

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 21, 2015

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Susan Sullivan, President
Scott Reh, Vice President
Melissa Brown, Trustee (arriving at 6:54 p.m.)
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
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Also Present: Kevin Seaman, Esq., School Attorney

Absent: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:00 p.m. Sean Callahan made a motion and Edward Casswell seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to meet with legal counsel to discuss ongoing litigation.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:06 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Sullivan invited Dr. Ring to begin with the Superintendent's Report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ring wished everyone a wonderful holiday and extended his best wishes to all for a great 2016.

Dr. Ring announced that the Rocky Point Historical Society produced its second annual commemorative Christmas tree ornament in support of the Noah Hallock Homestead. In support of the Rocky Point Historical Society, Dr. Ring presented each board trustee, the district clerk, and the administrators seated on the dais with a second-edition commemorative ornament depicting the RCA Radio Towers.

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

MRS. SUSANN CROSSAN, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL

- Mrs. Crossan extended her best wishes to all for a happy and joyous holiday.
- The Student Council sponsored the first annual Christmas Tree Challenge. Each grade was given an identical pre-lit tree and a charitable cause theme in which to decorate it. Students from each grade level were encouraged to collect donations of various items corresponding to the theme of their respective trees. The Student Council will donate \$100.00 to the charitable cause associated to the tree that wins the “Best Decoration” contest. The themes for this year are:

9th Grade: Animal Shelter
10th Grade: Underprivileged New Born Babies
11th Grade: Elderly/Nursing Home
12th Grade: Support Our Troops

- The Singing Santa Concert took place on Saturday, December 19th accompanied by the Artic Horns and the 5 Santa Jamma Band. Members of these groups of students also participated in field trips to the Sound Beach Fire Department, The Rocky Point VFW, and various retirement and rehabilitation facilities in order to help lift the spirits of individuals during the holiday season. Mrs. Crossan congratulated Mr. Bonomi and the students for a wonderful job promoting the holiday spirit throughout the community.
- Junior and Senior art students visited the Whitney Museum of American Art on December 14th. Whitney educators introduced the students to works of art through discussions and activities that incorporated the artists’ voices and processes followed by a self-guided tour of the museum.
- Mrs. Burns’ Sports and Entertainment and Marketing and Entrepreneurship classes went on a field trip to Madison Square Garden. Students were permitted backstage and were led through the innermost workings of the arena, including the Rangers and Knicks locker rooms, the VIP suites, and the famous Chase Bridge. Students were required to think critically about the implementation of successful sports and entertainment marketing techniques and business ownership.
- Fifty students from the music departments attended a rehearsal of the NY Philharmonic on November 24th. The students were able to observe the professional symphonic orchestra rehearsing for that evening’s live concert.
- Regent exams will be offered to students who have not successfully passed specific exams last year during the week of January 26th through the 29th.
- For those students who took the PSAT exam in October, results will be e-mailed to their e-mail accounts on January 7, 2016.
- The guidance department is sponsoring Financial Aid Night on January 7th at 7 p.m. and College Information Night on February 11th at 7 p.m.
- Mrs. Crossan recognized the Varsity Girls Cross Country team and coach Matt Poole for receiving the Section XI League Sportsmanship Award. In addition,

Mrs. Crossan reported that many student-athletes from the fall season received individual honors including All Tournament, All League, All Conference, All Division, All County, All Long Island, and All State, as well as All Academic honors.

- For the twelfth straight year the Varsity Cheerleaders took home the title of UCA Empire Regional Competition winners. Mrs. Crossan extended her congratulations to the team members and coaches Anna Spallina and Ariana Scanlon. Mrs. Crossan wished them well as they compete in the upcoming UCA National Competition in February.
- Mrs. Crossan congratulated our Director of Physical Education, Athletics, Intramurals and Nurses, Amy Agnesini, upon being named the 2015-2016 Athletic Director of the Year by the Suffolk County Athletic Directors' Association.

Mrs. Crossan invited Ms. Agnesini to the podium to present two physical education awards.

- Ms. Agnesini announced that student-athletes, C.J. Perrino and Shannon McGreevy, were each awarded the top male and female senior physical education leader awards, respectively. Ms. Agnesini explained that the criteria considered for achieving this award included leadership in physical education, scholarship, and character. Ms. Agnesini congratulated both students for their accomplishment and presented Miss McGreevy with a certificate. Unfortunately, Mr. Perrino was unable to attend this evening's meeting but he will be presented with his certificate at a later date.

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

- Dr. O'Brien congratulated the students for their winter concert performances under the direction of Ms. Schecher, Mr. Ragona, Mrs. Ruggiero, Mr. Butcher, Mrs. Donovan, Ms. O'Loughlin and Mrs. Gatto.
- Through the month of December students and staff continued to support the local community. Students collected hundreds of new gifts as part of the Holiday Drive. Dr. O'Brien thanked the guidance department for overseeing this project and helping to distribute the items to those in need. Dr. O'Brien also thanked the entire middle school staff for their generous support of this drive as well as community members who also lent their support to the cause.
- Progress reports were posted to the parent portal on December 18th.
- Dr. O'Brien explained in great detail the particulars surrounding student Frankie Anzaldi and his Make-A-Wish Santa Letter Campaign. The end result of Frankie's fundraising efforts resulted in the final drop-off of 2,699 Make-A-Wish letters for a total donation of \$5,598.00. On behalf of the middle school, Dr. O'Brien expressed his pride in Frankie as he presented Frankie with a certificate in honor of his commitment to helping others and making their wishes come true.

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

- The first concert of the season took place on Monday, December 7th. Ms. Towlen thanked Mr. Knapp for his work with the students. Ms. Towlen also thanked the third grade chorus students and the fourth and fifth grade Intermediate Chorus students for their performances.
- The winter musical, “Elfis and The Princess!” was presented on December 14th. The musical was performed by the fifth grade “High Notes” chorus. Ms. Towlen thanked Mr. Knapp for his work on this special performance.
- Students in Ms. Vieira’s, Ms. Celentano’s and Ms. Jackson’s classes, together with several FJC classes, donated pajamas. The Scholastic Book Club matched the donations with picture and chapter books. All donations were given to a local shelter. The event culminated in a writing celebration on December 9th. Ms. Towlen extended her gratitude to the teachers, students and staff for their donations and hard work.
- During Computer Science Week the Joseph A. Edgar students joined millions of others in the Hour of Code initiative which introduces students to computer programming skills. Students enjoyed sequencing commands for Angry Birds, Minecraft and Star Wars characters while strengthening math, critical thinking and problem solving skills. Ms. Towlen offered special thanks to Ms. Varriale and Ms. DiGiovanni for facilitating this work during Technology and Library classes. Ms. Towlen advised students to visit Ms. Varriale’s e-Board if they wished to participate at home.
- The kick-off for W.A.R.M (We Are Reading More) was held on December 18th. Ms. Towlen encouraged students to read over the holiday break and to look forward to participating in activities throughout January, both in school and at home. Ms. Towlen thanked the PTA, teachers and parents and she offered special thanks to Mrs. DiGiovanni for all her help and support of these events.
- All third grade students went to the play “The Christmas Elf” this month and fourth grade students went to the Suffolk County Farm to learn about traditional crafts and life. Ms. Towlen extended special thanks to the PTA for supporting these field trips with a donation to help pay for the transportation. Ms. Towlen thanked Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Nesbitt and Mrs. Anderson for planning these trips.
- Third grade students will be taking a ride on the *Polar Express* on the last day of school in December as they read the story and enjoy their classmates for a special day.
- The staff of JAE is once again donating holiday packages to families in order to make sure that everyone has a wonderful holiday. Ms. Towlen thanked all of those that support this project. The Student Council held a toy drive during the month of December and created the “Giving Tree” in the library. The tree is filled with donated mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and socks which will be given to a local center in support of community members. Ms. Towlen thanked Ms. Boyle for her work with the Student Council.
- Ms. Towlen reminded all that the holiday season is a time to celebrate and be thankful. Ms. Towlen, together with the entire staff at JAE, wished everyone a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year.

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

- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons offered her congratulations to Amy Agnesini.
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons reported the Thanksgiving food drives were very successful and extended her gratitude to Mrs. Adamski for organizing the endeavors.
- Under the leadership of Mrs. Adamski, Mrs. Starke and Mrs. DiGennaro, the FJC Angel Committee hosted the angel breakfast to garner staff support for families during the holiday season. On December 23rd the children are invited to wear their favorite pajamas and join Mrs. Leary and Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons as they read *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg.
- On December 8th, Ms. Kenwood led the second grade chorus in the Winter Concert.
- The chorus will sing holiday favorites at the school-wide Winter Sing-A-Long on December 22nd.
- Individual classes will be hosting holiday celebrations during the last week of school.
- Mrs. Gasparro, Mrs. Horowitz, Mrs. Fasano and Mrs. Gallino produced and directed a wonderful holiday play and song-fest with their classes.
- Mrs. Pilkington-Kaler has invited all of the children to write letters to Santa in support of Frankie Anzaldi's Make-A-Wish fundraiser. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons extended her congratulations to Frankie for his wonderful accomplishment.
- On behalf of the staff at FJC, Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons extended her warmest wishes to the Board of Education and all of the Rocky Point Schools families during this holiday season.

Mrs. Sullivan thanked everyone for their reports.

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

There were no questions or comments.

III-IX 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.

- III: Minutes** – Regular Meeting, November 23, 2015
- IV Budget Transfer Summary** – November 2015
- V: Treasurer's Reports** – November 2015
- VI: Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer's Report** – November 2015
- VII: Financials** – November 2015
- VIII: Internal Claims Audit Report** – November 2015

IX: Committees on Special Education Schedules 12-21-15-A and 12-21-15-B as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**X SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACT – THREE VILLAGE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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 enter into a contract with Three Village Central School District for special education students services as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor - Motion carried 5-0

**XI ST. CHARLES HOSPITAL CONSULTANT CONTRACT -
REVISED**

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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with St. Charles Hospital for sports medicine Physician/Physician Assistant, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XII RESCIND RFP #R16-03 AND AWARD RFP#16-05 STAFFING
SERVICES FOR REGISTERED NURSE SUBSTITUTES**

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 approves to rescind RFP#16-03 and approves and appoints Health Source Group and Homecare Therapies LLC, doing business as Horizon Healthcare Staffing for registered nurse substitute services in accordance with the scope of services submitted in response to the District’s requests for proposal #R16-05 for the 2015-2016 school year.

Discussion ensued. Based upon his review of documents provided to him by the district, Mr. Callahan requested clarification as to why two staffing services were being

appointed. Mr. Callahan shared that it was his understanding that one of the two services had been previously deemed to be non-responsive to the needs of the district. Mrs. Wilson explained that the staffing resources of only one substitute nurse service was unable to routinely meet the needs of the district. Mrs. Wilson advised that the utilization of both resources will provide the district with “overlapping coverage” options if needed. Mr. Callahan stressed the importance of ensuring that the service with the lowest rates be considered as the primary contact with the secondary service being utilized as a backup service. Mrs. Wilson concurred with Mr. Callahan’s evaluation and assessment.

There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XIII TARGET DONATION TO DISTRICT

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 approves and accepts the donations from Target.

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 \$50.00 as a result of the donations from Target.

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

A 2110 500 01 0000 (FJC) \$50.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XIV E-SCRIP PATHMARK REWARDS DONATION

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 approves and accepts the donation from Pathmark.

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 \$25.40 as a result of the donations from Pathmark.

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

A 2110 500 03 0000 (HS) \$25.40

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XV COOL SCHOOL CAFÉ REWARDS PROGRAM DONATION

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 list of items received as a result of the Cool School Café Rewards Program.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XVI DONATION OF FIFTY-FIVE (55) INCH LCD TELEVISION

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 a fifty-five (55) inch LCD television from the Martinez family, valued at approximately \$400.00 dollars.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked the members of the Martinez family for their very generous donation.

XVII LIVE LIKE SUSIE SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

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 approves and accepts the donation on behalf of the Live Like Susie Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XVIII REVISION AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY 7420 – SPORTS AND THE ATHLETICS PROGRAM
(FIRST READING)**

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 re-adopts the attached policy:

- Policy Number 7420: Sports and the Athletic Program (*first reading*).

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

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

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 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 permitting a one-time, non-pro-rated annual stipend for an Appendix B item, JAE Memory Book.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XX PERSONNEL

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

XXI NEW BUSINESS

- Capital Projects Bond Proposal

Mrs. Sullivan announced that the trustees wished to discuss the prospect of reintroducing the Capital Projects Bond Proposal.

Discussion ensued among the trustees. Mr. Casswell discussed the history of said proposal wherein it was the responsibility of the Facilities Sub-committee of the Health and Safety Committee to bring forth the proposal following the input of information and recommendations received. Mr. Casswell inquired if this would be the protocol to be followed again. Dr. Ring advised that if it was the desire of the Board to have the matter returned to the Facilities Sub-committee he would recommend that the Facilities Sub-committee reconvene. Dr. Ring advised that the original Facilities Sub-committee included a Board of Education trustee wherein Mr. Casswell volunteered to serve on the reconvened sub-committee. Mrs. Sullivan indicated her willingness to serve on the Sub-committee, as well. Mrs. Sullivan reiterated her strong support of the Priority 1 items contained in the original Capital Projects Bond Proposal noting that she continues to stand firmly in favor of those recommendations. Mrs. Brown inquired if a Capital Projects Bond Proposal vote was reintroduced if the vote would be scheduled during the

May 17, 2016 annual school budget vote/election. Mr. Casswell proposed that the board wait for recommendations to be made by the Facilities Sub-committee members.

There was no further discussion.

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

- Ms. Bea Ruberto wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Ms. Ruberto shared with the trustees and administrators that their dedication and contributions to the district and the community are appreciated. Ms. Ruberto, noting that the 2016-2017 budget workshops would begin in January, asked if it would be possible for the district to provide the public with the budget overview materials and information in a timelier manner than previously presented in order to allow community members additional time to consider and comment upon budget proposals prior to the first scheduled budget workshop sessions. Mr. Callahan responded that it was his intention to have the information Ms. Ruberto requested posted to the website as soon as possible. Dr. Ring advised that Mr. Hilton was in the process of gathering and preparing the 2016-2017 budget information and that it would be posted to the website as soon as possible.

There were no further questions or comments.

XXIII ADJOURNMENT

At 7:41 p.m. Sean Callahan made a motion and Melissa Brown seconded to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Sullivan extended her best wishes to all for a restful and happy holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk