

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., December 13, 2011 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School
Preceded by a Music Presentation and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Neil Schloth, President; Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, Vice President; Linda Schmidt, Patti Nicoletti, Kristen Ochtera, Roseanne Melucci, Superintendent of Schools; Marcy Tannenbaum, Director of Finance and Operations; Denise Lobascio; District Clerk, staff and members of the community.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 by Neil Schloth and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kristin Ochtera.
2. Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the minutes of the November 15, 2011 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – October 2011
4. Correspondence – One
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the following items #1-9 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Dana Casas, substitute teacher, effective November 27, 2011
 - b. Wendy Crocco, food service worker, effective December 9, 2011
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, remove Kevin Sloan from the list of teachers approved for per diem appointments.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Jennifer O'Brien to the ten-month position of school nurse, effective January 3, 2012, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Nurses Association contract for the 2011-2012 school year.

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Dana Casas to the position of teaching assistant (tenure area: teaching assistant; certification status: professional), effective November 28, 2011, through November 27, 2014, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2011-2012 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Karen Salzesen to the position of food service worker, effective December 14, 2011, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitor Union contract for the 2011-2012 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Casey Meaney to the position of teaching assistant (tenure area: teaching assistant; certification status: Initial), effective December 14, 2011, through December 13, 2014, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2011-2012 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following part-time appointment(s) for the ALPSS Program, effective December 14, 2011, through June 30, 2012, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2011-2012 school year:
 - a. Elizabeth Freeman, substitute teacher
 - b. John Denny, substitute teacher
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education:

Substitute Monitors:

 - a. Jennifer Barth, effective December 14, 2011

Substitute Nurse:

 - b. Margaret O'Brien, effective January 1, 2012

Substitute Clerical, effective December 14, 2011:

 - c. Flora Lynch
 - d. Lori Rotella
 - e. Joanna Parrino
 - f. Anne Sash
 - g. Jeannie Waiter

9. 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:
 - a. Joanna Parrino
 - b. Anne Sash
 - c. Jeannie Waiter

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items #1-7 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the contract with the Department of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disability Services for the period January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2012, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract, exhibits and appendices on behalf of the Board of Education.
2. Accept a donation of two books, At Dawn We Slept: The Untold Story of Pearl Harbor, valued at \$22 each from the American Legion Post 958.
3. Approve the renewal of the Athletic and Field Trip Transportation Service contracts at CPI with Independent Coach Corp. for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years, and authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contracts on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
4. Accept the Independent Audit Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011.
5. Designate Fitzharris & Company, Inc, as the Third Party Administrator for the Flexible Compensation Plan for the period January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Flexible Compensation Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
6. Approve the application to State Environment Quality Review for the 2011-2012 Capital Improvement Program, #28-02-19-03-0-002-008 East Rockaway UFSD Rhame Avenue Elementary School: (a) Routine Maintenance and Repair 6NYCRR§617-5 (c)(1): maintenance or repair involving no substantial change in an existing facility; (b) Replace or Rehabilitation 6NYCRR§617-5 (c)(2): replacement or rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, unless the work exceeds a threshold for a Type I Action in 6NYCRR§617-4; and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the application and further authorize the District Clerk to execute and submit the declaration that the projects fall under Categories “A” or “B” for “No Additional Required Action” under 6NYCRR§617.5(a) – Type II Actions Only as required by SEQRA regulations.

7. Approve the application to State Environment Quality Review for the 2011-2012 Capital Improvement Program, #28-02-19-03-0-001-031, East Rockaway UFSD Jr./Sr. High School: (a) Routine Maintenance and Repair 6NYCRR§617-5 (c)(1): maintenance or repair involving no substantial change in an existing facility; (b) Replace or Rehabilitation 6NYCRR§617-5 (c)(2): replacement or rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, unless the work exceeds a threshold for a Type I Action in 6NYCRR§617.4; (c) 6NYCRR§617-5 (c)(8): Routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings; and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the application and further authorize the District Clerk to execute and submit the declaration that the projects fall under Categories “A”, “B” or “C” for “No Additional Required Action” under 6NYCRR§617.5(a) – Type II Actions Only as required by SEQRA regulations.
8. Approve the contract with Harriet Palmer for consultant and training services for accounts payable, effective January 3, 2012, through March 31, 2012, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education. **Item tabled until January 17, 2012 meeting.**

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:
 - a. Transaction No. 12-0005
 - b. Transaction No. 12-0006

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following items lettered D & E were unanimously approved:

D. Approval of CSE Recommendations

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations

6. Policy Matters:

1. Policies for Adoption:

Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items lettered a – bbb were unanimously approved:

From Series 1000:

- a. 1222, Relationship with Booster Organizations

From Series 2000:

- b. 2000, Board Operational Goals
- c. 2100, School Board Legal Status
- d. 2120.2, Voting Procedures
- e. 2121, Board Member Qualifications
- f. 2150, Filling Board Vacancies
- g. 2160, School District Officer and Employee Code of Ethics
- h. 2210, Board Reorganizational Meeting
- i. 2230, Appointed Board Officials
- j. 2260, Citizens Advisory Committees
- k. 2310, Regular Meetings
- l. 2320, Special Meetings
- m. 2330, Executive Sessions
- n. 2340, Notice of Meetings
- o. 2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
- p. 2350, Board Meeting Procedures
- q. 2351, Quorum
- r. 2352, Rules of Order
- s. 2360, Minutes
- t. 2410, Policy Development, Adoption, Implementation and Review
- u. 2510, New Board Member Orientation
- v. 2521, School Board Conferences, Conventions, Workshops

From Series 4000:

- w. 4000, Student Learning Objectives and Instructional Goals
- x. 4110, School Calendar
- y. 4200, Curriculum Management
- z. 4220 Pilot Projects
- aa. 4311.1, Display of the Flag
4311.1-R, Display of the Flag Regulation
- bb. 4315.1, AIDS Instruction
4315.1-E.1, AIDS Instruction Exhibit
- cc. 4317, Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco
- dd. 4321.1, Provisions of Special Education Services in the Least Restrictive Environment
- ee. 4321.3, Allocation of Space for Special Education Programs
- ff. 4321.4, Independent Educational Evaluations
4321.4-R, Independent Educational Evaluations Regulations
- gg. 4321.5, Confidentiality And Access To Individualized Education Programs,
Individualized Education Services Programs And Service Plans
- hh. 4321.6, Availability of Alternative Format Instructional Materials for Students with
Disabilities

- ii. 4321.7, Districtwide and Statewide Assessments of Students with Disabilities
- jj. 4321.9, Declassification of Students with Disabilities
- kk. 4321.10, Programs and Services for Parentally-Placed Nonpublic School Students with Disabilities
- ll. 4321.11, Public Report on Revisions to District Policies, Practices and Procedures Upon a Finding of Significant Disproportionality
- mm. 4321.13, Preschool Special Education
- nn. 4321.14, Special Education Personnel
- oo. 4326, Limited English Proficiency Instruction
 - 4326-E.1, Placement in a Language Instructional Educational Program
 - 4326-E.2, Sample Parental Notification; Failure to Meet Annual Measurable Objectives Relating to English Proficiency
- pp. 4331, Summer School
- qq. 4511, Textbook Selection and Adoption
- rr. 4513, Library Materials Selection
- ss. 4526, Computer Use in Instruction
 - 4526-R, Computer Use in Instruction Regulation
 - 4526-E, Acceptable Use Agreement
- tt. 4526.1, Internet Safety
 - 4526.1-R, Internet Safety Regulation
- uu. 4531, Field Trips and Excursions
- vv. 4532, School Volunteers
 - 4532-E, School Volunteer Form
- ww. 4600, Guidance Programs
- xx. 4730, Homework
- yy. 4750, Promotion and Retention of Students
- zz. 4770, Graduation
 - 4770-R, Graduation Regulation
- aaa. 4810, Teaching About Controversial Issues

From Series 5000:

- bbb. 5460, Child Abuse

2. Policies for Review:

- a. 4850, Animals in the Schools
 - 4850-E, Animals in the Schools, Notification to Parents

7. Superintendent's Report.

Thank you to Mrs. Tullo and the orchestra students for a preview of next week's concert.

Here's what's happening in our schools.

At Centre Avenue the children in Kindergarten are working on the Health Smart Curriculum and this month's unit is called, "We Have People That Take Care of Us". Grade 1 students are reading "The Mitten" by Steven Kellogg; Grade 2 students are working on "cause and effect" writing; Grade 3 is using the "Money Drawer" on the Smart Board to learn about money and making change; Grade 4 is learning to use transitional phrases in their writing; Grade 5 students are comparing and contrasting two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text; and Grade 6 is working on using the Smartboard to find the area of closed shapes.

At both elementary schools this month there was a wellness presentation delivered by some of our secondary students who participated in a county-wide training program.

The PTA Reflections Contest at Rhame was this past month and students were asked to write or draw about diversity. Also at Rhame this month the Grade 4 students had a Powwow on November 23rd. Also, on November 23rd the 5th Grade students conducted the annual Entrepreneur Day. There was also a Grade K parent meeting to share the common core curriculum and expectations for learning and parent engagement.

From the secondary school, here is a list of what our students are reading this month: English 7 - *A Christmas Carol*; English 8 - *The Pigman*; English 9 - *A Raisin in the Sun*; English 10 - *Of Mice and Men*; English 11 - *A Streetcar Named Desire*; English 12 - *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. I encourage you to read along with your child and engage them in their learning.

As many people know there is a Senior Seminar class at the high school. This program connects the students to businesses so they can participate in an internship. Some staff members from the program will be attending the January East Rockaway Chamber of Commerce meeting to try to create partnerships with businesses in the community.

Recently, our video classes had a special visit from a member of the Art Institute. She spoke to students about college level video courses and showed examples of college videos including short stories, public service announcements and commercials. This gave the students an introduction to what would be involved if they chose to study this field on the college level.

Mr. Cimorelli is starting a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) project in his Technology 8 classes. The students will be using the app- "Sketchup" to create their own virtual 3D bedroom designs. The students will then use this application to create an actual bedroom designed to scale.

The Jr/Sr High life skills students prepared a Thanksgiving dinner complete with place-settings and fresh churned butter. They also made pies and whipped cream and shared their products with the administrators.

The elementary Physical Education classes are learning how to work together as a team to complete a task. Some of the cooperative learning games are: Whistle Mixer, Trust Walk, and The Gauntlet. You may want to engage your child in a conversation about these skills and the rules for the games.

The following high school teams received the team scholar award from NYSPHSAA for having a team average of over 90% for the number of players used to calculate the award. The teams are: Football (12 students); Girls Soccer (12 students); Boys Cross Country (8 students); Girls Tennis (8 students).

The Varsity Cheerleaders placed 4th in a competition at Valley Stream North this past weekend.

Congratulations to Josh Warner and Kerriane Vulpis who received the prestigious Nassau Zone physical education award on December 13, 2011 at the Crest Hollow Country Club.

The boy's varsity and junior varsity basketball teams had a successful trip to the east end of Long Island winning 2 games. In addition, the manager of the hotel sent a letter commending our young people for their behavior as guests of the hotel.

The life skills students are continuing to learn how to swim at the Freeport Recreation Center. The program was started last year. Thank you to Mr. Vulpis and the teachers for keeping this program going.

Our elementary school chorus students sang at the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony last Friday evening. This Thursday night the elementary chorus, band and orchestra will be performing at the annual Holiday Concert in this auditorium. The Jr/Sr High concert will be next Wednesday, December 21st.

Elementary art students will be participating in the New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. poster contest. In addition, elementary students created holiday cards which were sent with gift packages to our troops in Afghanistan.

Our SEL words of the month from Centre Avenue School are: empathy and optimism. The Rhame Avenue word of the month is envious. Also at Rhame, Grade 4 students continue to write feeling words on their emotion chart. The Writer's Journal is also used for SEDL. All students in the school continue to use the Bucket Program by filling each other's buckets with positive messages and actions. To also build strong character, Rhame Avenue will once again this year participate in reading and emulating the character from the book, The Mitten Tree. The book emphasizes the character traits of compassion and empathy for others and there will be a mitten tree outside the Library Media Center at Rhame for anyone who would like to make a contribution of mittens to the Little St. Nick foundation.

Also continuing from previous years, the Peer Group, under the direction of Mrs. Spadafora, joined the staff at Dee's to send trees to the troops overseas.

The SEL words for the 7th and 8th Grade students are as follows: 7th grade words: Impulsive, Secure, Stress; 8th grade words: Obsession, Enraged, Prejudice.

At the High School the Big Buddies program is up and running. This program pairs general education students with students with special needs.

In other news at the Jr/Sr High, Mr. O'Driscoll is planning 8th grade classroom sessions for December 21st on "getting ready for college" topics.

At Centre, Grade 6 teacher Diane Rafferty wrote a grant and received \$1,000.00 from Macy's to fund the 6th grade trip to the Liberty Science Museum in June.

Centre Avenue Student Council is sponsoring a Toys for Tots Drive as well as a toy drive at the secondary school sponsored by the Junior Honor Society.

For the past four years the staff December fundraiser at the high school has been to raise money for a local food pantry. This year the money will be given to the St. Raymond's food pantry.

I want to remind parents that there are two conference days that are not yet on the calendar as we were waiting for scoring information from the local BOCES. We will be sharing the dates in the new year.

Follow-up

Enterprise—Information about the Enterprise program for students who are gifted is available on the website at the link, Did you Know...? Dr. Lo Verde and Mrs. Healy were invited to speak at the SEPTA meeting last week to share more in depth information regarding the selection process for the gifted and enrichment programs. If parents still have questions, please call Dr. LoVerde's office and she will be happy to meet with you.

Performance of other schools with grade level bands—2009/2010 results, as compared to six Nassau County districts indicate that at least four of the districts outperformed East Rockaway in ELA and at least three outperformed us in math, with the exception of grade 6 math where we outperformed all of the other schools. 2010/2011 results, as compared to seven schools, with the exception of grade 4, at least four of the other schools outperformed East Rockaway in ELA and in math, at least 5 of the 7 outperformed East Rockaway on all grade levels.

Schedule of Meetings for Elementary Reorganization Report--The Board has set dates for the community presentation of the elementary reorganization feasibility study. The forum will be on January 19th at 7:00 PM. There will be three follow-up reaction meetings, one at Rhame, one at Centre and one at the Senior Center in the Village. Anyone can attend any of the three meetings. I will have this information on the website posted on the Superintendent's message as well as a link to a flyer. We will also put this information in the Herald as well as to send a mailing to the community.

4th grade parents—the letter submitted at the Board meeting in November was discussed by the Board. We will go forward with the teaching assistant position. Mr. Silk and the teachers will meet to discuss the student progress and how the additional support will be used.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Enrichment program
- Enterprise Committee
- Nassau County Grants
- Princeton Plan
- 4th Grade at Centre Ave.

9. Board Member Comments

Linda Schmidt – Thank you to Mrs. Tullo and the talented children. Here is an example of the great things we do, we accomplish a lot. It pains me to hear the negativity. I have gone through the same thing with the class size at Centre Avenue, and with a teaching assistant added to the class, they did wonderfully. We are listening. Happy New Year.

Kristin Ochtera – When we come back from the holiday, it will be time for our Budget Advisory Meetings. That is a great place to share your input, please check your calendars and join us. I used to believe that \$35 million dollars in taxes was a lot of money until I heard the budgets of other schools which are the same size as ours with a budget of \$10 million more than ours. Economically, we cannot ask the community for a million more. Financially we would have to take money from something to have money left. Teachers, teachers aides, monitors who do a phenomenal job, superintendent, we are working these people to the limit to find a solution. Thank you Mrs. Tullo. Thank you for coming, I am looking forward to 2012.

Michaelene Abbott-Cooper – Thank you for coming. The Business Office came a long way this year. Dr. Melucci, thank you for all you do. Thank you to the teachers. Thank you for coming. Happy Holidays.

Patti Nicoletti – Thank you to our musicians and Mrs. Tullo. Thank you to the parents for supporting our programs. Thank you to the American Legion for their donation. January will be a busy month. Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Neil Schloth - Thank you to Mrs. Tullo and our musicians. Our Music department does an excellent job and our students work very hard. Administrators, teachers and staff, thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our students. To all our fourth grade parents at Centre Ave., we take action based on the experts advice and after a thorough discussion. We, the Board of Education, take our job very seriously and do what is best for the students of our school district. Have a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanza and a Healthy and Positive New Year.

10. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Patti Nicoletti and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk