

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., March 24, 2009 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by a Presentation on the K-2 Reading (Foundations)
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; District Clerk, Denise Lobascio.

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:32 pm by Mary Boccuzzi and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil Schloth.
2. Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Vicki Alspector, the Minutes of the February 24, 2009 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial – January 2009
4. Correspondence - One Thank You note.
5. Action Agenda
 - A. Personnel
Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items #1 – 7 were unanimously approved:
 1. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation for the purpose of retirement of John J. Morley from the position of physical education teacher, effective June 30, 2009.
 2. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Lucia Arena to the position of part-time monitor, effective February 23, 2009 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.
 3. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the request for a child rearing leave of absence of Gail Beyrer from her elementary teacher position, effective April 20, 2009 through June 30, 2009.
 4. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the request for a leave of absence of Laura Clarke from her teacher aide position, effective March 9, 2009 through June 5, 2009.
 5. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Janet Matthews from the position of teacher aide, effective June 30, 2009.
 6. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education:

Levan Bunturi, substitute cleaner, effective February 23, 2009
Eleni Campbell, substitute teacher, effective March 25, 2009

7. 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:

None

B. Other Items.

Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Marie Girace, the following items #1-8 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the contract with Rolling River Day School and Camp for the rental of parking spaces for the 2009 summer camp season and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract.
2. Approve the request for proposal of services with Carina Ginette Atteritano for the period March 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009 and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the resulting service contract on behalf of the Board of Education.
3. Approve the contract with Christina Lalama for pianist accompaniment services for the period May 8, 2009 through May 14, 2009, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract.

4. 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 United Public Service Employees Union Custodial Unit employees of East Rockaway UFSD for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010, as set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement dated February 10, 2009; 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.

5. Accept a donation from the Village of East Rockaway and Centre Avenue Student Council of a shade tree valued at the most \$200 to be planted at Centre Avenue School.
6. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2008 – 2009 school year.
7. Approve the revised 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.”
8. Adopt the Special Education District Plan for the period September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2010 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign the Statement of Assurances on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following Budget Transfers a&b were unanimously approved:
 - a. Transaction No. 09-0001
 - b. Transaction No. 09-0002

- D. Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously

approved.

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations - None

6. Policy Matters: None

7. Superintendent's Report

Academics

We have completed our NYS Math assessment testing. The 3-8 tests that remain are 4th & 8th grade science and 8th grade social studies.

Our 1st grade students at Rhame had a visit from the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary as part of our science curriculum for living and nonliving things.

At Centre Avenue, the PTA provided an assembly called, "Circle of Life" which explained the different animal habitats, which connects to our elementary science curriculum.

I am pleased that we can provide our students with academic learning outside of the traditional classroom. Mr. Cangemi's and Mr. Yousha's AP science students will be visiting the DNA Dolan Center in Cold Spring Harbor to conduct laboratory experiments that coordinate with the AP curriculum.

Also, the 8th grade students will be taking a field trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty to learn about immigration. This is an interdisciplinary trip with both social studies and second language teachers. The 8th grade Washington trip will be this coming weekend.

Other out-of-school learning will be at the circus. Students will be connecting their understanding of gravity, balance, and geography as well as building background knowledge from a cultural event.

Last year, when the government had some money, the High School library received a \$2000 grant from Senator Skelos' office. To promote reading and the new books the library had a contest. Students were asked to write a review of a book or a slogan to promote reading.

What are our students reading? At Centre Avenue this month they are participating in mystery genre book reports.

English 12 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

English 11 A Streetcar Named Desire

English 10 Finishing poetry/short story unit

English 9 Concluding To Kill a Mockingbird

English 8 Finishing The Pigman

English 7 Finishing The House on Mango Street

Shakespeare is on deck for the month of April.

We are currently also running our annual March Madness Poetry Contest and gearing up for Shakespeare's birthday celebration in April.

Athletics

Our spring athletic season has begun. We are back on our baseball and softball fields for the first time in two years. Student enrollment continues to rise in our athletics program. Our baseball teams have rosters of 19 and 20.

We have a new team at East Rockaway. It is the secondary Life Skills basketball team. Last week I watched them play against Oceanside's program and it was an extraordinary experience for the audience as well as the players. The team played against Seaford today and there is one more game on Thursday. I was so proud of our students for participating and giving the game their best shot. I was so proud of our staff, Mrs. Imandt and Mr. Collins, for working with the students on this activity. Thank you to Dr. LoVerde for bringing this program to ER High

School.

Rhame Avenue School hosted Newcomb night which is the annual volleyball-ish game for grades 5 and 6.

Fine Arts

March is music in our schools month. At the Centre Avenue PTA meeting last week I had a preview of some of our students' musical talents. They did a fantastic job entertaining us. On Monday night's Rhame Avenue PTA students will also perform. The elementary schools will celebrate with an assembly on March 26th. The assembly will include vocal, instrumental, and strings.

ERHS will be hosting the NYSSMA Festival next Wednesday & Thursday. Three students from our district performed with the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra at Sunday's concert at the Adelphi Performing Arts Center.

SEL

Grade 6: arrogant, scapegoat, cope, alienation

Grade 7: devastated, insecure

Grade 8: jubilant, externalize, forlorn

One of the objectives of our SEL program is to help young people read and understand their emotions and then express them appropriately. We had a wonderful Rock Rivalry entrance last Friday evening but unfortunately the good feelings were not sustained when the Seniors did not win the cup. They were devastated. Their emotions were certainly understandable. It's ok to feel disappointment, angry or hurt. It's how we handle that emotion that defines our character. As adults we know that we don't always get what we want. As parents, we want our children to be happy and we try our best to shield them from disappointment. However, our role as parents is also to help our children deal with disappointment and to cope with and accept unpleasant news. Mr. Fortgang, as always, thank you for managing the situation. The entire scenario reinforced the need for our continued participation in Social Emotional Learning.

Facilities

You may have noticed the Rhame Avenue School message board outside of the building. We thank Jorge, our head custodian, for his willingness to climb the scaffold and maintain the information on the message board. Also at Rhame Avenue, the hallways are being painted. You must stop by and see how bright and airy the lobby appears with a fresh coat of paint. Thank you to our custodial team and maintenance staff.

Administration

Some of you may have been woken up by my Connect-Ed message last week. As you can see it is up and running. The next step will be to ask parents to verify the contact information that we have and to designate a primary telephone number for general community outreach news and additional phone numbers for emergencies. We have waited a long time for this. I thank Mr. Piccarella for working with the principals to implement this system.

Other News

Our elementary schools had their first spring back to school nights and I am told that they were successful. The student council at CA participated in a clothing drive sponsored by the Veterans.

Many of you know that there was a state aid rally on February 28th. I thank Mr. Silk and Mrs. Robinson for their attendance there as well as many of our teachers who came out to have their voices heard. We are still waiting and hoping that the Governor will finalize his budget so we can finalize ours. I did receive a response to the letter I sent the Governor asking him to restore our state aid. I am now playing telephone tag with the Governor's Deputy Secretary for Education.

Rhame Avenue School celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a bagpipe serenade. Students learned about the history of the instrument.

Our It's Academic Team is in 1st place for the Regional Quiz Bowl. The first round of playoffs is next Wednesday at Half Hollow Hills HS and they will be playing Rockville Centre. We wish them the best of luck.

This concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

Many community members commented on the behavior of some of the students after Rock Rivalry and asked the Board to implement programs to let the students know this behavior is not acceptable and will include consequences.

Another community member invited the Board to the Rhame Ave. talent show.

Another community member asked what the worse case scenario would be with the budget. Dr. Melucci explained the budget was already below contingency, however, we won't know all the facts until the state aid numbers come in.

9. Board Member Comments

Neil Schloth – Thank you for coming. I was at Rock Rivalry and am proud of all four classes. They worked very hard, as did the teachers and administrators. Thank you to the kindergarten teachers for the Foundations presentation.

Marie Girace – Thank you Foundation teachers, you are doing a wonderful job. The kids are reading much younger. I sat through Rock Rivalry and the performances were wonderful. Thank you for staying.

Linda Schmidt – Thank you for coming. Welcome Tony and congratulations to Mrs. Matthews. I saw Rock Rivalry Thursday night and was blown away by the talent and poise of the students. I can't wait to be a Rock Rivalry mom.

Vicki Alspector – Thank you to everyone who was already thanked. We have had Rock Rivalry for a long time and it is a wonderful experience. We will work together to save Rock Rivalry. Thank you to the administrators and congratulations to Mrs. Matthews and John Morely. Welcome back phonics.

Mary Boccuzzi – Welcome Tony. Congratulations to John Morely and Janet Matthews – John has been working here for 40 years. Thank you to the Foundation teachers. I truly believe that children learn best when they are involved in learning. I am horrified at the behavior of those few students. My daughter's senior class lost Rock Rivalry and there was no negative behavior. Thank you Mr. Yousha for addressing this negative behavior and I am happy the advisors were consoling the kids. Bill – this job brings many perks and I applaud you on handling this one. The kids should thank you.

A final note – the last day to pick up a petition is April 20th. Please think about being on this Board. You work with wonderful people and it is very rewarding.

10. Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Marie Girace and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk