

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., January 22, 2019, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School
Preceded by Recognition of Athlete Kailey Hyland,
Stern Essay Contest Winners, an Eureka Math (Grades 3-5) Presentation,
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 first part of tonight's meeting was called to order by Keith Gamache at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School. The meeting continued in the Auditorium at 7:05 p.m.
2. Mr. Schloth introduced East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School student, Tariq Chavis, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Tariq was also presented with his high school diploma and an official graduation ceremony was conducted by principal Richard Schaffer and Board President Keith Gamache. Tariq will be enlisting in a five-year commitment with the Army. Ms. Ruiz congratulated Tariq and wished him much success in his future endeavors.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to the meeting. There will be two additional recognitions and an informative math presentation taking place tonight. The first recognition is to honor one of our most outstanding athletes, senior Kailey Hyland. Ms. Ruiz introduced Mr. David Barth and asked Kailey to come to the podium. Mr. Barth thanked the Board of Education and Superintendent for the opportunity to honor Kailey. Kailey reached the significant individual milestone of scoring the most goals in her varsity soccer career (103). She was presented with a commemorative soccer ball to memorialize her accomplishment which will be placed in the school's display case in her honor. Kailey also signed a national letter of intent to continue her athletic career next fall at Wilmington University to play soccer. Ms. Ruiz thanked Kailey for her accomplishments and to soccer coach Joe Lores, for his dedication to the soccer team.

Ms. Ruiz spoke about the next recognition which was the winners of the annual Andrew J. Stern Memorial Essay Contest. Mr. Stern, a former graduate of East Rockaway High School, was killed in the terror attack on September 11th. The Stern family continues to honor the memory of Andrew by sponsoring this contest each year. Ms. Ruiz introduced family members, Lisa Burch, Barbara Stern, and Mike Stern. Ms. Burch thanked Ms. Ruiz for allowing this contest to continue year after year. This year's topic was, *"During 9/11*

many people had to face their worst fears. Talk about a time that you had to face a fear or overcome something and how you handled it.” There were over 800 student entries and the following students were chosen as winners: Kylie Curtis (elementary); Frank Passanisi (middle school), and Madeleine Prucha (high school). The students all read their essays and were presented with awards. Ms. Burch thanked the winners and all students who shared their fears and strengths with the family this year. Ms. Ruiz thanked the Stern family for this opportunity for our students to write about a very moving topic. She also thanked all the winners and students who participated as well as their teachers and parents for their guidance.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Ms. Mona Hecht who spoke about the new elementary Eureka Math program that was being discussed tonight. She thanked teachers in Grades 3-5 who have embraced this program, as well as teachers in grades K-2 who will be taking on this challenge next year. She explained what the program was and how it was being implemented in the elementary schools. Ms. Hecht then introduced elementary Math Specialists Jack Bixhorn and Katie Kuck, and teachers Sara Kane and Kellie Hughes. A video was shown explaining the new program as well as student clips sharing their opinions of the program. Questions were asked and answered. Ms. Hecht thanked the audience for taking the time to learn about the new program. Ms. Ruiz thanked the Board of Education for approving the funds for the new program and to the teachers and math specialists for learning the new program.

At 8:05 p.m. Mr. Gamache continued with the public portion of the agenda.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items – None
4. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and unanimously passed, the following minutes were approved:

A. December 11, 2018, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence
 - A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: November, 2018
 - B. Correspondence – Two

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following Items A through L were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Amy Zagorski, from the position of per diem substitute teacher, effective January 8, 2019.
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Wendy Gorman for a FMLA leave of absence effective March 18, 2019, through June 19, 2019.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Jennifer Melecio for a FMLA leave of absence effective April 8, 2019, through June 30, 2019.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Brianne Allgier for a FMLA leave of absence, effective February 25, 2019, through May 13, 2019.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and contingent upon presentation of appropriate medical documentation, be it hereby resolved that Thomas Canale be granted a continuance of an unpaid leave of absence from his probationary English teacher position due to his personal medical needs for the period January 30, 2019, through June 30, 2019.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Kristina T. Barbari to the position of leave replacement science teacher, effective December 20, 2018, through June 30, 2019, at the prorated MA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2018-2019 school year.
- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Elizabeth Stack to the position of leave replacement English teacher, effective January 30, 2019, through June 30, 2019, at the prorated MA, Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2018-2019 school year.
- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Victoria Berman to the position of short-term substitute elementary teacher, effective February 25, 2019, through May 10, 2019, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.
- I. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Julia Garvey to the position of short-term substitute elementary teacher, effective March 18, 2019, through June 19, 2019, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year.
- J. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Noreen Sheehy to the position of teacher aide effective January 23, 2019, at the prorated Step A annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association agreement

for the 2018-2019 school year.

- K. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jamie Roach to the position of teacher aide, effective upon Civil Service approval, at the prorated Step 3 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association agreement for the 2018-2019 school year.
- L. 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. Cynthia Bernard, per diem substitute teacher, effective January 22, 2019
 - 2. Francky Cange, substitute cleaner, effective January 15, 2019
 - 3. Francky Cange, substitute bus driver, effective upon Civil Service approval
 - 4. Lisa Zeilberger, substitute teacher aide, effective upon Civil Service approval

7. Other Items

Upon motion made by Patti Nicoletti, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, the following Items A through H were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Nassau County Board of Elections for use of the optical scan voting systems on May 21, 2019, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- B. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Carol Nivens, R.N. and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- C. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Kevin Alter, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- D. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and John Milano and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- E. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Malverne Union Free School District for health and welfare services for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

- F. Approve the admission of one Massapequa Public Schools, Student I.D. No. 218071020, to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Special Education tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

- G. Approve the Special Education Services Contract with Hewlett Woodmere UFSD for special education services for one parentally placed student for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

- H. Approve the Health and Welfare Services Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and the following school districts for health and welfare services for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
 - 1. Baldwin UFSD
 - 2. Franklin Square UFSD
 - 3. Hewlett UFSD
 - 4. Island Park UFSD
 - 5. Lawrence UFSD
 - 6. Long Beach UFSD
 - 7. Lynbrook UFSD
 - 8. Malverne UFSD
 - 9. Merrick UFSD
 - 10. New York City Department of Education
 - 11. North Merrick UFSD
 - 12. Oceanside UFSD
 - 13. Rockville Centre UFSD
 - 14. Roosevelt UFSD
 - 15. Uniondale UFSD
 - 16. Valley Stream #13
 - 17. Valley Stream #24
 - 18. Valley Stream #30
 - 19. Valley Stream CHS

- I. Accept the following donations:

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Other Items 7(I) [1-4] was unanimously approved.

- 1. From the Centre Avenue PTA:
 - a. A check in the sum of \$632 to offset student field trips for the 2018-2019 school year
 - b. A classroom resource curriculum grant in the amount of \$96.94

- c. A check in the sum of \$2,200 for the Class of 2025
2. From Edward L. Heim and Christian W. Lynch, a check in the sum of \$250 for Rhame Avenue School
3. From the East Rockaway Kiwanis Club, a check in the sum of \$300 for the Rhame Avenue School K-Kids Club
4. From Susan Musella Polizzi and the Allstate Foundation Helping Hands Grant, a check in the sum of \$1,000 for the Athletics Department

8. Approval of CSE and CPSE Recommendations

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following Items 8 and 9 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

9. Budget Transfers

A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer:

1. Transaction No. 19-0010
2. Transaction No. 19-0011
3. Transaction No. 19-0012

10. Policy Matters

A. For Review

Ms. Ochtera stated that most of the policies under review were added at the end of this past Fall. The committee will be meeting tomorrow and hopes to get through many of these policies as well as adding more policies for next month.

1. 0110, Sexual Harassment
2. 1050, Annual District Election and Budget Vote
3. 2120, School Board Elections
4. 2120.1, Candidates and Campaigning
5. 4710, Grading
6. 4750, Promotion and Retention of Students
7. 4770, 4770-R - Graduation Requirements
8. 4772, Graduation Ceremonies
9. 4773, Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities
10. 5150, School Admission
11. 5205, Eligibility for Extra Curricular Activities
12. 5420, Student Health
13. 5460, Child Abuse
14. 8414.5, Alcohol and Drug Testing of Drivers

11. Reports

A. Board President's Work Session Report

A program discussion: Our administration is looking into the feasibility of changing to a 6-day cycle. This could help alleviate scheduling challenges, especially with the Junior High program and increase the possibility of a dedicated lunch period for more of our students. We also learned about plans within the Science program including universal acceleration with all students taking Regents Level Living Environment in eighth grade, Regents Level Earth Science in ninth grade and a new non-Regents Chemistry elective in tenth grade for those not quite ready for Regents Chemistry. This will give all students three years of high school level science, better preparing them for elective options in eleventh and twelfth grades, while also looking better for college admissions. There is also the possibility of adding exciting new electives including Anatomy and Physiology and EMT training. More information will be shared on February 6, 2019, at the Curriculum Fair. You can always reach out to Mr. Schaffer or Mr. Krauz for more information.

Budget work sessions: On January 15, 2019, Mrs. Scio gave her first budget work session presentation offering an overview for the 2019-2020-budget preparation. It is available on our website under Board of Education. The next Budget work session is scheduled for February 12, 2019, at 7 pm in the conference room.

Safety: We are constantly revising safety plans. Our administration works in direct consultation with various law enforcement agencies and Altaris (our security consultant) to stay up to date with best practices. We are in the midst of developing a Parent Reunification Plan utilizing preparedness kits in the event of an emergency that would require evacuating a building to a secure, alternate location. More communication will follow before any drills are scheduled to be practiced. We are also looking into the "Say Something: Anonymous Reporting System" developed by Sandy Hook Promise, teaching youth and teens how to recognize the signs and signals of at-risk behavior and potential threats especially in social media. This is a full educational program including an anonymous reporting app that is free of charge.

Facilities Forum: An initial informational Facilities Forum will be held next Tuesday, January 29, 2019, to discuss and share the projects that have been identified by the Facilities Committee. Our district architect, the Board of

Education, and administration will be available to discuss the various projects being considered for a possible bond referendum. I hope you will attend.

Lastly, on Saturday, January 12, 2019, the Board of Education and central administration participated in an all-day retreat focusing on Mission and Vision development. It was a packed agenda lead by Jamie McPherson from NYSSBA guiding us through the process. While working individually and collectively in small groups, it was exciting to see how much our ideas were in common when we shared our statements. We are in the process of refining the Mission and Vision statements. We also conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis. We will be looking at this data at a future time to identify the District's needs, establish board goals, and prepare for updating/revisiting our five-year strategic plan. Personally, it was a gratifying and enriching experience. I appreciate and want to thank my fellow trustees and administration for your dedication and commitment to our District and giving up a full day to serve our schools.

B. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Ruiz wished everyone a happy and healthy new year! She congratulated all the Stern Essay Contest winners, Kailey Hyland, and Tariq Chavis. She stated that budget development is in full swing and asked Ms. Scrio to provide an update.

Ms. Scrio reported that the first budget work session was held on January 15, 2019. She gave an overview of what has been done to date and what is expected to take place. Her power point presentation is posted on the website and she encouraged everyone to view it. The next budget work session is February 12, 2019, and invited everyone to attend.

Achievement

Centre and Rhame Avenue students in Grades 4-6 recently participated in National Geographic Bees in their classrooms. The top two students in each class advanced to the school wide National Geographic Bee during the week of January 14th. The winner of each school was Daniel Stebner from Centre Avenue and Xavier Jaramillo from Rhame Avenue. Both of these students will move on to the next round to complete an online geography test and have the opportunity to advance to the New York State round.

Regents and FLACS A Review Academies in preparation for upcoming January examinations began the week of January 7, 2019. Students received targeted review to prepare them to retake these important examinations.

On January 8, 2019, East Rockaway High School hosted its Middle School Science fair. All 7th and 8th grade students displayed tri-board projects on science topics of their own choosing. Forty-one (41) students earned honorable mention, with 12 students taking top honors and advancing to the Long Island Science Congress in April.

Two student athletes recently signed Letters of Intent to play college athletics: Kailey Hyland, will play soccer at Wilmington University (Delaware), and Emily Chelius, will play softball at SUNY Fredonia.

Last week, Mr. Schaffer and Mr. Krauz presented various recommendations regarding the courses offered through the science department at the Board of Education work session. Included in that presentation were proposals for the following new course offerings: Non-Regents Chemistry and electives Anatomy & Physiology and EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). The Non-Regents Chemistry course would allow our students to advance through an additional rigorous science course without the added challenge of sitting for an additional Regents exam. Currently many students who are interested in science hesitate to enroll in Regents Chemistry and move away from the study of physical sciences. The elective options would provide great value to students who are interested in pursuing further study in life sciences and who may be interested in serving their community as an Emergency Medical Technician. Additionally, they presented our plan universal acceleration in math and science, grade 8. The team has created a pathway to support this change that will allow our students the support and opportunity to achieve success while providing room for additional course options during the high school years.

Opportunity

This year 15 students from the elementary schools had the honor of participating in All County band, orchestra and chorus. The concerts took place this past weekend at the Tilles Center at LIU CW Post. We are so proud that our music students had the opportunity to perform with students from all across Nassau County.

On January 8, 2019, East Rockaway hosted a special screening of the National Geographic Documentary "Science Fair" which showcased the opportunities and experiences of nine students that participated in ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair). The screening was open to all families.

Students in Grade 11 U.S. History participated in mock debates and class discussions centered around the validity of the Mexican-American War. Students used various artifacts and documents to fiercely debate their opinions in class.

Focus on Careers Week is scheduled for the week of February 11, 2019. We are looking to include a diverse set of career paths/presenters this year to expose our students to as many opportunities as possible. A call for presenters for Career Week is going out to all families. Board members are also invited to participate and/or recommend anyone who might be interested in sharing their career experiences with our students. Interested persons should contact Ms. Terranova at or Mr. Rosenberg, by Friday, January 25, 2019.

Innovation

In STEAM, third and fourth graders enjoyed the opportunity to work with our new Lego WeDo 2.0 kits. Students learned how scientists and engineers use robots to go places that are not safe for humans to gather valuable information that would otherwise not be accessible. Students made and programmed mini robotic science rovers that utilized sensors to provide them with information about their surroundings.

The East Rockaway High School Building Emergency Response Team's January meeting included representatives from the East Rockaway Fire Department and Nassau County Police Department. Discussions surrounding best practices for safety measures and coordination of resources occurred.

Mr. Araoz scheduled a workshop for parents entitled, Get Your Google On: An Interactive Workshop for Parents for March 12. This hands-on technology session will be held at the Centre Avenue School computer lab so that Mr. Araoz can offer parents a hands-on experience with the Google G Suite applications available to our students and educators. The following digital tools will be demonstrated: Google Classroom, Google Slides, Google Docs, Google Drive, and Google Forms. Mr. Araoz will be promoting this event on the district website, Blackboard Connect, and all of our social media outlets.

We are happy to report the plans for the security vestibules at all three buildings have been approved by NYSED. The vendor has processed the order the necessary supplies and materials. We will update you once the materials have arrived and a timeline is developed.

Connection

Students in both elementary schools in kindergarten through third grade participated in a program called Safety Street, which is sponsored by the Cohen's Children Medical Center. This interactive program teaches children how to safely cross streets and how to be responsible pedestrians.

In advisory, middle school students are starting a Lion's Quest based quarter long project inspired by the We Rock acronym. Students will work in collaborative groups to research and provide a solution for a school-based need.

Members of the Junior-Senior High School's National Honor Society volunteered their talent and time at the Nassau County Department of Social Services' 41st annual Holiday Party for Children in Foster Care.

On Wednesday, I attended a joint meeting of the three building Family Engagement committees facilitated by Mrs. Ma. Each building team shared the various family engagement strategies they have been working on. New strategies included, but were not limited, to grade level parent ambassadors for new families, live streaming PTA meetings and other school events, family newsletter at the Jr./Sr. High School, increased communication via phone between faculty and parents, additional communication regarding midterm assessments, translating family communications, a move towards electronic communication at the elementary schools, a new expanded format for the Jr./Sr. High School Curriculum Night, new format for elementary Back to School Night, and Kindergarten registration ambassadors.

On February 11, 2019, our Prevention Task Force, in cooperation with Hempstead Town Councilman Anthony D'Esposito, will be hosting a Substance Use and Mental Health Community Resource Event at our Jr./Sr. High School. The focus of the event is to provide substance use and mental health prevention strategies, treatment options and information about warning signs and recovery. Kevin Alter, will be our keynote speaker. Mr. Alter will share his story of substance abuse and recovery to Gr. 9- 12 students. He is the creator of the Addicts Diary blog/Facebook. Thank you to Club Rock and Councilman D'Esposito for their assistance in funding our presenter. Also copies of the book, *The Teen Formula*, will be distributed on that evening in anticipation of our March 6, 2019, community book talk event. Thank you also to Mayor Romano and the East Rockaway Village Foundation who will help fund the purchase of books.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to Emanuela Matthews and family on the arrival of daughter, Aurora Melina Matthews, born on January 14, 2019
- B. Condolences to the Sugrue Family on the passing of Christopher Sugrue on December 11, 2018
- C. Condolences to the Arena family on the passing of Letteria Arena
- D. Condolences to the Conklin Family on the passing of Harry Conklin on January 18, 2019

13. Public Comments - None

14. Board Member Comments

Kristin Ochtera: Mrs. Ochtera took the opportunity to update the board as a NSSBA representative on the work being done to identify the 2019 legislative priorities in preparation for Lobby Day in Albany. As we prepare our budget for 2019-20, it's important to remember the significant ways state aid impacts our ability to be fiscally responsible to taxpayers and provide consistent resources for students. She added that she was impressed with the presentations of the evening and yielded her time to fellow trustees for their comments.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti congratulated Tariq Chavis, Kailey Hyland and the Stern Essay Contest winners, who shared their very moving stories. She was very impressed with the Eureka math presentation and thanked Ms. Hecht and the teachers involved in implementing this new math program.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth joined his colleagues in sharing their thoughts and comments. He thanked the Stern Family for continuing this contest every year. It is important for students to remember the events of that difficult day and how to overcome their own fears. Condolences to the Conklin Family on the passing of Harry Conklin. He remembers Mr. Conklin as a constant figure in the District, always giving a helping hand. As we approach budget formation season, he plans to attend Lobby Day in Albany to voice his opinion for continuation of school aid for our District. He encourages everyone to write to their local representatives to bring school aid back to our school. Mr. Schloth reached out to the PTA's to ask their membership for help in getting the word out.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis thanked Mr. Schaffer and Mr. Krauz for their presentation to the Board of Education for recommendations regarding courses offered through the science department, including new course offerings for our students. Many thanks to the Board of Education and administration for tonight's dinner meeting. It was an opportunity to better understand some of the programs taking place. Mr. Vulpis is looking forward to the second meeting of the Communications Sub-Committee on January 29th, at 5:30 pm in the high school library, which will be followed by the Facilities Forum at 7:00 pm. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache reflected on tonight's math presentation and his own personal experience with the new math program as a parent. He enjoyed seeing the children in the video sharing their experiences of the program with the audience. He encouraged all parents to contact their child's teacher when their child is experiencing difficulty. There

will be a period of adjustment and you can move forward by making that connection with the school. He wished everyone a happy new year and thanked them for coming out in the cold. He hopes to see everyone at the Facilities Forum and reiterated the importance of this meeting.

15. Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk