

**MINUTES**  
**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 27, 2006**

**I** Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

District Clerk took the Attendance:

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President  
Joseph Sanseverino, Vice-President  
Jane Bonner, Trustee  
Michael Matera, Trustee  
Margaret Smith, Trustee  
Carla D'Ambrosio Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools  
Sherry J. Alessandro, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources/Administration  
Michael W. Ivanoff, Director of Finance and Operations  
Elise Darnell Boehm, District Clerk

**MS. THALEN ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY.**

- Charlene La Cascia from the North Shore Youth Council complained about the dangerous situation of parents driving too fast at Joseph A. Edgar School when dropping off children for extra help and chorus in the morning before the regular school day begins. She indicated that she spoke to Mr. Crawford, Assistant Principal, JAE, about the concern.
- Ms. Thalen advised Mrs. LaCascia to speak to Mr. Crawford again.
- Mrs. Johannasen spoke from her seat and offered the idea of parents coming in through the bus lane and dropping off in the front instead.
- Carol Tvelia, Principal, JAE was in the audience and explained that if the bus area was to be closed off, this would cause too much congestion and slow things down so much that the arrival times of JAE, RPHS, and the RPMS would overlap.
- Ms. Tvelia explained that too many cars are involved in dropping students off for chorus and extra help, however, she will revisit the traffic pattern.
- Ms. Thalen recommended that a meeting take place to address this problem and come up with a plan.
- Mrs. LaCascia said that she would just like these parents to stop acting this way.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**FRANK J. CARASITI PRINCIPAL, SCOTT O'BRIEN, REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:**

- October was Literature month at Carasiti. This program will highlight a different topic each month
- Mr. O'Brien thanked the PTA for their support.
- This program involved two days of fun and a primary based book called "The Tale of Two Teddy's" by Kathleen Bart.
- Children were given the opportunity to read aloud.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Parade of Teacher's took place in which Teachers were dressed in costumes. Mr. O'Brien thanked the Chorus
- Students and teachers at Frank J. Carasiti brought literature to life by dressing as characters from nursery rhymes, fairy tales, and book characters for their annual Harvest Day Parade. The Rocky Point High School Marching Band performed for the students. The parade was a huge success thanks to the help of the teachers, staff, and parents.
- First graders also participated in a pumpkin pick and paint where each student was allowed to pick his/her own pumpkin then paint it with the help of the PTA and parents.
- Items were collected prior to Thanks Giving for the annual food drive.
- FJC was presented with an award by one of the founders of The Marine Mom's Organization, (Darlene Clause). Each grade's gathered care packages for the soldiers overseas. Mr. O'Brien thanked everyone involved..

- Second grade Chorus Concert will be held on Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in the RPHS Auditorium at 7:30 PM.

**JOSEPH A. EDGAR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CAROL TVELIA ANNOUNCED:**

- October was favorite book character month in which the staff dressed up as a character in a book.
- November 9<sup>th</sup> The Student Council under the direction of Mr. Yashowitz, and the High Notes Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Knapp honored the veterans of the Rocky Point School District with songs, letters of appreciation and skits. 50-75 Veterans of War attended. The Chorus dressed up as former presidents and sang for the audience. We were also honored by the presence of our local and national elected officials.
- ELA practice for grades 4 & 5 will take place the second week in January, 2007
- The JAE concert will be held in the RPHS auditorium.
- The High Notes Holiday Play will be held on December 20, 2006 in the JAE gym.

**ROCKY POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, DR. JOSEPH TANEN CENTAMORE, REPORTED THE FOLLOWING:**

- In November our staff began training in “Connecting Character to Conduct.” This program is a compliment to the Second Step violence prevention program already in place. It is designed to foster a safe learning environment. The key focus is on students and staff making connections with one another. The guidance department organized “Mix-it Up Day.” Students were encouraged to sit somewhere different during the lunch periods.
- The fall student government sponsored dances were a big hit as several hundred students attended and brought in numerous donations for our Marines serving overseas.
- At the National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony over sixty, eighth grade students were recognized.
- The fall sports awards were held November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- At the PTA meeting, Mr. Tapler and Mr. Moeller discussed the school’s initiative to prevent bullying and how parents should be involved with developing good character.
- Leadership training/Kids in Action will take place at the Youth Conference.

**ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, WILLIAM B. CAULFIELD, REPORTED:**

- Five Members of the High School National Honor Society participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Long Island Challenge in which the Eagle Cheerleaders attended and cheered them on: This will air December 9 & 10, 2006 from 6:30 - 9:30 PM. on News 12. The students who participated are:
  - **James Dimino**
  - **Michael Filimon**
  - **Brittany Groth**
  - **Greg Hansen**
  - **Ahmad El-Gendi**
- The Princeton Review presentation on SAT review for parents on how to prepare their children for college and financial planning will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the High School Auditorium.
- Smithtown Center of Performing Arts will perform *To Kill a Mockingbird* for the High School students on November 29<sup>th</sup> in the RPHS Auditorium.
- Three students with a grade average of 98 or higher have been selected out of 2400 juniors and seniors in New York State to participate in the All State Festival being held in Rochester on November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Kiernan Williams - Symphony Band
  - Joshua Redman- Symphony Orchestra
  - Benjamin Lebowitz – Mixed Chorus
- The Singing Santa’s concert will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7PM in the RPHS auditorium.
- The Varsity Girls Tennis Team won the Playoff Championship
- More than 100 parents and students attended college night. A financial aid specialist also presented information on how to finance a college education.

## II MINUTES

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon that the minutes of the following Board of Education Meetings be accepted as presented: Regular Meeting, October 23, 2006, Special Meeting November 6, 2006.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

## III TREASURER’S REPORTS

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Treasurer’s Reports for the month of June 2006 as presented:

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

## IV EXTRA CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Extra Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of June 2006 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

## V FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Financial Reports for the month of June 2006 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

## VI DONATION – TARGET

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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 and accept the donation from Target (Take Charge of Education) for \$294.71.

- Ms. Thalen asked if these funds are designated for a specific program.
- Mike Ivanoff, Director of Finance and Operations, explained that the dollars must go straight to the business office due to strict audit guidelines. They are not designated to any special programs.
- Ms. Thalen asked if the dollars can be sent back to the school that needs funding for certain special events etc.
- It was announced that anyone making purchases from Target to benefit their specific school, make sure to distinguish the Middle School from the Jr./Sr. High school so the allocation is accurate.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

## **VIII 2005-2006 Auditor's Report**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education accept the independent Auditor's Report with accompanying statements and schedules dated June 30, 2006, which has been submitted by our external auditors, Coughlin, Foundotos, Cullen, & Danowski, LLP.

- It was noted that the presentation at the October Meeting was a good report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

## **VIII ADJUSTED TAX LEVY**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the adjusted tax levy of \$34,613.171 and the adjusted budget of \$58,345,674 for the 2006-07 school year be approved.

Dr. D'Ambrosio explained:

- The RCA property was taken off the tax rolls twenty years ago. In the fall Senator Kenneth LaValle sent a letter to the community stating that there would be PILOT money (payment in lieu of taxes) to finally compensate this lack of revenue. However, new information has just revealed that there is no longer PILOT money as originally promised. The new revenue will be given in the form of increased assessed value. The money will be approximately the same. The Board voted to increase the budget to reflect the new increased assessed value.
- This now adds to tax levy base and is safer than the PILOT.
- The estimated tax increase is now 3.86% instead of 3.94%. The estimated tax rate is \$192.72 per 100 assessed valuation.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

## **IX COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, 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 11-27-06-A and 11-27-06-B..

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

## **X PERSONNEL**

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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 accepts the attached Personnel changes.

- Ms. Thalen offered congratulations to Ms. Jessica Rubin for receiving tenure.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

- Ms. Thalen invited any questions from the community at this time.
- Therese King- 7<sup>th</sup> grade mother expressed disappointment about not receiving the results of the Math ELA at this time, when grades 3-5 have gone out.
- Anja Groth, Director of Instruction, commented that the District just received the results and they will be discussed with the parents at conferences for grades k-5. The Math scores will be sent home once we receive the results for grades 6-8.
- Dr. D’Ambrosio said the turnaround time from the State was very slow but the turnaround time will get better since this is the first time that all grades, 3-8, have been tested.
- Ms. Thalen announced the upcoming research for a new student management system called Infinite Campus
- This will enable parents to monitor student’s grades from home.
- SASI, the current system, is not web based, and does not have this capability. Dr. D’Ambrosio announced that the staff is currently conducting site visits to local districts that use Infinite Campus. A presentation in January or February is being scheduled.
- Security will be a #1 priority
- A tentative date for the new system is January of 2008.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:15 PM a motion was made by Michael Matera and seconded by Margaret Smith for the Board of Education to go into executive session to discuss particular personnel matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

## **XI RESOLUTION REGARDING CIVIL SERVICE LAW SECTION 75 DISCIPLINARY HEARING**

**Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Jane Bonner, the following resolution was offered:**

**WHEREAS**, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Carla L. D’Ambrosio, has presented to the Board of Education certain charges preferred by her against an employee made known to the Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education desires to provide the employee with all due process protections pursuant to Section 75 of the New York State Civil Service Law and consider all matters pertaining to the preferred charges,

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That the charges preferred by the Superintendent of Schools are to be served upon the Respondent-Employee; and
2. That the Respondent-Employee shall be suspended without pay for a period of thirty (30) days upon receipt of the charges; and
3. That Lawrence F. Spirn, Esq., 33 Walt Whitman Road, Suite 204, Huntington Station, New York 11746, is hereby designated and appointed as Hearing Officer to preside over a hearing in this matter in accordance with Section 75 of the New York Civil Service Law, and make findings of fact and recommendations to the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

The Board returned to open session at 8:35 PM.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**At 8:37 PM a motion was made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Margaret Smith to adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elise Darnell Boehm  
District Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla L. D'Ambrosio. Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools