

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
June 26, 2006**

Mrs. Thalen called the meeting to order at 7:35 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
Irene Pedota, District Clerk

Absent: None

Mrs. Thalen presented the outgoing District Clerk with flowers as a token of the board's appreciation for a job well done.

PLAQUE PRESENTATION FOR DEPARTING BOARD TRUSTEE HOWARD GIMPLE

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Thalen presented Mr. Howard Gimple with a plaque in appreciation for his service and dedication to the students of the community.

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

- Mrs. Audette commended Ms. Rubin, Ms. Graziano, and Ms. Oliver for all of their hard work with the Pocket Theater. Their production of *A Curious Savage* was very successful. She urged everyone to support future Pocket Theater productions.

There were no further questions or comments.

PRESENTATION: ALL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP GIRLS' VARSITY LACROSSE AWARDS

Mr. Kies introduced Rocky Point High School's Suffolk County Class B Champion Girls' Lacrosse Team, which ranked first or second in the state the entire season and nineteenth nationally. The team finished the regular season with a record of 19-0 and beat both Comsewogue and Sayville in the playoffs. Team members were introduced individually and awarded plaques for their achievements. Mr. Kies also announced that Jackie Lyons is the first female in Rocky Point history to be named All-American and that the team's coach, Mr. Joseph Spallina, was named Suffolk County Coach of the Year by *Newsday*.

Ms. Anja Groth announced the winners of the Long Island Language Arts Council's 2006 Kenneth Gambone writing contest:

- Christina McDonnell – first place for 10th grade (Ms. Christine Blume, teacher)
- Joanna McDonnell – third place for 7th grade (Mr. Ton Tsavos, teacher)
- Max Myslinski – second place for 4th grade (Ms. Patricia Alberti, teacher)

PRESENTATION: SCHOOL VIOLENCE REPORT

Rocky Point Middle School Assistant Principal, Mr. Joseph Tapler, provided a summary and explained the methodology that was used for the 2004-2005 NYS Violent and Disruptive Incident Report:

- Schools were ranked according to the number of incidents reported divided by total enrollment.
- The report consists of twenty individual numbered categories. Incidents that are considered violent by the SED were divided into seven categories: reckless endangerment, assault, harassment and bullying, theft, criminal mischief, weapon and drug and/or alcohol offenses, and a “catchall” category of all other disruptive incidents, which includes cutting class, truancy, and food throwing. He explained that the highest number of incidents at both schools fell into the last category.
- Definitions within the categories are broad and subject to interpretation.
- The information that was submitted by the middle school and high school contained disruptive incidents that resulted in the removal of students from the educational process that were not exclusively due to violence.
- The information that was submitted was carefully reviewed for accuracy.
- An audit released by the State Education Department cited widespread underreporting by some districts. Commissioner Mills has pledged to form a committee with superintendents and principals to streamline the system to ensure greater accuracy and accountability in the coming years.
- Mrs. Bonner stated that she felt it should be noted that the police are not here on a regular basis and this is not a violent school. She likes the fact that nothing is tolerated and that even small incidents are dealt with.
- Mrs. Bonner referred to a recent article in *Newsday*, which said that based on information that was supplied to the state, the Frank J. Carasiti School (a K-2 building) was more violent than the Bellport Middle and High Schools as evidence that all schools did not provide accurate information to the SED.
- Mr. Tapler added that according to the article, the second most violent school on Long Island was an elementary school out east.
- Mrs. Thalen and Mr. Tapler agreed that disruptive incidents and violent incidents should be measured separately.
- Mr. Sanseverino said that according to the state, many schools underreported incidents and one of the schools on Long Island did not have complete records of their suspensions.
- Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any repercussions for the schools that did not report accurately.
- Mr. Tapler explained that Commissioner Mills is unhappy with them. He added that if the state were to come here, he would be happy to sit with them to go over the information that was provided because the information was accurate and there is nothing to hide.
- Mr. Tapler said that schools were ranked according to the number of incidents in each building divided by enrollment. He added that administrators at both the middle school and high school react to any type of incidents that may cause disruption to the educational process.
- Mr. Caulfield said that on the last day of school, while other districts were dealing with rumbles in the cafeteria and students launching “urine-filled” balloons, the most pressing issue he and the high school administrators had to deal with was asking students to remove their hats in the building. He said that the reason there were so many incidents that were included in the report is because administrators in this district take every incident seriously. He hopes that other schools are being as accurate as we are.

There were no further questions or comments with regard to the School Violence Report.

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 Meetings

be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, May 16, 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 month of **April 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 Reports for the month of **April 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 month of **April 2006** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN BOCES COOPERATIVE BIDDING SERVICES PURCHASING CONTRACTS FOR THE 2006-07 FISCAL YEAR ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS

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 participate in various “BOCES Cooperative Bidding Services Contracts” for the 2006-07 fiscal year on an as-needed basis. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

TUITION CONTRACT – SUMMER SCHOOL

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 the tuition rate of \$350 per summer school class, for non-residential students who wish to enroll in the 2006 summer school program.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Ivanoff if this amount reflected an increase over last year’s tuition. Mr. Ivanoff replied that the amount was the same as last year. Mrs. Thalen asked if we get very many out-of-district students. Dr. D’Ambrosio replied that there are very few. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION FOR HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT

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 authorize the Board President to enter into an agreement for health services for the current 2005-06 school year with the following districts:

Riverhead C.S.D.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION FOR GARBAGE REMOVAL 2006 – 2007

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 award bid # 07-01, District Wide Garbage Removal to K & S Sanitation as the lowest responsible bidder, meeting bid specifications, as per attached analysis. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION FOR PIZZA BID 2006-2007

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 award bid #07-04, Pizza, *as a unit price award*, to Papa Johns as the lowest responsible bidder meeting bid specifications.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked where there was a Papa Johns and whether they cooked the pizza or if it had to be cooked by the cafeteria. Mr. Ivanoff replied that it's delivered here already cooked. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

DONATION – INDIVIDUAL SPORT TEAM BANNERS

Prior to asking for a motion, Mrs. Thalen announced that she had questions pertaining to the following resolution:

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 \$12,685 to be used to purchase Individual Sport Team Banners for display in the High School gymnasium.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Kies which banners were being replaced and where the old banners were. Mr. Kies explained that there were 43 banners in all – 23 were to be replaced at this time. He said that the original out-of-date felt banners would be replaced with vinyl ones, and he said that the old banners are in storage. Mrs. Thalen said that some of those banners were only three years old and asked why they needed to be replaced. Mr. Kies replied that he wanted to keep the banners uniform. Mrs. Burke asked if the replacements would have to go out to bid. Mr. Ivanoff replied that the specifications would have to be reviewed. Mrs. Thalen asked who made the decision to replace the banners. Mr. Kies replied that he, Mr. Caulfield and Mr. Ellis arrived at the decision to replace the banners. Mr. Kies added that they wanted to update the facilities. Mr. Thalen said that she believes that the worn and discolored banners are part of Rocky Point's history. Mrs. Bonner said that she agreed and thought that the plastic banners are ugly. She said that no one in the community minded the old banners and asked if there was a way to restore the felt ones a little at a time. She asked if it would be possible to have the ones that are in storage taken to a facility to be restored. Mrs. Thalen said that it appears that not everyone is a fan of vinyl banners and that perhaps there should be input from the community. Mr. Sanseverino asked Mr. Kies to come back to the board with information about restoring the banners. Mrs. Thalen suggested that the board set aside the resolution at this time and the other members of the board agreed.

A motion was made by Michael Matera and seconded by Jane Bonner for the Board of Education to set aside the resolution to accept the donation from the Rocky Point Athletic Booster Club of \$12,685 to be used to purchase individual sport team banners for display in the high school gymnasium. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

DONATION – ETR ASSOCIATES HEALTH SMART

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 ETR Associates Health Smart for \$800.00 for the Joseph A Edgar School for a fifth grade teacher participation in a Health Smart evaluation survey. The money is to be spent for field trips, instructional supplies and other teacher-selected supplies/activities. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

DISTRICT 2005 - 2006 WELLNESS POLICY

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 approved the District 2005 - 2006 Wellness Policy. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

DISTRICT WELLNESS COMMITTEE

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 appoint the following people to the District Wellness Committee:

Marianne Barber, Rocky Point Middle School PTA
Elise Darnell-Boehm, Rocky Point Middle School SRP
Joanne Davis, Rocky Point Middle School Parent
Jennifer Evola, CW Post Dietetic Intern
Nancy Ford, Rocky Point Middle School Nurse
Anja Groth, Director of Instruction, RPAA
Michael Ivanoff, Director of Finance & Operations
Len Kies, Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics & Intramurals, RPTA
Michael Matera, Rocky Point UFSD, Board Trustee
Jennifer Perrotte, Rocky Point Middle School, RPTA
Kaitlin Sidorsky, Rocky Point High School student
Carol Tvelia, Joseph A. Edgar School, Principal, RPAA
Elena Lynch-Dobert, Director of Child Nutrition, Chairperson

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked if 2005-2006 was accurate. Dr. D'Ambrosio replied that it was. There was no further discussion. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

DISTRICT AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

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 the District Audit Committee Charter.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Matera for an update on the activities of the Audit Committee. Mr. Matera explained that by July 1, 2006 districts had to establish an audit committee charter and interview for the Internal Auditor's position. Interviews were held last week and a recommendation has been made. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 6-26-06-A and 6-26-06-B. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

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 attached Personnel changes.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen offered congratulations to all of the teachers that were receiving tenure and expressed the board's heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to those who were retiring. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION TO SET THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL DATE

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Thursday, July 6, 2006 is set as the date for the Board of Education Annual Organizational Meeting. Furthermore, the meeting will take place in the Rocky Point High School Auditorium at 7:30 PM. 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:

- Mr. Gene Johann said that after having had an opportunity to attend two graduation ceremonies this past weekend – his son's here at Rocky Point and another for a relative, he decided that ours was the only really good one. He added that for the other ceremony, they were crammed into the auditorium with no air conditioning. We were fortunate to have such a beautiful night for our outdoor ceremony. Mr. Johann expressed his appreciation to everyone who had anything to do with organizing the ceremony for his or her tremendous effort in ensuring its success.
- Mrs. Thalen said that she appreciated being able to be part of our ceremony and she also thanked Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Crossan, and Mr. Caulfield for all of their hard work.
- Mr. Johann said that as the new President of the Rocky Point Rotary, he recently attended the graduation ceremony at the Frank J. Carasiti School, which was also beautiful and where there was not a dry eye in the house. The rotary donated dictionaries that were distributed to each child as a gift that they could take with them to third grade. He thanked Mr. Read and his staff for such a wonderful graduation ceremony.
- Mr. Lagnena congratulated both the teachers who were awarded tenure and staff members who were retiring. He also thanked Mr. Vedder for serving as President of the Rocky Point Teachers' Association for the past eight years.

There were no other questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:00 PM a motion was made by Michael Matera and seconded by Jane Boner for the Board of Education 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 10:35 PM.

RESOLUTION FOR AN EXAMINATION FOR A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE

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 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 Union Free School District;

and

WHEREAS, such behavior has raised issues with respect to this employee's mental 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 August 15, 2006 or any adjourned date. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION FOR AN EXAMINATION FOR A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE

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 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 Union Free School District;

and

WHEREAS, such behavior has raised issues with respect to this employee's mental 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 August 15, 2006 or any adjourned date. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:45 PM, 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