

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 3, 2003

Meeting called to Order at 7:32 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President
Francine Boyle, Vice-President
Howard Gimple, Trustee
Howard Kartel, Trustee
Michael Matera, Trustee
James J. Gerardi, Superintendent of Schools
Carla D'Ambrosio, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Stephen Bilyk, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business
Irene Pedota, District Clerk

Absent: None

Mrs. Thalen opened the meeting to questions or comments from the audience:

- Valerie Lantz-Lefroh, who has a child that will be attending kindergarten in the fall, expressed her concerns with regard to the full-day kindergarten program and asked if the board was considering returning to a half-day program or a job-sharing program in September due to budgetary concerns. Mrs. Thalen thanked her for her ideas and suggested that Ms. Lantz-Lefroh might like to attend a Shared Decision Team meeting at the Carasiti School.
- Donna O'Reilly, who also has a child that will be attending kindergarten in the fall, also expressed her concerns regarding the length of the day for students in full-day kindergarten. She added that after speaking to parents of children who are currently in kindergarten, she believes the day is too long for them and suggested that the program should be changed to a shorter day.
- Jane Bonner commented that she believes a full day of school isn't too much for children who have already attended nursery school for 2-1/2 hours a day already. She added that it is the current bus schedule and the fact that kindergartners leave for school late in the morning and return late in the afternoon that causes parents to feel that the day is too long.
- Carolyn Mercino added that before her child started kindergarten this year, she was also concerned about the full-day program being too long. Now that her child has already learned to read in kindergarten, she is impressed by how much they are learning. She asked how the district is preparing first-grade teachers for the transition since kindergartners are now so advanced. Mr. Gerardi replied that plans have been in place since last summer for the transition to first grade.
- Patricia Sparks congratulated the cast, crew and everyone involved in the production of *The Music Man*. She added that she was impressed by the fact that over 100 students were involved in the production, and she thanked the Board of Education for their support of the music program.
- Mrs. Lucarini expressed her concern because she has heard rumors that kindergartners must wait on the bus at dismissal time until first and second grade students are dismissed at a later time due to teachers' contracts. Carasiti School principal Paul Read described how students are dismissed at the Carasiti School, and he explained that all children in grades kindergarten through second grade attend school from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and are dismissed at the same time.
- Mrs. Lucarini also expressed her concern regarding the length of the school day for kindergartners and asked if consideration would be given to shortening their day next year. Mr. Read invited Mrs. Lucarini to visit the Carasiti School if she had any concerns with how kindergartners spend their day. Mr. Read added that there was a possibility that next year kindergartners would start the year with a few half-days to allow children

to transition to a full-day schedule and that they were also exploring options for increasing recreation or down time for kindergartners next year.

At this time, Mrs. Thalen returned to the regular meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

- Paul Read reported that March is a very busy time of year at the Frank J. Carasiti School. Kindergarten students will visit the Atlantis Aquarium on March 7, 2003; first grade students will have a field trip to Theater III in Port Jefferson on March 10, 2003; second graders will attend a "Green Eggs and Ham Concert" at Southampton on March 21, 2003, and two hundred fifty-four children, including eight sets of twins and one set of triplets, have registered so far for kindergarten for September 2003.
- Carol Tvelia congratulated the entire fifth-grade class for being the only fifth-grade class in Suffolk County that successfully completed the American Heart Association's CPR course. These students completed the course as part of their physical education classes under the direction of JAE nurses Mrs. Kurtz and Mrs. Soltysik and physical education teachers Mr. Donadoni and Mrs. Smith. Students were awarded CPR certificates on February 14, 2003. At that time, students presented a check for over \$9,000.00 to the American Heart Association. Students raised these funds as part of their Jump Rope for Heart. Mrs. Tvelia congratulated the Music Department for sending ten fifth graders to the SCMEA All-County Division I East Elementary Festival Concert for fifth and sixth grade students. She reported that the Joseph Edgar School had the largest representation of students in Suffolk County with twelve percent of all participants coming from Rocky Point. She also congratulated the nine sixth-grade students who attended. In addition, Mrs. Tvelia announced that Mrs. Cassidy's class recently won a contest sponsored by the NY Jets for reading the most books. Upcoming events include the St. Patrick's Pancake Breakfast for senior citizens on March 14, 2003; third graders will learn about electric safety during a presentation by LIPA on March 5 and 6, 2003; and PTA's PARP program will begin on March 10, 2003.
- Mr. Gerardi announced that permission has been granted to Mrs. Cassidy's class to travel to New York City to accept their award.
- Joseph Centamore congratulated Mr. Caulfield on the success of the spring musical, *The Music Man* and the twenty Middle School students who were involved as actors and actresses. He reported that twenty-six Middle School students who are members of the German Club participated in a Sprachfest Festival; the winter sports season went well and students are looking forward to the spring season; Officer Paul Failla will be conducting tolerance workshops for seventh and eighth grade students on March 17 and 18, 2003; the end of this marking period is March 13, 2003; a meeting for Frost Valley chaperones is scheduled for March 11, 2003; the Shared Decision Team has been working on coordinating the fifth-grade orientation; the Student Council is planning an eighth-grade dance; and an eighth grade moving-up ceremony is being planned for the end of the year on June 26, 2003.
- William Caulfield presented awards to Todd Baker and Zachary Robinson who were named National Merit Scholarship Finalists. These students will continue on to the final stage of the competition in which 8,000 students are chosen nationwide to receive scholarships. He congratulated Bruce Texeira and Mary Donovan for their part in making the production of *The Music Man* such a huge success. It was the largest musical production in Rocky Point history, and there were one hundred twenty-four students involved in the production. Mr. Caulfield also reported that Rocky Point would be well represented by 32 students at the All County Music Festival this month. The second annual Student Conference Day is scheduled for March 12, 2003, at which time students will have the opportunity to listen to several guest speakers and attend workshops that will allow students to explore various areas of interest. The Guidance Department will hold a College Information Night on March 4, 2003 at 7:00. The Be A Nicer Neighbor Club will hold the annual Senior Citizen Prom on March 6, 2003 from 4:30 to 8:30 PM. BANN members raised over \$3,000.00 to sponsor this event, which is free of charge for senior citizens who are treated to a meal and entertainment as part of the festivities.
- Athletic Director, Diane Armet, introduced boy's junior varsity soccer coach, Jeff Reh. Mr. Reh, a six-time recipient of the "Lead Coach of the Year" award, presented

his team with Suffolk County Soccer Officials' Association Sportsmanship Awards. Ms. Armet then introduced high school senior, David Lettieri and presented him with the National Soccer Coaches of America Scholar All-American Award. Ms. Armet announced that David was one of six students to receive this honor in New York State and that earlier in the year he traveled to Kansas City where he was recognized along with one hundred twenty other soccer players nationwide for their academic and athletic achievements.

- Bruce Texeira congratulated and presented certificates of achievement to high school students Nicholas Aiello and Andrea LaGala who were named NYSSMA All-State Band Alternates.
- Mrs. Thalen congratulated all of the students for their achievements and expressed her pride in their accomplishments.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Francine Boyle and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meeting be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, January 27, 2003**. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

SENIOR CITIZEN TAX EXEMPTION

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education adopt the provisions of Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, as amended, thus increasing the Over 65 Exemption to \$29,900. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

SURPLUS ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Howard Kartel, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve for surplus miscellaneous text books as per the attached listing.

Schedule 03-03-03 Miscellaneous Text Books High School

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

NEW POLICY – CARDIAC AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDS) IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES

New York State Law requires that a policy be adopted to cover the institution of AEDs in public school facilities. This policy needs to be moved and voted on affirmatively at two successive meetings of the Board of Education.

Upon a motion a motion made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Francine Boyle, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the policy to cover the institution of AEDs in public school facilities. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

NEW POLICY – MILITARY RECRUITERS' ACCESS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND INFORMATION ON STUDENTS

New York State Law requires that a policy be adopted to cover the military recruiters' access to high school students and information on students. This policy needs to be moved and voted on affirmatively at two successive meetings of the Board of Education.

Upon a motion made by Francine Boyle and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the policy to cover the military recruiters' access to high school students and information on students. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER: SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT MEMBER

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Kathleen Shea as Parent Member to the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education. (In accordance with the Commissioner's Regulations, Part 200 and the provisions of the Education Law, Section 4402.) All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Howard Kartel, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 3-3-03-A and 3-3-03-B. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

ADOPTION OF THE 2003 - 2004 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Upon a motion made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Francine Boyle, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education adopt the 2003 - 2004 School Calendar as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Thalen announced that the calendar would be available the district's website a month after this meeting.

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Francine Boyle and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the attached Personnel changes, a copy of which will be available in the District Office. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Boyle announced the retirements of the following teachers: John Hiney, Wayne Mammina, Terry Yacubich, James McGonigle, Sandy DeCerbo, and Ellen Raymond. On behalf of the board, she congratulated them and thanked them for their many years of service to the community.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any additional comments or questions before the board moved to Executive Session:

- Jane Bonner, referring to information contained in a recent mailing regarding losses in state aid, inquired what options were being considered for the 2003-04 budget. Mrs. Thalen replied that there were some very difficult decisions to be made and that as soon as there is information, the community would be invited to a workshop.
- Mrs. Bonner asked the board to be as up-front as possible with information. Mrs. Thalen assured her that the community would be invited to a workshop as soon as information was available.
- Sue Soltysik asked about additional information being sent home and when the dates of the workshop would be determined. Mr. Gerardi replied that they would be discussing these issues during Executive Session.
- Darryl Blasberg asked about the status of the district's business officer. Mrs. Thalen replied that Stephen Bilyk is currently serving as the Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business who will remain in the position until such time when the district is able to

hire someone on a permanent basis. Mr. Gerardi added that he could not promise that the district will have a permanent business officer in the near future because there is a lack of seasoned, qualified school business officers on Long Island. Mr. Gerardi added that Mr. Bilyk is highly qualified and respected.

- Mr. Blasberg asked if any thought was being given to an alternative to leasing the facilities on Route 25A that are currently used for the district's administrative offices. Mrs. Thalen replied that the board would be happy to listen to any suggestions.
- Mrs. Sparks expressed her appreciation to the orchestra, whom she believed she neglected to mention earlier in the evening when she congratulated cast and crewmembers for the successful production of *The Music Man*.
- A new resident to the district inquired how she could receive future mailings and information regarding the budget. Mr. Gerardi replied that the mailing is automatically sent to every resident in the district and Mrs. Thalen suggested that she check with her postal carrier if she isn't receiving the information. She also informed the resident that information is available on the district's website.

There were no further questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:28 PM a motion was made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple to go into executive session to discuss particular personnel matters. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Pedota
District Clerk

The board returned to open session at 9:45 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:46 PM Francine Boyle made a motion and Howard Gimple seconded that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Gerardi
Superintendent of Schools