

MINUTES

ROCKY POINT SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING January 22, 2007

Ms. Thalen called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

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
Mary Berretta, Acting District Clerk

Appointment of District Clerk

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Patricia Jones, be and is hereby appointed as District Clerk during the school year 2006-2007 at a salary of \$9,000.00, pro-rated.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Rocky Point High School principal, Mr. William Caulfield, announced:

- Patriotic Concert will be held on Thursday, February 1st, 2007 in the High School auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Students from the Joseph A. Edgar School, High School chorus, and members of the grades 9/10 and 11/20 bands will all participate.
- Mr. Caulfield presented Mr. Brooke Bonomi with a plaque commemorating his work with the "Singing Santas." Mr. Caulfield announced that more than two hundred students participated this year in the "Singing Santas" program. The "Santas" visited nursing homes and hospitals in the surrounding communities. This program is open to all students, including athletes and non-athletes. Mr. Caulfield said that Mr. Bonomi's program fosters a sense of community and togetherness among the student body of Rocky Point High School and acts as a true morale booster for students, teachers and all those who have the opportunity to experience it. Mr. Caulfield congratulated Mr. Bonomi and praised him as a unique person and an outstanding teacher.
- Mrs. Thalen commented that she was sad to have missed this year's "Singing Santas" program. This was inevitable as Mrs. Thalen was out of town during the performances; however, Mrs. Thalen was able to watch the program on You Tube. Mrs. Thalen commented that she was very proud to be associated with a school district that employs

teachers such as Mr. Bonomi. Mrs. Thalen extended her congratulations to Mr. Bonomi for his dedication to the “Singing Santas” program.

Rocky Point Middle School principal, Dr. Joseph Tanen Centamore, announced:

- Dr. Centamore extended his best wishes and congratulations to Mr. Bonomi and thanked him for performing for the Middle School students this year.
- The ELA assessment for all grades were completed and scoring would begin.
- The mathematics assessment would begin in March.
- Astronomy Night – Through the joint efforts of the High School and Middle School, more than seventy-five people came out for Astronomy Night. Dr. Centamore thanked Mr. Matwey, Mrs. Hallock and Mr. Gabriel for their efforts. Despite frigid temperatures, the evening was a success.
- The Student Government will hold a Winter Dance on February 9th, 2007.
- Dr. Centamore honored current 9th grader, Melissa Rosman, for publication of her poem entitled “Together Forever” in the 2006 Celebration of Young Poets. Melissa submitted her poem while she was an 8th grade student attending the Rocky Point Middle School.

Joseph A. Edgar principal, Carol Tvelia, announced:

- Mrs. Tvelia extended her best wishes to all for a happy New Year.
- Third graders only will participate in a Valentine Soiree on February 14 in the JAE cafeteria. There will be line dancing, cupcake decorating, arts and crafts.
- ELA testing is finished and scoring will begin on January 23, 2007. Second grade teachers and Mr. Scott O’Brien will participate in both the scoring training and scoring process for the first time in order to aid in the alignment of grades two and three curriculum for ELA.
- Middle School guidance counselors will visit 5th graders as part of the orientation process for their entrance to the Middle School.
- DARE assembly on Friday, January 26. Mrs. Tvelia stated that Office Val has two hundred and sixty graduates participating this year.
- Fourth graders will journey to Indian Territories from January 30th to February 1st. This is an in-school field trip sponsored by the PTA. It is an interactive museum experience about Native American life.

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

- Fourteen teachers and twenty-four students represented the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School at the 7th Annual Eastern Suffolk BOCES Celebration of Technology in Education at Stony Brook University on Friday, January 5th. Our teacher and student representatives displayed projects that demonstrated how they are integrating technology into their everyday learning.
- At this same event, Ms. Jennifer Meschi, FJC integration technology specialist, was honored by the Making It Happen awards program for her commitment and innovation to technology. Mr. O’Brien extended his sincere congratulations to Ms. Meschi and all the teachers and students from FJC and Rocky Point for their contributions to this event.
- The PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) program will begin this week at FJC. This year’s theme is “Explore New Worlds...READ.” The kick-off assembly will be held on Friday, January 26th, at 9:30 a.m.
- High school students, through Ms. Susan Wilson’s web design class, have created an interactive web site for students, teachers and parents that is centered around the theme of discovery and PARP. The web site will be available for access through the district

homepage beginning Friday. PARP will culminate on Saturday, February 10th, with the annual Pancake Character Breakfast.

- On Thursday, February 15th, there will be a special evening event for parents of ESL students entitled, “You Read To Me.” This program is designed to promote the benefits of reading with children every day. The FJC librarian and ESL teachers will provide training and read-aloud strategies for parents of ESL students.
- All parents in the FJC and JAE schools received letters pertaining to kindergarten registration. Children turning five years old on or before December 1st, 2007 are eligible for kindergarten. Registration forms are available on the district and FJC websites and are due by February 5th, 2007.

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

- Mrs. Noto questioned the healthfulness of the district lunch menu in connection with the FJC and JAE Wellness policy. Mrs. Noto said that she believed the lunch menu was not healthy by pointing out the item of a pretzel with cheese sauce. Dr. D’Ambrosio said that she would discuss Mrs. Noto’s issue with Elena Lynch-Dobert, School Lunch Manager. Ms. Bonner stated that she agreed with Mrs. Noto’s assessment of the January lunch menu.
- Mr. Steve Lagnena announced that the Rocky Point Teachers’ Association sponsored an essay contest entitled, “My teachers are special to me because...” Finalists will have their entries sent to the Long Island President’s Council contest. Local winners were:

Shannon Stark – 10th grade
Kiernan Williams – 11th grade
Katie Korb – 12th grade
Dominique Debernardi – 6th grade
Alan Rozet – 7th grade
Robbie Lorandini – 8th grade

Each student and his/her family were invited to the RPTA office to attend an awards ceremony and dessert reception. The students received their awards and prizes (\$50.00 US Savings Bond).

- Mrs. Johannesen commented that Rocky Point UFSD was the “best” school at the Stony Brook Technology Fair. Mrs. Johannesen stated that RPUFSD already has all the technology that was being peddled at the fair and for that reason she said that she was very proud of Rocky Point.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Margaret Smith, 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 18 2006, Audit Committee Meeting, November 20, 2006.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

TREASURER’S REPORTS

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 accepts the Treasurer’s Reports for the months of September and October 2006, as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

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 accepts the Extra Classroom Activity Treasurer Reports for the months of September and October 2006, as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the months of September and October 2006, as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION FOR HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT

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 authorize the Board President to enter into an agreement for health services for the current 2006-2007 school year with the following districts: Brentwood UFSD and Nassau BOCES.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

DONATION – TOURNAMENT FOR VARSITY WRESTLING TEAM AT POUGHKEEPSIE

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 Board of Education accepts the donation of \$1,000.00 from the Rocky Point Athletic Booster Club to assist Varsity Wrestling team with the cost for the Mid Hudson Wrestling tournament in Poughkeepsie, December 27-28, 2006.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Kies how the team performed at the tournament. Mr. Kies reported that the team came in first place and currently ranks fifth in the County. Mrs. Thalen congratulated Mr. Kies and the team and commented upon Mr. Kies’ modesty concerning the team’s achievements. There was no further discussion.

DONATION – TRANSPORTATION FOR MUSIC STUDENTS

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 accepts the donation of \$650.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Palasek for Rocky Point Football.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

DISTRICT-WIDE PHONE SYSTEM

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 enter into a contract with Verizon for a new district-wide phone system at a cost not to exceed \$350,000. This purchase is in accordance with NYS OGS Contract #PT58293/CMS1007-AwardT960252 – Group #77009.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Ivanoff for the projected date of completion of the new phone system. Mr. Ivanoff replied that the projected date is the summer of 2007. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER: SPECIAL EDUCATION MEMBER

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 Board of Education approve the appointment of a member to the Committee on 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.

RESOLUTION FOR COMPENSATION OF IMPARTIAL HEARING OFFICERS

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 approves the 2006-2007 compensation schedule for Impartial Hearing Officers as follows:

1. Pursuant to 8NYCRR 200.21, compensation for Impartial Hearing Officers for pre-hearing, hearing and pos-hearing activities shall be the maximum rate prescribed in a schedule approved by the director of the Division of the Budget. For the 2006-2007 school year the rate is \$100.00 per hour.
2. The School District shall not reimburse Impartial Hearing Officers for any administrative costs, including but not limited to, administrative assistance, secretarial or other overhead expenses.
3. The School District shall not reimburse Impartial Hearing Officers for any meal or lodging expenses they may incur.
4. The School District shall, upon review and approval of properly submitted documentation, reimburse Impartial Hearing Officers for automobile travel at the most

recent mileage rate approved by the Internal Revenue Service and for the cost of tolls necessarily incurred as a result of attending the impartial hearing. However, the maximum amount reimbursed by the School District for mileage and travel related expenses shall not exceed \$50.00 per day for each day the Impartial Hearing Officer attends the hearing.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 1-22-07-A and 1-22-07-B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE VARSITY CHEERLEADING TRIP TO THE UCA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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 authorize the Varsity Cheerleading trip to the UCA National Championships in Orlando, Florida from February 9 through February 13, 2007 and that the three district coaches be able to take these days as “School Business” days.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Bonner questioned the meaning of the coaches taking these days as school business days. It was explained that by doing so, the coaches would receive their regular pay for the days they attended the competition. Ms. Bonner heartily agreed with this assessment. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

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 Board of Education accepts the attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

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

- Joshua Kalish, reporter from the *Times Beacon Record*, asked if the new Verizon system was in fact a new technology system. Mrs. Thalen responded to Mr. Kalish by saying no, it was simply a telephone system.
- Angela Barron asked if any of the new substitute teachers for the district included a Social Studies teacher. Mrs. Thalen responded in the affirmative.
- Mrs. Thalen announced to those in attendance that at the next scheduled meeting, February 26, 2007, the Director of Instruction would make an AP/Honors Program presentation. Mrs. Thalen stated that data pertaining to this program would be available at the meeting. Mrs. Thalen said that the board members would be asking questions of the director following the presentation and Mrs. Thalen invited members of the community to do the same.

There were no other questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:15 p.m. a motion was made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino for the Board of Education 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 of Education returned to open session at 8:30 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE TERMS OF A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

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 accepts the terms of the settlement agreement between the Rocky Point Union Free School District and a certain employee made known to the Board of Education.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION FOR A MENTAL AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FOR A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith 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 following resolution:

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

And

WHEREAS, such behavior has raised issues with respect to this employee's mental and 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 mental capacity to perform the duties required of such employee, the same examination to be completed by Dr. Michael Schwartz on or before February 28, 2007 or any adjourned date.

FURTHERMORE, BE IT 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 completed by Dr. Erica Jurasits on or before February 28, 2007 or any adjourned date.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:15 p.m., a motion was made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Michael Matera for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

