

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Rockaway, New York

Meeting of the Board of Education

7:00 P.M., February 9, 2021

Preceded by a COVID-19 Heroes Video Presentation,

Retirement Recognition,

Bond Update Presentation, and a Public Forum

Meeting Closed to the Public - Livestreamed

MINUTES

PRESENT (remote):

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

Absent: None

1. Mr. Vulpis called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.
2. Mr. McNally introduced the students of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School Skills and Achievement class who led the Pledge of Allegiance through a pre-recorded video.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. She began tonight's presentations with a tribute to Lee Araoz, Director of Technology & Learning Analytics who will be retiring from the District at the end of this month. After 2 ½ years of dedicated service and valuable contributions to the District, Mr. Araoz and his family will be relocating to Florida. Although his tenure was somewhat brief, Mr. Araoz has provided leadership in all areas of technology and has taken our students and teachers to the next level. He will truly be missed. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with him and we wish him much success in his new position. A memento from his time at East Rockaway will be given to him.

Ms. Ruiz was pleased to introduce the next presentation, the Covid-19 Heroes video. This project was a true labor of love for our school community. The Board of Education expressed a desire to recognize individuals in our school community who have gone over and above and thus the video tribute idea began. The tribute tonight is for each and every person who kept our schools running and doors open. The Covid-19 Heroes video was then played. Ms. Ruiz thanked the principals, administrators, Syntax, and everyone involved in putting it together. It was a lot of work and she hopes everyone enjoyed it and feels appreciated. The video will be posted on the website.

The last presentation this evening is the bond project update. As you know, we are very grateful to the community for passing the bond project vote in November 2019. Tonight, we have

attending remotely, John Grillo, the district's architect, along with representatives from Park East Construction, our construction manager, Francesco Borgese, and Gary Gonzalez. They will provide a bond project update and answer any questions. Mr. Borgese then began the presentation with a Power Point slide show highlighting all the projects, their status and expected completion date. Questions were asked and answered by Mr. Grillo.

Ms. Ruiz then asked Mr. Daly for an update on the bulkhead project. Mr. Daly provided a short update on the status of the bulkhead and stated that the bulkhead will be ready in plenty of time when permits arrive for the field construction.

The presentations concluded at 7:37 p.m. and the Board began the public portion of the agenda.

### 3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Vulpis stated that Board will be managing Board of Education email items this evening. If you have any questions regarding the agenda times, now is the time to contact the Board's email. You will also have an opportunity at the public comments section to contact the Board.

Mr. Vulpis checked for email comments and there were none. Mr. Vulpis encouraged anyone with comments to email the board at [BOE@ersd.org](mailto:BOE@ersd.org) and they will be answered at the end of the meeting.

### 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 Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following minutes were approved:

A. January 19, 2021, Meeting of the Board of Education

### 5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports

The Board acknowledged receipt of the December 2020 monthly financial reports.

B. Correspondence- No correspondence was received

### 6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-J below. Ms. O'Hagan asked to clarify Item E, as Ms. Ruiz read the date as May 12, 2021, and not March 12, 2021, as printed. Ms. Ruiz confirmed that the date is March, and incorrectly read it as May. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Items A-J.

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

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Doreen Johnson, for the purpose of retirement, from her clerical position, effective April 6, 2021.
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Patricia Refino for an FMLA leave of absence from her science teacher position, effective May 3, 2021, through June 30, 2021.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Andrew Kimble to the position of leave replacement science teacher, effective February 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021, at the prorated BA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Marissa Diamond for a child rearing leave of absence from her elementary teacher position to be effective February 8, 2021, through June 30, 2021.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Joseph Cracolici to rescind his FMLA leave of absence from his foreign language teacher position, and approve his request for a leave of absence for personal medical reasons to be effective January 4, 2021, through March 12, 2021.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Kristie Galante for a continuation of her FMLA leave of absence from her art teacher position to be effective February 3, 2021, through April 9, 2021.
- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Celeste Magluilo, to the position of leave replacement elementary teacher, effective November 17, 2020, through June 30, 2021, at the prorated BA, Step Entry, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract.
- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised ERHS Club Advisor assignments for the 2020-2021 school year as more fully set forth on the schedule of club/advisor assignments at the stipend salaries established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
- I. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the fall sports coaching schedule dated February 9, 2021.

J. 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. Christopher Russo, per diem substitute teacher effective February 1, 2021

7. Other Items

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

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 Item A was unanimously approved.

A. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the Corrective Action Plan to the Independent Accountant's Risk Assessment Update Report prepared by Cullen & Danowski, LLP, for the period ended June 30, 2020.

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

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Kristen O'Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Item B was unanimously approved.

B. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District, Nassau County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. The following qualified voters of the East Rockaway Union Free School District, Nassau County, New York, are hereby appointed to constitute the Board of Registration of said school district to attend for the purpose of the preparation of the registers for all school-related elections of said school district pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law and to serve until the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the next annual meeting of the district:

1. Vitina Fazi (District Clerk)
2. Theresa Garcia
3. Leira Serrano
4. Nereyda Amaya-Moran
5. Barbara Winters

Section 2. In addition to the District’s continuous registration previously approved by the Board of Education conducted in the District Clerk’s Office on days that school is in session, special registration shall be conducted, and shall take place, at: Rhame Avenue Elementary School and Centre Avenue Elementary School, on May 10-14, 2021, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

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

C. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, the Board of Education hereby grants approval to enter into service agreements with the following service providers as indicated in the Request for Proposal published in *Newsday* on January 11, 2021, for the 2021-2022 school year, opened at the District’s Office via remote audio conference on February 3, 2021, at 9:00 am, as the lowest responsible bidder, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the resulting contract on behalf of the Board of Education:

1. Nawrocki Smith LLP for external auditor services
2. Cullen & Danowski, LLP for internal auditor services
3. Deans Archer & Co., for claims auditor

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

Upon motion made by Pete McNally, seconded by Kristen O’Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items 7D and 7E were unanimously approved.

D. Approve the 2021-2022 school district calendar.

E. 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 rebid for Contract No. 3 – Electrical Reconstruction, as indicated in the Notice to Bidders published in *Newsday* on December 18, 2020, opened at the District’s Office via remote audio conference on January 20, 2021, at 11:00 am, to Polaris Electrical Construction Corp. 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.

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

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 Items 7F and 7G were unanimously approved.

- F. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and Uniondale UFSD for the health and welfare services for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the Superintendent and the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- G. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and Rockville Centre UFSD for the health and welfare services for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the Superintendent and 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 7H and 7I below. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve Items 7H and 7I.

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded Kristen O’Hagan, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items 7H and 7I were unanimously approved.

- H. Approve the terms of the Letter of Intent dated February 2, 2021, with Nassau BOCES for a 48-month lease for one (1) Xerox multi-task copy machine and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Letter of Intent on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
- I. Approve the Indemnification Agreement between the East Rockaway UFSD and Advanced Cardiovascular Diagnostics, PLLC, for COVID-19 testing services, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Indemnification Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

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

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Daniel DeMatteo, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items 7J and 7K were unanimously approved.

J. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the items listed on the Textbook Removal Form dated February 4, 2021.

K. Accept the following donation:

1. From Rolling River Day Camp, tumbling mats valued at approximately \$300

8. Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding the CSE Recommendations. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve the CSE Recommendations.

Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

9. Budget Transfers

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding the following budget transfer. There were no questions. Mr. Vulpis then asked for a motion to approve the budget transfer.

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

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

1. Transaction No. 21-0011

10. Policy Matters

A. Policy Subcommittee Report:

Mrs. O'Hagan stated that there are no policies up for adoption this evening. We will continue to review the following policies:

5500, 5500-R, Student Records  
0105, Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education  
9150, Non-Fraternization "New"

6705, Federal Funds Purchasing  
9420, Recruiting and Hiring  
9700, Professional Learning and Staff Development  
4511, Textbook Selection and Adoption  
4000, Goals for Instructional Programs

The date for our next meeting is Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

B. For Adoption - None

C. For Review

1. 5500, 5500-R, Student Records
2. 0105, Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education
3. 9150, Non-Fraternization “New”
4. 6705, Federal Funds Purchasing
5. 9420, Recruiting and Hiring
6. 9700, Professional Learning and Staff Development
7. 4511, Textbook Selection and Adoption
8. 4000, Goals for Instructional Programs

## 11. Reports

A. Superintendent’s Report

### **COVID-19 Update**

It appears the number of cases seems to have dropped somewhat after the surge we saw after holiday break. We have had a few cases with one staff case today. I will be sending out a letter in a little bit. We hope after the upcoming recess and the Superbowl, cases will not surge again. The District has contracted with a mobile Covid-19 testing company on site to provide testing for staff, faculty, and voluntary school athletes. They will visit again next week for voluntary Covid-19 testing. We will continue to make voluntary COVID-19 testing available for any high school student and/or athlete interested in taking advantage of it. More information will be sent home.

Travel guidelines have not changed; if any family planning on going away, according to New York State guidelines you will still be subject to 10-day quarantine period or have to take a COVID test before you leave and when you return. Students who do travel will need to stay out and follow either of those two guidelines.

I will now ask Ms. Hecht to provide an update on the instructional model and what plans we have moving forward.

Ms. Hecht provided the following report:

*As we continue to evaluate our instructional model in response to Covid-19, we will be reconvening the Instruction Committee after break. We have two meetings scheduled. These meetings will provide an opportunity to review our current models and to determine if recommendations should be made to adjust any aspects of the models including, but not limited to, student capacity for on-site learning models and potential timeframes to return more students to school. We will continue to monitor the situation and monitor trends in Covid-19 cases. The Committee will also explore what it would take if that happened, and how comfortable staff and families are with exploring these options. We will take all that into consideration and make a recommendation. We do not want to put anyone in jeopardy as our space is limited.*

Ms. Ruiz added that the new strains of virus are more potent, and the vaccine may or may not protect people. Many of our faculty and staff are getting vaccinated. We are hoping things improve and the vaccine is effective on the new strains. Health and safety are the most important thing.

### **Achievement**

Rhame and Centre Reading Specialists worked with Dr. Chris Parker to examine student progress in reading at this mid-year point to determine next steps to provide targeted support for students most in need.

Congratulations to 32 high school students who won Scholastic Art & Writing Awards! A total of 60 awards were won, including four writing awards - a first for East Rockaway. Congratulations to teachers Kelly Cabasso, Briar Falvo, and Kristie Galante!

Congratulations to Emma Pollackov on her acceptance into this year's All-Eastern Honors Ensemble Conference Mixed Chorus. Emma's acceptance is in addition to her being previously selected for this year's NYSSMA All-State Conference. Emma was selected from a pool of 1,150 All-State applicants and will be participating in a virtual weekend to include masterclasses with professional musicians, keynote speakers, rehearsals with her conductor, and mock auditions.

Congratulations to Maddy Mistretta, Hailey Arnold, Daniella Pedi, Alyssa Nicolo, and Alyson Lovera for having their photographs accepted into the exhibit "My 20/20" hosted by the Art Guild of Port Washington. Works will be on virtual display from February 10th to March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Congratulations to Claire Acuti for being selected as only one of 12 student athletes in Nassau County to participate in TEAM UP FOR UNITY, a diversity, equity, and inclusion

initiative between Section VIII and XI Athletics and the Long Island Nets.

### **Opportunity**

Tenth grade students in the National Honor Society adopted Rhame and Centre Avenue for a service project to spread love and kindness to students during the pandemic. They provided special Valentines to all students in those grade levels.

Tenth and eleventh grade students can take a free SAT Prep class after school, starting after February break and leading up to the May 2021 SAT Date. Sessions meet once a week for 10 weeks for 2 hours at a time, 1 hour for math and 1 hour for verbal.

Rock Rivalry is back this year! Our grade advisors and Rock Rivalry coordinator, Ms. Fahrenkrug, are hard at work to ensure our students can participate in this important tradition, even if slightly different than in years past. A letter will be sent to all families this week with all the details!

The East Rockaway High School Student Council sponsored Jersey Day on February 4th and 5th. This is the first of monthly Spirit Days that the Student Council will sponsor throughout the end of the school year.

High School winter sports started on February 1, 2021, which includes boys' and girls' basketball, wrestling, and cheerleading. Junior High Winter II Sports started on February 8, 2021 for girls' basketball. In addition, we will continue to offer our 7-12 weight training, Junior High boys' basketball, and girls volleyball programs. Thanks to Mr. Barth for creating this plan for winter sports.

### **Innovation**

Rhame and Centre students are exploring Coding in STEAM using code.org. Students have been enjoying this STEAM rotation!

The science department purchased Neuromaker STEM Kits which challenge students to build robotic hands while simultaneously making connections to Next Generation Science Learning Standards in Biology, Physics, and Engineering. Students in our Science Research class are piloting this experience led by Mr. Palermo, with the potential to participate in the Neuromaker Challenge in the spring.

The East Rockaway Art Instagram feed will be taken over each week by different AP art students. You can follow @eastrockawayart on Instagram for an inside look at our artists' process, inspiration, workspace, finished pieces, works in progress, and so much more!

## Connection

Rhame and Centre students will participate in the Kindness Spirit Week Challenge this week. Each day, students will dress in the designated theme for the day and be challenged to perform acts of kindness representing the daily theme. The challenges include: Taking time to do something kind for others, Be Kind to Yourself, Be Kind to your School, Motivate others by wearing a positive saying or smiley face shirt, and participate in National No One Eats Alone Day (which will be altered due to the current lunch/recess structures). Counselors will engage students in activities that promote inclusion, empathy, and kindness.

The Class of 2021 participated in a virtual game night on January 26th. Using Kahoot, students were tested on how well they knew their classmates through a virtual game of "2 truths and a lie." The top three students received gift cards.

A virtual *Coffee & Conversation* was held for high school families on January 19th. Approximately 40 participants joined our school administration to have an open discussion about how the school year is going. Thank you to Mr. Schafer for holding these as well as our elementary principals.

The Class of 2023 held a fundraiser at Heavenly Coffee in East Rockaway on Friday, January 29th. The fundraiser was successful and a great way to make connections with local businesses!

On January 29, 2021, students from the Student Athlete Leadership Team virtually attended the 18th annual Student Athletes Leadership Conference.

The high school morning announcements for the month of February will feature a motivational quote each day by a prominent African American figure in honor of Black History Month. Each quote will be accompanied by a synopsis of the person's accomplishments.

The East Rockaway Key Club held a popcorn fundraiser to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as well as St. Jude's Hospital. Total sales exceeded \$6,300, half of which will go directly to the charities. So glad to see that our clubs and activities are being run for our students. These opportunities for our students to socialize and provide community experiences is so important.

High school counselors held a virtual meeting for juniors and their families regarding post-secondary planning on February 4th. Counselors highlighted the variety of options for students to explore after graduation and reviewed the college application landscape. Individual appointments will take place in March. Thank you to the guidance staff for providing this information.

School Counseling Week was celebrated last week in East Rockaway. Activities included: students beginning individual programming appointments with their counselor to review scheduling opportunities for the upcoming year; a district proclamation of National School Counseling Week, Post-Secondary Planning Night, Flipgrid videos to share how someone made their day, teacher appreciation treats provided by Cakes by Kat (Alumni Kat Del Valle), morning announcements read by counselors to educate students and staff about the week, and inspirational music played after the 9<sup>th</sup> period bell. Thanks to the guidance department for celebrating School Counselling Week and for all they do.

Ms. Ruiz asked Ms. Scrio to provide a budget update. Ms. Scrio stated the following:

*Our second budget work session was held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. These items were discussed: Taxcap; Governor's Proposal; Capital Projects; and Technology.*

*This year the CPI, which is a key component of the tax cap formula is 1.23%. There are multiple variables unique to each school District that are used in the tax cap calculation. The CPI is the only variable that is consistent across the state.*

*The estimated tax levy cap for East Rockaway based on the formula, as of today, is 2.61%. The Governor's proposal was released on January 19, 2021. The proposal provides a **decrease** of \$167,806 in aid most of it based on expense driven aid. Foundation aid remains flat for the past two years. This reduction is far less than we feared.*

*I want to take this opportunity once again to reiterate that the District is in a financially strong position. The budget presentation has been posted on the District's website. Please continue to check our website as all future presentations will be posted. Our next budget work session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will be reviewing expenditures and making a final determination on the technology reserve proposition. We encourage you to join us during these budget work sessions.*

## 12. Good and Welfare

- A. Condolences to Celeste Maglullo and family on the passing of her grandmother, Marie Frumin on January 16, 2021
- B. Condolences to Tom Barrett and family on the passing of his brother-in-law, Dennis Fasano, Jr. on January 29, 2021
- C. Condolences to Christine Cartmell-Moy on the passing of her sister-in-law, Kewi Moy Lee

## 13. Public Comments

Mr. Vulpis checked the board's email and there were no emailed comments from the audience this evening.

#### 14. Board Member Comments

Joseph Kilgus: Mr. Kilgus had the opportunity to attend sports tip-off night. He was very happy that sports are back in East Rockaway. We underestimate the role that sports play. He thanked Mr. Barth for coming up with a plan to keep our children active and safe and is looking forward to the sports season. Mr. Kilgus congratulated Mr. Araoz on his retirement and wished him much success in his new role.

Daniel DeMatteo: Mr. DeMatteo agreed with Mr. Kilgus' comments. The value of sports is parallel to life. It is so important that our kids get back to being active. While on the sports path, Mr. DeMatteo shared the following quote: *"Where others see an end, I see an opportunity to improvise. There are no limits."* [Lionel Messi, soccer player.] When you apply that to life and all that we do, it speaks volumes. He congratulated Mr. Araoz on his retirement and wished him the best of luck in his new position. Mr. DeMatteo enjoyed the COVID-19 19 Heroes video. His heroes are his fellow board members. It is an honor and privilege to work alongside you. We are all aligned in our goals to do what is best for our children. Much happens behind the scenes and he is grateful for all that has been done through this process.

Peter McNally: Mr. McNally echoed the comments of his fellow board members. The COVID-19 Heroes tribute acknowledges the role of everyone in the district. As parents, Mr. McNally is aware of how much is being done for our children. Bringing sports back is huge for the social and emotional well-being of our kids. He congratulated Doreen Johnson on her retirement. She will be missed. He also congratulated Mr. Araoz on his retirement and is looking forward to playing golf with him in Florida.

Kristen O'Hagan: I would like to begin by congratulating Lee Araoz on his retirement. To echo Superintendent Ruiz and my fellow Board members, you will be missed tremendously, but we wish you much happiness in Florida. Thank you to Superintendent Ruiz and the Central Administration team for ensuring all the COVID Heroes were properly honored. This is something we, as a Board, felt was so very important way back in September. It was a beautiful, special, and heartwarming tribute. Lastly, I would like to thank Mrs. Scio and her team for all they continue to do to ensure all Bond requirements are met and work remains on schedule. These improvements are very exciting and something to look forward to as projects come to fruition. I wish everyone a relaxing, safe, and healthy Winter Recess.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis apologized for the cancellation of tonight's presentation of the Education Partner Award to Keith Gamache. This is something the Board wants to do at an in-person meeting, and we will do it soon. He thanked Ms. Ruiz for being the general behind all the initiatives concerning COVID-19 and tonight was the culmination of what she did. The COVID-19 Heroes video tribute was very well done and enjoyed by all. It is obvious much work and planning went into the video. He wished Mr. Araoz well on his new position and

move to Florida. He will surely be missed. Mr. Vulpis hopes that one day their paths will cross again, possibly a game of golf in Florida. Mr. Vulpis congratulated Doreen Johnson on her retirement. She inspired not only me but many around her with her positive manner, open door policy and willingness to assist. Other than the superintendent's secretary, as the high school principal's secretary she has one of the toughest jobs in the district. We are very grateful for the central administration's decision to make available voluntary testing for Covid-19 to students and staff. This all starts with a plan and then daily actions from our administrators. We will continue to discuss the return of in-person education. We hope that the numbers and science reflect this change and it will be a safe time. Thank you to Ms. Hecht and her committee who will continue to investigate this possibility. Thank you to all for attending tonight's meeting.

15. Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Joseph Kilgus, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi  
District Clerk