

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., October 14, 2008 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by a Salute to the Board of Education and a Public Forum

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Mary Boccuzzi, Marie Girace, Vicki Alspector, Neil Schloth, Linda Schmidt, Superintendent; Dr. Roseanne Melucci, Director of Finance and Operations; Concetta Robinson

Absent: Denise Lobascio, District Clerk

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order by Mary Boccuzzi and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Linda Schmidt.
2. Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Neil Schloth the minutes of the September 16, 2008 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Receipt of Financial Reports for June and July, 2008 were acknowledged.
4. Correspondence – 2
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Marie Girace, the following items #1-13 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of John Klee, from the position of maintainer, effective October 7, 2008.
2. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation/termination of Lisa Harris, from her position as teacher aide, effective October 3, 2008.
3. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Kathleen Hobbs to the position of teacher aide, effective September 17, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the Step A hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Luanne Sheridan to the position of teacher aide, effective September 26, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the Step A hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Michele Bonziglia to the position of part-time monitor, effective September 29, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitor Union Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the winter sports 2008-2009 coaching assignments as more fully set forth on the attached schedule.
7. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Susan Glickman from the position of Teacher Assistant, effective October 1, 2008, and approve your appointment to the probationary position of elementary teacher, effective October 2, 2008 at the prorated MA+10, Step 2 annual salary set

forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

8. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Susan Pereira from the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective October 14, 2008 and approve the appointment of Susan Pereira to the probationary position of Teacher Assistant, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for Teacher Assistants for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Kathleen Kelly from the position of part-time monitor, effective October 14, 2008.
10. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept the resignation of Maria Kirschbaum from the position of food service helper, effective October 10, 2008.
11. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Lisa Zeilberger to the position of food service helper, effective October 14, 2008 through June 30, 2009, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitor Union Agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

12. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the hourly salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education:

Denise Sandberg, substitute nurse, effective September 18, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Diana Manz, substitute teacher, effective September 26, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Maureen Schutta, substitute social worker, effective October 2, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Shannon Quinn, substitute teacher, effective October 8, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Milka Witt, substitute teacher, effective October 8, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Catherine Murray, substitute nurse, effective October 14, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Siobhan Kearns, substitute teacher aide, effective October 16, 2008 through June 30, 2009

13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the “emergency, conditional” personnel appointments for the following individuals pending receipt of notification of their fingerprint clearance from the State of New York, Department of Education:

Dennis Moriarty, cross country track coach

Alan Freeman, social studies teacher ALPSS

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Vicki Alspector, the following items #1-6 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approve the terms and conditions of employment for the East Rockaway Teachers Association for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011, as set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement dated September 25, 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute the resulting collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

2. Approve the club advisor assignments for the 2008– 2009 school year as more fully set forth on the attached schedule of Club/Advisor assignments and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
3. Approve the agreement with Edwards Service for repairs and maintenance services more specifically set forth in the agreement for the 2008 – 2009 school year and authorize the superintendent of schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.
- ~~4.~~ Approve the employment agreement with Nancy Foders as the temporary clerk/secretary, effective October 14, 2008 through December 23, 2008 and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the tuition contract with Levittown Union Free School District, Gerald R. Claps Career & Technical Center for the period September 3, 2008 through June 12, 2009 and authorize the President of the Board of Education and District Clerk to execute the tuition contract.
6. Approve the contract with Bio Sense Pest Management, Inc. for pest control services as more specifically set forth in the agreement for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 and authorize the superintendent of schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items #7-9 were unanimously approved:

7. Award the contract for transportation services to Winthrop Avenue School in Bellmore, NY to First Student (formerly Laidlaw) as the lowest responsible bidder and authorize the Director of Finance & Operations to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
8. Award the contract for transportation services to Woodward Parkway School in Farmingdale, NY to Acme Bus Corp. as the lowest responsible bidder and authorize the Director of Finance & Operations to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
9. Award the contract for transportation services to Plainedge Middle School in Bethpage, NY to Acme Bus Corp. as the lowest responsible bidder and authorize the Director of Finance & Operations to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following times C&D were unanimously approved:

C. CSE Recommendations

D. CPSE Recommendations

6. Policy Matters – None

7. Superintendent's Report

I want to thank the members of the Board for all of their time and devotion to our school district. Although you only see them once a month they spend a lot of their time in meetings and in reading information that is provided to them on a weekly basis. I thank them for their commitment.

Many things have happened in our schools this past month. Our K-2 students at Rhame participated in a national shared reading experience. It was a virtual read-a-long with the book Corduroy.

October is fire safety month and our students have participated in activities to increase their awareness on fire safety and prevention. There have been poster contests and daily announcements.

Our ESL teachers participate in a county-wide consortium through Nassau BOCES. Recently they received three iPods, stereos, speakers, external hard drive, and digital cameras through this partnership. Research has shown that students learning English as a second language benefit from a multi-sensory approach. The teachers were also given training on how to implement this technology in their classes.

I am pleased to announce that we have an AP Scholar with honors—Julia Romano. This means she achieved a score of 3 or higher on 4 or more of the AP exams. We also have five AP Scholars—Brennan Blumenthal, Josephine Bruno, Jared Dorman, Michael Fuller and Benjamin Lukens. Each of these students achieved a 3 or higher on three or more exams.

The Centre Avenue PTA sponsored an assembly on Scientific Method for students in grades K-6.

We've implemented our K-2 reading program, Foundations, and the teachers report that it is going well and the students are responding positively. It is too soon to have any hard data.

In the world of athletics Mr. Vulpis reports that our fall sports enrollment is at an all time high. We have approximately 200 students in the program. Also, the final home volleyball game will be 10/17. The winner will be in 1st place for the upcoming playoffs.

Our marching band performed at the pep rally and homecoming. Also, our senior chorus performed at the HS Back to School Night.

At Centre Avenue our grade 4 students learned how to make tin relief sculptures of environmental depictions. This month our social emotional words are: Grade 6—motivation; Grade 7—communicate, patience, greedy, enthusiasm; Grade 8—Altruism; indivisible, enraged, remorse.

We have completed the work on the dust collection system in the shop room at the high school. The football tower has also been completed as the window and ladder have been installed. The High School Conference room has a new look as new carpeting was installed. This room is used extensively.

East Rockaway will once again participate in a MS Collegial Circle. This is our second year. We partner with four other schools to keep the costs down for this professional development opportunity. Last year four teachers participated and this year there are five teachers.

At Rhame Avenue on 10/8 the students participated in the National Walk to School Project.

We had successful Back to School Nights at all three schools.

To follow up on previous meetings:

We have created a third section for kindergarten at Centre Avenue School. This was not based solely on numbers but on the needs of the children in this grade.

At a past meeting I was asked about being a Blue Ribbon School. The Board asked me to research that and I discovered that you can no longer apply but need to be invited. Invitations are based scoring in the top 10% of the state for ELA and mathematics. A list is generated at the state level and nineteen schools are invited. Although there may be many more schools in the top 10% only nineteen are invited each year. Another condition is that the highest grade level in your building must meet the top 10% rule. Even if all the other grades are in the top 10% if the highest grade level is not, the school will not make the list. The Jr/Sr high will never be eligible because our top grade level is 12th grade and this applies only for 3-8 testing.

That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

One community member read a letter of thanks from the parents of the Kindergarten students at Centre Ave. for the addition of a third class.

Another community member asked about the conflict between fall sports (Cross Country) and band. Mary Boccuzzi replied that it will be taken up with the site based management team at their meeting next week.

Another community member invited the community to attend the next meeting of the East Rockaway Education Foundation.

Another community member questioned what the Board’s plan would be with the economic woes we are facing today. Mary Boccuzzi replied that there will be discussion and the Board will work within the boundaries of our financial constraints. Sometimes the State paints everyone with the same brush, like the lawyer issue, it is still unclear if it was illegal if something like that was done. Sometimes things get blown out of proportion. There are always three sides to every story.

Another community member asked that since we started a third section of Kindergarten, how this will continue every year. Dr. Melucci replied that we don’t know yet and it will depend on the needs of the children.

Another community member stated that there was a message board at Centre Avenue and was wondering how one could be obtained for Rhame Ave. Mrs. Tufano replied that the message board at Centre Ave. was donated by the PTA.

Another community member asked if there would ever be a cap on our class size. Dr. Melucci replied that every year we look at the numbers and look at the budget. We never know how many new students will move into the district. In order to put a cap on we would have to have a Board of Education policy if they wanted to move in that direction. Mary Boccuzzi added that policy is always good to have but cannot be so definitive. In the teacher’s contract there is something about being an average class size. We always do the best for the most with the least.

Another community member asked if there was a % of how the students in the AP classes did on their tests. Dr. Melucci replied that the results were not what we had hoped and we will continue to look at ways to improve student performance on the AP tests. The community member commented that not all the students took the AP test seriously.

9. Board Member Comments

Neil Schloth – I would like to thank everyone. This is uplifting and really makes us feel appreciated. I would also like to thank the teachers and administrators for coming up with a fair contract.

Vicki Alspector – Ditto. We work with a lot of people who say that this is a thankless job but we don’t feel that way.

Linda Schmidt – Thank you to the Rhame Avenue children, this is the first Board Appreciation for me. Thank you to the Kindergarten parents, the children will benefit.

Marie Girace – Thank you Rhame Avenue and all other PTAs and the children. It’s all about the kids. It takes a lot of time to put a meeting together and we are glad that you come out to hear what we have to say. Thanks for coming.

Mary Boccuzzi – We had a conversation about Board of Education recognition, thinking maybe the PTAs feel pressured; but seeing this tonight makes you feel you are doing the right thing. On nights like tonight, it makes it all worth it. Thank you to the teachers and administrators for coming.

10. Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Vicki Alspector and unanimously passed the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk