

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:30 P.M., May 13, 2008 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School  
Preceded by a Presentation on Social Emotional Learning  
and a Public Forum

**MINUTES**

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Mary Boccuzzi, Marie Girace, Vicki Alspecter, Linda Schmidt, Debbie Tufano, Superintendent, Dr. Roseanne Melucci; Director of Finance and Operations, Connie Robinson; District Clerk, Denise Lobascio; staff and members of the community

1. The meeting was called to order by Mary Boccuzzi at 8:05 pm and she then led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Upon motion by Debbie Tufano, seconded by Marie Girace the minutes of the Regular Meeting, of April 16, 2008 were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged receipt of Financial Reports for March, 2008.
4. Correspondence: One
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel.

Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Vicki Alspecter the following items #1 – 6 were unanimously approved:

1. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Margaret DelGrosso for the purpose of retirement, from her Senior Clerk Typist position, effective May 16, 2008.
2. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve appointment of Paul Apfel to the position of Home Tutor to the position at the hourly salary for set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for Other Educational Assignments effective May 14, 2008.
3. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Mary Boll to the position of monitor, effective April 3, 2008, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Monitors and Food Service Workers Unit for the 2007 – 2008 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education:  
  
None
5. 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:  
  
None
6. Approve the terms and conditions of the contract with Jennifer Wells. for services as

the accompanying pianist for the period May 9, 2008 through May 14, 2008 and superintendent of schools to execute the contract.

authorize the

B. Other Items:

Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Vicki Alspector the following items #1-7 were unanimously approved:

1. Approval of the contract for general plumbing repairs and maintenance for the Rockville Centre Cooperative to the lowest responsible bidder, Seaford Avenue Corporation, for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.
2. Approve the contract with Nassau BOCES for the student information system, Infinite Campus, commencing with the 2008-2009 school year and authorize the superintendent of schools to execute the contract.
3. Appoint Michaelene Cooper to service as a Board of Registration for the annual District election scheduled to be held on May 20, 2008.
4. Approve the following resolution to be presented for public vote on May 20, 2008 for the purpose of establishing a Capital Reserve Fund known as Technology Replacement Fund:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District be authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund, known as the Technology Replacement Fund, in accordance with the provisions of Education Law Section 3651, for the purpose of replacement of District technology and telecommunications equipment software and miscellaneous items on a scheduled basis. Funding for such capital improvement projects shall be approved by the voters of the District.

Such Capital Reserve fund shall be for a term of five years and will commence on June 30, 2008 and expire on June 30, 2013. The Capital Reserve Fund will be capitalized in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 plus interest during the term of the fund. The source of the funding of the Capital Reserve Fund will be the annual transfer of surplus money from the District General Fund unappropriated fund balance not exceeding \$200,000.00 in any given year as may be available at the end of each fiscal year from June 30, 2008 through and including June 30, 2013 and from any other sources permitted by law. Any expenditure from this reserve fund must be approved by the voters of the District.

5. Approve the following resolution to be presented for public vote on May 20, 2008 for the purpose of establishing a Capital Reserve Fund known as Building Improvements and Repair Fund:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District be authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund in accordance with the provisions of Education Law Section 3651 for the purpose of building improvements and repairs on a scheduled basis. Funding for such capital improvement projects shall be approved by the voters of the District. Such Capital Reserve Fund shall be for a term of five years and will commence on June 30, 2008 and expire on June 30, 2013. The Capital Reserve Fund will be capitalized in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 plus interest during the term of the fund. The source of the funding of the Capital Reserve Fund will be the annual transfer of surplus money from the District General Fund unappropriated fund balance not exceeding \$200,000.00 in any given year as may be available at the end of each fiscal year from June 30, 2008 through and including June 30, 2013 and from any other sources permitted by law. Any expenditure from this reserve fund must be approved by the voters of the District.

6. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms of the collective bargaining agreement between the District and the East Rockaway Nurses' Association regarding the terms and conditions of employment for the District's

school nurses unit employees for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2010.

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.

7. Rescind the appointment of Marilyn Von Braunsberg as the Student Funds Auditor; and appoint Marilyn Von Braunsberg to the position of Extra-Classroom Activities Central Treasurer and authorize her to sign checks issued from the School Activities Fund account for the 2007-2008 school year.

C. Approval of CSE Recommendations - None

D. Approval of CPSE Recommendations - None

7. Policy Matters for Review – None

8. Superintendent's Report.

This is AP exam month. They are just about ending; the last test will be given tomorrow.

The students at Rhame Avenue visited the East Rockaway Library in preparation for their summer reading assignments.

We recently administered assessments for ELA and mathematics in Grade 2 and will be using the baseline data to identify students in need of support.

The author of a true revolutionary war story Centre Avenue and held writing workshops with the students.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Rhame Avenue went on a field trip to the Museum of Modern Art.

The elementary school concert is tomorrow night and the secondary school will perform next week.

We have begun the recycling program at all 3 schools. Last week Mayor Sieban visited the three schools, took pictures with the students and thanked them for their efforts.

The Ocean Avenue fence will be taken down and a new fence will be put in connecting the fence to the side of the building. We will reseed the grass and remove the trash behind the existing fence. The hedges in the front of the building have been trimmed and flowers, donated by Mr. Jim Ristano, have been planted.

There is a leak in the stairwell in the new construction area and an exterior leak in the library at Centre.

We had a CRE review at the cafeteria at Rhame Avenue. The report stated that we are doing an excellent job with child nutrition and that our staff is accurate and thorough in their meal planning. It states that the administration and the food service staff are cordial. The review was very positive.

The increase we received in state aid allowed us to lower the tax levy. Assemblyman Bob Barra has been very good to us and has given us \$10,000 toward Smartboards and another \$7500 to run a summer academic program. Assemblyman Weisenberg gave \$5000 toward playground. Throughout the year I have been communicating with our local politicians and letting them know about all the wonderful events that happen in East Rockaway. In addition, I have written them letters requesting funding for certain projects and they have responded by meeting those requests.

The Auditor from the State Comptroller's Office has left building. He has been with us for approximately 2-1/2 months. I met with him on May 7 to discuss his findings. He told me that there were some issues with the cafeteria inventory which we have already corrected by changing the locks on the doors. There was also a situation regarding the authorization of checks – we took care of that tonight with one of the action agenda items. Another concern was the segregation of duties with the district treasurer; he made a suggestion and we have reassigned one of the responsibilities to another employee. We also discussed information/technology back-up procedures, he felt too many keys were available for the IT closet so we changed the locks and limited the number of keys available. We also implemented a change which will change passwords intermittently. Within the next two months we should receive the final report.

You should have received the Budget Newsletter in the mail today. We tried to get it out in time for the hearing but some obstacles made it impossible to meet this deadline. It will be on time next year.

The Student Council at Rhame Avenue held a clothing drive.

One of our students, Jessica Gongalez, won an award for saving the environment.

Last month I forgot to mention one of the teachers, Christine Cartmell, has been very involved in Family Math Day through the years and I thank her for her participation in this wonderful annual event.

Tonight we highlighted the SEL program in the middle school but please know that throughout the district teachers are taking the time to talk to children about character traits and how to talk to each other with respect. At Rhame recently the grade 3 teachers had each child write a positive comment about every child in the class and these comments were turned into poems, laminated and displayed. Each child will be able to take his/her poem home and be proud of the things his/her classmates have said.

We have been talking about the conflict between Rock Rivalry and the basketball playoffs. There have been many meetings, lists and discussions about this. After reviewing the conflict from many angles it is the recommendation of the committee, to leave Rock Rivalry on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in March. The committee also felt that this is a date that needs to be reviewed every year.

Thank you everyone for joining us this evening.

9. Privilege of the Floor

One community member stated he still thinks Rock Rivalry should be changed.

10. Board Member Comments

**Linda Schmidt** – Thank you to Mrs. Singer and the teachers for the SEL presentation. I would just like to remind every one to come and vote.

**Vicki Alspecter** – Thank you for the SEL program. I would like to thank Mr. Ristano for his donation of the flowers. Harlem Wizards fundraiser was a success and the Education Foundation made some money. Thanks for coming.

**Debbie Tufano** – Thank you Mrs. Singer, Mrs. Loftus and Mr. Poland. I wish I could sit in on one of the lessons, as it is very important to teach kids to deal with their emotions. I am happy to see that being implemented. Please come out and vote. We, as a Board, tried to be fiscally responsible. Spread the word.

**Marie Girace** – Thank you Mr. Poland, Mrs. Loftus and Mrs. Singer for the presentation. This program is necessary for young people to fill in a missing piece along the line. I just want to say there is a 1.29% difference between austerity and a passed budget. No matter if the budget passes or not, you will still pay higher taxes and it is not worth it to vote down the budget. It is very important to come out and vote.

**Mary Boccuzzi** – Last month I was not here and I want to say something about Debbie. Her leaving the Board is a tremendous loss to us. She is extremely fair minded, very open, listens, and looks at both sides of an issue. If you listen and are open, you learn. This community has been very fortunate to have you. I am very sorry you are leaving. Thank you Mrs. Singer, Mr. Poland and Mrs. Loftus. SEL is very important at that age. or any age. At the Budget Vote on May 20, 2 people are running for 2 seats. The proposed budget is lower than the average in Nassau County. Please read all you can, e-mail us any questions you might have, and tell your friends to vote. It is important.

11. Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Linda Schmidt and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio  
District Clerk