

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., August 30, 2016 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School Band Room
Preceded by a FEMA Update Presentation and
a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Patti Nicoletti, Keith Gamache, Neil R. Schloth, Kristin Ochtera, Superintendent, Lisa J. Ruiz; Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scrio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, John Piccarella, District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

Absent: John Giannotti, Jr.

1. The meeting was called to order by Patti Nicoletti at 7:08 p.m. and Kristin Ochtera led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board President Patti Nicoletti turned the meeting over to the Superintendent. Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. She introduced Dr. Joan Colvin, former Interim Business Official and currently the District's FEMA Coordinator. Dr. Colvin gave an update of the FEMA progress in connection with the expenditures and reimbursement from the damage of Super Storm Sandy. A Power Point presentation was provided. She asked if anyone had any questions. Mr. Gamache questioned the cost of the retaining wall which was different than the cost given by NY Rising and inquired about insurance coverage in the future. Mr. Schloth asked about the reimbursement process of the mitigation work and future flooding. Ms. Ruiz thanked Dr. Colvin for her continued diligence, knowledge, monitoring, and hard work. To date Dr. Colvin has worked with 17 FEMA teams.

At 7:35 pm the meeting was turned over to Ms. Nicoletti who continued with the agenda.

2. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Neil Schloth, minutes of the August 2, 2016, meeting was unanimously approved, with corrected date of "2016."
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – June 2016
4. Correspondence – None
5. Action Agenda

Ms. Nicoletti apologized and said she should have asked if there were any questions regarding the items on tonight's agenda prior to the first motion. She reminded the audience that there will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting.

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following Items 1 through 8 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

A. Personnel

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Caitlin Klingbeil, permanent substitute teacher, effective August 8, 2016
 - b. Alexis Gabbe, junior varsity soccer coach, effective August 5, 2016
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change to the July 7, 2016, agenda and minutes, Personnel Item No. 4, to read:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Caitlin Castellano as an ESL teacher (tenure area: ESL; certification status: initial), effective September 1, 2016, subject to applicable laws and regulations regarding the granting of tenure, at the MA15, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year.

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve an increase in Alexandra Mendyk's part-time science teacher position to .8 FTE, effective September 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017 at the BA, Step 2, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher's Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised fall coaching assignments more fully set forth on the 2016-2017 Fall Coaching Schedule at the stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Nicholas Taylor to the position of Special Education Chairperson, (tenure area: special education; certification status: professional), effective September 1, 2016, subject to applicable laws and regulations regarding the granting of tenure, at the MA30, Step 3, (plus stipend) annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time (.7 FTE) appointment of Peter Cruz, to the position of science teacher, effective September 1,

2016, through June 30, 2017, at the prorated MA30, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year.

7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Frederick Cange, to the position of school monitor (part time), effective upon Civil Service approval, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service Workers and Monitors Unit contract for the 2016-2017 school year.
8. 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 2016-2017 school year:
 - a. Jenna Leventhal, substitute teacher, effective November 28, 2016, through June 30, 2017
 - b. Karen Carrella, substitute teacher, effective September 6, 2016 through June 30, 2017
 - c. Geraldine Fedoronko, substitute teacher, effective September 6, 2016, through June 30, 2017
 - d. Jeanine Schroder, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective September 6, 2016, through June 30, 2017
 - e. Samantha Partos, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective September 6, 2016, through June 30, 2017

B. Other Items

Mr. Gamache questioned whether Item No. 1 referred to a one year or two year plan.

Ms. Ochtera questioned Items 3, 4, and 5.

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Items 1 through 10 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

1. Approve the Professional Development Plan for the period July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2018.
2. 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 for the 2016 – 2017 School Year, effective October 1, 2016.

3. Approve the admission of one Port Washington UFSD, Student I.D. No. 10001069, to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2016-2017 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.
4. Approve the admission of one Island Park UFSD, Student I.D. No. 23072712, to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2016-2017 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 tuition agreement with Rockville Centre UFSD for special education services for one (1) student ID No. 180005900, for the 2016 – 2017 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.
6. Approve the Individual Related Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Michael J Cunningham, Speech-Language Pathologist, PC for Assistive Technology related services for the 2016 -2017 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
7. Accept a \$200 donation from Teen Safe Driving Coalition for the Driver’s Education Program.
8. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal, the equipment more fully set forth on the list of Equipment for Disposal dated August, 2016.
9. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees for the East Rockaway Union Free School District, Location Code 72844, hereby establishes the following as standard work days for its employees in these titles and will report to the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System based on the time keeping system or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these members to the clerk of this body:

Teacher’s Aide (Special Education)	6 hours per day
Monitor	7 hours per day
Teacher’s Aide	6 hours per day
Bus Driver	6 hours per day
Teacher’s Aide (Library)	6 hours per day

10. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 135.4(c) (7) (ii) (a) (4) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education provides for a board of education to permit pupils in grades no lower than seventh grade to compete on interscholastic athletic teams organized for senior high school pupils, or senior high school pupils to compete on interscholastic athletic teams organized for pupils in the seventh and eighth grades; and

WHEREAS, these pupils are to be allowed to compete at levels that are appropriate to their physical maturity, physical fitness, and sport skills in relationship to other pupils in accordance with the standards established by the Commissioner of Education; and

WHEREAS, the State Education Department issues the competition standards for these pupils to compete under a program called the Athletic Placement Process;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the East Rockaway UFSD Board of Education shall permit pupils to compete after successfully completing the Athletic Placement Process for the requested sport and level.

C. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Item 1 was unanimously approved.

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer:
 - a. Transaction No. 17-0001

D. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

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

6. Policy Matters - None

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Congratulations to Jennifer Spiteri on her marriage to Jason Melecio on August 6, 2016
- b. Condolences to Toni Keane and family on the passing of her mother-in-law, Margaret Keane

8. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone back to a new school year. She was thrilled to hear the noise of the seventh grade students in the hallway today.

ACHIEVEMENT

Ms. Ruiz was pleased to report that all hiring has been finished. She was thrilled to have two new chairpersons join the administrative team. New teachers will be presented to the community at the September 20, 2016, Board meeting.

New teacher orientation was conducted yesterday, today and tomorrow. This is an opportunity to acclimate new teachers to the important skills, concepts and beliefs that we hold for our instructional staff of the East Rockaway School District.

In July, Mr. Spero and Ms. DiPietro accompanied six middle school teachers to a training session where they learned the skills necessary to implement the AVID Program. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. The AVID Program targets middle school students' social, emotional, readiness for success through a variety of strategies and activities. It develops students' critical thinking, literacy, and math skills across all content areas. The curriculum will be implemented for all seventh graders in our College/Career exploration course. Ongoing professional development will occur over the next two years, with the goal of infusing the AVID strategies as cohorts move through their high school career. This will align with our Middle School model.

AVID:

- ✓Teaches skills and behaviors for academic success;
- ✓Provides intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships;
- ✓Creates a positive peer group for students;
- ✓Develops a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination.

This summer the Jump Start Program was held for our incoming kindergarten students who are English Language Learners. The program ran for a week and it was an opportunity to develop literacy skills, academic language development and school acculturation in September.

The NYS Assessments scores have been received and as you might imagine, the usefulness of the scores is limited for the District's planning purposes as more than 65% of students opted out. However, our administrators have been analyzing data from the Regents and NWEA results to make instructional decisions for our students and have made adjustments to the curriculum district wide in preparation for our students' return in September.

INNOVATION

This summer Mr. Piccarella was very busy preparing the tablets for distribution to our students in Grades 5 and 9. We are now in year 2 of our 1:1 initiative. In addition, we met with our various consultants and have made plans for our professional development models for this year.

We will be continuing our Thinking Maps implementation at the high school with a plan to roll this out later in the year at the elementary schools. The elementary teachers will be working on developing their skills to enhance Tier I Literacy instruction in their classrooms.

We will be launching a new STEAM program in our elementary schools in the fall. The following is a description:

East Rockaway Public Schools are pleased to announce the addition of an elementary Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Enrichment Program next year. This program will offer all students in grades 3-6 the opportunity to enhance their learning through high interest topics that integrate science, engineering, technology and the arts. The new STEAM program for all will replace the former Enrichment pull-out program. Grade 3-6 students will participate in engaging hands-on activities that promote collaboration, communication and problem solving through a rich STEAM curriculum.

Curriculum modules will include:

Robotics – The students will work in collaborative teams to construct, refine and program a Lego robot. The students will participate in a hands-on, minds-on approach to problem solving.

Coding - Introduction to Video Game Design – The students will investigate the principles of coding and systems thinking in an exciting way. By following a “Design-Play-Share” philosophy, the students will analyze the thought processes that go into effective game design and may incorporate those principles into their own designs.

Maker Space Design – The students will become familiar with tools and techniques for creating 3-D Maker Space designs and sculptures. Students will be exposed to a series of exercises as they work to develop artistic and architectural works.

Throughout their STEAM enrichment experiences, students will see science, technology, engineering, and the arts in modern and real world contexts. They will be introduced to a variety of science research methods including inquiry and experimentation. Students will engage in science and engineering performance tasks, and use core ideas in science to support explanations for real world applications of science theory.

We have also begun work on our new K-12 Writing Framework. Committee members met with Mr. Piccarella over the summer to begin the development of this initiative. We will be rolling this out at the November 8, 2016, Superintendent's Conference Day.

The Board conducted its annual walk through of our district's buildings to inspect the facilities. As usual there was much work done over the summer which included maintenance in all three buildings, painting, carpeting, a new ceiling in the auditorium, and renovations in the faculty room at Centre Avenue.

We are currently finalizing plans for the acoustical panels in the cafeteria at Centre Avenue and have completed a number of security enhancements. You may see a blue strobe light around the buildings. In the event of a lockdown, they will warn people to stay away from the building in the event of an incident.

We also did major boiler work left over from Sandy, as well as some outdoor improvements at Centre Avenue.

Meetings have been held with district administrators to review their Building Action Plans. We will be reporting out on the progress of our strategic plan at the September 20, 2016, Board meeting.

CONNECTIONS

I hope you had a chance to meet our new Centre Avenue Principal, Sherry Ma.

On October 6, 2016, Senator Kaminsky will host an event for parents and students entitled, *Don't Press Send Cyber Civics Presentation*, at the Oceanside High School at 7 p.m.

I met with representatives from the Incorporated Village of East Rockaway over the summer and we have joined with them to form a Cultural Arts Council. The Council strives to enhance the cultural, social and economic life of the community by nurturing and supporting local visual and performing artists and artisans. The Village is planning this event for October 19, 2016, and it will be an East Rockaway Waterfront Art Walk. They are seeking submissions for a logo for the council and have put out a call to student artists to submit a digital logo for the events. We are very excited about this collaboration and thank the Village for reaching out to us so that we may provide these opportunities for our students. Flyers will be sent home to parents. Another arts festival showcasing student and community artists and performances by musical and/or dance groups is being planned for May 20th, 2017. Information will be on Facebook.

9. Privilege of the Floor – Ms. Tierney asked everyone to join the East Rockaway High School PTA Facebook page.

10. Board Member Comments

Mr. Schloth: Mr. Schloth thanked the audience for attending tonight’s meeting. He wished much success to the new teachers and hopes they bring passion to the District. He thanked Mr. Quercia and his Custodial Staff for doing such a great job in the buildings. Students will be excited to see their schools in good condition. Mr. Schloth encouraged all residents to write letters to local representatives to ask for more financial help, i.e., Assemblyman Curran, Senator Kaminsky, and Governor Cuomo. He thanked the administration for their work during the summer. Mr. Schloth proudly announced Fire Prevention Day, on October 16, 2016, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm hosted by the Grant Street Firehouse and invited all community members to attend.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera welcomed everyone back to an exciting year. She said, as a Board, we’ve been aggressive, in a positive way, with some of the issues taken in order to bring the District to the next level. On their walk through she was impressed with the buildings and grounds and the preparations that the teachers have taken to get their classrooms ready. She echoed the comments of Ms. Ruiz and Mr. Schloth in commending the hard work of the custodians in the buildings and grounds this summer. She was happy to see projects started that were long overdue. She thanked everyone for coming and is looking forward to a great year.

Keith Gamache: During the summer, Mr. Gamache reported driving by the building with his sons, who spotted Mr. Ruiz’s car and questioned him as to why Ms. Ruiz was still there since it was “summer vacation.” Mr. Gamache told his sons that although it is summer vacation, there are many people who continue to work year round to make sure things continue to work. In fact, he stated, that is what happened. Many things continued to get during the summer with lots happening in the buildings, including the start of the replacement windows at Rhame Avenue. He thanked all the administration for their work, welcomed everyone back, and looks forward to seeing everyone at the Board meeting in September.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti thanked Ms. Ruiz and the board members who did a great job in explaining what has taken place during the summer. There is so much to prepare for. This school year we are looking forward to some new things. One of the goals of the Board is to get more people involved in the Board meetings. The Board meets twice a month, giving residents an opportunity at the end to ask questions. Agenda meetings are now called “work sessions” where all of the discussion for the Board meetings take place and items get approved. Meetings are open to all residents. Meetings can be lengthy, residents can come and go and may feel more involved. Another benefit is being able to follow up with an administrator if you have a question about an item being discussed. She invited all to attend the work sessions and see it happening! Meetings are now held in the Conference Room, which is newly carpeted and painted, so that it may be more inviting to the public. However, at these meetings there is no participation, just observation. She

said she will remind everyone about the work sessions at all the Board meetings. She thanked everyone for coming tonight and hopes to see everyone at the next work session on September 13th.

11. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Neil Schloth, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m. to executive session to discuss matters of personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk