

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., March 11, 2014 - East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Preceded by Recognition of Enterprise Participants at United Cerebral Palsy of
Nassau's 2014 Trivia Challenge a Presentation on NYS Social Studies Standards
and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Kristin Ochtera, President; Patti Nicoletti; Neil Schloth; Linda Schmidt; John Giannotti, Jr.; Lisa J. Ruiz, Superintendent; Dr. Joan Colvin, 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 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kristin Ochtera.
2. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth the minutes of the February 11, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports – January 2014
4. Correspondence – Two
5. Action Agenda

A. Other Items

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items numbered 1-5 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the 2014-2015 school district calendar.
2. Accept a donation from Nassau Tract in the amount of Four Hundred Thirty-Three Dollars and 80 cents (\$433.80) for Collegial Circle books for Centre Avenue.
3. Approve the award of the bid for transportation services to First Student, Inc. for one (1) displaced student living in Island Park to East Rockaway High School and authorize the Director of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
4. Approve the License Agreement with SCOPE Education Services for the SAT Preparatory Program for the 2014-2015 school year and authorize the President of the Board of

Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

5. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement dated February 11, 2014, between the Board and the United Public Service Employees Union (“UPSEU”) representing the employees in the District’s custodial bargaining unit regarding the terms and conditions of employment for the members of the bargaining unit;

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

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on March 4, 2014, in East Rockaway, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to extend real property tax exemptions to eligible and qualified property owners pursuant to Real Property Tax Law, Section 485a(2); now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education in the East Rockaway Union Free School District, hereby adopts the definitions of “qualified owner,” “qualifying residential real property” and “veteran” as provided in the Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a (1)(c), (d) and (e), respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that eligible recipients shall be entitled to the exemptions provided in the Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a(2)a,(b) and (c) to a maximum of twelve thousand dollars, eight thousand dollars, and forty thousand dollars respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that tenant-stockholders of eligible co-operative corporations, shall be eligible to receive such exemptions as provided in Real Property Tax Law 485-a(6); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that recipients of these exemptions shall be permitted to transfer, on a pro-rata basis, the exemption to another home purchased within the East Rockaway Union Free School District as provided in Real Property tax Law 485-a(8).

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

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on March 4, 2014 in East Rockaway, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to extend a real property tax exemption to the parent(s) of a child who died in the line of duty while serving in the United States armed forces during a period of war as permitted by Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a (7); now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District, hereby adopts the definitions of “Gold Star Parent” as provided in the Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a(7)(a); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a Gold Star Parent shall be entitled to the exemptions provided pursuant to Real Property Tax Law, section 485-a(7), to a combined maximum of twenty thousand dollars, and as limited by Real Property Tax Law, Section 485-a(7)(c).

Neil Schloth – Thank you veterans for showing up and for your service. I have veteran relatives and they are struggling. I am very glad we can offer this help to you. I have much respect for you and thank you again.

Patti Nicoletti – I have been on this board for 4 years but I have never been prouder or happier to pass any resolution more than this one. Thank you to all of our veterans.

John Giannotti, Jr. – Thank you. It was the least we would do.

Upon motion by Linda Schmidt, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items numbered 8-12 were unanimously approved:

8. Approve the Notice of Budget Hearing and Annual District Election of the East Rockaway UFSD and the publication of such notice as required by law in the “Oceanside, Rockville Centre, East Rockaway Tribune,” and “The Lynbrook/East Rockaway Herald.”
9. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District has determined that there is a need to undertake certain capital improvements and technology upgrades to commence during the 2014-2015 school year (“Project”), as described in reports entitled “Capital Projects 2014-15” and “Proposed Technology Reserve Spending 2014-15”, respectively, on file and available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk (“Report”); and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that propositions be presented to the voters of the School District authorizing the expenditure of available funds from the District’s existing Capital Reserve Fund for Building Improvements and Repairs and Capital Reserve Fund for Technology Replacement for that purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board establishes itself as lead agency for the purposes of SEQR determinations regarding the proposed Project; and be it further

RESOLVED, 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 SEQRA; and, therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes and directs that the following propositions be placed before the voters of the East Rockaway Union Free School District at the Annual District Meeting to be held between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on May 20, 2014, at the polling place heretofore established within the District; and that the District Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to give notice of such proposition to be voted at said Annual District Meeting by publishing a notice thereof, four times within the seven (7) weeks next preceding the district election, the first publication to be at least forty-five (45) days before the election, and to have the necessary ballot labels printed for said vote in the form corresponding as nearly as may be with the requirements of the Education Law and the provisions of the voting machine rules of this school district.

10. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District has determined that there is a need to create capital reserve funds to cover, in whole or in part, the cost of (1) future capital improvements, renovations and/or alterations of School District facilities, and (2) future purchases, improvements and/or replacement of the District's technology and telecommunications equipment, infrastructure and software; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires that propositions be presented to the voters of the School District authorizing the establishment of capital reserve funds for said purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes and directs that the following propositions be placed before the voters of the East Rockaway Union Free School District at the Annual District Meeting to be held between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on May 20, 2014, at the polling place heretofore established within the District; and that the District Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to give notice of such proposition to be voted at said Annual District Meeting by publishing a notice thereof, four times within the seven (7) weeks next preceding the district election, the first publication to be at least forty-five (45) days before the election, and to have the necessary ballot labels printed for said vote in the form corresponding as nearly as may be with the requirements of the Education Law and the provisions of the voting machine rules of this school district.

11. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the financial audit prepared by R.S. Abrams and Co., for the year ended June 30, 2013.

12. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement dated March 5, 2014, between the Board of Education and the East Rockaway Teachers Association, concerning a one-time retirement incentive for members of the teachers bargaining unit and authorize the Superintendent to execute the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

- C. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.
- D. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Linda Schmidt, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters

- 1. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth the following policy was unanimously adopted:
 - a. 5100, Attendance

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to the Tullo family on the passing of Roland LaPointe, father of Barbara Tullo, orchestra teacher, and father-in-law of Duke Tullo, cleaner.
- b. Congratulations to M. Denise Winter, school social worker, on the birth of her grandson, Beau

8. Superintendent's Report

Good evening to everyone and thank you for attending our board meeting.
I'd like to begin with some congratulations for our students.

- The following students were selected to participate in the 10th annual Art Supervisors Association Art Show at Adelphi on Sunday, March 16th from 12:00-4:00 PM at the Ruth S. Harvey University Center.
- Rhame Avenue – Ms. Brody

Katelyn Reddy
Perri
Clare Acuti

- East Rockaway High School - Ms. Collins
Alishah Khan
Cameron Gonzalez
Julia Melissinos
- East Rockaway High School – Ms. Zappa
Elizabeth Sieban
Camille Perdicaro
- In celebration of Youth Art Month, three Centre Avenue students, Sophia Bertolotti (5), Alexis Guilz (6) and Selin Idik (3), will have art work exhibited at the Long Island Art Teacher's Association 2014 Art in Heart Exhibit at the Broadway Mall in Hicksville. The artwork will be on display until April 27 and students will attend a reception on Saturday, March 26th.

Congratulations to all of our student artists.

- Again, I would like to congratulate the following students, Dylan Crawford, Joe Sheridan, Joe Halik, Paul Trowbridge, and Shawn McKee who advanced to the State VEX Robotics Championship at Adelphi which was held this past Saturday. Our students advanced to the second round of the competition. Thank you, to Mr. Cimarelli and Mr. Howard for their guidance and support.
- Congratulations to high school senior, Damian Amiruddin, who was named to the Coaches Select Top 100 Senior Varsity Baseball Players and Rising Stars by Baseball Magazine.
- Our schools have been practicing Lockdown Drills in conjunction with Nassau County police officers. After each drill, the police debrief with our principals and have made recommendations that will help strengthen the lockdown procedure. These recommendations are then addressed at Safety Team and Faculty meetings. To date, Centre Avenue School and the junior/senior high school have completed the drill and Rhame Avenue's drill will take place shortly. Thank you to our local precinct for their support.
- We will be launching a new website on or about April 1. We are very excited about the new look of the East Rockaway Schools.

Elementary Schools

- Elementary math teaching assistant, Megan Rice, has received a grant to implement an online program entitled, Reflex Math, which has been designed to give students an opportunity to increase their fluency within the four operations in a more appealing way. The program is differentiated based on each individual student's strengths and weaknesses. Thank you, Ms. Rice!
- Centre Avenue Kindergarten Registration and Screening will be held during the week of March 17th. If you have a child that will be 5 years old on or before December 1, please call the Registrar at East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School.
- Councilman Santino recently visited Rhame Avenue and read to second grade classes.
- \$4,605 was raised by 95 Rhame Avenue students for the Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart Charity. This is the 2nd highest total in Rhame Avenue history.
- On February 27, 2014, the Rhame Ave PTA held a fun-filled, hilarious assembly entitled, Improv for Kids, for the entire school. This Interactive assembly program consisted of four comics who asked the children for responses to questions, such as, name a book that has never been written and used those responses to perform skits. The students' laughter was infectious and smiles on the children's faces could be seen throughout the day as a result of the fun they had!
- The Rhame PTA had their annual Spring Dinner on March 7th at the Bridgeview Yacht Club. This affair, which supports the PTA programming and assemblies for the benefit of Rhame Avenue students and staff, was well attended. Thank you to all participated in making this evening a success!
- Rhame and Centre Avenue PTAs have asked that we provide a meeting on the NYS assessments. This will take place on Tuesday, March 18, at 7:00 PM here in the auditorium. We will provide information and answer parent questions. If you have specific questions, it would be helpful to submit them to your PTA presidents in advance so that we may be best prepared to address all questions.

Jr. Sr. High School

- The Guidance Department has planned three college visits for sophomores and juniors this spring. The first will be to Adelphi University on March 28. April visits include Sarah Lawrence College and Sacred Heart University.
- On March 18th, our 7th grade students will be taking a field trip to Hofstra University to watch the show "Objects in Motion." This educational performance is designed to extend our curriculum beyond the classroom walls. Students will be watching world-class jugglers use patterns and repetitions to demonstrate principles of math and science.

- On March 27th and 28th, our 8th grade students will be traveling to Washington D.C. to view our country's national treasures and to bring our 8th grade social studies curriculum to life by visiting our nation's capital city. Our teachers will be touring with our students and highlighting the focal points of our nation's history.
- Joyce Loftus's Lupus Walk Team- Jennifer's Circle, was the top fundraiser in the annual walk!
- In honor of Black History month in conjunction with our social studies curriculum, the 7th graders studied the role of African Americans during the American Revolutionary War. Eighth graders are evaluating different abolitionists. They also studied Frederick Douglass earlier in the year by reading his slave narrative. In AP World History, students discussed the Atlantic slave trade, as well as the social, economic, and political effects on Africans in Africa and the Americas. This week they will discuss the global abolitionist movement and students studied profiles of key, black historical figures.
- I don't think I need to remind anyone that this Friday is the Rock Rivalry Entrance for anyone over the age of 18. Tickets are \$12.

9. Privilege of the Floor

- BOCES OccEd

10. Board Member Comments

Linda Schmidt – I have decided not to run again for the trustee seat. The experience was wonderful. I have had eight wonderful colleagues. It was my honor and pleasure to work for the children of East Rockaway. The progress we have made is outstanding, and I feel I am leaving the Board in great hands. Thank you Mrs. Ruiz. See you next month.

Neil Schloth – I have decided that I am going to run this year. There has been a lot of change, new superintendent, principal, at least one new board member – I see a need for stability and experience.

Kristin Ochtera – Linda, we will miss your gentle spirit, good luck. Thank you for coming everyone. Please join us for the joint PTA meeting next week for a special presentation on assessments and state testing.

Neil Schloth – I was one of the delegates who went up to Albany to speak to our legislators. Kristin, myself and two PTA members went and made some good points. Please write to Brian Curran, Harvey Weisenberg and Dean Sklelos and let them know we need help. If you have any questions, ask. Social workers thank you for the work you do. The entire staff does a fine job.

Patti Nicoletti – Congratulations to the Enterprise Trivia Challenge winners and to Mrs. Healy. Thank you to our district Social Workers who, this year, worked so very hard because of Super Storm Sandy; to Mr. Piccarella for the Social Studies presentation; and to the business department, Dr. Colvin and Mrs. Tannenbaum for doing such a fabulous job this past year. Because of their hard work, our district has received a very high rating from our auditors.

John Giannotti, Jr. – Two thumbs up to everything Patti said. Linda, it was a pleasure working with you. Thank you for coming.

11. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Patti Nicoletti and unanimously passed the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Yours truly,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk