

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:00 P.M., December 17, 2019, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School  
Preceded by a Writer's Workshop Presentation, Recognition of AP Scholars and Supermasters,  
Fall Scholar Athletes and Coaches Russell Pajer and Daniel Vito,  
and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Keith Gamache, Dominick Vulpis, Neil Schloth, Kristen O'Hagan, Peter McNally, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scerio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mona Hecht; District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

1. The meeting was called to order by Keith Gamache at 7:07 p.m. in the auditorium of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School.
2. Neil Schloth introduced Centre Avenue School third-grade student Eamon Joyce who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to the meeting. This evening we have the pleasure of recognizing and honoring a number of students as well as the Fall Scholar Athletes and two of our coaches. Mr. Ruiz then introduced East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School Principal Richard Schaffer who recognized the AP Scholars and Supermasters. Mr. Schaffer thanked Ms. Ruiz and the Board of Education for recognizing the students tonight. He described the AP Scholars, Supermasters, AP Scholars with Honors, and AP Scholars with Distinction designations. Ms. Terranova joined Mr. Schaffer as the students' names were called and recognition certificates given to the students. Mr. Schaffer also announced the names of the students who were not present. Ms. Ruiz congratulated all of the students and welcomed back the graduates who were also recognized.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced David Barth. Mr. Barth thanked the Superintendent and Board of Education for allowing him the opportunity to honor the Fall Scholar Athlete Teams and coaches Russell Pajer and Daniel Vito. Mr. Barth reported that seven varsity teams achieved the distinction as scholar athlete teams. He then honored individual scholar athletes Mairead Connor, Hunter Vertuccio and Adrianna Polizzi who were called to the stage and presented with certificates. Mr. Barth then spoke about varsity football coaches Russell Pajer and Daniel Vito who reached their 100<sup>th</sup> Career Victory in a win over Island Trees. They were called to the stage and presented with certificates. They have been coaching football together since 1995.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Ms. Mona Hecht who spoke about the Writer's Workshop model which is taking place in the elementary schools. Ms. Hecht was excited to share the Writer's Workshop model with the audience. She then introduced Rhame Avenue School

kindergarten teacher, Caroline Drummy and Centre Avenue School fifth grade teacher, Toni Ann Donald. Both teachers presented a PowerPoint that thoroughly described how they were implementing the model in Grades K-5. A video, produced by Petra Schoen, was also shown highlighting individual students in both elementary schools who spoke about their experience with the Writer's Workshop model. Questions were asked and answered. Ms. Ruiz thanked Ms. Hecht for her leadership and Ms. Drummy and Ms. Donald for the presentation. Teachers have been working very hard learning how to teach writing and she is very proud of the students' writing.

At 8:00 pm the presentations concluded. The Board continued with the public portion of the agenda.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: A question regarding Item 7 (I) and (J) was asked.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, seconded by Peter McNally, and unanimously passed, the following minutes were approved:

- A. November 19, 2019, Meeting of the Board of Education
- B. December 4, 2019, Special Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

- A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: October 2019
- B. Correspondence – None

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, and unanimously passed, the following Items A through H, were approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
  - 1. Emily Judge, lacrosse coach, effective November 21, 2019
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Cindy Dower for an unpaid leave of absence for personal medical reasons from her teaching assistant position, effective December 17, 2019, through June 30, 2020.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Janna Bonacorsi to the position of Director of Guidance, (tenure area: Director of Guidance; certification status: Professional), effective January 21, 2020, through January 20, 2024, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Administrators Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year.

- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Giana Horvath to the position of leave replacement business education teacher, effective January 2, 2020, through June 30, 2020, at the prorated Step BA, Step Entry annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Lisa Marie Coscia to the position of part-time monitor, effective December 18, 2019, at the Step 2 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway UPSEU Food Service and Monitor Unit Agreement for the 2019-2020 school year.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Kathleen Gabriel to the position of part-time monitor, effective January 6, 2020, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway UPSEU Food Service and Monitor Unit Agreement for the 2019-2020 school year.
- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Theresa Owen for a paid medical leave of absence, effective December 3, 2019, through on or about January 3, 2020.
- H. 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:
  - 1. Jacqueline Ludwig, substitute monitor, effective December 18, 2019
  - 2. Donna David, concert supervisor, effective December 18, 2019
  - 3. Brian Fox, substitute teacher, effective December 18, 2019
  - 4. Teresa LaForgia, substitute teacher, effective December 18, 2019

7. Other Items

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, and unanimously passed, the following Items A through L, were approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2019-2020 school year.
- B. Approve the following resolution:

**BOND RESOLUTION OF THE EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW YORK, ADOPTED DECEMBER 17, 2019, AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO DISTRICT BUILDINGS AND SITES; STATING THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST THEREOF IS NOT TO EXCEED \$27,708,336; APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR, INCLUDING \$6,200,000 CURRENTLY ON-HAND AND AVAILABLE IN DISTRICT CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$21,508,336 SERIAL**

## **BONDS OF SAID DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE BALANCE OF SAID APPROPRIATION**

### Recital

WHEREAS, at a Special District Meeting duly called and held on November 14, 2019, in the East Rockaway Union Free School District, in the County of Nassau, New York (the “District”), a majority of the qualified voters present and voting approved a Bond Proposition authorizing the construction of alterations and improvements to District buildings and sites, and the expenditure of not to exceed \$27,708,336 therefor; and further authorized the Board of Education of the District to expend \$6,200,000 from the District’s “Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II,” plus any interest earnings thereon; and to levy and collect a tax to be collected in annual installments to pay the principal of and interest on the not to exceed \$21,508,336 serial bonds authorized to be issued;

Now, therefore,

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, NEW YORK, HEREBY RESOLVES (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all the members of said Board of Education) AS FOLLOWS:**

### Section 1.

The East Rockaway Union Free School District, in the County of Nassau, New York, is hereby authorized to undertake a capital improvement project (the “Project”) substantially as described in a plan prepared for the District by John A. Grillo, Architects, including (as and where necessary): interior building renovations and space reconfiguration; electrical, lighting, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and plumbing system upgrades; masonry, floor, ceiling and lavatory improvements; asbestos abatement; renovations to facilitate access by the physically challenged; construction of new bulkheading and retaining wall; drainage improvements; field elevation; and recreational and athletic improvements, including a new synthetic turf field with running track, ballfield improvements, new bleachers, field lighting, press box, fencing, backstops, dugouts, and related appurtenances; all of the foregoing to include the furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus and ancillary or related site, demolition and other work required in connection therewith. The estimated total cost thereof, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, is not to exceed \$27,708,336 and said amount is hereby appropriated therefor, including the appropriation of \$6,200,000 from the District’s “Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs II,” plus any interest earnings thereon, to pay a portion of the cost of the Project. The plan of financing includes the expenditure of said capital reserve funds hereby authorized, the issuance of not to exceed \$21,508,336 serial bonds of the District to finance the balance of said appropriation, and the levy and collection of taxes on all the taxable real property in the District to pay the principal of said bonds and the interest thereon as the same shall become due

and payable.

Section 2.

Serial bonds of the District in the amount of not to exceed \$21,508,336 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called "Law") to finance a portion of said appropriation.

Section 3.

The period of probable usefulness applicable to the objects or purposes included in the Project, within the limitations of Sections 11.00 a.11 and 97 of the Law, is thirty (30) years.

Section 4.

Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds shall contain the recital of validity as prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds shall be general obligations of the District, payable as to both principal and interest by general tax upon all the taxable real property within the District without limitation of rate or amount. The faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds and provision shall be made annually in the budget of the District by appropriation for (a) the amortization and redemption of the bonds and any notes in anticipation thereof to mature in such year and (b) the payment of interest to be due and payable in such year.

Section 5.

Subject to the provisions of this resolution and of the Law and pursuant to the provisions of Section 21.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, Section 30.00 relative to the authorization of the issuance of bond anticipation notes and Section 50.00 and Sections 56.00 to 60.00 of the Law, the powers and duties of the Board of Education relative to authorizing bond anticipation notes and prescribing the terms, form and contents and as to the sale and issuance of all bonds herein and heretofore authorized and of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, and the renewals of said bond anticipation notes, are hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.

Section 6.

The validity of the bonds authorized by this resolution, and of any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, may be contested only if:

(a) such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the District is not authorized to expend money, or

(b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of such resolution, or a summary hereof, are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

(c) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Section 7.

The proceeds of the bonds authorized pursuant to the Bond Proposition referred to in the Recital hereof, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, may be applied to reimburse the District for expenditures made for the purpose or purposes for which said bonds are authorized. The foregoing statement of intent with respect to reimbursement is made in conformity with Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 of the United States Treasury Department. Pursuant to Section 165.10 of the Law, the temporary use of available funds of the District, not immediately required for the purpose or purposes for which the same were borrowed, raised or otherwise created, is hereby authorized to pay costs of the Project referred to in the Recital hereof, and any such funds so advanced to pay costs of the Project may be repaid from the proceeds of bonds or bond anticipation notes issued pursuant to this Bond Resolution.

Section 8.

This bond resolution shall take effect immediately, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish the foregoing resolution, in summary, together with a Notice attached in substantially the form prescribed by §81.00 of the Law in the *“East Rockaway-Lynbrook Herald”* and the *“Long Island Tribune,”* two newspapers each having a general circulation within the District and hereby designated the official newspapers of said District for such publication.

C. Approve the following SEQRA Statement:

2019-2020 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
CENTRE AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the EAST ROCKAWAY Union Free School District (Board of Education) is considering improvements at the CENTRE AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL located at 55 Centre Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project includes:

- Art Room Casework Replacement
- Creation of Kiln Enclosure Unit
- Exterior Doors and Hardware Replacement

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.5(a), “Actions or classes of actions

identified in subdivision (c) of this section are not subject to review under this Part, except as otherwise provided in this section. These actions have been determined not to have a significant impact on the environment or are otherwise precluded from environmental review under Environmental Consideration Law, Article 8. The actions identified in subdivision (c) of this section apply to all agencies”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR §§617.5(c) (1) & (2), the “*maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility*”, *replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure of facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes...*”, are Type II actions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, after review of the proposed action, 6 NYCRR §617.5, and the opinion provided by John A Grillo Architect PC, hereby determines that the proposed projects are Type II Actions pursuant to 6 NYCRR §§617.5(c) (1), (2) of the implementing regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, and will, therefore, by definition, have no significant adverse impact on the environment.

- D. Approve the Professional Development Consultant Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Barry McNamara dated September 1, 2019 , for professional development services for the 2019-2020 school year, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- E. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract with Gregory P. Franz for the district musical *The Wizard of Oz* leading up to and including the public performances and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- F. Approve the Services Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Long Island Jewish Medical Center through its Cohen’s Children’s Medical Center, to provide behavioral health services, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education subject to final review and approval of the agreement’s insurance requirements by District legal counsel.
- G. Approve the K-12 Merchant Processing Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Heartland Payment Systems *MySchoolBucks*, dated December 17, 2019, for collection of school fees for the 2019-20 school year, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- H. Approve the K-12 Merchant Processing Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Heartland Payment Systems *MySchoolBucks*, dated December 17, 2019, for collection of nutrition payments for the 2019-20 school year, and authorize the

Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

I. Approve the Health and Welfare Services Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and Malverne UFSD for health and welfare services for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize the Superintendent and the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

J. Approve the contract for Health and Welfare Services between the East Rockaway UFSD and the following school districts for health and welfare services for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

1. Baldwin UFSD
2. Franklin Square UFSD
3. Hewlett-Woodmere School District
4. Island Park Public Schools
5. Lawrence UFSD
6. Long Beach Public Schools
7. Lynbrook UFSD
8. Malverne UFSD
9. New York City School District
10. Oceanside UFSD
11. Patchogue-Medford UFSD
12. Rockville Centre UFSD
13. Roosevelt UFSD
14. Valley Stream 24 UFSD
15. Valley Stream 30 UFSD
16. Valley Stream Central HS UFSD

K. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the following items:

1. For disposal, the item contained on the Change of Disposition form dated November 21, 2019
2. For recycling, the items contained on the list attached to the Change of Disposition form dated November 21, 2019
3. For disposal, the item contained on the Change of Disposition form dated November 14, 2019

L. Accept the following donations:

1. From the Centre Avenue PTA, curriculum enhancement grants as follows:
  - a. A check in the sum of \$1,920 for Sixth Grade Activities for the Centre Avenue Class of 2026
  - b. A check in the sum of \$50.19 for kindergarten classroom resources
  - c. A check in the sum of \$59.90 for classroom resources for band students

2. A grant award from the East Rockaway Education Foundation in the amount of \$8,550.00 in support of District-wide educational programs
  3. From the Class of 2019, two (2) outdoor picnic tables valued at approximately \$1,510
  4. From Tim O'Hagan and EGP Restaurant, food valued at \$800 for the Friendship Basketball games taking place on December 21, 2019
8. Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the CSE and CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.
9. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:
1. Transaction No. 20-0006
  2. Transaction No. 20-0007
  3. Transaction No. 20-0008
  4. Transaction No. 20-0009

## 10. Policy Matters

Mr. McNally reported that the following policies will remain for review. The next meeting of the Policy Sub Committee is on January 14, 2020, at 4:30 pm.

### A. For Review

1. 4531, Field Trip and Excursions
2. 4710, Grading
3. 4750, Promotion and Retention of Students
4. 6150, Budget Transfers
5. 6741, Contracting for Professional Services

## 11. Reports

### A. Board President's Report

**Northwell Health:** As indicated in the action agenda this evening, we are moving forward with this cooperative service agreement and once the clinic is up and running we will keep parents informed. We have been working on this throughout the summer, held discussions at work sessions and board of education meetings and are excited to see it come to fruition.

**Bond:** We are developing a timeline for projects with our district architect and will share more information once we have a better idea regarding coordination of projects with outside agencies including the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery. On December 4, 2019, we had an excellent meeting with GOSR that involved a project overview, schedule, and agreements to move forward. We anticipate passing a resolution for our first agreement at our January meeting and will continue to keep you updated as things progress.

**District-Wide School Safety Team:** Over the past few years, we have made significant district-wide upgrades to safety from upgrading camera systems, adding personnel inside and outside all buildings, creating security vestibules, and working closely with our security consultants Altaris. We will continue to investigate products and services that are recommended, in line with best practices, and can be accomplished in a financially responsible manner. A couple years ago we held a safety forum that was informative and well attended and we will discuss if/when another similar forum would be appropriate to have again.

## B. Communication Subcommittee Report

Mr. Vulpis reported that the Committee had its first meeting on December 3, 2019. This is the second year of the Committee. The goal of the Committee is to “create a positive discussion that will potentially drive future district communications decisions.” Currently, there are many ways that the District communicates. Last year several recommendations were made to the Board of Education and many have already been implemented. Discussion centered around what each individual member’s goal for the committee was. This would form the foundation for this year’s recommendations. Mr. Vulpis is looking forward to another good year. The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2020.

## C. Superintendent’s Report

### **School Climate Survey**

Parents should have received today a letter regarding the school climate survey. The survey, as you are aware, is required by New York State, and asks for feedback on student support, academic preparation, safety and behavior, school leadership and family involvement. The results will assist us to determine strengths, identify opportunities for improvement and then develop action plans in each building as well as inform our strategic planning process. The survey will launch on January 8, 2020 and be available through January 21, 2020. We will receive regular participation updates, so we can adjust our reminders for families and staff, and if necessary, extend the participation window for the survey to ensure robust participation. The student version of the survey will be administered to all students at one specific time to be determined during the week

of January 6, 2020.

Many thanks to Lee Araoz who has been working diligently in coordinating the distribution of the survey. Parents will receive an email with a link specific to their family; this is not a community survey but a survey seeking parents' experiences with their child's school. The technology department has compiled data and created spreadsheets of student, parent, and teacher information to be included in the survey. Additionally, Mr. Araoz is working with building principals to generate a list of parents in each building who do not have (or use) email. This is being done so that the district can mail them a paper survey so that all voices will be heard.

### **Achievement**

Rhame and Centre Avenue Teachers visited schools in Port Washington and Valley Stream District 13 to observe a primary grade classroom and intermediate grade classroom to see one of the Reading Programs that we are considering for adoption for the 2020-21 school year.

Students in grades 4 – 6 were recognized for their academic growth and excellence, for their first report card period for High Honors or meeting the criteria for the Star Program.

From the Music Department: Senior Spencer Senzon competed in the All State Conference Music Competition. The Senior High School Chorus performed at Radio City Music Hall on December 13, 2019.

Seniors Chris Perri and Katelyn Reddy were honored as the Nassau Zone Physical Education Students of the year at the NYS Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

On November 21, 2019, senior Aidan O'Connor signed his national letter of intent to continue his athletic career next fall at St. Thomas Aquinas College.

### **Connection**

Northwell Health: The District's mental health staff met with representatives of Northwell Health today to learn how the process would work and how the clinic would operate. All mental health providers and administrators had a chance to ask questions. The clinic will open on January 2, 2020. Other local school districts will also be participating. We will monitor our participation very closely to evaluate the program. Local superintendents will be forming an advisory committee so that we can work side by side with Northwell supporting our students and families.

### **Bay Park Effluent Project**

A team of 14 engineers and project managers from the Department of Environmental

Conservation, Nassau County Department of Public Works and various engineering firms from Albany visited our sites identified for the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant Effluent Project. They briefly inspected the proposed sites for the project which were previously identified including the bus parking and basketball court. I was able to meet briefly with Susan McCormick, the Project Director, to obtain details about the project which appears, at this point, will definitely move forward and involve our property. I proposed that we hold a joint meeting with the *Living With the Bay* team, our architect and our environmental consultant, Kim Gennaro, to review how these projects will be coordinated. The timeline for the Bay Park Effluent Project appears to be moving quickly and they may begin construction, not necessarily at our property, as early as October 2020. Therefore, it will be essential that we coordinate our bond work, the *Living With the Bay* work and the Bay Park Effluent Project work. We hope to schedule a meeting in early January for this purpose where all groups will be present. An article describing this project was published in the December 12, 2019, edition of the *Herald*.

K-Kids sponsored our Mitten Tree in support of families in need during the holiday season. Families decorated a holiday mitten and made a \$1.00 donation to support families with items to bring holiday cheer to those in need.

Centre and Rhame Avenue Chorus students performed Christmas carols during the East Rockaway Village Tree Lighting Ceremony.

The "adopt an advisory" program as part of the NYS Peer mentoring program has begun. Twenty-seven 11th and 12th grade students have volunteered to mentor students in a middle school advisory during the school year. These students have been trained by Diane Urso from the Office of Children & Family Services.

East Rockaway high school social worker Kristen Mednick accompanied select 10th grade students to the Peer AIDS Education and Prevention Training Program at North Shore University Hospital. The purpose of the Peer AIDS Training Program is to educate high school students about HIV/AIDS and to provide training in how to communicate this prevention information to their peers.

East Rockaway high school students, assisted by Ms. Maureen Schutta, volunteered at the Town of Hempstead's Camp ANCHOR (Answering the Needs of Citizens with Handicaps through Organized Recreation) Winter Holiday Fest. They assisted those children and adults with special requests for homemade ornaments and decorations.

Aligned to New York State standards, high school social workers pushed into social studies classrooms in December to deliver lessons on mental health. The push-ins will continue each month in a different subject.

## **Opportunity**

Rhame and Centre Avenue 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will collaborate to perform during the District's Winter Concert. Performances will feature chorus, band and orchestra students.

Thirty-five 9th grade AVID Students went to the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia to attend AVID College Day, which included a college fair with over 30 colleges represented and a panel discussion led by Philadelphia 76er executives. They spoke to students about marketing themselves for college. They also got a stadium tour and stayed for that night's 76'ers game.

Representative from Northwell Health visited senior high health classes to present Stop the Bleed training for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. They learned the importance of first calling 911 in any type of life-threatening bleeding situation and how to pack a wound, apply pressure and use a tourniquet. Many thanks to Mr. Barth and Mr. Rinn for spearheading this.

Alumni Day at the high school took place on November 27, 2019. Over 25 members of the Class of 2019 came to speak to students in grades 9 through 12 about how best to prepare for college and what their first few months as college students have been like.

## **Innovation**

Students in grades 3-6 are designing, building, and programming rovers during their STEAM sessions. Throughout the process they collaborate, and problem solve with their partners to create functional rovers.

East Rockaway high school physics students competed in an exciting and interactive engineering competition. In small groups, they were given a piece of computer paper, scotch tape and a pair of scissors to build a freestanding tower. Each group had one period to build the tallest possible tower and were able to start over and begin with a new sheet of computer paper at any point during the activity.

Students in AP World Modern class at the Junior-Senior High School took part in a historical "speed dating" review activity, where they each took on the role of a historical figure from 1450-1750 CE. They then went on several mini "speed dates" to learn about other figures from the same time period. With that, they had to write analysis statements explaining their compatibility with those other figures. The activity helped students to not only review important content, but also to understand the perspectives of people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds.

Many thanks to David Barth who recently installed a live streaming camera system in the large gymnasium. The Pixellot Camera System will allow for all games, at all levels, to be filmed in high-quality, something that has never happened. The film from these

games will then be utilized by the coaches for further teaching and player/team development. Access to this game film will also give our athletes the ability to create highlight films for college recruitment, build keepsakes or simply give them the ability to share the film with family and friends. In addition, fans who wish to watch the sporting events live can purchase either a monthly or yearly subscription through the NFHS. Additional information will be forthcoming.

#### 12. Good and Welfare

- A. Condolences to Alissa Nunes and family on the passing of her grandmother, Phyllis Herrmann, on November 30, 2019
- B. Condolences to Maryann Napolitano and family on the passing of her brother, John McCormack

13. Public Comments: Next on our agenda is the public comment period. Please note that anyone wishing to speak at this time should fill out a card and comply with all provisions of board policy. Please keep your comments to three minutes, refrain from addressing topics related to personnel matters or individual students. Such concerns should be discussed privately with an administrator or the superintendent at an appropriate time. The board is here to listen and cannot provide immediate feedback or engage in open dialogue. Any necessary follow up will be noted and provided at a later date.

Ms. Randi O'Moore: Ms. O'Moore asked the Board to reconsider field trips to Europe. Her feeling is that it is a great experience for children and staff.

Mr. Ralph Maffetone: Mr. Maffetone asked if homework assignments can be posted in the same place. Currently his daughter has assignments that teachers post on the portal, google classroom and some are written on the board. He was encouraged by both Mr. Gamache and Mr. Vulpis to contact his child's teachers to explain his concern and come up with a solution in a form that is best for him.

Ms. Regina Walsh: Ms. Walsh also would like to see European field trips reinstated and questioned whether a parent survey could be sent getting parental feedback.

#### 14. Board Member Comments

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis noted that Daniel O'Moore was in the audience and commented on how many years ago he talked about a turf field. Daniel made presentations and requests to Mr. Daly and Ms. Ruiz. Mr. Vulpis thanked Daniel for his persistence and now the turf field will be one of the projects in the bond. He told Daniel he should be very proud. Mr. Vulpis thanked the East Rockaway Education Foundation for providing funds for 11 individual grants. He also thanked the teachers and administrators who received the

grants who want to do above and beyond and make their programs better. He thanked Ms. Silver and the chorus for performing at Radio City Music Hall. It was a great performance and wished it was a little longer. Mr. Vulpis thanked the administrators for coming to dinner and supporting the Board. Mr. Vulpis stated how elated he was for the District to be involved in the Northwell Health venture. When the proposal was first presented, the amount to participate was an unrealistic figure. Ms. Ruiz kept with it and all the districts came together and a much more workable figure was arrived at. This is a great program for the District and he thanked everyone for working together to get this for our District. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

Peter McNally: Mr. McNally thanked all the administrators for joining the board for dinner. He enjoyed the conversation and looks forward to continuing to support the District's initiatives. He believes this can be done while working side by side with the administration. He welcomed Janna Bonacorsi to the East Rockaway Team. He thanked both Ms. Drummy and Ms. Donald for the great job they did in presenting the Writer's Workshop. It is very clear to see the students' progression as they move from grade to grade.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth echoed the remarks of his colleagues. He thanked the administrators for joining the board for dinner. He also thanked Ms. Drummy and Ms. Donald for the Writer's Workshop presentation and for staying until the end of the meeting. Writing is such an important critical skill. The District is stepping up the program and making our students good writers. Mr. Schloth thanked Mr. Araoz for live streaming tonight's meeting and coming to all the board meetings. He joins with Mr. Vulpis in stressing the value of the association with Northwell Health's clinic and crisis intervention program. With their involvement, different services will become available to students and parents without parents having to stumble through the process. It will be a good thing for our students during a time of crisis. Mr. Schloth also stated he has become a member of the District's Safety Committee and will be reporting back to the community as the meetings take place. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season and thanked everyone for attending.

Ms. Ruiz added that Ms. Claire Maini will be appointed club advisor to the Video Club and will be working with student volunteers to take over live-streaming district events. Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. Araoz for taking on this responsibility until the club advisor was appointed.

Kristen O'Hagan: Ms. O'Hagan thanked the administrators for sharing dinner with the board. She also welcomed and congratulated newly appointed staff members Janna Bonacorsi and Giana Horvath to the East Rockaway family in their new positions. Ms. O'Hagan thanked Ms. Drummy and Ms. Donald for their presentation. She was truly impressed with the young writers. She thanked the students who were recognized tonight: fall scholar athletes, AP Scholars and Supermasters. She congratulated coaches Russell Pajer and Daniel Vito on their 100<sup>th</sup> career victories. It is hard to believe that they started 24 years

ago when she graduated. Ms. O'Hagan wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache echoed all the wonderful comments and statements of his fellow board members. A parent approached me with a concern over the weekend and I was happy to hear that they had initially already taken it to the most appropriate level of concern. They weren't fully pleased with the response, so I let them know that we have a chain of command and they should address their concern up to the next level. We have developed a communication protocol to promote direct, open and respectful interactions so that problems and concerns can be worked out quickly and efficiently. The protocol starts with the staff member closest to the situation and moves up from there if necessary. The document is titled "Who do I call with a question or suggestion" and can be found under the Parents/Students tab at the top of the District's website. We are confident that most matters will be resolved effectively by following this chain of command. If an issue is not resolved and is brought to our attention, after all proper channels have been followed, we will listen to the complaint and work appropriately with our administration to achieve a responsible resolution. District policy establishes this protocol and it is respectful of the professionals who teach and interact with our children.

Mr. Gamache wished everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season with friends and family. He looks forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!

15. Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Peter McNally, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi  
District Clerk