

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:00 P.M., August 29, 2017, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School  
Preceded by a Public Form

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Patti Nicoletti, Keith Gamache, Neil Schloth, Kristin Ochtera, Superintendent, Lisa J. Ruiz; Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mona Hecht; District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

Absent: John Giannotti, Jr.

1. The meeting was called to order by Patti Nicoletti at 7:05 p.m. Kristin Ochtera led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the minutes of August 8, 2017, were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – June 2017
4. Correspondence – Two
5. Hearing of visitors on items in the Agenda - None
6. Action Agenda

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following Items 1 through 9 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

A. Personnel

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Thomas Schloen from his position as the Fine Arts Chairperson and music teacher, effective August 18, 2017.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
  - a. Michelle Rehs, teaching assistant, effective August 8, 2017
  - b. Kimberly Zaptin, school monitor, effective August 30, 2017
  - c. Katrina Rossi, short-term substitute ENL teacher effective August 25, 2017

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Peter Ceglio to the position of Fine Arts Chairperson, effective August 31, 2017, at the stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for chairpersons for the 2017-2018 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jessica White to the position of Senior Typist Clerk (12 month), effective September 5, 2017, at the prorated Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association Agreement for the 2017-2018 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Valentina Guerrero to the position of food service helper, effective August 30, 2017, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitors Unit Agreement for the 2017-2018 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following special education summer school appointments, effective July 5, 2017, through August 15, 2017, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2017-2018 school year:
  - a. Kristyn Smith ..... CSE Committee Nurse
  - b. Francesca Lagnese..... CSE Committee Special Education Teacher
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Eileen Levine for a child rearing leave of absence, effective October 30, 2017, through January 26, 2018.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised fall 2017 coaching appointments more fully set forth on the 2017-2018 Fall Coaching Schedule at the stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2017-2018 school year.
9. 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 2017-2018 school year:
  - a. Varda Cervone, substitute teacher aide, effective September 5, 2017
  - b. Tera Gilbert-Singh, substitute teacher aide, effective September 5, 2017
  - c. Kimberly Zaptin, substitute monitor, effective September 5, 2017
  - d. Lois Young, per diem substitute teacher, effective September 5, 2017
  - e. Brittany Rose Ward, per diem substitute teacher, effective September 5, 2017
  - f. Kenneth Cohen, per diem substitute teacher, effective September 5, 2017
  - g. Alyssa DiBello, per diem substitute teacher, effective September 5, 2017

h. Ariana Arnone, per diem substitute teacher, effective September 5, 2017

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Items 1 through 11 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda

1. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2017-2018 school year.
2. Approve the employment agreement with Debra Muller, District Treasurer, for the 2017-2018 school year and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement(s) on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
3. Authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to extend transportation contracts for the 2017-2018 school year at the Consumer Price Index with the following:
  - a. Acme Bus Corp.
  - b. Bauman Bus Company
  - c. First Student, Inc.
  - d. Independent Coach Corp.
  - e. Suburban Bus Transportation
  - f. Veterans Transportation Co.
  - g. WE Transport, Inc.
4. Approve the awards of the bids for transportation services to the following companies and authorize the Superintendent and President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
  - a. Bauman Bus Company
    - a. Barry Tech
    - b. St. William the Abbott
  - b. First Student, Inc.
  - c. SEAL Program
5. Approve the award of the bid for 2017/2018 Capital Improvement Program bid, SED No. 28-02-19-03-0-002-015, Rhame Avenue Elementary School, Window Replacement, Phase III, Contract No. 1 to Arrow Steel Windows, as the lowest responsible bidder and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
6. Approve the Restricted Key Section Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and MEDECO (a division of ASSA ABLOY High Security Group, Inc.) for restricted key sections and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

7. Approve the award of the Investigative Services Cooperative Bid for the 2017-2018 school year with Summit Securities and TruView Investigations, for residency monitoring services, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
8. Approve the Individual Related Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Michael J Cunningham, Speech-Language Pathologist, PC for Assistive Technology, Education Consultation and Evaluations related services for the 2017-2018 school year 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 Special Education Services Contract with Rockville Centre UFSD for special education services for the following parentally placed students for the 2017-2018 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
10. Accept the following donation:
  - a. From Jonathan Schloth, new track sneakers for a member of the Cross-Country Track team valued at \$150.
11. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the following items:
  - a. Desk
  - b. Private school text books as more specifically set forth on the attached schedule dated August 22, 2017.
  - c. Four drawer file cabinet
  - d. Textbooks from the Foreign Language Department, as more specifically set forth on the attached Textbook Removal Form
  - e. Textbooks from the Social Studies Department, as more specifically set forth on the attached Textbook Removal Form

#### C. Budget Transfers

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

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:
  - a. Transaction No. 18-0001
  - b. Transaction No. 18-0002
  - c. Transaction No. 17-0018

- D. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.
- E. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

7. Policy Matters - None

8. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to the Verity family on the passing of Cecilia Verity, former coordinator of the elementary schools' after school program
- b. Condolences to Wayne Smyle and family, on the passing of his father, Harold Smyle
- c. Congratulations to Marie Anderson and family on the arrival of Taylor Rose on August 7, 2017

9. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Ruiz stated the buildings are prepared for the opening of school. She thanked Jim Daly, the summer workers, and the custodial staff for getting the buildings ready. Upgrades during the summer included carpeting, painting, relocating furniture for classrooms and offices, and a great deal of maintenance. The Board conducted its annual walk-through and all agreed that we are in good shape. Many thanks and many commendations for their work in getting the buildings "up to speed."

New teacher orientation was held this week. We have 10 new teachers; 8 elementary teachers, a new math/science chairperson and a new physics teacher. They are a wonderful group, have experience, and are seasoned teachers who will bring their expertise, energy and enthusiasm to our District.

Our faculty will return on August 31, 2017, for Superintendent's Conference Day. Our key note speaker, John Perricone, will speak about the teaching profession, specifically, how to help teachers process the important role they play in students' lives.

The new administration team is on board and has been working very hard this summer. Ms. Ruiz is truly pleased with their work. They are acclimating to our District and have begun to meet community members. Ms. Ruiz invited everyone to meet our new interim principal, Mr. Neil Lederer. Mr. Lederer will be outdoors on Tuesday morning as students arrive.

Middle School Orientation was held today. Our new seventh graders looked nervous but were much more comfortable by the end of the day. It was great to see Mr. Lederer at the helm as our new students were coming aboard.

A new communication app is being launched on our website which will push out additional information. When signed up, you will be able to email teachers, see your child's schedule, view all the information contained on the website, as well as other applications. This is an effective tool for communication. The District will continue to send out phone calls and text messages. Our Engage

Every Family Committee will be rolling out again this Fall. There will be a Strategic Plan update at our September, 2017, Board of Education meeting.

10. Privilege of the Floor – None

11. Board Member Comments

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache stated that even though this was his fourth Board of Education walk through of the District's buildings, he continues to learn more about the District and its buildings. Specifically, he thinks about what it takes to get the buildings ready for school and the long term projects and capital projects that are necessary to keep the buildings in good working order. It is gratifying to see those projects come to fruition. It was a great walk-through as the staff continues to prepare for the beginning of school. He thanked all the staff for their hard work during the summer.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth was pleased that the building walk-through was successful and the buildings are ready for the school year. He also was satisfied that new teacher orientation went well. He welcomed the new teachers and administrators to the District. He wished them much success and hoped they will continue to grow and share their enthusiasm and energy with our students. He wants to encourage all parents to support their children and bring any issues to their teachers' attention quickly. There is a chain of command that should be followed. When an issue is acted upon quickly, it helps prevent children from falling behind. He wished everyone a good year.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera congratulated Tom Schloen on his retirement. She echoed the comments of her fellow trustees regarding the new school year. She is excited about the work that has gone into preparing for the 2017/18 school year. Ms. Ochtera stated that she would like all the audience members to attend the monthly board meetings and to bring their comments and suggestions in order to continue to make our District grow.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti congratulated Tom Schloen on his retirement. He will be missed by many. She is confident that Pete Ceglio will do a fabulous job taking over that role; this is a good segue for Pete to move into. Over the past few months, our newly hired administration staff has worked very hard and very well together. As they conducted their walk-through today, she is confident that we are going to have a great start for the school year.

12. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Neil Schloth, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi  
District Clerk