

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., September 21, 2015 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by Recognition of ERHS SuperMasters and English and Social Studies Honors by Achievement
Grade 7 Students and the Introduction of New Staff
and Retiree, Marilyn Von Braunsberg
Preceded by a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Kristin Ochtera, Patricia Nicoletti, Neil R. Schloth, John Giannotti, Jr., Keith Gamache, Superintendent, Lisa J. Ruiz; Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, James P. Robinson; Director of Curriculum & Technology, John Piccarella, District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:05 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patricia Nicoletti.

Board President, Kristin Ochtera, turned the meeting over to the Superintendent for Presentations.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed the community back to a new school year. Ms. Ruiz then turned the meeting over to Mr. Spero (assisted by Ms. Reilly and Ms. DePietro) for a presentation recognizing East Rockaway High School students who achieved a SuperMasters' status on any NYS Regents Examination. Mr. Spero also presented certificates of recognition to those students in the Eighth (8th) Grade who achieved honor status in ELA or Social Studies during their Seventh (7th) grade year.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced and welcomed new staff members. Thereafter, Ms. Ruiz turned the floor to Mr. Robinson who recognized the retirement of Marilyn Von Braunsberg and thanked her for her years of service. Ms. Ruiz then turned the floor back to Board President, Kristin Ochtera, who announced the Board would now continue with the Agenda.

2. Upon motion of John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil R. Schloth, the minutes of the August 25, 2015, Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – None
4. Correspondence – None

5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion was made by John Giannotti, Jr., and seconded by Neil Schloth, to amend the starting date of Jacqueline Purtee in Item 5(A)(5) below from September 28, 2015, to October 9, 2015. This motion was unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Keith Gamache, seconded by Patricia Nicoletti, the following Items Nos. 1 through 11 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda. No action was taken with regard to Item No. 12.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change to the appointment of Kelsey Erwin as a part-time (.7 FTE) Reading teacher on the August 25, 2015, agenda and minutes, to a part-time (.8 FTE) Reading teacher, effective September 1, 2015, at the prorated MA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Christopher Considine from the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective September 1, 2015
 - b. Nicholas Spiegler, Junior High Baseball Coach, effective August 28, 2015
 - c. Alison Cerasoli, Varsity Cheerleading Coach, effective September 4, 2015
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the temporary appointment of Monica Saavedra, to the position of school psychologist, effective September 1, 2015, through September 4, 2015, at the prorated MA, Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a leave of absence for medical reasons for Francesca Lagnese from her special education teacher position, effective September 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jacqueline Purtee to the position of leave replacement special education teacher, effective October 9, 2015, as amended, through June 30, 2016, at the MA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time (.8 FTE) appointment of Kristie Hirten, to the position of art teacher, effective September 22, 2015, through June 30, 2016, with her actual start date to be determined, at the prorated MA, Step Entry, annual salary (based on actual start date) set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change in appointment of Laura Risorto to the position of Senior Account Clerk in accordance with the District's request for the promotional examination, the East Rockaway Secretaries Association collective bargaining agreement, and in compliance with Nassau Civil Service

- regulations, effective September 22, 2015.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jennifer Lemus Maldonado to the position of Food Service Worker, effective August 31, 2015, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education Food Service and Monitors Union agreement for the 2015-2016 school year; and further approve the appointment of Jennifer Lemus Maldonado to the position of monitor, effective September 2, 2015, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education Food Service and Monitors Union agreement for the 2015-2016 school year.
 9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Juan Carlos Bosques to the position of Food Service Worker/Driver, effective September 22, 2015, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education Food Service and Monitors Union agreement for the 2015-2016 school year.
 10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Kristin Rochford to the position of part-time (.5 FTE) Varsity Cheerleading Coach, effective September 4, 2015, at the prorated Step 1, Year 1 salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 school year:
 - a. Jeanne Paige, substitute teacher, effective September 22, 2015
 - b. Colleen Kennedy, substitute teacher, effective September 22, 2015
 - c. Meaghan Pickard, substitute teacher, effective September 22, 2015
 12. 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: None.

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the following Items Nos. 1 through 12 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

1. Approve the club advisor assignments for the 2015-2016 school year as more fully set forth on the schedule of club/advisor assignments, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
2. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves an employment agreement dated September 21, 2015, between the Board and Ms. Lisa J. Ruiz as Superintendent of Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the President of the Board of Education be authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education Board.

3. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approve the terms and conditions of the employment for the District's nurses' bargaining unit for the period July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2018, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute the resulting collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

4. Approve the Special Education Services Contract with Rockville Centre UFSD for special education services for the following parentally placed students for the 2015 – 2016 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- a. Student ID No. 369495391
 - b. Student ID No. 369494998
5. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Soren Bennick Productions for Power of One shows on September 29, 2015, and September 30, 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 following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that approval is hereby granted to enter into agreement with White Glove Placement, Inc. 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 service contract on behalf of the Board of Education.

7. Accept the following donations:

- a. \$1,330.95 from the Rhame Avenue PTA for the purchase of a Digital Roll Laminator to be used at Rhame Avenue School
- b. \$200.00 from NYS FCCLA for the successful completion of the Teen Crashes GTG Program
- c. \$200.00 from an anonymous donor for the purpose of aiding one (1) student's tuition in St. John's College Advantage Program
- d. \$2,232.20 from The Whelan Foundation, Inc. for the purchase of musical instruments for the Life Skills Music Supply List 2015-2016

8. Approve the contract with the Department of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disability Services for the period January 1, 2015, through December 31,

2016, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract, exhibits and appendices on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

9. Approve the Collaborative Agreement, Administration of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors In East Rockaway Schools for the 2015-2016 school year with Dr. Richard Addes in accordance with New York State Public Health Law Section 3000c and authorize Dominick Vulpis in his capacity as the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
10. Authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to extend transportation contracts for the 2015-2016 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.
 - h. Bauman Bus Company
11. Approve the awards of the bids for transportation services to the following companies and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. Bauman Bus Company
 1. Chaminade Late Bus
 - b. Independent Coach Corp.
 1. Crescent School
 - c. WE Transport, Inc.
 1. Special education student to Southside High School
 2. Displaced student residing in Inwood to Rhame Avenue School.
12. Authorize the District Clerk to file an application with the Nassau County Civil Service Commission to rescind past Policy 005.41, Civil Service Staff, which provided: “preference in appointments shall be given to residents of the East Rockaway School District...” to comply with the Board’s adopted Policy 9240, Recruiting and Hiring, and in accordance with statutory Civil Service law effective immediately.

C. Budget Transfers

Upon motion by made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the following budget transfer was approved:

- a. Transaction No. – 16-0001

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

E. Upon motion made by Patricia Nicoletti, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters:

Upon motion made by Patricia Nicoletti, and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the following policies were unanimously approved for adoption:

1. For Adoption

- a. 1530, Smoking and Other Tobacco Use on School Premises
- b. 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities under the IDEA and New York's Education Law Article 89
- c. 4321.3, Allocation of Space for Special Education Programs
- d. 4321.8, Impartial Hearing Officer Appointment and Compensation
- e. 5300.30, Prohibited Student Conduct
- f. 5300.70, Public Conduct on School Property

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to Jennifer McKeon and family on the passing of her sister-in-law, Loretta McKeon
- b. Congratulations to our newlyweds:
 - James Hickey to Gina Abbatiello on July 25
 - Marisa Green to Jordan Diamond on July 18
 - Jessica Howell to Christian Beufve on June 26
 - Casey Meaney to Jonathan Wise on July 2
 - Lauren Besser to Igor Dubois on July 1
 - Valerie Buscema to Adam Parasmo on July 3
- c. Congratulations to Jennifer Spiteri on her engagement to Jason Melecio
- d. Congratulations to our new parents:
 - Emanuela Matthews on the birth of Leonardo Sebastian
 - Marie Anderson on the birth of Ryan Howard
 - Kathleen Rottkamp on the birth of Lily Adele
 - Kirsten Miolan on the birth of Ana Lynn

8. Superintendent's Report

Centre Avenue School

1. Centre Avenue School in conjunction with the PTA held its Welcome Back Tea for parents on September 4th for parents to meet teachers and the CAPTA to hear about the academic program for their children.
2. Centre Avenue school is collecting summer work packets that students worked on during the vacation period to sharpen their math and ELA skills. Students completing the packet will

receive a one day homework pass from the principal to use on a day of their choice.

3. Centre Avenue School held Back-to-School Night last Thursday to inform parents of curriculum to be taught and classroom expectations. The CAPTA book fair was held in conjunction with back to school night promoting the love of reading and gave children a chance to purchase a book of their choice. Proceeds will be used to fund the PTA and curriculum enhancement money that is rewarded to each grade to make additional purchases for the classroom from Scholastic.
4. On September 29th Centre Avenue School will enjoy a DASA assembly called the Power of One. This assembly will help students respond to bullying behavior and teach them how to help themselves as well as others.
5. The CAPTA is once again promoting their Parents as Reading Partners program with a kick-off date of October 5. Check out the Power of Words bulletin board across from the nurse's office that was created by PTA presidents Mrs. Gamache and Mrs. Araoz.

Rhame Avenue School

1. The Scholastic Book Fair and Meet the Teacher Night took place this past week at Rhame Avenue School. With the help of our PTA volunteers, the children were able to shop for brand new books which brought smiles to their faces. Teachers prepared wonderful and engaging presentations for Parents on Back-to-School night, too, and we had a great turnout!
2. Surfer's Healing took place at Lido West on Wednesday and some of our students had the incredible opportunity to ride the waves into the shore on longboards with the help of lifeguards and surf instructors. It was truly an incredible experience for all!
3. Art classes at Rhame Avenue are celebrating the birthday of "The Dot" by Peter Reynolds by joining classes around the country to create all kinds of art inspired by and incorporating "The Dot," big or small, singular or multiple, colored or black and white. We look forward to displaying these beautiful works of art created by our students throughout the building shortly.
4. Our PTA sponsored "Back to School Family Picnic" which took place on Friday afternoon. Children, families and teachers were invited to mingle on the field and participate in a number of fun filled activities. Camp counselors from Rolling River Day Camp were invited to organize games and challenges for the children to enjoy. It was a great way to gather everyone together and kick off a wonderful new school year.
5. Literary Consultant, Dr. Parker will be joining us again this school year and we look forward to our continued work together to enhance data analysis skills and literacy instruction. He will be at Rhame and Centre Avenue schools this year to hold our beginning of the year data meetings with teachers and support staff.

East Rockaway High School

1. AP Scholars - East Rockaway High School has a total of **29** students who have been named AP Scholars.
 - 17 AP Scholars - Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams
 - 5 AP Scholars with Honors - Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams
 - 7 AP Scholars with Distinction - Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams
 - 2 National AP Scholars - Granted to students in the United States who achieve an average score of at least 4 on all exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams(These two are also on the Scholar with Distinction list)

We are very proud of our AP Scholars and will be recognizing their academic success at our October 20th Board of Education meeting.

2. The middle school advisory program has gotten off to a great start. Teachers and students have been very enthusiastic about the variety of activities included, and the relationships being formed.
 3. Homecoming will be held the weekend of October 2nd, beginning with a parade from Centre Avenue School at 6:30, followed by the Pep Rally outside on the field at 7:00. The Homecoming game against Mineola will begin at 3:00. Thank you to the Village and Mayor Romano, and the Town and Tony Santino for donating the lights and Showmobile.
 4. The tablet initiative is underway. Parents were given an overview at the 9th grade orientation, and have begun to sign them out.
 5. There is also a research initiative that will be rolled out throughout the year. Each grade level will be involved in a research project that will culminate in a written paper. Teachers will present the projects throughout the year in designated courses by grade level.
9. Privilege of the Floor

Larry Connors: a member of the East Rockaway community questioned the OPT-OUT policy of the school district. Ms. Ochtera stated that the Board of Education has a legal obligation to administer the tests and encourages everyone take it. The Board of Education has no control over personal parent choices when it comes to test taking. In light of the magnitude of the issue and information to be shared, Ms. Ochtera suggested that Mr. Connors schedule an appointment with Ms. Ruiz to further discuss his concerns.

Carol Hernandez: a member of the East Rockaway community, commented in disagreement with some of the assertions Mr. Connors previously made.

Ozzie Lonergan: a member of the East Rockaway community inquired why “Easter” was not stated on

the District Calendar indicating the reason for school being closed; while at the same time “Yom Kippur” and “Rosh Hashanah” were stated on the calendar. Ms. Ochtera provided some rationale about how the calendar was created and agreed to have the Board of Education take her concerns under advisement.

10. Board Member Comments

Patricia Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti gave a warm welcome to the new staff members who were mostly new to the profession. She stated that regardless of what people think, teaching is a hard job, with 50% of new teachers leaving within the first five years. She is happy to have so many young people taking on this tremendous challenge. She thanked and congratulated the students who were recognized tonight. She believes that they were successful due to the dedicated staff we have at the East Rockaway School District, including our veteran teachers who do a fabulous job; administrators, and of all the things we have in place to support our students. She thanked all students, parents, and teachers for their collaborative efforts. She hopes that come next month there will be another long list of students to be honored.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth welcomed back the Community and also welcomed the new teachers. He stated that new teachers bring with them enthusiasm and fresh ideas. He encouraged the new teachers to share their ideas and encouragement with other teachers and to bring and keep their passion and talent to the East Rockaway School District. Mr. Schloth reflected on what we can do to make things better. Last year, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee was very successful. He compared education to a triangle: child, teacher and parent involvement which is a critical component to still work on. Word must be spread to parents to engage with their children in homework and to become a supportive community. He spoke about his role as a member of the Fire Department. Specifically, he would like to encourage parents who need help to come forward and seek help from the school. Mr. Schloth thanked everyone for being here tonight.

John Giannotti, Jr.: Mr. Giannotti, Jr. thanked the Community for coming to tonight’s meeting as well as a special congratulations to all the SuperMasters and Eighth Grade honorees. He welcomed aboard all new staff and wished everyone a successful 2015-2016 school year.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache stated that, in education the first and last days of school are most important. There is an excitement with what lies ahead. He was excited about the success in the new honors program and looks forward to that continuing.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera thanked the public for their comments and was happy that the community members took the time to come to the meeting to share their concerns. Ms. Ochtera stated that, although the Board of Education is not in the practice of discussing employee contracts in public forum; she was happy to report that this evening the Board of Education approved a four year contract for our Superintendent, Ms. Lisa Ruiz. Ms. Ochtera stated that the Board of Education has faith in her and appreciates the tone that has been set in the District and recognizes her importance and the working relationships she has with central administration, staff members in the District, and the Board of Education. Ms. Ochtera and the Board of Education look forward to continuing that relationship.

11. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm to discuss matters of negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk