

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., November 15, 2011 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School
Preceded by an English Language Arts Presentation and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Neil Schloth, President; Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, Vice President; Linda Schmidt, Patti Nicoletti, Kristen Ochtera, Roseanne Melucci, Superintendent of Schools; Marcy Tannenbaum, Director of Finance and Operations; Denise Lobascio; District Clerk, staff and members of the community.

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 by Neil Schloth and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Linda Schmidt.
2. Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Linda Schmidt the minutes of the October 18, 2011 Board of Education Meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – September 2011
4. Correspondence – 2
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items #1-12 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Lawrence Faas, substitute cleaner, effective November 15, 2011
 - b. Christine Polizzi, substitute teacher aide, effective November 15, 2011
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, terminate the services of Lisa Pennstrom from the positions of food service worker and substitute cleaner, effective October 26, 2011.
3. 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 30, 2012, through June 30, 2012.

4. 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 30, 2012, through June 30, 2012, at the prorated MA, Step 3 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2011 – 2012 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a leave of absence of Elizabeth Duffy from the position of leave replacement reading teacher for a time period not to exceed six weeks and not to extend beyond January 2, 2012.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Christine Polizzi, to the position of teacher aide, effective November 16, 2011, at the Step A hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2011-2012 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following part–time appointments for the ALPSS Program, effective November 16, 2011, through June 30, 2012, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2011-2012 school year:
 - a. Gina Sardegna, teacher aide, Step A
 - b. Andrew Lalama, teacher aide, Step A
 - c. Caitlin Fox, teacher aide, Step A
 - d. Melissa Jordan, English Teacher
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following appointments, effective November 16, 2011, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Unit contract for the 2011-2012 school year:
 - a. Genevieve Rafter Keddy, food service worker, Step 1
 - b. Gaetano Barone, monitor, Step 1
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Lawrence Faas to the position of cleaner, effective November 16, 2011, at the prorated Step B annual salary established by the East Rockaway Custodial Unit contract for the 2011-2012 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following appointments for the 2011-2012 fall/spring driver education program at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association for the 2011-2012 school year:
 - a. Christian Soto..... Driver and Traffic Safety Instructor

b. Dominick Vulpis Driver and Traffic Safety Instructor

11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments, effective November 16, 2011, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education:

Substitute Monitors:

- a. Karen Calabro
- b. Theresa Romano
- c. Giuseppina Buglione

Substitute Teachers:

- d. Laura Abruzzo
- e. Daniela Pavlovic
- f. Amanda Agro
- g. Kevin Sloan
- h. Kristi Boyce

Substitute Teacher Aide:

- i. Jennie Moore

Substitute Cleaner:

- j. James Iaquinto

Athletic Supervisor (Day/Evenings)

- k. Emily D'Archangelis

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. Emily D'Archangelis

B. Other Items

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

- 1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised winter sports 2011-2012 coaching assignments as more fully set forth on the schedule of winter sports coaching assignments dated November 15, 2011.
- 2. Accept the following donation and authorize an increase budget code F-212-2112-200 (miscellaneous donations) by said amounts:

- a. \$100.00 from the Class of 1961 for the athletic department
- b. \$7,000 from the CAMBR Charitable Foundations for the purchase of robotic equipment and supplies for technology and electronics education.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:

- a. Transaction No. 12-0003
- b. Transaction No. 12-0004

- D. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Approval of CPSE Recommendations - None

6. Policy Matters:

1. Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the retirement of the following policy was unanimously approved:

- a. 4341, Adult Education

2. Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Michaelene Abbott Cooper, the following policies marked a – I were unanimously approved:

From Series 1000:

- a. 1000, Community Relations Goals
- b. 1050, Annual District Election and Budget Vote
- c. 1120, School District Records
1120-R, School District Records Regulation
1120-E.1, Application for Public Access to Records
1120-E.2, Agency Response to Request for Records
- d. 1130, News Media Relations
- e. 1400, Public Complaints
- f. 1420, Complaints about Curricula or Instructional Materials
1420-R, Complaints About Curricula or Instructional Materials Regulation
- g. 1500, Public Use of School Facilities
1500-R, Application Procedures for Use of District Facilities
1500-E.1, Facilities Use Requirements
1500-E.2, Application for Use of District Facilities

- h. 1511, Advertising in the Schools
- i. 1530, Smoking & Other Tobacco Use on School Premises
- j. 1740, Relationships with Non-public Schools
1740-R, Relationships with Non-public Schools Regulation
- k. 1800, Gifts from the Public
- l. 1925, Interpreters for Hearing-Impaired Parents
1925-E.1, Interpreters for Hearing Impaired Parents Accommodation Request
1925-E.2, Response to Request for Accommodations

3. Policies for Review:

From Series 1000:

- a. 1222, Relationship with Booster Organizations
- b. 1230, Public Participation at Board Meetings

From Series 2000:

- c. 2000, Board Operational Goals
- d. 2100, School Board Legal Status
- e. 2110, School Board Powers and Duties
2110-E, School Board Powers and Duties Exhibit
- f. 2120, School Board Elections
- g. 2120.2, Voting Procedures
- h. 2121, Board Member Qualifications
- i. 2150, Filling Board Vacancies
- j. 2160, School District Officer and Employee Code of Ethics
- k. 2210, Board Reorganizational Meeting
- l. 2220, Board Officers
- m. 2230, Appointed Board Officials
- n. 2260, Citizens Advisory Committees
- o. 2270, School Attorney
- p. 2310, Regular Meetings
- q. 2320, Special Meetings
- r. 2330, Executive Sessions
- s. 2340, Notice of Meetings
- t. 2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
- u. 2350, Board Meeting Procedures
- v. 2351, Quorum
- w. 2352, Rules of Order
- x. 2360, Minutes
- y. 2410, Policy Development, Adoption, Implementation and Review
- z. 2510, New Board Member Orientation
- aa. 2520, Board Member Training
- bb. 2521, School Board Conferences, Conventions, Workshops

From Series 4000:

- cc. 4000, Student Learning Objectives and Instructional Goals
- dd. 4110, School Calendar
- ee. 4200, Curriculum Management
- ff. 4220 Pilot Projects
- gg. 4311.1, Display of the Flag
4311.1-R, Display of the Flag Regulation
- hh. 4315.1, AIDS Instruction
4315.1-E.1, AIDS Instruction Exhibit
- ii. 4317, Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco
- jj. 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities Under the IDEA & NY Education Law Article 89
- kk. 4321.1, Provisions of Special Education Services in the Least Restrictive Environment
- ll. 4321.3, Allocation of Space for Special Education Programs
- mm. 4321.4, Independent Educational Evaluations
4321.4-R, Independent Educational Evaluations Regulations
- nn. 4321.5, Confidentiality And Access To Individualized Education Programs,
Individualized Education Services Programs And Service Plans
- oo. 4321.6, Availability of Alternative Format Instructional Materials for Students with Disabilities
- pp. 4321.7, Districtwide and Statewide Assessments of Students with Disabilities
- qq. 4321.9, Declassification of Students with Disabilities
- rr. 4321.10, Programs and Services for Parentally-Placed Nonpublic School Students with Disabilities
- ss. 4321.11, Public Report on Revisions to District Policies, Practices and Procedures Upon a Finding of Significant Disproportionality
- tt. 4321.13, Preschool Special Education
- uu. 4321.14, Special Education Personnel
- vv. 4322, Programs for Gifted/Talented Students
- ww. 4326, Limited English Proficiency Instruction
4326-E.1, Placement in a Language Instructional Educational Program
4326-E.2, Sample Parental Notification; Failure to Meet Annual Measurable Objectives Relating to English Proficiency
- xx. 4331, Summer School
- yy. 4511, Textbook Selection and Adoption
- zz. 4513, Library Materials Selection
- aaa. 4526, Computer Use in Instruction
4526-R, Computer Use in Instruction Regulation
4526-E, Acceptable Use Agreement
- bbb. 4526.1, Internet Safety
4526.1-R, Internet Safety Regulation
- ccc. 4531, Field Trips and Excursions

- ddd. 4532, School Volunteers
4532-E, School Volunteer Form
- eee. 4600, Guidance Programs
- fff. 4730, Homework
- ggg. 4750, Promotion and Retention of Students
- hhh. 4770, Graduation
4770-R, Graduation Regulation
- iii. 4810, Teaching About Controversial Issues

From Series 5000:

- jjj. 5460, Child Abuse

7. Superintendent's Report

Here's what's happening in our schools:

At Rhame Avenue, Grade 4 students visited Old Bethpage Restoration Village to experience life in a recreated mid-19th-century American village. On October 31st the PTA sponsored an assembly on Wonders of the Rainforest. Books to read this month include: Gr. 1: *Junie B. Jones - First Grader at Last*; Gr. 2: - *Molly's Pilgrim*; Gr. 3: *Matilda and Tale of Despereau*; Grade 6: *Peter Pan* – (read aloud).

At Centre Avenue School, Grade 6 students are studying Ancient Egypt in social studies and all about atoms and matter in science. Grade 5 students are studying the Colonization of North America this month and in science they are learning about Minerals.

8th grade students, as part of the 8th grade social studies curriculum, will be participating in the Pearl Harbor Day remembrance on December 7th at the East Rockaway waterfront. We thank the VFW for inviting our students to learn about this important day in history.

In art this month, elementary students are studying Geometric shapes, Sculpture, and Picasso's cubic style. Music this month in Grade 3 is about Native American Songs. Also, all students in chorus, band and orchestra are getting ready for the annual holiday concerts.

Connected to Physical Fitness, students at Rhame, as of November 3rd, have walked more than 500 miles during the recess walking program. Recently the parents in grades K-3 at Rhame participated in the Activity Works program that is increasing the number of minutes for physical fitness during a student's school day.

There is a lot to report about our student athletes. In Cross Country, Jonathan Schloth represented East Rockaway and the County "C" Classification of runners at the State Meeting for the third year in a row! During the meet one of the students was injured and Cara Anderson, one of our juniors, stopped to help her. This act of kindness disqualified Cara from the state meet because of a DNF (did not finish). Congratulations Cara for your display of sportsmanship for a fellow teammate.

The Girls' Volleyball team won the Nassau County Classification "C" Championship with a 3-0 win over Malverne. They were defeated in the regional game that was played at St. Joseph's College. Congratulations to the team for getting as far as they did.

The Football team, for the second year in a row has reached the "final four" in conference IV Nassau County play. They won their game on November 10th and play again on 11/17 in hopes of a first time ever Nassau County Championship. The Long Island Championship game is held on Thanksgiving Day. Good luck Rocks!

Earlier this year I mentioned that there was a change in the Sports Award ceremony so as to increase participation and cut back on cost. Mr. Vulpis reports that each sport has been holding its end of the season awards presentations and there has been over 90% student attendance at the events with no cost factor to the families.

The SEL word of the month at Rhame is pride. The students made chains out of construction paper illustrating what each student is proud of. At Centre Avenue the words of the month are Anxiety and Apprehension.

One of the facilities projects at the HS that is being considered for the 2012-2013 budget is to redesign the cafeteria. There are old tables in the wall that are never used and should be removed. We are looking to see if we can use the limited cafeteria space more efficiently. Recently the architect reviewed our current use and also inspected the space for asbestos. At Centre Avenue new window screens have been installed in the All Purpose Room.

Parent teacher conferences were held this month at all schools. Although there is a set time and date for this activity, parents should know that at any time they may request a meeting with a teacher to discuss their child's progress in school. On November 8th, along with parent-teacher conferences, this day also included an opportunity for teachers to meet in their grade level bands and begin developing Common Core Lessons and activities.

Yesterday and today I participated in two days of a ten-day training on supervising principals, as per the new state law on supervision. Mrs. Guggino joined me for this staff development. Over the next few weeks, each of the administrators will be at BOCES for day 3 of the ten day training on teacher supervision. This is important work and it will be taking up a great deal of our time this year not only attending the staff development sessions but following up with meetings in the district.

The elementary schools will begin meeting as inquiry teams for each grade level during the staff meeting time designated on the calendar. Race to the Top requires that teachers meet as a grade level team to analyze assessment results and plan for instruction. The meetings will alternate between the two elementary schools.

The Insights publication has been posted on our website. Also, an email alert was sent to those families for whom we have an email address in our student management system letting them know that this publication was posted. We are going to continue mailing one home this year to make sure all residents have access and we are hoping to move toward paperless distribution next year. If you, or someone you know, did not receive the email you may want to contact the Curriculum and Technology office so we can input the email address.

We have begun the budget process for the 2012-2013 budget. Based on previous years' data of not reaching at least a 60% passing rate, we will be constructing a budget within the 2% tax levy cap. Meetings with the administrators begin December 1st.

I want to remind the community that the two additional sections that were added at Centre Avenue this year are funded from a Federal grant and they are not in the budget. This was made clear to the parents last year when the positions were established and it was also made

clear to the teachers who were hired to fill these positions. We would love to continue them but at this time we do not know if that will be possible under the current tax levy cap legislation.

In other news: All three schools will be collecting food for Ronald McDonald House to be given next week; Rhame Avenue School has begun a Buddy Day on Tuesdays which is when students in the 5th and 6th grade buddy up to prevent bullying; November 18th is Centre Avenue Visitor's Day; November 23rd is the Rhame Avenue Visitor's Day; please check our website for a new link--Parent and Community Resources. Congratulations to Mr. Crowley, HS Science teacher, he completed the NYC marathon two weeks ago.

Follow-up

Two Teaching Assistants will be hired to work with the children in the Elementary Schools. One will be assigned to the 4th grade at Centre and the other will be assigned to the 1st grade at Rhame. In addition, a Math Academy for Grade 4 at Centre will begin shortly. Later on this year there will be academies for math and ELA for students in grades 3-8 to prepare for the assessments. There will also be some Regents academies for the students scheduled to take a Regents exam in January.

Additional notification for meetings—Meetings are posted on the doors of the buildings, in the calendar that was sent home and on the website. In addition, elementary principals list the dates on the monthly calendars they send home. It is also posted on the message boards in front of the schools. There is sufficient notification for the meetings.

Changing the boundary line—this does not solve the problem of keeping class size consistent. A few years ago Rhame had the higher class size and if the boundary had changed then we would be changing it again. Also, it does not solve the problem of grade level teachers having ongoing opportunities to plan and analyze assessment data as well as being able to use our resources more efficiently.

That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Fourth grade class size at Centre.
- Seventh grade curriculum.
- Crossing Main St. if reconfiguration takes place.
- Interviews for Princeton Plan.
- Requirements for Enterprise.
- Princeton Plan.
- IEP/504 clarification.

9. Board Member Comments

Patti Nicoletti - Thank you to Mr. Piccarella for the very informative and timely presentation on Common Core Standards. I appreciate all the time and energy spent. I want to assure everyone that we are waiting for all the information the consultant is gathering for the district on the Princeton Plan as well as, considering the comments of the community before any decision is made. A presentation of these results will be forthcoming. I also want to thank the fourth grade parents who presented their concerns tonight very professionally and respectfully. I wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving.

Michaelene Abbott-Cooper – Thank you for coming. Thank you Mr. Piccarella, I am sure you answered questions that people had. You have to listen when people speak otherwise you will not hear what they are saying. There is a lot that is not black and white. In order to answer questions you need information. If you don't listen, you may miss out on what you came to hear.

Linda Schmidt – Thank you for coming. Thank you Mr. Piccarella. Thank you for sharing your comments and concerns. We are here to make the school better.

Kristin Ochtera – This is certainly a learning experience. Those who felt we had our minds made up on the Princeton Plan are starting to come around and realize we haven't. Although it is an educational program, we will take into consideration how it will affect the entire community. I can't wait to find out. By listening to you we are able to exclude things. There are so many details; we need to find out if it is right for us. Thank you for coming and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Neil Schloth – Thank You to Mr. Piccarella for his excellent presentation on curriculum. His presentation is another example of new mandates that are placed on our school district on a continual basis. I would like to commend the fourth Grade Parents for their presentation to the board. The Board will investigate these areas of concern and a response will be made to you by an appropriate Administrator. We will do the best that we can to correct this situation. Thank you for coming to this meeting and Happy Thanksgiving to everyone here tonight.

10. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk