

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., June 16, 2009 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by a Public Forum

MINUTES

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.

1. The meeting was call to order at 7:30 by Mary Boccuzzi and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil Schloth.

Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items #2 and 3 were unanimously approved:

2. Minutes of the May 12, 2009 Board of Education meeting.
3. Minutes of the May 19, 2009 Board of Education meeting.
4. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – April 2009
5. Correspondence - Three (3)
6. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Vicki Alspector the following items #1 -10 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of James Hickey to the position of physical education teacher (tenure area: physical education; certification status: initial), effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2012, at the BA, Step 1 entry level salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2009-2010 school year.
2. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Joseph Cangemi to the position of Summer School Principal, effective July 1, 2009 at the Summer School Principal entry level salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2009-2010 school year.
3. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Karen Wansor-Polito to the position of leave replacement physical education teacher, effective September 1, 2009 through January 29, 2010 at the prorated MA, Step 2 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2009– 2010 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Marilyn Brekke to the position of summer school secretary, effective July 1, 2009 at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Secretaries Association contract for the 2009 – 2010 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following summer school teaching appointments effective July 1, 2009 through August 6, 2009, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association for the 2009 – 2010 school year:

Jennifer Toppi..... English
Danielle DiChiara..... Mathematics
Scott Gerken..... Science

TBD..... Social Studies
 Christian Soto..... Driver’s Education
 Dominick Vulpis Driver’s Education
 TBD..... Supportive Skills Program Instructor

6. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following special education summer school teaching appointments effective July 6, 2009 through August 14, 2009, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association for the 2009 – 2010 school year:

Kathleen Crowley..... Special Education
 Kristen Donovan..... Special Education
 Alison Gerbert..... Special Education

7. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following special education summer school teacher aide appointments effective July 6, 2009 through August 14, 2009, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association for the 2009 – 2010 school year:

Diane Birnbaum
 Esterina Morreale
 Janet Block

8. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Maria Rizik, to the position of food service helper, effective June 17, 2009 at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union Contract for the 2008-2009 school year.

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

Alison Cerasoli, Athletic Supervisor (Day/Evening) effective April 19, 2009
 Kevin McTigue, Substitute Cleaner, effective June 17, 2009
 Patricia McGuinness, Substitute Food Service Helper, effective June 17, 2009
 Darlene Woods, Substitute Special Education Summer School teacher Aide, effective July 6

10. 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:

Alison Cerasoli
 Patricia McGuinness

B. Other Items.

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Marie Girace, the following items #1 – 9 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the proposed 2009-2010 budget for school purposes in the total amount of \$32,733,570.00 dollars be adopted, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District authorizes the expenditure of said sum during the ensuing school year, and the necessary taxes upon the taxable property of the school district to meet said expenditures after first deducting the monies available from state aid and other sources.

2. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District readopt the following reserves:

1. Compensated Absences
2. Unemployment Reserves
3. Post Retirement Reserves
4. Employee Retirement System Reserves

AND that the Board of Education authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to fund said reserves at the end of each fiscal year.

3. Approve the following resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District readopt the following reserves approved by the voters on May 18, 2008:

1. Capital Reserve for Building Repairs
2. Capital Reserve for Technology

AND that the Board of Education authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to fund said reserves as follows:

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount
Post Retirement Reserve		\$400,000.00
	Capital Reserve for Building Repairs	\$200,000.00
	Capital Reserve for Technology	\$200,000.00

4. Approve the resolution to issue Tax Anticipation Notes in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 as more fully set forth on Attachment "A."
5. Approve the lease agreement with East Meadow Driving School for the use of one (1) summer driver education vehicle, the terms of which are more particularly set forth in the said lease agreement and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement.
6. Approve the agreement with Asset Works, Inc., as successor in interest to Maximum, Inc., for asset MAXX inventory system for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 and authorize the Director of Finance & Operations to execute the agreement.
7. Accept a donation from the Class of 2007 in the sum of \$400 for the purchase of shrubs and plants for the beautification of East Rockaway Jr/Sr. High School.
8. Accept a donation of a \$500 Border's gift card from Covanta Energy for the purchase of library books for the Dr. Richard J. Meagher Library in recognition of Gabriella Walsh receiving first prize in their 19th Annual Recycling Poster contest.
9. Approve the purchase of the following textbooks:

Jeffrey C. Callister; Prentice Hall Brief Review for the New York Regents Exam; Earth Science: The Physical Setting; Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009

C. Budget Transfers

Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following item #1 was unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget

transfers:

- a. Transaction No. 09-0008
- b. Transaction No. 09-0009
- c. Transaction No. 09-0010
- d. Transaction No. 09-0011
- e. Transaction No. 09-0012

D. Approval of CSE Recommendations - None

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations - None

7. Policy Matters: None

8. Superintendent's Report

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for supporting the school district budget on May 19th.

We have received our results from this year's math assessments. We continue to make progress in meeting the state standards. Most notably is our improvement in student performance on the 8th grade math assessment which rose from 80% to 88% meeting the state standards. In the other grade levels the percentages are, starting at grade 3: 97%, 92%, 98%, 95%, 92%, 88%. The high school students are preparing for their finals and Regents exam over the next two weeks.

At Centre Avenue our 6th grade students presented their country reports while dressed in appropriate cultural attire. They also provided a sampling of cultural foods. Also at Centre Avenue our 5th grade students participated in a solar system play. The CA PTA sponsored a Bubble assembly for students in grades K-6. The 5th grade students at Rhame presented state reports and provided refreshments from the state they studied. Earlier this year I mentioned that Rhame Avenue created its own garden of vegetables. They have begun the harvest and last week had a salad party with all of the produce. Students at Rhame in 3rd grade finished reading, Charlotte's Web and created their own County Fair complete with games and contests and of course fair-like refreshments. The Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary visited the Rhame Avenue kindergarten classes. The third through sixth graders participated in an assembly program about Patriotism and Flag Etiquette conducted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

There is a Go for the Gold Reading incentive program going on at Rhame Avenue. Each grade level is assigned a certain number of books or pages. If the grade level reaches its goal they get invited to the gold medal assembly/ceremony. Just a reminder that our summer reading lists and program will be available on the website. Students in grades 5 and 6 from both elementary schools participated in an HIV presentation by the Peer Educators. Also, the same elementary students attended a workshop on puberty by Mr. Vulpis and Ms. Sullivan.

In this month's New York Teacher Newsletter they talked about implementing a Trout in the Classroom Program. I was very pleased to see this and to know that ER already has a Trout in the Classroom program under the direction of Mr. Cangemi.

This month's learning experiences outside of the classroom included:

- Students in the Life Skills program took a field trip to NYC to learn about transportation and they also visited the Police Museum.
- RA Grade 1 visited the Bronx Zoo.
- RA Grade 2 visited the Queens Zoo to connect to their study of animals and habitats
- RA & CA Grade 3 visited Safety Town
- Rhame Avenue Grade 4 visited the Tenement Museum as part of their studies of immigration.
- RA and CA Grade 4 visited the Grist Mill and attended the Historical Society Retrospective at the Lynbrook Public Library.

- RA & CA Grade 5 visited the Museum of Modern Art where they sketched and discussed the various works of art.
- CA Kindergarten students visited the Museum of Natural History.
- Students in Enterprise visited Lancaster, PA.
- The environmental science class took a canoe trip on the Nissequogue River in Smithtown to study Long Island geology, hydrology and ecology.

In May the students in ALPSS participated in career week. During this week they researched different occupations and presented their choice for a possible career to their peers. Also during this project they met with professionals from different careers, some of which included: an elementary teacher, set manager for a TV show, psychologist, youth counselor, carpenter, lawyer, and chef.

Brandon Schmidt a student in our ALPSS program who graduated in January, was honored at the annual LIASEA Luncheon on June 5th at the Milleridge Inn. He was nominated by Dr. Lo Verde. Brandon was one of three students from Long Island to receive the distinction of Student of the Year for Personal Achievement. He attended the reception with his parents and received a certificate and a check for \$500 from the organization. Recipients were chosen based on attaining a personal goal when faced with adversity in his/her life. Brandon is currently participating in a Culinary Arts program and hopes to pursue a career in the Food Industry as a chef.

The Varsity Baseball team finished the season in a two game series loss to Oyster Bay at Farmingdale College in the semi-final games of the Nassau County Championships. The Varsity Softball team finished in the Nassau County finals with a loss to Oyster Bay in a two game series loss. The Varsity Track team placed a 4x200 relay team in the Nassau County Finals for the first time in over 13 years! The High School Athletic Awards dinner had the highest number in attendance with 278 in eight years. Congratulations to Mr. Vulpis, all of our athletes and coaches for a wonderful event.

The Junior High Athletic Awards brunch was held on May 31st and was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge our younger students and their talents in athletics. Varsity Badminton and Track won The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Scholar Athlete Teams. Dom Vulpis was named to the NYSPHSAA Central Committee member as Men's Athletics Representative for Nassau County. Congratulations to Mr. Vulpis. At the elementary schools both schools will have their annual field day on June 18th. Students from the Life Skills program participated in a Field Day Event held at Calhoun High School in Merrick. This was with neighboring school districts from Nassau County. Our students won a variety of awards and trophies for participation. ALPSS program presented a student-faculty basketball game. Everyone had a wonderful time.

You are invited to an Art Gallery at Centre Avenue and Rhame Avenue Schools on Thursday, June 18th. Come and see the work that our young artists have prepared. Gallery hours begin at 6:30 at Rhame and 7:15 at Centre. Monday, June 8th was the annual high school music award ceremony. Congratulations to all of our students and to the entire music department, and Ms. Murano, under the leadership of Mr. Fortgang, for a wonderful evening of acknowledgement of musical talent and entertainment. Next year's high school musical will be The Wizard of Oz. On Sunday, June 7th, three of our students performed at Carnegie Hall with the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra. Colleen Bennett (grade 6) and Sunny Chung (grade 7) performed with the String Orchestra and Felicya Schwarzman (grade 8) performed with the Chamber Orchestra. Mrs. Tullo accompanied the students and reported that it was quite an exciting event to see our students perform there. To participate the students must audition (at least on a level 4 NYSSMA piece) and they attend rehearsal on Tuesday evening from 7-9 each week. Congratulations to our students and thank you to Mrs. Tullo for attending this event.

A new fence has been installed on Centre Avenue School near the playground. Our Director of Facilities is working with the administrators to create a to-do list of facilities projects for the summer. At the top of the list will be the replacement of the steam traps at Centre and the high school. In addition, all three schools will have painting projects.

Other information from the month includes:

Students from all three schools, as well as all three principals, marched in the annual Memorial Day Parade.

6th grade students had an orientation to the secondary school with a visit to the building and different classrooms. There will be another orientation in August.

Our CA crossing guard, Margaret Keily is retiring after 21 years. We wish her well.

Once again my thanks and best wishes to Mary Boccuzzi for all she has done for the children of the East Rockaway Public Schools.

Congratulations to Kenny Anderson, a junior at the high school, for his rank advancement to Eagle Scout. Kenny will also be the artist for our school calendar this year.

Gabriella Walsh, a 3rd grade student at Centre Avenue won 1st place in Covanta Energy's 19th Annual Recycling Poster Contest. She received a Touch Tablet and a certificate and Centre Avenue School received a \$500 gift card to Borders book store.

There is a website called flatstanleybooks.com and recently Mrs. Kreit and Ms. Gerbert's students were featured on the homepage of the site for their participation in the Flat Stanley adventures.

Earlier this year I mentioned that I wrote a special legislative grant for \$50,000 for surveillance and security for all three schools. At first we received the grant and then midway through we were told that there was no more money in NYS and the grant would not be coming. I have recently spoken to SED and found out that the money is being restored so we will begin plans for this purchase. I thank Senator Skelos and his staff for taking all of my repeated phone calls and for getting this project to happen.

Our Quiz bowl team has been invited to participate in the Long Island Challenge next fall. We understand that it will be filmed in NYS. Congratulations to Mrs. Orzano and her team for this honor.

That concludes my report.

9. Privilege of the Floor

One community member asked about leasing a car for drivers ed.

Another community member commented on the behavior of the students in the balcony of the auditorium.

10. Board Member Comments

Linda Schmidt – Thank you for coming and supporting the budget. I would like to congratulate all the National Honor Society Inductees and the students receiving music awards. I wish the retirees well and thank them for their dedication to our students. Welcome Michaelene to the board. Thank you board members for a successful year. Thank you Dr. Melucci and Mrs. Robinson for your hard work. Have a happy summer.

Vicki Alspector – Thank you to the administrators and parents for coming to our meetings. See you in July.

Neil Schloth – I would like to thank everyone who comes to the meetings. We appreciate your support. Thank you to the teachers, administrators and Dr. Melucci for your hard work. Thank you Mrs. Boccuzzi for being a great leader.

Marie Girace – I want to thank the community for passing the budget, it was a difficult one. I am looking forward to graduation. This is the nicest time of the year, the kids are at their best. Thank you administrators for showing up at our meetings and thank you parents for showing interest. Congratulations to my colleagues for a productive year. Thank you Dr. Melucci and Connie. Mary (Boccuzzi) I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Mary Boccuzzi – I would like to thank the district for the passed budget. The ALPSS program may not have made it, and it is a great program. It shows you that if you create the right learning environment, everyone can succeed. Dr. LoVerde, great job. There are now pictures of the ALPSS program on the website. It is important that the students feel good about their accomplishments. Retirees, I wish you well in the next phase. I would like to thank everyone for the amazing tribute tonight, nothing was prepared.

Nothing gets done alone. Every decision the board makes goes past the superintendent on down. We have a vision and make everyone a part of it. The board is a great group of people who have no agenda. We all get along, it all fits, we all listen. We all respect each other; sometimes we agree, sometimes we disagree. But we make our decisions based on

why we are here, it is about the kids. Dr. Melucci, it has been a pleasure working with you. The community is very fortunate to have this board and Dr. Melucci.

11. Upon motion by Marie Girace, seconded by Vicki Alspector the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk