

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:00 P.M., August 13, 2019, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School  
Preceded by a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Keith Gamache, Dominick Vulpis, Neil Schloth, Kristen O'Hagan, Peter McNally, 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 7:19 p.m. in the auditorium of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School.
2. Neil Schloth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Gamache thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and apologized for the late start of the meeting which was due to the public work session running late.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items – residents questioned Other Items: 7A, 7E, 7F, and 7G.
4. Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, and unanimously passed, the following minutes were approved:
  - A. July 2, 2019, Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education
  - B. July 24, 2019, Special Meeting of the Board of Education
5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence
  - A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports: None
  - B. Correspondence – Two
6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Items A through M were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
  1. Julia Garvey, teaching assistant, effective June 30, 2019
  2. Nicole Winters, teacher aide, effective August 10, 2019
  3. Renee Duncan, professional registered nurse, effective July 31, 2019

4. Lisa Aloisio, monitor, effective August 14, 2019
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the appointment of Michelle Nastasi to the position of temporary teaching assistant, effective September 3, 2019, through November 22, 2019 (July 2, 2019, Item F.a).
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that there being a vacancy in the teaching assistant tenure area effective September 3, 2019, due to a resignation, pursuant to Education Law §2510 the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD hereby reinstates Michelle Nastasi, who was to be placed on the preferred eligibility list for teaching assistants as of June 30, 2019, to said teaching assistant position as a full-time probationary teaching assistant, effective September 1, 2019, (tenure area: teaching assistant; certification status: Permanent ), at the Teaching Assistant Step 6 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for teaching assistants for the 2019-2020 school year.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Jason Andrews to the position of business education teacher, (tenure area: business education, certification: Professional), effective September 3, 2019, at the MA30, Step 4, annual salary, established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Tracy Weinberg-Gatto to the position of elementary teacher, (tenure area: elementary, certification: Professional), effective September 3, 2019, at the MA, Step 3, annual salary, established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Kaitlyn Terrio to the position of mathematics teacher, (tenure area: mathematics, certification: Initial), effective September 3, 2019, at the MA, Step Entry, annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year.
- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jeanne Paige to the position of part-time (.5 FTE) speech/language teacher, effective September 3, 2019, through June 30, 2020, at the prorated MA, Step 8 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year.
- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Fernando Gomez to the position of part-time (.4 FTE) foreign language teacher, effective September 3, 2019, through June 30, 2020, at the prorated MA, Step 1 annual 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 appointments of the following teachers for summer CSE/CPSE meetings, effective August 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:
  1. Heidi Kreit
  2. Allison Gerbert
  3. Emily Judge
  
- J. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following individuals to be appointed to the East Rockaway/Nassau BOCES 2019 Summer School Program, from July 1, 2019, through August 16, 2019:
  1. Robert Kennedy, Administrator
  2. Judy Fahrenkrug, Aide
  3. Sally Anne Gaffney, Guidance Counselor
  4. Michele Daniels, Nurse
  5. Kristyn Smith, Nurse
  6. Marissa Defrin, ELA Teacher
  7. Alyssa Longo, Math Teacher
  8. Emily Judge, Math Teacher
  9. Alexandra Pietrantonio, Science Teacher
  10. Nicholas Cerda, Social Studies Teacher
  11. Henry Drew, Social Studies Teacher
  
- K. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the provisional appointment of Lisa Fodera to the position of Typist Clerk, 12-month position, effective August 14, 2019, at the pro-rated Step 3 annual salary established by the East Rockaway Secretaries Association Agreement for 12-month typist clerks for the 2019-2020 school year.
  
- L. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the appointment of Diana Servider, substitute monitor and substitute teacher aide, effective July 23, 2019.
  
- M. 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:
  - a. Lisa Henshaw, substitute monitor, effective upon civil service approval
  - b. Dana Stuono, temporary teaching assistant, effective September 3, 2019, through November 22, 2019

7. Other Items

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, the following Items A through I, Item J as amended to reflect the word *contracts* instead of "contacts," and Items K-L below were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

A. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, the Board of Education hereby:

Approves the award of the bid for automatic temperature control service and repair, as indicated in the Request for Proposal published in *Newsday* on July 22, 2019, for the 2019-2020 school year, opened at the District's Office on August 6, 2019, at 10:00 am, to Cardinal Control Systems, Inc., as the lowest responsible bidder meeting the bid specifications, pursuant to Section 103 of the General Municipal Law, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the Board of Education.

- B. Approve the appointment of the East Rockaway instructional and pupil personnel staff as per their certification and licensure for CSE and CPSE meetings, effective July 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019.
- C. Approve the Addendum to the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Discovery Education dated June 1, 2019, for professional development services for the 2019-2020 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.
- D. Approve the Discovery Education Professional Development Order Form for abovementioned professional development services for the 2019-2020 school year 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 admission of one Massapequa Public Schools, Student I.D. No. 218071020, to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2019-2020 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.
- F. Approve the contract renewal with Westech Investigations, Inc., for security services for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- G. Approve the terms of the Location Agreement with Cristopher Stauffer for use of district facilities in connection with the filming of the motion picture currently entitled, *Gemma*, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute

the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

- H. Authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to extend transportation contracts for the 2019-2020 school year at the Consumer Price Index with the following:
1. Acme Bus Corporation
  2. Baumann Bus Company
  3. First Student, Inc.
  4. Suburban Bus Transportation
  5. WE Transport, Inc.
  6. Independent Bus Company
- I. Approve the awards of the bids for transportation services to the following companies and authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:
1. Baumann Bus Company
    - a. Chaminade High School (late bus)
    - b. Kellenberg Latin and high school (late bus)
    - c. Sacred Heart Academy (late bus)
    - d. SEAL Program
  2. First Student, Inc.
    - a. Holy Trinity High School
    - b. Lawrence Woodmere Academy
    - c. Roosevelt Children's Academy
    - d. St. Mary's High School
    - e. Valley Stream Christian Academy
    - f. Waldorf Garden City
  3. Guardian Bus Company
    - a. St. Agnes Cathedral School
    - b. CCA Skills BOCES
  4. Independent Coach Corporation
    - a. Chaminade High School
    - b. Kellenberg Latin and High School
    - c. Sacred Heart Academy
    - d. Four-hour van in and out of district
    - e. Six-hour van in and out of district
    - f. 66-passenger five-hour bus
    - g. Displaced to Centre Avenue and Rhame Avenue Schools
    - h. Displaced to East Rockaway High School
    - i. Life skills job coach and Molloy Music  
amend to read contracts
- J. Authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to approve and execute the resulting contracts on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education

for the 2019-2020 school year Catch Up Bid scheduled for August 7, 2019:

1. Long Island High School for the Arts / Village School of Great Neck
2. Lawrence Elementary School
3. Sagamore Day Treatment – BOCES

K. Declare obsolete, for disposal and/or recycling, the following item:

1. For disposal, the items listed on the Change of Disposition form dated July 9, 2019

L. Accept the following donation:

1. From The Allstate Foundation (c/o CyberGrants), a grant in the sum of \$500 for the East Rockaway School District

8. Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, and seconded by Peter McNally, and unanimously passed, the CSE Recommendations were approved.

9. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, and seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, and unanimously passed, the following budget transfers were approved.

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

1. Transaction No.19-0028
2. Transaction No. 19-0029
3. Transaction No. 19-0030
4. Transaction No. 19-0031

10. Policy Matters

A. For Adoption - None

B. For Review

1. 4710, Grading
2. 4531, Field Trip and Excursions
3. 4750, Promotion and Retention of Students
4. 5152, Non-Resident Students
5. 5300, Code of Conduct
6. 6240, Investments
7. 5605, Voter Registration for Students
8. 9620, Child Abuse in an Education Setting

11. Reports

## A. Board President's Report

**Pre-bond update:** We were informed by our district architect and environmental consultant that we would have to choose an option of connecting or not connecting the main building to the tech building in order for the SEQR review to move forward. Based on community input, we chose not to connect the two buildings (the less costly of the two options by more than \$2.35 million). We also will not be including a concession stand, further reducing the potential amount to borrow by another \$150 - \$750K depending on the option.

**Living with the Bay/GOSR:** We were also contacted by a new team at GOSR, and initial discussions have been very positive. As has been stated in the past, we will continue moving forward with identified bond projects on our own, in case the funding and projects do not come through from GOSR. We do hope that some of the bond projects will be covered resulting in reduced borrowing and less of an impact on our tax payers. As more information comes available, we will keep you informed.

**Satellite Mental Health Clinic:** We've been presented with a unique opportunity to join three neighboring districts in opening a mental health clinic run by Northwell Health. While a phenomenal idea service wise, we do have concerns, namely cost and timing (this coming after our budget has been developed and adopted for the 2019-2020 school year.) We met with a representative from Northwell Health this evening to get additional information and will continue to investigate the most cost-effective way to provide the best services for our schools.

**Capital Grant from Senator Kaminsky and Assembly member Griffin:** The District was presented with a capital grant in the amount of @ \$100,000-\$125,000 for a capital project from Senator Kaminsky and Assembly member Judy Griffin. Ms. Scio and Ms. Ruiz will determine on how best to spend this. It can only be used for a capital project and cannot be used to offset the cost of the Northwell Health clinic.

Discussion continued regarding the Northwell Health proposal. Questions were asked and answered. The goal for Northwell Health to begin is October 1, 2019.

## B. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ayesha McArthur was appointed at a special board meeting held on July 24, 2019, as the new principal at Rhame Avenue School. Dr. McArthur was the top candidate and unanimously chosen by the committee members. She will be available to meet parents and staff prior to the start of school. She has a great deal of experience and has recently relocated from Maryland. We wish her a long and

successful career in the District.

This summer we have been busy hiring. Math teachers have been difficult to find but we did hire math teachers at Rhame Avenue School and the high school, as well as a business education teacher. There is lots of work going on in our buildings. Our custodial staff is hard at work this summer getting the buildings ready for the start of school. Our staff has been assisted by our summer workers. Small maintenance projects are taking place, including the renovation of the main office at the high school.

## 12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to Casey Wise and family on the arrival of her daughter, Olive Kathleen, born on July 2, 2019
- B. Congratulations to Ashley Donovan and family on the arrival of her daughter, Avery Rose, born on July 16, 2019
- C. Congratulations to Patricia Refino and family on the arrival of her daughter, Elizabeth Grace, born on August 2, 2019
- D. Congratulations to Fred Cange and family on the arrival of his daughter, Kaedence-Karmela, born on August 9, 2019
- E. Condolences to Tim Silk and family, former Centre Avenue principal, on the passing of his mother, Peggy Williams Silk, on June 25, 2019
- F. Condolences to Jim Ayres and family on the passing of his wife, Pat Ayres

## 13. Public Comments

Next on our agenda is the public comment period. 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.

Ms. Ozzie Lonergan: Ms. Lonergan asked if “exit interviews” were being used. Mr. Gamache replied that, after consultation with our attorneys, the draft model exit interview that had been created will be reviewed and implemented early in the school year.

Ms. Lonergan questioned why the “one sport” rule was being implemented. It seems to target girls’ volleyball, cheer and soccer. Marisa Welch, accompanied by Malena Lonergan, spoke on the topic of the one sport rule. Ms. Welch also expressed her personal opinion. Ms. Ruiz replied that she will discuss this with Mr. Barth when he returns from his vacation and she will invite both girls to join the discussion.



Ms. Lonergan also asked how the newspapers get school district information. Ms. Ruiz and Mr. Gamache replied that Syntax is the company the District uses to manage our communications. Administrators supply Syntax with information which is then posted on our website or distributed to the local newspapers.

Ms. Lonergan questioned the blacktop work and repaving that she saw today. Mr. Daly explained the work that was being done as well as the expansion of the back parking lot.

Mr. James Munz: Mr. Munz welcomed the new trustees to the board. He commented on the work that is being done in the buildings and how nice it looks. Mr. Munz inquired if the district could look into purchasing the home currently for sale on Ocean Avenue for use by the district. Mr. Gamache replied that Ms. Ruiz, Mr. Daly, Ms. Scio, and the district's architect did see the house for possible use as an administration building. It is zoned residential and the board is investigating this possibility. He also questioned bringing the track back under the bond. Mr. Gamache replied that the track being proposed will be able to hold local meets, hold physical education classes and will be available for community use; while at the same time having a baseball field and softball field. Mr. Munz asked about the use of solar panels for use in the buildings. Ms. Scio and Mr. Daly replied to his inquiries.

Ms. Dineen Cilluffo: Ms. Cilluffo stated that students should be allowed to play more than one sport; children who play more than one sport are less likely to get injured. She asked if the public information aide position was being replaced. Ms. Ruiz replied that interviews are taking place tomorrow. She asked if we can rethink this position as it is not needed in a small district.

Ms. Dena Arnold: Ms. Arnold questioned how summer school procedures work; how students are enrolled; attendance taken; and information relayed to parents. She had other concerns regarding her children as well and Ms. Ruiz stated that she will contact her to discuss her concerns.

#### 14. Board Member Comments

Kristen O'Hagan: Ms. O'Hagan commended Marisa and Malena on a beautifully crafted letter. She congratulated the new hires and wished them much success in their new roles. Ms. O'Hagan thanked the custodial staff for their hard work in getting the buildings ready for the start of school. She also wished much luck to students who are trying out and/or participating in fall athletics.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth thanked everyone for coming out this evening and for sharing their comments and concerns. This is a meeting not usually scheduled in August and appreciates their attendance. He wished everyone an enjoyable remainder of the summer and a good school year which is approaching quickly.

Peter McNally: Mr. McNally congratulated Malena and Marisa for having the courage to speak this evening. He thanked everyone for attending and sharing their comments.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis thanked Malena and Marisa for speaking tonight. Their presentation was outstanding, and points were well listened to. Mr. Vulpis spoke about an anonymous letter he received dated June 29, 2019, from a community member. After reflecting on its contents, he was reminded of why he ran for the board. After 22 years of teaching in the district, he wanted to continue his passion for the district. He then read the letter to the audience. Mr. Vulpis asked if anyone should happen to know who the community member was, to let that person know that he would love an opportunity to speak with him/her to discuss their concerns. Issues get resolved and things can change when presented and confronted. Mr. Vulpis stated that he wants to be transparent; he has nothing to hide and encourages anyone who writes letters like that to come forward to speak with him.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache thanked the audience for participating in the dialogue regarding the Northwell Health initiative. He was happy to hear their input. He encouraged everyone to email the board or contact an administrator with their opinion. \$90,000 is a large investment and this is an important issue and concern. A decision must be made shortly. If clarification is needed, please contact an administrator to get the most accurate and detailed information. Thank you for attending this August meeting.

15. Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, and seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. Mr. Gamache announced that the public work session was to continue in the Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi  
District Clerk