

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 PM, May 13, 2014 – East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School,
Preceded by the Budget Hearing (7:00 PM), Recognition of Music and Science Students
and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Patti Nicoletti; Neil Schloth; Linda Schmidt; Lisa J. Ruiz, Superintendent; Dr. Joan Colvin, Director of Finance and Operations; John Piccarella, Director of Curriculum and Technology; Denise Lobascio, District Clerk.

Absent: Kristin Ochtera, John Giannotti, Jr.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:55 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil Schloth.
2. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth the minutes of the April 24, 2014 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports – March 2014
4. Correspondence - None
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items #1-5 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>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Mona Hecht.....	Director of Guidance.....	July 1, 2014
Brianne Dooley	Elementary Teacher	September 1, 2014
Marissa Green	Elementary Teacher	September 1, 2014
Kirsten Miolan	Elementary Teacher	October 9, 2014

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Richard L'Hommedieu, cleaner, effective April 25, 2014
 - b. Allison Corvi, probationary speech/language teacher, effective June 30, 2014
3. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Gregory Hampton to the position of cleaner, effective May 14, 2014, at the prorated Step A annual salary established by the East Rockaway Custodial Unit contract for cleaners for the 2013-2014 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 on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2013-2014 school year:
 - a. Tina Johnson, short-term substitute teacher, effective May 5, 2014 through June 26, 2014
 - b. James McGrady, substitute cleaner, effective May 14, 2014
 - c. Joseph Battaglia, substitute cleaner, effective May 14, 2014
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the "emergency, conditional" personnel appointment for the following individual pending receipt of notification of fingerprint clearance from the State of New York, Department of Education:
 - a. Joseph Battaglia

B. Other

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items numbered 1-9 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the agreement with Textbook Central, a division of Tel/Logic Inc. d/b/a CentralEd with East Rockaway UFSD for textbook information and management services for the 2014-2015 school year and authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to execute the Letter of Intent and agreement for said services on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
2. Approve the purchase of the following textbook:

Myers, David. Psychology for AP. New York: BFW/Worth 2014
3. Approve joining in the 2014-2015 Nassau County School Districts Southwest consortium with Valley Stream School District Thirteen as the lead district assisted by

Baldwin UFSD, Valley Stream CHSD, West Hempstead UFSD, and Malverne UFSD.

4. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that, in accordance with the provisions of New York State Education Law §3012-c and Subpart 30-2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District (“District”) hereby certifies the following individuals as qualified lead evaluators:

Joseph Cangemi	Dina Reilly
James DeTommaso	Lisa J. Ruiz
TJ DiPietro	Thomas Schloen
Laura Guggino	Tim Silk
Debra LoVerde	Joseph Spero
Laura Peterson	Dominick Vulpis
John Piccarella	

- a) The District hereby authorizes the above-listed individuals to conduct and/or complete the annual professional performance reviews of classroom teachers within the District.
- b) The District hereby authorizes Lisa J. Ruiz to conduct and/or complete the annual professional performance reviews of building principals within the District.
5. Accept a donation of a wooden bench, “The Buddy Bench,” created by Troop 2562 for use at the Rhame Avenue Elementary fields valued at Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00).
6. Approve the resolution to issue Tax Anticipation Notes in the sum not to exceed Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) as more fully set forth on the attached Schedule “A.”
7. Approve the contract with Progressive Waste Solutions for rubbish removal services effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
8. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the following school-sponsored field trip:

TO: Central and Southern Italy and Sicily

WHEN: Departing: April 1, 2015; Returning: April 10, 2015
WHO: East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School Students and 4 Adult Chaperons
COST: No cost to the East Rockaway UFSD
TOUR: EF Educational Tours

9. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District hereby abolishes four (4) teacher aide positions, effective June 26, 2014. The Superintendent is directed to notify the affected staff members of this action.

B. Budget Transfers

4. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:
 - a. Transaction No. 14-0013
 - b. Transaction No. 14-0014

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

D. Approval of CSE Recommendations

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations

6. Policy Matters

1. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Linda Schmidt the following policies were unanimously adopted:
 - a. 5030, Student Complaints and Grievances
 - b. 5550, Student Privacy

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to the family of Pam Castellano, teacher aide at the Rhame Avenue School, on the passing of the father-in-law, Anthony Cassano
- b. Condolences to the family of Pam Collins, high school art teacher, on the passing of her father-in-law, Don Collins
- c. Condolences to the family of Margaret McKeon, retired secretary, on the passing of her husband, Gerald McKeon

- d. Condolences to the family of Mary Boccuzzi, retired board member, on the passing of her mother, Clementina D'Amore
- e. Condolences to the family of Jennifer McKeon, a high school secretary, on the passing of her mother-in-law, Olive McKeon
- f. Congratulations to Marie Girace, retired board member, on the birth of her first grandchild, James Paul, born May 10, 2014

8. Superintendent's Report

- Our New Website is up and running and under construction! Please feel free to provide us with feedback and suggestions so that this new tool serves you in the most effective way possible.
- As you are aware, our BUDGET VOTE is May 20! Please exercise your right to vote!
- The Harlem Wizards visited all three schools today for a quick assembly promoting the Education Foundation Fundraiser to be held Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Jr/Sr High School gym.
- All schools will practice their emergency dismissal drills on Wednesday, May 21. Dismissal at the elementary schools will be at 2:45 p.m. and the Jr./Sr. High School will dismiss at 2:35 p.m.
- Food Allergy Management Committee has completed their work. There were five subcommittees who provided recommendations for the five identified areas suggested for managing food allergies in schools. I will be presenting their work to our administrators and nurses who will update our procedures and guidelines and then present a draft policy to the Board of Education for consideration. Thank you to all committee members – parents, teachers, administrators and our Board Trustee, Mr. Giannotti.
- A NYSSMA Festival was held at Bethpage High School on May 5 and 6 where all three schools had many students participate showing their talents singing and playing their instruments.
- The Elementary Spring Concert is scheduled for this Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium and our Junior Senior High School Concert and Art Exhibit will be held on May 20
- Students will get the vote out for our school budget by promoting the annual kids vote. "Which field activity is their favorite?" We are also working on school spirit days that will be held in the upcoming weeks.

Elementary Schools

- Centre Avenue grade 3 students visited Safety Town last week to learn from Nassau County police the rules of the road.
- Grade 5 students visited the Museum of Modern Art last Tuesday

- Enterprise students visited the Norman J. Levy preserve in Merrick last Wednesday learning how they created a beautiful park from a land fill and were given a tour by the Park Rangers
- Centre Avenue School, in conjunction with the CA PTA, held Grandparents Day on May 9th, inviting Grandparents of our students to visit and participate in the children's learning. The also had the opportunity to view the grade 6 Science Fair in the All Purpose Room
- On May 16, The Centre Avenue PTA is sponsoring an assembly program called Journeys into American Indian Territory. A Long House will be constructed on the playground where children will learn about Indian Cultures
- The Centre Avenue 6th graders held their Science Fair on Thursday, May 8 at 7p.m. The audience was thoroughly impressed with the quality of the projects and depth of knowledge that our young scientists were able to display
- Rhame Avenue School's third grader, Gianna Manos, was the winner of the 2014 Humane Essay Contest. This contest was sponsored by the Office of Ed Mangano, Nassau County Executive, the Humane Society of New York and North Shore Animal League America. The award ceremony will take place on Wednesday, May 14 at the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building in Mineola
- Allergy Action Team - Rhame Avenue School celebrates Food Allergy Awareness the week of May 12th – May 16th. Students are asked to bring in a snack from the safe snack list
- Rhame Avenue PTA held 5th & 6th Grade Activity Night on Friday, May 9. The evening's activities included various relay races such as Over and Under and Sneaker Search, and culminated in a Tug of War. All the competitors had a great time, exhibiting team work and support for all participants regardless of which grade or team they were on.
- An assembly entitled, Skateboard Science, was held at Rhame Avenue sponsored by the PTA. Professional skateboarders and a scientist came to Rhame Avenue to show off their best tricks and moves and explain the magic and science behind the art of skateboarding. The children had so much fun they didn't realize they were having a science lesson at the same time!
- Rhame 5th graders are reading "Not Your Parents' Money Book", by Jean Chatzky. Ms. Howell wrote a grant last year that allowed us to buy 50 copies of this book for our young entrepreneurs to read and get a better understanding of how money is made, how to spend it wisely, and how to invest in their future. The children will also have conversations with their family members about how much money it takes to run a household.
- During the first week of May, the CAPS program came into the third grade classes to discuss the topic of bullying. Students identified how other students were feeling by recognizing their facial features. They were also instructed to notice their body language. Students acted out skits in class to model what should be done in situations where there is a disappointment or a social disagreement at lunchtime. Students also noticed what body parts are affected when they are bullied. Their heart is hurt, but they realized that many other body parts were also affected.

- Rhame Avenue will hold a Steps for Soldiers event on May 21, 2014. Students will celebrate Memorial Day in a healthy way by completing laps on the field. RAS is teaming up with the VFW to send toiletries to veterans. Students will show their spirit by wearing red, white, and blue.

Jr/Sr High School

Athletics

- Both varsity boys baseball and varsity girls softball are headed for the division playoffs.
- Combined teams with Malverne boys and girls lacrosse are having terrific seasons and headed for a possible playoff berth!
- Carly Howard has decided to run for Molloy College and we are planning a press release in the near future upon commitment for the press.
- Health 11 is anxiously awaiting programming for next year to bring it down to the 10th grade as a course offering next year.
- Food and Nutrition class went on a trip to Greenwich Village this week for a Food Walking Tour. The group sampled food from over a half dozen restaurants including artichoke pizza!

Guidance Department

- The guidance department is presenting, “MAKING THE CONNECTION: A School to Career Experience,” for students and parents on the evening of May 28, 2014. The program includes an informative and enjoyable presentation followed by a career fair. Free tickets are available through the guidance office. This program is supported by a generous grant from the East Rockaway Education Foundation.
- May 1st was College Decision Day – our seniors are very excited about their selections.
- The annual HOLLER college fair program took place last night at Molloy College. The East Rockaway High School Guidance Department worked with the Guidance Departments in Hewlett, Oceanside, Lawrence, Lynbrook and Rockville Centre to arrange this event. Sophomores and Juniors are invited to attend.
- AP Exams took place between May 5 and May 15. This year we had 75 students sit for 141 exams in nine subject areas.
- Sr. Seminar - Students are in full swing with their internships:
 - 1) Olivia Schmidt - Is working with a photographer in the city. (She did a photo shoot with Taylor Swift)
 - 2) Kevin Blessington is working with a Law firm in Uniondale (Duffy and Duffy). He was asked to join the partner when they go to court later in the month.
 - 3) Many students have been working in the elementary schools assisting teachers with lesson plans. The feedback has been great.
 - 4) Angelina Greene has been working in the maternity department at South Nassau Hospital. She comes to class with some great experiences.

Life Skills

- The life skills students are enjoying the job skills class. The students are working on projects they can use at their job site. (TJ Maxx & Advanced Auto). They also just finished a month-long project called, "The Game of Life." The students had to find a job, place to live and transportation. They were responsible to pay bills and set a budget for the month. Some students were able to save money and some student really got themselves in some serious debt. They are learning to make responsible financial decisions.

Technology

- The 8th grade Technology classes are diligently working on their physical models of the bedroom design challenge. Using a proportion of 1 inch = 1 foot they are working in teams to build a scale model of the design they created in Google Sketch up. Some adventurous students are using the 3D printer to make some of the furniture in their rooms. Finished bedrooms will be on display at the budget vote.

Upcoming Events

Many exciting events will be taking place over the next month – including Broadway by the Bay on May 30. Please consult our calendar.

Memorial Day recess, the unofficial start of summer is May 22-26.

9. Privilege of the Floor - none

10. Board Member Comments

Neil Schloth – Congratulations to those who received tenure tonight. As an older member of the board, I enjoyed watching the principals showing their appreciation to the teachers. On a personal note, Mrs. Hecht helped our son select his college. He tried out for their track team and made it. Just goes to show you that East Rockaway can get into a Division 1 school. Thank you Mrs. Hecht. You have made a big difference. Everyone please come out and vote.

Linda Schmidt – Thank you for coming out. Ditto on all that Neil said. See you next month.

Patti Nicoletti – Congratulations to those who received tenure. Thank you all for coming. Please come out and vote and let your voice be heard.

11. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Linda Schmidt and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk