

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:30 P.M., November 16, 2010 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School  
Preceded by a Technology Presentation 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 by Linda Schmidt at 8:09 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patti Nicoletti.
2. Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper the minutes of the October 19, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports – September 2010
4. Correspondence – Three
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items #1 – 16 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, amend Personnel Item A. 8 on the October 19, 2010 agenda and minutes to reflect an effective date of Roque C. Rodriguez resignation for the purpose of retirement as November 6, 2010.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Donna Smith from the position of junior high volleyball coach, effective October 18, 2010.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Faiza Yahya from the position of substitute food service worker, effective October 15, 2010.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following appointments for the 2010-2011 fall/spring driver education program, effective October 18, 2010, through June 6, 2011, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association for the 2010-2011 school year:  
  
Christian Soto.....Driver and Traffic Safety Instructor  
Dominick Vulpis .....Driver and Traffic Safety Instructor
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment of Kathryn Klock to the position of junior high volleyball coach, effective November 8, 2010, through January 15, 2011, at the Year 1, Step 1 salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for coaches for the 2010-2011 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Philip Linder to the position of social studies teacher for the ALPSS program, effective November 8, 2010, through June 30, 2011, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education for the 2010 – 2011 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an extension of the child rearing leave of absence of Deanna Mignella from her mathematics teacher position, effective January 29, 2011,

through June 30, 2011.

8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the appointment of Danielle DiChiara to the position of leave replacement mathematics teacher, effective January 29, 2011, through June 30, 2011, at the prorated MA, Step 2 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2010 – 2011 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time probationary appointment of Cinzia Lister to the position of typist clerk, 12-months, effective November 17, 2010, at the Step B salary (hourly) established by the East Rockaway Secretaries Association contract for the 2010-2011 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Carly Zides to the position of teacher aide, effective November 8, 2010, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2010– 2011 school year.
11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment of Rachele Kempton to the position of special education teacher for the After-School Program, effective November 10, 2010, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for other educational assignments for the 2010-2011 school year.
12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Lauren Stein to the position of teaching assistant (tenure area: teaching assistant), effective November 17, 2010, through November 16, 2013, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2010-2011 school year.
13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignations of the following persons from their positions as substitute food service workers, effective November 16, 2010:
  - a. Patricia Mendoza
  - b. Dania Ayala
  - c. Christopher Diaz
14. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following food service worker appointments, effective November 17, 2010, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union for the 2010-2011 school year:
  - a. Patricia Mendoza, food service worker
  - b. Dania Ayala, food service worker
  - c. Christopher Diaz, driver (van)
15. 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. Doreen Marturano, substitute nurse, effective November 17, 2010
  - b. Patricia Griffith, substitute teacher aide, effective October 25, 2010
16. 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 Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Kristin Ochtera the following items #1-4 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the employment agreement with Charlene Fried as the food service manager, 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.
2. Approve the admission of Lynbrook Student I.D. No. 20137089 to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2010-2011 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement between the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD and the Board of Education of Lynbrook UFSD.
3. Accept a donation from Target in the sum of Two Hundred Four Dollars and 25/100 (\$204.25) Dollars for teaching supplies for the Rhame Avenue Elementary School and approve an increase in budget code A2110-450-03-0000 (teaching supplies) by the amount of Two Hundred Four Dollars and 25/100 (\$204.25) Dollars.
4. Accept a donation from The CAMBR Charitable Foundation in the sum of Seven Thousand (\$7,000.00) Dollars for the purchase of robotic equipment and supplies for technology and electronics education and approve an increase in budget code, A2110-450-01-0026 (technology department) by the sum of Seven Thousand (\$7,000.00) Dollars.

#### C. Budget Transfers

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items #1-2 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education rescinds the following budget transfer:
  - a. Transaction No. 11-0006
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:
  - a. Transaction No. 11-0007
  - b. Transaction No. 11-0008
  - c. Transaction No. 11-0009
  - d. Transaction No. 11-0010
  - e. Transaction No. 11-0011

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the following items lettered D & E were unanimously approved:

#### D. CSE Recommendations

#### E. CPSE Recommendations

#### 6. Policy Matters for Adoption

Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following item #1 was unanimously approved:

1. Policy No. 4.221 (NYSSBA 8505), Meal Charge Policy Superintendent's Report.

Earlier this year I mentioned that Joseph McGeary was selected to participate in the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at SUNY Old Westbury. I recently received communication from SUNY Old Westbury that Sarina Gonzalez has also been invited to participate in this program. Congratulations Sarina!

Some of our field trips this past month included: Rhame Ave. kindergarten students visiting Hicks Nursery; Rhame fourth grade students visiting Garvies Point; HS ALPSS students participating in a team building program at BOCES Outdoor Education Facility; the 11<sup>th</sup> grade students visiting Salem, Massachusetts to coordinate with

reading The Crucible; students in Sports and Entertainment Marketing class are participating in a behind the scenes sports marketing workshop provided by the NY Islanders at the Nassau Coliseum.

This month our students at Rhame are reading the following: Grade. 2 - The Magic Finger; Grade 3GK Winn Dixie, and 3C : Matilda; Grade 4 - Beaded Moccasins; and Grade 5, Dear Mr. Henshaw. Our high school students are reading: A Raisin in the Sun in grade 9; The Catcher in the Rye in Grade 11; One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest in grade 12 and AP Literature students are reading, Turn of the Screw.

The new three hour English Regents exam will be administered for the first time this January. The State decided that it should be given the week before the usually scheduled Regents exams. We have traditionally administered the Regents in January to our Honors students and everyone else took the exam in June. Because of the changes the State has made we will now administer the English Regents to all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in June. Only students who need to make-up the exam will take it in January.

Our Too Good for Drugs curriculum is in place. At Rhame they kicked off the curriculum with a school wide Red Ribbon Week. Lessons on drug and alcohol prevention were the focus with a strong "we are too good to start" message.

Centre Avenue teachers are working with the data warehouse to analyze the recent State Test data to strengthen the curriculum and improve instruction. Also at Centre Avenue this month the PTA presented an assembly on "Sound of Science" on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Concepts such as pitch, vibration, as well as others were presented.

News from the Athletics Department includes: The Girls Varsity Volleyball team finished in 2nd place in Nassau County "C" Conference; Varsity Boys Football played in the County "C" semi-finals at Hofstra University on Saturday. Although they did not win the game they should be proud to have earned a place on Hofstra's field for the semi-finals; two of our Varsity Cross Country stars, Carly Howard and Jonathan Schloth, both freshmen represented East Rockaway in the State Championships in Pawling, New York this past Saturday. Congratulations Carly and Jonathan! The Athletic Department will begin using Core Course this winter. This is a program that will allow students and parents to chart academic performance and address qualifications to compete at Division I and II institutions upon graduation. A training date with the high school administrators and guidance counselors has been set for Dec. 3. More information will follow after the training.

Our Peer Aids Educators will be trained on Nov.13 and 20 at North Shore Hospital to deliver lessons on HIV/Aids to elementary students in February.

From the Physical Education department, two students, Daniel Boll and Samantha Tierney, were selected as the Physical Education Students of the Year representing East Rockaway at the Crest Hollow Country Club in December. Congratulations to Daniel and Samantha on their pursuit of lifetime fitness!

The elementary chorus students are preparing for the Holiday Concert on December 9th. Rhame Avenue 4<sup>th</sup> Graders are learning a Native American song, Sunset, to be performed at their Pow-Wow. Rhame Avenue 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students are writing ad jingles for their Entrepreneur projects and learning a song called Currency that includes a theatrical dialogue about money. Our high school chorus will be singing, *America the Beautiful*, at the NY Islander Game tomorrow night.

SEDL Grade 6 words of the month are compromise and unique. Also from our SEDL curriculum, Rhame students in grades 4, 5, and 6 participated in an assembly on acceptance, bullying, and disabilities with Mr. Dennis Oehler.

In other news, Rhame Avenue Grade 2 students will be participating in Scholastics Pajama Program. The children will be collecting donations of pajamas to be delivered to shelters in the local area. The students will also be collecting empty water bottles throughout the school each Friday and using the deposit refunds to purchase pajamas. Centre Avenue Student Council is Sponsoring a Food Drive to Benefit Ronald McDonald House Nov.15-19. Centre Avenue Island Harvest Coin Drive was November 1-5. The Annual Centre Avenue "Thanksgiving Feast" will be held with grades 4, 5, and 6 on November 23rd. On October 29<sup>th</sup> the high school raised \$380 for Veterans for Valor through their monthly denim for dollars fund raiser.

Follow-up from the last meeting:

Code of Conduct—Please know that the District Code of Conduct is now available on our website. You can access it by clicking on *district information* and following the link for Code of Conduct. The Code is also mentioned in our calendar, the Jr/Sr High handbook and on the elementary websites. We plan to bring a committee together to review this document and update it as necessary. I will be asking PTA presidents to identify a member to participate on the committee.

Class size- At this time we will not be adding any additional sections. We have hired a teaching assistant at each elementary school to reduce the ratio of students to teachers and to allow for ability grouping to meet the needs of the different groups of children. I am hearing from both principals that this is working out well. The Board reviews enrollment figures monthly and each year makes a determination as to the number of sections for

grades K-6.

Enterprise—Dr. LoVerde will be meeting with each elementary PTA and explaining the new entry criteria. The committee is still working on the contract and once that is completed the teacher will clarify the curriculum. Participation is based on performance.

HS Honors and AP—Mr. Fortgang will be addressing this issue with the HS PTA. Teachers make recommendations for students to participate in Honors and AP classes based on the ability that the student has demonstrated through successful coursework. This will be outlined more clearly in this year's High School Course Catalog.

Elementary Report Cards—There have been meetings and discussions regarding the new standards-based report cards. A letter will accompany the report card in the first distribution in December. Parents can also speak to their child's teacher, principal, or Mr. Piccarella to get more information.

Bullying—We have taken many steps to educate the students on bullying. If you have been in our buildings lately you may have noticed the Bullying Circle posters as well as the anti-bullying signs posted on the property; this was a suggestion from a parent that we felt was worth exploring. Our social workers and classroom teachers are working closely to identify school bullies and correct this anti-social behavior. Bullying is not only an issue for ER; in fact, NYSSBA has just developed a sample policy on bullying. It used to be included as part of the harassment policy but society is seeing such a change in behavior that it has become necessary to have a separate policy. I am working with the administrators and Board on a policy that will be appropriate for ER. At the last meeting one of the parents asked what the parents should be doing and here is a suggestion. Educate yourselves about bullying behaviors and warning signs. Bullies become bullies by the ways they have been treated by bigger or more powerful people in their lives so we need to break the circle. Most recently the Board and I attended a workshop by Barbara Coloroso. I highly recommend her book and also a series of picture story books that you can read with your children. I spoke to the director of the East Rockaway Public Library and she will be ordering some copies of this book, as well as reviewing the public library collection to find other resources that you may find useful.

Race to the Top-Part of RTTT is accountability for teachers and principals. The plan needs to be developed as a partnership with the teachers and administrators. Once the plan is developed it will have to be implemented and managed. The responsibility has grown significantly. We will be looking at our organization structure to see if anything needs to be changed to keep up with the oversight of the new laws and regulations.

That concludes my report.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

## 7. Privilege of the Floor

The following topics were covered:

- Reading materials available on bullying
- Class size at Centre Avenue
- Out of district students
- BAC Committee
- Centre Avenue parking
- Parent portal
- Open gym night
- Evacuation during assembly
- Emergency response plan
- Funding for new staff
- Outdoor track

## 8. Board Member Comments

**Neil Schloth** – Thank you Mr. Cimorelli and Mr. Howard for the robotics presentation. Robotics is a good program that is competitive, team building and positive. I would like to congratulate both Kristin and Patti as they completed the classes necessary to be members on the board. To the Centre Ave parents, please understand that the board reviews the facts, does research but still has to follow the rules. We feel what you feel and we are not leaving any stone unturned.

**Kristin Ochtera** – When the decision was made to remove the track we found it was not regulation size and therefore useless for the school. The county was planning on putting in a track at Bay Park; it is still in the planning stages but they are working on it. I am amazed at how these

comments tie in together. What we offer kids outside the box for the size of our school and the community helps. This is what we expect; this out of the box thinking drives the board. Talk to your kids and find out what they like, bring it here or to the right person, it helps. Happy Thanksgiving.

**Patti Nicoletti** - Thanks to Mr. Cimorelli, Mr. Howard, Alex, Tom, Austin and Jake for the very interesting presentation on the robotics club. As always, I want to thank everyone who took the time out of their busy schedule to come here tonight. I encourage you to keep coming and stay informed. Have a happy Thanksgiving.

**Michaelene Abbott-Cooper** – Thank you for coming. As a parent I would never leave the office of the go to person but not as a board member. We cannot change what you think – take it to your door everyday – don't wait a month. It will all work out.

**Linda Schmidt** – Thank you Mr. Cimorelli and Mr. Howard. It is great to see the students have and take such an interest. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

9. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper and unanimously passed the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio  
District Clerk