

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., September 17, 2013 - East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by the Introduction of New Staff and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Kristin Ochtera, President; Patti Nicoletti, Vice President; Linda Schmidt; Neil Schloth; John Giannotti, Jr.; Lisa J. Ruiz, Superintendent; Marcy Tannenbaum, Director of Finance and Operations; Denise Lobascio, District Clerk; staff members and members of the community.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Kristin Ochtera and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patti Nicoletti.
2. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the minutes of the August 27, 2013 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports – June 2013
4. Correspondence – One
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the following items #1-7 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, terminate the services of Maria Iasevoli, cleaner, pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 71, effective September 13, 2013.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Malka Witt, substitute teacher, effective September 1, 2013
 - b. James Iaquinto, part-time cleaner, effective August 29, 2013
 - c. Claudia Marx, monitor, effective September 4, 2013
 - d. Stephanie Riviecco, teaching assistant, effective September 13, 2013

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, revise Personnel Item No. 15 on the August 27, 2013, agenda and minutes to read:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Kieran P. Lynch to the position of science teacher, (tenure area: science; certification status: initial) effective August 29, 2013, through August 28, 2016, at the MA40, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following part-time appointments, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for ALPSS for the 2013-2014 school year:
 - a. Stephen Raimondi, social studies teacher, effective September 11, 2013
 - b. Stephanie Medina, teacher aide, effective September 11, 2013
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Megan Rice to the position of teaching assistant (tenure area: teaching assistant; certification status: initial), effective September 18, 2013, through September 17, 2016 at the Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2013-2014 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Christine Del Valle to the position of monitor, effective September 18, 2013, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union contract for the for the 2013-2014 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments, effective September 3, 2013, through June 26, 2014, at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for substitute workers for the 2013-2014 school year:
 - a. Suzanne Torborg, substitute teacher for ALPSS, effective September 18, 2013
 - b. Frank Altamore, substitute teacher, effective September 18, 2013
 - c. Bethany Kinkaid, substitute teacher, effective September 18, 2013
 - d. Sharon Kitzi, substitute teacher, effective September 18, 2013
 - e. Maribeth Frankini, substitute monitor, effective September 18, 2013

B. Other Items

1. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

WHEREAS, by resolution dated April 16, 2013, the Board heretofore authorized the District's participation in a school district cooperative for the procurement of food services ("Cooperative") and approved an intermunicipal cooperative agreement for the joint solicitation of bids for various commodities and/or services in connection with its school breakfast and/or lunch programs ("IMA"); and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that, in lieu of said IMA, it is in the District's best interests to enter into a contract for food service management services for the 2013-14 school year, which the District has independently procured by alternative means; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby rescinds its prior resolution authorizing the District's participation in the Cooperative and approving the IMA and hereby withdraws from the Cooperative.

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Neil Schloth the following items #2-15 were unanimously approved:

2. Accept the receipt of a grant in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) from Gen YOUth Foundation as part of the Active Schools Acceleration Project (ASAP!) and increase Revenue Code F214 2113 000.
3. Accept a donation from Connetquot High School Tri-M Honor Society in the sum of Two Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$2,100.00) for the music department and increase budget code F213-2110-450-01-0023.
4. Accept a donation from Hofstra University's Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development (Graduate Club) in the sum of One Thousand Seven Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$1,716.00) for classroom supplies and increase budget code F213-2110-450-03-0000.
5. Accept a stipend from Adelphi University in the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for participation in their study of the impact of APPR on physical education and increase budget code 2855-450-09-0000.
6. Accept a grant from Target in the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for Centre Avenue for books and reading incentives and increase budget code 2110-450-02-0000.

7. Approve the contract with the Department of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency, and Developmental Disability Services for the period January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2014, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract, exhibits and appendices on behalf of the Board of Education.
8. Approve the award of the bid for transportation services to Acme Bus Corp., for one student to Willet Avenue Middle School and authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
9. Approve the award of the bid for transportation services to Veteran's Transportation Co., Inc., for two displaced students to Rhame Avenue School and authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
10. Approve the contract with Irene Benjamin for professional development training for kindergarten through Grade 4 teachers for Leveled Literacy Intervention Training during the 2013-2014 school year.
11. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the District desires to enter into a maintenance contract for the inspection and maintenance of its existing fire alarm systems in order to ensure their proper and efficient operation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the District's Director of Finance and Operations, the Board of Education hereby approves and awards the fire alarm maintenance contract to Open Systems for the 2013-14 school year, and hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
12. Approve the club advisor assignments for the 2013-2014 school year as more fully set forth on the schedule of club/advisor assignments, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
13. Approve the tuition agreement with Rockville Centre UFSD for special education services for one (1) student, Student ID No. 180005900, for the 2013-2014 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

14. Approve the special education services agreement with Hicksville UFSD for special education services for one (1) student, Student ID No.180007464 for the 2013-2014 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

15. Approve the tuition agreement with Levittown UFSD for career and technical programs for five (5) students for 2013 – 2014 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

C. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Linda Schmidt the following budget transfer was unanimously approved:

a. Transaction No. 14-0002

6. Superintendent's Report

- Welcome back to all. Even though today is only the 9th day and the third week of school, there is already a lot happening in all of our schools. September is a very busy month with our schools Back to School Nights and welcome back events. Please consult the district calendar on our website for what is happening in your child's school. When you participate in these events you send an important message to your child that school is important. I encourage you to attend these events.
- We held our 7th grade Parent program last week and had an excellent turnout HS Advanced placement meeting for parents and students. Rhame AVENUE'S BACK to School Night was held on 9/12. It was a huge success and parent attendance was excellent. Centre Avenue's Back to School night is this Thursday, 9/19 at 7:30.

- I am pleased to report that the following students received 100% on their Regents exams (Foreign Language Association of Chairpersons and Supervisors) alternative regional exam for the previous Regents exam in Spanish, French, and Italian.
 - o Sarina Gonzalez Geometry
 - o Diana Sharkey Chemistry and Italian (FLACS B)
 - o Isabella Cavalli Italian (FLACS B)
 - o Alex Kottke Spanish (FLACS B)

- Joseph Mistretta Italian (FLACS B)
 - Chris Scagnelli Italian (FLACS B)
- In addition we had 42 students who achieved 95 or better on one or more Regents exam(s) in the 12-13 school year. These students and their families invited to the Super Masters ceremony which will take place on September 23 at the HS Auditorium.

 - All three schools commemorated 9/11, Patriot's Day with age appropriate activities and a moment of silence. Once again our schools will be participating in the Andrew J. Stern essay contest. Members of the senior class will be visiting the 9/11 memorial in downtown Manhattan. I would like to acknowledge two our music students, trumpeters James Anemone and Brandon Jackson, who played Taps at this year's 9/11 memorial service in the Village at Memorial Park which I attended. A number of our students also participated as part of their Girl and Boy Scout troops and the Junior Volunteer Fire Department. It was a beautiful and moving tribute to our fallen community members who lost their lives on this tragic day.

 - Centre Avenue has launched their first PTA PARP (parents as reading partners) program. This program promotes program aimed at involving parents in helping their children become better readers. It is a united endeavor among parents, staff, to build a reading partnership between the home and the school. PARP is designed to foster the love of reading in children and encourages parents and other adults to read and write with their child. CAPTA has arranged a Kick-off assembly with Singer song writer Janice Buckner on September 7th. A school wide celebration will be held on Friday night October 25th 7PM in the All Purpose room. The students will be treated to the Theatrical performance of Annabelle Bloom the Unhappy Witch!

 - Both of our elementary buildings have been developing their leveled libraries. Leveled libraries are an important component of a balanced literacy program and provide books just right books for students to read independently and more challenging books to read as part of the instructional program. Centre Avenue received a \$2000.00 Target grant to support their Leveled Library initiative. The CAPTA has also funded book purchases along with new custom cabinetry to be housed in our library. The Rhame Avenue leveled library is up and running. Thanks to many generous donations Rhame Avenue has approximately over 1,500 leveled, "just right" books for students to take home nightly. We also have hundreds more to be leveled and added to the library.

- The Before School Sports Program and the Walking Club are opportunities for student to participate in more structured physical activity at Rhame Avenue. Before School Sports is for 5th and 6th graders and Walking Club is open to all 3rd through 6th graders. Both clubs begin the week of September 16th.
- The HS Technology department has begun implementation of its Engineering by Design curriculum. The department looks forward to the new curriculum inspiring students into more inquiry and discovery in the field.
- Planning for this year's Foreign Language trip for our HS students, scheduled for Italy, Spain and France, is underway.
- Students in the HS Science Research program will be visiting the Cold Spring Harbor Science Center.
- September 27th is a half day Superintendents Conference Day with an 11:45 AM dismissal. Elementary teachers and administrators will be receiving training on our new Math and Reading programs Go Math and Journey's. Rhame and Centre Avenue schools are holding district wide half day grade level meetings with the Director of Curriculum Mr. Picarella during the month of September to improve and align curriculum. HS faculty will be working on developing student learning objectives and assessments.
- Parent letters reporting individual student State test scores in ELA, Math and Science are being processed now by BOCES and will be mailed home shortly.
- We have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,275 from the Nassau County Department of Human Services. The money is earmarked to support a mental health, substance abuse prevention event during October to coincide with Red Ribbon Week. Dr. Loverde will be working with the mental health team to coordinate this activity. We are hoping to secure a speaker for our 7/8 grade students to coincide with red ribbon week.
- First football game was played on our new field. Varsity team played against North Shore HS.

- Three members of the New York Giants (Kevin Booth, Brandon Mosely, and Matt Broha) visited the 7th and 8th grade last week to promote the Play 60 initiative, which encourages youngsters to participate in 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Students enjoyed the visit and were treated to memorabilia for answering some very challenging trivia questions.
- Students from our HS program participated in the annual Surfer's healing field trip to Lido Beach last week. Very exciting event for our students who spent a day at the beach and were coached to have a go at surfing.

HS has many upcoming events:

- Underclassmen pictures September 24th
- 9th grade parent meeting on Thursday, September 26th
- College planning session on September 30th at 7:00 p.m.
- Back to School night on Thursday, October 3rd.
- Friday, October 4th mid-marking period and progress reports will be posted on the Parent Portal on Friday, October 11th
- The SAT 1 Subject Tests on Saturday, October 5th
- Monday, October 7th will be ERHS College Testing night.
- Looking forward to our first Homecoming weekend on our new field - The Pep Rally will take place on Friday, October 11th. And the Homecoming Game on Saturday, October 12th vs. Carle Place at 1:30 p.m. We will be playing against Carle Place HS.

Update on New Food Service Program

New lunch program is going very well. Our students seem to enjoy the choices and the quality of the lunches is excellent.

Reregistration for Basic STAR Exemption

New legislation requires all homeowners receiving a basic star exemption to re-register with the state in order to continue receiving the exemption. Registration is ongoing through December 31, 2013. You can register online or over the phone.

Senior citizens receiving the enhanced star exemption are not affected by the new registration. However, in order to receive enhanced STAR, seniors must continue to apply annually or participate in the income verification program.

Complete instructions, including how to re-register can be found on the district website.

Centre Avenue Fence

Centre Avenue School had the 300 foot by 12 foot high playground fence replaced by the LIRR last month. This was accomplished with the help of Tony Quercia (pronounced Q-see-a) and Assemblyman Anthony Santino.

Village Engineer of East Rockaway. Plainfield Avenue and First Street are scheduled to be re-paved over the next few weeks. We will receive 24-hours' notice of the actual day. The roadways will not be closed but short interruptions of traffic movement is possible as they position equipment.

Grant for Fence

Last May, Mr. Vulpis and Ms. Tannenbaum wrote a grant to Legislator Howard Kopel requesting Special Legislative Grant Funds to repair the perimeter fence of the HS athletic field. At the time there was approximately \$20,000 available for Hurricane Sandy restoration. The estimated cost of the repair is between \$55,000 and \$65,000 and is not covered by FEMA. On May 8, we were notified that both Legislator Kopel and Becker would contribute funds for this restoration. This past week we received notice that the grant was approved for the full amount of \$65,000.

Hazard Mitigation Grant

In June, Ms. Tannenbaum submitted an application for a NYS Office of Emergency Management 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant for emergency generators and a bulkhead. This week we received notice that East Rockaway Schools qualifies as an applicant. The application is due on October 30. Ms. Tannenbaum will be working with a team to prepare the application.

That concludes my report.

7. Privilege of the Floor

- Trip to 9/11 memorial
- Business Office

- Standards measurements for different categories
- Super Masters Ceremony in evening

8. Board Member Comments

Neil Schloth – I want to wish all the employees a good year. Be innovative and be yourself. There is a good chance we can achieve great goals. Please stay involved. Have a good evening.

Linda Schmidt – Welcome back and welcome to the new staff. Thank you for your comments and coming out.

John Giannotti, Jr. – Welcome to the new staff members. Have a great year and be successful.

Patti Nicoletti – Thank you to all those who continue to donate to our school district and to all the teachers who have applied for grants. Thank you to everyone for coming out tonight. I want to support Mrs. Ruiz' position, during her report tonight, how important it is to support your children by attending school functions. You all certainly display your support by coming out tonight. I hope to see you all next month.

Kristin Ochtera – I would like to thank the PTA representatives, teachers, community members and student for your attendance tonight and your interest in the district. I look forward to seeing you next month.

9. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Neil Schloth and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk