

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 PM, November 13, 2012 – Centre Avenue School All Purpose Room

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Kristin Ochtera; 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 by Kristin Ochtera at 7:35 am and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kristin Ochtera.
2. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the minutes of the October 16, 2012 and the November 8, 2012 board meetings were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – September 2012
4. Correspondence – One
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the following items #1 – 7 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:

Staff Member	Tenure Area	Tenure Date
Kimberly Rosenkrantz.....	Speech/Language.....	December 14, 2012

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Deanna Mignella for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence from her mathematics teacher position for the period January 25, 2013, through June 30, 2013.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Myriam Spadafora for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence from her school social worker position for the period January 25, 2013, through June 30, 2013.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Dina Reilly to the position of Assistant Principal of East Rockaway

Jr./Sr. High School (tenure area: assistant principal (secondary); certification status: professional), effective November 9, 2012, through November 8, 2015, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Administrators' Association contract for the 2012-2013 school year.

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

- a. Audrey Porreca, substitute nurse, effective November 14, 2012
- b. Danielle Lapolla, substitute teacher, effective November 14, 2012
- c. Terry Owen, substitute monitor, effective November 14, 2012
- d. Carly Freiman, substitute monitor, effective November 14, 2012

6. 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. Audrey Porreca

B. Other

1. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth the terms and conditions of the contracts with RCP Consultants Inc., for ELA professional development and NCLB grant writing professional development for the period October 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education were unanimously approved.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers: None

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Patti Nicoletti the following items marked D&E were unanimously approved:

D. Approval of CSE Recommendations

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations

6. Policy Matters

- A. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Patti Nicoletti the following policies numbered 1-13 were unanimously adopted:

1. 4526, 4526-R, Computer Use in Instruction and Regulation
2. 4526.1, 4526.1-R Internet Safety and Regulation
3. 5251, Student Fund Raising Activities
4. 6700, Purchasing
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 and Regulation
12. 8520, Free and Reduced Price Food Service
13. 8505, Meal Charge Policy

7. Superintendent's Report

Thank you to everyone who has been offering assistance to re-open our schools. Today we opened school for all K-6 students. They reported to Centre Avenue and we have combined the buildings until Rhame Avenue is ready for the students to return. Today at Centre was about helping the students make sense about what happened to their homes, their community and their schools. Students had an opportunity to talk about their experiences, and hear the experiences of their classmates. Our social workers and psychologists will be conducting voluntary discussion groups for students demonstrating the need for more social emotional support.

Here is the update on Rhame Avenue School--As you are aware the entire first floor of the building has been affected from the flooding. All of the flooring from the first floor was removed and the drying process is moving along. The moisture content in the slab is still extremely high and we are constantly monitoring it. Once the moisture level drops to an acceptable level, floor tile installation will immediately begin. The boilers, pumps, motors, controls, electrical wiring are all in the process of being evaluated. Temporary boiler installation is in process in order to restore heat to the building to prevent further damage. The switch gear at Rhame was not under water. We are waiting for power to be restored to check the electric there.

At the High School, the Small gym flooring and wall padding have been removed. Drying is in process. In the Large Gym flooring and wall padding have been removed. Drying is in process. All miscellaneous offices, locker rooms, hallways have had the initial cleaning. All vinyl floor base and any saturated wallboard has been removed and drying is in process.

In the Auditorium all water damaged seating has been removed. Stage flooring has been removed and the space is being dried out.

The boiler room at the high school has extensive damage. The electrical switchgear has extensive water damage with the corrosion process starting on all vital internal components. Cleaning of the interior panels has begun and multiple parts have been ordered. An electrical engineer came to the school today to consult with the electrical contractor as to the best way to proceed with the electrical related repairs in order for the power to safely be restored to the building. Once power can be restored to the switch gear the building can then be systematically checked, tested and evaluated as to what may or may not need replacement and or repair.

Here is the plan for our secondary students. On Wednesday they will come to the high school during assigned timeframes. Mr. Spero will be sending out an electronic message and it will also be posted on the website. For those of you who have Facebook it would be appreciated if you would share the information you receive using this technology.

The high school crisis management team will be available in the library on Wednesday during the time that students are cleaning out their lockers. The team will also be available when the students arrive at their new temporary locations in Baldwin. Social emotional services will be available to the students on a daily basis.

7-12 students will be bussed to school beginning on Thursday. There will be two pick-up locations. Students living south of Main Street will report to the Rhame Avenue parking lot. Students living north of Main Street will report to the high school front oval. We ask for your patience as we work out the details for transportation. Next week we will evaluate the transportation plan and make the necessary modifications. Students may begin boarding the buses at 6:45 am and the buses will depart at 7:00. Classes will begin at 7:45. Hall passing time has been reduced so that students may board buses and return to East Rockaway by 3:00.

The central office staff has been relocated to BOCES on Merrick Avenue in Westbury. This includes the Superintendent's office, Mrs. Tannenbaum, Dr. Lo Verde and Mr. Piccarella. The phone extensions do remain the same.

The November calendar has had many changes. The Financial Aid program for tomorrow has been cancelled as well as Thursday's ERHS PTA meeting. Friday night's Rhame Avenue Slumber party has been cancelled and the Centre Avenue PTA meeting, scheduled for tomorrow night, has been postponed and combined with the Rhame Avenue PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 27th at Centre Avenue.

Make-up days and calendar.

There were nine scheduled instructional days lost for elementary students due to the storm and eleven for the secondary students. We are looking at the calendar to identify the exact days. We are also waiting to see if any of those days will be waived by the state. The obvious days are April 1st and 2nd as listed on the calendar as possible snow make-up days and the other days are the four vacation days from the February break. I will work with the teachers association to identify the remaining days that may have to be made up.

Thank you everyone for your patience as we rebuild and move forward. I know that many people, staff and community members, are still struggling with their own personal hardships and I wish you all the strength and patience that you need during this very difficult time.

That concludes my report.

8. Privelege of the Floor

- Education Foundation taking donations
- Fund raiser on Saturday at Rhame Avenue School
- Safety issues with the increased number of students at Centre Ave.
- Testing the outside perimeter of Rhame Avenue School
- Regents retake in January
- Post Sandy school issues

9. **Patti Nicoletti** – Congratulations Ms. Rosenkrantz on receiving tenure. I would like to acknowledge the people who had devastating losses and am grateful no one was injured. I am reminded of a movie from the '80's, Starman, where people were at their best when things were at the worst; community people giving their time and donations. I think of Dr. Melucci and the administration and staff helping with the students best interests at heart.

Neil Schloth – I would like to wish everyone a quick recovery. The East Rockaway Fire Department saw first hand what happened. Please get the word out to your friends on what is going on in our schools. Thank you for speaking up; this will surely take a clear community effort.

John Giannotti, Jr. – I have two kids who are at Centre Ave. I asked my son what happened at school today and he said the Rhame Avenue kids were there and everyone was very happy. There are lots of well deserved thanks. Thanks to the community for helping each other. I am especially proud to be a part of this community.

Kristin Ochtera – I had the opportunity to speak to the staff on opening day. Last week I asked them the same question. Go home and think about what we did...how did we move forward? Do your very best every day and it will get better.

10. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Patti Nicoletti and unanimously passed the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk