

**MINUTES**  
**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**May 16, 2006**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President  
Joseph Sanseverino, Vice-President  
Jane Bonner, Trustee  
Howard Gimple, Trustee  
Michael Matera, Trustee  
Carla L. 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

Absent: Irene Pedota, District Clerk

**Ms. Thalen opened the meeting to questions or comments from the community.**

- Ms. Pat Sparks read a prepared statement to express her thanks and appreciation to some of this year's retirees and to outgoing Board Trustee Howard Gimple.

As I have said in the past, our school-related personnel are the backbone of the district.

Things would not have run as smoothly as they have for so many years in the FJC building, were it not for the hard work and dedication of Roberta McNeil and Patricia O'Neill. I thank them for their 47 years total of dedicated service to the children of the school district, and wish them happiness in their well-earned retirement.

I would also like to recognize Maria Messinetti's 19 years of service to the students of the district, and also, her years of voluntary work with the Singing Santas. Her efforts with this wonderful organization reveal her unselfish nature, and her kind heart. Enjoy your retirement, you have earned it!

Thanks to Howard Gimple for donating so many years of voluntary service as a member of the Board of Education. It's important to note that the individuals who serve on the Board do so at the expense of their time, and are not compensated for the valuable work they perform for the good of our children and our community. Thank you for sharing your gifts. Your contribution and your wit will be missed.

Mr. Paul Read has been a valuable asset to Rocky Point for many years. As both teacher and administrator, he has consistently proven himself to be a positive role model for our children. His quiet manner belies a keen intellect and subtle wit. I have always appreciated his support for music education as well as his interest and talent in that area.

His wholehearted acceptance, support and assistance with the early morning child-care program in the FJC, is deeply appreciated. However, it is his care and concern for the students he has taught and administered for which he will be most fondly remembered.

Paul, you are a true gentleman, you will be missed. I wish you a happy and rewarding retirement.

- Ms. Marie Farley wanted to know about the Breathalyzer test and the Junior Prom. They had just received a letter home about it. Her question was - "Who is

going to administer the test and who is the test going to be given to?" Susann Crossan responded that only an administrator would give the test. Not all students would be given the test; only those who an administrator felt exhibited the signs of alcohol. The parent/guardian of that student would be contacted before any test would be administered. Ms. Farley thanked Ms. Crossan.

- Ms. Therese King congratulated Jessica Cox, Kristie Jackson and Danielle Rink for the phenomenal job they did with the students and the Middle School performance of "The Wizard of Oz". She also praised the kids for the remarkable job they did.

**There were no other questions or comments at this time. Mrs. Thalen reminded everyone that there would be an opportunity for other questions later in the meeting.**

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Paul Read, Principal – Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School**

- Thank you to Ms. Pat Sparks for her comments and well wishes.
- Terra Novas were given to the first and second graders the week of May 8<sup>th</sup>
- Second graders going to North Shore Library
- Second graders going on a field trip to Cedar Beach
- Second graders – Spring Concert – was May 3<sup>rd</sup> and the little ones did an outstanding job.
- June 21<sup>st</sup> is second grade moving up ceremony

### **Carol Tvelia, Principal – Joseph A. Edgar School**

- Thank you to Trustee Howard Gimple and Stony Brook University paleontologist Professor Krause, students got a special invitation to the new dinosaur bones exhibit at Stony Brook because they raised thousands of dollars for students in Madagascar. Professor Krause formed the Madagascar Akisy Fund which raises funds to build schools and clinics for the people in remote villages of Madagascar. This is the third year that the students from JAE have had a read-a-thon to raise monies for the fund. The fourth-grade class raised a total of \$4,000.
- Two of our third grade classes and the GATES children complete an e-missions – Moon, Mars and Beyond
- The chicks have hatched in six of the third grade classes as well as the butterflies. More eggs will arrive after Memorial Day.
- Fifth grade went to Middle School orientation and parents will go in June
- Our fourth and fifth grade chorus and fifth grade band performed in the first of two Spring concerts on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- June 1<sup>st</sup> is the second grade orientation and parent orientation is June 7<sup>th</sup>

### **Joseph Centamore, Ed.D., Principal – Rocky Point Middle School**

- "Ms. King, you stole my thunder." I waited four years for a play and I've been here 4 ½ years and all I can say is "WOW" it was well worth the wait. Outstanding. Everyone did a great job. From the sets, to the lights from the backstage crew, to the performers. Thank you to Ms. Cox, Ms. Jackson and Ms. Rink, and not the Art teacher, her sister, the one who doesn't teach art. Also a thank you to Mr. Goldstein. Thank you to Friends of Music. We are very proud.
- Thursday and Friday is our Art Show and Concert
- I would like to introduce the following students who deserve recognition for their student achievement and would also like to thank their parents for being such positive role models. Will the students come up to the podium after I have called your names:  
Scott Tumulty and Kara Mupo – Suffolk Zone Physical Education Leadership Award;  
Joanna McDonnell – LI Language Arts Council's Kenneth Gambone Writing Contest;  
Megan Viglione – I\*MA\*Green\*Nation Celebration Competition;  
Anne Schindler – accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum;

Brian Viccaro – 2006 County Executive Youth Achievement Award  
Again, congratulations and keep up the good work.

**Susan Sullivan, Assistant Principal, Rocky Point High School:**

- Today juniors attended a Spring College fair where they had an opportunity to meet with representatives from over 400 colleges. Catalogs and applications were gathered allowing the students to get a head start on the college application process. Parents and students should check the website for scholarships that are announced daily and posted throughout school.
- Employments is May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students have been attending workshops on resume writing, dressing and interviewing techniques. At the conference last year our students were voted best dressed and most well behaved by Suffolk County employees.
- Rocky Point music students participated in NYSSMA – Benjamin Lebowitz and Josh Redman both achieved a perfect score on All-State auditions. Many compliments were received from judges for the district music program.
- Rocky Point Eagles Marching Band is going to Shea Stadium on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> to perform in pre-game program.
- Christine McDonnell has been awarded the First Place Award for 10<sup>th</sup> graders in the Kenneth Gambone Writing Contest sponsored by the Long Island Arts Council. She will receive her award and a literary magazine of this year’s winning pieces at the LILAC celebration this Friday.
- Pocket Theater had a sold out house last weekend when our students performed “The Curious Savage.”
- Junior Prom is this Saturday night – May 20<sup>th</sup> in High School cafeteria.
- Parents should have received an end of the year letter from Mr. Caulfield with all important dates and events listed.

**MINUTES**

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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: **Special Meeting, April 12, 2006, Regular Meeting, April 20, 2006, Regular Meeting/Audit Committee Meeting, April 24, 2006.** All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**TREASURER’S REPORTS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Treasurer’s Reports for the months of **February and March 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 Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Extra Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the months of **February and March 2006** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Financial Reports for the months of **February and March** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **DONATION – VERIZON FOUNDATION**

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 the Verizon Foundation for \$1,000.

Ms. Thalen had a question on Resolution VI - Donation – Verizon – “Who gave the donation.” Mr. Kies responded that Ms. Gibaldi was the donator. Ms. Thalen inquired as to who she was. Mr. Kies – she is a parent of a student and she is employee of Verizon. We received two checks - \$500 and \$500 - ½ of the money is for Lacrosse and the other ½ is for the Drama Club.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **DONATION - TARGET**

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera 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 and accept from Target (Take Charge of Education) for \$462.96.

Ms. Thalen had a question on Resolution VII – Donation – Target – “ Where does the money that Target donates go? – Mr. Ivanoff responded – into the General Fund. Ms. Thalen – How does it get spent? Mr. Ivanoff responded – where we think it is needed unless it is specifically allocated for something.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **DONATION – TENNIS BACKBOARD**

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner 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 accept the donation from the Rocky Point Athletic Booster Club of a tennis backboard valued at \$3,749.95. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **DONATION – “POP-UP” QUICK SHADE CANOPY**

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple 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 accept the donation from the Rocky Point Athletic Booster Club of a “Pop-Up” Quick Shade Canopy valued at 235.50 for the Boy’s Varsity Track team. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **SURPLUS ITEMS**

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 for surplus the attached lists. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **RESOLUTION FOR HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT**

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera 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 authorize the Board President to enter into an agreement for health services for the current 2005-06 school year with the following district:

Port Jefferson Union Free School District

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**RESOLUTION: CAFETERIA COOPERATIVE BIDDING**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education favorably passes the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, It is the plan of a number of public school districts in Nassau/Suffolk Counties, New York, to bid jointly on Food Products and Supplies for the 2006-07 school year;

**WHEREAS**, The Rocky Point UFSD is desirous of participating with other districts in Nassau/Suffolk Counties in the joint bidding of the commodities mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 and,

**WHEREAS**, The Rocky Point UFSD wishes to appoint a committee to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising the bids, accepting and opening bids, reporting the results to the boards of education and making recommendations thereon; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District hereby appoints the Long Island School Food Service Directors Association Cooperative Bid Committee to represent it in all matters related above, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District Board of Education authorize the above-mentioned committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above-mentioned commodities, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District Board of Education agrees to assume its equitable share of the costs of the cooperative bidding, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District Board of Education agrees (1) to abide by majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (2) that unless all bids are rejected, it will award contracts according to the recommendations of the committee; (3) that after award of contract(s) it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

Ms. Thalen has a question on Resolution XII – Cafeteria Bidding – Is this the same group that we have been bidding with in the past? Mr. Ivanoff replied yes.

Ms. Bonner – Has the government improved the quality of the food? Younger kids have tacos, chicken nuggets, and fries. High School – cold cuts, hot dogs – shouldn't we be getting some more nutritious type food? Fruits, vegetables, more variety.

Dr. D'Ambrosio – We have a new wellness policy. I am sure we will have better food requirements.

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 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 5-16-06-A and 5-16-06-B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**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 accept the attached Personnel changes. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**RESOLUTION TO REOPEN THE RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROVISION OF THE TEACHER’S CONTRACT**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board President is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Rocky Point Teachers’ Association to reopen the retirement incentive provision of the collective bargaining agreement between the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Rocky Point Teachers’ Association for the 2005-2006 school year only, in accordance with the terms of such agreement. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**Before calling a recess to witness the results of the budget vote/election, Ms. Thalen asked if there were any more questions or comments from the community:**

- Ms. Sparks – I received a call from another parent who is concerned about something her son told her in reference to staying home from school on 6/6/06. Do you know anything about this? Some rumors are being passed around possibly on the Internet - about something bad might happen – a Columbine type incident. Ms. Thalen responded that no one has heard anything.

**There were no further questions/comments.**

**RECESS**

At 8:05 PM a motion was made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Howard Gimple for the Board of Education to recess the meeting to accept the results of the budget vote and election of Board members. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**The meeting was reconvened at 9:24 PM.**

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF THE BUDGET VOTE/ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner 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 accept the results of the Budget Vote/Election of Trustees.

Yes 956

No 569

Joseph Sanseverino 955

Margaret Smith 982

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:25 PM a motion was made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Jane Bonner for the Board of Education to go into executive session to discuss particular personnel matters. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Berretta  
Acting District Clerk

The Board returned to open session at 10:44 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:45 PM, a motion was made by Michael Matera and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino 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