

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., April 21, 2015 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School Including
Recognition of Art Awards for Student Artists,
Technology in Our Classrooms Presentation, and a Public Forum

MINUTES

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

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patti Nicoletti.
2. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the minutes of the March 24, 2015 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports
4. Correspondence – Four
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the following items #1-11 were unanimously approved.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Peter Bishun from his position as the (.5 FTE) junior high lacrosse coach, effective March 30, 2015.
 - b. Lawrence Faas, groundskeeper, effective April 21, 2015

*East Rockaway Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting - April 21, 2015
Page 1*

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a child rearing leave of absence for Kathleen Rottkamp from her elementary teacher position, effective April 13, 2015, through June 30, 2015.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a child rearing leave of absence for Emanuela Matthews from her science teacher position, effective September 2, 2015, through the end of the fall semester of the 2015-2016 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve an extension of the child rearing leave of absence for Ann Marie Kenny-Chapur from her school psychologist position, effective September 1, 2015, through end of fall semester of the 2015-2016 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Kelli E. Hughes to the position of short term substitute teacher, effective May 19, 2015, through June 25, 2015, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for 2014-2015.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Caitlin Klingbeil to the position of short term substitute teacher, effective April 13, 2015, through June 25, 2015, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for 2014-2015.
7. 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 April 21, 2015.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following proctor assignments, effective May 4, 2015, through June 25, 2015, at the supervision salary rate established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract, Appendix C, for the 2014-2015 school year:
 - a. Samantha Clarke
 - b. Athena Kallinikos
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three year probationary appointment of Lauren Besser to the position of ESL teacher, (tenure area: ESL; certification status: Professional), effective September 1, 2015, through August 31, 2018, at the MA10, Step 2 annual salary set forth by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.

East Rockaway Public Schools

Board of Education

Regular Meeting - April 21, 2015

Page 2

10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Lawrence Faas to the position of maintainer, effective April 22, 2015, the Step 1 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Custodial Unit agreement for maintainers for the 2014-2015 school year.
11. 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. Kenneth Anderson, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective March 18, 2015, through June 25, 2015
 - b. Milena Curra, substitute teacher, effective April 22, 2015
 - c. Donna DiFrancisca, substitute teacher, effective April 22, 2015
 - d. Seasonal Cleaners, effective May 1, 2015, through September 30, 2015:

David Swift
Joseph Battaglia
Sean Beckerman
Juan Carlos Bosques
Binafshah Hussan
Lucia Castro
Robert Hennessy
Aniello Scotto
Vincent Careccia
Tomas DeCrescenzo

B. Other Items

1. Upon motion by Keith Gamache, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following resolution was unanimously approved:
BE IT RESOLVED that approval is hereby granted to enter into agreement with the following individuals/firms for student related services, as indicated, in the Requests for Proposal published in Newsday on March 12, 2015, for the 2015-2016 school year, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting service contracts on behalf of the Board of Education.

East Rockaway Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting - April 21, 2015
Page 3

PROVIDERS: Access 7 Services, Inc.; All About Kids; Bilinguals Inc. d/b/a Achieve Beyond; APEX Therapeutic Services; Blue Sea Educational Consulting, Inc.; Carina Hamel, LMHC; Creative Tutoring, Inc.; Eden II School For Autistic Children, Inc. d/b/a Eden II/Genesis Programs; GB Innovations, Inc.; Helping Hands Children Services; Homecare Therapies LLC d/b/a Horizon Healthcare Staffing; Islip Tutoring Services, Inc.; Kids First Evaluation & Advocacy Center, Inc.; Catharina Kleuskens, LCSW; Marra & Glick Applied Behavior Analysts, PLLC; Dr. Barry McNamara; Metro Therapy, Inc.; Positive Behavior Support & Consulting & Psychological Resources, P.C.; The Long Island Home d/b/a South Oaks; Syosset Home Tutoring, Inc.; JNC Services d/b/a/Top Grade; Tutoring Service of Long Island; Variety Child Learning Center.

Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items numbered 2-12 were unanimously approved:

2. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Long Island Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. for Parent University sponsored by ERSD Prevention Task Force for adults on April 29, 2015, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
3. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Child Abuse Prevention Services, Inc. for Parent University sponsored by ERSD Prevention Task Force for adults on April 29, 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 Consultation Services Contract between East Rockaway UFSD and Life's Crusade for Parent University sponsored by ERSD Prevention Task Force for adults on April 29, 2015, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Marc J. Sicklick, M. D., for professional development, *Food Allergy Safety*, on April 27, 2015, and May 4, 2015, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
6. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Engtze Pan, piano accompanist, effective April 22, 2015, through May 18, 2015, and

East Rockaway Public Schools

Board of Education

Regular Meeting - April 21, 2015

Page 4

authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

7. Approve the purchase of the following textbook:

Hershberger, Navey-Davis, Borrás. Viajes: Introducción al Español. Massachusetts: Heinle-Cengage Learning, 2014

8. Approve the contract with Rolling River Day School and Camp for the rental of parking spaces for the 2015 summer camp season and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
9. Approve the award of the bid for AC Split Systems for the 2015-2016 school year to the lowest responsible bidders: Ultimate Power, L & J Plumbing and Carefree Air Conditioning, as more fully set forth in the Facilities Directors Consortium bid run for AC Split Systems March 30, 2015, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the resulting contracts on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
10. Approve the Award of Contract to Saracino Construction Corp. the lowest responsible bidder, pursuant to a published bid opening conducted on April 1, 2015, for 2014-2015 Capital Improvement Program, SED No. 28-02-19-03-0-004-001, Technology Education Building, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
11. Approve the contract for consultation services with Nancy Nunziata, Pupil Transportation Consultant, for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education, a participant in the Southwest Quadrant Transportation Consortium.
12. 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 2015-2016 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Letter of Intent and agreement for said services on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

East Rockaway Public Schools

Board of Education

Regular Meeting - April 21, 2015

Page 5

13. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth, the following resolution was unanimously approved::

WHEREAS, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals, together with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”) for pupil transportation services for the 2015-2016 school year and Summer 2015 (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

WHEREAS, the public school districts and the BOCES have agreed to form a Cooperative (the “Cooperative”) for this purpose;

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District is desirous of participating in the Cooperative for joint solicitation of proposals for pupil transportation services as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to participate in the Cooperative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

14. Upon motion by Keith Gamache, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the following resolution was unanimously approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (hereinafter “Nassau BOCES”) has proposed and presented its Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2015-16 school year (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016), now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2015-16 school year in the amount of \$20,395,834.00 be, and hereby is, approved by this Board

AND authorize the District Clerk to execute the Ballot and Clerk’s Certificate and file same with Nassau BOCES.

East Rockaway Public Schools

Board of Education

Regular Meeting - April 21, 2015

Page 6

15. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth and unanimously passed, the District Clerk is authorized to cast one ballot for each of the following individuals for their election to the Board of Cooperative Educational Services: Susan Bergtraum, Martin R. Kaye, and Michael Weinick.

The business portion of the meeting was paused, and a budget presentation was offered by Mr. James P. Robinson at this time.

16. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the budget to be presented for public vote on May 19, 2015, in the amount of \$37,994,804.00 was unanimously approved.

17. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the following resolution was unanimously approved:

BE IT HEREBY RESOVLED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD approves the real property tax report card prepared by the district's business office for the 2015 Annual District Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said report card shall be submitted to the State Education Department by the end of the next business day following this approval.

C. Upon motion by Keith Gamache, seconded by Neil Schloth the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:

- a. Transaction No. 15-0010
- b. Transaction No. 15-0011

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

E. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters: None

Kristin Ochtera offered the following statement:

*East Rockaway Public Schools
Board of Education
Regular Meeting - April 21, 2015
Page 7*

The matter regarding the NYS assessments is an important one, which has sparked a great deal of controversy, passion and discussion in many communities across the state and in our region, including in our own community.

As you may be aware, the NYS assessments are mandated under federal law and under the New York State's accountability system in the Commissioner's regulations.

These laws require that school districts offer these assessments to all students.

The Board of Education is sworn to uphold NYS laws and regulations, which govern public education and our schools. The East Rockaway Board of Education takes this considerable responsibility with great seriousness.

The East Rockaway School District does not endorse student refusal of the NYS assessments. We believe a parents' decision to have his/her child not participate in the grade 3-8 NYS assessments is a formidable one. The Board of Education respects all parents and students in our community and our response to this issue strives to preserve the dignity of all students in our schools; students who take the exams and those whose parents choose for them to refuse. This is an important topic that raises many questions and concerns for parents and educators alike across our state and in our community. This critical issue also is one that has the potential to divide communities. It is our hope that the community will join us in respecting the different viewpoints held by our parents on both sides of this important issue.

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to Danielle Schaezle and family, on the passing of her grandfather, Henry Schaezle
- b. Condolences to the family of Vincent D'Amico, retired assistant business manager, on his passing
- c. Condolences to John Piccarella and family, on the passing of his brother-in-law, Bruce Bergbom
- d. Condolences to the Tellier family on the passing Anthony P. Tellier, father of students, Anthony and Aidan Tellier
- e. Condolences to Dominick Vulpis and family on the passing of his brother-in-law, John T. Ruane
- f. Congratulations to Jennifer and Jarret Moore on the birth of their second child, Leah Lynne
- g. Congratulations to Kate and Douglas Rottkamp on the birth of their first child, Lily Adele

East Rockaway Public Schools

Board of Education

Regular Meeting - April 21, 2015

Page 8

8. Superintendent's Report

Centre Avenue School hosted the Beautiful Girl program for parents that strives to improve self-esteem in girls on Thursday and was coordinated by Dawn Ragone our elementary social worker. Grades 3-8 students were administered the New York State ELA test last week and will begin the State math tests tomorrow.

I am sure you all read reports in the news about the numbers of opt outs across Long Island and the State. Our district had 52% of students in grades 3-8 who were eligible to take the exam opt out of the ELA assessment.

Centre Avenue and Rhame Avenue school teachers will be trained by Dr. Mark Sicklic during a staff meeting April 27 on life threatening food allergies.

7 Million Minutes presentation was held on March 30. We had a great turnout.

Parent University will be held on April 29, at 7 P.M.

The Rhame Avenue PTA held their annual spring fundraiser at Warehouse 5 in Island Park on Friday night. Over 100 guests were there to support our school and the event raised over \$5,000 for our students.

6th graders in Mrs. Sheerin's and Mr. Bixhorn's classes have been enjoying their new classroom libraries thanks to a generous grant from the East Rockaway Education Foundation that was awarded to Mrs. Longworth, 6th grade Teaching Assistant. Mrs. Banducci's class has been demonstrating how a little kindness goes a long way. The children sent hearts with kind messages to friends at a school all the way in Connecticut where they were added to their kindness tree. They wanted to show just how far a little kindness can actually go.

Students across all grade levels at Rhame Avenue have recently completed their third writing unit of the school year. This particular unit focused on the narrative writing style and the students were excited to show off their published pieces. Rhame bulletin boards are decorated with these incredible writing pieces throughout the school. You will find everything from 2nd grade narratives written in the same style as Author Mo Willems after reading the *Knuffle Bunny* series, to journal entries written by our 5th grade students from the perspective of Lewis and Clark and Sacajawea after studying their expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase. Student Council sponsored a "Garbage Free Lunch Day" in recognition of Earth Day where students were encouraged to produce as little trash as possible to help keep our environment safe and clean.

College visits are in full swing. Students recently went to the University of New Haven and Queens College. Students enjoy the experience and gained valuable information about the schools, as well as experienced interacting with admissions representatives.

The annual Band Trip to Disney was a success despite some travel challenges. Students were outstanding and handled the obstacles they faced with great poise and maturity. Thanks you to Mr. Schloen, Ms. Murano, Mr. Ceglie and our chaperones.

East Rockaway Public Schools

Board of Education

Regular Meeting - April 21, 2015

Page 9

The annual blood drive took place this past Monday.

The Washington trip took place at the end of March and was a success.

The incoming 6th grade students will visit the middle school on April 28th. Parents will also come for a special orientation on May 4 at 7:00 PM

The first annual Chopped competition will take place on April 30 at the High School. Two teams of middle school students will compete. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the event.

Our Strategic Planning Steering Committee is in full swing.

The ERSD Prevention Task Force was created in the fall of 2014 with the goal of preventing and reducing substance abuse and other risky behaviors for our youth through information sharing, collaborative planning and the implementation of educational programs and prosocial activities.

In its first year, the prevention task force:

- worked with the police department to provide training and resources needed to identify youth who are impaired by substances
- hosted the district's first Parent University offering workshops on a variety of topics including substance abuse prevention, bullying, transition, and online dangers
- worked with the Village of East Rockaway Recreation Center to create additional positive and healthy activities for youth
- worked on aligning the district's curriculum in the areas of prevention, health and social/emotional development

9. Privilege of the Floor

10. Board Member Comments

Neil Schloth – Thank you to all of the presenters. Congratulations to all the art recipients. This school district will step up and do things with our children. Thank you Mr. Robinson for supporting our fire prevention program for the High School and Junior Fire departments. I am dressed tonight in support of the Fire Department.

John Giannotti, Jr. – Thanks presenters. Congratulations artists. See you next month. **Keith Gamache** – Congratulations to all the student artists and a special thank you to the art teachers for taking the additional time to enter our students in these competitions and exhibition opportunities.

Patti Nicoletti – Thank you to all the staff members for the presentations tonight. I appreciate all the time, energy and creativity that went into preparing them for us.

of 11

East Rockaway Public Schools

Board of Education

Regular Meeting - April 21, 2015

Page 10

Congrats to our very talented art students on their accomplishments and thank you to their art teachers for providing our students with these opportunities.

Kristin Ochtera – I am very excited about the district moving forward. Town of Hempstead is holding a FEMA fair tomorrow night for those who are still struggling with FEMA. There are still a fair amount of community residents still not in their homes.

11. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth and passed unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk

of 11