

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., October 15, 2013 - East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by Salute to the Board of Education and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Kristin Ochtera, President; 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.

Absent: Patti Nicoletti and Linda Schmidt

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:53 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Giannotti, Jr.
2. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth, the minutes of the September 17, 2013 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports – July, 2013 and August, 2013
4. Correspondence – One
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the following items #1-20 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, revise Personnel Item No. 12 on the August 27, 2013, agenda and minutes to read:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of ToniAnn Donald to the position of elementary teacher, (tenure area: elementary; certification status: initial), effective August 29, 2013, through August 28, 2016, at the MA Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, revise the motion approving Personnel Items 2 -22 of the August 27, 2013 minutes to read:

 Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items #2-22, were unanimously approved:
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind Personnel Item No. 6 from the September 17, 2013 agenda and minutes.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Bethany Kinkaid, permanent substitute teacher, effective September 20, 2013
 - b. Andrew Polizzi, After School Program Assistant, effective September 29, 2013
 - c. Francesca DeVivo, monitor, effective October 15, 2013
 - d. Michael Periera, substitute cleaner, effective October 15, 2013
 - e. Jodi Neckles, substitute monitor, effective October 15, 2013
 - f. Kathleen O'Mara, food service worker, effective October 15, 2013
 - g. Joseph Sblendorio, substitute cleaner, effective October 15, 2013
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Cindy Dower to the position of leave replacement teaching assistant, effective August 29, 2013 through June 30, 2014, 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 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. Megan Rice, substitute teacher, effective October 16, 2013
 - b. Frank Altamore, substitute teacher, effective October 16, 2013
 - c. Frank Cuttitta, substitute Administrator, ALPSS, effective October 16, 2013
 - d. Anthony Weber, substitute Administrator, ALPSS, effective October 16, 2013
 - e. Eileen Levine, substitute Administrator, ALPSS, effective September 19, 2013
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Monica Saavedra, in her capacity as a school psychologist, to serve as a Chairperson to the District's 504 and CSE subcommittees, effective August 29, 2013, through June 30, 2013.

8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the three-year probationary appointment of Keri Gang to the position of teaching assistant (tenure area: teaching assistant; certification status: initial), effective October 16, 2013, through October 15, 2016 at the Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2013-2014 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment (.75 FTE) of Annmarie Itgen to the position of teaching assistant, effective October 16, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at the Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2013-2014 school year.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following permanent substitute teacher appointments, effective October 16, 2013, through June 26, 2014, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule For the 2013-2014 school year:

Nancy LaurinoRhame Avenue School
 Alexandra RosenthalCentre Avenue School

11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Francesca DeVivo to the position of Lead Monitor, effective October 16, 2013, at the salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitors Union contract for the high school lead monitor for the 2013-2014 school year.
12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Michael Periera to the position of cleaner, effective October 16, 2013, at the prorated Step A annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Custodial Unit contract for cleaners for the 2013-2014 school year.
13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Joseph Sblendorio the position of groundskeeper/bus driver, effective October 16, 2013, at the prorated Step A annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Custodial Unit contract for groundskeeper/bus driver for the 2013-2014 school year.
14. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Christine LaFrance to the position of After School Program Assistant, effective October 16, 2013, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2013-2014 school year.
15. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Sueann Mongelluzzo to the position of monitor, effective October 16, 2013, at the Step 1

hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union contract for monitors for the 2013-2014 school year.

16. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jodi Neckles to the position of monitor, effective October 16, 2013, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitor Union contract for monitors for the 2013-2014 school year.
17. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Tina Lewald to the position of food service worker, effective October 16, 2013, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitor Union contract for food service workers for the 2013-2014 school year.
18. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Kathleen O'Mara to the position of assistant cook, effective October 16, 2013, at the Step 1 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitor Union contract for assistant cook for the 2013-2014 school year.
19. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments, effective October 16, 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. Kevin Denis, substitute teacher
 - b. Tina Johnson, substitute teacher
 - c. Danielle Ryf, substitute teacher
 - d. Christopher Brocket, substitute cleaner
 - e. Denis O'Leary, substitute teachers aide
 - f. Jason Schaeffer, substitute teacher aide
 - g. Irma Puca, substitute cleaner
 - h. Persephone Small, substitute clerical
 - i. Amelia Rodriguez, substitute clerical
 - j. Marilyn Faile, substitute clerical
 - k. Lisa Zeilberger, substitute monitor
 - l. Monica Saavedra, substitute clerical

20. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the “emergency, conditional” personnel appointment for the following individual pending receipt of notification of fingerprint clearance from the State of New York, Department of Education:
 - a. Irma Puca
 - b. Marilyn Faile
 - c. Amelia Rodriguez

1. Other Items

Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

1. BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education (“Board”) of the East Rockaway Union Free School District (“District”) gratefully accepts a grant from the County of Nassau (“County”) in the amount of \$65,000 awarded to it under the County’s Community Revitalization Program to be used towards the purchase and installation of fencing at the East Rockaway High School (“Project”); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board establishes itself as lead agency for the purposes of State Environment Quality Review (“SEQR”) determinations regarding the proposed Project; and that, upon the review and recommendation of the District’s Architect, the proposed Project is hereby determined to be a Type II action, as defined by 6 NYCRR §617.5[c], which will have no significant impact on the environment, and which does not require any other determination or procedure under SEQR regulations; and, therefore, be it further

RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the execution of the Inter-Municipal Agreement (“IMA”) between the District and the County in connection with said grant, and authorizes the Board President to execute said IMA on behalf of the Board.

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the following items #2-6 were unanimously approved:

2. Accept a donation from Target “Take Charge of Education” program in the sum of Two Hundred Seventeen Dollars and 99/100 (\$217.99) for Rhame Avenue school supplies and increase budget code 2110-450-03-0000.
3. Accept a donation from Target “Take Charge of Education” program in the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Two and 25/100 Dollars (\$172.25) for high school supplies and increase budget code 2855-450-09-0000.

4. Accept a donation from Ahold Financial Services in the sum of One Hundred Fifty-Four Dollars and Forty-Seven Cents (\$154.47) as part of the Stop & Shop School Rewards program and increase budget code 2110-450-01-0000.
 5. Approve the terms and conditions of the following contracts for consultation services during the 2013-2014 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contracts on behalf of the Board of Education:
 - a. The Rebecca Center for Music Therapy At Molloy College, Music Therapy Direct Service for students with special needs
 - b. Jacquelyn Nealon, Ed.D., Financial Aid Workshop
 6. Approve the Affiliation Agreement with Molloy College for the purpose of providing clinical experience for student nurses during the 2013-2014 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.
 7. Upon motion by John G Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth the following resolution was unanimously approved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby approves the terms and conditions of the Stipulation of Settlement resolving a certain matter between the District and the parent of a youngster classified by the District's CSE and identified by student number; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board to execute the Stipulation of Settlement as approved on the Board's behalf.
 8. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the contract with 10 Seconds, Inc. for two Educational/Motivational Programs for Ribbon Week on October 29, 2013 was unanimously approved, and President of the Board of Education is approved to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.
- C. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.
- D. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the CPSE recommendations were unanimously approved.
7. Superintendent's Report
September has been an extremely busy month. Our school programs are in full

swing; and in addition to moving forward with our new instructional programs, our students are involved in many exciting activities.

At the high school, thank you to parents for coming out to support your child at the following events:

- College Testing Information
- PTA
- Pep Rally
- Homecoming Game
- 9th Grade Parent Meeting
- Back to School Night
- College Planning Session

Our Guidance Department has begun college visits. A group of students visited the campus of SUNY New Paltz last week. Our students were met by two members of the ERHS Class of 2013 (Cara Anderson and Liz Wilson); they joined us for lunch and shared their experiences at New Paltz. An upcoming trip to Stonybrook is planned for October 24, 2013. Thank you to Ms. Hecht and the Guidance Department for organizing the event.

50 students were recognized in September as SuperMasters –students who scored a 95 or higher on one or more State exams.

The Technology Department recently purchased a 3D printer which is being utilized in some of our technology classes. The students are excited about it and are already creating innovative projects. The newly acquired 3D printer works to build a part they design on the computer. 3D printers make full-scale models of student designs out of plastic. In the near future, people will be able to download items they need at home and print them out instead of going to a store to buy them.

Our K-8 students have completed the NWEA Measure of Academic Progress assessments. The results will be used to monitor student growth and to direct specific instructional practices to improve student learning.

Classroom teachers grades K-6 have completed their first round of district-wide grade level meetings to unify instruction throughout the district.

Both Centre Avenue and Rhame Avenue will hold Fire Safety assemblies in conjunction with the East Rockaway Fire Department on Friday October 18th.

The Centre Avenue and Rhame Avenue Halloween Parades are scheduled for October 31, 2:30 p.m. on the school grounds. All are welcomed to attend the spirit lifting event.

The Centre Avenue PTA PARP program had its kick-off assembly with a Janice Buckner assembly promoting reading in and out of school. Students are encouraged to read at home and provide book reviews for the next three weeks. The principal will select book reviews and highlight them on the public address system each day. Selected students get to change the principal's mustache each day on a bulletin board. The event concludes on Friday night October 25th with a professional theater group presenting Annabelle Brown the Unhappy Witch.

Back to school fair was a great success that was held on Saturday October 4th.

The Centre Avenue staff will be making a presentation on the Journey's Program to the CAPTA meeting on October 24th.

Related to Academics

Grade K. We have started the fun Friday afternoon visits with our 5th grade reading buddies. We had a nice meet and greet and look forward to learning more about the children in 5th grade and doing special projects with them. We took a walking trip to the Main Street Firehouse to orient the children to the firehouse, as well as stress fire prevention and safety.

Ms. Kennedy's class went on a scavenger hunt with our 6th grade buddies to learn all about fall. We made apple juice with Mrs. Callaghan's class. Our class also made applesauce. We went to Pathmark with Mrs. Crowley's class and we brought food to eat through the rainbow.

Various Fire Prevention activities to support Fire Prevention month; the first graders walked to the Main Street Fire Station and grade 2 took a trip to the firehouse to learn about fire safety.

Grade 3 along with Grade 2 put in a grant to Target for a trip to the Fire Island Lighthouse this spring. We will find out if we are winners in December. Third grade booked its trips to Safety Town and the Nassau County Museum of Art.

Grade 4. Trip to Garvies Point-The Museum is a center for research on Long Island geology and a valued resource in the study of the Island's Native American archaeology. Students will research European explorers who came to New York by using the Integrated ELA/ Social Studies Curriculum.

Grade 5. Reading "My Life as A Book" and writing assignment that correlates with book. *Write about a time that you were forced to do something you didn't want to do.* They related it to the character Derek in the book.

Grade 6. In math students created "Bumper Stickers" to advertise all the benefits of math. We used an opportunity in ELA to discuss SEL - *Bullying* was read and discussed in Junior Scholastic.

All K-6 students completed their first writing sample of the year; "Personal Narrative" was the genre.

Rhame Avenue joined 1,358,600 people exercise on September 26th as part of World JAM day. JAMs are "just a minute" of exercise breaks that are designed to incorporate more physical activity into the school day. Students also "ate across the rainbow" during the week of September 30th as students were encouraged to bring in healthy fruits and vegetables for each color of the rainbow.

All students will be creating "Hearts for Heroes" to thank all those in our community who assisted with the Hurricane Sandy clean-up, recovery and re- building efforts. Grade 6 and 5 students will also be creating poems that have the word "thank you" in their text and meaning.

Student Council. We are continuing our Anti-bullying campaign. We are planning a Wear Pink Day for breast cancer awareness.

We are pleased to report that we recently received a letter from Parsons Floors, the vendor who replaced tile at the high school and Rhame Avenue School after Hurricane Sandy, letting us know that they are donating \$7,756.15 (Tech I floor replacement), as their contribution to Hurricane Sandy relief. We are very grateful for this donation.

Our schools are providing presentations about the Common Core Learning Standards. The parents' role in supporting our new more challenging standards is critical. I would like to remind parents that NYSED has a very helpful website Engageny.org with numerous links to resources for parents. In addition, our district website has PTA resources with ideas for parents to support their children's learning.

Athletic News:

Jonathan Schloth came in 1st place yesterday at the Varsity Cross Country Track meet. He also set a new personal and school record by finishing the 5K race in 16:37. Congratulations to Jonathan and to his dad Neil!

I attended our Pep Rally and Homecoming. Both were very exciting and enjoyable events that celebrated our athletes and honored our senior athletes! The marching band was impressive. We had a great turnout and the best part was the Rocks beat Carle Place 28-25. It was quite an exciting and competitive game. Thank you to our high school student council, Mr. Spero, Mr. Vulpis, Ms. Sanders, Mr. Schloen, and Mr. Ceglie for

their efforts. It was great to see so many of our faculty and administrators in attendance to support our students.

Rhame Avenue will be joined by Centre Avenue in conjunction with local community agencies and will be acknowledging Red Ribbon Week and Resiliency: Sandy One Year Later, with the below list of daily activities:

- 1) Wednesday, October 23. “Hang a Heart for an Every Day Hero” Students will be making hearts with messages of gratitude for every day heroes.
- 2) Thursday, October 24. “Storms Make Trees Take Deeper Roots”- Students will be planting flowers in our school garden during recess.
- 3) Friday, October 25. “Friendship and Resiliency” - Wear Yellow
- 4) Monday, October 28. “Step into Service”- Sneaker Day
- 5) Tuesday, October 29. “Act Strong/Be Strong” Students will sign a pledge as to the acts they will take toward service to others. Pledge will be hung in Cafeteria.
- 6) The week will culminate with an evening community event at Rhame Avenue Elementary School from 6:30 – 8 PM. *Recognizing the Resiliency and the Every Day Heroes from Super Storm Sandy.* The purpose of this gathering is to take some time to reflect on the resiliency of this community and the efforts that are still taking place one year later. The evening will consist of family crafts and activities; stations for information/networking presentation by students and community members light refreshments

We invite you all to attend.

That concludes my report.

7. Privilege of the Floor

- Taxes
- The Education Foundation donated another \$9800 for Sandy Relief for a total of \$109,800.
- Coalition of Youth
- Pizza
- Rhame Avenue gate being locked.
- High Stakes Testing; test refusals; Teachers APPR
- NY Rising
- Parent Portal for Sixth Grade

8. Board Member Comments

Neil Schloth – Thank you to the high school, Mr. Spero, Mr. Ezell, the senior chorus and the Art Department. We truly appreciate it. Please advocate for your child, know who to go to for help. If there is a problem, it is better to deal with things right away, go to a teacher or an administrator. Thank you for coming.

John Giannotti, Jr. – Thank you senior chorus, High School PTA and the artists. Thank you for coming. See you next month.

Kristin Ochtera – Thank you for your recognition this evening. It's nice to be part of a special night like tonight. This is a position we fill voluntarily with your approval. We have formed a relationship that allows us to bring the district where it needs to be. Thank you for your kind words, the lovely notecards and for your continued support.

9. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk