

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
East Rockaway, New York  
Meeting of the Board of Education  
7:00 P.M., May 25, 2021  
East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium  
Preceded by a Presentation by Councilman D’Esposito to Franklin Infante,  
Tenure Recognitions, Music and Art Recognitions,  
Kristen O’Hagan - NYSSBA Recognition Program Board  
Achievement Award and a Public Forum  
Meeting Open to the Public and Livestreamed

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Dominick Vulpis, Kristen O’Hagan, Peter McNally, 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: Daniel DeMatteo

1. Mr. Vulpis called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School.
2. Mr. Vulpis led the Pledge of Allegiance in the absence of Juan Lemus who was unable to attend this evening.

Mr. Vulpis introduced Ms. Ruiz who welcomed everyone to tonight’s meeting. Ms. Ruiz began the presentations with recognizing our Board of Education Vice President Kristen O’Hagan’s hard work as a trustee. Ms. O’Hagan received the NYSSBA Recognition Program Board Achievement Award for her participation in different courses. Ms. O’Hagan was called to the stage and presented with a certificate. Ms. Ruiz thanked her for her commitment to the school and community.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Councilman D’Esposito. Mr. D’Esposito congratulated high school student Franklin Infante on being recognized as one of Long Island’s 2021 top football players. On behalf of County Executive Clavin and the residents of Nassau County, Mr. D’Esposito presented Franklin with a proclamation and congratulated him on his achievements.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Peter Ceglio, Fine Arts Chairperson. Mr. Ceglio spoke about and recognized the achievements and successes of the art and music students. A Power Point was shown showcasing the students’ work. Students were called to the stage and presented with certificates. Ms. Ruiz thanked Mr. Ceglio and all the teachers for an incredible job they have done despite all the limitations due to COVID.

This evening staff members will be recognized for tenure. Ms. Ruiz spoke about the process of how tenure is granted. She then introduced Mr. Vincent Healy, PPS Director. Mr. Healy spoke about the accomplishments and successes of Amy Weissman, School Social Worker. A video tribute was also shown. Mr. Healy was happy to recommend her tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Mr. Healy then introduced Mrs. Calia Kelly, Centre Avenue School Principal. Mrs. Kelly spoke about the accomplishments and successes of two of her staff members: Kellie Hughes, Elementary Teacher and Evangelos Anastassatos, Music Teacher. A video tribute was also shown. Mrs. Kelly was happy to recommend Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Anastassatos for tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Mrs. Kelly then introduced Dr. Ayesha McArthur, Rhame Avenue School Principal. Dr. McArthur spoke about the accomplishments and successes of two of her staff members: Nicole Mihalek, Music Teacher, and Maryann Raffaniello, Elementary Teacher. A video tribute was also shown. Dr. McArthur was happy to recommend Ms. Mihalek and Ms. Raffaniello for tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Dr. McArthur then introduced Mr. Richard Schaffer, principal of East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School who spoke about William Gibbons, Social Studies Teacher (Department Chair). Mr. Schaffer spoke about his accomplishments and successes in the District. A video tribute was shown. Mr. Schaffer was honored to recommend Mr. Gibbons for tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Lastly, Mr. Schaffer spoke about Bryan Palermo, Science Teacher. Mr. Schaffer spoke about his accomplishments and successes in the District. A video tribute was shown. Mr. Schaffer was honored to recommend Mr. Palermo for tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education. Ms. Ruiz congratulated all the staff members on receiving tenure this evening and wished them a long and successful career in the District.

The presentations concluded at 8:20 p.m. and the public portion of the agenda began.

### 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 Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following minutes were approved:

A. April 20, 2021, Regular 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 March 2021 monthly financial reports.

B. Correspondence

Mr. Vulpis stated that he was unable to retrieve any correspondence from the Board's email account prior to the meeting.

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-T below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Items A-T below.

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

A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff members on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

1. William Gibbons, Social Studies Teacher (Department Chair), effective August 30, 2021
2. Kellie Hughes, Elementary Teacher, effective August 31, 2021
3. Nicole Mihalek, Music Teacher, effective August 31, 2021
4. Bryan Palermo, Science Teacher, effective August 31, 2021
5. Maryann Raffaniello, Elementary Teacher, effective August 31, 2021
6. Amy Weissman, School Social Worker, effective August 31, 2021
7. Evangelos Anastassatos, Music Teacher, effective September 29, 2021

B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Kassie Tillem-Spero from her elementary teacher position effective June 30, 2021.

- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the resignation of Mona Hecht, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction effective June 30, 2021.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a change to the request of Patricia Refino for an FMLA leave of absence from her science teacher position, to be effective April 26, 2021, through June 30, 2021.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Sara Guagliano to the position of short-term substitute science teacher, to be effective April 26, 2021, through June 30, 2021, 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.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Valerie Parasmo for an FMLA leave of absence from her social studies teacher position effective August 31, 2021, through November 19, 2021.
- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Lauren Radburn to the position of short-term substitute elementary teacher, to be effective May 5, 2021, through June 30, 2021, 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.
- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Danielle Lundgren to the position of leave replacement school psychologist, effective August 31, 2021, through the end of the 2021-2022 fall semester, at the prorated Doctorate, Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- I. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Megan Librizzi to the position of short-term substitute school counselor, effective May 28, 2021, through June 30, 2021, 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.
- J. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Megan Librizzi to the position of leave replacement school counselor, effective August 31, 2021, through the end of the 2021-2022 fall semester, at the prorated MA, Step Entry, annual salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year.
- K. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised Rhame Avenue Elementary School Club Advisor assignments dated May 25, 2021.

- L. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following special education summer school appointments, effective July 1, 2021, August 11, 2021, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2021-2022 school year:

Dr. Rosina Pzena.....	School Psychologist
Dr. Alissa Nunes .....	Substitute School Psychologist
Dr. Danielle Lundgren .....	Substitute School Psychologist
Bethany Kinkaid .....	Speech Language Teacher
Kimberly Rosenkrantz .....	Speech Language Teacher
Heather Bolanas .....	Speech Language Teacher
Allison Gerbert.....	Special Education Teacher
Kristen Donovan .....	Special Education Teacher
Jeannie Mengel .....	Special Education Teacher
Deborah Iannico.....	Substitute Special Education Teacher
Kathleen Crowley .....	Specialized Instruction Teacher
Brianna Ostrander .....	Specialized Instruction Teacher
Deborah Iannico.....	Specialized Instruction Teacher
Danielle Schaeztle.....	Specialized Instruction - Reading
Sherina Lugo.....	Specialized Instruction – Reading

- M. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approved the following appointments for summer CSE/CPSE meetings, effective July 1, 2021, through August 31, 2021, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2021-2022 school year:

Dr. Rosina Pzena.....	School Psychologist
Dr. Alissa Nunes .....	Substitute School Psychologist
Dr. Danielle Lundgren .....	Substitute School Psychologist
Deborah Iannico.....	Special Education Teacher
Bethan Kinkaid .....	Speech Language Teacher
Kimberly Rosenkrantz .....	Speech Language Teacher
Heather Bolanos.....	Speech Language Teacher
Robert Kennedy.....	General Education Teacher
Dawn McCabe.....	Social Worker, CPSE/CSE, McKinney Vento
Dr. Rosina Pzena.....	Chairperson, CSE/CPSE
Dr. Alissa Nunes .....	Substitute Chairperson, CSE/CPSE
Dr. Danielle Lundgren .....	Substitute Chairperson, CSE/CPSE

- N. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following special education summer school teacher aide appointments, effective July 1, 2021, through August 11, 2021, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract

for the 2021-2022 school year:

Janet Block.....	Teacher Aide
Linda Lindsley .....	Teacher Aide
Noreen Sheehy .....	Teacher Aide
Kathleen Gicewicz .....	Teacher Aide
Tina Lewald .....	Substitute Teacher Aid
Jackie Ludwig .....	Substitute Teacher Aid

- O. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Denise Cipriano to the position of Summer Textbook Monitor, effective June 15, 2021, through August 30, 2021, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education Monitor and Security Unit Agreement for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.
- P. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Brian Barcheski to the position of Security Aide, for the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School Summer Program, effective July 6, 2021, through August 5, 2021, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education Monitor and Security Unit Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year].
- Q. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Thomas White to the position of Security Aide, for the East Rockaway UFSD Extended School Year Summer Program and Enrichment Program at Rhame Avenue School, effective July 1, 2021, through August 11, 2021, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education Monitor and Security Unit Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year.
- R. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Denise Powell to the position of Summer Security Aide, for the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School, effective June 28, 2021, through August 30, 2021, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education Monitor and Security Unit Agreement for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.
- S. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Nancy Catapano to the position of Administrative Officer (12 months), effective June 7, 2021, upon Civil Service approval, at the prorated Step 1 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Secretaries Association agreement for the 2020-2021 school year.
- T. 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. Gregory Feil, seasonal cleaner, effective upon Civil Service approval
  - 2. Richard Hess, athletic supervisor (day/evening) effective March 8, 2021
  - 3. Jeannie Mengel, substitute teacher, effective May 12, 2021

4. Christopher Russo, concert supervision (day/evening) effective May 14, 2021

7. Other Items

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A and B below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Items A and B below.

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 the following Items A and B were approved on a consent agenda.

A. Approve the following resolution:

The Board of Education accepts and approves the Board Resolution (attached hereto) setting forth the results of the May 18, 2021, Annual District Election.

B. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association has submitted its proposed 2021-2022 Budget and proposed 2021-2022 Slate of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee, for the approval of its member boards, the East Rockaway Board of Education authorizes the District Clerk to record the outcome of the votes and notify Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association of the results.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Proposed Budget for the 2021-2022 school year (as accepted by N-SSBA's Executive Committee) be, and hereby is approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Proposed 2021-2022 Slate of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee (as presented by N-SSBA's Nominating Committee) be, and hereby is approved.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item C below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item C below.

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

C. Approve the following resolution:.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway

Union Free School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement dated May 6, 2021, between the Board of Education and the East Rockaway Secretaries Association, regarding creation of the new job title of Administrative Officer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to execute said Memorandum of Agreement on the Board's behalf.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item D below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item D below.

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

- D. Approve the terms of the side letter agreement with the East Rockaway Teachers Association dated May 17, 2021, concerning additional sick days for teaching assistants who served during the 2020-21 school year.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item E below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item E below.

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 the following Item E was approved.

- 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 bid for the Automatic Temperature Control Service and Repair Cooperative Bid #21-22, as indicated in the Notice to Bidders published in *Newsday* on March 26, 2021, opened at the District's Office via remote audio conference on April 9, 2021, at 10:00 am, to Cardinal Control, 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 Item F below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item F below.

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



F. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District approves the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement dated April 22, 2021, between the Board of Education and the East Rockaway Teachers Association, (“E.R.T.A.”) with respect to the terms and conditions of employment for the members of the teachers bargaining unit.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item G below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item G below.

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

G. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD authorizes and appoints the following individual to serve in the capacity of election/poll workers in connection with the May 18, 2021, annual school district meeting and election, at the salary set forth on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2020-2021 school year:

1. Sheila Sincinito [election inspector]

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item H below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item H below.

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 the following Item H was approved.

H. Approve the Agreement with Doreen Johnson as substitute secretary 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 I below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item I below.

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

- I. Approve the Health and Welfare Agreement between East Rockaway UFSD and Hempstead 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 Item J below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item J below.

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

- J. Approve the Independent Accountant's Report Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures on Benefits Administration for the period January 1, 2019, through November 30, 2020, prepared by the internal auditors, Cullen & Danowski, LLP.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item K below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item K below.

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 the following Item K was approved.

- K. Approve the terms of the Agreement (Project#: 8-719361 Financed) with Nassau BOCES for a five-year lease agreement for computer lab workstations 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 Item L below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item L below.

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

- L. Approve the Special Education Services Contract with Rockville Centre UFSD for special education services for two (2) parentally placed students, for the 2020-2021 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item M below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item M below.

Upon motion made by Pete McNally, seconded by Joseph Kilgus, all in favor AYE,

opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Item M was approved.

M. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Manual of Planning Standards Section S106 Doors requires classroom doors, stair, and corridor doors to have vision panels (MPS S106(a)) which may not be covered; and

WHEREAS, a March 5, 2019, memorandum from the State Education Department of New York titled SCHOOL SECURITY and DOOR HARDENING detailing that the Office of Facilities Planning has permitted temporary covering of vision panels in classroom doors in an emergency;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the East Rockaway Board of Education hereby authorizes district employees to cover door vision panels when necessary to ensure an adequate safe zone within school buildings in the event of an emergency.

WHEREAS the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code and NYSED Manual of Planning Standards establish standards for egress from school facilities; and

WHEREAS, a March 5, 2019, memorandum from the State Education Department of New York titled SCHOOL SECURITY and DOOR HARDENING detailing that the Office of Facilities Planning has permitted faculty and staff to temporarily block doors to slow the access of an intruder in an emergency;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the East Rockaway Board of Education hereby authorizes district employees to temporarily block doors to slow the access of an intruder in an emergency so long as the means used to block the door do not require any special information or ability to allow egress so that occupants can leave the building quickly in such circumstances.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item N below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item N below.

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 the following Item N was approved.

N. Approve the 2021-22 Professional Development Plan for continual support and professional learning opportunities for East Rockaway School District faculty and staff.

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item O below. There were

none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item O below.

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

- O. Approve the Location Rental Agreement with Debbie Regan Locations, Ltd., and the East Rockaway UFSD for use of premises of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School building for the period May 15, 2021, through May 16, 2021, 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 P below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item P below.

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

- P. Accept the following donations to fund scholarships:
  1. From Linda Bonziglia, a check in the sum of \$50 for the Cheryl Drugan Award
  2. A grant in the sum of \$4,000 from The Richard R. Ong and Heidi Lem Ong Charitable Fund to fund scholarships for the Valedictorian and Salutatorian
  3. From Joe Lores, \$70 for the Mildred Brock Amity Award

Mr. Vulpis asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Item Q below. There were none and Mr. Vulpis asked for a motion to approve Item Q below.

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 the following Item Q was approved.

- Q. Approve the following donations:
  1. From the Rhame Avenue School PTA, a check in the sum of \$400
  2. From the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School PTA, a check in the sum of \$500 for the senior outing

#### 8. Approval of CSE and CPSE Recommendations

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

Upon motion made by Kristen O'Hagan, seconded by Pete McNally, all in favor AYE,

opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the CSE and CPSE 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 Pete McNally, seconded by Joseph Kilgus, 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. 21-0016

## 10. Policy Matters

A. Policy Subcommittee Report

Mrs. O'Hagan provided the following report:

The policy subcommittee met on Monday, May 17. We reviewed the following policies:

8130, School Safety Plans and Teams  
8131, Pandemic Planning  
0100, Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

We do not have any policies up for adoption this evening. We will continue to review the following policies:

0105, Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education  
9150, Non-Fraternization "New"  
6705, Federal Funds Purchasing  
8130, School Safety Plans and Teams  
0100, Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity  
8131, Pandemic Planning

The date for our next meeting has not been scheduled yet.

B. For Adoption - None

C. For Review

1. 0105, Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education
2. 9150, Non-Fraternization “New”
3. 6705, Federal Funds Purchasing
4. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams
5. 0100, 0100-R, Non-Discrimination, and Equal Opportunity
6. 8131, Pandemic Planning

## 11. Reports

### A. Superintendent’s Report

#### **Achievement**

Ms. Ruiz thanked the entire community for passing and supporting our budget. A very responsible budget was presented, and she is very appreciative of the community’s support. Thank you to Mrs. Scio and Mrs. Fazi for their incredible hard work. Congrats to Mr. Vulpis on his reelection. Mr. Vulpis will serve as a trustee for the next three years and she is looking forward to working with him.

Centre and Rhame teachers are working with our literacy consultant to develop strategies to help students connect the reading skills and strategies embedded in their Wonders reading lessons into their independent reading of leveled readers. This will help students improve their independent reading levels.

Academic Awards night took place at the Jr./Sr. High School on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. The virtual ceremony recognized over 170 East Rockaway junior and senior high school students for various achievements in and out of the classroom.

Our annual National Honor Induction Ceremony took place virtually on April 27th. Led by our student officers, the ceremony recognized the accomplishments of over 100 high school students and over 50 middle school students.

National Decision Day was celebrated on May 3rd at ERHS. A "decision day" video arranged by Senior Gabriella Baccari was featured on the morning announcements and students and staff wore college attire. To date, the class of 2021 has received acceptances to over 100 different colleges.

The East Rockaway High School Varsity Volleyball team won the Nassau County Class C Volleyball Championship, defeating Carle Place High School 3 games to 2.

From the 50,000 PSAT scores nationwide, about 16,000 juniors will be named National

Merit Scholar Semifinalists, and about 34,000 will be commended for their performance. We are proud to congratulate Madeleine Prucha on her eligibility for National Merit. There will be an application process for National Merit in the fall.

Student Leslie Madera was selected for Long Island's Best: Young Artist at The Heckscher Museum. Long Island's Best is the only juried exhibition on Long Island that offers high school students the opportunity to show their art in a museum setting. Leslie's work was selected to be displayed in an additional exhibition at Mitchells in Huntington, New York, from May 25- June 27th.

Daniella Pedi received a national Gold Medal for her work drawing "What Lurks in the Dark" in this year's Scholastic Art & Writing National Awards.

Students Allyson Lovera, Isabelle Anderson, Gianna Mancusi, Hailey Arnold, and Zara Soofizada all placed either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd among the six categories in this year's Photographic Foundation of Long Island photo contest. All these images now move onto the next level of judging. East Rockaway took home seven of the 36 top awards!

Students Grace Wooding, Katrina Ipce, Katarina Nunez, and Sarah O'Moore all had their works featured in this year's virtual Legislative Exhibit hosted by New York State Art Teachers Association.

AP students Michael Folk, Deanna Minotakis, Lauren Cronin, and Sofia Bertolotti had their work featured in this year's Go APE interactive virtual exhibit. This is an exhibit showcasing work by students in AP art courses.

Six varsity teams earned the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete distinction with an overall average of 90% or higher; Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country; Cheerleading; Volleyball; Girls Tennis; Boys Soccer; and Girls Soccer.

Congratulations to Felicia Oosterwijk, Stephen Cooney, Jonathan Ward, Cynthia Chen, and Christopher Durand for being inducted into the Joseph M. Barry Career and Technical Education Center Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. These exemplary students have been identified based on a rigorous selection process that included academic excellence, good citizenship, high achievement, outstanding employability skills and exceptional attendance.

## **Innovation**

Second grade students at Centre are excited to join the second grade Coding Club with Mrs. Healy. Also, students at Centre and Rhame engaged in virtual Enterprise experiences

with Mrs. Healy. Both schools are looking forward to working with Mrs. Healy for in person Enterprise.

AP exams began the week of May 18th, with students completing some exams on school issued devices on the new digital AP exam platform and others in traditional written form. Despite the challenges of this school year, 125 students took 209 different tests across 15 subjects.

The 85th Annual Rock Rivalry concluded on April 23rd with the juniors emerging victorious. Entrance, along with several other events, was live streamed for the entire school community. The Junior Class participated in the traditional bagel breakfast and a slightly modified passing of the cup ceremony to celebrate their victory.

Students in Mr. Palermo's Science Research class continued to work on their Neuromaker STEM kits building robot hands. Video of these robot hands in action can be seen on the East Rockaway High School Instagram feed. Students will have the opportunity to participate in the Neuromaker Creative Challenge which is an open design competition for middle and high school students. This competition is open to students around the world to investigate the connections between Biomedical Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Programming and more!

### **Connection**

Centre and Rhame sixth grade Safety Patrols are now up and running. At Rhame they are paired to work with kindergarten, first and second grade classes. At Centre, they are assisting with morning arrival and are paired with various grades and specific locations in and outside of the building. At both schools, they are getting to know the students and bring so many great smiles to all.

On April 22nd, students in Mr. Crowley's AP Environmental Science wore their "Respect" earth shirts to celebrate Earth Day. During class, students shared information they researched about persistent organic pollutants (POPs). POPs are toxic substances potentially found in our food, water, soil, and air.

This year's District Art Show is available for viewing on our website. This virtual presentation includes works from every student enrolled in art classes throughout the district.

East Rockaway high school students Tara Torborg and Nicholas Nunez represented the district as part of Nassau County's Youth Vaccination Initiative. They participated in a training and a Live Town Hall meeting at Eisenhower Park to share why they chose to get



vaccinated.

On May 5th, the East Rockaway High School Tri-M Music Honor Society hosted "East Rockaway's Got Talent". This virtual event included acts and performances by students and staff. The event was also a fundraiser, with donations benefiting the Senior Scholarship Fund.

School counselors visited 11th grade classrooms to review the letter of recommendation request and college essay writing process. To learn more about the college essay, students reviewed the Common Application prompts, and read two sample essays. After reading the sample essays, the students discussed what stood out about each, which they shared gave them a different perspective on their expectations of college essay content.

### **Opportunity**

The District will be offering a Universal Pre-K Program with 26 slots. We have been given \$140,000 to start this program. This was always available to the District but the district never actively sought to explore this possibility. We will seek an outside organization to run two pre-k classes in our elementary schools. Information will be posted on our website and there will be an actual lottery. The first 26 families will get a spot. Hopefully in the future it will be expanded. The hours would be 9 am to 2 pm. More information will be shared, and a postcard will be sent out to the community. If you are aware of any family who has an eligible pre-kindergartner, feel free to share this information with them or contact the district.

Rhame third grade students planted in the flower beds in celebration of Earth Day. Fourth grade students participated in an Earth Day Fair consisting of enjoying a garbage free snack outside, listening to the story "Sticks", participated in Recycle Relays, and planted flowers in the front of the building. Kindergarten and first grade students created treasure from their trash. At Centre, second grade students culminated their learning from Agricultural Literacy Day with planting flowers. A special thank you to Mr. Daly and the Facilities Department for donating the flowers to our students. Centre and Rhame fourth, fifth and sixth graders are now participating in before school Chorus, Orchestra, and Band.

East Rockaway High School sophomore Clare Acuti was part of the Team up for Unity - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative on May 5th. Claire, one of only 12 students selected from Nassau County, served as moderator, and had previously attended monthly workshops regarding student athletes being a force in the fight against racism and discrimination.

Seventh grader Luna Monge is this year's winner of the middle school Advisory t-shirt

design contest. This year's theme was overcoming challenges and rising to the occasion and all students were invited to submit a design. The t-shirts will be distributed to all middle school students in the coming weeks.

Senior Fun Day took place at East Rockaway High School on Saturday, May 15th. The Class of 2021 had the opportunity to Tie Dye shirts, decorate cupcakes, and play various games in the gym before having a pizza lunch on the front lawn.

Planning is underway for the East Rockaway High School, One School, One Book Initiative. Aligned to the themes of equity and diversity, all students and staff will be given their own copy of *I Am Malala*. A kickoff is scheduled for June, with students reading the book as their summer reading assignment. The book will be used throughout next school year to bring our school together upon our return in September.

Members of the counseling team participated in a panel with Bates, Davidson, Oberlin, and Occidental to learn more about academic opportunities, financial aid, and the student experience at these top liberal arts colleges. Panelists discussed how admissions processes adapted in the era of COVID-19, including what the new application landscape looks like, test-optional policies, and how students can connect with colleges virtually.

## 12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to Patricia Refino and family on the arrival of her son Lincoln John on April 24, 2021.
- B. Congratulations to Doreen Johnson and family on the arrival of her grandson, Brooks Ragnvald, on April 20, 2021.
- C. Congratulations to Joseph Lores and family on the arrival of his granddaughter, Charlotte Justine on May 8. Additional congratulations to Jimmy Lores, Great Uncle to Charlotte Justine.
- D. Congratulations to Casey Wise and family on the arrival of her daughter, Maisie Shea on May 14, 2021.
- E. Congratulations to Brianne Allgier and family on the arrival of her daughter, Maeve Elizabeth Jude on May 17, 2021.
- F. Congratulations to Claire Maini and family on the arrival of her granddaughter, Violet Brynn Maini on May 19, 2021.
- G. Condolences to the Vasquez family on the passing of Alvaro Vasquez, a former graduate of East Rockaway High School.
- H. Condolences to the Reilly Family on the passing of Kristiana Reilly on April 21, 2021.
- I. Condolences to Frank Altamore and family on the passing of his father Frank Altamore, Jr.
- J. Condolences to Debra Muller and family on the passing of her grandmother, Frances Pulomena on May 14, 2021.
- K. Condolences to Maureen Schutta and family on the passing of her father, Joseph Schutta.

- L. Condolences to Muharrem Karakas and family on the passing of his mother Ayse Karakas on April 22, 2021.
- M. Condolences to Duke Tullo and family on the passing of his wife, retired music teacher, Barbara Tullo, on May 24, 2021.

### 13. Public Comments

Randi O'Moore: Mrs. O'Moore congratulated Mr. Vulpis on his reelection to the Board. She thanked all those involved, including prior members of the Board of Education, in the construction of the new turf field. There is one item that she would like to see addressed by the Communications Sub-Committee which will not be meeting until the fall. She believes that teachers should be in more communication with parents. Mr. Vulpis stated that he will make sure this item gets added to the agenda when the committee meets again.

### 14. Board Member Comments

Joseph Kilgus: Mr. Kilgus congratulated Mrs. O'Hagan on receiving the award from the NYSSBA. He also congratulated Mr. Vulpis on being reelected. There is no better person for the job, and he is looking forward to working with him. Mr. Kilgus thanked the community for passing the budget. It is a big win for the district and for the kids.

Peter McNally: Mr. McNally agreed with everything Mr. Kilgus said. Congrats to Mrs. O'Hagan on a well-deserved award. Congrats to Mr. Vulpis on his reelection to the board. He also congratulated all the music and art winners for a job well done as well as all the staff members who received tenure this evening. Mr. McNally enjoyed hearing about all the tenure candidates from their administrators and watching the video tributes. It added a personal touch to those staff members. It was a great night!

Kristen O'Hagan: I would like to thank Superintendent Ruiz and my fellow Board members for your kind words and thank you to NYSSBA for the recognition this evening. I consider myself a life-long learner and this is a position where learning is continuous and key for making the best decisions for our schools. Education is something I hold dear to my heart and it is an honor to serve this district.

Thank you to the community for supporting the school budget and propositions, congratulations to Mr. Vulpis on your re-election, and again I would like to recognize and thank Ms. Scerio for all her hard work throughout the budget process. Congratulations to all the staff members who received tenure this evening. This is an exciting milestone in your career, and I wish you continued successes in your positions as teachers, chair-people, and social workers. To those recognized for art and music this evening. Your talent is tremendous and your passion shines through your work and abilities.

Thank you to the district administrative team and staff for working creatively on end of year ceremonies and celebrations. These are events and milestones we all look forward to and the students deserve. Enjoy these final weeks in a very challenging year

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis gave a “shout-out” to the administration, teachers, parents, PTA, and community for passing the budget. Mrs. Scio did a fantastic job and our community went out and proved it. Tonight’s granting of tenure is not simply a “rubber stamp.” It is an ongoing process over many years. We are listening about the programs they teach and how they are getting more students learning. Many thanks to Ms. Ruiz for working with the board and making these presentations better as we learn more about the staff in our schools.

The policy committee, (Ms. Ruiz, Mrs. O’Hagan, and Mr. McNally) met recently and discussed Policy 0105, Equity, Inclusivity, and Diversity in Education. He thanked them for their work on this very important policy. We are going slowly with revisions to this policy and gathering as much information before adopting it. Mr. Vulpis congratulated Franklin Infante who had two sports in the top 100. He believes he is the only student in the district to have attained that distinction. Mr. Vulpis congratulated Mrs. Hecht on her future endeavor and thanked her for her years of service in the East Rockaway School District. He thanked the audience for coming out tonight in person.

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 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi  
District Clerk