

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., March 24, 2015 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Including Recognition of Madeline Prucha, Winner of the Centre Avenue School Geography
Bee, Recognition of Dominick Vulpis, Recipient of NYS AAA Apple Service Award by the
Section VIII COA; Recognition of James DeTommaso, Nicholas Cimorelli and Hugh Howard,
Organizers of the VEX Robotics Conference,
Early Literacy Intervention Model Presentation, and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: President; Kristin Ochtera, Vice President; Patricia Nicoletti, Neil Schloth, John Giannotti, Jr., Keith Gamache; Superintendent, Lisa J. Ruiz; Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, James P. Robinson; Director of Curriculum & Technology, John Piccarella; staff and members of the community.

Absent: Denise Lobascio, District Clerk

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 8:08 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil Schloth.
2. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the minutes of the February 24, 2015 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports
4. Correspondence - One
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr. seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items #1-7 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the following resignations, for the purpose of retirement, effective July 1, 2015:
 - a. Barbara Gunther, special education teacher
 - b. Barbara Zappa, art teacher

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Susan Balducci from her teaching assistant position, effective March 18, 2015.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Dr. Alissa Nunes, (tenure area: school psychologist; certification status: Provisional) to the position of school psychologist, effective March 26, 2015, through March 25, 2018, at the prorated PhD, Step 1, annual salary, (plus stipend) established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2014-2015 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Ann Marie Kenny-Chapur, as a Chairperson for CSE and CPSE meetings for the 2014-2015 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a child rearing leave of absence for Kirsten Miolan, effective May 19, 2015, through June 25, 2015.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised spring sports 2014-2015 coaching assignments as more fully set forth on the 2014-2015 Spring Coaching Schedule dated March 24, 2015.
7. 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 substitute workers for the 2014-2015 school year:
 - a. Brian Adams, substitute teacher, effective March 25, 2015
 - b. Kerry Vignola, substitute nurse, effective March 25, 2015
 - c. Diane DeSantis, temporary teaching assistant, effective March 25, 2015

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the following items #1-10 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2014-2015 school year.
2. Approve the Special Education Services Contract with SCO Family of Services, Madonna Heights for special education services for one (1) student, Student ID No. 180006250, for the 2014-2015 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

3. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and The Hance Family Foundation for Raising a Beautiful Girl Workshop for adults on April 20, 2015, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
4. Approve the admission of two Hewlett Woodmere UFSD students, Student ID Nos. 14209 and 18028, to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2014-2015 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the Notice of Budget Hearing and Annual District Election of the East Rockaway UFSD and the publication of such notice as required by law in the "Oceanside, Rockville Centre, East Rockaway Tribune," and "The Lynbrook/East Rockaway Herald."
6. Approve the following resolution to authorize Capital Reserve Fund Expenditure Propositions:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District has determined that there is a need to undertake certain capital improvements and technology upgrades to commence during the 2015-2016 school year ("Projects"), as described in the outline contained in the 2015-16 Budget Proposal on file and available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk ("Report"); and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that propositions be presented to the voters of the School District authorizing the expenditure of available funds from the District's existing Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II and Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Replacement II for that purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board establishes itself as lead agency for the purposes of SEQRA determinations regarding the proposed Projects; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, upon the review and recommendation of the District's Architect, the proposed Projects are hereby determined to be Type II actions, as defined by 6 NYCRR §617.5[c], which will have no significant impact on the environment, and which do not require any other determination or procedure under SEQRA; and, therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes and directs that the following propositions be placed before the voters of the East Rockaway Union Free School District at the Annual District Meeting to be held between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on May 19, 2015, at the East Rockaway Junior/Senior High School; and that

the District Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to give notice of such proposition to be voted at said Annual District Meeting by publishing a notice thereof, four times within the seven (7) weeks next preceding the district election, the first publication to be at least forty-five (45) days before the election, and to have the necessary ballot labels printed for said vote in the form corresponding as nearly as may be with the requirements of the Education Law and the provisions of the voting machine rules of this school district:

PROPOSITION NO. 2 (Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements II Expenditure):

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District, is hereby authorized to expend from the District's Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II, heretofore established by the voters of the District on May 20, 2014, an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to undertake certain improvements to District facilities ("Project"), as described in the outline contained in the 2015-16 Budget Proposal on file and available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk ("Report"), all at no additional cost to District taxpayers; said Project to commence during the 2015-2016 school year and to consist of the following: (1) District-wide window repairs and/or replacements; (2) District-wide security enhancements; and (3) installation of one electronic sign for the East Rockaway High School; all of the foregoing to include equipment, construction and other work required in connection therewith, as well as preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof; provided that the detailed costs of the components of the Project as set forth in the Report may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District and no material change shall be made in the scope of the Project.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 (Capital Reserve Fund for Technology II Expenditure):

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District, is hereby authorized to expend from the District's Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Replacement II, heretofore established by the voters of the District on May 20, 2014, an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) to undertake certain district-wide purchases and/or upgrades of certain technology and telecommunications equipment and hardware ("Project"), as described in the outline contained in the 2015-16 Budget Proposal on file and available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk ("Report"), all at no additional cost to District taxpayers; said Project to commence during the 2015-2016 school year and to consist of the following: (1) computer hardware upgrades; and (2) network upgrades; all of the foregoing to include equipment, construction and other work required in

connection therewith, as well as preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof; provided that the detailed costs of the components of the Project as set forth in the Report may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District and no material change shall be made in the scope of the Project.

7. Accept the following donations from Target "Take Charge of Education" Program:
 - a. \$38.40 for Rhame Avenue Elementary School
 - b. \$45.30 for East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School
8. Accept a grant award from the East Rockaway Education Foundation in the sum of \$500.00 in support of district-wide music educational programs.
9. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, or designee, on behalf of the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District, be and hereby is authorized to participate in the cooperative bid conducted by Garden City Schools on behalf of the participating school districts for automotive supplies, materials, parts as more fully set forth on the attached resolution and authorize the District Clerk to file the resolution with Garden City UFSD.
10. Approve the award of the bid for transportation services to Independent Coach Corp. for one displaced student living in Valley Stream to East Rockaway High School and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

5. Budget Transfers

Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:

- a. Transaction No. 15-0006
 - b. Transaction No. 15-0007
 - c. Transaction No. 15-0008
 - d. Transaction No. 15-0009
- D. Upon motion by Keith Gamache, seconded by Neil Schloth the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.
- E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations - None

6. Policy Matters - None

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to Connie Florio and family on the passing of her mother, Anna Cervone
- b. Condolences to Patti Russell and family on the passing of her father-in-law, Daniel Russell
- c. Condolences to the family of Mary Michaels, a retired East Rockaway School Librarian, on her passing
- d. Condolences to Marilyn Brekke and family on the passing of her mother, Sonja Brekke
- e. Congratulations to Sue Torborg on the marriage of her daughter, Suzanne Torborg to Christopher Schroeder on March 6, 2015

8. Superintendent's Report

- The first meeting of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee took place on March 10. The Committee reviewed baseline information regarding our school district, including enrollment data, demographic data, achievement data and financial data. The district's new mission statement, *Setting a Course for Excellence*, was unveiled and the four priority areas established by the Board of Education were shared. These areas are: Achievement, Opportunity, Communication and Innovation. The four priority areas will form the basis of our goals during the next five years and will also be the foundation for the Strategic Planning Steering Committee's work.

At our next meeting on March 31, we will review the results from the survey which was sent to the committee members and work together to prepare a community survey which will be launched in April. Our hope is to get input from as many stakeholders as possible. The survey will be placed on our website and focus groups will be conducted in the community with the dates and locations to be determined.

The Members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee are: Trish Albate, Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, Marie Anderson, Mary Boccuzzi, Mariah Capone, Dineen Cilluffo, Jake Caracciolo, Austin Caracciolo, Christine DelValle, Theresa Devlin, TJ DiPietro, Danielle Fiorentino, Keith Gamache, Michelle Gamache, John Giannotti, Tara Gonzalez, Meridyth Hansen, Mona Hecht, Carol Hernandez, Courtney Jackson, Joann Krudis, Dr. Richard J. Meagher, Andrew Miller, Patti Nicoletti, Kristin Ochtera, Vicki Perlman Alspector, John Piccarella, Geraldine Pizzo, Jeanine Prucha, Stephanie Quiroz, Michael J. Racanelli, Devin Ralph, Terence Randell, Dina Reilly, James Robinson, Lisa Ruiz, Carol Sanders, Danielle Schaetzle, Stacy Sommer, Neil Schloth, Joseph Spero, Samantha Yagnisis

Thank you to all our committee members for volunteering their time.

- Congratulations to 5th grade, Madeleine Prucha, for qualifying for the State level of the National Geographic Geography Bee. Madeleine competed with thousands of grade 4 through 8 students. This is only the second student to make the State Bee from Centre Avenue in the many years of the Bee's existence.
- Centre and Rhame Avenue Schools held Kindergarten Registration last week. If you know of a child that has not registered, please call Carol Hernandez at 887-8300 ext. 440.
- Elementary parent/ teacher conferences are this week. Please call your school for an appointment if you have not done so already.
- Centre and Rhame Avenue will be going on their Greenkill environmental field trip March 30, 30 and April 1st. Students will be learning about teamwork, pond ecology, forest ecology, orienteering, and rock wall climbing.
- Centre Avenue School is hosting a "Beautiful Girl" workshop for district parents on April 20, 9-11 a.m. in the library. The program helps promote self-confidence in girls and their achievements.
- 4th grade students in Mrs. Kane's class at Rhame Avenue Elementary School have been working hard to fulfill a pledge to complete more "Random Acts of Kindness." Through a partnership with Mepham High School in Bellmore, students are making shamrocks adorned with messages of hope and positivity for a St. Baldrick's event held every year at Mepham High School to help raise money for pediatric cancer research. The shamrocks will fill the halls of the high school with wonderful phrases and quotes of encouragement. We will be following the same model here at Rhame to help spread a positive vibe for all students.
- The Art Club, run by Rhame teacher, Allison Gerbert, was busy creating beautiful recycling posters to enter into the "Covanta Twenty-Fifth Annual Recycling Poster Contest." These students are also helping to decorate our school and raise awareness about recycling and how we all can play an important role in helping to keep our Earth as clean as possible.
- 6th grade students at Rhame Avenue have partnered with our 1st graders as "Reading Buddies." Each week the children find time to read stories to one another and engage in activities to help make reading a fun and enjoyable experience for all. Our 6th grade students are really stepping up to the plate as model students and role models for our younger children. It is amazing to see these students mature and prepare themselves for middle school. They are always looking for ways to help their fellow peers and serve the community.

- The students and faculty at Rhame Avenue have been participating in the W.O.W. or “Word of the Week” challenge during the month of March. This activity, sponsored by the Vocabulary Action Team, challenges students to guess a sophisticated vocabulary word based upon a given picture. Students are encouraged to use dictionaries, thesauruses and other student guesses to refine their entries. The Vocabulary Action Team also sponsored an event this past week called, “Dress as Your Favorite Word Day”
- Rhame Avenue Elementary School students recently performed in the annual Talent Show. This event was sponsored by the PTA and allowed all students to showcase their talents. The children worked hard at rehearsals to choreograph dances with their friends, sing songs, act out skits and much, much more! The audience was filled with excitement and the Talent Show was a big hit!
- In celebration of Youth Art Month, we are showcasing our talented students. We started off with the prestigious Nassau All-County Art Exhibit, which took place on March 15 at Adelphi University. Our student artists included Katrina Ipke (3), Grace Wayar (5), Sophia Passanisi (6) Amy Ogura (10), Alisha Kahn (12), Theresa Fusco (12), Elizabeth Seiban (12), Camila Garate (12), and Senior Scholarship Winner, Kelsey Radigan. Currently at the Broadway Mall in Hicksville, the 6th annual Art in Heart Exhibit is showing until April 19 hosted by the Long Island Art Teachers Association. Elementary exhibitors include Jordan Lu, Manaka Ogura and Nicholas Nunez from Centre Avenue and from Rhame Avenue, Kara Stroh, Leslie Madera and Nicole Acampora.
- In June, The New York State Art Teacher’s Association will be hosting their Legislative Exhibit in Albany for our State Legislators to view the outstanding talents and to recognize the impressive art education programs throughout New York State. Student exhibitors will be Grace Sommer (2), Isabella Abruzzo (6), Adriana DeMatteo (2) and Brian Boyce (6)
- Seniors, Diana Sharkey (baritone saxophone), Brianna Holmes (trombone), and Junior, Emma Nicoletti (percussion) were selected amongst students from 26 different high schools throughout Long Island to participate in the Tilles Festival Band at the 2015 LIU Post Band Festival. This festival will take place at the Tilles Center at LIU Post throughout the weekend of April 24-26, with rehearsals on Friday and Saturday, and a final concert on Sunday, April 26 at 7 p.m. Students will be performing the music of composer, Rossano Galante, who will serve a residency throughout that weekend and will conduct his own music in concert. This should be an inspiring and musically enriching experience for all.
- For Music in Our Schools month the music department invited the 6th grade students to rehearse with the high school Band, Orchestra and Chorus students. The event took place on March 24th- the elementary students arrived at the high school at 8:00 a.m. where they were treated to a faculty performance, engaged in some “ice breaker” exercises and then move into

their performing groups for an intense rehearsal with the high school students. At the conclusion of the rehearsal portion of the event, each group put on their own performance for their peers.

- The Girls Varsity Basketball Team won the Nassau County Basketball Officials Sportsmanship Award this past season along with New York State Team Scholar Award, receiving a team average of 90%!
- This year we celebrated the 79th annual Rock Rivalry competition. This was easily one of the best years in memory regarding participation, sportsmanship, and creativity. This year also included a new academic component, “Quiz Bowl,” which featured teams of four squaring off and answering trivia questions. The faculty is quite proud of our students and their efforts and accomplishments.
- We are proud to announce that this year’s Valedictorian is Diana Sharkey and our Salutatorian is Courtney Jackson. Each of these young ladies has distinguished herself in academics, leadership, and character. We could not have two finer representatives of our school.

9. Privilege of the Floor - None

10. Board Member Comments

Keith Gamache – On Monday, March 9th, I attended *Standing Together to Save Public Education: A Call to Action* at LIU/Post. The keynote speaker was NYU Professor and Education Historian Diane Ravitch. A panel consisting of Dr. Carol Burris (Principal at South Side High School), Dr. Joe Rella (Superintendent of the Comsewogue School District), Jeanette Duetermann (Founder of Long Island Opts-Out and co-founder of the New York Allies for Public Education, and Beth Dimino (teacher and President of the Port Jefferson Teachers Association) all advocated for parental test refusals as the best way to support our children and stand up to the reforms being implemented by our state and federal governments. Newsday reported that over 1000 people attended this event.

Neil Schloth – Congratulations to the award recipients and thanks to Mr. Vulpis. They are lobbying in Albany. Please send a letter, we need our share Thanks to all.

John Giannotti, Jr. – Thank you Mr. Piccarella. Congratulations Mr. Vulpis.

Patti Nicoletti – Thanks to the Robotics program, Mr. Vulpis and all those involved in the presentation tonight. Congratulations to all four classes of Rock Rivalry.

Kristin Ochtera – Ditto on all remarks. I am really proud of our community/district. I am looking forward to our district’s initiatives like “7 Million Minutes” and the Strategic Steering Committee. I could not be more proud.

11. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk