

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., August 27, 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 7:06 p.m. in the auditorium of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School.
2. Dominick Vulpis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Gamache thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and asked if there were any questions or comments on tonight's agenda.

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

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

A. August 13, 2019, Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports - None

B. Correspondence – Five (5)

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, and seconded by Peter McNally, the following Items A through E were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignation:

1. Cheryl Conklin, teacher aide, effective August 23, 2019

- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Cristal Philip to the position of leave replacement science teacher, effective September 3, 2019, through January 24, 2020, at the MA, Step 1, annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2019-2020 school year.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Ethel M. Davis to the position of part-time Public Information Aide, effective September 16, 2019, upon civil service approval, at the hourly salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2019-2020 school year.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the probationary appointment of Sallyann Agro to the position of Registered School Nurse, effective September 27, 2019, upon civil service approval, at the prorated Step 10 annual salary established by the East Rockaway School Nurses Association Agreement for the 2019-2020 school year.
- E. 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. Daniel DelValle, substitute cleaner, effective October 1, 2019
 - b. Shane McKeon, substitute cleaner, effective October 1, 2019
 - c. Dana Stuono, temporary teaching assistant, effective September 3, 2019 through November 22, 2019
 - d. Danielle DeMatteo, substitute teacher, effective September 3, 2019
 - e. Fernando Gomez, substitute teacher, effective September 3, 2019

7. Other Items

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

- A. Approve the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2019/2020 school year.
- B. Approve the 2019-2020 East Rockaway School District Guidance Plan serving students in grades K-12 through a comprehensive developmental program, as required by new NYS regulations for school counseling programs.
- C. Approve the 2019-2020 Professional Development Plan for continual support and professional learning opportunities for East Rockaway School District faculty and staff.
- D. Approve the Related Services Agreement between Da Vinci Education & Research, LLC, and the East Rockaway UFSD for Evaluation and Related Services for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

- E. Approve the Related Services Agreement between Positive Behavior Support, and the East Rockaway UFSD for Evaluation and Related Services for the 2019-2020 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
 - F. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the items listed on the Textbook Removal forms dated August 19, 2019.
8. Upon motion made by Kristen O’Hagan, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and unanimously passed, the CSE Recommendations were approved.
9. Budget Transfers - None
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

Mr. Gamache stated that since the last public meeting on August 13, 2019, there hasn’t been much to report since the Board did not meet. There have been slight updates regarding the bond. A resolution to approve the bond vote will be on the September 17, 2019, agenda. He encouraged residents to submit their questions regarding the bond to Ms. Scio in the Business Office, email the Board of Education, or bring them to the work session on September 10, 2019. There has been no additional correspondence from Living with the Bay or GOSR. The Board will continue to reach out to them and work with them. There have been no additional advancements regarding the Northwell mental health initiative. Mr. Gamache will keep the community updated as to any developments. The District will be working on a comprehensive mental health plan which will be presented at a future board meeting.

B. Superintendent's Report

Our new mission and vision statements have been completed. I will be sharing it with our staff and reminding them to be mindful of it. Our Mission Statement reads:

The East Rockaway School District respects our diverse community and proud traditions by engaging every student in an innovative and challenging educational program which inspires learners to become self-directed, ethical, creative and globally conscious citizens.

Our vision statement remained the same: *Setting a course for excellence.*

Our administrators are back from vacation and in full swing. It seems like we never left as there is much to get done for the school year. Seventh grade orientation took place today. The students looked nervous but happy as they were accompanied by student ambassadors and teachers.

The Board of Education toured our buildings which are in great shape for the return of our staff and students. Thank you to Mr. Daly and his crew for the amazing work they did this summer in getting our buildings ready and for completing the special projects that were done. We have expanded the high school parking lot and added 20 additional spaces which is welcome to staff and the community.

We have completed our hiring process; eight new teachers have joined us this year. Today was the first day of our New Teacher orientation which consists of workshops on family engagement, cultural responsive teaching, thinking Maps, Visible Learning, the APPR and our observation process, as well as an orientation to district technology, and a primer on teacher responsibilities relative to special education and the CSE process.

School opens next week. Our staff returns on Tuesday and we welcome our students on Wednesday.

The district and the Board have finalized the projects for our facilities work and the Bond. We will hold a forum on September 17, 2019, and invite you to attend to learn more about the bond. Feel free to direct any questions to Ms. Scio or myself.

Coach Joseph Lores – Honoree

Hall of Fame Basketball Coach Joseph G. Lores will be honored at a dinner of the NYSPHSAA, Section VIII, to be held at the Crest Hollow Country Club on Wednesday, September 25, 2019. All are welcome to attend. Congratulations to Coach Lores!

Art Award

Gianna Campanaro will be honored by the Long Island Arts Alliance at an Induction

Ceremony as a recipient of the Scholar Artist Award of Merit. The ceremony will be held at the Tilles Center on September 11, 2019. Thank you to our art teachers, Ms. Cabasso and Ms. Hirten for the support they provide to our students.

East Rockaway Village Traffic Calming Campaign

Mr. Vulpis and Mr. Daly attended a village meeting about the traffic calming campaign. Mrs. Cindy Lark, the Deputy Clerk for the Village of East Rockway, will join our district administrators at their meeting on August 30, 2019, to speak about the Village's traffic calming campaign to improve safety and traffic in our school community.

Summer School 2019

Our summer school program ended last week with the administration of regents exams on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 13 and 14, 2019. Sixteen (16) classes and nine (9) different regents exams were offered to our high school students. As a result of participating in the summer school program, all 44 students enrolled in courses passed the course and earned course credit. Students also passed 40 of the 76 regents exams that were administered. We are pleased to provide the opportunity to offer the summer school program and the chance for more of our students to begin the 2019-2020 school year caught up and on track. We extend much thanks to Mr. Rob Kennedy, who served as the coordinator of the summer school program. and to those East Rockaway teachers who served as faculty for many of the courses and regents prep classes.

One Sport Rule

At our last meeting we had two students and a few parents speak on the one sport rule. In response to student and parent feedback, we are holding off on the change for this year. We will continue to evaluate student participation and gather feedback from coaches and athletes and a decision will be made for the 2020-2021 school year. This only really impacts our female athletes in the fall season and there is a conflict with soccer volleyball and fall cheer. Thank you to Marisa Welsh and Malena Lonergan for sharing their thoughts with the board, administration and community.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health App

Nassau officials on Thursday debuted an app containing a directory of substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery services to help residents find the resources they need quicker. It is free to download and easy to navigate, and includes immediate access to crisis hotlines, search tools for treatment options and other great resources for teens and parents. We will be sharing this new app with families on Facebook and on our website. The free app, Nassau C.A.R.E.S., is available to download on Apple and Android devices or on the link on our Facebook page.

Northwell Mental Health Initiative

We are awaiting a copy of the contract with Northwell for our attorneys to review. We are

also speaking with other districts who were invited to participate and evaluating our options.

Network Infrastructure Security Upgrades

As you may have heard, Rockville Centre and Mineola school districts had their networks ransomed. All their data was held and they had difficulty restoring their networks. Districts are susceptible to this type of cyber attack. Under Mr. Araoz's guidance, we have been looking at different options to protect our network's security and safety. Mr. Araoz has put in place systems to protect student data and documents contained on our network. We are in good shape and will continue to explore other protective options. Mr. Araoz will be sharing these details a future work session.

12. Good and Welfare - None

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.

James Munz – Mr. Munz questioned the textbooks that were on tonight's agenda for disposal. Ms. Hecht replied that they are high school science books (across the curriculum) which are outdated and being replaced with techbooks. Mr. Munz also questioned if we have an on-site server. Mr. Araoz replied that we have a combination of an on-site and off-site (BOCES) server. Data is backed up off site.

14. Board Member Comments

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis thanked Mr. Daly for today's facilities' tour and for taking the time out of his day to accompany the board. The tour updated the board on the areas they needed to revisit which are a part of the bond project. As a result of his cooperation and guidance, changes are happening in East Rockaway. One of these changes is the high school library. Mr. Daly and his staff did a bang-out job. He couldn't believe it was the same library. Mr. Vulpis invited everyone to see the library. During the renovation, Mr. Daly uncovered a sink in the back which had resulted in a long-standing odor. Another change attributed to Mr. Daly's and Mr. Schaffer's efforts is the renovation of the high school main office. It has been transformed into a welcoming office and a better utilization of the space. Mr. Vulpis was also impressed with the upstairs computer room and the different styles of desks which can be made into circles, one-on-one desk, and conference desks. This is a fine example of the facilities department working along with administration in East Rockaway doing more and costing less.

Peter McNally: Mr. McNally thanked Mr. Daly for today's facilities' tour. He agreed with Mr. Vulpis regarding the updated library and said the only thing missing was Starbucks. He thanked his fellow board members and Ms. Ruiz for welcoming him and Ms. O'Hagan. At first, they were apprehensive as to how they would be accepted, but after a few months on the board, they feel very welcomed. At the past few meetings many items were discussed and although there wasn't full agreement on items, the discussions remained respectful and each member was encouraged to express their individual opinions.

Neil Schloth: Mr. Schloth also thanked Mr. Daly and agreed with Mr. Vulpis' comments. Mr. Daly's success is due in part to his willingness to get down into the trenches and he's not afraid to do the work. He is well respected by his staff because he works along with them. He asked Mr. Daly to relay his appreciation of the work they do to his custodial staff. Mr. Schloth believes the board has become very cohesive although they haven't been together for a long time. Lots of credit is given to our new board members. It is apparent they clearly want to help our students. He thanked the audience for attending tonight's meeting

Kristen O'Hagan: Ms. O'Hagan echoed her fellow board members' comments. She thanked Mr. Daly for the facilities' tour. The buildings look great. She wished the staff, students, and parents good luck and a smooth transition into a new school year and to enjoy the last few days of summer.

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache commented on how both, Mr. Vulpis and Mr. McNally, highlighted how spectacular the library looks. The library was one of the first projects planned when the Facilities Committee first met. The initial amount of a state-of-the-art library was \$1,000,000. From the onset, it was agreed that the District couldn't spend this amount on the project. However, Ms. Ruiz and Ms. Scio found a way to update the space in a very inviting manner. The Board and administration have continued to work together in a responsible way to whittle down the cost of the projects. Mr. Gamache looks forward to sharing the bond proposal with the community on September 17, 2019. The district's architect and financial advisor will also be present to explain the financial implications of the bond. He is hoping that the meeting will be well attended.

15. Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, and seconded by Neil Schloth, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk