, a certain employee made known to the Board of Education has recently exhibited certain behavior in the discharge of his/her duties as a member of the teaching staff of the Rocky Point Union Free School District;

and

WHEREAS, such behavior has raised issues with respect to this employee's physical capacity to perform this employee's duties and responsibilities,

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 913 of the Education Law,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this employee is directed to report for an examination to determine his/her physical capacity to perform the duties required of such employee, the same examination to be performed by Dr. Erica Jurasits on or before February 25, 2009 or any adjourned dated.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino opened the floor to any questions and/or comments from meeting participants. There were no questions and/or comments at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:20 PM Diane Burke made a motion and Margaret Smith 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 10:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:35 PM a motion was made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Carla L. D'Ambrosio
Superintendent of Schools