

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Special Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:30 P.M., October 16, 2012 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School  
Preceded by a Salute to the Board of Education and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Kristin Ochtera; Linda Schmidt; Neil Schloth, Patti Nicoletti, John Giannotti, Jr.; Superintendent, Dr. Roseanne Melucci; and Director of Finance and Operations, Marcy Tannenbaum; District Clerk, Denise Lobascio; staff members and members of the community.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:42 and the Pledge of Allegiance was called to order by the Centre Avenue second grade class.
2. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. and unanimously approved, the minutes of the September 19, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – July and August, 2012
4. Correspondence – One
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Patti Nicoletti the following items numbered 1 – 17 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff members on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Tenure Area</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Valerie Buscema .....	Social Studies .....	November 16, 2012
Maureen Schutta .....	School Social Worker .....	November 9, 2012

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2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
  - a. Allison Siegfried, per diem substitute teacher, effective September 21, 2012
  - b. Christopher Diaz, food service worker, effective September 21, 2012
  - c. Theresa Romano, substitute monitor, effective October 16, 2012
  - d. Jennifer Barth, substitute monitor, effective October 16, 2012
  - e. Melissa Negrin, substitute food service worker, effective October 16, 2012
  - f. Daniel Vito, Varsity Baseball Coach, effective October 9, 2012
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a child rearing leave of absence for Jennifer Moore from her English teacher position effective January 2, 2013, through June 30, 2013.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Dana Casas for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence from her teaching assistant position for the period January 25, 2013, through June 30, 2013.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of MaryAnn Raffaniello, to the position of leave replacement teaching assistant, effective November 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2012-2013 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Ann Marie Kenny for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence from her school psychologist position for the period January 25, 2013, through June 30, 2013.
7. Upon the request of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the appointment of Peter Mancuso to the position of leave replacement school psychologist, effective January 25, 2013, through June 30, 2013, at the prorated MA, Step 1, annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for school psychologist for the 2012-2013 school year.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Annette Dubiel to the position of special education teacher for summer CSE/CPSE meetings, effective August 23, 2012, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway

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Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2012-2013 school year.

9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Corinne Meaney to the position of teaching assistant, (tenure area: teaching assistant; certification status: initial), effective October 1, 2012, through September 30, 2015, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants the 2012-2013 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following appointments for the 2012-2013 fall/spring driver education program at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association for Other Education Assignments for the 2012-2013 school year:
  - a. Christian Soto..... Driver and Traffic Safety Instructor
  - b. Dominick Vulpis ..... Driver and Traffic Safety Instructor
11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following food service worker and monitor appointments, effective October 17, 2012, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union contract for the 2012-2013 school year:
  - a. Melissa Negrin, food service worker
  - b. Suzy Gennaro, food service worker
  - c. Theresa Romano, monitor
  - d. Jennifer Barth, , monitor
  - e. Carrie Consiglio, monitor
  - f. Linda Lindsley, monitor
12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jessica DeJoseph to the position of teacher aide, effective October 17, 2012, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2012-2013 school year.

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13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Andrew Polizzi to the position of After School Program Assistant, effective October 17, 2012, through June 30, 2013, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2012-2013 school year. ]
14. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Brittany Kevlon to the position of junior high cheerleading coach, effective October 17, 2012, through November 9, 2012, at the prorated Step 1, Year 1 stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for coaches for the 2012-2013 school year.
15. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Kathleen Mahoney-Ruiz as a Parent Member for District CSE and CPSE.

16. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignment at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education:

- a. Bethany Kinkaid, Short Term Substitute Teacher (speech/language), effective September 24, 2012, through December 14, 2012
- b. Dawn Urban, substitute teacher aide, effective October 17, 2012
- c. Francine Hernandez, substitute monitor, effective October 17, 2012
- d. Barbara Leonard, substitute nurse, effective October 17, 2012

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

- a. Andrew Polizzi

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items numbered 1 – 4 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the club advisor assignments for the 2012-2013 school year as more fully set forth on the schedule of Club/Advisor assignments dated October 16, 2012, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
2. Approve the terms and conditions of the contract with Jill Quagliata, piano accompanist for elementary chorus rehearsals and performances during the 2012-2013 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
3. Approve for purpose of disposal as obsolete the textbooks specifically listed on the attached Textbook Removal Form.
4. Approve the purchase of the following textbooks:
  - a. McGraw Hill; Glencoe Math Course 1, 2 and 3; Columbus, OH, 2013
  - b. Holt, McDougal; Literature; Orlando, FL 2012

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Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the following items numbered 5 – 6 were unanimously approved:

5. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District solicited proposals for Vending Machine Services at the East Rockaway High School for a term of up to five (5) years, pursuant to a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) process in accordance with the District's procurement policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined, upon the recommendation of the District's Director of Finance and Operations, that Dover Gourmet Corporation (“Vendor”) best meets the District's requirements for such services; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the Vendor's proposal and awards to it the contract for Vending Machine Services through June 30, 2015, with an option to annually renew for up to two additional years, subject to and in accordance with the RFP's terms and conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board hereby authorizes the Board President to execute a service contract between the Vendor and the Board of Education, upon the review and approval of such service contract by the District's legal counsel.

6. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District has determined, upon the recommendation of the District's Director of Finance and Operations, that it is necessary to enter into a new service provider contract for cell phones and cellular service; and

WHEREAS, Verizon Wireless is an authorized vendor of such services under New York State Contract Group #77017, Award #20268, Contract # PS63766; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the District to enter into a service provider contract with Verizon Wireless as the District's provider of cell

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phones and cellular service in accordance with the terms of the OGS contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to execute the resulting service provider contract on behalf of the Board, upon the review and approval of such service provider contract by the District's legal counsel.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:

- a. Transaction No. 13-0001
- b. Transaction No. 13-0002

D. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations - None

6. Policy Matters

A. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Linda Schmidt the following policies numbered 1 – 5 were unanimously approved:

1. 2110, School Board Powers and Duties
2. 2220, Board Officers
3. 5280, Interscholastic Athletics
4. 5420, Student Health Services
5. 6685, Medicaid Compliance

B. For Review

1. 4526, 4526-R Computer Use in Instruction and Regulation
2. 4526.1, 4526-R Internet Safety and Regulation
3. 5251, Student Fund Raising Activities
4. 6700, Purchasing

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5. 8000, Support Services Goals
6. 8110, School Building Safety
7. 8115, Pesticides and Pest Management
8. 8220, Buildings and Grounds Maintenance and Inspection
9. 8330, Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials and Equipment
10. 8332, 8332-R, 8332-E, Use of District-Owned Cell Phones, Regulation and Exhibit
11. 8334, 8334-R, Use of District Credit Cards
12. 8520, Free and Reduced Price Food Service
13. 8505, Meal Charge Policy

7. Superintendent's Report

Thank you to Mrs. Rottkamp and her second grade students for their presentation in celebration of our Board of Education. It is my pleasure to work with a group of people who are dedicated to the education of the children of this community. Members of the Board of Education, your willingness to take time from your own families and personal activities to govern this school district is highly commendable. I thank you for all of your efforts and all of your hard work!

Here's what's happening in our schools.

Mr. Piccarella has begun monthly meetings with grade level teachers from both Centre Avenue and Rhame Avenue. This is an opportunity for teachers to coordinate their curriculum, instruction and assessments. Both schools are also continuing to schedule blocks of time for ELA and mathematics instruction.

We have completed the ELA assessments for grade K using the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). We are analyzing the data to provide interventions so all students will move forward with their literacy learning.

October is Fire Prevention and Safety Month. At Rhame, K – 2 students walked to the Main Street Firehouse to learn about fire prevention and safety. Students also viewed a video, wrote evacuation routes, and created fire prevention rules. At Centre Avenue, the East Rockaway Fire Department held a K-6 Fire Safety assembly.

October is also the month for pumpkins. Mrs. McLeod and Ms. Green's classes are observing and measuring the growth of the pumpkin in the second grade garden. They are keeping a log to record their findings and using their inquiry skills.

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Grades K-5 are using the Go Math series and students received web site address and passwords to extend classroom learning to online learning at home.

Some of the content being taught at Centre Avenue this month includes: Grade 1 students are reading The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree and learning about the change of seasons; Grade 2 is classifying animals in science; Grade 3 students are writing responses to literature, and brainstorming specific topics related to the stories of Cam Jansen; Grade 4 students are working on being able to state the author's purpose in "Everyone is Equal". They must also use an inference map to extract details from the text; Students in Grade 5 are working on the branches of government by creating an electronic brochure; and Grade 6 students are simplifying fractions.

The Andrew J. Stern essay has been completed by many students in grades 4-12. The presentation of awards will be at the January Board of Education meeting.

These are some titles of the books that students at Rhame Avenue are reading. Parents are encouraged to read along with their children and engage with them in their learning: Second grade - Scream Team; The Werewolf at Home Plate; Third grade - Frindle ; Sideways Stories from Wayside School; Fourth grade - Amber Brown is Feeling Blue; Inside Out & Back Again;

Fifth grade- Hollis Woods; Evangeline, Alive and Well a Story of Hope in Haiti.; Sixth grade - Remote Man; Good Night, Mr. Tom.

October is also Bus Safety Month. The bus safety video has been viewed by all students and bus safety drills are being conducted at the elementary schools.

All teachers have completed baseline assessments in conjunction with writing Student Learning Objectives for their classes.

The HS Super Masters Advisory council held its first meeting. The group will meet throughout the year to discuss ways to promote and celebrate academic achievement throughout the school.

The High School Social Studies Department attended the Long Island Council for the Social Studies conference on Monday.

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The World Language department is creating an informational, Did You Know card. Once it is completed it will be posted on the website and available in each of the buildings.

Over two thousand dollars was donated to the Crohns and Colitis Fund of America (CCFA) by the young ladies of our varsity volleyball team under the supervision of Coach Ferrand. This event was also sponsored by the East Rockaway Kiwanis along with our Key Club and Builders Club members.

The walking club at Rhame has an average attendance of 36 students over the first month. Before school sports activity started for students in grades 5 and 6. Elementary physical education classes are working on Flag Football skills.

The HS Life Skills class participated in a bicycle outing. Some students biked six miles. Others rode scooters for approximately two miles and others walked the trail. Afterward, the group went to Gino's Pizzeria, in Rockville Centre. All the students ordered, paid and counted their change on their own. It was a wonderful opportunity to reinforce physical education and math skills.

Congratulations to Mr. Vulpis who will be honored at the November Annual NYS Association for Health, PE, Recreation and Dance Conference in November as the Director of the Year for Section VIII!

This month's fine arts report includes: Felicya Schwarzman and Amy Ogura will participate in The Long Island String Festival Concert. Felicya will be participating in the Senior High group and Amy will be participating in Junior High Orchestra. The Concert will take place on November 18 at 1 pm at the Plainview Old Bethpage Middle School. Approximately 70 students gathered in the band room last Tuesday to attend the general meeting for this year's musical production, "Seussical". This year, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students are invited to audition and are preparing their songs and lines from the script with the help of Mrs. Lalama. Mr. Ezell will be directing the show this year and he has scheduled audition prep sessions for the Junior/Senior High School students. Auditions will take place during the week of October 22. Students from all three of our schools have been nominated to participate in the All-County Music Festival sponsored by the Nassau Music Educators Association. Selections will be made later this month. Brandon Jackson and James Anemone received certificates of appreciation for donating their time and talents to perform "Taps" at the Village 9/11 services. H.S. Foundations in

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Art classes have begun to acquire knowledge about painting a landscape in a realistic fashion. This includes the use of darks and lights, warm and cool colors and painting techniques that establish a sense of place or time in a particular sense of mood. Completed paintings may be based on a photo of the student's choice but must show a difference and sense of growth from the image-not merely a copy of a photo. Eighth grade students are learning about color theory and how primary colors (red, blue and yellow) are unique because they cannot be made from mixing any other colors together. Students will draw their own color wheels and actually mix the primary colors to create both secondary and tertiary colors. Beautiful art work, completed by our elementary school students, was recently put on display in the front lobby of the H.S. Congratulations to East Rockaway High School for its recognition from the New York Blood Center for achieving "Heroglobin" status as a top performer in last year's blood drive.

Mrs. Winter has been visiting the second grade classrooms to present the Too Good for Drugs program. Other SED activities include: exploring positive goals and making good choices; writing about the time students felt frightened; and brainstorming feeling words in their notebooks. The Grade 6 word of the month is respect. In addition, Ms. Schutta presented on DASA to both Grade 6 classes.

At Centre Avenue, the Centre Avenue PTA sponsored an anti-bully assembly for the K-6 students. SEL words of the month are compromise and unique.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, teachers reviewed key terms and lessons in the existing SEL curriculum to align with DASA mandates of teaching tolerance, dignity, and respect to students. Teachers selected the key terms and will be embed them in their subject area lessons.

The HS Building Emergency Response Team has met twice to review its protocols, update information, and consult with BOCES representative Pete LaDuca on emergency response strategies.

We had an emergency steam pipe repair at Centre Avenue last week. I want to thank Mr. Quercia and his staff for attending to the problem and for contacting the professionals who provided the remedy so that our boilers were operational within a short period of time.

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Thanks go to Ms. Donlon, Brownies and parent volunteers for planting 500 tulip bulbs and mums by the Centre Avenue new wing!

The HS Auditorium has been closed due to mold. We have resolved the matter and plan to open the auditorium this week. The instrument room needs more work. We are coordinating with the architect and Insights Environmental before we reopen that space.

In other news, I invite you to celebrate the recognition of our teachers and community members at this years Education Foundation dinner on Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tickets are available through the Education Foundation.

We thank parents for engaging in their child's education by attending the annual Back to School Night programs.

Student Council/Mrs. Schutta Red Ribbon Day will be on October 24<sup>th</sup>. 10/24

Student Council's Unity Day *Unite against Bullying* will be on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

The students in third grade at Rhame initiated a fundraiser with the student council to raise \$100 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation this month. The money collected will go to the Kilgus Walk a Thon Team.

Centre Avenue School held its Back to School Fair on Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup> from 11AM-5PM. Students, parents, and their families had a terrific time playing games, enjoying the fall weather, and other activities. Thanks to Mrs. DelValle and Mrs. LaBarbera and the Centre Avenue PTA for a great event.

It is that time of year for residents to be notified of their increase in school taxes. If you have questions about your tax bill please call Ms. Tannenbaum. Also, please take a minute to compare the assessed value of the property for two years to see how that was changed. If the assessed value was decreased by Nassau County, this would have caused school taxes to increase more than was predicted based on the school district tax levy. Of the three part formula that determines your school taxes, the district is responsible for one of the numbers—the tax levy. And as you know the tax levy, based on state law, was limited last year.

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Last Friday night there were many East Rockaway staff members at the Kiwanis Spaghetti dinner. Furthermore, some of our coaches brought members of their team to be together and to support this organization. I was proud of our school's participation.

Follow-up from Prior Meeting

6-8 math textbooks—Student books were ordered and will arrive in approximately 2 weeks.

Prekindergarten Curriculum--At the September BOE meeting, I spoke briefly about the new prekindergarten curriculum. It is now posted on the district website. If you click on the Curriculum link in the left column, and then the PreK-8 Curriculum link on the right side of the page, and then the prekindergarten link you will be able to access the information.

Parent Participation-- On Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, the high school hosted a 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting at 7:00 PM. There were 36/93 possible students represented at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting, or 38.7%. It was a disappointing turnout for a group of students who performed poorly on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade assessments. I know that each of the principal's is working with the building PTA to increase parental engagement, especially when it concerns academic topics and events.

That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Grant writing for the district
- Emergency services for the JV football games.
- Reading program
- Thank you from the private school population
- FOILable information

9. Board Member Comments

**Patti Nicoletti** – Thank you to Mrs. Rottkamp's second grade class and all of Centre Ave. for appreciating us! Congratulations to Ms. Buscema and Ms. Schutta on receiving tenure tonight. I wish you both many years of success here in East Rockaway. Congratulations Mr. Vulpis on receiving the Director of the Year Award. Thank you to all the students who gave their time to participate in various drives, clubs, etc. and gave their time back to their community. Thanks to parents, fellow Board members, Dr. Melucci and administrators.

**John Giannotti, Jr.** – Thank you PTA. Thank you Mr. Silk and Ms. Rottkamp. It is a privilege to represent East Rockaway Schools.

**Neil Schloth** – Thank you everyone. It is energizing to have the kids here. It is greatly

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appreciated.

**Linda Schmidt** – Thank you children, PTA and staff. We have a special, great group of children in our schools. Thank you to Marcy and Roseanne for all you do.

**Kristin Ochtera** – Thank you Denise and Mary. We are excited and will move forward.

10. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Linda Schmidt and unanimously passed the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio  
District Clerk

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