

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., August 27, 2013 - East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Kristin Ochtera, President; Patti Nicoletti, Vice President; Linda Schmidt; Neil Schloth; John Giannotti, Jr.; Lisa J. Ruiz, Superintendent; Marcy Tannenbaum, Director of Finance and Operations; Denise Lobascio, District Clerk; staff members and members of the community.

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:35 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Giannotti, Jr.
2. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the minutes of the July 2, 2013; July 23, 2013; August 6, 2013 were unanimously approved.
3. Correspondence – One
4. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

1. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the following resignations were unanimously approved:
 - a. Carlos Amaya, teacher aide, ALPPS, effective July 1, 2013
 - b. Cindy Dower, permanent substitute teacher, effective August 28, 2013
 - c. Judith Fuller, teacher aide, effective July 12, 2013
 - d. ToniAnn Donald, teaching assistant, effective August 28, 2013
 - e. Michelle Mahlstadt, leave replacement teaching assistant, effective August 12, 2013
 - f. Arianne Millar, teacher aide, effective August 9, 2013
 - g. Corinne Meaney, teaching assistant and mathematics teacher, ALPSS, effective August 15, 2013
 - h. Giuseppina Buglione, substitute monitor, effective August 28, 2013

- i. Diane Birnbaum, teacher aide, effective August 9, 2013

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Linda Schloth, the following items #2-22 were unanimously approved:

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve an administrative leave of absence for Marisa A. Solan from her teacher aide position, effective August 29, 2013, through October 4, 2013, and further approve the appointment of Marisa A. Solan to the position of short-term substitute special education teacher, effective August 29, 2013, through October 4, 2013, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2013-2014 school year for short term substitute teachers.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment (.33 FTE) of Kristen Ford to the position of teaching assistant, effective August 29, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2013-2014 school year and further approve the part-time appointment (.6 FTE) of Kristen Ford to the position of mathematics teacher, effective August 29, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated MA, Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment (.6 FTE) of Pamela J. Collins to the position of art teacher, effective August 29, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated MA, Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Sharon Kitzi to the position of part-time (.4 FTE) music teacher, effective August 29, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated BA, Step Entry annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment (.5 FTE) of Kelly Peckholdt to the position of social studies teacher, effective August 29, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated MA, Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment (.6 FTE) of Carmen Foschino to the position of science teacher, effective August 29, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated MA, Step 2 annual salary set forth in the

East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.

8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment of Bethany Kinkaid to the position of (.5 FTE) speech/language teacher, effective August 29, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated MA, Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment of Sherina Lugo to the position of (.8 FTE) reading teacher, effective August 29, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated MA, Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment of Monica Saavedra to the position of (.5 FTE) school psychologist, effective August 29, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated MA Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jeanne Paige to the position of leave replacement speech/language teacher, effective August 29, 2013, through January 31, 2014, at the prorated MA, Step 3 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of ToniAnn Donald to the position of elementary teacher, (tenure area: elementary; certification status: initial), effective August 29, 2013, through August 28, 2016, at the Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Erin A. Kennedy to the position of special education teacher, (tenure area: special education; certification status: initial) effective August 29, 2013, through August 28, 2016, at the MA, Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
14. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Kieran P. Lynch to the position of science teacher, (tenure area: science; certification status: initial) effective August 29, 2013, through August 28, 2016, at the MA30, Step Entry annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.

15. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Dana Zingale to the position of teaching assistant, (tenure area: teaching assistant; certification status: permanent) effective August 29, 2013, through August 28, 2016, at the Step 3 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2013-2014 school year.
16. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Stephen Raimondi to the position of teaching assistant, (tenure area: teaching assistant; certification status: initial) effective August 29, 2013, through August 28, 2016, at the Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
17. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jessica DeJoseph to the position of teacher aide, effective August 29, 2013, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
18. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Alyssa Ali to the position of teacher aide, effective August 29, 2013, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
19. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Karen Cooney to the position of teacher aide, effective August 29, 2013, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
20. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Giuseppina Buglione to the position of monitor, effective August 29, 2013, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitor Union contract for monitors for the 2013-2014 school year.
21. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Stephen Spinato to the position of custodian, effective August 28, 2013, at prorated Step A annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Custodial Unit contract for custodians for the 2013-2014 school year.
22. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments, effective September 3, 2013, through June 26, 2014, at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary

Schedule for substitute workers for the 2013-2014 school year:

- a. Danielle DiStasi, substitute teacher aide, effective September 3, 2013
- b. Joseph Sblendoria, substitute cleaner, effective August 28, 2013
- c. Lisa Machovec, substitute teacher aide, effective September 3, 2013
- d. Gail Rosman, substitute teacher, effective September 3, 2013
- e. Jason Schaeffer, substitute teacher, effective September 3, 2013

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items #1-16 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.
2. Approve the following employment agreements and authorize the Superintendent to execute the agreements on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. Anthony Quercia, Director of Facilities
 - b. Denise Lobascio, Business Office Secretary, District Clerk
 - c. Robert Guzowski, Administrator, ALPSS
 - d. Vincent D'Amico, Assistant Business Manager

3. Declare obsolete for purpose of disposal the equipment more fully set forth on the List of Equipment for Disposal dated August 2013.

4. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD hereby approves the terms of a letter agreement between the District and the East Rockaway Secretaries Association concerning salary step placement of Account Clerk Ellen Blumlein.

5. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD hereby approves a Stipulation of Settlement dated June 30, 2013, between the East Rockaway Administrators Association regarding compensation for services by the District's Athletic Director; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Superintendent be authorized to execute said

Stipulation of Settlement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

6. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway UFSD advertised for bids for food service management services for the 2013-2014 school year and has determined, upon the recommendation of the Director of Finance and Operations, that Whitsons School Nutrition Corp. is the lowest responsible bidder meeting the bid specifications, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts Whitsons School Nutrition Corp.'s bid and awards to it the contract for food service management services for 2013-2014, as the lowest responsible bidder meeting the bid specifications, and authorizes the Board President to execute a contract with Whitsons School Nutrition Corp. on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

7. Approve the participation of East Rockaway UFSD in the Facilities Consortium for facilities supplies, fixtures, materials, services as more fully set forth on the attached resolution.
8. Accept a donation from MSL Group of 500 rolls of *Bounty* paper towels having a value of One Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$1,245.00).
9. Accept a donation from the Smith Street School, Uniondale UFSD, in the sum of Two Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars and Nine Cents (\$275.09) for rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and authorize an increase in revenue code 214-2112-300 Sandy Donations – Miscellaneous Supplies.
10. Approve the consultant services contract with Carol LaRow, Educational Consultant, for a presentation “Google Apps for Education” on November 5, 2013.
11. Approve the Summer Instruction Contract – 2013 with Lynbrook UFSD for the payment of tuition for four students to attend the Summer Program 2013 instructional program provided by Lynbrook UFSD for July 2013 to August 2013.
12. Approve the contract with Dr. Anu Raj for Independent Evaluation Services effective July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, and authorize the Board President to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
13. Approve the award of the bid for transportation services to Independent Coach Corp. for one student to Lawrence Woodmere Academy and authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of

Education.

14. Authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to extend transportation contracts for the 2013-2014 school year at the Consumer Price Index with the following:

- a. Acme Bus Corp.
- b. Dell Transportation Corp.
- c. First Student, Inc.
- d. Independent Coach Corp.
- e. Suburban Bus Transportation
- f. Veterans Transportation Co.
- g. WE Transport, Inc.

15. Approve the agreements with Intralogic Solutions, NYS Contract No. PT64345, for burglar and fire alarm monitoring services, respectively, for the 2013-2014 school year and authorize the Board President to execute the agreements on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

16. Approve the Annual Professional Performance Review Plan for the 2013-2014 school year for teachers and principals and authorize the Board President to certify the plan on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the following budget transfer was unanimously approved:

- a. Transaction No. 14-0001

D. Upon Neil Schloth, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

7. Superintendent's Report
7th Grade Orientation

This morning was our 7th grade orientation. We have ninety five incoming 7th graders who participated in presentations. Mr. Spero provided an academic overview, Mr. Vulpis spoke about Athletics and an introduction to the Infinite Campus Portal was offered by Mr. DeTommaso and

Ms. Hecht. Students also met 7th grade teachers facilitated by Ms. Reilly and Mr. O'Driscoll. At the conclusion student took a tour of the building courtesy of senior student ambassadors and enjoyed a barbeque sponsored by our PTA. It was wonderful to see the halls filled with excited and energized faces!

NYS Assessment Scores

We received our results for the NYS ELA and Math assessments.

The test results mark a new baseline measurement of student learning – that is all. This is a result of the shift to assessments that measure the new CCLS. The Commissioner has set an ambitious timeline for our students which was challenging. New York is only the second state of the 46 states to administer CC aligned assessments and our results are similar to Kentucky the first state to do so. We experienced a similar drop of approximately 30% in the scores.

The tests are harder and the scores are lower. This was anticipated.

Our students did not suddenly get worse. The results do not mean that students are learning less or that teachers and schools are performing worse than last year

We need to keep in mind that the students did not drop in terms of performance, but rather the standards have been raised.

It is meaningless to compare scores to prior years. It will be disconcerting for parents and student to make this comparison and misleading. The changes are confusing.

We will be using these assessments as well as the results of our local and district assessments to identify areas of strength and need and this information will be used by administrators and teachers to inform instruction as we move forward. We expect our results to improve as our students receive instruction aligned to the CCSS.

Parent reports will be mailed home as soon as they are released by NYSED which should be early – mid September. We will put links to information for parents to better understand their child's score report on our website.

New Hires

Congratulations and welcome to our new hires. As mentioned previously, we hired Physics, special education, psychologist, speech, music, art, social studies, and teaching assistants. Wednesday we welcome our new faculty to the New Teacher Orientation and on Thursday I am pleased to welcome all staff back to school.

Concussion Management Research Study

A number of our district's athletes are participating in the EYE-TRAC ADVANCE research study through Weil Cornell Medical Center. The project focuses on the use of custom-designed, investigational eye-tracking technology to monitor performance in athletes, tapping into the attentional networks in the brain. In injured athletes, the eye-tracking is paired with cognitive testing and MRI Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI) technology, making it possible to look at the axons (the "communication highways") of the brain, and understand where there may be areas of damage. Students were given a \$15 gift card for their participation.

At the Superintendent's request, Marcy Tannenbaum, Director of Finance and Operations, gave the following reports:

Food Service Program

The District has signed a contract with Whitsons School Nutrition. Whitsons will manage the District's Food Service Program, including ordering, menu planning and meal preparation. Food Service Workers will continue to be employed by East Rockaway Schools. Whitsons will offer exciting new hot and cold menu choices as well as provide age-appropriate nutritional programs for our students. At the Jr. Sr. High School we will no longer be participating in the National School Lunch Program. This means that we can serve our students meals they will enjoy in portions they will find satisfying. The price of a standard lunch at the elementary school remains \$2.50. At the high school a standard lunch will be \$2.75. Al la Carte items will also be available.

We are also implementing a new Point of Sale System in all three buildings. This system is fully integrated with infinite campus so parents will be able to log on to the portal, see what their children are eating and also check their account balances.

FEMA

The restoration of Rhame Avenue Elementary School is complete. The restoration of the Jr. Sr. High School is just about complete. The District is working diligently with FEMA to account for all the expenses related to Hurricane Sandy so we can complete the paperwork and receive reimbursement for the expenditures.

8. Privilege of the Floor
 - Food allergy concerns.
 - Whitson's School Nutrition
9. Board Member Comments

Kristin Ochtera – I would like to announce that two of our board members, Neil Schloth and Patti Nicoletti, have achieved NYSBA Mastery. Every new board member has mandatory training they

have to take but this recognition is for continued training beyond the mandated introductory courses. It is an honor to recognize them for their efforts. Their Board Mastery achievement is well deserved and shows their commitment to this district. Thank you both for your good work.

Linda Schmidt – Welcome Lisa. Congratulations to the new hires. I am looking forward to the new school year.

Neil Schloth – Welcome Lisa. You have worked hard to acclimate. I look forward to you putting your new ideas into play.

John Giannotti, Jr. – Congratulations to our new hires. Thank you for coming. Enjoy the rest of your summer vacation.

Patti Nicoletti – We have many new beginnings; new superintendent, new staff, practically new facilities. I have seen teachers setting up their classrooms. I am looking forward to a successful school year.

10. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk