

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:00 P.M., March 20, 2018, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School  
Preceded by a Winter Scholar Athletes Recognition,  
an Instructional Technology, 1:1 Devices Presentation, a  
Scholastic Art Awards Presentation, a Tenure Recognition -  
Dr. Alissa Nunes, and a Public Forum

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. Scerio; 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. Keith Gamache led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board President Patti Nicoletti welcomed everyone to the meeting. She spoke about the presentations that will take place this evening. Ms. Nicoletti then turned the meeting over to Ms. Ruiz.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to the meeting. She announced that due to the impending weather, school will be closed on March 21, 2018. The first presentation this evening was going to be the tenure recommendation of Dr. Nunes.

Ms. Ruiz introduced principal Erik Walter. Mr. Walter spoke on behalf of Dr. Alissa Nunes, psychologist at Rhame Avenue School and recommended her tenure to the Board of Education and the Superintendent. Ms. Ruiz congratulated Dr. Nunes and thanked Mr. Walter for his recommendation.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mr. David Barth, Director of Athletics, to present the Scholar Athlete Team Award. Mr. Barth thanked the Superintendent and Board of Education for their support of the athletic program. Mr. Barth spoke about the girls' varsity basketball team. This season they won the 2018 Class C Long Island Championship, participated in the Holiday Toy Drive to support Greg's Wings, and was a NYS Scholar Athlete team. Mr. Barth introduced coaches Karin Leary and Theresa Amabile. Mr. Barth pointed out that this is the tenth time the team has received this distinction. The team members were called to the podium and received certificates. Ms. Ruiz congratulated the girls' varsity basketball team and their coaches.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Pete Ceglio, Fine Arts Chairperson. Mr. Ceglio thanked the

Superintendent and Board of Education for honoring 13 high school students. These students won a total of 26 awards across seven categories at the 2018 Northeast Regional Scholastic Art Awards. A slideshow of the art entries was shown. Mr. Ceglie introduced art teachers, Kelly Cabasso and Kristie Hirten. The students were called to the podium and presented with certificates. Mr. Ceglie also congratulated Tessa Lark who received a national gold medal. Ms. Ruiz thanked the art teachers who have revitalized the art department. Our students are inspired and the number of exhibits our students have participated in is outstanding. She also congratulated all of the winners.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Alex Goldberg, Director of Technology & Learning Analytics. Mr. Goldberg conducted an instructional technology presentation on the 1:1 devices used by our students. A slideshow presentation was shown highlighting the effective ways the devices are being used in the classroom. Mr. Goldberg introduced teachers, Ms. Donald, Ms. DeVarso, Ms. Schoen, Mr. Canale, and Mr. Altimore. They spoke about how the devices are being used in their respective classrooms and how they have been integrated with their instruction. Students also shared their feelings on the devices and how they use their devices.

Mr. Goldberg asked if there were any questions. He thanked the Board of Education for providing the students with these resources. Mr. Ruiz thanked the teachers and Mr. Goldberg for their hard work in supporting this initiative, as well as the professional development the teachers received for this added technology.

At 7:50 p.m. Ms. Nicoletti resumed the public portion of the agenda. She stated that audience members will have an opportunity to question any items on the agenda. She reminded the audience to fill out cards if they wish to speak during the public comment section. All cards must be handed to the District Clerk prior to the public comment section. Ms. Nicoletti introduced Joseph Lilly, Esq., from Frazer & Feldman, LLP who will be available to answer questions.

She also stated that there will be two opportunities for comment, the first being Item 5 below regarding items on the agenda. The second opportunity will be at the end of the public meeting. Pursuant to District policy, there will be a 30-minute public comment session and a limit of 3 minutes per speaker.

2. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the following minutes were unanimously approved.
  - a. February 13, 2018
  - b. March 13, 2018
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – January 2018
4. Correspondence - One
5. Hearing of visitors on items in the Agenda - None

6. Action Agenda

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the following Items 1 through 13 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 Carol Sanders, from her social studies teacher position, effective June 30, 2018.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Roxanne Lalama from her music teacher position, effective June 30, 2018.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Nancy Minkoff, from her library media specialist position, effective September 4, 2018.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Frances Cloud, from her foreign language teacher position, effective October 15, 2018.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Annette Dubiel from her elementary special education teacher position, effective June 30, 2018.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
  - a. Samantha Czczotka, from her substitute teacher position, effective February 26, 2018
  - b. Valentina Guerrero, from her food service helper position, effective March 16, 2018
  - c. Tina Lewald, from her food service helper position, effective March 23, 2018
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff members on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Dr. Alissa Nunes .....	School Psychologist.....	March 26, 2018

8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Valerie Parasmio for a FMLA leave of absence from her social studies teacher position, effective April 9, 2018, through August 31, 2018.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Bryan Samanich, to the position of short term substitute teacher, effective April 9, 2018, through

June 30, 2018, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2017-2018 school year.

10. Approve the revised 2017-2018 East Rockaway High School 2018 Club Advisor assignments.
11. Approve the revised 2017-2018 Spring Coaching Schedule.
12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Tina Lewald to the position of teacher aide, effective March 26, 2018, upon Civil Service approval, at the prorated Step A annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association agreement for the 2017-2018 school year.
13. 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. Bryan Samanich, substitute teacher, effective March 21, 2018

B. Other Items

At the request of the Board, Jacqueline A. Scrio, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, was asked to provide a detailed explanation of Items 1 and 2 below. Changes were made to the resolutions as a result of discussions at the March 13, 2018, work session. Ms. Scrio answered questions asked of the Board and stated that the propositions below will appear on the ballot for voter approval.

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the amendment of Item 12(b) to reflect a donation amount of \$4,100, was unanimously approved.

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following Items 1 through 12, as amended, were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

1. Approve the following resolution to authorize Capital Reserve Fund Expenditure propositions:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District has determined that there is a need to undertake certain capital improvements and technology upgrades to commence during the 2018-2019 school year (“Projects”), as described in the outline contained in the 2018-19 Budget Proposal on file and available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk (“Report”); and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that propositions be presented to the voters of the School District authorizing the expenditure of available funds for that purpose from the District’s existing Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II, and Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Replacement II; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is the lead agency for the purposes of SEQRA determinations regarding the proposed Projects; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that, upon the review and recommendation of the District's Architect, the proposed Projects are hereby determined to be Type II actions, as defined by 6 NYCRR §617.5[c], which will have no significant impact on the environment, and which do not require any other determination, procedure or additional action under SEQRA; and, therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes and directs that the following propositions be placed before the voters of the East Rockaway Union Free School District at the Annual District Meeting to be held between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on May 15, 2018, at the East Rockaway Junior/Senior High School; and that the District Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to give notice of such proposition to be voted at said Annual District Meeting by publishing a notice thereof, four times within the seven (7) weeks next preceding the district election, the first publication to be at least forty-five (45) days before the election, and to have the necessary ballot labels printed for said vote in the form corresponding as nearly as may be with the requirements of the Education Law and the provisions of the voting machine rules of this school district:

**PROPOSITION NO. 2 (Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements Projects):**

RESOLVED, that the East Rockaway Union Free School District, is hereby authorized to undertake certain school building improvements ("Project") during 2018-19 as described herein, to be funded from existing reserves at no additional cost to District taxpayers, to consist of the following: (1) Window Replacements at Rhame Avenue School – Phase 3; (2) District Wide Security Enhancements; (3) District Wide Interior Upgrades and Renovations; including equipment, construction and other required work, and preliminary, incidental and financing costs; and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00, to be funded as follows: \$200,000 from the District's Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II, established on May 20, 2014; provided that the detailed component costs may be reallocated without any material change in the scope of the Project.

**PROPOSITION NO. 3 (Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Projects):**

RESOLVED, that the East Rockaway Union Free School District, is hereby authorized to undertake certain district-wide purchases and/or replacement of certain technology and telecommunications equipment and software ("Project") during 2018-19 as described herein, to be funded from existing reserves at no additional cost to District taxpayers, to consist of the following: (1) Computer Hardware Upgrades; (2) Network Upgrades; and (3) Smart Classroom Upgrades; including equipment, construction and other required work, and preliminary, incidental and financing costs; and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00, to be funded as follows: \$200,000 from the District's Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Replacement II, established on

May 20, 2014; provided that the detailed component costs may be reallocated without any material change in the scope of the Project.

2. Approve the following resolution to authorize Capital Reserve Fund Amendment Proposition:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District (“Board”) has determined that there is a need to amend the District’s existing Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II, established by the voters of the District on May 20, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that a proposition be presented to the voters of the School District authorizing the amendment of said Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of increasing its ultimate capitalized amount from \$2 million to \$7 million, plus any accrued interest, without any change to the Fund’s purpose or source of funding, and to eliminate the maximum annual funding allocation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes and directs that the following proposition be placed before the voters of the East Rockaway Union Free School District at the Annual District Meeting to be held between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on May 15, 2018, at the East Rockaway Junior/Senior High School; and that the District Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to give notice of such proposition to be voted at said Annual District Meeting by publishing a notice thereof, four times within the seven (7) weeks next preceding the district election, the first publication to be at least forty-five (45) days before the election, and to have the necessary ballot labels printed for said vote in the form corresponding as nearly as may be with the requirements of the Education Law and the provisions of the voting machine rules of this school district:

**PROPOSITION NO. 4 (Capital Reserve Fund Amendment):**

RESOLVED, that the East Rockaway Union Free School District’s (“District”) existing Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II, heretofore established by voter authorization on May 20, 2014; IS HEREBY AMENDED by increasing the Fund’s ultimate capitalized amount to Seven Million dollars (\$7,000,000), plus any accrued interest, and by eliminating the maximum annual funding allocation; without any change or alteration to the fund’s purpose or sources of funding, which shall remain as previously authorized by District voters.

3. Approve the Notice of Budget Hearing and Annual District Election of the East Rockaway UFSD and the publication of such notice as required by law in the “Oceanside, Rockville Centre, East Rockaway Tribune,” and “The Lynbrook/East Rockaway Herald.”

4. Approve the Parking Stall Lease Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Rolling River Day School and Camp for the use of parking stalls located at the East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School for the period April 1, 2018, through October 27, 2018, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Carol Nivens, R.N. and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
6. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Corwin Press, Inc. for professional development services, *Visible Learning Foundation Day*, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
7. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Hicksville UFSD for health and welfare services for the 2017-2018 school year and authorize the Superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
8. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Rockville Centre UFSD for health and welfare services for the 2017-2018 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
9. Approve the Health and Welfare Services Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Valley Stream Central High School for health and welfare services for the 2017-2018 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
10. Approve the Contract for Services with JN Business Services, Pupil Transportation Consultant, for the period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
11. Approve the Affordable Care Act Administration Agreement between the East Rockaway Union Free School District and Seneca Consulting Group, Inc., for administrative services related to the Affordable Care Act for the 2018-2019 school year, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
12. Accept the following donations:
  - a. \$198.65 from James Lores to purchase 6 Rawlings softball batting helmets with face mask
  - b. A grant award from the East Rockaway Education Foundation in the amount of \$4,100 in support of district-wide educational programs

### C. Budget Transfers

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

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer:

a. Transaction No. 18-0014

D. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, 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

#### 1. Policies for Review

- a. 0115, Student Bullying, Prevention and Intervention
- b. 2111-E, School Board Member Code of Conduct Exhibit
- c. 2210, Board Reorganizational Meeting
- d. 2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
- e. 2360, Minutes
- f. 2120.1, Candidates and Campaigning
- g. 5100, Attendance
- h. 5251, Student Fund Raising Activities
- i. 5252, Student Activities Funds Management
- j. 5405, Wellness
- k. 8332, Use of District-Owned Cell Phones
- l. 8505, 8505R, 8505-E, Meal Charge Policy

### 8. Good and Welfare

- a. Congratulations to Diana Collins on her engagement to Evan Sporer
- b. Condolences to Judy Fahrenkrug and family on the passing of her mother, Dorothy Raimondo

### 9. Superintendent's Report

#### **Achievement**

Ms. Ruiz stated that the Superintendents of East Rockaway and Lynbrook School Districts sent a joint letter to the Nassau County Board of Elections regarding use of public schools for



elections. A favorable response was received from the Board of Elections and a meeting with both Democratic and Republican representatives is scheduled for April 9, 2018. Ms. Ruiz will report back the results of this meeting.

Centre Avenue students recently finished their persuasive writing pieces. They used various thinking maps to plan out their writing. In second grade, they each wrote about their favorite holiday and gave reasons as to why that holiday is their favorite. Third grade students wrote a friendly letter to their families to convince them to purchase an item or give them permission to do something. As a culminating activity, students in second and third grade have invited parents to come to school for a writing celebration. Students were able to share their published pieces with their families.

Students at Rhame Avenue have recently finished their third comprehensive writing unit of study this year and are proudly presenting their work on bulletin boards throughout the school. All students in Grades K-6 worked on writing opinion or argumentative responses to either fictional or informational texts in a variety of ways. All students moved through the entire writing process and included Thinking Maps as part of their work leading up to a published piece. There were many publishing parties and we are so proud of the accomplishments of our students and the continued hard work of our teachers in alignment with our District's New K-12 Writing Framework. Mr. Walter is especially excited to hear the Kindergarten students share their opinions with him about what they would like to see more or less of in school. He has a strong feeling that it might be less homework and more recess!

The DECA club sent seven students to compete in Rochester earlier this month at the Annual State Career Conference. This is only the second year that DECA has been an extracurricular activity at East Rockaway High School.

Andrew Schwarzman has qualified for the DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta with over 3,500 schools attending in April by finishing as one of the top five entrants in the financial consulting category.

Peter Wilson finished in the Top 10 in the test taking category of personal financial literacy and Kaitlyn Reddy finished in the Top 10 for the visual advertising category. Both students received medals for their achievements. Ms. Ruiz thanked advisors Mr. Lores and Ms. Robbins.

### **Opportunity**

For the month of February, Centre Avenue students participated in the 10- Day Kindness Challenge. Students were encouraged to do small acts of kindness for classmates, staff, and family members. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, there was a school-wide assembly in which students from each grade shared a few acts of kindness that were done. The members in Student Council wanted to do a random act of kindness and created thank you cards for the crossing guards. They made cards and had students in their grade sign them before they presented them to the crossing guards. The member of K-Kids wrote gratitude grams, which are positive and encouraging messages, to every adult in the building and secretly posted these messages on

their doors.

Student Council members at Centre Avenue are currently researching and drafting letters to our local legislators. They are asking for help to obtain additional financial support since our district is underfunded. Students brainstormed ideas for improvements at our school and included them in the letters. Every year board member Neil Schloth lobbies for additional state aid.

As we continue to brainstorm new opportunities and ideas to Engage ALL Families, Rhame Avenue's Committee utilized the text "*Engage Every Family: Five Simple Principles*" by Steven M. Constantino to begin our outline to develop a more inclusive school culture enabling us to empower families, engage them in decision making as well as build relationships through effective communication. Our action plan development will progress further as we identify and align the specific actions we will take to each of the five principle areas. Our next meeting will comprise of both parents and faculty again as we continue to take steps to bring these core beliefs to life at Rhame Avenue School.

April Francis presented at the NYS Social Studies Conference on "Culturally Responsive Social Studies Classrooms" and was asked by a NYSED representative to join the state level advisory group.

### **Innovation**

Mr. Goldberg has been meeting with the elementary school teachers to share and discuss various online resources that can help engage students in the classroom. Padlet is one of these resources. It is an online bulletin board where students can brainstorm ideas, have discussions or debates, and comment on each other's ideas. Teachers can post videos, links, websites and other resources to help students in their research.

Students in Rhame Avenue's fifth grade classes are beginning to design their websites for April's Entrepreneur Day. The websites will include information about the students' companies and products, as well as originally designed logos and jingles. Q.R. codes will be created from their websites' URLs and put on their business cards so consumers can scan them for more information! We are looking forward to this exciting and innovating upcoming opportunity for our students.

The NYS Mentoring Program has been asked to be observed by a local school district as a model program. Many thanks to April Francis for providing this leadership.

The Social Studies, Foreign Language, and ENL departments will be participating in a pilot "Instructional Rounds" collegial circle for the month of April. The purpose of this is to share best practices and allow teachers to observe and support each other.

### **Connection**

Both elementary schools recently hosted successful Parent Teacher Conferences. There were

productive conversations between staff and families focusing on student progress and achievement.

Last week both elementary schools held kindergarten screening for our incoming kindergarten students. As the district is looking to engage more families, we restructured the format of the process. A resource center was set up for new parents to learn more about our district. Laptops were available to look at the district website and other online resources. They were given a welcome packet with information about the district. In addition, there were parent volunteers who served as Parent Ambassadors. They were available to answer any questions that our new families had.

Our PTA's donated refreshments and pictures were taken of each child to prepare a welcome bulletin board and activity for parents during Kindergarten Orientation in June. We also had a station showcasing the new technology being offered to Kindergarten students for parents to interact with and visit our website as well as help downloading our District's new APP to stay informed of all the wonderful things we have going on in our schools. It truly was a special day for our newest families and their children. At the present time we have 34 students enrolled at Centre Avenue School and 31 students at Rhame Avenue School. We do expect the numbers to change as we approach the new school year.

A remembrance ceremony was held on March 14, 2018, for the 17 victims of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. Colin Barnes read a poem. Mr. Lederer named the students while their pictures were displayed on a whiteboard, followed by a moment of silence. Many thanks to Mr. Lederer for coordinating this assembly. Our students were well behaved and respectful during this assembly.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Rock Rivalry season ended on Friday, March 16, 2018, with the Senior Class winning the cup. Congrats to all the classes for all their hard work and time spent. All classes were terrific and they continue to impress us.

In the best interest of student safety, the sixth grade trip to Greenkill has been cancelled due to the expected Nor'easter. We were lucky enough to find an alternate date to reschedule the trip for April 18-20, 2018. This will also be a new opportunity for the students to explore Greenkill in the Spring with some warmer temperatures and increased outdoor activities to choose from. A letter went home today to families with the new information. New busses have been secured. Thank you to Mr. Walter for his efforts in addressing this so quickly.

Information regarding a Safety Forum will be sent home after the break. Although not finalized, a meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 12, 2018. Discussions at this forum will include security and safety, budget development for additional security, current security protocols, enhancing education efforts with our students including social media threats, and social media lessons and instructions.

## 10. Public Comment

Ms. Nicoletti reminded the audience to be respectful and mindful of students who are present

during the public comment section.

Brooke DeGiulio: student Brooke DeGiulio spoke about principal, Neil Lederer.

Tara Elias on behalf of the Centre Avenue and Rhame Avenue School PTA's: Mrs. Elias read a statement which acknowledged the achievements of the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Liz Curtis: Ms. Curtis spoke about school safety protocols, Engage Every Family Committee, and committee selections.

Ozzie Lonergan: Ms. Lonergan spoke about the salary and purpose of the greeter position; the splitting of Mr. Piccarella's position; employees leaving the district; why are there two assistant superintendents; security plan; purpose of the attorney being present, and fee being charged for his appearance; the Superintendent's salary; and the Rock Rivalry brunch.

Maryann Amabile: Mrs. Amabile withdrew her question regarding the safety forum since it was already answered.

Dan Carraciolo: Mr. Carraciolo spoke about adding more variety to the foreign languages currently being taught; collaborating with Island Park schools (Long Beach and West Hempstead contract expires in 2019); upcoming election dates; and the mascot.

Dineen Cilluffo: Ms. Cilluffo spoke about safety; student athletes not being able to enter the building after a game and for practice; the purpose of the attorney and the fee being charged; and administrators leaving the District.

Christine DelValle: Ms. DelValle questioned the implementation by the Board of Education of the district policy enforcing the 30-minute public comment session and the three-minute limitation to speak.

Tim O'Hagan: Mr. O'Hagan spoke about the cancellation of the Rock Rivalry brunch at his establishment, and the mascot.

Nancy Landerer: Ms. Landerer spoke about the mascot.

Ms. Nicoletti responded to some of the questions asked as follows:

District Policy 1230 (updated on November 17, 2015) refers to the 30 minute public comment session and three minute limit. The policy was implemented this evening in anticipation of many wanting an opportunity to speak.

The Board will discuss adding American Sign Language.

Safety issues will be addressed at the safety forum. If there ever is a situation where students are outside and locked out of the building please let an administrator know.

Mr. Lilly is present tonight to answer questions regarding the mascot. Ms. Nicoletti introduced Mr. Lilly. Mr. Lilly spoke about the history of the mascot and the financial implication for the District of violating copyright infringement/intellectual property.

Mr. Gamache addressed the issue of the mascot. He stated he chose not to attend the committee meetings as this was a building level decision. His obligation is to protect the finances of the district and felt a board member's presence at the committee meeting might influence the decision.

Ms. Nicoletti stated that the Board's position is that the replacement of the mascot should be chosen by our student body. This opportunity should be given to our current students.

## 11. Board Member Comments

Patti Nicoletti on behalf of the Board of Education:

Two to three years ago, the Board of Education suggested to the Rock Rivalry Committee that the venue for the annual brunch, which is a student event, be changed to a more student-appropriate venue; one which didn't offer things like a large bar and happy hour. The venue was changed to a local diner where the brunch has been held for the past several years. There seemed to be a clear understanding between the administration and the committee of the meaning of a student-appropriate venue. The Board's position regarding an appropriate venue has never changed. It is the responsibility of the Rock Rivalry Committee to either continue to follow that directive or notify the administration if it cannot be followed. In this case, neither was done and, unfortunately, it resulted in a very late cancellation at a local venue. Ultimately, the brunch was relocated back to the diner. If protocol had been followed from the onset or the venue had been changed two weeks prior to the event, which the Committee was advised to do, there would have been no inconvenience to the establishment which was originally reserved for this year's brunch.

Congratulations to the winter scholar athletes for the hard work both on and off the field and to our very talented Scholastic Art Award winners. Also special congratulations to the girls' basketball team and coaches for being the Long Island Class C Champions and for being a scholar athlete team. The Board wishes Dr. Nunes a long, happy, and productive tenure here in East Rockaway. Many thanks to Mr. Goldberg on updating the Board on our 1:1 Devices Initiative.

Lastly, the Board wishes to thank Mr. Lederer for organizing a thoughtful and meaningful assembly last week. This event, not only honored the 17 lives who were lost on February 14, 2018, but demonstrated to our students how to exercise their First Amendment Rights in an appropriate and peaceful way.

Please be reminded that the next Board of Education's work session is Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 6:00 pm in the High School Conference Room. We encourage community members to join us. It will provide you with factual information and the reasoning behind the decisions

the Board makes. Be mindful that when you rely on social media or a neighbor for school district information, you are receiving *their* perspective or *their* version of the facts. Attending a work session is an opportunity to receive first-hand information about district business. We wish everyone a restful holiday break.

12. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi  
District Clerk