

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., December 14, 2010 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School
Preceded by a Curriculum Presentation - Music 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 7:55 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper.
2. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Patti Nicoletti the minutes of the November 16, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports – October 2010
4. Correspondence – None
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following item #1 was unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff member on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Rebeca Pagan-Rodriguez.....	Foreign Language Teacher.....	January 12, 2011

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the following items #2-11 were unanimously approved:

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Petra Schoen for a child rearing leave of absence from her Library Media Specialist position, effective January 3, 2011, through April 1, 2011.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Gail Beyrer for a child rearing leave of absence from her elementary teacher position, effective January 18, 2011, through April 15, 2011.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Julee Sarno from her position as short-term substitute speech language teacher, effective December 3, 2010.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Karen Polito from the position of junior high track coach, effective November 29, 2010.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Richard Law to the position of short term substitute teacher, effective January 3, 2011, through April 1, 2011, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education for the 2010-2011 school year.

7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Megan Della Valle to the position of food service worker, effective December 15, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union contract for the 2010-2011 school year.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Sheri Hummel to the position of After-School Program Assistant, effective December 15, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2010-2011 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of JoMarie Ivoella from the position of teacher aide, effective December 31, 2010.
10. 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. Allison Guarino, substitute nurse, effective December 15, 2010.
11. 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 Patti Nicoletti the following items #1 – 8 were unanimously approved:

1. Accept a donation from the East Rockaway Education Foundation in the sum of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars for the purchase of technology supplies for technology and electronics education and approve an increase in budget code, A2110-450-01-0026 (technology department) by the sum of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars.
2. Accept a donation from the Rainbow Media Holdings, LLC in the sum of Three Thousand (\$3,000.00) Dollars for the purchase of technology equipment and supplies for technology and electronics education and approve an increase in budget code, A2110-200-01-0026 (technology department) by the sum of Two Thousand Eight Hundred (\$2,800.00) Dollars for the purchase of equipment and approve an increase in budget code A2110-450-01-0026 (technology department) by the sum of Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars for the purchase of supplies.
3. Accept a donation from Francine Kohn in the sum of Twenty-Eight and 81/100 (\$28.81) Dollars to the East Rockaway Music Scholarship Fund.
4. Authorize the Superintendent of Schools and/or President of the Board of Education to execute the Certification of Eligibility, Consent and Acceptance as a potential prizewinner in the MSG Varsity Network LLC’s Home Field Advantage Contest and authorize the District Clerk to file the Certification with MSG Varsity Network LLC.
5. Approve the appointment of Vivian Zhang as Interim Extra Classroom Activities Central Treasurer, effective December 6, 2010, for the purpose of signing checks issued from the East Rockaway UFSD Extra Classroom Activities Account.
6. Declare the RCA television, Model No. P46000T, Serial No 9096H5055, ER Tag No. 100895 broken and/or obsolete for the purpose of disposition.
7. Declare broken and/or obsolete for the purpose of disposition and/or recycling the following computer equipment:
 - Apple Computer..... ER Tag No. 100769
 - iMac Computer..... ER Tag No. 100217
 - Dell 240 Computer ER Tag No. 101686
8. Approve the contract with Crossroads, Inc. for professional development workshops, for the period January 1,

2011, through June 30, 2011, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Patti Nicoletti the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:

- a. Transaction No. 11-0012
- b. Transaction No. 11-0013
- c. Transaction No. 11-0014

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

D. Approval of CSE Recommendations

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations

6. Policy Matters for Review

<u>Policy Number</u>	<u>Title</u>
004.91 (NYSSBA 6700)	Purchasing
004.91-R (NYSSBA 6700-R)	Purchasing Regulation
004.91-E.1 (NYSSBA 6700-E.1)	Purchasing Exhibit
004.91-E.2 (NYSSBA 6700-E.2)	Explanation of Other Methods of Competition to Be Used For Non-Bid Procurements
007.661 (NYSSBA 0115)	Student Bullying Prevention and Intervention
007.661-E (NYSSBA 0115-E)	Bullying Formal Complaint Form

7. Superintendent's Report

Here's what's happening in our schools.

At the secondary school, the students are reading the following selections: Grade 7H--*The Lord of the Flies*; Grade 8--*The Pigman*; Grade 9R-- *Raisin in the Sun*; Grade 10--*Twelve Angry Men*; Grade 11R--*The Catcher in the Rye*; English 12R and Senior Seminar--*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

Regents Academies are now in place for students who need to retake a social studies or English regents exam in January.

The Technology Department is utilizing the services of MSG Varsity. Our students have been filming sporting events and announcing the games, as well as editing film. Mr. Howard has been attending workshops, working closely with Cablevision and MSG Varsity, striving to improve our studio and video communications classes.

The Business Department is beginning to prepare placements for the spring Senior Seminar course. Mr. Pajer attended a Senior Seminar workshop conference at Hofstra University and brought back valuable information to the department.

At the elementary schools, Grade 4 students participated in the 2nd Annual Computer Lab Monster Exchange project. The 4th grade students in both schools drew a monster and typed up the steps on how to draw it. The Rhame students then drew one of the Centre monsters and the Centre students drew a Rhame monster. On Monday, they met to see how closely their monsters resemble each other and how well they can create and follow directions!

At Centre Avenue, the Science Fair kick-off begins this month for grade 6, Grade 5 students are studying the geography and politics of Haiti, Grade 4 students are involved in a project that is interdisciplinary with math and SEL as well as an anti-bully connection. In Grade 2 the Flat Stanley Project is in full swing.

At Rhame Avenue, students wrote letters and cards to the soldiers for the holidays. In library, Mrs. Kerin, read and discussed *The Mitten Tree* by Candace Christiansen to all the classes. This book emphasizes the character traits of compassion and empathy for others. RA has a mitten tree outside the Library Media Center. Students are invited to add mittens to the tree and all mittens will be donated to the charitable organization called Little Saint Nick.

The Activity Works program is now in place in both elementary schools for grades K-3. This adds

additional minutes of physical activity to our students' day. In addition, at Rhame, students are participating in a "Mileage Club". At recess, students have the opportunity to earn foot charms based on the amount of laps they walk, jog, or run around the grass field. For each lap they complete they earn a sticker. When a student completes 15 laps, which is the equivalent of 2.5 miles, they earn a foot charm to put on a chain necklace. This is another opportunity for our students to work towards the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day.

We have a record number of teams earning NYS Scholar Athlete awards. The teams are as follows: Football; Girl's Soccer; Girl's Tennis; Girl's Cross Country; Boy's Cross Country; and Volleyball.

The Girl's Cross Country team received the highly coveted Nassau County Track Coaches Association Sportsmanship Award and the Boys Varsity Soccer team was awarded the Nassau County Soccer Coaches Association Team Sportsmanship Award, Conference V, at their dinner earlier this month. Go Rocks!

The elementary school student musicians did a great job at their winter concert last week and the Jr./Sr. High students will be performing on Thursday night. Tickets are now on sale for this year's musical, "The Sound of Music". The performances are Friday, February 4th at 7:30 pm and on Saturday, February 5 at 1:30 and 7:30 pm.

Art classes are working on Bird Appreciation day on January 5th with bird drawings. The students are also working on creating a logo for the Village Foundation. In addition, students created holiday cards for the annual Make a Soldier Smile program and they are also creating posters in celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Grade 3 students at Rhame received \$50 worth of art supplies from a grant sponsored by Ann Taylor and other companies. The supplies will be used to create bulletin boards.

Our SEDL words of the month are: Grade 6—Envious, Grade 7—Attitude, Frustration, Identify, Grade 8—Rebellious, Elation, Intimate, and Loathe.

We have learned that NYS has proposed to charge school districts for Regents exams to reduce their expenses. The cost would be \$5.93 per student annually. If this proposal becomes a reality, the cost will be deducted directly from our state aid.

Smartboards from the technology reserve continue to be installed in all three schools.

Other news includes:

- \$405 raised for Denim for Dollars at HS for the Little St. Nick foundation.

- Our Quiz Bowl Teams had a meet on Wednesday, December 8. Our Varsity 1st and JV Team both won their respective meets by a decisive margin. The 2nd Varsity lost to Baldwin by 3 questions. It was a very close match. Congratulations to our students and their advisor, Mary Orzano.

- Nassau County Police Department will be at Centre Avenue, grade 4, tomorrow for an anti-bullying presentation.

- Our students participated in a Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony on 12/7. Students are also writing essays on the historical event.

- Students also participated in the annual Make a Soldier Smile Ceremony on 12/6.

- Rhame Avenue PTA Reflections contest this year had over 170 entries. I was pleased to participate as a judge and proud of our students' creativity.

- There was a parenting workshop: Studying With Your Child. Fifteen parents attended.

- Rhame Avenue Grade 3 donated 250 books to schools in need.

- Rhame Avenue Grade 2 participated in Scholastic Books' Pajama Program. The students collected over 50 pairs of new pajamas which will be delivered to a local shelter. Scholastic will match each pair donated with a book donation to the same shelter. The children also collected empty water bottles for recycling. The funds will be used to purchase additional pajamas.

Follow-up from Prior Meeting:

I know that some people were upset about not getting a response to their questions last month. We are trying to work out a system where community members can get their questions answered by the person closest to their concern. We have created a document called, Who to Call with a Question or Suggestion, that we hope will assist. This will also be posted on the website. We are all working hard to make these meetings a positive experience for everyone. Also, I know that there may be some people who may not be comfortable speaking publicly but you may have some things on your mind that you don't want to bring to the PTA or board meeting. Please know that you can talk with me either by phone or by arranging a meeting.

The flyer outlining the BAC meeting dates and the charge to committee is now available.

There are two Board policies on the table tonight. They are also posted on the website under District Information. As we go forward, we will no longer be making paper copies but posting the policies that come up for review on our website. Eventually we expect to post all the policies on the website.

Merry Christmas to those who celebrate the holiday.

Happy Hanukah to those who celebrate the holiday.

Happy New Year to all who celebrate the holiday.
This concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

One community member questioned the Regents costs.
Another community member asked about the bullying policy.

9. Board Member Comments

Patti Nicoletti – Congratulations to Mrs. Rodriguez. I hope your tenure here at East Rockaway is a long one. Thank you to the music department and especially to the very talented students who performed tonight. I want to remind everyone that the Jr. /Sr. High School concert will be held on Thursday. Happy Holidays and a healthy, prosperous New Year to all.

Michaelene Abbott-Cooper – Mrs. Tullo, the performance was great. Welcome Mrs. Rodriguez. Josh, thank you for the plastic tunnel. Happy Birthday to John Piccarella.

Kristin Ochtera – Ditto. Happy Birthday John. I am looking into getting funds for 50 i Pads with some out of the box thinking. Happy Festivus.

Neil Schloth – Thank you Josh Warner. You did a lot of work on your own. Mrs. Rodriguez, congratulations on your tenure. We are lucky to have you. Have a great holiday.

Linda Schmidt – Thank you to the musicians. Have a happy and healthy holiday. Congratulations Mrs. Rodriguez. See you next year.

10. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Patti Nicoletti and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk