

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., November 12, 2013 - East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by a Presentation on AP World History and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Kristin Ochtera, President; Patti Nicoletti, 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 by Kristin Ochtera at 7:53 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patti Nicoletti.
2. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Linda Schmidt the minutes of the October 15, 2013 and the October 17, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – September, 2013
4. Correspondence –One
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth, the following item #1 was unanimously accepted:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Athena Kallinikos, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as an ESL teacher, effective February 1, 2014.

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the following items numbered 2- 11 were unanimously approved:

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Bethany Kinkaid, part-time (.5) speech/language teacher, effective November 8, 2013
 - b. Giuseppina Ficeto, food service helper, effective November 8, 2013
 - c. Audrey Porreca, substitute nurse, effective November 1, 2013
 - d. Laura Bruzzo, permanent substitute teacher, effective November 12, 2013
 - e. Lisa M. Gallo, substitute teacher, effective November 12, 2013

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Deanna Mignella for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence from her mathematics teacher position for the period February 1, 2014, through June 30, 2014.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Francesca Lagnese for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence from her special education teacher position for the period February 1, 2014, through June 30, 2014.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Kimberly Rosenkrantz for an extension of her child rearing leave of absence from her speech/language teacher position for the period February 1, 2014, through June 30, 2014.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of Marissa Mauro to the position of leave replacement mathematics teacher, effective February 1, 2014, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated MA, Step 2 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year and further approve her continuation as the (.50 FTE) Junior High Honor Society Advisor at the stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Extracurricular Compensation for the 2013-2014 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the winter coaching assignments more fully set forth on the 2013-2014 Winter Coaching Schedule at the stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for coaches for the 2013-2014 school year.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following part-time appointments for the ALPSS program 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. Paul Reichelson, mathematics teacher, effective November 13, 2013
 - b. Catherine Corapi, food & nutrition teacher, effective October 25, 2013
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Lisa M. Gallo to the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective November 13, 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.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Teresa Borodin-Rossi to the position of food service helper, effective November 13, 2013, at the Step 2 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service & Monitor Union contract for food service helpers for the 2013-2014 school year.

11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments, effective November 13, 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. Kristina McCarty, substitute teacher
 - b. Melissa Jordan, home tutor
 - c. Laura Bruzzo, substitute teacher

B. Other Items

Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items numbered 1 – 5 were unanimously approved:

1. 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. Bifolco Consultants for inclusion and co-teaching workshops
 - b. Positive Behavioral Support Consulting and Psychological Resources for transition consultant services
 - c. Shari Berman for choreographer services for the high school musical production
2. Approve the admission of one Freeport UFSD student, Student I.D. No. 1000452, to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2013- 2014 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
3. Approve the employment agreement with Mary Volino, Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools and East Rockaway Board of Education, and authorize the Superintendent to execute the agreements on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
4. Accept a donation in the sum of Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$9,800.00) from the East Rockaway Education Foundation for the purpose of helping the district rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and deposit said funds to Special Aid Account F216-2110-200-0000.
5. Accept the following donations from Target’s “Give with Target” campaign:
 - a. Sixty-Six Dollars (\$66.00) for high school supplies and increase budget code 2855-450-09-0000.

- b. One Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$118.00) for Rhame Avenue school supplies and increase budget code 2110-450-03-0000

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items numbered 6 – 8 were unanimously approved:

6. 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:

Paul Stellino, 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 Posting with the Office of the State Comptroller within 45 days of the adoption of this resolution.

7. Approve the resolution more fully set forth in Confidential Attachment 1.
8. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, as a result of Superstorm Sandy, Chapter 424 of the Laws of 2013, titled Superstorm Sandy Assessment Relief Act, was enacted on October 22, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education seeks to provide for the assessment relief set forth in said legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby elects to adopt the provisions set forth in Chapter 424 of the Laws of 2013 so as to provide said assessment relief, subject to and contingent upon the County of Nassau's adoption of a similar resolution electing to provide said relief in accordance with said legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby encourages the County of Nassau to take timely action concerning the provisions of Chapter 424.

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Patti Nicoletti the following budget transfers were unanimously approved:
 - a. Transfer No. 14-0003
 - b. Transfer No. 14-0004

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

E. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters

1. For Review
 - a. 8112, Health and Safety Committee
 - b. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams

7. Superintendent's Report

Centre Avenue

- All three schools held Parent/Teacher Conferences. Please call your child's home school if you would like to schedule an appointment.
- Both elementary schools are participating in "Dress like a Word Day." Students were asked to dress creatively, in a fashion that represented a word of their choice. This is a fun way to learn new vocabulary. Centre Avenue will hold this event on Friday November 15th.
- Both elementary schools had railroad safety assemblies presented by LIRR.
- Centre Avenue School participated in the Candy Drive for the Military sponsored by Don Poland at the Jr./Sr. High School.

- The second round of District grade level meetings will be held with Mr. Piccarella to coordinate instruction among the elementary schools during the month of November.
- Both elementary schools are conducting parent workshops. At both Centre Avenue and Rhame Avenue, workshops on Study Skills will be offered at the November 19th Centre Avenue PTA and at Rhame Avenue on November 22nd. At Rhame, “The Grade Six Experience” was offered. Sixth grade teachers and psychologists presented Glencoe Math, Infinite Campus and “transitions.” All parents are invited to attend.
- The Centre Avenue Data Driven Instruction Team will be meeting with the Faculty on Monday, November 18th to help teachers analyze student test data and in order to hone instruction.
- Students have engaged in grade level appropriate lessons and activities to honor our Veterans.
- Centre Avenue will hold its annual Visitor’s Day on Friday, November 22nd where parents can view their children and teachers in action up front and personal. This program coincides with American Education week.

Rhame Avenue

- The kindergarten students attended a field trip to White Post Farms to learn about animals and engage in seasonal activities.
- Ms. Kennedy’s and Ms. Kempton's class have been learning all about mail. Students wrote letters to the other children and will be going to the post office. Students also learned about Election Day
- Gr. 2 - In lieu of a holiday party with a focus on food, the second graders took part in a Halloween activity in which they learned about and created skeletons using various shapes and sizes of pasta. Parent volunteers came in to assist. Prior to the craft, students learned about the function and composition of our skeletal system.
- In support of the social studies unit, grade 4 went to Old Bethpage Village Restoration which provided students with a unique opportunity to step back in time and experience life in a recreated mid-19th-century American village. The 209-acre village included an assortment of homes, farms, and businesses.
- In art, student were working on cards for the *Make A Soldier Smile Campaign*. This year students will be using a variety of media to create their cards and Hearts for Heroes ornaments.

- Rhame Avenue began their "Mileage Club" during recess this month. Students in grades 1-6 have the opportunity to walk, jog, or run laps during recess time. The "Mileage Club" will culminate with a school-wide "Turkey Trot" on Wednesday, November 27th.
- Rhame students participated in the Principal's Challenge which required them to read a poem, complete a 4-square organizer describing at least 4 changes they would make if they were the principal of Rhame. Students who participate are entered into the Principal's Raffle!
- Rhame Student Council sponsoring food collection to benefit Island Harvest beginning through November 20th.
- National Family Literacy Day is celebrated across the United States annually. On November 1, 2013, Rhame Avenue students participated in National Family Literacy Day by reading a book, article, or magazine with one or more family members at home. The students filled out a form to tell what they read and who they read with. They also drew a picture or attached a photograph of themselves reading with their special family member(s). The Rhame Avenue Reading Action Team encourages families to continue to engage in reading together on a regular basis all year round. National Family Literacy Day forms will be displayed outside of the Reading Room at Rhame Avenue School for the month of November.
- Anniversary of Sandy: *Resiliency Night* was a terrific event that was well attended by our families. It was informative and some of the organizations joined forces that night to better serve the families of East Rockaway.
- Red-Ribbon Week was a great success, raising awareness about the importance of good decision making and the dangers of drugs. All of our buildings provided activities in support of this initiative. Too for Good for Drugs lessons were provided at the elementary schools. They are learning good ways to reduce stress, set goals and make good choices. At the high school, students attended a presentation by a motivational speaker who shared his message of resiliency, perseverance, and triumph. Students also had an opportunity to sign the Red Ribbon Week pledge to formally recognize their commitment to remain alcohol and drug free.
- On November 27, the 8th grade team will show the movie *Pay It Forward* to support our Social Emotional Learning goals. This movie highlights one boy's attempt to make the world a better place after his teacher gives him that chance. After the movie, students will be sharing in a project based learning activity with their grade level teachers.
- Both the 7th and 8th grade teams, in collaboration with Mrs. Reilly, have begun a new initiative called the Ambassadors of Character. Teachers will be nominating middle school students who demonstrate acts of kindness, friendship, and respect towards their

peers. These students will serve as leaders in organizing future social emotional team building activities and will act as pillars of character in our learning community.

- Congratulations to the following students who made the States in Track. Jonathan Schloth has shattered school records this year, has a chance to come in the top 20 and be named to the All-State Team, and advanced to the Federation Team!

Jonathan Schloth Top Time 16.34
Carly Howard Top Time 22.01

Congratulations to our Girls' Varsity Volleyball team. They finished in the finals of the county championship with highly competitive matches but, unfortunately, lost in five games to Carle Place.

Winter season begins this week with participation of both junior and senior high school at an all-time high!

- Students are making progress in their Life Skills Transition course. Earlier in the semester, they worked on filling out job applications. Currently, they are involved in their internships/job coaching at Ace Hardware and T.J. Maxx two times per week for 1-1/2 hours. They are enjoying the experience!
- Our Financial Management and Business Law classes, along with the Economics classes, are preparing for their field trip to the Federal Reserve Bank and the Museum of American Finance. This real-world experience will enable them to see in-depth the workings of the Federal Reserve and to learn about our country's financial history.
- Business Skills for the 21st Century is researching "Prezi" presentations as a new cutting-edge "zooming" presentation vehicle. This new and exciting software will allow the students to utilize not only their current PowerPoint design, but an additional presentationformat that is currently being used by many major corporations.
- Senior Seminar, along with the Business Skills for the 21st Century course, are excited about our students taking a journey in career exploration called *Extreme Internship*. Extreme Internship will assess students' "career DNA." This will launch them into taking the Extreme Internship Challenge. They will take a talent assessment, which will match their interests with a career placement. Students will take virtual tours all over the globe, complete activities, and research projects involving real-life companies. The goal is to help students plan to be college and career ready.
- The Design/Draw for Production class is utilizing a 3D printer to create plastic ID holders and iPod cases.

- The 8th Grade Technology classes are working on their bedroom design project which incorporates mathematical of perimeter and area. They are creating virtual rooms utilizing Google SketchUp software.
- The Computer Graphics class is designing a poster that will be displayed in the building entrance using Photoshop.
- The Robotics Club is flourishing – over 30 students participating.
- Bridge projects completed in 7th Grade Technology classes and our new stress tester was utilized to measure how many PSI's (pounds per square inch) the bridges can withstand.
- The 7th Grade Technology classes will be starting their Robotics project as part of their enhanced curriculum in the next four weeks. The students are eager to begin building their robots.
- The Advanced Robotics class will be preparing for their upcoming competition that will be held at East Rockaway High School.
- The Supermasters held its first meeting and shared many great ideas for promoting student achievement and creating an inspirational learning environment both in and out of the classroom.
- The Professional Learning Community helped to support the recent Election Day workshops by offering in-house professional development, including Prezzi, Dream Weaver, Literacy Across the Content Areas and Smart Response.
- The Blood Drive which was run by the Student Council, raised 66 pints!
- College visits continue with our recent trip to Stony Brook.

- The first of the Guidance Department's two financial aid programs will be held on Wednesday, November 13 in the high school auditorium. We will review the different types of financial aid that may be available to families and how to apply for scholarships, grant, loans, and other sources of aid. Parents of juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend, and parents of all other students are invited to come and gain an early understanding of the process.
- The Guidance Department is excited to host the 2nd annual Alumni Day program on Wednesday, November 27. We have invited members of the Class of 2013 to return and share their college experiences with our current students. We will discuss the college search process, transitioning to college and what to expect out of the first semester.
- I would like to congratulate our students who will be participating in the 2014 All County Music Festival, which will be held at CW Post in January.

Elementary

Chorus Participants

Lauren Cronin
 Nora Donovan Kelly
 Peknie Michelle
 Landerer Samantha
 Marx Alessandra
 Desano

Band

Daniel Gonzalez
 Aidan O'Connor
 Joseph Acampora

Orchestra

Matthew McGuinness
 Elliot Bower
 Elizabeth Son Sharon
 Oosterwijk

Junior High Participants

Andrew Schwarzman - Orchestra
 Gabriella Walsh - Band
 Lauren Boll – Chorus

High School Participants

Amy Ogura - Orchestra
 Colleen Bennett - Orchestra

Alexis Jackson - Band
Michael Goldsmith - Chorus
Chris Scagnelli - Chorus
Jack Cussen – Chorus

- On Election Day, Superintendent’s Conference Day, we held professional development workshops for teachers. This included a keynote presentation on Google Apps for Education. The presenter described many of the tools available to our teachers and students through our Google domain at ersd.org. The presenter also showed many examples of how Google Apps are being used in classrooms around the country. Additional workshops were conducted by high school faculty on the following topics: High School to College Transition, Common Core Writing in the Content Areas, Prezi.com, Smart Response, and Adobe Dreamweaver. Thank you to our faculty and administrators who offered these valuable opportunities. Thank you to Mr. Piccarella for arranging the activities for our teachers.
- We are pleased to report that funding for our Police Resource Officers or POP officers has been restored. We recently met with the two officers to discuss their roles in the school community, informed them about some of the issues and parental concerns which have been expressed to us.
- On November 20th at 7:30, here in the auditorium, we will be sponsoring a heroine awareness presentation for parents entitled, Not My Child. I would urge all parents to attend. Flyers will be going home and Connect Ed message will be sent.
- Sandy Assessment Relief
On October 22, 2013, Governor Cuomo signed legislation that could lower property tax assessments on properties destroyed or damaged by Superstorm Sandy. The new law recognizes that many properties lost value after the storm, and allows for retroactive adjustments of January 2013 tax bills. At the November 12 meeting of the Board of Education, the Board passed a resolution “opting in” to the program. All property owners can expect to receive applications in the mail which they can complete and return to the Nassau County Assessor’s Office.
- FEMA update|
The District continues to work diligently with our FEMA teams to submit for reimbursement of Hurricane Sandy related expenditures. To date, the District has incurred and received:

HURRICANE RELATED EXPENDITURES	11,126,235
REVENUE FROM FEMA	855,570

REVENUE FROM INSURANCE	1,587,150
GRANTS AND DONATIONS	159,115
SHORT TERM FINANCING	6,200,000
TOTAL REVENUE	8,801,835
NET POSITION FINANCED THROUGH RESERVES	-2,324,400

The District also continues to explore grant opportunities available to mitigate damage and exposure to future liabilities.

The Thanksgiving Recess is November 28 and 29. Thanksgiving is time to take a moment to reflect on all that we have to be grateful for and give thanks for the family, friends, good health and countless joys in our lives. On behalf of our administrative team, I would like to wish you an enjoyable holiday with your families.

8. Privilege of the Floor

- NYS PTA Officers
- NY Rising Schools
- Educational Forum in Mineola
- 11/20 7:00 pm Coalition for Youth presents “Not My Child”
- Food Allergies

9. Board Member Comments

Linda Schmidt – Thank you to the teachers and students for coming out. Athena, congratulations on your retirement. Everyone have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving.

Patti Nicoletti – Thank you to Mrs. Kallinikos for her many dedicated years of service to our students. Tonight’s presentation of our AP World History was informative and fantastic. Thank you to our teachers and Ms. DiPietro. A very special thank you to our students who were very brave to volunteer to speak to us about this new course. I was especially impressed how they incorporated technology into their presentation and how they are incorporating skills they have learned in other AP classes.

I continue to thank the East Rockaway Education Foundation for their generous donations to our school district. Happy Thanksgiving!

Neil Schloth – Thank you to the teachers and students, you did a great job. It is great to see these students getting ready for the rigors of college life. Thank you Athena for the many years of service you have given us. Just a thought. At the convention I met Bill Daggot who gave a presentation on how the job market has changed. As you make educational choices with your children you must know what is available out there so you can guide them in the right direction. Thank you for coming.

John Giannotti, Jr. – Congratulations Mrs. Kallinikos on your retirement. Thank you teachers and students on the AP History presentation. Thank everyone for coming a have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Kristin Ochtera – Thank you John and Neil for your participation at the NYSSBA convention. It is nice to have East Rockaway represented at the state level. We try not to pass up an opportunity speak to our colleagues in other districts and to share successful ideas. I ditto what the rest of the board has said and, as always, it is great to have your support. There was a lot of information shared tonight. Thank you for coming out. Happy Thanksgiving!

10. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk