

East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., November 17, 2015 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Including Recognition of Strategic Planning Committee Members,
a Presentation on Strategic Planning, and a Public Forum

MINUTES

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

Absent: John Giannotti, Jr.

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil R. Schloth.

Board President Kristin Ochtera turned the meeting over to the Superintendent who presented the District's new Strategic Plan. A PowerPoint presentation ensued wherein Ms. Ruiz spoke about the inception of the committee, the work performed by the members, and the resulting vision and goals and vision of the five year plan. She informed the community that a newsletter will be sent home explaining the Strategic Plan, as well as the presentation being posted on the website. At 7:52 p.m. Ms. Ruiz ended her presentation. She thanked and applauded all the committee members. She introduced and acknowledged each committee member by calling them on stage. Ms. Ruiz asked if there were any questions from the audience and again thanked all members for their hard work and time committed to the committee. At 8:00 p.m. the meeting was turned over to Ms. Ochtera who also thanked Ms. Ruiz for initiating the process culminating in this finalized plan.

2. Upon motion made by Patricia Nicoletti, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the Minutes of the October 20, 2015, meeting was unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – September 2015
4. Correspondence – One (1)
5. Action Agenda

Upon motion made by Neil R. Schloth, seconded by Keith Gamache, the following Items Nos. 1 through 17 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

A. Personnel

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, terminate the services of Kathleen Graf from her position as a food service helper, effective November 18, 2015.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Noreen McDougal from her substitute teacher position, effective November 17, 2015.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an extension of the child rearing leave of absence for Ann Marie Kenny-Chapur from her school psychologist position, effective February 1, 2016, through June 30, 2016.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an extension of the child rearing leave of absence for Eileen Levine from her special education teacher position, effective February 1, 2016, through June 30, 2016.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an extension of the child rearing leave of absence for Emanuela Matthews from her science teacher position, effective February 1, 2016, through June 30, 2016.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a child rearing leave of absence from her leave replacement elementary teacher position for Sara Kane, effective December 14, 2015, through February 5, 2016.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve an administrative leave of absence for Michelle Rehs, from her probationary teaching assistant position, effective November 2, 2015, through June 30, 2016; and further approve the appointment of Michelle Rehs to the position of leave replacement special education teacher, effective November 2, 2015, through June 30, 2016, at the prorated MA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers' Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Alexandra Mendyk to the position of leave replacement science teacher, effective February 1, 2016, through June 30, 2016, at the prorated BA, Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers' Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Amanda Shirreffs to the position of part-time science teacher (.8 FTE), effective February 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016, at the prorated MA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers' Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Noreen McDougal to the position of leave replacement teaching assistant, effective November 18, 2015, through June 30, 2016, at the prorated Step 1 annual 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 appointment of Jeannine Iadevaia to the position of Account Clerk (12 month), effective November 30, 2015, at the prorated Step 2, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries' Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the winter sports coaching schedule dated November 17, 2015.
13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised Centre Avenue Club Advisory schedule dated October 30, 2015.
14. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Michele Daniels, R.N. to the position of school nurse, effective November 23, 2015, at the prorated Step 3 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Nurses Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
15. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Januarie Scorsese-Vazquez to the position of food service helper effective November 18, 2015, pursuant to the Step 1 salary set forth in the East Rockaway School District Food Service and Monitor Union Collective Bargaining Agreement for the 2015-2016 school year.
16. 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. Bethany Kinkaid, substitute teacher, effective October 20, 2015
 - b. Lisa M. Gallo, substitute teacher, effective November 2, 2015
 - c. Linda Tarabochia, substitute teacher, effective November 18, 2015
 - d. Jenna Leventhal, substitute teacher, effective November 18, 2015
 - e. Bertin George, substitute teacher, effective November 18, 2015
 - f. Cami Monsiletto, substitute teacher, effective November 18, 2015
 - g. Lisa Coscia, substitute teacher aide, effective November 18, 2015
 - h. Melissa Thorp, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective November 18, 2015
17. 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. Susan Smith

Ms. Ochtera turned the floor over to Mr. Piccarella and Mr. Robinson who discussed the specific components of the Smart Schools Investment Plan. A brief discussion by the Board regarding the Smart Schools Investment Plan followed.

Upon motion made by Neil R. Schloth, seconded by Patricia Nicoletti, and unanimously approved, Board President Kristin Ochtera called for a five minute recess to the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Ms. Ochtera called the meeting back to order at approximately 8:23 p.m.

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, seconded by Patricia Nicoletti, the following Items Nos. 1 through 8 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

1. Approve East Rockaway Union Free School District's Strategic Plan, 2015-2020.
2. Approve the following employment agreements for the 2015-2016 school year and authorize the Superintendent to execute the agreements on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. Anthony Quercia, Director of Facilities
 - b. Mary Volino, Secretary to Superintendent of Schools/East Rockaway Board of Education
 - c. James P. Robinson, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
 - d. John Piccarella, Director of Curriculum and Technology
 - e. Laura Guggino-Hastings, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
3. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Participation by School Districts in the Long Island School Practitioner Action Network (LI-SPAN), an informal network of school based mental health professional, establishing a collaborative relationship between East Rockaway Public Schools effective October 28, 2015.
4. Accept the IDEA – Part B, Section 611 Federal Funding Grant Award for the funding dates of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 with an approved budget total of \$341,683.
5. Approve the Letter of Agreement between Nassau BOCES Center for Online Learning (CoSer 409) and East Rockaway Union Free School District for 2015- 2016, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to execute the Letter of Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

6. Approve the tuition agreement with Rockville Centre UFSD for special education services for one (1) student ID No. 180005900, for the 2015 – 2016 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.
7. Approve the tuition agreement with Long Beach UFSD for special education services for one (1) student ID No. 180007592, for the 2015 – 2016 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.
8. Accept the following donations:
 - a. School supplies from the Cape Cod Home Owners Association of Hewlett Point Park, Inc. valued at \$150.00 for the Rhame Avenue School
 - b. Fees associated with the Italian AP Exam from the Italian American Committee on Education.
 - c. Cybex plate loaded Squat Press (arc leg press) from Mr. and Mrs. Ken Leistner valued at approximately \$3,600.

C. Budget Transfers – None

D. Upon motion made by Patricia Nicoletti, and seconded by Neil R. Schloth, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

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

6. Policy Matters

Ms. Ochtera reviewed which policies are being adopted with some minor revisions. She specifically referred to changes being made to Policy 1230. Ms. Nicoletti reviewed the form of the comment card. Ms. Ochtera pointed out that it can be revised, if needed.

Upon motion made by Neil R. Schloth, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the following polices were unanimously approved for adoption.

1. For Adoption
 - a. 1230, Public Participation at Board Meetings
 - b. 2270, School Attorney
 - c. 5420, Student Health Services
 - d. 8414.5, Alcohol & Drug Testing of Bus Drivers
2. For Review
 - a. 8110, School Building Safety

- b. 8112, Health and Safety
- c. 8220, Building and Grounds Maintenance and Inspection
- d. 9520, FMLA

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to Cindy Singer, retired high school assistant principal, and her family on the passing of her son, Rory Singer.
- b. Condolences to past Board President and Trustee, Linda Schmidt and family on the passing of her father, Paul Whitney.

8. Superintendent's Report

The Kiwanis Kids Clubs are up and running across both elementary schools in Grades 4-6. In each K-Kids Club, students work together on community service projects, develop leadership potential and build moral character. We are thankful to the Kiwanis for bringing us this opportunity and helping to enrich our school culture.

Achieve 3000 implementation has begun across both elementary schools. Teachers received a full day of training this past week and students are beginning to access this new program in order to help build reading strength and stamina through close reading of rigorous informational text with targeted scaffolding. Students work independently with tablets on a grade-level topic that is precisely matched to their Lexile® level. This preliminary effort allows students to build reading strategies, and it also prepares them for the grade-appropriate, whole-class instruction that follows.

The Centre Avenue PTA is sponsoring the Reflections Program and is working with students and parents. The National PTA Reflections Program welcomes students of all grades and abilities to explore and be involved in the arts. Students reflect on a theme, create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts and earn positive recognition for their achievements.

Centre Avenue Visitors Day will be held this Friday 9-10 a.m. Parents will get the opportunity to watch their children learn in the classroom. This program helps foster the home and school connection.

Elementary students in Grades 5 and 6 are working on a new program to improve reading skills. The Scholastic Guided Reading program uses nonfiction texts and packed with new nonfiction books and instructional resources that explicitly support higher standards with strategically challenging texts in a complex text continuum.

Centre Avenue recently had the Nassau County Police Department meet with Grade 5 and 6 students to learn about cyber-bullying and the dangers of social media websites.

A number of students in all three of our schools have been accepted into the 2016 Nassau Music Educators All-County Music Festival. They will all be recognized for their achievement at a later Board of Education meeting.

Our elementary schools recently purchased subscriptions to RAZ Kids for K-2 students to ensure success in the classroom and beyond with engaging, developmentally appropriate leveled books at 29 reading levels to increase comprehension and fluency. Students can read texts at their level and in their areas of interest anytime with 24/7 Web access to practice what they need to become better, more confident readers.

Rhame Avenue students have recently completed their first major writing task of the school year. Classrooms across every grade level focused their writing tasks around fictional literature and students responded to these various works by formulating their own opinions and supporting them with evidence from the text. Our bulletin boards throughout the hallways are now decorated with these beautiful student work samples. We are extremely proud of the progress our students have made with their writing and look forward to their Research Based Informational Writing pieces which are up next!

Our 5th and 6th grade teams have been working with Laurie Pendleton, an educational consultant and literacy expert brought on by the District to help strengthen and enhance our guided reading program in the upper elementary grades. Last week, Laurie visited classrooms, modeled lessons, de-briefed with teachers and helped support our vision of reading growth and success for all students.

East Rockaway High School

The High School has expanded its administration of the MAP assessment to provide data for the AIS teachers to better differentiate their instruction to meet the needs of individual students. This is one strategy amongst many to help strengthen the AIS program.

Thinking Maps implementation is underway. The team of five teacher trainers has gone through three days of training, and led a faculty wide training on Election Day. Maps are already being used throughout the building. A full-scale implementation will begin second semester after teachers have had one-on-one support from the trainers. The teacher trainer team consists of Patricia Murphy, Sara Perrone, Rob Kennedy, Rebeca Rodriguez and Val Parasmio.

Sara Perrone and Frank Altamore also recently provided turn-key training for Compass Learning, a computer-based math and reading program, to help support teachers who are using this new program in their AIS classes.

East Rockaway High School is proud to say that the Geometry results on last June's Common Core exam demonstrated over 7% growth, which was the highest rate of growth in Nassau County. Congratulations to Mrs. Palazzolo, Mr. Altamore and the entire department, and Mrs. Hansen for her leadership.

The new research initiative is underway across all grade levels. Students are performing an inquiry-based research project culminating in a written paper. The initiative is modeled after the New York State model and can be found on engageny.org.

Ms. Ruiz reported that this evening the Board of Education approved the LI-SPAN (Long Island School Practitioner Action Network) Agreement. This is a no cost program for the District. It is made up of a consortium of school mental health professionals who come together to provide training and hold monthly meetings for school staff in the event a school district experiences a crisis. They will deploy trained mental health staff to the district if the need arises. This is not only beneficial to our district but other districts who may not have the staff to handle a crisis.

Ms. Ruiz spoke about the upcoming forum on substance abuse treatment and prevention on December 3, 2105, at 7:30 p.m. in the East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School Band room. This forum is presented in conjunction with the East Rockaway School District's Prevention Task Force and Assemblyman Todd Kaminski. She thanked Ms. Guggino-Hastings and Ms. Mednick for coordinating this forum. She encouraged all community members to attend this informative discussion on drug prevention and treatment.

Ms. Ruiz wished all community members a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with their families; we all have much to be thankful for and she is thankful as well.

9. Privilege of the Floor

Ms. Kim Barbaro – a parent of an East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School student, spoke about her child being in an AIS class with other students who were misbehaving and simply didn't want to be in the class. Ms. Ochtera questioned Ms. Barbaro if she took any steps to speak with her child's teacher, department chairperson or principal. Ms. Ruiz informed the parent that she should take this issue up with the principal and that Mr. Spero would be in touch.

Mr. Larry Connors – a community resident addressed the Board about his comments made at a prior Board of Education meeting regarding opt-out testing of district students. He spoke about his displeasure with the Board's comments at that time. Ms. Ochtera apologized that he was not happy with the comments and thanked him for coming to the meeting.

10. Board Member Comments

Mr. Gamache – this time last year conversations were taking place about forming the strategic planning committee and tonight it was presented. He thanked the parents, administration, and all committee members who put this together. He thanked Ms. Ruiz who had this vision and goal for the district and thanked everyone who was involved.

Neil R. Schloth – agreed with Mr. Gamache's comments above. He also thanked everyone involved in the strategic plan. He said people have worked hard for the benefit of the whole school community. It was very uplifting to bring a group together to come up with a plan for the

District. He has had many conversations with different groups about how to fix things and make them better. He is very excited about the District's new plan. It is clear that the school is moving forward; everyone is on the same page. Much work went into this plan and he is very excited about being involved.

Patricia Nicoletti – shared the same sentiments with her Board members. In light of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, she is very thankful for Ms. Ruiz, all community members, staff, students, and teachers who spent a lot of time working on the Committee. She thanked Mr. Piccarella and Mr. Robinson on the Smart Schools Investment Plan presentation and acknowledged that much work went into it as well. She thanked the community and staff for their input and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Kristin Ochtera – Ms. Ochtera echoed the sentiments from her fellow trustees. She talked about the past weeks' highlight which was Super Storm Sandy which had been revisited on Facebook. She remembered Centre Avenue School and Rhame Avenue School joining forces and all the work involved in getting the buildings renovated which could have been devastating to the District. She is proud of the work done and staying connected to the community. The facilities were rebuilt and the District moved forward. We took that event as an opportunity to develop the District into what we wanted to see for the future. As a group, we were able to make the changes needed to move the District forward. She is also grateful to have worked with a wonderful central administration office.

11. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache and seconded by Neil R. Schloth and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. to discuss matters of personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk