

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., January 18, 2011 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School
Preceded by a Curriculum Presentation – Foreign Languages and
the Andrew J. Stern Memorial Essay Contest Winners 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, members of the community

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 pm by Linda Schmidt and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patti Nicoletti.
2. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the minutes of the December 14, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports – November 2010
4. Correspondence – None
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items #1-7 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Erica Nadel from her teacher aide position, effective January 14, 2011.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Theresa Garcia to the probationary position of senior typist clerk, 10-months, effective January 19, 2011, at the prorated Step A annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association contract for the 2010-2011 school year.
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of David Simpson to the position of short term substitute teacher, effective January 18, 2011, through April 15, 2011, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education for the 2010-2011 school year.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepted the resignation of Patricia Tarzia from the position of substitute teacher aide effective January 18, 2011, and further approve the appointment of Patricia Tarzia to the position of teacher aide, effective January 19, 2011, at the Step A hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2010-2011 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Ranero Esver to the position of food service worker, effective January 19, 2011, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the Food Service & Monitor Unit contract for the 2010-2011 school year.
6. 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. Jodi Neckles, substitute monitor, effective January 19, 2011
 - b. MaryJo Keane, substitute monitor, effective January 19, 2011
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:

- a. Ranero Esver, food service worker

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following items #1-14 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the contract with GWJ Consultants, Ltd. for professional development workshops, for the period February 11, 2011, through March 4, 2011, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education.
2. Approve the contract with Ryan's Story Presentation, Ltd. for student presentations on bullying on May 19, 2011, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education.
3. Approve the Addendum to the contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Access 7 Consulting for speech services for the period December 13, 2010, through January 31, 2011.
4. Approve the appointment of Parent Members to the District CPSE/CSE
 - a. Bill Muller
 - b. Theresa Devlin
5. Approve the contract with Ballyhoo Book Works Inc. for student presentations to Grades K-2 and 3-6 and writer workshops for grades 5 and 6 at Rhame Avenue Elementary School on March 16, 2011, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education.
6. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the District's Director of Finance & Operations and the District's legal counsel, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves payment in the amount of Four Thousand Five Hundred (\$4,500.00) Dollars to Ramic Contracting Corporation in full payment for certain services rendered in connection with insulation and ductwork at Rhame Avenue School and East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School, subject to the execution of necessary release and such other documentation as recommended and reviewed by legal counsel, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Board President to execute said documents on behalf of the District, upon the approving opinion of legal counsel.

7. Approve the 2011-2012 school district calendar.
8. Approve the WinCap License and Support Agreement with Capital Computer Associates Inc. 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 grant in the sum of Two Hundred Fifty (\$250.00) Dollars from Nassau Educators Federal Credit Union "Funding Your Ideas" Teacher Grant Program awarded to Christine Cartmell-Moy for the Soldier Science Project School.
10. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New York State and Local Retirement System to ensure that elected and appointed officials receive appropriate service credit, changes and additions to the process of reporting elected and appointed officials to the Retirement System became effective August 12, 2009 under Regulation 315.4, Regulation on Reporting for Elected or Appointed Officials; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the East Rockaway UFSD/Location Code 72844 hereby establishes seven (7) hours as the

standard work day for elected and appointed officials and will report the days worked as more particular set forth on Form RS2417-A, Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution, to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the time keeping system records or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body:

Appointed Officials:

Vivian Zhang, District Treasurer

Denise Lobascio, District Clerk

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Clerk of this School District is hereby authorized and directed to file a certified copy of the resolution and an affidavit of positing with the Office of the State Comptroller within 45 days of the adoption of this resolution.

11. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District has heretofore duly established the following reserves:

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to fund the reserves as follows:

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount
General Fund's Unappropriated fund balance		\$400,000.00
	Capital Reserve for Building Repairs	\$200,000.00
	Capital Reserve for Technology	\$200,000.00

12. Accept the independent audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

13. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD hereby approves an Agreement for Legal Services dated as of January 6, 2011, between the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD and Hamburger, Maxson, Yaffe, Knauer & McNally, LLP as attached, and authorizes the Board President to execute said agreement.

14. Approve the contract with Long Island Crisis Center for a faculty presentation Adolescent Depression and Suicide Prevention on February 7, 2011 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:
 - a. Transaction No. 10-0046
 - b. Transaction No. 11-0015

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

D. Approval of CSE Recommendations

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations

6. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the following policies were unanimously approved for adoption:

<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
007.661-R	Student Bullying Prevention and Intervention Regulations

7. Superintendent's Report

Happy New Year everyone.

Congratulations to our September 11th essay winners: Peter, Scott and Thomas.

Here's what's happening in our schools.

Students at the secondary school will be taking midterms and semester finals during the last week of January. Some students will be retaking Regents exams that are required for graduation. Earlier this month the NYSED administered a new Regents Exam in English. We had a small population of students take this exam and we have not yet received the cut scores to determine the results.

This English Department has reviewed many literary works and will be implementing a new book into the curriculum. Grade 12 students will be reading, *Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer.

If you have a 7th, 8th or 9th grade student please ask them about Castle Learning. This is an online question database to help prepare the students for the math and science assessments. Each student has an account and they can work with the program on their own as well as when their teachers are using it in class.

Last Thursday evening was our annual Middle School Science Fair. We had an excellent collection of topics and an excellent turnout of parents and siblings coming out to support our 7th and 8th grade scientists. Our first place winners include: Matthew Seifert; Austin Caracciolo; Tyler Collins; and Courtney Jackson. Congratulations to all of our students and the science department under Mr. Cangemi's leadership.

At Rhame Avenue the third grade students visited Safety Town. This field trip connected to the health curriculum on safe pedestrian practices.

Both the fourth grade and fifth grade students from Rhame Avenue visited Old Bethpage Village Restoration to develop an understanding of community life on Long Island in the mid 19th century. This is part of the New York State social studies curriculum. In addition, the students are reading, *Colonial Life on Long Island*, by Carolyn D. Halsey and *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson.

Also in social studies and connected to our social emotional literacy curriculum, second grade students at Rhame studied the life and messages of Dr. King. They role played discrimination by allowing students with a November birthday to participate in a fun Smartboard lesson while the rest of the class watched from the rear of the room with limited, broken supplies and no possibility of engagement. The students then discussed how they felt and were able to relate the demonstration to how some groups of people were treated in the past. As a culminating activity, the students will create "Kindness Bells" with examples / illustrations of how we can let kindness ring.

Sixth grade students are learning about World War II and the Holocaust and they are reading: *Number the Stars*, by Lois Lowry, *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Paulen, *Snow Treasure*, by Marie Mcswigan, and *Four Perfect Pebbles: A Holocaust Story*, by Lila Perl and Marion Lazan. Marion Lazan is a local author.

Connected to the math curriculum there was an assembly at Rhame Avenue for students in grades K-6, titled Arithmetickles.

Last month the sixth grade students attended a Pearl Harbor Remembrance at the waterfront. The students wrote essays on Pearl Harbor and the members of the American Legion selected five essays from each elementary school. The Centre Avenue awards were given out last week to the following students: Damian Barrios; Adrionna Huthwaite; Sophia Gopie; Richard Neckles; and Amy Ogura. The Rhame Avenue assembly was postponed due to the snow day.

Both elementary schools have begun implementing the Reading 3D program for grades K-3.

The Centre Avenue Geography Bee was held on January 14th. The winner of the bee was Nicholas Parzziale. Congratulations to Nicholas.

Elementary ELA and Math Academies are to begin January 31st.

The varsity football team along with cross country runners, Carly Howard and Jonathan Schloth, were honored at the East Rockaway Village Hall on January 10th with citations on their accomplishments for finishing in the "final four" in conference IV and making the state championships as Cross Country runners!

The Fitnessgram testing will conclude at the end of this semester with reports available to parents in February.

In December, Mr. Vulpis and Ms. Poland sponsored a field trip to the Freeport Recreation Center for a lesson to teach basic water safety and swimming to the students in the Life Skills Program. The field trip was successful and we are considering a return visit.

Mr. Vito, Mr. Rinn and Mrs. Kosloff will be training the peer aids educators in early February for the Peer HIV/AIDS lessons delivered in the elementary schools during Human Relations Week.

As mentioned last month, during recess, students at Rhame Avenue are participating in the "Mileage Club". The students have now traveled 1237.5 miles around the field.

Our top musicians performed at the Tillis Center this past weekend in the All-County Concerts sponsored by the Nassau Music Educators Association.

First graders at Rhame visited the Bellmore Playhouse to see Frosty the Snowman.

Some select third grade students and Art Club members from Rhame Avenue contributed artwork to the Empire State Plaza to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

There is a display of student art work, from both elementary schools, at the East Rockaway Public Library in the children's section. The display is in honor of National Bird Appreciation Day, which was January 5th. It is my understanding that the display will be available for the next month.

There are still tickets available for the district musical, "The Sound of Music". The show features students from all three of our school buildings and our entire music staff. Performances are on February 4th and 5th at 7:30 pm and there will be a 1:30 matinee on Saturday.

At Rhame Avenue this month third grade students completed a project called What makes us special? They shared what they can teach others, what makes them unique, what they are good at and what talents they possess.

Sixth grade words at Rhame Avenue this month are: Empathy and Optimism.

Sixth grade words at Centre Avenue this month are: Rebellious and Scapegoat.

This past month Centre Avenue School had an Anti-Bullying assembly with Nassau County Police Officer Dockswell. We thank the police department for working with us on our anti-bullying campaign.

ERSD has fulfilled the requirements of the Toxic Substances Control ACT and has received certification to conduct lead-based paint renovation, repair, and painting activities. We have received a certificate that remains in effect until January 5, 2016. We are, what is called, a lead-safe certified firm.

Our recycling efforts continue to be successful. We received a thank you from Royal Recycling Solutions letting us know that from September through December 2010 our schools have been able to save over 6.02 tons of paper and other recyclables from going into landfill. Thank you to the students, staff and custodial team for participating in this worthwhile project.

In other news throughout the district:

-In December the HS Staff raised \$675 to support a local food pantry.

-Students from the Key Club helped host, serve and clean-up for the Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner last Friday evening. Mr. Fortgang, club advisor, was also present and Mr. Vulpis was one of the cooks!

-I received a letter from the Hilton Garden Inn, where members of our High School Basketball Team stayed in December for a tournament. The letter praises the behavior of our young men and our coaches. The letter states, "The team was well behaved, polite and courteous to all staff members and not to mention other stay-overs at the Hilton".

-Nick Cimorelli, HS Technology teacher, has been working with a group of educators at Hofstra University on a National Science Foundation-funded educational game for middle school students, titled, "Survival Master." The project involves a nationwide team of game developers and educators. The game will teach science, technology, engineering, and mathematics concepts and skills in an engineering design context.

-Christine Cartmell-Moy, Kindergarten teacher at Rhame Avenue, received a \$250 grant from NEFCU for a classroom science project. The grant is titled *Soldier Science*. She plans to ask military personnel to volunteer their learning experiences from the field and how science plays an integral part in his/her job. The kindergarten children will have the chance for many hands-on learning experiences using science equipment which will be purchased with the grant money.

-Our first Budget Advisory Committee meeting was canceled due to the weather. The snow make-up date, as listed on the school calendar, will be this Thursday, January 20th at 7:30 PM.

Following up from the December meeting, there was a comment from a community member on the Bullying Prevention Policy to include in the policy that a parent will be present during an investigation of an incident. The Board of

Education discussed it and also asked NYSSBA for an opinion and it was decided not to include that language in the policy.

That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- One community member commented on a piece of mail he received from the high school.

9. Board Member Comments

Patti Nicoletti – Congratulations to all of the winners of the Andrew Stern essay contest. Each essay was thoughtful and well written. Gracias y grazie to the Foreign Language Department for their presentation and especially for the flan, muy delicioso! Thank you all for coming out tonight.

Michaelene Abbott-Cooper – It is very nice of you to come. Both presentations were great. It's nice to see the kids write about what they learn. Thank you for coming.

Kristin Ochtera – Thank you for coming. Thank you for the successful presentations. I encourage all of you to come to the BAC meetings.

Neil Schloth – Congratulations to the award winners and thank you to the Stern family. It is a great learning experience and tool. Just want to remind you that we are almost one half way through the school year, midterms are coming and the best help we can give our kids is positive parental influence.

Linda Schmidt – Thank you for coming out. I look forward to seeing you next month.

10. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Patti Nicoletti and unanimously passed the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk