

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:00 P.M., May 29, 2019, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School  
Preceded by Recognition of Storyworks Scholastic Contest Winner Brianna Manzano,  
Tenure Candidates, Art and Music Awards, 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 7:06 p.m. in the auditorium of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School.
2. Neil Schloth introduced third grade Centre Avenue student Nuri Ipce who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming out. Tonight's presentations by tradition take place at the May board meeting. Before the presentations began, Ms. Ruiz introduced Centre Avenue School Principal Sherry Ma. Ms. Ma spoke about a special third grade student, Brianna Manzano. Brianna was one of 10 students nationwide selected as a winner of the Storyworks Magazine's volcano writing contest. Brianna, along with her teacher, Ms. Patane, was called to the stage and presented with a certificate. Ms. Ruiz congratulated Brianna and thanked her for putting Centre Avenue School and East Rockaway "on the map."

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Ms. Ma who began tonight's tenure board recommendations. Ms. Ma spoke about the accomplishments and successes of elementary teacher Kelly E. Dowling, and recommended her tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Erik Walter, Rhame Avenue School Principal. Mr. Walter spoke about the accomplishments and successes of teaching assistant Cindy Dower, and recommended her tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Mr. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Richard Schaffer, East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School Principal. Mr. Schaffer spoke about the accomplishments and successes of mathematics teacher Frank Altamore, and recommended his tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education. Ms. Ruiz congratulated all of the teachers receiving tenure.

The next presentation was the recognition of the music and art students. Ms. Ruiz commented that these opportunities and accomplishments would not have been able without the commitment of our music and art teachers. She thanked them for their work with our students. Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Pete Ceglio, Chairperson.

Mr. Ceglio thanked Ms. Ruiz and the Board of Education. Tonight they would recognize the art students first. Mr. Ceglio then introduced art teachers Beth Brody, Kelly Cabasso, and Kristie Galante. They spoke about the exhibits, contests, and shows the students participated in this school year. There were over 17 shows that students participated in. Their names were called, students reported to the stage, certificates were given and a photo was taken.

Mr. Ceglio then stated that for the fourth year in a row the music department earned the title “Best Communities for Music Education.” He then introduced music teachers, Seanna Silver, Marichelle Weil, Jessica Salaway, Evan Anastassatos, and Nicole Mihalek. The teachers spoke about the festivals the students performed at and the opportunities the students participated in. The students were called to the stage, given certificates, and a photo was taken.

Mr. Ceglio then recognized and called to the stage all the elementary students who participated in NYSSMA events. Mr. Ceglio congratulated all the students. Ms. Ruiz thanked all the art and music students for all their work and invited the audience to join her in the lobby for refreshments.

At 8:10 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 Kristin Ochtera, and unanimously passed, the following minutes were approved:

- A. April 16, 2019, Meeting of the Board of Education
- B. May 7, 2019, Budget Hearing

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence
  - A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: March, 2019
  - B. Correspondence – Three (3)
6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Upon motion made by Patti Nicoletti, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, the following

Items A through U were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

- A. 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>
Frank Altamore .....	Mathematics Teacher .....	September 1, 2019
Kelly E. Dowling .....	Elementary Teacher .....	September 1, 2019
Cindy E. Dower .....	Teaching Assistant .....	September 1, 2019

- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, for the purpose of retirement, the resignation of Joseph E. Lores from his business teacher position, effective June 30, 2019.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, for the purpose of retirement, the resignation of Ann Chiaffitelli, teacher aide, effective June 26, 2019.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
1. Darlene Woods, teacher aide, effective June 26, 2019
  2. Jamie Roach, teacher aide, effective June 26, 2019
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the extension of Julia Garvey's appointment as a short-term substitute teacher through June 26, 2019, and continue her administrative leave of absence from her teaching assistant position through June 26, 2019.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the extension of Ann Kerner's appointment as a temporary teaching assistant through June 26, 2019.
- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following proctor assignments, effective May 6, 2019, through June 26, 2019, at the supervision salary rate established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract, Appendix C, for the 2018-2019 school year:
- a. Virginia Sievers
  - b. Mary Orzano
  - c. Randi Kilcommons
- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Cheryl Nelson to the position of Varsity Basketball Coach (girls) effective May 15, 2019 at the Step 3, Year 3, stipend salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year.
- I. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approved the four-year probationary appointment of Rosina Pzena to the position of school psychologist, (tenure area: School

Psychologist, certification: Provisional), effective September 3, 2019, at the Ph.D, Step 1, annual salary plus stipend, established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year.

- J. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approved the four-year probationary appointment of Marie Cordaro to the position of mathematics teacher, (tenure area: Mathematics, certification: Transitional B), effective September 3, 2019, at the MA, Step 2, annual salary, established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year.
  
- K. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and upon the request of the teacher named in Confidential Attachment “1”, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District hereby appoints said teacher to a one-year probationary term from September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2020, unless discontinued earlier by action of the Board of Education.
  
- L. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following special education summer school appointments, effective July 1, 2019, through August 9, 2019, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2019-2020 school year:

Dr. Alissa Nunes .....	School Psychologist
Dr. Rosina Pzena.....	School Psychologist
Bethany Kinkaid .....	Speech Language Teacher
Diana Collins .....	Resource Room Teacher
Brianna Ostrander .....	Resource Room Teacher
Allison Gerbert.....	Special Education Teacher
Brianna Ostrander .....	Special Education Teacher
Kristen Donovan .....	Special Education Teacher
Kathleen Crowley .....	Substitute Special Education Teacher
Diana Collins .....	Substitute Special Education Teacher
Kathleen Crowley .....	Specialized Instruction Teacher (Reading)
Diana Collins .....	Specialized Instruction Teacher (Reading)
Jane Faiella.....	Specialized Instruction Teacher (Reading)

- M. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approved the following appointments for summer CSE/CPSE meetings, effective July 1, 2019, through August 31, 2019, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2019-2020 school year:

Dr. Alisa Nunes.....	School Psychologist
Dr. Rosina Pzena.....	School Psychologist

Diana Collins .....	Special Education Teacher
Deborah Iannico.....	Special Education Teacher
Kimberly Rosenkrantz.....	Speech Language Teacher
Bethany Kinkaid.....	Speech Language Teacher
Dawn Rooney (O’Shea).....	General Education Teacher
Victoria Longworth.....	General Education Teacher
Dr. Alissa Nunes.....	Chairperson, CSE/CPSE

N. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Dawn McCabe to the position of school social worker for social worker services, effective July 1, 2019, to August 31, 2019, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2019-2020 school year.

O. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following special education summer school teacher aide appointments, effective July 1, 2019, through August 9, 2019, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year:

Stefanie Medina .....	Teacher Aide
Janet Block.....	Teacher Aide
Carolyn Fernandez .....	Teacher Aide
Linda Lindsley .....	Teacher Aide
Nicole Winters .....	Teacher Aide
Noreen Sheehy .....	Teacher Aide
Lisa Zeilberger .....	Substitute Teacher Aide
Tina Lewald .....	Substitute Teacher Aide
Varda Cervone .....	Substitute Teacher Aide
Kathleen Hobbs.....	Substitute Teacher Aide

P. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Denise Cipriano to the position of Summer Textbook Monitor, effective June 10, 2019, through August 30, 2019, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education Food Service Worker and Monitor Unit Agreement for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years.

Q. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Brian Barcheski to the position of Security Aide, for the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School Summer Program, effective July 8, 2019, through August 14, 2019, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule.

R. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Thomas White, to the position of Security Aide, for the East Rockaway UFSD

Extended School Year Summer Program at Rhame Avenue School, effective July 1, 2019, through August 9, 2019, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule.

- S. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Denise Powell to the position of Summer Security Aide, for the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School, effective June 27, 2019, through August 30, 2019, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule.
- T. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Frederick Cange to the position of Summer Security Aide, for the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School, effective June 27, 2019, through August 30, 2019, at the hourly salary set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule.
- U. 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:
  - 1. Linda Lindsley, athletic supervisor, (day/evening), effective May 1, 2019
  - 2. Christina Phelan, substitute cleaner, effective upon Civil Service approval
  - 3. Seasonal Cleaners, effective June 3, 2019, through September 30, 2019:
    - a. Lucia Castro
    - b. Daniel DelValle
    - c. Shane McKeon
    - d. Christina Phelan
    - e. Jennifer Lemus
    - f. Aldelys Loveras

7. Other Items

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

- A. 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 21, 2019, Annual District Election.

- B. Approve the following resolution:

Retirement Contribution Reserve Sub-Fund Resolution

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway School District participates in the New York State Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS"); and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2018, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District by resolution reaffirmed the existing Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund known as the Reserve for Employee Retirement System (ERS) pursuant to Section 6-r of the General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined it is also appropriate to establish a sub-fund within said Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 6-r(2-a) of the General Municipal Law.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District, pursuant to Section 6-r of the General Municipal Law, as follows:

1. The Board hereby establishes a sub-fund within the Reserve for Employee Retirement System (ERS) to be known as the Reserve for Teacher Retirement System (TRS) Sub-Fund.
2. The source of funds for this Reserve Sub-Fund shall be:
  - a. such amounts as may be provided therefore by budgetary appropriation or raised by tax therefore;
  - b. such revenues as are not required by law to be paid into any other fund or account;
  - c. such other funds as may be legally appropriated; and
  - d. notwithstanding any law to the contrary, such amounts as may be transferred from a reserve fund established pursuant to Section 6-c, 6-d, 6-e, 6-f or 6-g of Article 2 of the General Municipal Law, comprised of moneys raised from the same tax base as the moneys in the retirement contribution reserve fund, or a reserve fund established pursuant to Education Law Section 3651, provided that any such transfer shall only be made by Board resolution adopted after a public hearing held on at least 15 days prior notice published in at least one newspaper having general circulation in the District.
3. By resolution, the Board of Education may authorize expenditures from this Reserve Sub-Fund. Except as otherwise provided by law, moneys in this Reserve Sub-Fund may only be appropriated to finance retirement contributions to the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, and/or to offset all or a portion of the amount deducted from the moneys apportioned to the District from the State for the support of schools pursuant to Section 521 of the Education

Law.

4. No member of the Board of Education or employee of the District shall:
  - a. authorize a withdrawal from this Reserve Sub-Fund for any purpose except as provided in Section 6-r of the General Municipal Law; or
  - b. expend any money withdrawn from this Reserve Sub-Fund for a purpose other than as provided in Section 6-r of the General Municipal Law.
5. The moneys contributed annually to the Reserve Sub-Fund shall not exceed 2% of the total compensation or salaries of all teachers employed by the District who are members of TRS paid during the immediately preceding fiscal year.
6. The balance of the Reserve Sub-Fund shall not exceed 10% of the total compensation or salaries of all teachers employed by the District who are members of TRS paid during the immediately preceding fiscal year.
7. The moneys in this Reserve Sub-Fund shall be deposited and secured in the manner provided by Section 10 of the General Municipal Law. The Board of Education or its authorized designee may invest the moneys in this Reserve Sub-Fund in the manner provided by Section 11 of the General Municipal Law. Any interest earned or capital gain realized on the money so deposited or invested shall accrue to and become part of this Reserve Sub-Fund.
8. The chief fiscal officer shall account for this Reserve Sub-Fund separate and apart from all other funds of the District. Such accounting shall show: the source, date and amount of each sum paid into the sub-fund; the interest earned by such sub-fund; capital gains or losses resulting from the sale of investments of this sub-fund; the order, purpose thereof, date and amount of each payment from this sub-fund; the assets of the sub-fund, indicating cash balance and a schedule of investments. The chief fiscal officer, within sixty (60) days of the end of each fiscal year, shall furnish a detailed report of the operation and condition of this sub-fund to the Board of Education.
9. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Upon motion made by Patti Nicoletti, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, the following Items C through U, as amended to reflect the correct name of the film in Item U, as *In This, Our Time*, were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.



C. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD, accepts the Corrective Action Plan dated April 3, 2019.

D. Approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the East Rockaway Union Free School District (“District”) has engaged with Renu Contracting & Restoration for Security Vestibules pursuant to a contract awarded on or about 2/15/19; and

**WHEREAS**, the District’s architect recommend modification to the existing contract as follows: return allowance for unforeseen conditions in the amount of \$5,000.00; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Renu Contracting & Restoration for the reduced cost of \$5,000.00 and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent to execute Change Order No. 1 on behalf of the Board.

E. Approve the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that approval is hereby granted to enter into a renewal 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 2019-2020 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, d/b/a 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; Carina Hamel, LMHC; 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; Intrepid Nursing; Islip Tutoring Services, Inc.; Jodi Allison Mishkin; Marra & Glick Applied Behavior Analysts, PLLC; Metro Therapy Inc.; New York Therapy Placement; Soliant Health; Syosset Home Tutoring, Inc.; TLC Kids Therapy, Inc.; JNC Services d/b/a/Top Grade; Tutoring Service of Long Island; Variety Child Learning Center.

- F. Approve the Avid College Readiness System Services and Products Agreement, which consists of the Quote and the Standard Terms and Conditions, for the East Rockaway School District for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- G. Approve the Parking Stall Lease Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Rolling River Day School and Camp for the use of parking stalls located at the East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School for the period May 1, 2019, through October 26, 2019, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- H. Approve the Letter of Engagement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Cullen & Danowski, LLP for risk assessment update, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Letter of Engagement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- I. Approve the following resolution:
- BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD authorizes and appoints the following individual to serve in the capacity of election/poll workers in connection with the May 21, 2019, annual school district meeting and election, at the salary set forth on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year:
1. Melvin Silverman
- J. Accept the following checks to fund scholarships:
1. A check in the sum of \$500 from various donors delivered to the District by Stacy Lane for the “Keith Lane Visual & Media Arts Scholarship”
  2. A check in the sum of \$500 from Robert E. Bishop and May A. Bishop, to fund the “John Bishop Memorial Scholarship” for 2019
  3. A grant in the sum of \$4,000 from The Richard R. Ong and Heidi Lem Ong Charitable Fund to fund scholarships for the Valedictorian and Salutatorian
- K. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Hempstead UFSD for health and welfare services for the 2018-2019 school year and authorize the Superintendent and President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- L. Approve the terms of the Agreement (Project#: 7-671731 Financed) with Nassau BOCES for a five-year lease agreement for 70 administrative workstations, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

- M. Approve the Addendum to the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and M. Infantino and Associates dated July 1, 2018, for professional development services for the 2018-2019 school year, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, and the Superintendent to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- N. Approve the terms of the Consultant Services Contract with Gregory P. Franz for musical accompaniment for the spring concert rehearsals 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.
- O. Approve the Discovery Education Professional Development Services Agreement for the East Rockaway School District for the period June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2024, to support the new MS/HS Math, Science and Social Studies curriculum, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- P. Approve the Discovery Education Techbook Purchase Agreement for the East Rockaway School District for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2025, to support the new Middle School and High School Math, Science and Social Studies curriculum, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- Q. Approve the purchase of the following techbooks:
1. Discovery Education, Math Techbook, Grades 6, 7, 8, HS Regents Courses
  2. Discovery Education, Science Techbook, Grades 6, 7, HS Regents Courses
  3. Discovery Education, Social Studies Techbook, Grades 7, 8
- R. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the following items:
1. For disposal, the item contained on the Change of Disposition form dated April 25, 2019
  2. For disposal, the item contained on the Change of Disposition for dated May 1, 2019
  3. For donation, the items listed on the Textbook Removal Form dated May 21, 2019
- S. Accept the following donations:
1. From an anonymous donor, fitness equipment consisting of a dominator torque and turn machine valued at \$2,000, for the Physical Education and Athletic weight training program.
  2. From the Rhame Avenue PTA:

- a. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$400 for Grade 4 students
- b. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$400 for Grade 3 students
- 3. From the Centre Avenue PTA:
  - a. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$500 for Grade 6 students
  - b. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$550 for Grade 1 students
  - c. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$383.88 for kindergarten classroom resources
  - d. A curriculum enhancement grant in the sum of \$55.23 for classroom resources for Marie Anderson's class
- 4. From the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School PTA:
  - a. A check in the sum of \$600
  - b. A check in the sum of \$500

T. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway School District hereby abolishes one (1) position in the teaching assistant tenure area, effective June 30, 2019. The Superintendent is directed to notify the affected staff members of this action.

U. Approve the terms of the Location Agreement with Lexicon Development, LLC, for use of district facilities in connection with the filming of the motion picture currently entitled, *In This, Our Time*, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

8. Upon motion made by Patti Nicoletti, and seconded by Kristin Ochtera, and unanimously passed, the CSE and CPSE Recommendations were approved.

9. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, and seconded by Neil Schloth, and unanimously passed, the following budget transfers were approved.

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

- 1. Transaction No. 19-0018
- 2. Transaction No. 19-0019
- 3. Transaction No. 19-0020
- 4. Transaction No. 19-0021
- 5. Transaction No. 19-0022

10. Policy Matters

Ms. Ochtera reported that the committee was winding down for the school year. Policy

*School District Records* was changed to reflect handling of digital records. Policy *Public Participation at Board Meetings* clarifies the wording as to why we have certain procedures in place. Policy *Student Admissions* was updated to include new regulations from the State. Ms. Ochtera stated that the next meeting is June 3<sup>rd</sup> at which time recommendations will be made for next year's policies.

Mr. Gamache asked for a vote of adoption for the policies listed in Item A and a correction to a policy listed in Item C. By a unanimous vote the policies in Item A were approved for adoption.

A. For Adoption

1. 1120, School District Records
2. 1230, Public Participation at Board Meetings
3. 5150, 5150R, Student Admissions

B. For Review

1. 4710, Grading
2. 4750, Promotion and Retention of Students
3. 4770,4770R, Graduation Requirements
4. 1400, Public Complaints
5. 1530, Smoking and Other Tobacco Use on School Premises
6. 1741, Home Schooled Students
7. 2340, Notice of Meetings
8. 4311.1, Display of the Flag
9. 4526.1, Internet Safety
10. 4531, Field Trip and Excursions
11. 5205, Eligibility for Extra Curricular Activities
12. 5225, Student Personal Expression
13. 6900, Disposal of District Property
14. 8630, Computer Resource and Data Management

Upon motion made by Kristin Ochtera, and seconded by Patti Nicoletti, and unanimously passed, the following Item C (Adopted Policy Number Correction) was approved.

C. Adopted Policy Number Correction

Correct the Policy Number of Policy Adopted on April 16, 2019, which was incorrectly noted as "4772" to read:

1. 4773, Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities

11. Reports

A. Board President's Report

**Budget hearing:** On May 7, 2019, the we held our annual budget hearing. Thanks to the support of the community, the budget passed on May 21, 2019. We are proud to continue all existing programs, with a few small additions while staying a quarter percentage point below the tax cap levy. Thank you Mrs. Scio for your sound financial guidance and planning.

**Pre-bond update:** The Board will be having a pre-bond work session on June 3, 2019, to discuss the projects and hold a public forum on June 11, 2019, to share our current status and receive additional feedback. We will continue to work in best faith with GOSR/Living with the Bay, but at this time we need to plan on moving forward on our own to ensure that we meet all of our required dates if we choose to move forward with a bond.

**Altaris Security Support:** We discussed the positives and negatives of hiring a security supervisor through Altaris. This is an increasingly specialized field and the expertise needed goes beyond the instructional and business knowledge of our administration. This person would oversee and train security personnel and staff visiting the District once a week and will report to central administration. As we have expanded our security personnel over the past few years, we felt this was a prudent next step. This is one of our enhancements built into next year's budget.

**Residency concerns:** Two residency concerns were under investigation. One family established proper, documented, and verified residency and the other will be excluded at the end of the school year.

## B. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Ruiz stated that it is a busy time of year with awards and events going on. Many thanks to Mr. Schaffer for a wonderful awards program. On tonight's agenda a contract was approved for TBD Productions to film *In This, Our Time* on school grounds on June 8 and 9, 2019. It is a story about school and community. They are looking for extras to appear in the movie. More information will be forthcoming from the production company. The District is also looking into a possible screening of the film *Rockaway* during the summer.

The security vestibules in all the buildings have been launched.

On May 20, 2019, twenty middle school students accompanied by Ms. Terranova, participated in a leadership academy held at Republic Airport (Molloy College satellite campus.) The students were engaged in activities to support their development as young leaders.

Ms. Ruiz thanked the community for passing the budget and technology proposition. She congratulated new board trustees Kristen O'Hagan and Peter McNally. She is sad to see Kristin Ochtera and Patti Nicoletti stepping down. They will be recognized at our June board meeting. She also thanked the PTA's for providing tonight's refreshments and organizing Meet the Candidates Night held on May 15, 2019.

## **Achievement**

Sixth grade students in both elementary schools recently participated in the Middle School Quiz Bowl. Each team consisted of six students to represent their grade. The teams had to answer challenging Social Studies questions ranging from ancient civilization to current events. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students enjoyed the middle school experience and academic opportunity.

Twenty-one high school students and 25 middle school students received the first annual WE ROCK Awards at the PTA Meeting on May 2, 2019.

On May 16, 2019, the high school held its annual Academic Awards night. Forty-nine 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 53 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 51 9<sup>th</sup> graders, 40 10<sup>th</sup> graders, 42 11<sup>th</sup> graders, and 47 12<sup>th</sup> graders earned Honor Roll or High Honor Roll recognition for the year. In total, 312 students in Grades 7 - 12 were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments both in and out of the classroom.

On May 23, 2019, 75 students were inducted into the Junior National Honor Society and 46 students into the Senior National Honor Society.

The varsity baseball team won their first conference championship since 1971.

## **Connection**

Both Centre and Rhame recently held kindergarten screening and kindergarten orientation. During kindergarten screening, parents volunteered as kindergarten parent ambassadors and spoke to new families to answer questions they had, shared information about the district, and served as a friendly face for our new parents. During kindergarten orientation the staff spoke to the parents about what to expect and ways to promote literacy at home. Both buildings are looking forward to welcoming our new families in September.

On April 30, 2019, the high school held its Science Research Symposium. Members of the Science Research class presented their work through the year to a panel of judges (teachers and peers).

On Monday, May 27, 2019, the high school marching band, under the direction of Mr. Ceglio, participated in the East Rockaway Memorial Day Parade.

During the Jr/Sr High Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, the Men's' Chorus performed Queen's "Somebody to Love" under the direction of high school Choral director, Mrs. Silver. The Men's' Chorus members included students from both the Junior and Senior Choruses, as well as members of the administration and faculty.

### **Innovation**

All three buildings recently launched the use of the security vestibules. This new feature enhances the district's increased security measures to make our schools a safe learning environment for all students and staff.

On Wednesday May 22, 2019, students in Mr. Palermo's AP Physics class completed a Breakout EDU activity. Similar to an escape room, students solved various problems, clues, and puzzles to open a locked box. Four different teams competed to be the first to 'breakout'. All of the clues and problems were specific to Newton's Three Laws of Motion. During this class period, students had to combine teamwork and problem-solving skills with their knowledge of physics.

On Wednesday, May 22, 2019, Ms. Pietrantonio's AP Biology class welcomed third graders from Centre Avenue School to conduct owl pellet dissections. High school students worked with the younger children to identify the bones within each owl pellet. Students were able to use identification charts in order to make conclusions about the contents of each owl pellet.

### **Opportunity**

The elementary students recently performed in the Spring concert on May 22, 2019. The musical performances from the band, orchestra and chorus were outstanding. The audience showed their support and appreciation for the music program with a standing ovation. We are very proud of the music department and students!

AP Review Academies took place between April 29th and May 16th to help further prepare students scheduled to take AP exams.

All 7th and 8th graders participated in the Middle School Poetry Madness Competition. The five finalists will be recognized by the middle of May.

Regents Review Academies started in the first week of May and are open to all students taking a Regents Exam this June.

This year's Middle School Social Studies Challenge took place on Friday, May 17,



2019. Participants from grades 6, 7 and 8 took part in four rounds of social studies questions. In the end, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade was victorious and will have possession of the Golden Political Sphere until next year's competition.

On Friday May 17, 2019, two teams from the East Rockaway Middle School competed at the 2nd Annual Math Tournament by the Sea at Long Beach Middle School. The students competed in three distinct events. First, they worked independently to solve 10 complex problems in thirty minutes. Next, they worked in teams of five to tackle even more challenging problems. Finally, the East Rockaway students joined forces with students from across Nassau and Suffolk to form mixed district teams. Briahna McConnell's team placed third overall and Julia Passanisi's team placed second overall for the mixed team event.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Condolences to the Gorsky family on the passing of Patrice Gorsky on April 16, 2019

13. Public Comments – None

14. Board Member Comments

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis thanked the community for passing the budget. He congratulated Kristen O'Hagan and Peter McNally on their newly elected board of education trustee positions and assured them that the community will embrace all you have to bring to the District. He thanked Kristin Ochtera and Patti Nicoletti for making his first year on the board a great learning experience. Mr. Vulpis acknowledged that retiring teacher and coach Joe Lores was one of the last teachers who not only teach, but also coach three sport teams. He wished him well in his retirement. Mr. Vulpis congratulated all the teachers who received tenure tonight and looks forward to their continued success in teaching our students. He congratulated Ms. Nelson on her appointment as the basketball coach and wished her luck. The music and art departments have grown immensely and he is very proud of the accomplishments of our students and teachers. Mr. Vulpis also congratulated all the students who received awards this evening.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth echoed the comments of Mr. Vulpis. He also thanked the community for approving the budget and proposition. He welcomes Kristen O'Hagan and Peter McNally to the Board. Mr. Schloth thanked Kristin Ochtera and Patti Nicoletti, who will be leaving the board. They both provided many years of dedicated service and guidance to the District. Mr. Schloth also thanked Theresa Devlin for running a second time. Mrs. Devlin is a concerned member of our community. He thanked all the teachers and students involved in the music and art awards. They

continue to enlarge this program and make us proud. He thanked the community for attending tonight's meeting.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti whole-heartedly agreed with the comments of Mr. Vulpis and Mr. Schloth. She not only wants to thank the teachers who are so dedicated, but also thanks to the many generous community members and PTA's. Because of their generosity, our students have opportunities and enhancements to their curriculum.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera echoed the sentiments of her fellow board members. She congratulated Kristen O'Hagan and Peter McNally and wished them many years of success. She thanked Tina Fazi for guiding us through the election process.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache congratulated Kristen O'Hagan and Peter McNally on their election as trustees of the Board of Education. As a fellow art teacher, after seeing and hearing about our art and music students' accomplishments, the District's teaching staff inspire him to do more with his students. There is extra work that goes into entering into competitions. He is very thankful for their dedication and providing these opportunities for our students. As we get towards the end of the school year, he asked parents to continue to be patient with all our children as they continue to face many challenges.

15. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. at which time the Board reconvened into executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi  
District Clerk