

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
 East Rockaway, New York
 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
 7:30 P.M., April 17, 2012 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School
 Preceded by a Special Education – Life Skills 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, members of the community

1. The meeting was called to order by Neil Schloth at 8:03 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Linda Schmidt.
2. Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper the minutes of the March 20, 2012 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – February 2012
4. Correspondence – Six
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Patti Nicoletti the following items #1 – 11 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Rachele Kempton to a probationary position as a special education teacher, *nunc pro tunc*, effective September 1, 2009.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff members on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Lori DeVarso	Elementary Teacher	September 1, 2012
James Hickey	Physical Education Teacher.....	September 1, 2012
Rachele Kempton.....	Special Education Teacher	September 1, 2012
ToniAnn Donald	Teaching Assistant.....	September 1, 2012

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Francine Kohn, for the purpose of retirement, from her elementary teacher position, effective June 30, 2012.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Patricia Tarzia, teacher aide, effective April 4, 2012
 - b. James Iaquinto, substitute cleaner, effective April 30, 2012
 - c. Karen Salvesen, food service worker, effective April 17, 2012
 - d. Jessica Cavolo, special education teacher, effective June 30, 2012
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Kerry Lee Koehler for a leave of absence for medical reasons from her special education teacher position, effective March 19, 2012, through June 30, 2012.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Ann Marie Kenney for a child rearing leave of absence from her school psychologist position, effective March 9, 2012, through June 30, 2012.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Marisa Solan to the part-time position of Special Education Teacher (Extended Day Program), effective April 18, 2012 to June 22, 2012, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments, Step A for the 2011-2012 school year.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Kathleen Graf to the position of food service worker, effective April 18, 2012, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union agreement for the 2011-2012 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that there being a vacancy in the elementary teacher tenure area effective September 1, 2012, due to a resignation, pursuant to Education Law §2510 the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD hereby reinstates Hannah Park, who was to be placed on the preferred eligibility list for elementary teachers as of June 30, 2012, to said elementary teacher position as a full-time probationary elementary teacher, effective September 1, 2012, through August 31, 2014, (tenure area: elementary; certification status: Initial), at the MA, Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for teachers for the 2012-2013 school year.

10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignment at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education:

Seasonal Cleaners, effective May 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012:

- a. Lucia Castro
- b. Dania Ayala
- c. Gina Hamsley
- d. Joseph Wasniewski
- e. Christopher Brockett
- f. Francesco Florio
- g. James Iaquinto
- h. Christopher Griffith

Substitute Teachers, effective April 18, 2012

- i. Lisa Glotzer Steiner
- j. Frank LaSala

Short-Term Substitute Elementary Teacher:

- k. Lisa Glotzer Steiner, effective May 3, 2012, through June 22, 2012

Substitute Food Service Worker, effective April 18, 2012:

- l. Michelle Warszawiak

Athletic Supervisor (Day/Evenings)

- m. Louis Perri, effective March 5, 2012
- n. Suzanne Torborg, effective March 21, 2012

Home Tutor

- o. Marisa Solan, effective April 18, 2012 (elementary)

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:

- a. Michelle Warszawiak
- b. Christopher Griffith
- c. Kathleen Graf

B. Other Items:

1. Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper the following resolution was unanimously approved:

WHEREAS, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (hereinafter "Nassau BOCES") has proposed and presented its Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2012/13 school year (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013), now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2012-2013 school year in the amount of nineteen million, three hundred five thousand, two hundred five dollars (\$19,305,205) be, and hereby is,

APPROVED by this Board.

AND authorize the District Clerk to execute the Ballot and Clerk's Certificate and file same with Nassau BOCES.

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items #2-17 were unanimously approved:

2. BE IT RESOLVED that East Rockaway UFSD does hereby agree and consent to the establishment in accordance with the provisions of Education Law §1950(4)(ee) and applicable regulations of the Commissioner of Education of a career education instructional equipment reserve fund by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (hereinafter "BOCES) for the replacement and purchase of advanced technology equipment used in instructional programs conducted by BOCES; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of this Board be and is hereby directed to promptly provide to the BOCES Clerk a certification of the approval of these resolutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Nassau BOCES District Superintendent (and/or his designee) is hereby directed upon the approval of the establishment of said reserve fund by a majority of BOCES' component school districts to so notify the Commissioner of Education and each component school district, and to take such other action as may reasonably be necessary to establish and operate said reserve fund.

3. Authorize the District Clerk to cast one ballot for each of the following individuals for their election to the Board of Cooperative Educational Services: Susan Bergtraum, Martin R. Kaye, and Michael Weinick.
4. Amend Other Item No. 10 from the March 20, 2012, agenda and minutes to read as follows:

PROPOSITION NO. 3 (Capital Reserve Fund Expenditure Proposition):

RESOLVED,

(a) that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District ("District"), is hereby authorized to undertake certain school building improvements ("Project"), as described in a Capital Projects 2012/13 report on file and available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk ("Report"), all at no additional cost to District taxpayers; said Project to commence during the 2012-2013 school year and to consist of the following capital improvements, renovations and/or alterations: (1) univent repairs and pneumatic control updates, rotunda doors replacement and gutter replacement at the East Rockaway High School; (2) repaving of playground and concrete repairs and lighting in front of building at Rhame Avenue Elementary School; (3) replacement of first grade doors and updating of rusting fire escape at Centre Avenue Elementary School; and (4) security camera upgrades and window repairs or replacement district wide; all of the foregoing to include equipment, construction and other work required in connection therewith, as well as preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof; provided that the detailed costs of the components of the Project as set forth in the Report may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District and no material change shall be made in the scope of the Project; and

(b) that an amount not to exceed \$200,000 is hereby appropriated for said purpose from the District's Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs, heretofore established by the voters of the District on May 20, 2008, and such sum is hereby authorized to be transferred into the District's Capital Fund to be expended and applied to toward the cost of the Project.

5. Amend Other Item No. 15 from the March 20, 2012, agenda and minutes to read as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that Carol Hernandez be appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Registration for the annual District Election to be held on May 15, 2012.

6. Approve the budget to be presented for public vote on May 15, 2012, in the amount of Thirty-Five Million Six Hundred One Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars and No Cents (\$35,601,664.00).

7. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOVLED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD approves the real property tax report card prepared by the district's business office for the 2012 Annual District Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said report card shall be submitted to the State Education Department by the end of the next business day following this approval.

8. Approve the contract with Molloy College / The Rebecca Center for Music Therapy, for music therapy services for the period May 1, 2012 through June 22, 2012, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education.
9. Accept a donation in the sum of One Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Five Dollars (\$1365.00) from Centre Avenue School PTA to reduce the per student cost of the Greenkill Overnight Field Trip.
10. Approve the award of the contract for the purchase and installation of air conditioning and heating units to the lowest responsible bidders: Best Climate Control, 75 Orville Drive, Bohemia, NY 11716; Commercial Instrumentation Services, 681 Grand Boulevard, Suite 7, Deer Park, NY 11729; and Etna Prestige Technologies, Inc., 68 Whitehall Street, Lynbrook, NY 11563; for AC Split Systems, bid opening March 23, 2012; and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contracts on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education, a participant in the Rockville Centre Cooperative, a purchasing consortium, should the need arise.

11. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals, together with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services ("BOCES") for pupil transportation services for the 2012-2013 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;

WHEREAS, the public school districts and the BOCES have agreed to form a Cooperative (the "Cooperative") for this purpose;

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District, is desirous of participating in the Cooperative for joint solicitation of proposals for pupil transportation services as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the East Rockaway Union Free School District to participate in the Cooperative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

12. Approve the contract for consultation services with Nancy Nunziata, Pupil Transportation Consultant, for the period July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education, a participant in the Southwest Quadrant Transportation consortium.

13. WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District, the Island Park Union Free School District and the Oceanside Union Free School District wish to jointly and cooperatively solicit bids for the purchase of various commodities and/or services in connection with their school breakfast and/or lunch programs (“Food Services”) for the 2012-2013 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned public school districts have determined that it would be in their best financial interests to join together for the purpose of forming a Cooperative (hereinafter, the “Cooperative”) to procure said Food Services on a cooperative basis; and

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District desires to enter into an intermunicipal cooperative agreement pursuant to New York General Municipal Law (“GML”) section 119-o for the purpose of soliciting competitive bids for said Food Services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the East Rockaway Union Free School District to join the Cooperative and hereby authorizes and appoints the Oceanside Union Free School District to act as the Lead Participant for purposes of facilitating and coordinating the solicitation of competitive bids for said Food Services, in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Intermunicipal Cooperative Food Services Agreement attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Intermunicipal Cooperative Food Services Agreement attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

14. Approve the application to State Environment Quality Review for the 2011-2012 Capital Improvement Program, #28-02-19-03-0-001-032, East Rockaway UFSD Jr./Sr. High School:

(A) Routine Maintenance and Repair 6NYCRR§617-5 (c)(1): Maintenance or repair involving no substantial change in an existing facility.

(B) Replace or Rehabilitation 6NYCRR§617-5 (c)(2): replacement or rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, unless the work exceeds a threshold for a Type I action in 6NYCRR§617.4.

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

15. Accept a donation from the East Rockaway Education Foundation in the sum of Two Hundred Seventy-Five and 43/100 Dollars (\$275.43) for the purchase of a Magnavox DVD Recorder and VCR and writable DVDs and authorize an increase in budget code A2620-450-03-0000 (supplies and materials) by said amount.

16. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby directs that the Business Office take the necessary action to transfer excess funds in the amount of \$436,237 from the District's Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve into the District's Retirement Contribution Reserve.

17. Approve the revised Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2012-2013 school year effective April 17, 2012.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper, the following items a-b were unanimously approved:
- Transaction No. 12-0014
 - Transaction No. 12-0015

D. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the CSE recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the CPSE recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters - None

7. Superintendent's Report

Here's what's happening in our district.

Congratulations to our newly tenured teachers.

This week is the administration of the New York State ELA Assessments for grades 3- 8. Next Tuesday begins the administration of the New York State Math Assessments for grades 3-8.

Before the spring break we had a wonderful activity at Rhame known as The Great Rhame Avenue Read Aloud. This activity included guest readers from: the Board of Education; Mayor Lenahan Jr.; Councilman Santino; John Piccarella, Director of Curriculum and Technology; Deputy Laukaitis; Ms. Mary Malloy, Editor of Lynbrook/East Rockaway Herald; Mrs. Massa, Librarian of the East Rockaway Public Library; Dr. Debra Lo Verde, Director of PPS; and East Rockaway Education Foundation Officer, Mrs. Jane Brezenoff, along with Mr. Brezenoff.

This month the students at Rhame Avenue raised \$3,741 for the American Heart Association during the Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart programs.

The Boys Varsity Basketball team was recognized for their successful season by the East Rockaway Village at Monday night's public meeting.

Regarding the proposed budget for 2012-2013, I am pleased to report that the East Rockaway Schools received some additional state aid. We used \$35,752 from the additional aid to finish balancing the budget. Right before spring break one of the elementary teachers announced her retirement so with the additional state aid and the savings from the retirement, the Board was able to reinstate some items that were reduced and/or eliminated. Here is what was amended: reinstate a high school occupational education placement; create an elementary teaching assistant position to support instruction at Centre Avenue; provide assistance for ELA and math support in addition to the academies; provide financial resources for middle school sports; add back some clubs to the elementary schools and the Jr/Sr High School.

Although we are grateful to have been able to make these changes we were not able to reinstate everything and are still without three classroom positions at Centre Avenue, an elementary school librarian, a full-time assistant principal, a full-time custodian, Greenkill, ALPSS security guard, summer school, non-public school late bus, Sprouts, Arts in Education funding, monitors, clubs, Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach and Cross Country Assistant Coach, and an additional Occupational Education placement. Perhaps next year will be a better year for state aid and we will be able to restore more of the items from this list.

In addition to state aid, we did receive a \$50,000 legislative grant in March. We had hoped this could have been applied to next year's budget but it must be spent this year by the end of June. We were instructed to use it to underwrite a current program this year. We thank our legislators for the additional funds for our schools.

I would also like to remind you that the annual budget hearing is on Thursday, May 3rd at 7:30 at the High School. All are invited to attend. Any assistance you can provide to get out the vote on May 15th would be appreciated. The more you know the better you can assist in educating other members of the community. For details on the budget development please visit our website and click on Budget Information under Quick links.

Please be reminded that there will be a Meet the Candidates night on Wednesday, May 9th at 7:30 in the high school auditorium. Two people are running for one seat on the Board.

Over the spring break Mr. Quercia and his team worked hard to maintain our facilities. Some of their work included: repairs to the high school sprinkler system; installation of new doors at the Middle School entrance (6 doors), adding sand and clay to the baseball and softball fields; seeding the front oval parking area at the high school; washing and waxing all the floors in all of the buildings; preparation to replace the boiler tank at the high school; installing compressors at the high school; installing fans at Centre Avenue; and painting the Centre Avenue gymnasium.

One of the ways we maintain our buildings is through the Facilities Reserve. We have recently posted a Did you know?...card on our website indicating the different projects that were funded for the past two years through the Facilities Reserve and the projected projects that will be on the ballot on May 15th. Please take some time to review this information.

Making an effort to be "green", the East Rockaway Schools has recycled 5.4 tons of material from September through December 2011 thereby helping to save 61 trees and 43.2 cubic feet of landfill.

As a follow-up from last month's meeting, there was a question about the cost of unemployment versus excessing positions. The net savings is almost \$300,000. Unemployment is approximately \$84,000. With the additional elementary teacher retirement, however, there will be one less person from the district on unemployment.

That concludes my report.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- Thank you to the board for the time put into the budget development and for restoring programs.
- Principal's position at the high school.
- Late bus for private schools.
- Science regents scores.
- Praise for public education.

9. Board Member Comments

Linda Schmidt – Thank you for coming. The Life Skills program is wonderful. Congratulations to the newly tenured teachers. Congratulations Mrs. Kohn on your retirement and thank you for your many years of service. Thank you to the parents for voicing your concerns with us.

Kristin Ochtera – Congratulations to the retirees and the tenured teachers. We strive to improve and fix problems and sometimes we forget what we do well. Thank you for reminding us what we do well and for supporting us in our endeavors.

Patti Nicoletti – Thank you to Mr. Collins and Mrs. Imandt for your presentation. Congratulations to the tenured teachers – may your stay here be long and happy. Congratulations to Mrs. Kohn on her retirement. Two of my children had the pleasure of having Mrs. Kohn as their Kindergarten teacher. She should be assured that her “Kohnisms” will live long with all of her students. Thank you to the Education Foundation for your generous donation. Thank you parents for advocating for your children. It is upsetting that some of you believe it is ‘us against you’. Please be assured that we try to base our decisions on what is best for every child in our district

Michaelene Abbott-Cooper – Congratulations to the district retirees. Thank you Mr. Collins and Mrs. Imandt for a great Life Skills presentation. I am looking forward to serving another term on the board. Please come out on May 15 and exercise your right as a citizen to vote.

Neil Schloth – Congratulations to our retirees and to our newly tenured teachers. I wish you all much success in your future endeavors. A great presentation by our Life Skills teachers. Mrs. Imandt and Mr. Collins are doing an incredible job. I have attended many JV basketball games at our high school. There is a young man from the life skills program who is the manager of the team. This young man is an integral part of the team and is well respected by his teammates.

This is a very different year for our school district because of continued cuts by New York State to our budget. Everyone needs to get involved so we can move ahead. Please remind your family and friends to get out and vote on May 15, 2012. That is the date for the Budget Vote and Trustee Election. Parochial school parents please contact Dr. Melucci to discuss the situation involving the late bus. Thank you for coming out tonight and contributing to our School District.

10. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Michaelene Abbott-Cooper and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk