

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 26, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. in the auditorium of Rocky Point High School.

Present: Susan Sullivan, President
Edward Casswell, Trustee
Michael Lisa, Trustee
Jessica Ward, Trustee
Scott O'Brien, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Susann Crossan, Assistant Superintendent
Christopher Van Cott, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Kelly White, District Clerk

Absent: Sean Callahan, Vice President

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6 p.m. a motion was made by Ed Casswell, and seconded by Michael Lisa, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Sullivan addressed the meeting attendees. She thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts at Monday night's Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Sullivan added that she understands everyone's frustrations. She announced that the Board of Education will be approving the 2021-2022 Opening Plan at tonight's meeting without a determination regarding mask wearing for students, staff and visitors. Mrs. Sullivan explained that Governor Hochul recently advised that she would be directing the state Department of Health to mandate masks indoors for all schools throughout the state. However, at this time they have not received this directive. Once they are advised of the requirements, they will finalize the opening plans in regards to mask wearing.

Mrs. Sullivan opened the floor to questions/comments regarding the agenda.

There were no questions/comments.

I SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Ed Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves for surplus the following attached list of equipment.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

II SEQRA (STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT) RESOLUTION - HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM SEATING REPLACEMENT

Upon a motion made by Ed Casswell, and seconded by Michael Lisa, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvement projects:

- Auditorium Renovations (1) Replacement of auditorium seating (2) Patch and repair floor (3) Paint flooring below seating (the “Projects”); and

WHEREAS, said capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2); and

WHEREAS, the SEQRA Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the Project is classified as a Type II Action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1) and (2) of the SEQRA Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, after a review of the proposed action, hereby declares that the Projects are Type II Actions, which requires no further review under SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed project from the New York State Education Department.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

III BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF 2021-2022 SCHOOL OPENING PLAN, AS WRITTEN WITH FLEXIBILITY

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Jessica Ward, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reviews and adopts the 2021-2022 School Opening Plan as written with flexibility.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

IV PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Ed Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

V NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Sullivan inquired of the trustees if there was any new business they wished to discuss.

There was no new business.

Once again Mrs. Sullivan invited the meeting attendees for questions/comments.

- Ms. Olivo reminded the Board of an email that she sent them and asked that the Board stay true to their values when making their determination of mask wearing. She advocated for parental choice.
- Mr. Pinkenburg inquired of the mask policy for today's 9th grade orientation. Dr. O'Brien reiterated the email that was sent to the High School community that stated mask wearing by all was strongly encouraged. It also stated that those unvaccinated were required to wear masks while indoors.
- A gentleman spoke regarding side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine such as blood clots, severe heart conditions and bell's palsy. He stated the Board of Education has an obligation to ensure the community member's freedom.
- Ms. Curtin spoke regarding health issues as a result of mask wearing. She reminded the Board of a survey she spoke about at a previous meeting regarding parents home schooling their children as an alternative to mask wearing. Ms. Curtin stated that she was meeting with Assemblyman Giglio and Senator Palumbo and asked the Board to join the meeting and take a stand.

There were no further questions/comments.

VI Adjournment

At 7:17 p.m. a motion was made by Ed Casswell, and seconded by Michael Lisa, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly White
District Clerk