

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:00 P.M., October 21, 2014 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School  
Including Recognition of Diana Sharkey, Commended Student,  
Recognition of Art Students, Allyson Lovera, Emily Ramos, Alisha Khan, and Theresa Fusco,  
a Salute to the Board of Education,  
and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Kristin Ochtera, Patricia Nicoletti, Neil R. Schloth, John Giannotti, Jr., Keith Gamache; Superintendent, Lisa J. Ruiz; Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, James P. Robinson; Director of Curriculum & Technology, John Piccarella; District Clerk, Denise Lobascio; staff members, and members of the community

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:10 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Neil Schloth. to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Neil Schloth, the minutes of the following Board of Education meetings were unanimously approved:
  - A. September 16, 2014
  - B. October 14, 2014
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports
4. Correspondence – Two
5. Action Agenda
  - A. Personnel

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Keith Gamache, the following items #1-10 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
  - a. Alexandra Rosenthal, , permanent substitute teacher, effective September 16, 2014
  - b. Carrie Consiglio, food service worker, effective October 3, 2014

- c. Kathleen Dwyer, substitute teacher, effective October 15, 2014
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Erin Kennedy for a child rearing leave of absence from her special education teacher position, effective September 29, 2014 through January 30, 2015.
3. 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, effective February 2, 2015 through June 30, 2015.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Dawn Ragone to the position of leave replacement school social worker, effective October 22, 2014, through June 30, 2015, at the MA40, Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher Association contract for the 2014-2015 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, effective October 22, 2014, approve the appointment of Dawn Ragone, as a Dignity Act Coordinator.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Joanne Armellino to the part-time clerk-typist, 12-months (.49 FTE) position, and effective November 10, 2014, at the prorated Step 4 annual salary set forth East Rockaway Secretaries Association contact for 12-month clerk typists for the 2014-2015 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Marisa Solan to the position of short-term substitute teacher, effective October 6, 2014, through January 30, 2015, at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for short-term substitute teachers for the 2014-2015 school year.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Caitlin Klingbeil to the position of permanent substitute teacher, effective October 22, 2014, through June 26, 2015, at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for permanent substitute teachers for the 2014-2015 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments, effective October 22, 2014, through June 25, 2015, at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary

Schedule for substitute workers for the 2014-2015 school year:

- a. Karen Cooney, substitute teacher aide
- b. Meredith LaBarbera, substitute teacher aide
- c. Alyssa Sishko, substitute teacher aide
- d. Amy Carradonna, substitute monitor

10. 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. Joanne Armellino
- b. Amy Carradonna

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, the following items #1-17 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the following Civil Service Action:

At the Nassau County Civil Service Commission meeting of September 10, 2014, Anthony Quercia’s title was reclassified from Director of School Facilities and Operations to NYS Director of Facilities III.

2. Approve the following employment agreements and authorize the Superintendent to execute the agreements on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:

- a. Mary Volino, Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education
- b. Anthony Quercia, Director of Facilities

3. Approve the revised junior senior high school club advisor assignments for the 2014-2015 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.

4. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and The Rebecca Center for Music Therapy at Molloy College for music therapy services for the 2014-2015 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
5. Approve the Special Education Services Contract with Rockville Centre UFSD for special education services for the following parentally placed students for the 2014-2015 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
  - a. Student ID No. 369495322
  - b. Student ID No. 369495391
  - c. Student ID No. 369494998
6. Approve the admission of one Freeport UFSD student, Student I.D. No. 1000452, to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2014-2015 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.
7. Approve the Special Education Services Contract with Great Neck UFSD for special education services for one (1) student, Student ID No. 180006250, for the 2014-2015 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.
8. Approve the following consultant services contract and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contracts on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
  - a. RCP Consultants, Education Consultant for Grant Writing Professional Development
  - b. Peter Garrity of Math Camp, Educational Consultant for Math Professional Development
  - c. Vincent Tunstall, speaker for Financial Aid Night, November 12, 2014
  - d. Sheri Berman, choreographer for district musical, "Willy Wonka"
  - e. AVZ, Certified Public Accountants, financial services during the 2014-2015 school year

9. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal the equipment more fully set forth on the List of Equipment for Disposal dated October 1, 2014.
10. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling the books more fully set forth on the Textbook Removal Forms dated October 21, 2014.
11. Accept the following donations:
  - a. weight equipment for the high school athletic program having a value of \$350 received from Barbara and Dan DeVoe
  - b. \$800 from the East Rockaway Kiwanis Club to offset the Builder's Club advisor's stipend for the 2014-2015 school year
  - c. Office furniture and furnishings received from Norbert Marx having a value of \$7,500
12. Reject the bid won by Guardian Bus on August 14, 2014, for the Holy Trinity late bus at a cost of \$79.00 per day.
13. Approve the extension of the contract with Independent Coach at CPI of 1.9% for the Holy Trinity late bus at a cost of \$72.33 per day.
14. Approve the terms of the Letter of Intent with Nassau BOCES for a five-year lease for four Xerox multi-task copy machines and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Letter of Intent on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
15. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that, in accordance with the provisions of New York State Education Law §3012-c and Subpart 30-2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District ("District") hereby certifies Erik Walter as a qualified lead evaluator and the district hereby authorizes him to conduct and/or complete the annual professional performance reviews of classroom teachers within the District.
16. Approve the East Rockaway UFSD Two Year Plan.
17. Approve the members of the professional development team pursuant to policy 9700, Staff Development:

John Piccarella, Co-Chairperson  
Michelle Rodgers  
Meridyth Hansen  
Mary Arapas  
Diane Rafferty  
Ashley Tener  
Eileen Hiller  
Nancy Minkoff

Laura Guggino-Hastings, Co-Chairperson  
Ann Smyth  
ToniAnn Donald  
Joseph Spero  
Debra Ferrato  
Danielle Schaetzle  
Petra Schoen

C. Budget Transfers

1. Upon motion by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Keith Gamache the following budget transfer was unanimously approved:

a. Transaction No. 15-0003

D. Upon motion by Patti Nicioletti, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Upon motion by Keith Gamache, seconded by Neil Schloth, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters:

Upon motion by Keith Gamache, seconded by John Gianotti, Jr. the following items marked A&B were unanimously approved:

A. For Adoption:

1. 5420.1, Allergy/Anaphylaxis Policy

B. For Review and Re-Affirmance:

1. 6700,6700-R, Purchasing and Purchasing Regulation

C. For Review:

1. 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities under the IDEA and New York's Education Law Article 89

## 7. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to the Yousha family on the passing of Sol, a beloved science teacher at East Rockaway who passed away October 9, 2014
- b. Condolences to Karen Leary and her family on the passing of her mother-in-law, Barbara Leary
- c. Condolences to Darlene Woods and her family on the passing of her mother-in-law Catherine Woods
- d. Congratulations to Sue Torborg on the marriage of her son, Gregg (class of '04) to Simone Miller on Saturday, October 11, 2014
- e. Congratulations to Erin and Vincent Kennedy on the birth of their son, Vincent Alex, on October 18, 2014

### Superintendent's Report

Welcome. I would like to extend my sincerest thank you to the East Rockaway Kiwanis Club for their continued support and generous donation which enabled us to continue the Builder's Club now in its fourth year.

Thank you to the Rhame Avenue PTA for coordinating the Board Appreciation Night presentation and a very special thank you to our student performers.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the East Rockaway School District, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to our Board of Education Trustees for the significant time and unwavering dedication they give to their positions. I am honored to be working with this fine and dedicated group of individuals.

### *School Board Trustees are Volunteers*

- *They receive no pay nor any type of compensation for their service.*
- *School board members take their responsibility and public trust very seriously, dedicating an enormous number of hours to their work both in and outside of board meetings*
  - *Attending school functions*
  - *Preparing for board meetings*
  - *Reading financial reports, agendas and proposals, and*
  - *Making a host of difficult and challenging decisions are just a few of the regular activities board members participate in through their service.*
- *School boards provide adequate resources to ensure student achievement*
- *Serve as fiscal stewards of the district*
- *Ensure accountability to taxpayers*
- *Establish key goals for their school district*

- *Form partnerships with others in the community, and*
- *Create a safe, orderly learning environment.*
  
- *They must sometimes make tough decisions*
- *Study a variety of education issues*
- *Prepare budgets and track performance in order to provide the kind of accountability that this community expects*
- *And one of the most important jobs they do is hire a new superintendents!*
- *This is quite a list of responsibilities and our board certainly does this job with aplomb, commitment, and hard work.*

Once again, words are truly inadequate to *thank you for your service and dedication to our community.*

#### Middle School

- On October 15, eighth grade students took a trip to the 9/11 Museum and Memorial. Students were impacted by the experience in a meaningful and reflective manner.
- In recognition of October's theme of Anti-Bullying the High School PTA, in collaboration with school administration, has invited an Assistant District Attorney from the Nassau County District Attorney's Office to speak to our students about the dangers and effects of cyberbullying. Ms. Schutta and Mr. O'Driscoll have visited our middle school classes, with the assistance of peer leaders, to discuss safe cyber surfing on social media sites with our middle school students. Additionally, our middle school students have taken the Anti-Bullying Pledge in their school by signing the banner in their school which will be on display in the Middle School Wing later this month.

#### Academics

- Diana Sharkey was recognized as a Commended Student by the College Board's National Merit Program
- On October 15, tenth and eleventh grade students were administered the PSAT exam for the first time as a group during the school day. Students took the opportunity seriously. We look forward to the score reports in December.

#### Arts

- 130 audition packets were given out to students on Oct 7 in grades 4-12 who will be auditioning for this year's musical, *Willy Wonka*. Auditions will take place October 22 – 24.



### Technology

- Technology Department also hosted a VEX Robotics workshop last week in which approximately 30 Technology teachers from numerous schools in Nassau County were privy to hands on arena training techniques as well as computer programming strategies. It was a most successful workshop and will be the catalyst for our next robotics competition hosted here at East Rockaway High School. We are expecting a big turnout this year!
- Students in technology classes assembled the two picnic tables in front of the school, designed and fabricated a stainless steel shield to protect the water filter for the new water fountain/bottle filler by the small gym (Design and Drawing for Production), and refinished one of the three tables in the reading classroom (multiple classes including Grade 8). I also received a gift of a beautiful wood cutting board made from the recycled gym floor board by our technology students.

### Health

- In Health 11, students recently completed "Life Story" posters. The work was completed during the "empathy" unit.
- In Health 7, students viewed "Bully" film.
- October is Bullying awareness/prevention month and students are currently working on SADD posters.

### Physical Education

- We now have Polar Heart Rate Monitors which are used in classes to increase cardiovascular fitness, and reports are emailed to students for analysis.
- Both gyms are now equipped with smart boards which are used in daily instruction for video analysis both on the web and authentic in class movements.

### Athletics

- Fall season is coming to a close within two weeks:
- **Varsity records as of October 17, 2014**
- Football 2-3
- Girls Soccer 9 – 1- 1
- Boys Soccer 1-11
- Cross Country Boys 1-6
- Girls 4-3
- Volleyball 1-11
- The gym floor came out fantastic and we thank all who contributed to its final outcome.

## Elementary Schools

- The Centre Avenue PARP program is in full swing with students reading multiple minutes with parents at home. Students and Parents log minutes and students complete book reviews for a chance to update the Principal's Pirate Eye Patch on the PTA PARP bulletin board.
- The Centre Avenue PTA held a school-wide assembly titled, *The Story Pirates*. Actors ad lib story starters given by the students. Children then are prompted to write stories at home and submit them to the traveling troop that will return Centre and act out a story written by the children.
- Grade level teachers are meeting district wide with Mr. Piccarella to analyze our assessment data to inform and guide teaching in the classrooms.
- Second grade teacher, Mary Arapas, is running a collegial circle to read and discuss the professional resource, *The Daily Five: Fostering Literacy in the Early Grades*. Centre Avenue has over 20 teachers meeting during their lunch period for this purpose.
- Centre Avenue School has submitted over 100 Andrew Stern 9/11 essays that students completed on their own time. This year's prompt: *The 9/11 Museum opened this year in New York City. Explain how you think it can be used to educate students and others about the events of that day.*
- Parent Teacher Conferences are being scheduled for October 30th and November 6th. Please return your sign-up form.
- October is Unity month and our elementary schools are recognizing this with many anti-bullying activities. Students wore orange as a sign that we are united in working together to put a stop to bullying. In addition, students are continuing to write weekly tips related to bullying that are shared during the "Newscasters" morning announcements.
- Fourth grade students in Mrs. Kane's class at Rhame Avenue have been analyzing song lyrics to raise awareness about bullying. Students listened and watched the music videos for the songs "Mean" by Taylor Swift, as well as "Brave" by Sara Bareilles, to better empathize with targets of bullying and gain confidence to not be a bystander. They used close reading and inferential strategies to break the songs up into stanzas and lines to better understand the messages of the songs and discuss how they could use the themes of these songs in their own lives.
- The kindergarten, first and second graders have been learning about fire safety this month. Each class walked to the East Rockaway Firehouse and learned all about what to

do in case of a fire. They also got to practice, “Stop, Drop and Roll” and each child had a turn to ring the bell on the fire truck before heading back to school.

- The third grade learned about the scientific method by creating a hypothesis about bubble wands or different shapes and sizes. Each class went outside to test their hypothesis and found that all shapes create round bubbles. Their hypotheses’ were incorrect, but students learned a lot about the force of wind and its effect on the size of bubbles one creates.
- Our PTA has organized this year’s “Pumpkin Patch” and “Halloween Fest” for all students this Friday. All students will have an opportunity to pick their own pumpkins from the field outside. Our 5th grade buddies and 6th grade Safety Patrol members will help the little ones pick them out. Students are looking forward to playing games, trick-or-treating, and trying to make it out of the haunted house in one piece!

8. Privilege of the Floor

- New Website – Trish Albate
- PSAT – Christine DelValle
- RTI Plan – Stacey Sommer & Jeannae Prucha
- Allergy Policy – AnnMarie Lynch
- Thank you Board – Joe Spero
- Voting – Keith Gamache

9. Board Member Comments

**Patti Nicoletti** – A very special thank you to our very talented and brave students who performed tonight. Also, congratulations to Diana, Allyson, Emily, Alisha and Theresa and their families. You make us proud. Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. DeVoe, the Kiwanis Club and Mr. Marx for their generous donations to our district. Thank you to the PTA’s for all the hard work they do for our students. We appreciate you.

**Neil Schloth** – Thank you to the PTA for your presentation. Let’s not forget the state representatives who produced money for our district; Mr. Curran, Mr. Weisenberg and Mr. Skelos. Let them know you appreciate them. The firemen are giving out peanut allergy stickers at headquarters. Thanks to Kristin, who works as this is a full time job in order to move our district forward.

**Keith Gamache** – Thank you to the art teachers and students for their presentation and journals.

**John Giannotti, Jr.** – Thank you to the performers; congratulations to the award winners; thank you PTA. Thank you all for coming out, it is a privilege to work for you.

**Kristin Ochtera** – Thank you teachers, parents, faculty and administrators for your acknowledgement tonight. We take it to heart. I thought tonight was amazing and want to make special note of the solo performances tonight. I have been in front of large groups of

people many times and am always a little nervous. But, I have the benefit of having these special people besides me. As a board president, I always speak on behalf of the board; I'm never solo. Tonight the first child to perform, standing alone on the riser with her clarinet showed great courage, as did the performers that followed. She was very brave. We do what we do to move the district forward. We improve and move forward when teachers share their strengths, as we heard about tonight, and when the PTA advocates for the students; thank you for all of that.

10. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr. and unanimously passed the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio  
District Clerk