

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Rockaway, New York

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

7:00 P.M., May 22, 2018, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School

Preceded by Recognition of Board Vice-President Keith Gamache, Recipient of the NYSSBA Board Mastery Award; Recognition of Tenure Candidates, Recognition of National Geographic Geography Bee Winners, Art & Music Awards, a FEMA Update, and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Patti Nicoletti, Keith Gamache, Kristin Ochtera, Superintendent, Lisa J. Ruiz; Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mona Hecht; District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

Absent: John Giannotti, Jr.
Neil Schloth

1. The meeting was called to order by Patti Nicoletti at 7:05 p.m. Kristin Ochtera led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board President Patti Nicoletti welcomed everyone to the meeting. She announced that we have several recognitions tonight and we will begin with tenure. Ms. Nicoletti then turned the meeting over to Ms. Ruiz.

Ms. Ruiz stated that traditionally we recognize tenure candidates in the month of May. She described the tenure process. The first candidate for tenure was Briar Falvo, English teacher. Ms. Ruiz introduced Assistant Principal TJ Terranova. Ms. Terranova spoke about the accomplishments and successes of Briar Falvo and recommended her tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Centre Avenue principal, Sherry Ma. Ms. Ma spoke about the accomplishments and successes of Special Education teacher Diana Collins and recommended her tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Ms. Ruiz stated that many of the teachers' colleagues came out this evening to support them. Ms. Ruiz saluted all of the teachers tonight and thanked them for all they do for our students.

Ms. Ruiz announced that tonight we will be appointing a new Jr./Sr. High School principal. She introduced Mr. Richard Schaffer who was in the audience and spoke about his background and experience. He will officially start on July 1, 2018, and she wished him a long and successful career in East Rockaway.

The next presenter introduced by Ms. Ruiz was Mr. B.A. Schoen who is the Area 11

Director for the NYSSBA. Mr. Schoen presented Board Vice-President Keith Gamache with the NYSSBA Board Mastery Award. Mr. Schoen and Ms. Ruiz congratulated Mr. Gamache on receiving this award.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Rhame Avenue School principal, Mr. Erik Walter. Mr. Walter spoke about the National Geographic Geography Bee held at Rhame Avenue School for students in fourth through sixth grade. He proudly recognized fourth grader Xavier Jaramillo as the winner and presented him with a certificate.

Ms. Sherry Ma, Centre Avenue School principal, also spoke about the National Geographic Geography Bee held at Centre Avenue School on January 6, 2018, for fifth and sixth grade students. She proudly recognized sixth grader Michael Mahoney as the winner and presented him with a certificate. Michael also advanced to the State level. Ms. Ruiz congratulated both young men and wished them continued success.

Ms. Ruiz introduced Mr. Pete Ceglio who presented the art and music awards. Mr. Ceglio then introduced art teacher Kelly Cabasso who spoke about the accomplishments of the art students this past year. Students participated in over 20 shows and competitions. A list, containing names of 56 students who participated in outside competitions and events, was read. Students who were present were called to the stage for a photograph.

Mr. Ceglio continued with the music presentations. Music teachers, Ms. Silver, Ms. Weill, Ms. Mihalek, Mr. Anasatasatos, and Mrs. Lalama were present. Ms. Silver announced that the Junior (Gr. 7 and 8) Chorus students performed at NYSSMA (Majors) Festival at Hofstra University on May 21, 2018, and received a Gold rating with Distinction award. Mr. Ceglio continued with announcing the names of students who participated in: All-State, All County, LISFA, PEAK, NYACDA Middle School Honor Choir, eVoco High School Invitational Chorus, NYSSMA Majors, and NYSSMA Solo Festival held at Lawrence High School. A total of 163 music students in Grades 4-11 performed at the NYSSMA Solo Festival. Mr. Ceglio also announced that the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation has recognized the East Rockaway School District as one of the Best Communities for Music Education across the nation for the second consecutive year.

Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. Ceglio and all the art and music teachers. She is very proud of the skills and achievements of all the students and thanked the students for representing East Rockaway across the State.

At 7:45 p.m., Ms. Ruiz announced that there will be a short recess. Refreshments were being served in the Cafeteria to honor the tenure recipients. She invited everyone back to the auditorium for the FEMA update and to continue with the public portion of the agenda.

At 8:07 p.m. Ms. Nicoletti reconvened the meeting. Dr. Joan Colvin, the District's

FEMA consultant, gave a status update. She explained the history of the storm damage to the District’s buildings, the cost of repairs, payments that have been made to the District from FEMA, and the construction that is currently taking place. Questions were asked from the audience. Ms. Ruiz thanked Dr. Colvin for her continued perseverance all these years. As a result, all of the funding has been restored and we have been made whole.

At 8:25 p.m. Ms. Nicoletti resumed the public portion of the agenda. She stated that audience members will have an opportunity to question any items specific to the agenda. She reminded the audience to fill out cards if they wish to speak during the public comment section. All cards must be handed to the District Clerk prior to the public comment section.

- 2. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the following minutes were unanimously approved:
 - a. April 17, 2018, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
 - b. May 8, 2018, Special Meeting and Budget Hearing

- 3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – March 2018
- 4. Correspondence - None
- 5. Hearing of visitors on items in the Agenda - None
- 6. Action Agenda

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the following Items 1 through 11 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

A. Personnel

- 1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Richard Schaffer, to the position of principal of East Rockaway Jr/Sr High School, [tenure area: principal (secondary); certification status: permanent], effective July 1, 2018, at the Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Administrators Association contract for the 2018-2019 school year.
- 2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff members on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Diana Collins	Special Education	September 1, 2018
Briar Falvo	English Teacher	September 1, 2018

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignation:
 - a. Joanne Armellino, typist-clerk part-time, effective June 30, 2018
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Olivia Hupp to the position of short-term substitute teacher, effective June 11, 2018, through June 22, 2018, at the per diem salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2017-2018 school year.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time appointment of Michael Soto to the position of Driver Traffic Safety Instructor, effective July 1, 2018, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for the 2018-2019 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised spring 2018 coaching schedule.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following proctor assignments, effective May 7, 2018, through June 22, 2018, at the supervision salary rate established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract, Appendix C, for the 2017-2018 school year:
 - a. Mary Ann Goetz
 - b. Elizabeth Stack
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Tiffany DiNome to the position of foreign language teacher, (tenure area: foreign language; certification status: initial) effective August 30, 2018, at the MA, Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2018-2019 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Denise Cipriano to the position of Summer Textbook Monitor, effective June 4, 2018, through August 31, 2018, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education Food Service Worker and Monitor Unit Agreement.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of James Haberkorn, to the position of Security Aide upon Civil Service approval, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2017-2018 school year.
11. 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 2017-2018 school

year:

- a. Diana Liguori, per diem substitute teacher, effective May 23, 2018
- b. Ann Kerner, per diem substitute teacher, effective May 23, 2018
- c. Seasonal Cleaners, effective May 23, 2018, through September 30, 2018:
 1. Lucia Castro
 2. Bradley Kaufman
 3. Jennifer Lemus
 4. Aldelys Collado de Loveras
 5. Ada Molina
 6. Sebastian Salazar

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following Items 1 through 10 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

1. Adopt and approve the following Resolution:

The Board of Education accepts and approves the Board Resolution (attached hereto as Exhibit A) setting forth the results of the May 15, 2018, Annual District Election.

2. Approve the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement dated May 9, 2018, between the District and the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association regarding the terms and conditions of employment for the District's teacher aides unit employees for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2019, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute the resulting Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

3. Approve the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that approval is hereby granted to enter into an agreement with the following individuals/firms for student related services, as indicated, in the Requests for Proposal published in *Newsday* on March 26, 2018 for the 2018-2019 school year, opened at the District Office on April 26, 2018, at 10:00 am, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting service contracts on behalf of the Board of Education.

PROVIDERS: Abilities Inc., at The Viscardi Center; Kornreich Technology Center at the Viscardi Center; Access 7 Services, Inc.; All About Kids; Alternative Tutoring; APEX Therapeutic Services; All Source Recruiting d/b/a Ardor Health Solutions; Blue Sea Educational Consulting, Inc.; Career & Employment Options, Inc.; Carina Hamel, LMHC; Creative Tutoring, Inc.; Easy A Today Tutoring Services; Eden II School For Autistic Children, Inc. d/b/a Eden II/Genesis Programs; EDU Healthcare, LLC; Elite – Immigration Consulting Services Corp.; Full Care Nursing; Gayle Kligman Therapeutic; Helping Hands Children Services; Homecare Therapies LLC d/b/a Horizon Healthcare Staffing; Human Touch Translations; Institute for Children with Autism; Intrepid Nursing; Islip Tutoring Services, Inc.; Jennifer Fitzgerald, OT. P.C.; Jodi Allison Mishkin; Marra & Glick Applied Behavior Analysts, PLLC; Dr. Barry McNamara; Metro Therapy Inc.; Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism; New York Therapy Placement; Positive Behavior Support & Consulting & Psychological Resources, P.C.; Soliant Health; Syosset Home Tutoring, Inc.; TLC Kids Therapy, Inc.; JNC Services d/b/a/Top Grade; Tutoring Service of Long Island; US Medical Staffing; Variety Child Learning Center.

4. Approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, It is the plan of the Boards of Education of Garden City UFSD, Herricks UFSD, Mineola UFSD, Great Neck UFSD, Levittown UFSD, North Shore Central School District, Port Washington UFSD, East Rockaway School District, Roslyn UFSD , Long Beach UFSD, Island Park UFSD, Bethpage UFSD, Freeport School District, NBOCES, North Babylon School District, Plainedge School District, Jericho School District, East Williston UFSD, Valley Stream Central School District, County of Nassau, New York, Sachem School District, Middle Country School District, South Country Central School District, Southampton UFSD, County of Suffolk, New York to bid jointly for Materials & Supplies (Bus & Auto Parts & Transmission); and

WHEREAS, The East Rockaway School District is desirous of participating with other school districts in Nassau County in the joint bidding of the commodities mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0; and

WHEREAS, The East Rockaway School District wishes to appoint a committee to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, reporting the results to the Boards of Education and making recommendations thereon; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District hereby appoints David C. Murphy, Jr., for the East Rockaway

School District to represent it in all matters related above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the East Rockaway School District Board of Education authorizes the above mentioned committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned commodities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the East Rockaway School District Board of Education agrees to assume its equitable share of the costs of the cooperative bidding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the East Rockaway School District Board of Education agrees (1) to abide by the majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards: (2) that unless all bids are rejected, it will award contracts according to the recommendations of the committee: (3) that after award of contract(s) it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

5. Approve the Consulting Services Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Altaris Consulting Group for emergency preparedness and management consultant services and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
6. Approve the terms of the Agreement (Project#: 6-630935 Financed) with Nassau BOCES for a five-year lease agreement for 155 instructional work stations, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
7. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Manhasset Public Schools for health and welfare services for the 2017-2018 school year and authorize the Superintendent and the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
8. Approve the purchase of the following textbook:

Bedford, Freeman & Worth, *Advanced Language & Literature*, Boston/New York 2016
9. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal, the equipment listed on the attached "Items for Disposition" dated May 7, 2018.
10. Accept the following donations:

- a. From the Richard R. Ong and Heidi Lem Ong Charitable Fund, a check in the amount of \$4,000
- b. A check in the sum of \$400 (Curriculum Enhancement) from the Rhame Avenue PTA for a fifth grade field trip
- c. From the Centre Avenue PTA:
 - 1. A check in the sum of \$400 (Curriculum Enhancement) for a sixth grade in house field trip
 - 2. A check in the sum of \$500, (Curriculum Enhancement) for a first grade in house field trip
 - 3. A check in the sum of \$329.45, (Curriculum Enhancement) for classroom books for second grade
- d. From Club Rock, a total of \$2,500 for the Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys Basketball Teams

C. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following budget transfers were unanimously approved.

- 1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:
 - a. Transaction No. 18-0016
 - b. Transaction No. 18-0017
 - c. Transaction No. 18-0018
 - d. Transaction No. 18-0019

D. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved .

7. Policy Matters

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, Policy 5405, Wellness, was approved for adoption.

- 1. Policies for Adoption:
 - a. 5405, Wellness
- 2. Policies for Review:
 - a. 0115, Student Bullying, Prevention and Intervention
 - b. 2111-E, School Board Member Code of Conduct Exhibit
 - c. 2210, Board Reorganizational Meeting

- d. 2342, Agenda Preparation and Dissemination
 - e. 2360, Minutes
 - f. 2120.1, Candidates and Campaigning
 - g. 5100, Attendance
 - h. 5251, Student Fund Raising Activities
 - i. 5252, Student Activities Funds Management
 - j. 8332, Use of District-Owned Cell Phones
 - k. 8505, 8505R, 8505-E, Meal Charge Policy
8. Good and Welfare
- a. Congratulations to Dr. Alissa Nunes and Mr. Lou Nunez on the birth of their first child, Emilia Barbara Nunez
 - b. Congratulations to Alex Goldberg and his wife, Tracey, on the birth of their first child, Mackenzie Hannah
 - c. Condolences to Lucia Castro and family on the passing of her father-in-law, Jorge Rogel
9. Superintendent's Report

Achievement

Ms. Ruiz thanked the community for supporting the budget. There was a high participation rate and the budget passed with a 67% margin. She congratulated Dom Vulpis on his election to the Board of Education. Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. John Giannotti, Jr., who chose not to run for reelection, and thanked him for his years of work as a trustee. She welcomed Mr. Vulpis to the Board of Education and is looking forward to working with him.

Students in fifth grade have been learning about economics in their social studies unit. Concepts such as profit, needs versus wants, import versus export and entrepreneur have been discussed. As a culminating activity, students have been working on their prototypes of a product they want to sell on Entrepreneur Day. To prepare for this day they are working on a business plan and creating their own website, business cards, poster, and jingle. They have been researching articles from Achieve 3000 and Scholastic News to obtain information for their projects. In June students will go to Commerce Plaza, which is a hands-on education program that introduces the business community through a simulated work environment.

Students, teachers and administrators at Rhame and Centre Avenue have been engaging in "Learning Walks" and "Focus Groups" to gather valuable information about how teaching and learning is perceived through the eyes of the students as part of our work with "Visible Learning." This work is another valuable tool that we are working with to determine how to better use high impact strategies in the classroom to best support all students. We look forward to an upcoming workshop next week when our team will have the opportunity to share our findings with other school districts and work with the Visible Learning Team to craft action plans to implement as we begin the 2018-19 school year.

Review academies for AP exams and Regents Review have started with high attendance.

Fifteen Advanced Placement subject tests were administered.

Grades 3-8 Math Assessments were administered district-wide.

Students in Grade 8 visited our nation's capital.

The District Art Show and Jr/Sr High School Spring Concert was well attended. The concert included a first-ever men's chorus under the tutelage of Seanna Silver singing a Billy Joel song.

Students in the Junior Chorus performed at NYSSMA Majors at Hofstra University for the first time in school history. The students received a Gold Rating with Distinction, the highest attainable award.

Connection

Centre Avenue sixth graders, and Rhame Avenue fourth graders had the opportunity to attend a field trip and work alongside the Seatuck Environmental Society on May 4th. The workshop exposed students to the diversity, beauty and wonder of Long Island's natural world. This authentic outdoor experience allowed students to make a connection to the environment and raise awareness for its conservation. Students had the opportunity to learn about river herring and the ongoing efforts to restore their population in the Mill River.

Both Rhame Avenue and Centre Avenue teams have been hard at work designing a fresh new kindergarten orientation experience for parents and students next week. We have revised our presentations to include the most current information about curriculum and the teaching and learning opportunities that will take place in the classroom. Videos and pictures will be shared with parents to energize them about the wonderful projects and experiences that their children will participate in next year. The students will have an opportunity to interact with their soon to be peers and classroom teachers as parents are treated to the orientation experience across the hall. We will also be engaging parents in a "Hopes and Dreams" activity that will be transformed into a beautiful welcome bulletin board for all to see on the first day of school.

Learning Centers at the high school are taking place during the day to assist students who are free during certain periods. Many thanks to the teachers who volunteer to meet with students.

Sixth graders from Centre and Rhame Avenue came to the Middle School for an inaugural Middle School Quiz Bowl Competition. The eighth grade team won the competition.

Senior Seminar Job Fair will take place to highlight senior student involvement in the community for their final project.

Innovation

All students in both elementary schools recently completed their informational writing pieces which incorporated technology. Centre Avenue's first graders researched specific animals and wrote "All About" books. They also created brace maps in the computer lab to illustrate the body parts of their animal to include in their books. In art, students designed clay sculptures of their animal. As a culminating activity, the first graders will have a writing celebration with parents to perform a song about animals that they learned in music and showcase their books, thinking maps, sculptures, and posters.

This past week, the students at Rhame Avenue were treated to a very innovative and hands on assembly delivered by a "Mad Scientist" as part of an ongoing series of experiences both inside and outside of the classroom that have been gratefully funded by our PTA. This particular assembly program incorporated many aspects of STEAM education into their presentation to our students and they were able to discover objects that floated through columns of air, marvel at the mystery of flash paper, observe the power of static electricity and were blown away by the amazing Mad Science hovercrafts.

Members of the High School Principal's cabinet took part in a "Stop the Bleed" training session presented by Northwell Health.

Opportunity

Student Council members at Centre Avenue have organized a clothing drive to donate to the Salvation Army. Their last fundraiser of the year is called Operation Agua. Money will be raised to provide assistance to the hurricane victims in Puerto Rico. The proceeds will help purchase filters to ensure that they have clean drinking water.

Red Nose Day will take place on Thursday, May 24, 2018. This fundraiser will be held at the Jr./Sr. High School during lunch periods to raise awareness and help combat child poverty. For a donation of \$1, all Jr./Sr. High School students can purchase a red nose. The money collected will be donated to organizations that help end child poverty.

Students at Rhame Avenue were treated to a very special author's visit from Alan Katz last week as part of our month long focus around PARP. Alan Katz is a famous author, songwriter and an Emmy nominated writer for several television shows. His specialty is publishing books that teach children important life lessons through humor. The entire day was devoted to each grade level having time to spend with Alan and there was even an opportunity for children to have "Lunch with the Author" and have their own personal books autographed. Our PARP team has also created an engaging schedule of events throughout the month of May to promote a love for reading and to better foster the home-school connection by sharing "Laughter through Literacy."

An Advanced Placement assembly will take place this week to brief students about the AP requirements for those contemplating taking AP Courses next year.

The Academic Award Ceremony took place on May 17, 2018. Two-hundred seventy (270) students in Grades 7-12 were recognized. The ceremony was attended by many parents and students.

We had a total of 163 students participate in the NYSSMA Music festival which was held last weekend.

National Junior Honor Society and National Senior Honor Society Induction ceremony will take place on May 24, 2018. The Junior Honor Society will induct 75 students and the Senior Honor Society will induct 38 students.

Ms. Ruiz congratulated Mr. James DeTommaso, Assistant Principal. He has accepted a position as a principal in the West Hempstead School District. She thanked him for his many years of service to the children in East Rockaway.

10. Public Comment

Christine DelValle: Ms. DelValle spoke about Donna Robbins, guidance counselor. She is a true asset to the District and hopes she is considered for the guidance counselor position planned in the future.

Regina Walsh: Ms. Walsh asked about availability of computer labs and laptops for students in Grade 12. Ms. Nicoletti responded that we will follow up. Ms. Ruiz stated that we are working to do more professional development for teachers to better integrate laptops.

Kim Barbaro: Ms. Barbaro read a statement regarding recent events in the community and expressed general comments.

Ozzie Lonergan: Ms. Lonergan posed a question about the public expressing their views at board meetings. She also asked if there are extra laptops in the District when a student's computer is not working. She expressed regrets about Mr. DeTommaso leaving the District. She wished him the best of luck. Ms. Lonergan suggested that as employees leave, they fill out an exit survey.

Mrs. Nicoletti stated although most school boards routinely include a public comment opportunity in their agendas, there is no legal obligation. School board meetings are meetings of the board of education that are required to take place in public; however, they are not actually meetings of the public. Rather, they are business meetings held to conduct board business.

Ms. Ruiz responded that there is a limited number of extra laptops available in the District when a computer is not working. Students should direct laptop related issues to the Technology office.

Ms. Dineen Cilluffo: Ms. Cilluffo asked if the forum can take place after a board meeting; if emailed questions to the Board can become a part of the minutes; and who should she address questions to and request feedback from, concerning staff members leaving the district.

Ms. Jeanmarie Sarro: Ms. Sarro questioned the format of the work session, specifically when public comments can be made. Mr. Gamache replied that while we do want to hear public comments and appreciate and value the comments and feedback, difficulties happen when questions are asked that is not Board business. Many times questions can be answered by staff who may not be present at the board meeting.

Ms. Ochtera replied that the Board's responsibilities include policy, financial planning, the hiring of a superintendent, and to make sure the superintendent implements the vision for our district. The Board's actions are limited and board members are not privy to many of the questions being asked. Some of the questions that are asked at board meetings could be asked sooner by reaching out to staff on the lower end of the chain of command.

11. Board Member Comments

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera congratulated the newly tenured teachers. She also congratulated all the professionals who continuously work so hard to give opportunities to all of our students, especially those that we recognized tonight. Ms. Ochtera congratulated and welcomed Mr. Vulpis on his election to the Board of Education. Seeing Dr. Colvin here tonight, reminds her of where we have been and how far we have come, even though we still have displaced families. The scope of the work that has been accomplished astounds her.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache stated that it has been an exciting night with many presentations. He is happy that his son was here to witness him receiving the NYSSBA Board Mastery Award. He thanked Ms. Mihalek for encouraging his son to participate in NYSSMA. He also expressed gratitude to Mr. DeTommaso and wished him well in his new position as principal. Mr. Gamache enjoyed the words he shared at graduation ceremonies over the years. Congratulations were sent to Mr. Vulpis on his election to the Board and looks forward to his start in July. He also congratulated both tenure recipients. Dr. Colvin's update was very informative. He remembers coming to meetings during that period. Much financial planning has taken place. There were lots of question marks during that time but we are in great shape. He thanked everyone for passing the budget and for being here tonight.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti "piggy backed" on her board member's comments. She thanked everyone for passing the budget; and welcomed Mr. Vulpis to the Board of Education. Ms. Nicoletti congratulated Mr. DeTommaso on his new position and thanked him for his many years of service to the District. Tonight was a fine example of

our art and music students and teachers who have done a fabulous job. She has every hope that our new principal will have a great time in the District. She told the audience that we will be planning opportunities for enhanced communication with the community.

12. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk