

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 East Rockaway, New York  
 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
 7:30 P.M., September 16, 2008 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School  
 Preceded by a Public Forum

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Mary Boccuzzi, Marie Girace, Neil Schloth, Linda Schmidt, Superintendent, Dr. Roseanne Melucci; Assistant Business Manager, Fred Smith; District Clerk, Denise Lobascio.

Absent: Vicki Alspector, Concetta Robinson, Director of Finance and Operations

Prior to the start of the meeting Dr. Roseanne Melucci introduced the new staff for the 2008-2009 school year.

Prior to the start of the meeting Mary Boccuzzi introduced the members of the Board of Education for the 2008-2009 school year.

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order by Mary Boccuzzi at 7:40 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil Schloth.
2. Mary Boccuzzi opened the floor to the audience to discuss non-agenda items:  
 One community member requested the addition of a Kindergarten class at Centre due to large class size.  
 Another community member requested a response to facilities use by the “Dance Space” for their recital.  
 Another community member invited the community to the Education Foundation meeting coming up on Monday.
3. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Marie Girace the Minutes of the August 12, 2008 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
4. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports - NONE
5. Correspondence – Three\*  
 \*A petition was handed to Mary Boccuzzi at the close of the meeting.

6. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Linda Schmidt items 1 – 26 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of John N. Caraccia from the position of Junior Varsity Head Coach, effective August 7, 2008.
2. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Andrea Diffendale from her position as teacher assistant, effective August 14, 2008.
3. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Kathleen Masterson from her position as teacher assistant, effective August 31, 2008.

4. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Timothy O'Hagan from the position of Junior Varsity Assistant Football Coach, effective August 18, 2008, and approve the appointment of Timothy O'Hagan to the position of Junior Varsity Head Football Coach, effective August 18, 2008 through November 30, 2008 at the Step 1, Year 3 salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract, Coaches Salary Schedule for 2008 – 2009.
5. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent approve the appointment of Brian Redash to the position of Junior Varsity Assistant Football Coach, effective August 18, 2008 through November 30, 2008 at the Step 1, Year 1 salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract, Coaches Salary Schedule for 2008 – 2009.
6. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent approve the appointment of Diane Rafferty to the position of Junior High Cross Country Track Coach, effective September 4, 2008 through November 7, 2008 at the Step 1, Year 1 salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract, Coaches Salary Schedule for 2008 – 2009.
7. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Christine Sausa from the position of teacher aide, effective August 4, 2008.
8. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve a leave of absence for Olga Calderera for medical/child rearing reasons from her special education teacher position, effective September 2, 2008 through February 2, 2009.
9. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent approve the appointment of Valerie Buscema to the position of part-time social studies teacher ( FTE .6), effective September 2, 2008 through June 30, 2009 at the prorated BA, Step 1 entry level annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2008 – 2009 school year, and further approve the appointment of Valerie Buscema to the position of part-time teacher assistant (FTE .5), effective September 2, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Teacher Assistants for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Nicole Bernor to the position of leave replacement teacher assistant, effective September 2, 2008 through January 23, 2009 at the prorated Step 1 entry level annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association for Teacher Assistants for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
11. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Marissa Mauro to the position of leave replacement teacher assistant, effective September 2, 2008 through January 29, 2009 at the prorated Step 1 entry level annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association for Teacher Assistants for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
12. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Glenn Kennedy to the position of leave replacement special education teacher, effective September 3, 2008 through February 1, 2009, at the prorated MA, Step 1 entry level annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
13. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following summer CSE and CPSE appointments effective July 1, 2008 through August 29, 2008, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association for the 2008 – 2009 school year:

Tina Smith..... Psychologist  
 Anna Aviana..... Special Education Teacher  
 Eileen Weidman..... Special Education Teacher  
 Suzanne Baccarella..... General Education Teacher

14. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Michael Lawson to the position of monitor for the ALPSS program, effective September 3, 2008 through June 30, 2009 at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education.
15. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Vanessa Rivero to the position of teacher aide for the ALPSS program, effective September 3, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education.
16. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Fran Dixon from the position of substitute teacher aide, effective September 5, 2008, and approve the appointment of Fran Dixon to the position of teacher aide, effective September 8, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
17. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Sonia Engstler from the position of substitute monitor, effective September 5, 2008, and approve the appointment of Sonia Engstler to the position of part-time monitor, effective September 8, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitor Union Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
18. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Carol Hernandez from the position of teacher aide, effective September 5, 2008, and approve the appointment of Carol Hernandez to the probationary position of senior typist clerk, 12-month, effective September 8, 2008 at the prorated Step A annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association contract for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
19. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Stephanie Medina to the position of teacher aide, effective September 8, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the Step 2 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
20. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Lisa Harris to the position of teacher aide, effective September 12, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the Step 3 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
21. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Nancy Laurino from the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective August 31, 2008.
22. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Frank Caprino to the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective September 10, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education for per diem substitute teachers for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
23. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following part-time appointments for the ALPSS program, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

Alan Freeman..... Social Studies Teacher, effective September 8, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Elizabeth O'Brien..... Mathematics Teacher, effective September 17, 2008 through June 30, 2009

24. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Doreen Johnson to the position of senior stenographer, 12-month, effective September 17, 2008 at the prorated Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association Contract for the 2008-2009 school year.
25. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the hourly salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education:

Maria Acampora, substitute teacher aide, effective September 8, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Jessica Giliberti, substitute monitor, effective September 3, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Adriana Felbinger, substitute monitor, effective September 3, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Kathleen Hobbs, substitute monitor and substitute teacher aide, effective September 3, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Jon Berman, substitute teacher

26. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the “emergency, conditional” personnel appointments for the following individuals pending receipt of notification of their fingerprint clearance from the State of New York, Department of Education:

Dennis Moriarty, cross country track coach

Maria Acampora, substitute teacher aide

Michael Lawson, monitor, ALPSS

Doreen Johnson, secretary

B. Other Items.

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Marie Girace the following items #1 – 17 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.
2. Approve an increase in budget code A1620-400-10-0462, Repairs and Building Improvements by the amount of \$2,990.00 received from NYSIR to use towards the repainting of the cupola.
3. Accept the change order of an additional \$58,000 for the purpose of additional masonry repair at Centre Avenue Elementary School to Capital Restoration Corporation as recommended by the district’s architect and authorize the president of the board of education to sign the necessary documents.
4. Approve the employment agreement with Denise Lobascio as the business office confidential secretary and district clerk, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the employment agreement with Charlene Fried as the food service manager, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
6. Accept a donation in the sum of \$4,000.00 from The East Rockaway Club Rock / Booster Club for new basketball backboard for the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School “new” gym.
7. Accept a donation from Nassau BOCES for GX 240 computers more fully described on the attached equipment list to replace the GX1 and GX 110.

8. Declare obsolete for purpose of disposal and/or recycling, GX1, GX110 and GX150 computers more fully set forth on the attached list of Obsolete Computer Equipment.
9. Approve the agreement with the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD) as the employee assistance program provider for the period October 14, 2008 through October 13, 2009, and authorize the superintendent of schools to execute the agreement.
10. Approve the admission of Lynbrook Student I.D. No. 20137089 to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2008 – 2009 school year and authorize the president of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement between the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD and the Board of Education of Lynbrook UFSD.
11. Approve the admission of Lynbrook Student I.D. No. 180005841 to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2008 – 2009 school year and authorize the president of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement between the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD and the Board of Education of Lynbrook UFSD.
12. Approve the admission of West Hempstead Student I.D. No. 220140015 to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2008 – 2009 year school and authorize the president of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement between the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD and the Board of Education of West Hempstead UFSD.
13. Approve the club advisor assignments for the 2008– 2009 school year as more fully set forth on the attached schedule of Club/Advisor assignments and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
14. Approve the attached request for proposals of services with the following service providers for the 2008 – 2009 school year and authorize the superintendent of schools to execute the resulting service contracts on behalf of the Board of Education.
15. Approve the agreement with Scarsdale Security Systems Inc. for security and monitoring services more specifically set forth in the agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year and authorize the superintendent of schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.
16. Approve the following resolution:
 

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approve the terms and conditions of employment for the East Rockaway Administrators Association for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011, as set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement dated August 29, 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute the resulting collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.
17. Approve the employment agreement with Robert Emery as the Director of Guidance, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Neil Schloth the following items B&C were unanimously approved:

- B. Approval of CSE Recommendations
- C. Approval of CPSE Recommendations

6. Policy Matters – None

## 7. Superintendent's Report

This past summer we received some sad news. Our long time employee and friend, Margaret DelGrosso, passed away, as did Connie Robinson's husband. Mr. Smith has been working in the business office during Mrs. Robinson's absence. Mr. Dom Vulpis, Director of PE, was injured in a water accident and will be out of work for the rest of the month. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The report card data from 2006-07 has been posted on the NYS website. This data comes out in the fall and in the spring. Although it may appear new to the public even though it is over one year old, we had already used that data to make improvements for the 2007-2008 school year. Although the 2007-2008 information is not yet public, our student performance in ELA increased over the prior year with the exception of grades 6 and 8. Math scores also show an increase in student performance. With the exception of grade 8, our students' scores are at least one or two percent above the county average. In June 2007 we were concerned about our Regents Chemistry scores and I'm pleased to report that the 2008 results showed an improvement in student performance. This is a subject that we will continue to review. The Integrated Algebra Regents was given for the first time in June 2008 and 100 percent of the students passed.

Some of the activities in our schools include: a bus safety program for grades K-6 at Rhame; celebration of Constitution Day on Wednesday, September 17, and The Andrew J. Stern Essay Contest, which was handed out last week.

Also, our elementary reading program, *Foundations*, has begun in grades K-2 and Health Smart was extended to grade 2.

The Pep Rally will be this Friday night at 7:00.

The homecoming game is Saturday at 1:30 pm.

Our Girls' Volleyball team's record is currently 4-0

The marching band will play both Friday and Saturday at the high school events.

Smart music is being used in both elementary band and orchestra.

Our Social/Emotional learning has been expanded to the sixth grade. Children in grades 6, 7, and 8 will be involved in this program.

The Facilities Department has been busy this summer. You will notice new floors and newly painted walls at the high school. Also at the high school, a cement walkway was completed around the front oval and on Saturday you will see the refurbished football tower. Masonry work at Centre Avenue is completed and the high school bell tower has been repainted.

Last spring, as you know, we were audited by New York State Comptroller's Office. We are still waiting to receive the report. I am told that the draft is still in Albany. Once it is sent to us, we will have 30 days to respond.

That concludes my report.

## 8. Privilege of the Floor

One community member thanked the board for looking into and finding an agreeable solution for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Rhame Avenue.

Another community member asked if our security system could help with the vandalism at Rhame Avenue. Dr. Melucci replied that this was a fire alarm security system and entry and exit from the building, not vandalism.

Another community member asked what the board's plan was for the Kindergarten classes at Centre Ave. Mary Boccuzzi replied that the board is waiting for additional information and will be discussing it and will come up

with a solution.

## 9. Board Member Comments

**Linda Schmidt** – I would like to welcome everyone back. I hope you had a relaxed summer. Welcome to the new staff. I would like to thank the kindergarten parents for coming. I take this personally and will reassure that the board takes this seriously and we will do what we can to take care of this issue. I encourage the parents to come to the meetings and voice the positive also. I look forward to a great year.

**Neil Schloth** – Thank you for coming, this is a great size group. It makes our job easier when we have input. I agree with Linda and have had children come through Centre Ave. We will do what we can to fix it. I would like to thank Mary Boccuzzi. She has worked very hard to get me up to speed with the board. I look forward to a good year.

**Marie Girace** – Welcome to the new staff. Welcome to the parents that came this evening. We have faced this issue before and we take this seriously and will make a decision. We also have many decisions to make and we will have a good solution soon. Thank you teachers...it's good to see you and would like to see both you and the parents again. We need both positive and negative feedback since I don't have children in the schools anymore. Thank you for coming and come back again.

**Mary Boccuzzi** – I am happy to see a good turnout. I wish I could give you an answer right now but money is an issue (Kindergarten issue). We work as a team and we all must discuss this together. We take everything seriously and we look at every angle. We do the best for the most, we will take action. We will read your letter and factor in the budget and will make a good decision for all.

Thank you all for coming and I wish the teachers would come more often. I hope you all had a very healthy summer. We are looking forward to a great year. Thank you for your comments. We'll meet again on October 14<sup>th</sup> so please join us.

10. Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Neil Schloth and unanimously passed the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio  
District Clerk