

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., December 10, 2013 - East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School

MINUTES

Present: Kristin Ochtera, President; Patti Nicoletti, Vice President; Linda Schmidt; 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: Neil Schloth

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Linda Schmidt.
2. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Linda Schmidt, the minutes of the November 12, 2013 Board of Education meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports – October 2013
4. Correspondence – One
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the following items #1-6 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Randi Murphy from her leave replacement school social worker position, effective November 27, 2013.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Jeanne Paige from her leave replacement speech/language teacher position, effective December 10, 2013, and approve the part-time (.5 FTE) appointment of Jeanne Paige to the position of speech/language teacher, effective December 11, 2013 through June 30, 2014, at the prorated MA, Step 3, annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Sabrina D. Mallor to the position of leave replacement speech/language teacher, effective December 16, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated MA, Step 1 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 continuation of the appointment of Timothy Lamb to the position of leave replacement special education teacher, effective February 1, 2014, through June 30, 2014, at the prorated MA, Step 1 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2013-2014 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Pamela Collins to the position of Club Advisor, Musical Technical Director (.5 FTE), effective December 11, 2013, at the prorated Group IV stipend salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for club advisors for the 2013-2014 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments 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. Wendy Beauchesne, short-term substitute teacher, effective November 13, 2013
 - b. Suzanne Torborg, short-term substitute science teacher, effective November 27, 2013
 - c. Lorraine Pieck, substitute food service helper, effective December 11, 2013 through June 26, 2014
 - d. Diane DeSantis, substitute teacher, effective December 11, 2013
 - e. Michael Franza, athletic supervisor (day and evening), effective March 1, 2014

B. Other Items

Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items #1-12 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the terms of the Letter Agreement dated December 1, 2013, between the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District and the East Rockaway Teachers Association for the employment of a school social worker currently on a child rearing leave of absence to render services two days per week on a per diem basis to students at the East Rockaway Jr/Sr. High School, effective December 11, 2013, through January 31, 2014, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Letter Agreement on behalf of the East

Rockaway Board of Education.

2. Approve the members of the professional development committee:

John Piccarella, Co-Chairperson	Dr. Debra LoVerde, Co-Chairperson
Joseph Spero	Dina Reilly
Joseph Cangemi	Petra Schoen
Geri Strugatz	Ashley Cole
Marie Lyons	Susan Glickman

3. Approve the admission of one (1) Island Park UFSD student, Student I.D. No. 180007592, 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.

4. Approve the tuition agreement with Carle Place UFSD for special education services for one (1) student, Student ID No. 180005295, 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.

5. Approve the award of the bid for transportation services to First Student, Inc. for one (1) student attending Carle Place High School and authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

6. Accept an anonymous donation in the amount of \$200.00 for the purpose of aiding one (1) student's tuition in St. John's College Advantage Program.

7. Accept a donation from the East Rockaway High School Class of 1983 in the sum of One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,450.00) for the purchase of two laptop computers for the Technology Department and supplies for the Robotics Club.

8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, revise the September 17, 2013 minutes, Other Item No. 6 to read:

Accept a grant from Target in the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for Centre Avenue for books and reading incentives.

9. Approve the Flexible Compensation Agreement with Brown & Brown of New York, Inc. d/b/a Fitzharris & Company for the 2014 calendar year and authorize the President of the East

Rockaway Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Education.

10. Approve the terms and conditions of the service agreement with School Aid Specialist for revenue recovery services and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
 11. Approve the contract with CBIZ Valuation Group for valuation of land and buildings and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
 12. Approve the adoption of the District Educational Technology Plan, July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.
- C. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the CSE recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters

1. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following policies were unanimously adopted:
 - a. 8112, Health and Safety Committee
 - b. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams
2. For Review
 - a. 5150, Student Admissions
 - b. 5205, Eligibility Policy

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Congratulations to Marcy Tannenbaum on the engagement of her daughter, Melanie, to Justin Hepler
- b. Congratulations to Emily Pisani on the engagement of her daughter, Jackie, to Anthony Conte
- c. Congratulations to Marissa Green, teacher at the Rhame Avenue School, on her engagement to Jordan Diamond
- d. Condolences to Petra Schoen, elementary librarian, on the passing of her father, Carmine Ferraro

8. Superintendent's Report

News from our Junior Senior High School

- The alumni panel was held on Wednesday, November 27. Twenty-five members of the Class of 2013 returned to address current students. They spoke about finding the right college or post high school option, managing the academic expectations at the college level, adjusting to a new living environment and how to prepare for life beyond high school. Graduates represented many colleges and universities near and far as well as the United States Marine Corp. Students were very mature, poised, articulate and helpful. Parents will be pleased to know that students gave very practical advice such as buy a good alarm clock and attend your classes – your parents are paying good money for this!
- The high school is recognizing our 156 students who achieved High Honor Roll status this first quarter. The criteria for High Honor Roll is an average of 92 or higher. We are very proud of this accomplishment.
- 9th grade students will begin career exploration activities with their counselors during the month of December. They will begin to identify their strengths and interests and match these with possible career options.
- In the month of December, counselors will explain PSAT score reports to students who took the PSAT in October. This is one of the first steps in the college exploration process. The high school administration is also looking into options to expand opportunities for pre SAT testing to a broader population of our students.
- Mrs. Reilly and Ms. Schutta have been collaborating with our middle school grade level Ambassadors of Character on peer lessons. These lessons will focus on showing respect for your fellow students by being an upstander rather than a bystander in the fight against bullying behaviors. Our 8th graders will be exploring this topic in January with their fellow peers in their Social Studies classes. Our 7th grade team teachers in collaboration with Mrs. Reilly have been planning an SEL grade level activity for our seventh grade students. The students will be viewing a motivational movie as part of a project based learning activity. The movie will focus on the themes of tolerance in the fight against prejudice. Students will be completing a grade level assignments which explore these themes as it relates to the lives of our middle school students. These important activities support our implementation of the NYS's Dignity Act.
- Our middle school grade level newsletters for the month of November and December are up on the web. Please check out the school website to review the current news from our grade levels. We have included literary recommendations for our students which are developmentally appropriate!
- Our middle school students participated in our annual tradition in recognition of Pearl Harbor Day participating in a brief ceremony at the Gazebo followed by lunch. I was honored to join our students in the ceremony. We thank our friends in the American Legion for their ongoing

support.

- The Girls Basketball team finished in 3rd place at the Herricks Tournament. The game, Bellmore JFK vs. East Rockaway will air on December 13 at 7:30 PM on Channel 1 & 501 on Verizon FiOS cable systems.
- Congratulations once again to Jonathan Schloth- NYS Scholar Athlete, All-State, 12th place overall with a personal best time of 16:16. Jonathan is the first East Rockaway athlete to compete in the NYS Federation Meet which took place in Wappinger Falls. Jonathan Schloth also won the President's Award at last night's Cross Country Dinner. This is the highest award given by the Coaches Association.
- Congratulations to our girls' volleyball team, girls' cross country team and girls' soccer team for achieving the Scholar Athlete Team Award. The award is given by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association to recognize outstanding scholastic achievement by varsity level student athletes. The criteria for the prestigious award is to maintain an unweighted overall team average of 90% or better. We will be honoring our scholar athletes and scholar athlete teams next month here at our board meeting. We are very proud of our students combined athletic and academic achievements!
- The National Junior Honor Society is sponsoring a Toys for Tots Drive. Please drop off all new and unwrapped toys in the main lobby.
- Through the generosity of the Louis J. Acompora Memorial Foundation, East Rockaway has been chosen to participate in the *Anyone Can Save a Life* program. We will receive 10 training manikins and 2 AED trainers along with personalized assistance from Hofstra School of Medicine to roll out the program. The Medical School Team will also be providing Hands on CPR/AED training to selected school athletes. Thank you to Mr. Vulpis for seeking out this opportunity for our district.

News from our elementary schools:

- Our new K-5 Common Core Report Cards will be sent home to students on December 15th. There is now a separate report card for each grade and report card indicators are aligned to the common core standards.
- The 60 students from the Elementary Jr. and Sr. Choruses under the direction of Mrs. Lalama with the support of Mr. Schloen performed at the Village Festival and Tree Lighting on Friday, December 6 at 6:30. The Elementary Holiday Concert is on Thursday, December 12 at ERHS.
- All Elementary parents can now access the Parent Portal and view lunch program data and attendance.

- Our Kindergarten through second grade students engaged in various lessons to learn about the Thanksgiving holiday. The Kindergarten students celebrated the holiday of Thanksgiving by learning about pilgrims and Native Americans and discussing what they were thankful for. The students made kaleidoscope Thanksgiving art and wrote about what they would bring on the Mayflower. The students learned about their five senses and explored apples.
- Rhame Avenue first graders took a trip to the Brookville Environmental Center to learn about the life of the pilgrims. Students learned to make brooms and candles, worked in a blacksmith shop and spent time in a log cabin. Students learned to write messages using Native American pictographs. A parent came to the class to demonstrate how to make potato pancakes for Hanukkah.
- Rhame Avenue sixth graders researched scientists and inventors. They created timelines, Tagxedos and cinquain poems to demonstrate their new found knowledge. "Vocabulary Graffiti" posters were created by students in social studies class to demonstrate students' knowledge of specific words pertinent to ancient Egypt. A ceiling grid is on display to help grade 6 students understand integers and absolute value.
- The co-chairs of the Vocabulary Action Team have been conducting research on school-wide vocabulary programs, as well as ways to increase vocabulary acquisition in students and are in the process of setting short and long term goals for the team.
- The entire Rhame Avenue School participated in the first annual Turkey Trot to promote physical activity on Wednesday, November 27. Each participant received a paper turkey on which they recorded their laps using a sticker. All students were physically active for a half hour in the afternoon as a healthy way to celebrate Thanksgiving.
- *The Too Good For Drugs* program has begun in second grade and third grade. The program focuses on strategies for making good decisions and social situations with peers.
- Rhame Avenue Student Council assisted ERHS with collecting shoes for the Nassau County Adoptive family's organization and assisted the Key Club with a food collection for the Ronald McDonald House.
- The Centre Avenue PTA purchased two iPad Air computers for the resource room.
- The Centre Avenue Student Council sponsored a Thanksgiving Food Drive which collected 200 pounds of food which was donated to Island Harvest.
- The Centre Avenue Student Council continues to "give back" by sponsoring a Holiday Toy Drive in conjunction with Senator Dean Skelos to provide toys for local children in need.

- The Centre Avenue Social Workers and their Peer groups will be supporting the Make a Soldier Smile Program with students creating holiday cards and Christmas trees being sent to soldiers overseas.
- Mrs. Strugats, our Computer teacher, will host The Grade Four Monster project at Centre Avenue School. Rhame Avenue and Centre Avenue fourth graders will meet December 17th to share their projects.
- Centre Avenue School will hold its Train Safety Program for grade K-6 students on Friday, December 13 with the Long Island Rail Road.
- Centre Avenue held its Visitors Day with over 200 parents having an opportunity to see their children in action in the classroom on November 22nd.
- In studying this year's theme of Conservation, the Enterprise students have written business letters to various conservation organizations requesting information. They have already received responses from over 15 organizations. Most have sent return letters detailing the conservation efforts of that organization. Some have sent brochures and other literature. The NRDC (Natural Resources and Defense Council) sent a large box filled with items for every class member. They sent hats, periodicals, novels, a large book about the plight of polar bears, consumer information cards to help make informed purchases, tote bags, and more. The students are learning a great deal from these organizations and are thrilled to open up their mail.
- We had our third Superintendent's professional development half day on Monday, December 9th. Teachers participated in workshops on SmartBoards, Google Apps for Education, Common Core ELA and math modules, IEP Development, mental health workshop, Common Core Writing Across the Content Areas and Smart Response System.

I would like to wish you all a belated but Happy Hanukkah, a joyous Christmas and holiday season and all the best for a healthy, prosperous and stress free New Year.

9. Privilege of the Floor

- Resolution for high stakes testing.
- Policies
- Eligibility policy
- Refusal to take tests

10. Board Member Comments

Linda Schmidt – Thank you for coming and voicing your opinions. Happy Holidays!

John Giannotti, Jr. – Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Patti Nicoletti – Congratulations to Jonathan and Carly on their Cross Country accomplishments this year. You make us very proud. I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday!

Kristin Ochtera – Thank you for your comments. Happy and healthy holidays to all.

11. Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk