

East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., October 20, 2015 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School
Including by Recognition of Advance Placement Scholars,
Andrew Machovec, Fencing Champion,
a Salute to the Board of Education,
a Presentation on the District Snapshot
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, Vitina Fazi

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:07 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Keith Gamache.

Board President Kristin Ochtera, turned the meeting over to the Superintendent for presentations. Ms. Ruiz introduced Ms. Mona Hecht who shared AP Scholar information. Twenty nine students were chosen as AP Scholars, their names read, and achievement of our students was acknowledged. AP Scholars with distinction (present and former students) as well as National AP Scholars were also announced.

Ms. Hecht also introduced and presented Andrew Machovec with a certificate for his success as a rising fencing star. Andrew has placed fourth in the United States and has many more competitions in the coming months.

Ms. Ruiz then congratulated all the AP Scholars and Andrew Machovec. She then turned the floor over to Mr. Tim Silk who led the program for Board of Education Appreciation Night. Mr. Silk introduced each Board member and led the audience in a round of applause. He spoke about all the work that the Board is involved with and thanked them for their hard work. He then presented Ms. Arapas' and Ms. Spratt's first grade students who sang "We Appreciate You." Flowers were distributed by the students to all Board members. Mr. Silk thanked Ms. Maini, Ms. Lalama, Ms. Spratt and Ms. Arapas for their work with the children.

Ms. Ruiz thanked the first grade Centre Avenue students and the Centre Avenue staff for all of their hard work in coordinating tonight's performance. She also thanked all of the Board of Education members who serve in this role. She reported that the entire Board of Education and administrative staff attended the New York State School Boards Association Conference which was held in New York City. The days were long and much work was accomplished. She is very proud to work with a dedicated Board of Education and thanked them on behalf of the entire community for all they do.

Ms. Ruiz announced a short recess at this time. Refreshments were served in the Band Room courtesy of the PTA in celebration of Board of Education Appreciation Night. All were invited.

At 7:50 PM the meeting continued. Ms. Ruiz introduced Mr. John Piccarella who spoke about and presented the “District Snapshot.” Mr. Piccarella then turned the floor over to Ms. Ruiz who briefly spoke about the upcoming Strategic Planning Committee meetings. She acknowledged that there was much data to digest and much more work to do in the future. The District is still in the process of implementing and evaluating supplemental programs to try to better support our students in both Math and ELA. Ms. Ruiz asked if there were any questions and referred the audience to the PowerPoint presentation posted on the District’s website.

Ms. Ruiz then turned the floor back to Board President, Kristin Ochtera at 8:16 PM, who announced the Board would now continue with the Agenda.

Ms. Ochtera spoke about Item B (7) (a) (Other Items) on tonight’s Action Agenda. She stated that tonight the Board will be accepting a donation from the East Rockaway Kiwanis Club and gave a little background about the grants that Kiwanis has funded in the past. She invited Dr. Meagher and the Kiwanis representatives to the podium who presented the check to the Board. Ms. Ochtera thanked the Kiwanis Club and accepted the check on behalf of the District.

Dr. Meagher then spoke about the history of the Kiwanis organization. He stated that East Rockaway Kiwanis Club is celebrating 65 years of service. They are very pleased to start the K-Kids Club in the elementary schools.

At 8:22 PM Ms. Ochtera asked if everyone had a chance to review the agenda and if there were any questions or comments on the action items. The meeting agenda continued.

2. Upon motion made by Patricia Nicoletti, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the Minutes of the September 21, 2015, and October 13, 2015, meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – July 2015 and August 2015.
4. Correspondence – Two.
5. Action Agenda

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the following Items Nos. 1 through 4 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

A. Personnel

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Patricia Woloszyn, from her 10-month School Nurse position at St. Raymond’s School

effective November 25, 2015.

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Edward W. Correll to the position of leave replacement school psychologist, effective November 4, 2015, through June 30, 2016, at the prorated MA, Step Entry (plus stipend) annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers' Association contract for the 2015-2016 school year.
3. 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 2015-2016 school year:
 - a. Gordon Moynihan, substitute teacher, effective October 21, 2015
 - b. Michael Santa Maria, substitute teacher, effective October 21, 2015
 - c. Lisa Blank, substitute teacher aide and substitute monitor, effective October 21, 2015
 - d. Susan Smith, substitute food service worker, effective October 21, 2015
 - e. Lisa Coscia, substitute food service worker, effective October 21, 2015
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the continuation of the "emergency, conditional" personnel appointment for the following individuals pending receipt of notification of fingerprint clearance from the State of New York, Department of Education:
 - a. Lisa Blank
 - b. Susan Smith
 - c. Lisa Coscia

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by John Giannotti, Jr., seconded by Keith Gamache, the following Items Nos. 1 through 15 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

1. Approve the revised club advisor assignments for the 2015-2016 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.
2. Approve the following consultation services contract and authorize the President of the East Rockaway Board of Education to execute the contracts on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. Eng-Tze Pan, accompanying pianist for the winter and spring concerts rehearsals and performances during the 2015-2016 school year

- b. Shari Berman, choreographer services for the 2015-2016 district's musical production
3. Approve the admission of the following students to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the Special Education Summer 2015 Program and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreements between the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD and the Board of Education of the sending school districts:
 - a. Port Washington UFSD, No. 10001069
 - b. Island Park UFSD, No. 23072712
4. Approve the admission of the following students to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2015- 2016 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreements on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. Port Washington UFSD, No. 10001069
 - b. Island Park UFSD, No. 23072712
5. Approve the agency related services contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism for Assistive Technology Services for the 2015 - 2016 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
6. Approve the special education services contract with Hewlett Woodmere UFSD for special education services for one parentally placed student for the 2015 – 2016 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
7. Accept the following donations:
 - a. \$1,362.00 from the Kiwanis Club of East Rockaway to be applied to the club advisors' stipend for the "new" K-Kids Elementary Club
 - b. \$300 from the Rhame Avenue PTA for the first grade educational field trip to the Brookville Environmental Center
 - c. Sohmer upright piano from Carol Hernandez valued at \$900
8. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling the textbook items more fully set forth on the Textbook Removal Form dated October 20, 2015.
9. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal the equipment more fully set forth on the list of Equipment for Disposal dated October 20, 2015.

10. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal the East Rockaway School District owned 1998 Chevy Rack Body Truck, VIN # 1GBJK34R5WF049018 which sustained irreparable salt water damage as a result of Super Storm Sandy.
11. Approve the members of the professional development team pursuant to policy 9700, Staff Development.

John Piccarella, Co-Chairperson	Laura Guggino-Hastings, Co-Chairperson
Melinda Best	Marissa Diamond
ToniAnn Donald	Debra Ferrato
Meridyth Hansen	Laura Peterson
Jacqueline Purtee-Beytin	Dianne Rafferty
Michelle Rodgers	Carol Sanders
Danielle Schaezle	Petra Schoen
Anne Smyth	Joseph Spero

12. Accept the results of the BOCES transportation bid dated June 4, 2015, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contracts to be used, if necessary, for displaced students, on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
13. Approve the awards of the bids for transportation services to the following companies and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
- a. Baumann Bus Company:
 - 1. BOCES Jerusalem Avenue School
 - 2. BOCES Rosemary Kennedy School
 - b. First Student
14. Approve the following resolution:

Whereas, the following service providers for Tax Shelter Annuities are approved by the Board of Education:

SERVICE PROVIDERS	TYPE OF PLAN
VOYA (ING)	403b
Equitable Life Assurance/AXA	403b
Legend Service Corporation	403b
Mutual, Inc. Plan Member Services	403b
MET Life of CT/Travelers	403b
NYS Deferred Compensation	457

Lincoln Investment Planning	403b
Fidelity*	403b
T. Rowe Price*	403b
Mutual, Inc.*	403b
* Existing employees who have an annuity with Fidelity, T. Rowe Price or Mutual, Inc. will continue to have their contributions deducted and forwarded to their plan. No new participants permitted.	

BE IT RESOLVED, employees who work 1,000 hours in a school year or expect to work 1,000 hours in an ensuing school year are eligible to make contributions to a tax deferred annuity under IRS code 403b or 457.

15. Approve the terms and conditions of the agreement settling the case pending in the District Court, County of Nassau, 2nd District, bearing Index No. SC-002149-15/HE in the sum of \$477.10 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the settlement agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway School District.

C. Budget Transfers – None

D. Upon motion made by Patricia Nicoletti, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Upon motion made by John Giannotti, Jr., and seconded by Patricia Nicoletti, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters

1. For Review

- a. 1230, Public Participation at Board Meetings
- b. 2270, School Attorney
- c. 5420, Student Health Services
- d. 8414.5, Alcohol & Drug Testing of Bus Drivers

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Condolences to Joanne Armelino and family on the passing of her father, Giuseppe Cona
- b. Condolences to Brigid Mulvaney and family on the passing of her mother-in-law, Catherine Mulvaney
- c. Congratulations to Eileen and Lee Levine on the birth of their first child, Alannah Maureen, 8 pounds 11 ounces

Superintendent's Report

Elementary Schools

The on-line scheduler for parent/teacher conferences is open to parents to schedule meetings beginning this week. Just go to the school website and log on. This new resource has been popular with parents as they schedule meetings with their child's teachers.

The CAPTA PARP program is up and running during the month of October with an interactive bulletin board in the main hallway for students to access. Students have also been writing book reviews for submission to the PTA and the principal. Students receive a book from the PTA and get to change the principal's hat on the bulletin board.

On October 8th Centre Avenue students received a Long Island Rail Road Safety assembly on train safety. Students heard from Officer Chris on how to be safe and viewed a grade appropriate video on the curriculum. Students also went home with LIRR materials.

Red Ribbon week begins at Centre on October 26th with a host of activities to keep kids' drug free. Monday is Red Ribbon day. Tuesday is wear red day. Wednesday is wear sports attire. Thursday is Pajama Day and Friday is bring a healthy snack to school. Mrs. Ragone our school social worker is coordinating classroom presentations as well by grade.

Read 180 is a new reading program designed for our most challenged readers. A read 180 suite with computers and leveled books has been installed in room 18A. Teachers Sherina Lugo and Diana Collins have been trained in the program and provide the instruction to the students.

The Centre Avenue Halloween parade is scheduled for October 30 at 2:30 PM and is held on the school grounds. This is a huge event for Centre each year. Come out and join in the fun!

On October 22nd Centre Avenue grades one and two students will be presented a savings lesson from the 1st National Bank of Oceanside. Children will learn the value of saving and will have the opportunity to open an account if their parents are interested. Students will receive an old fashioned savings book to record their savings.

On Monday, October 19th, Rhame and Centre Avenue Schools participated in the "Read Across the Globe" event in hopes of helping other schools across the world shine a light on literacy. Teachers, administrators, and members of the community read stories about different countries as part of an international theme in all classrooms. The collective goal is to break the Guinness World Record for the number of children read to within a 24-hour period by reading to more than 300,000 children across the globe.

As part of October's focus on "Bullying Awareness," we were lucky to have Officer Groshans, a member of the Floral Park Police Department speak at last week's PTA meeting. A 28-year veteran on the force, Officer Groshans acts as the current school resource officer

in Floral Park and spearheads a number of youth programs in the surrounding area. He is an expert in all areas pertaining to Bullying, DASA & Internet Safety for children. We are looking forward to welcoming him back into our classrooms next month to speak with our 6th graders about “Cyber Safety.”

Both elementary schools students learned the importance of “Fire Safety.” On October 14th students were treated to a presentation from the East Rockaway Fire Department on fire safety in the home. Students watched fire fighters in full equipment show off their skills and training in fire rescue. Students also were treated to a viewing of fire truck and lifesaving technology. The program ended with students getting real fire rescue experience operating the fire hoses.

Rhame Kindergarten through 2nd grade Classrooms visited the East Rockaway Main Street Firehouse to learn about “Fire Safety.” October is “National Fire Prevention Month” across the country in remembrance of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. The students met the firefighters, look at their equipment, learned about the importance of fire safety and even practiced how to stop, drop and roll. Thank you to the East Rockaway Fire Department for opening up their firehouse to the kids.

Elementary Art teacher, Beth Brody, has been recognized as the 2015 New York State Art Teacher of the Year from Nassau County. She will be attending the awards ceremony at her annual state conference up in Rochester in November. We thank Beth for all of her hard work and dedication to her students. This is an amazing accomplishment and we are extremely proud.

East Rockaway High School

Homecoming at the Jr. /Sr. High School was a success. Students got into the East Rockaway spirit during Spirit Week, culminating in a Door (Middle School) and Hallway (High School) decorating contest. Ms. Mendyk’s Advisory won for the middle school while the sophomores won for the High School. Thank you to the PTA for supporting the event. The week continued with a well-attended Pep Rally, capped off with a win by the varsity football team over Mineola.

Progress Reports were posted on the portal last week. Please continue to check the portal for updated information on your child’s progress.

The PSAT exam was administered last week to all 10th and 11th graders. Middle school students went on a field trip to Ellis Island (Grade 8) and Garvies Point Museum (Grade 8). All 9th and 12th grade students watched McFarland USA, which will be followed up with classroom activities at a later time. All in all the day was productive.

The Annual Lupus Walk took place this past Sunday at Eisenhower Park. Over 40 students participated. All proceeds go to the Lupus Foundation of America.

Tim O'Connell from Nassau County notified the district that they will be holding the grand re-opening of Bay Park on Wednesday 10/28 at 4:00 PM. There will be media coverage of this event and our girls JH soccer team was invited to practice wearing their jerseys at that time.

NWEA testing has been administered for all students in grades 7 and 8. The test results provide valuable data for teachers to plan instruction and address individual student needs. Please see your child's teacher with any questions. Testing has been administered to all students in Gr. K-8.

9. Privilege of the Floor

Mrs. Acuti, Girl Scout troop leader at Rhame Avenue School, questioned the policy of charging a \$25 annual fee to each individual troop using the school building for meetings. She stated that this is a financial hardship to some families as some families don't even pay dues. Ms. Ochtera said that the Board will review the policy and someone will contact her.

Ms. Randi O'Moore, a parent of a 10th grade student and a 4th grade student at Centre Avenue School thanked Mr. Spero, Ms. Ruiz, and the Board for all of the college visits that have been conducted during the last few years. She acknowledged that there has been more than twice the amount of students attending other schools, such as Barry Technical, and participating in career educational courses. She thanked the administration for promoting, guiding, and approving students' participation.

Ms. Araoz inquired whether there is any data that indicates a difference in the results for school districts who send papers out for grading versus in-house grading. Ms. Ruiz stated that New York State does randomly audit and grade papers and will send back a report, most of the time there being little to no difference in the grading. In-house grading takes time away from teaching. Most districts do send tests out for grading across the country. Ms. Ruiz reported that testing will be computerized in the very near future and therefore graded through that process as well.

10. Board Member Comments

John Giannotti, Jr.: Mr. Giannotti, Jr. congratulated all AP Scholars and Andrew Machovec. He thanked the Centre Avenue first grade students for their musical presentation and the flowers. He also thanked the PTA for the refreshments that were served.

Patricia Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti congratulated Andrew Machovec and the AP Scholars. She also thanked all the teachers who worked with the students who achieved this honor. She reported that there is still much more work to do going forward but that we are headed in the right direction. She is looking forward to the Strategic Planning Committee meeting that will take place at the end of the month and new things being implemented.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth joined his Board members in thanking Mr. Silk and the first grade

students for their uplifting performance. He also thanked everyone who was involved with fire prevention over the weekend. He also thanked the community members for attending tonight's meeting.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache said he had a lot of fun watching Atticus and his classmates perform for the Board this evening. He thanked the Centre Avenue staff for their assistance with the performance. He also mentioned the art work which was featured at the School Boards conference. He thanked all community members for attending tonight's meeting.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera repeated her fellow trustee's comments. She also thanked her fellow Board members that she sits with every month who are selfless in giving their time and talents. She stated that at the end of the day, when decisions are made, no matter the discussion, they each continue to respect each other's beliefs and continue to make the correct decisions. She thanked her fellow trustees, the administration, and the Superintendent who work diligently to provide the best educational opportunities to our students.

11. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM to discuss matters of negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk