

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., October 19, 2010 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School
Preceded by a Salute to the Board of Education and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Linda Schmidt; Neil Schloth; Michaelene Abbott-Cooper; Patti Nicoletti; Kristin Ochtera; Superintendent, Dr. Roseanne Melucci; Director of Finance and Operations, Marcy Tannenbaum; and District Clerk, Denise Lobascio

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm by Linda Schmidt and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper.

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the following items numbered 2 – 4 were unanimously approved:

2. Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2010 (monthly meeting)
3. Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2010 (appoint impartial hearing officer)
4. Approval of Minutes – October 12, 2010 (tax certiorari settlements)
5. Receipt of the Financial Reports for July 2010 and August 2010 were acknowledged.
6. Correspondence – None

7. Action Agenda

- A. Personnel

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the following items numbered 1 – 12 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Yujin Ham from the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective October 12, 2010, and further approve the three-year probationary appointment of Yujin Ham to the position of teaching assistant (tenure area: teaching assistant), effective October 12, 2010, through October 11, 2013, at the Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2010-2011 school year.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Caroline Gallo to the position of teaching assistant (tenure area: teaching assistant), effective October 18, 2010, through October 17, 2013, at the Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2010-2011 school year.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the winter sports 2010-2011 coaching assignments as more fully set forth on the attached schedule.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change in the effective dates of the child rearing leave of absence of Kimberly Rosenkrantz from October 18, 2010 through the end of the fall semester 2011 to October 4, 2010 through January 28, 2011.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Julee Sarno to the position of Short Term Substitute Teacher (speech language), effective October 12, 2010, through January 28, 2011, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the non-contractual salary

schedule for the 2010-2011 school year.

6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Lynn Kinneary to the half-time position of Central Operations Food Service Worker, effective October 20, 2010, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union contract for the 2010-2011 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Carrie Consiglio from the position of substitute food service worker, effective October 19, 2010, and approve the appointment of Carrie Consiglio to the position of food service worker, effective October 20, 2010 at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union for the 2010-2011 school year.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, for the purpose of retirement, the resignation of Roque C. Rodriguez from the position of cleaner, effective October 29, 2010.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Kathryn Klock to the position of teacher aide, effective September 19, 2010, at the Step A hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association Contract for the 2010-2011 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following appointments to the position of part-time teacher aide for the ALPSS program, effective October 20, 2010, through June 30, 2011, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education for the 2010 – 2011 school year:
 - a. Melissa Jordan
 - b. Elizabeth Freeman
11. 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 the 2010-2011 school year:
 - a. Patricia Mendoza, substitute food service worker, effective October 20, 2010
 - b. Kayla Toscano, substitute teacher, effective October 20, 2010
 - c. Karen Regenstein, substitute teacher, effective October 7, 2010
 - d. Kathleen Brophy, substitute teacher, effective October 7, 2010
 - e. Lawrence Faas, substitute cleaner, effective October 20, 2010
 - f. Patricia Tarzia, substitute teacher aide, effective October 20, 2010
 - g. Melissa Jordan, substitute teacher, ALPSS, October 20, 2010
 - h. Christopher Diaz, substitute food service worker, effective October 20, 2010
 - i. Kristen Matthews, substitute monitor, effective October 20, 2010
 - j. Dana Casas, substitute teacher, effective October 20, 2010
 - k. Jodi Morello, substitute teacher, effective October 20, 2010
 - l. Andrew Fogel, substitute teacher, effective October 20, 2010
 - m. Geoffrey Carr, athletic supervisor, effective August 16, 2010
12. 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:
 - a. Elizabeth Freeman

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Patricia Nicoletti, seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following items numbered 1 – 13 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the club advisor assignments for the 2010-2011 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.

2. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that whereas the Board of Education believes it to be in the best interest of the District and the school community to participate in the MSG Varsity Network Outreach program and to enter into an agreement with MSG Varsity for the production and broadcasting of high school activities and achievements on the MSG Varsity Network, it hereby approves and authorizes the annexed School Registration and Participation Agreement Form between the District and MSG Varsity Network LLC, dated as of July 1, 2010, in connection therewith; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said Agreement on behalf of the District.

3. Approve the contract with Shari Berman for choreography and consultation services for the period November 1, 2010, through February 7, 2011, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract.
4. Approve the contract with Christina Lalama for pianist accompaniment services for the period December 1, 2010 through April 7, 2011, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract.
5. Declare broken and/or obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling the equipment more full set forth on Attachment "A".
6. Adopt the Special Education District Plan for the period September 1, 2010, through August 31, 2012, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to sign the Statement of Assurances on behalf of the Board of Education.
7. Approve the Special Education Services Contracts for Parentally-Placed Non-Public School Students with the following public school districts for special education services for the 2010-2011 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contracts on behalf of the Board of Education:
 - a. Lynbrook UFSD, one (1) student
 - b. Island Park UFSD, one (1) student
 - c. Malverne UFSD, one (1) student
8. Approve the tuition agreement with Rockville Centre UFSD for special education services for one (1) student for the 2010-2011 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.
9. Accept a donation from Covanta of a Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollar Borders gift card to the Rhame Avenue School on behalf of Snowi Utash, winner of the Covanta poster contest.
10. Approve the employment agreement with Debra LoVerde as the Director of Pupil Personnel Services, effective July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
11. Approve the employment agreement with John Piccarella as the Director of Curriculum and Technology, effective July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
12. Approve the employment agreement with Marcy Tannenbaum as the Director of Finance & Operations, effective July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
13. Approve the application to State Environment Quality Review for the 2010-2011 Capital Improvement Program, #28-02-19-03-0-001-030, East Rockaway UFSD, East Rockaway High School, (a) hot water heater replacement, (b) exterior door replacement at middle school; and #28-02-19-03-0-002-007, East Rockaway UFSD Rhame Avenue Elementary School, (a) exterior door replacement; and authorize the President of the

Board of Education to execute the applications and further authorize the District Clerk to execute and submit the declaration that the projects fall under Categories "A" or "B" for "No Additional Required Action" under 6NYCRR§617.5(a) - Type II Actions Only as required by SEQRA regulations.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Patricia Nicoletti the following items a & b were unanimously approved:
 - a. Transaction No. 11-0005
 - b. Transaction No. 11-0006

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the following items D & E were unanimously approved:

D. Approval of CSE Recommendations

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations

8. Policy Matters for Review

1. Policy No. 4.221 (NYSSBA 8505), Meal Charge Policy

9. Superintendent's Report.

I would like to say thank you to our Board of Education for all their time and efforts on behalf of the children, the staff and the community. As a Superintendent I am fortunate to work with a group of reasonable, rational and intelligent people. Thank you Linda, Neil, Michaelene, Patti and Kristin.

Here's what's happening in our schools:

October is Fire Safety month and there have been many activities throughout the district. At Rhame, classes used Smartboard technology to discover where hazards are in a house and ways to help to make the house safer. There were walking trips to the Main Street Fire House for fire safety lessons for grades K-2, and each class included fire safety precaution lessons relating to ELA and science.

At Centre Avenue, the children read books about fire safety and prevention, participated in role playing exercises and discussions, created fire safety posters and had a school-wide assembly presented by the ERFD.

Out of the classroom learning includes: Children in grade 6 at Rhame Avenue participated in a field trip to the Liberty Science Center in New Jersey. Students in grade 4 at Rhame participated in a field trip to the New York Hall of Science. At the high school Mr. Cimorelli and Mr. Howard will be taking a trip to the Intrepid Museum as part of the World of Technology course. Students will participate in the "Echoes of Exploration Workshop", to create their own flying vessel and learn how aerodynamic design affects aircraft and rockets. The AP Biology students will visit the Dolan DNA Center in Cold Spring Harbor to conduct one of two labs. On November 23rd, they will conduct a 3 hour Bacterial Transformation lab. Mrs. Klein is taking the 7th graders to see the Chamber Repertory Theatre production of "Eureka" on December 1st. This nationally acclaimed show is about a girl who is concerned about math and, in her dreams, is visited by famous mathematicians.

This week at the Rhame Avenue, library children from all grades are invited to participate in a Halloween Pumpkin Pageant. Pumpkins will be transformed into different book characters using the children's creative talents. The pumpkins will be on display in the library for the two weeks prior to Halloween.

At the end of the 2009-2010 school year, Rhame Avenue School was fortunate to receive a grant of \$1000 from the East Rockaway Education Foundation. This grant was used to purchase resources for students, staff, and parents for a new "Autism Learning Library" (ALL), housed in the library media center.

Some novels being read at Rhame this month include: Grade 5: *Wednesday Wars*; Grade 4: *Beaded Moccasins* ; Grade 3: *Matilda and Shiloh*. At the High School novels include: 7th grade, *The Lord of the Flies*; 9th grade, *A Raisin in the Sun*; 10th grade, *Night*, 11th grade, *The Crucible*; 12th Grade, *The Things They Carried*.

During the week of November 22nd, all middle school math and science courses preparing to take a state assessment this May will take a benchmark exam. These revised benchmarks reflect the new NYSED changes in curriculum. They will be used to identify student strengths and weaknesses.

This year's pep rally will be on Friday night, 10/29, and will include:

the first induction to the Hall of Retired Numbers; a flower ceremony for senior parents of soccer, cross country, tennis and volleyball; a dance for students immediately following the pep rally.

This year's Homecoming will be on Saturday, 10/30, and will include a pre-game ceremony for senior parents of band, cheerleaders, and football. Our opponent will be North Shore High School.

Here's some news from our Fine Arts Department. Our 4th, 5th, and 6th graders are creating logo designs to submit for the Village Foundation of East Rockaway's logo design contest. Tryouts for this year's musical, "The Sound of Music", will be held next week. Good luck to all those who are auditioning. The senior chorus will be performing "America the Beautiful" at the Islanders' game on November 17th. One of our 9th grade students, James Lukens, was featured in episode 4 of a new Fox 5 television comedy, "Running Wilde". It can be viewed via "Hulu.com". Our new course, "Foundations of Art", a full-year class, is now the prerequisite to our studio classes and is working out very well.

We have expanded our SEL program to grades K-5. On September 30th teachers were trained on the elementary program, which also uses a word bank and has a parent connection. Emotional Literacy leads to better relationships and increases attention to learning. Also on September 30th, Dr. Marc Brackett worked with the teachers in grades 6-8 to refresh their skills on the program that has been in practice for the last three years.

At Rhame Avenue grade 6, is focusing on the word pride. Grade 1 students decorated pumpkins to show different feeling words. All classes are using the mood meter to learn how to understand their daily feelings and the feelings of others. SEL 7th grade words are- hostile and cope. 8th grade words are remorse and rational.

As you may have heard, NYS won the Federal Race to the Top contest. Recent allocations to individual schools show that ER will receive \$16,000 from this grant. This was based on Title 1 allocations. For this money schools are required to either create or participate in a network team consisting of three positions—curriculum, instruction and data. Here, our Director of Curriculum & Technology has all three responsibilities and the rule is that there needs to be three different people. We will need to partner with BOCES or another school to have a team. We are concerned that it will cost us more money than our allocation. Some schools in Nassau County have said thanks but no thanks to the Commissioner as they feel that the paperwork and requirements involved outweigh the amount of the allocation. We have submitted a commitment to participate and will need to send a scope of work by November 8, 2010.

You may have heard that the county wants to eliminate the county guarantee of paying back incorrectly assessed property and shift that responsibility to the schools. We are concerned about that. We called the assessors' office to find out how much this would have cost ER in the past to get an idea of how much money we are talking about. They told us they do not have that data.

In other news, Tessa Stefanello, a 2010 graduate, contacted her former English teacher, Ms. Sievers, to let her know that in her ethics class at SUNY Old Westbury the students had to read the memoir, *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah and write a five page paper in response. The assignment was also used as a contest and five freshmen, from 400, were selected with the best essays, Tessa being one of them. The prize is to have dinner with the author! She is very excited, as we are for her! Ishmael Beah wrote a memoir of his experiences as a child soldier in Sierra Leone. He, and other children were rescued by UNICEF officers and put through a social "rehab" so that they could learn to function normally in society. Congratulations to Tessa!

The high school denim for dollars monthly fundraiser collected \$540 for Polycystic Kidney Disease. Our It's Academic team is preparing for their 1st meet early in November. Key Club and the elementary school Student Councils, in conjunction with Kiwanis, will once again be participating in the Thanksgiving food drive. All food collected will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. Donations can be brought to any of the district's three schools or to the November BOE or H.S. PTA meeting.

Save the date for the East Rockaway Coalition for Youth dinner dance. It will be on Friday, November 5th from 7-11PM at Rocco's Catering on Main Street. Tickets are \$50.

Here are some responses to questions raised at last month's meeting:

The additional cost to the district, since the MTA eliminated the direct bus routes for the parochial school students, is \$41,701.

The number of students currently in ALPSS is 14. Seven are full-time and 7 are part-time. This number will grow through the year and especially for the second half. Last year we started the program with a very small group and ended up with 29 students. All the seniors in the program were able to graduate with their classmates.

There were some questions last month about how our Regents results compare to the county. Not all school districts are in the data warehouse for Regents results as they are for 3-8 testing. The range of participating high schools varies from 21 to 31 schools. Schools participate by Regents exam and if they do not want or need that level of data about the exam they don't participate. Our data include students in our day school as well as ALPSS. Here is how we compare: We are above the average for the participants in Earth Science, Algebra and Italian. We

are within two students passing to be at the average for Living Environment, Physics and Spanish. We are below the average for Global History and Geography, US History, Chemistry, Geometry and Algebra 2 and Trig. We cannot compare our ELA results as our Honors students were not included in our statistic in the warehouse as it was only June date and they take the Regents in January.

Another question that was raised last month was regarding college acceptances. During the year different colleges are invited to speak to our students. I have a list showing the colleges that were invited for the past two years. Also, our students participate in HOLLER, where there are representatives from a variety of colleges. There is also the annual College Expo that takes place at Hofstra and our students are encouraged to attend. That concludes my report.

10. Privilege of the Floor

The following topics were brought up for discussion by the community residents in attendance:

- Special Education District Plan
- MSG Varsity Network and the benefit to the district
- Bullying
- Kindergarten class size
- Honors Program
- Enterprise Program

11. Board Member Comments

Patricia Nicoletti – Thanks to Josh Warner, Mr. Bishop and the HS staff for the great presentation. It is very much appreciated. Thank you to all the parents who took the time out of their busy schedules to come to the meeting tonight. Your insight is essential in helping us make the right decisions.

Michaelene Abbott-Cooper – Thanks Josh for the Board Appreciation video. We do consider everything that's said and we act on it. Please come back next month.

Neil Schloth – Good Evening everyone and thanks for attending tonight. I wish to thank Mr. Fortgang and the High School PTA for the Board Appreciation night. Special thanks to Josh Warner for the outstanding video presentation. I would like to respond to those that brought problems or complaints to the Board tonight. Please know that research and discussions are held based on your comments. The proper person normally responds to an individual request or complaint by the next Board meeting.

Kristin Ochtera – I can't stress the importance of your comments and we do take them to heart. We do as much as we can do. There are two things that drive me as a board member: the importance of educating the whole child and the importance of safe environments that produce confident learners. Understand that our hands are not tied, solutions takes time, and we are working on what works best for all children. Thank you for your comments and thank you for coming.

Linda Schmidt – Thank you for coming. Thank you for being involved and using your right to voice your comments and concerns. We take them all seriously. Sometimes it is difficult and challenging but it is all about the kids.

12. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Neil Schloth, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk