

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., October 16, 2018, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School
Preceded by a Salute to the Board of Education,
Recognition of Advance Placement Scholars and Super Masters,
and a Public Forum

MINUTES

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

1. The meeting was called to order by Keith Gamache at 7:03 p.m.
2. Mr. Gamache announced that a new procedure will begin this evening. The pledge of allegiance will be led by students. This evening the pledge was led by 10th grade ENL students: Margiory Nicho, Nicole Mena Rivas, and Kayla DeLaCruz.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. In addition to our new practice of having students lead us in the pledge, we will be recognizing our Board of Education Trustees, Advance Placement Scholars and Super Masters students.

Ms. Ruiz introduced Centre Avenue Principal, Sherry Ma. The Centre Avenue team will be providing tonight's presentation for the Board of Education. Mrs. Brody, elementary art teacher, had students create different works of art, which were then transferred to t-shirts especially, and individually, made for each Board Member.

Ms. Ruiz then spoke a little about Board of Education Appreciation Week. This year October 22-26 is designated by the NYSSBA as School Board Recognition Week. This year's theme is "School Boards Lead So Students Can Achieve." Ms. Ruiz expressed her sincere appreciation to the Board of Education for their continuous hard work, time and dedication for and on behalf of the students of East Rockaway. The board members were introduced and presented with a Proclamation from Governor Cuomo.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School Principal Richard Schaffer. Mr. Schaffer spoke about the requirements of attaining an Advance Placement Scholar and Super Masters status. Mr. Schaffer stated that he was happy to recognize some of our hardest working students. Ms. Terranova joined Mr. Schaffer as the students' names were called and recognition certificates given to the students. Mr. Schaffer also announced the names of the students who were not present. Ms. Ruiz congratulated all of the students and stated that it is

not an easy feat to score so well on these exams.

After a delay, and once the technology was up and running, Ms. Ruiz continued with the recognition of the Board of Education. Ms. Schoen showed a “CAS News” video broadcast from Centre Avenue School. Students “reported” from various rooms at the school and recognized and thanked the board members for recent improvements and updates to the building. Ms. Ruiz thanked Ms. Ma, Ms. Schoen, and Ms. Salaway for their help with putting the news broadcast together.

At 7:36 pm Ms. Ruiz invited the audience to have refreshments in honor of all of the Board of Education members provided through the generosity of the Centre Avenue School PTA.

At 8:00 pm Mr. Gamache announced that the public portion of the meeting will continue. He stated that the format of the agenda has been changed to be in alignment with our school policy.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items – None
4. Upon motion made by Patti Nicoletti, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and unanimously passed, the minutes of September 27, 2018, were approved.
5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence
 - A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: July, 2018, and August, 2018
 - B. Correspondence – One
6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Items A through H were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 1. Janet Blom, Typist-Clerk, Part-Time, effective October 15, 2018
 2. Debra Anastasio, teacher aide, effective October 25, 2018
 3. Ivette Vertuccio, monitor at Rhame Avenue School, effective October 12, 2018
 4. Lois Young, substitute teacher, effective October 15, 2018
 5. Hugo Espeleta, substitute cleaner, effective October 16, 2018
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Lisa Fodera to the Part-Time Typist-Clerk, 12-month position, effective upon Civil Service approval, at the prorated Step 3 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association Agreement for 12-month typist-clerks for the 2018-2019 school year.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, suspend the services of Laura Risorto as the Treasurer for Student Activities, effective September 25, 2018, due to her

absence.

- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jeannine Iadevaia to the position of Treasurer for Student Activities, effective September 25, 2018, at the prorated stipend salary established by the East Rockaway Secretaries Association contract for the 2018-2019 school year.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the winter sports coaching schedule dated October 16, 2018.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jason Morales, to the position of Cleaner, effective upon Civil Service approval, at the prorated Step A annual salary established by the East Rockaway Custodial Unit agreement for the 2018-2019 school year.
- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Hugo Espeleta to the position of Cleaner, effective October 17, 2018, at the prorated Step A annual salary established by the East Rockaway Custodial Unit agreement for the 2018-2019 school year.
- H. 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 2018-2019 school year:
 - 1. Noreen Sheehy, substitute teacher aide, effective upon Civil Service approval
 - 2. Caroline Sferrazza, substitute teacher, effective October 17, 2018
 - 3. Keren Lurie-Sutain, substitute teacher, effective October 17, 2018

7. Other Items

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following Items A through N, as amended, were unanimously approved on a consent agenda. (Item I changed to reflect the correct name of the play, *Bye Bye Birdie*.)

- A. Approve the four-year probationary appointment of Lee Araoz as the Director of Technology and Learning Analytics, effective October 22, 2018, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the resulting Employment Agreement.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed Mr. Araoz and wished him success in his new role. She also told the audience about his background and work experience.

- B. Approve the Revised 2018-2019 Board Meeting Date Schedule.

C. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District solicited bids for District Wide Security Personnel Services (Bid # 19-001); and it has been determined after consultation with the District’s Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations that there is sufficient and appropriate cause to reject, rescind and terminate the contract award to Summit Security Services, Inc. due to non-compliance with the bid specifications, and to award the contract for such services to Westech Investigations, Inc., as the next lowest responsible bidder meeting the bid specifications; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that, upon the foregoing recommendation, the Board hereby rejects, rescinds and terminates the contract award to Summit Security Services, Inc., and awards the contract for District Wide Security Personnel Services to Westech Investigations, Inc., as the lowest responsible bidder meeting the bid specifications, in accordance with the bid specifications and pursuant to Section 103 of the General Municipal Law.

D. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the financial audit and corrective action plan prepared by Nawrocki Smith, LLP, for the year ended June 30, 2018.

E. Approve the following resolution:

Designation of Additional Depository:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District designates the following additional bank/trust company as a depository for District funds for the 2018-19 school year in accordance with section 10 of the General Municipal Law:

Bank or Trust Company: Sterling National Bank

F. Approve the members of the Professional Development Team pursuant to policy 9700, Staff Development:

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| Mona Hecht, Chairperson Melinda Best Caitlin Castellano Tiffany DiNome Toni Ann Donald | William Gibbons Bradley Krauz Pam Murano Petra Schoen Jimmy Zervas |
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- G. Adopt the East Rockaway UFSD Comprehensive District-Wide School Safety Plan for the 2018-2019 school year.
- H. Approve the Collaborative Agreement, Administration of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors in East Rockaway Schools for the 2018-2019 school year with Dr. Richard Addes in accordance with New York State Public Health Law Section 3000c and authorize David Barth in his capacity as the Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- I. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract with Shari Berman for the District Musical *Bye Bye Birdie* leading up to and including the public performances, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- J. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract with Joseph Sciame, financial aid workshop presenter, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- K. Approve the Special Education Services Contract with The Charlton School/Ketchum-Grande Memorial School for special education services for one (1) student, Student ID No. 180008439, for the 2018-2019 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.
- L. Accept the IDEA – Part B, Section 611 Federal Funding Grant Award for the funding dates of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 with an approved budget total of \$305,002.
- M. Accept the IDEA – Part B, Section 619 Federal Funding Grant Award for the funding dates of July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 with an approved budget total of \$11,634.
- N. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the following items:
1. For disposal, the items contained on the Change of Disposition dated September 17, 2018
 2. For disposal, the item contained on the Change of Disposition dated September 27, 2018
 3. For disposal, the items contained in the Textbook Removal Form dated September 25, 2018
 4. For disposal the DVD's contained on the Textbook Removal Form dated September 25, 2018
 5. For disposal, the DVD's contained on the Textbook Removal Form dated September 4-13, 2018

8. Approval of CSE and CPSE Recommendations - None

9. Budget Transfers - None

10. Policy Matters

Ms. Ochtera gave a status report on the Policy Subcommittee. At their last meeting on October 2, 2018, they reviewed several policies. One policy came off adoption as no changes were necessary. The following changes were made to the policies being adopted tonight: Policy 4600 included changing the language to meet next year's mandates; Policy 5300.60, clarified language regarding specific items; and Policy 5500 was updated to reflect changes in the McKinney-Vento law and student privacy. Our next meeting is October 23, 2018, 4:00 pm in the Superintendent's office. It is an open meeting and everyone is welcome to attend.

Mr. Gamache asked for a vote of adoption. The policies were approved for adoption by a unanimous vote.

A. For Adoption

1. 4600, Counseling and Guidance Program
2. 5300.60, Student Searches and Interrogations
3. 5500, 5500-R, 5500 Exhibits, Student Records

B. For Review

1. 4325, Academic Intervention Services
2. 4326, Programs for English Language Learners (and related exhibits)
3. 5100, Attendance
4. 5205, Eligibility for Extra Curricular Activities
5. 5300.40, Disciplinary Penalties, Procedures and Referrals
6. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams
7. 8413, Transportation for Nonpublic School Students

11. Reports

A. Board President's Report

External Audit: Our external auditors, Nawrocki Smith, presented their audit report to the Board on October 9, 2018. They found no material defects in our business office practices stating that we are in good financial shape with solid processes in place. They praised the efforts of Mrs. Serio and Ms. Muller informing us that a private business handling a budget of this size would have many more people putting together the necessary financials in such a timely and efficient manner. Thank you both for your diligence and thoroughness.

NYSSBA Resolutions: Mrs. Ochtera provided a summary of the resolutions discussion at Nassau Suffolk's SBA meeting. Overall there are not any "lightning rod" resolutions this year. One resolution regarding "significantly raising" the cap on pay for retired police officers to be school security was of concern to our Board. A significant raise to the cap could cause a significant raise to our security budget. There was also concern that the wording should include peace officers as well. They anticipate amendments being made from the floor on this resolution. I will be our voting delegate at the annual business meeting on October 27, 2018.

Communications Committee: Members of the Communications Committee have been notified. Thank you to all who expressed interest. The committee is comprised of a diverse portion of our district from relative newcomers with children just entering our schools to lifelong residents. Our trustees Mr. Vulpis and Mr. Schloth will be meeting with our Syntax representative to establish meeting dates, establish norms and goals for the committee and set the first agenda. The Board hopes this will be another path for members of the committee to directly participate in our District by giving input and providing feedback as we work to strengthen ties with our community.

Facilities Committee: The Facilities Committee reconvened last week on October 10, 2018, to review decisions made by the Board on September 12, 2018. They will continue to meet on an "as needed" basis as the District moves forward with bond planning. Mrs. Serio is working on a timeline including a bond forum, and facility tours for the public that will put us on schedule for a public vote next fall. Aspects of the bond will continue being discussed at work sessions throughout the year, shared at these meetings and updated on the district website as well.

Music Department Trip: The music department field trip will be traveling upstate to work with clinicians from the Setnor School of Music at Syracuse University. The three ensembles will be performing at the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester. Thank you to Mr. Ceglie and members of our music faculty for putting together this wonderfully thought out opportunity for our children.

Board Retreat: The Board will be meeting for a day retreat on Saturday, January 12, 2019, to review the Strategic Plan and begin developing next steps including the next five years, core values, a mission statement, board goals and a board self-evaluation.

Rockville Centre Winter ACE: The Rockville Centre School District has invited our students and teachers to be able to participate in their Academic and Cultural

Enrichment Program this winter. This Saturday program will provide additional, affordable enrichment opportunities for our students and allow our teachers to teach courses through the program as well. A flyer will go home and information will be posted on our website.

B. Superintendent's Report

Achievement

Our K-2 teachers have been hard at work rolling out the new Science 21 program. Last week they received extensive, hands-on training last week at Nassau BOCES. Teachers were able to unpack and explore the first unit of study under the guidance of a Science 21 program staff developer. We are looking forward to seeing our students explore this new program in alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards and stay tuned for some pictures and information to be posted on the website as Janee from Syntax visited a first grade classroom last week to capture the students in action.

Teachers in Grades 3-5 have recently launched Eureka Math. As the most widely used program in the country, Eureka Math is aligned with the state standards and the focus is on solving math problems with deeper understanding. There is an emphasis on speed and accuracy in number facts, along with the application of math problems to real life situations.

Building administration engaged in a series of learning walks across departments as a means of calibrating observations and determining professional development needs.

Over the summer, science research senior Scott Buzzolani participated in Hofstra University's Living with the Bay Program. Scott worked alongside his mentor, Dr. Emma Farmer, to collect samples of various grasses along Hempstead Turnpike. Scott presented his findings at Hofstra University on September 26, 2018, and further shared his information with his fellow science research classmates.

The Middle School Team has developed assigned testing days for all subjects, so that students have ample time to prepare for examinations and are not over tested throughout the day. Please look for an update on the school website.

All 7th and 8th grade students are utilizing NEWSELA PRO in ELA, Social Studies, and Science classes. Students will read a minimum of two articles per week in each subject to increase text exposure to improve literacy skills.

The music department proudly announces: Laura Millar was selected to perform on

clarinet in the NYSSMA All-State Symphonic band. She is the first woodwind representative from East Rockaway since 2007. Many students were nominated for NMEA All-County ensembles this year including Division 1 Band (5th grade) nominees. Michelle Landerer was also selected as an All State Alternate for Chorus.

Opportunity

Both elementary buildings have a new Math Olympiad Club this year. This club is open to 5th and 6th grade students. They work collaboratively to develop strategies to solve challenging math questions. Throughout the year, they will participate in Math Olympiad competitions to further challenge their mathematical problem solving abilities.

High school seniors will participate in a "College Essay Boot Camp" to help prepare for the college admissions process.

AP U.S. History, AP Government, and AP Language and Composition all saw the highest number of participants.

The Math Department is forming a Middle School Mathletes team. All interested students attended a meeting on October 12, 2018.

Representatives from SUNY Albany's UHS visited our science research class, a step towards getting the course approved/accredited as a college credit course for research students.

Junior Varsity Cheerleading team was added for the Fall Season.

Admissions officers from 26 colleges/universities attended East Rockaway in September to meet with our students and discuss their colleges and programs available.

National Anthem - Michelle Landerer and Grace McNally performed the National Anthem for home football games in September-NYACDA Honor Choir - Brian Cooney, Stephen Cooney, Nicholas Stebner, and Sofia Valdebenito performed with a statewide Middle School Honor Choir in August.

Back to School Night- The Chorus preformed the National Anthem at Back to School Night on Monday September 17th, 2018.

After the completion of a 9/11 Unit, and writing the annual Andrew Stern Essay Content, 8th graders visited the 9/11 Museum and Memorial to pay tribute to those who

lost their lives on September 11th.

Connection

Hempstead Town Clerk Sylvia Cabana recently visited the 5th and 6th grade Student Council at Rhame Avenue to discuss the importance of government in our community. She discussed her role in local government and spoke to the students about how they can make an impact themselves within the East Rockaway Community. The students were eager to listen and had an opportunity to ask questions and participate in a brief activity about what possibilities the future may hold.

On October 22nd Hempstead Town Clerk Silva Cabana will be visiting Centre Avenue. She will be reading a book about peace and mindfulness in English and Spanish with a group of students. She will then discuss the importance and benefits of mindfulness and a certified instructor will conduct some mindfulness activities with them.

An Instagram Feed was created at the high school with over 500 followers.

Back to School Night, 9th and 12th grade parent meetings were held.

“Tip Off Night” was held for both Junior and Senior High School Fall athletic teams.

The K-12 ENL faculty hosted a parent academy on October 10th. Dinner and babysitting services were provided so that families can attend and learn all about our growing ENL program. Bilingual students from the high school provided translation services for families. Topics included Infinite Campus Portal, Literacy Supports and Family Engagement. Many thanks to Melinda Best, Caitlin Castellano, Marie Anderson, TJ Terranova, and Susan Kosser for their assistance in organizing this important event.

The Guidance Department visited 9th and 12th grade classes for getting to know you and college related activities.

High school orchestra teacher, Marichelle Weill, will be presenting at the Balanced Minds conference this year on Cultural Relevancy in Music.

The Art Department has been reaching out to professional artists about opportunities to come into our classrooms as visiting artists throughout the year. This would enlighten students on the various career opportunities that incorporate art and offer them hands-on experiences.

Innovation

Mrs. Salaway and the kindergarten teachers at Rhame have recently collaborated to develop a series of lessons designed to bring music into the classrooms. Our students engaged in a lesson with Mrs. Salaway and Mrs. Drummy to count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken words and in their own names. There will be opportunities to sing songs and also an active engagement piece for the students to use a “drum” to tap out syllables and record their answers for comparison on a Thinking Map.

This year both elementary schools have a new second grade Coding Club. Students have been introduced to coding through the drag and drop method of creating programs. They have enjoyed various activities that require critical thinking skills to solve problems and puzzles.

Additional 20 two-way radios were purchased to ensure that administrators, clerical staff, monitors, security, and teachers who leave the building with students can communicate in case of an emergency.

The high school fire/evacuation drill procedure was evaluated and improved for safe and efficient exiting of building. School issued ID cards are now being worn by students at all times in the building (95+% compliance).

In AP Physics 1, photogate timers were used to calculate the acceleration of a dynamics cart moving down a car-track. By using the different timing methods that the photogates are capable of, students were able to calculate the instantaneous velocity of the car at various intervals on the track. Without the photogate timers, this interactive lab would not be possible. Mr. Palermo and his physics students are very excited to put this equipment to continued use!

Students in the art department have set up their Google Classroom and Google Drives to serve as portfolios of their work and a documentation of their progress throughout the year.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to Sara Perrone and family on the birth of her daughter, Olivia Grace Perrone, on September 27, 2018

13. Public Comments

Mr. Gamache stated that next on our agenda is the public comment period and gave the

following directions: Please note that anyone wishing to speak at this time should fill out a card and comply with all provisions of board policy. Please keep your comments to three minutes, refrain from addressing topics related to personnel matters or individual students. Such concerns should be discussed privately with an administrator or the Superintendent at an appropriate time. The Board is here to listen and cannot provide immediate feedback or engage in open dialogue. Any necessary follow up will be noted and provided at a later date.

Dineen Cilluffo (28 Columbia Avenue, East Rockaway, NY): Ms. Cilluffo questioned why the college essay writing was taken out of the English curriculum and if it could be put back in. She also asked the Board to be mindful of our District when policies and procedures are put into place to make sure it will work for everyone in the District.

Jeanmarie Sarro (105 Vincent Place, East Rockaway, NY): Ms. Sarro questioned why college essay writing was stopped. She also questioned the policy of Regents grades counting as part of the final grade.

Brooke DeGiulio: Ms. DeGiulio, senior at East Rockaway High School, would also like to see college essay writing be put back into the curriculum.

14. Board Member Comments

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera thanked everyone for tonight's festivities in honor of the Board of Education. Recognitions were given on multiple levels this evening. We recognized not only the Board but the academic achievement of our students. It was nice to be part of this large group of honorees. Ms. Ochtera spoke of her visit to the Girl Scouts Nassau County Council that morning. Many topics were discussed and she was glad she was able to go in place of Ms. Ruiz and Ms. Hecht. As a member of the East Rockaway Education Foundation, she reminded the audience that the Education Foundation will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on Friday, November 9, 2018. Everyone is welcomed to attend. In addition, she reminded the administration that the grant window for applying for grants is open now through mid-November. Applications are available through the website and email.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti thanked the Centre Avenue staff and students for the wonderful presentation. As a board member, many decisions are made, some more difficult than others. She enjoyed the perspective of the students and especially how the decisions the Board made impacted the students. She appreciated getting the credit by the students for the installation of the air conditioners in the classrooms. Ms. Nicoletti welcomed Mr. Araoz in his new position and wished him much success. She looks forward to seeing one of his presentations.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth echoed the comments of his board members. He reminded parents to monitor their child's progress during the year. Do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. If you don't get a proper result, speak to the principal, and follow the chain of command. It is best to resolve problems early in the year to prevent issues from snowballing. He thanked Ms. Ruiz for her presentation at last month's meeting. She illustrated very well how the district is moving forward, getting better, and more competitive with local surrounding districts. He also thanked his fellow board members for fighting every day for our students.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis thanked the Centre Avenue Staff for tonight's presentation. It was nice to witness student learning happening right in front of you. A great job was done by the Centre Avenue staff under tight duress. As the former athletic director, he would be remiss to announce that this weekend is homecoming. He encouraged everyone to support the "Rocks." Friday is pep rally and Saturday is the homecoming football game starting at 2:00 pm. He thanked his fellow board members for their guidance as he continues to learn the responsibilities of a board member. It has been a great experience so far.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache stated that tonight was a special meeting. It was very rewarding and refreshing to see his son Atticus participate in the CAS News video broadcast. As a fellow art teacher, he appreciates and thanked Ms. Brody for the t-shirts that were made for the board members. Much time and work went into the assembly and packaging of the t-shirts. He thanked the Centre Avenue PTA for the refreshments and the audience for attending tonight.

15. Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk