

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., August 11, 2020
Centre Avenue School Library
Meeting Closed to Public – Live Streamed on GOOGLE MEET

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Dominick Vulpis, Kristen O'Hagan, Peter McNally, Daniel DeMatteo, Joseph Kilgus, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mona Hecht, District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

Absent: None

1. Mr. Vulpis apologized for the late start of the meeting. Technical difficulties prevented the meeting from being livestreamed. We had to move to a different format, GOOGLE MEET. This link will be provided for everyone to view. Mr. Vulpis then called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.
2. Kristen O'Hagan led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

This evening if you have questions regarding items on the agenda or other school district related items you can email them to boe@eastrockawayschools.org. Please be sure to include your full name and address so a district administrator can respond to your concern in an appropriate manner. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, I will not be able to check email this evening. I also want to remind you that most concerns are appropriately addressed with your child's teacher and/or building principal once school opens. Other general district questions should be directed to Mrs. Ruiz our Superintendent. Matters involving curriculum and instruction should be addressed to Mrs. Hecht and matters involving the budget and facilities should be directed to Mrs. Scio. Mr. Araoz has created an excellent technology FAQ on the district homepage. If you need any further assistance with technology or have issues with a device, please reach out to him for assistance.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Vulpis asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Upon motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, seconded by Joseph Kilgus, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following

minutes were approved:

- A. July 7, 2020, Organizational and Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
- B. July 15, 2020, Special Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

Mr. Vulpis stated that there were no monthly reports this month to acknowledge.

- A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports- None
- B. Correspondence- None

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-G below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Items A-G.

Upon motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items A-G were approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - 1. Michael Giordano, part-time monitor effective July 27, 2020
 - 2. Gaetano "Tommy" Barone, substitute monitor, effective July 23, 2020
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a FMLA leave of absence for Crystal Valentin, from September 2, 2020, to September 14, 2020.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for a one-year child rearing leave of absence for Ashley Donovan from her elementary teacher position, effective September 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a FMLA leave of absence for Susan Glickman from her elementary teacher position, effective September 2, 2020, through November 20, 2020.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Andrew Kell to the position of leave replacement special education teacher, effective September 2, 2020, through June 30, 2022, at the MA, Step 5 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher's Association contract for the 2020-2021 school year.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following individuals to be appointed as permanent substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2020-2021 school year:
 - 1. Centre Avenue School:

- a. Victoria Berman
- b. Angela Bond
- c. Elizabeth Freeman
- 2. East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School:
 - a. Brenda Arum
 - b. Jon Chevelier
 - c. Marissa Defrin
 - d. Jessica Risso
- 3. Rhame Avenue School:
 - a. Ann Kerner
 - b. Stephanie Hector
 - c. Celeste Magluilo

- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the appointments of:
- 1. Emily Lamia, short term substitute music teacher, approved at the July 7, 2020, Board of Education meeting
 - 2. Philip Eager, substitute cleaner, approved at the March 24, 2020, Board of Education meeting
 - 3. Michael Giammona, substitute bus driver, approved at the March 24, 2020, Board of Education meeting

7. Other Items

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item 7(A) below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Item 7(A).

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Joseph Kilgus, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and Item 7(A) was approved.

A. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the East Rockaway Union Free School District's Purchasing Policies and the New York State General Municipal Law ("GML") provide rules governing the purchase and procurement of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, GML Section 103(4) provides that "Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision one of this section, in the case of a public emergency arising out of an accident or other unforeseen occurrence or condition whereby circumstances affecting buildings, public property or the life, health, safety or property of the inhabitants of a political subdivision or district therein, require immediate action which cannot await competitive bidding or competitive offering, contracts for public work or the purchase of supplies, material or equipment may be let by the appropriate officer, board or agency of a political subdivision or district therein"; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has designated the novel coronavirus

(COVID-19) outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern; and

WHEREAS, a state of emergency has recently been declared on the national, state and local levels in response to the novel coronavirus outbreak; and

WHEREAS, New York's Governor Cuomo has issued Executive Order No. 202, which declared a disaster emergency with regard to the coronavirus on March 7, 2020 and temporarily suspended certain bidding and other requirements relating to the procurement and use of cleaning and maintenance products in schools through September 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to undertake immediate steps to maintain a safe environment for students, staff and District residents, including the purchase and/or procurement of products, materials, supplies, equipment and services to clean, disinfect and maintain District buildings and facilities and to protect students and staff, including personal protective equipment (“PPE”), which have become increasingly difficult to purchase or procure;

NOW, THEREFORE, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District as follows:

1. The Board of Education finds and determines that, pursuant to General Municipal Law sections 103(4), the novel coronavirus outbreak is a public emergency affecting the District's buildings and property and the life, health and safety of District students, staff, and resident requiring immediate action in order to maintain a safe environment in the District, including the purchase and/or procurement of products, materials, supplies, equipment, PPE and/or services to clean, disinfect and maintain District buildings and facilities and to protect students and staff.
2. The ability to purchase adequate and appropriate products, materials, supplies, equipment, PPE and/or services in a timely manner is essential to protect the life, health and safety of District students, staff and residents and constitutes such immediate action which cannot await competitive bidding or competitive offering.
3. The Board of Education hereby suspends the rules found in the District's purchasing policies and regulations solely with respect to the purchase and procurement of products, materials, supplies, equipment, PPE and/or services needed to clean and maintain school buildings and facilities, protect students and staff, and combat the novel coronavirus, on a case-by-case basis and until November 1, 2020, unless further extended by Board resolution.
4. The Board of Education hereby authorizes and approves such actions, including the execution of contracts for outside services and the purchase of products, materials, supplies, PPE and/or other equipment reasonably necessary or appropriate to address and combat the novel coronavirus in accordance with this resolution.

5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item 7(B) below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Item 7(B).

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and Item 7(B) was approved.

- B. Approve the Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Safeguard Self Storage for storage services, and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items 7(C-J) below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Items 7(C-J).

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items 7(C-J) were approved on a consent agenda.

- C. Approve the revised 2020-2021 school district calendar as more fully set forth on Attachment "1."
- D. Approve the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Subrecipient Agreement dated August 11, 2020, between the Housing Trust Fund Corporation, operating by and through its division, the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- E. Approve the contract renewal with Westech Investigations, Inc., for security services for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- F. Approve the Contract for OASAS Youth Drug Abuse Services between the East Rockaway UFSD and the Nassau County Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities Services, for chemical dependency services, for the period January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, and authorize the President of the East Rockaway Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- G. Approve the Tuition agreement with Crotched Mountain School, for special education services for one student, Student I.D. No. 180005899 for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement

on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

- H. Approve the tuition agreement with Lawrence UFSD for special education services for one (1) Student ID No. 180008401 for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- I. Approve the Tuition agreement with Devereux Foundation, for special education services for one student, Student I.D. No. for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- J. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Amplify Education dated August 11, 2020, for professional development services for the 2020-2021 school year, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item 7(K) below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Item 7(K).

Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Joseph Kilgus, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and Item 7(K) was approved.

- K. Approve the Consultant Services Contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Voyager Sopris Learning Inc. dated August 11, 2020, for professional development services for the 2020-2021 school year, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items 7(L and M) below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Items 7(L and M).

Upon motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and Items 7(L and M) were approved on a consent agenda.

- L. Approve the Disclosure and Consent Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD, Malverne Union Free School District, and Frazer & Feldman LLP, dated August 11, 2020, 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 Intermunicipal Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Malverne Union Free School District for transportation services for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the

agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items 7(N and O) below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Items 7(N and O).

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and Items 7(N and O) were approved on a consent agenda.

- N. Authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to extend transportation contracts for the 2020-2021 school year at the Consumer Price Index with the following:
 - 1. Independent Bus Company

- O. 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. BOCES
 - a. Barry Tech AM and PM
 - b. CCA Net
 - c. Children's Readiness Center
 - d. Robert Williams
 - e. Rosemary Kennedy Center
 - 2. CHEESE Bus, Inc.
 - a. St. Agnes Cathedral
 - 3. First Student, Inc.
 - a. Crescent High School
 - b. Holy Trinity High School
 - c. Lawrence Elementary School
 - d. Our Lady of Peace
 - e. Waldorf Garden City
 - 4. Independent Coach Corp.
 - a. Chaminade High School
 - b. Chaminade High School (late bus)
 - c. Kellenberg Latin and High School
 - d. Kellenberg Latin and High School (late bus)
 - e. Sacred Heart Academy
 - f. Sacred Heart Academy (late bus)
 - g. Lawrence Woodmere Academy
 - h. 4 Hour Van In and Out of District
 - i. 6 Hour Van In and Out of District
 - j. 66 Passenger 5 Hour Bus
 - k. Displaced to Centre and Rhame Avenue
 - l. Displaced to East Rockaway High School

- m. Athletics and field trips in and out of District
- n. Life Skills Job Coach & Molloy Music
- 5. We Transport, Inc.
 - a. St. William the Abbot
 - b. Mary Louis Academy

- 8. Mr. Vulpis stated that he did not receive the CSE and CPSE recommendations for this month and asked for a motion to remove (table) this item.

Upon motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, and seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion to approve this month's CSE and CPSE recommendations was removed (tabled) until next month.

- 9. Budget Transfers

Mr. Vulpis asked if there were any questions regarding the following budget transfers. There were no questions and he asked for a motion to approve the following budget transfers.

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the following budget transfers were unanimously approved.

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

- 1. Transaction No. 20-0020
- 2. Transaction No. 20-0021
- 3. Transaction No. 21-0002

- 10. Policy Matters

- A. Policy Subcommittee Report

Mrs. O'Hagan reported that the Committee did not meet this month. No policies are up for adoption. The next scheduled meeting is August 13, 2020, 11:00 am, where we will meet to review the policies listed under Item C – Policies for Review.

- B. For Adoption

- C. For Review

- 1. 4526, Computer Use in Instruction
- 2. 4531, Field Trip and Excursions
- 3. 5300, Code of Conduct
- 4. 8121.1-R, Opioid Overdose Prevention Regulation

5. 8130.1, Extreme Risk Protection Orders (The “Red Flag Law”) “New” “Notice”
6. 9150, Non-Fraternization “New”
7. 6705, Federal Funds Purchasing
8. 8635, Information and Data Privacy Security Breach

11. Reports

A. Board President’s Report - None

B. Superintendent’s Report

We have been hard at work finalizing our Return to Learn Plan. The plan was due to New York State and the Department of Health on July 31, 2020, and our plan was submitted on that date. We received guidance from New York State on July 16, 2020, and thus had a short period of time to go through the guidelines. I hope you had an opportunity to read the plan as it contained valuable information about the reopening of our schools.

I want to speak for a moment about concerns from our parents. We have scheduled ZOOM parent meetings for Thursday, August 13, 2020. At 5:00 pm we will meet with elementary parents; and at 7:00 pm we will meet with secondary parents. We will try to incorporate your many questions and concerns into those presentations. At the secondary meeting at 7:00 pm, Mr. Richard Schaffer will provide most of the information on what the high school schedule will look like. It will not be perfect for everyone. We are doing something that has never been done before and working under challenging circumstances. We must develop our plans within certain limitations set by NYS and the Department of Health. This will be discussed in detail at our Thursday meetings. If time allows, we will take questions from the audience. The presentations will be recorded and posted on our website for your review. We will do our best to answer your questions.

The most common question is the ability to have in person instruction every day for our elementary students. Many schools on Long Island can accommodate having students attend every day. There are guiding principles we used to ascertain if it was possible to have in person instruction. Each district’s facilities’ space and staffing are different. Some have smaller budgets with less money and/or more money in their reserves. Social distancing measurement guidelines is something we will follow and have taken this very seriously. We had to follow specific calculations; room dimensions and desk size was used to calculate the amount of room space. A typical class size of 24-25 has been reduced to 10-12-14; even if furniture is moved out. We are continuing to work on different solutions. We will share exactly what the plan is and would like nothing more than to have every student come in every day, but that is not going to be possible. We are currently still finalizing a few more details of the plan and will inform you which students will be able to come to school every day. Approximately 120 parents have opted for full remote learning. That option will be available through the end of the week. I hope you can all tune in on

Thursday evening, at 5 p.m. for elementary families and at 7 p.m. for secondary families. Links will be posted on our website and the sessions recorded. We want to make sure that by September 8th you will have all your questions answered. Building principals will schedule additional meetings with families the week of August 17, 2020. Hope to see you all on Thursday night.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to Val Parasmo and family on the birth of her daughter Sophia Camille on July 13, 2020
- B. Congratulations to Crystal Valentin and family on the birth of her daughter Catalina Mila, born on July 14, 2020
- C. Congratulations to Katie Kuck and family on the birth of her daughter, Mackenzie Mae, born on August 5, 2020
- D. Condolences to Christine LaFrance and family on the passing of her mother Joan Conanan, on July 24, 2020

13. Public Comments

Due to tonight's technical difficulties, Mr. Vulpis was not able to receive any email comments. He reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded and encouraged residents to contact the board at boe@eastrockawayschools.org and to check the website for contact information for the District's administrators and/or principals. Also, when school reopens to contact your child's teacher or appropriate administrator with any concerns.

14. Board Member Comments

Daniel DeMatteo: Mr. DeMatteo shared the following quote from Frederick Douglass:

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

Peter McNally: Mr. McNally thanked all the administrators, employees, and parents who served on the many reentry planning committees for their help in getting our schools ready to open. He is aware that many families are upset and want to get things back to normal. However, it is not possible to follow social distancing mandates and have all students in classrooms. He asked everyone to be patient as plans are still being worked on to get as many students back to school as possible.

Joseph Kilgus: Mr. Kilgus echoed the comments of Mr. McNally. He stated that at this time, there is no perfect plan. A vaccine may be the perfect plan. He believes that whatever plan is finalized, it will be the best plan for the students. As an East Rockaway parent with a child with Type II diabetes, he is confident to send his child back to school. Although it was not an easy decision, he knows his child will be in good hands.

Kristen O'Hagan: As we are now in the final weeks of summer, I know that many of you, like me, are anxiously awaiting what the new school year will bring. Thank you to Superintendent Ruiz, her, administrative team, and all stakeholders who are continuously working on the re-opening plans. As a parent, I know how frustrating the unknown is. For the District, this entire process is a daunting and monumental task. Paramount is safety-the safety of students and the safety of staff must be maintained. Communication is equally important. I urge those of you that have concerns or questions to go through the proper channels and reach out to the school leaders. Your voices are important. Social media may be a forum many use to support your fellow community members and air frustrations, however, if it is answers you seek - go to the source. Attend the virtual coffee and conversations beginning this Thursday. We are all in this together. Thank you.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis thanked all his fellow trustees. We have met continually throughout COVID 19. It has not been an easy task to continue to participate in virtual meetings of all kinds and stay on top of all the information and guidelines that are being published. He thanked his trustees for their partnership and stated that it takes us all as a community to build this plan together. Mr. Vulpis also thanked central administration as it always feels as though we are one step ahead of other districts. Specifically: Ms. Ruiz, for leading the way for East Rockaway schools; Mrs. Scio, for always keeping us on task and providing our students with any and all equipment necessary to succeed; Mrs. Hecht for constantly revising the plan and changing the curriculum to have our students on the forefront and instilling the confidence and ability to open up schools to start instruction; and to Mr. Araoz for keeping our District in virtual contact with our community by managing the technology for our live streamed and virtual meetings. As Ms. Ruiz stated, staffing, budget and social distancing are the most important items to remember. Every school district is different in prioritizing those three requirements and safety is the number one item we consider. Thank you also to our building principals. We know you are there and are out in the forefront and hopefully you got some rest this summer. Thank you for joining tonight's meeting.

15. Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion made by Daniel DeMatteo, seconded by Joseph Kilgus, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk