

MINUTES

ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING December 17, 2012

I Meeting called to Order: 6:03 PM

Present: Michael Nofi, President – 6:10 PM
Diane Burke, Vice President
Kathleen Heggers, Trustee – 6:12 PM
Scott Reh, Trustee
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Deborah De Luca, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
Gregory Hilton, School Business Official
Mary Berretta, Assistant District Clerk

Absent: Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:04 PM John Lessler made a motion and Scott Reh seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel.

All in favor – Motion carried 3-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:05 PM

Mr. Nofi requested the audience to please remain standing after the pledge for moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Ring thanked the Board for a moment of silence. Dr. Ring made a brief statement concerning the events of December 14th at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

JOHN DEBENEDETTO, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL

- Members of the HS Band and Singing Santas performed at the Annual Rocky Point Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday December 1st.
- Members of the Art Honor Society have set up a holiday “Giving Tree” in the main office and are collecting gifts for families in need within the community.

- The Singing Santas held their annual holiday concert on Saturday, December 15th. The BANN club and the Singing Santas raised close to \$2,000 to donate to families in need. The Singing Santas also helped to spread the holiday cheer by performing at several nursing homes in the area. A special thanks goes out to Brooke Bonomi for his hard work and dedication to the Singing Santas during the month of December.
- On Friday, Dec. 14, a charity basketball game was played with members of the school's staff against the AMP 1 basketball team, which is comprised of amputee players from around the country. Donations from the game, a Chinese auction which was organized by the Booster Club as well as collection of cleaning supplies were raised for victims of super storm Sandy.
- The Governor's office hosted an Electoral College event that included select high school classes from across New York. County Executive Steve Bellone selected Rocky Point Union Free School District to represent Suffolk County at the Electoral College proceedings on Monday, 12/17. Mr. McCormick chaperoned 10 of our AP Government students as they toured the capital and observed the Electoral process.
- The HS Winter Concert will be held on Thursday December 20th. It features performances by the HS Orchestra, 9th and 10th Grade Band, HS Chorus and the 11th and 12th Grade Band.
- Just in time for the Winter Recess, 2nd quarter progress reports will be posted on the Portal on Friday, December 21st.
- All of our 10 fall varsity teams receive SCHOLAR Athlete Team recognition, 2 years in a row!
- Mr. DeBenedetto invited Ms. Agnesini to join him to acknowledge two students for their excellence in Physical Education. Suffolk Zone of New York State AHPERD recognized Sidarth Menon and Angela Torriero for their outstanding leadership in Physical Education. Ms. Agnesini had a certificate for each student.
- Mr. DeBenedetto wished all a happy and health holiday season and a Happy New Year

DR. SCOTT O'BRIEN, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

- **"AMP 1 Stand Up Basketball"**

The high school and middle school hosted an exciting program this past Friday called, "AMP 1 Stand Up Basketball" where amputee players from around the country who suffered the loss of a limb are united through their love of basketball. These players came to the HS and MS on Friday, December 14th, to speak to our students about overcoming tragedy, disability awareness, and positive peer interactions.

On Friday evening, the AMP 1 team played a basketball game against a team from Rocky Point comprised of staff from both buildings. Special thanks to the Rocky Point Booster Club for showing their support as well as selling refreshments throughout the event. All proceeds from the AMP 1 event supported Sandy Relief.

- **December PTA Book Fair:**

The PTA hosted their second Middle School Book fair of the year last week for all Middle School students. Special thanks to the PTA and all parent volunteers for their support of this event.

- **MS Music Concerts**

Congratulations to our Middle School students for their Winter Concert performances that were held this week under the direction of Ms. Schecher, Mr. Ragona, Mrs. Ruggiero, Mr. Butcher, Mrs. Donovan and Mrs. Gatto. They proved once again just how talented our students are and what they can bring to the holiday season.

- **Giving Back**

The students and staff at the Rocky Point Middle School continued to support our local community throughout the month of December. Students and staff collected hundreds of new gifts as part of our Holiday Drive. I would like to thank our guidance department for overseeing this project and helping to distribute these items to those in need in our community. I would also like to thank the entire Middle School staff for their generous support of this drive.

- **MS Robotics**

The new Rocky Point MS Robotics Club participated in their first Robotics League Tournament earlier this month at Farmingdale State College. With Dr. Pinkenburg's assistance, club advisor Mr. Moorman and Dorothy Burns were able to enter two teams into the tournament. In that this was our first tournament, we entered with no expectations other than to enjoy the experience.

There were four rounds of competition among 38 teams. Through the first three rounds our "Radical Robotix" team managed to hold on to 1st place with the RP "Robo Eagles" sat securely in 5th place. After the 4th and final round, team "Radical Robotix" narrowly missed 1st place by 3 pts and finished in second. Team "Robo Eagles" managed to remain in the top 10 with an 8th place finish.

For our first tournament, to have 2 teams in the top 10 out of a field of 38 teams is a remarkable accomplishment. Congratulations!

Looking ahead . . .

- **Progress Reports**

Posted to Parent Portal on Friday, December 21st

- **NJHS**

The induction ceremony for our 8th grade students into the National Junior Honor Society will take place on Thursday, January 17th at the High School at 7PM. Congratulations to all 8th grade NJHS inductees.

Mr. DeBenedetto joined Dr O'Brien at the podium at which time a letter was read from a community member praising two young students who after Hurricane Sandy volunteered to help her with her yard cleanup free of charge. The two students are Tyler Dluginski, who is a high school student and Lawrence Bastianelli-Conlon (Tyler's stepbrother), who is a middle school student. They were presented with a certificate for community service.

On behalf of everyone at the Middle School, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

LINDA TOWLEN, PRINCIPAL, JOSEPH A. EDGAR SCHOOL

- Our parent-teacher conferences took place during the last days of November. Thank you to our parents for your active participation. It is very important to have strong home/ school partnerships in order to support our students in achieving success.
- On December 4th, members representing the New York Islanders visited JAE to share with our students the importance of teamwork, a strong education and being a good citizen. It was a great event! Special thanks to Maria Amoscato for planning this event.
- Our first concert took place on Wednesday, December 5th at the high school auditorium. This event was an evening of holiday spirit and cheer! The chorus students had been working very hard to prepare for this exciting evening. I would like to thank Mr. Knapp for his work with our students and the third grade chorus students, fourth and fifth grade Intermediate chorus students and the fifth grade select chorus "High Notes" for their performances.
- The winter musical, "*A Dickens of a Christmas*" will be presented on December 19th. The musical is being performed by our fifth grade "High Notes" chorus. The performance will take place in the old gym at 7PM. There will be two in-school performances on Friday, December 21. Families that attend the evening performance are encouraged to bring in nonperishable food items or warm weather clothing for a donation.
- Students in Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Celentano, Ms. Jackson, and Ms. Banigan's classes donated pajamas and Scholastic Book Clubs matched our donation with picture and chapter books. All donations were given to a local shelter. The event culminated in a writing celebration on December 7th.
- Third grade students will be taking a ride on the Polar Express on the last day of school in December. They will read the story, have hot chocolate and enjoy their classmates for a special day.
- The staff of JAE is once again donating holiday packages to our families in order to make sure that everyone has a wonderful holiday. Thanks to all of those that support this project. Our student council will be volunteering their time and energy at the soup kitchen this month. They will also be creating the "Giving Tree" in the library. The tree will be filled with donated mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and socks which will be given to a local church for our community members.

- The holiday season is a time to celebrate and be thankful. The entire staff at JAE would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year!

VIRGINIA GIBBONS, PRINCIPAL, FRANK J. CARASITI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- December at Frank J. Carasiti School has been filled with activity and excitement. Our Native American Pow Wow and food drives were very successful.
- Mrs. Adamski and the FJC angel committee hosted an angel breakfast to garner staff support for families during this holiday season. Additionally, Mrs. Adamski is coordinating with JAE in organizing a pajama drive. On December 14th to celebrate what we hope to be a successful pajama drive, the children are invited to wear their favorite PJs and join Dr. Herbert and me as we read The Polar Express, by Chris Van Allsburg.
- On December 4th, Ms. Kenwood led our second grade chorus in the Winter Concert, The FJC Jingle Bell Hop. The students entertained a packed audience, their melodious voices and bright smiles lit the HS auditorium.
- We look forward to our chorus singing holiday favorites at our school-wide Winter Sing-A-Long on Thursday, December 20th. Ms. Kenwood and Mr. Ventura have been busy teaching our children new melodies. Mrs. Buonconsiglio and Mr. West have been adding to the festive spirit as well. Kindergarten students will be donning black and white and wearing handmade penguin hats, first graders will be dressed all in white with snowmen on their caps, and second graders will lead the way as reindeer with antlers.
- Individual classes will be hosting holiday celebrations during the last week of school and on Monday, we will be eagerly awaiting carolers from the HS who plan to stroll the halls of FJC and spread cheer and good will.
- Mrs. PK has invited all of the children to write letters to Santa as a Make-a Wish fundraiser. This is a wonderful way for our students to address the common core writing standards.
- In the midst of all of this holiday frenzy, our students continue to add to their knowledge base in ELA, math and the content areas.
- On behalf of the staff at FJC, I would like to extend our warmest wishes to the Board of Education and the Rocky Point Sound Beach families this season. We hope everyone enjoys a happy and healthy holiday and a wonderful New Year.

Dr Ring thanked County Executive Steve Bellone for selecting Rocky Point Union Free School District to represent Suffolk County at the Electoral College proceedings, an event that included a few selected local high school classes from across New York.

Dr. Ring also thanked Councilwoman Jane Bonner for being instrumental in getting the driver feed back devices on Rocky Point-Yaphank Road running properly.

Mr. Nofi opened up the microphone for questions/comments.

Jessica Ward has four children in our schools. She read a prepared statement regarding the safety of our students.

Mr. Nofi briefly responded that the safety of our children is our first and foremost concern.

Dr. Ring spoke briefly about SAVE legislation and security measures currently in place throughout the District.

Jennifer Intravia spoke about assemblies the district previously hosted to educate students about various disabilities. She asked the Board if they would be done again.

Dr. Ring briefly responded about Asperger's, bullying and assemblies.

Jody Lomas briefly spoke about Friday's situation and students with disabilities. She also wanted to thank the Board and staff for all of their support.

Lee Renna read a prepared statement regarding the book "Persepolis" which was given to a 10th grade English class as an assignment. He indicated his, and his wife's, disagreement with the assignment due to the contents of the book. He suggested two alternate books and would like to see a system available that allows parents to view the book before the assignment.

Mr. Nofi responded that the Board and administration are aware of the book and it will remain part of the curriculum and that an alternate book may be offered for the assignment for those that have a reasonable objection to "Persepolis".

Mr. Nofi stated at this time we would move to the formal part of the agenda and there will be another opportunity for questions/comments.

MINUTES

Upon the motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Board of Education meeting be accepted as presented: Regular Meeting, November 19, 2012.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TREASURER’S REPORTS

Upon the motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Kathleen Heggens, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer’s Reports for the month of November 2012 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

Upon the motion made by Kathleen Heggens and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Reports for the month of November 2012 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon the motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of November 2012 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2012

Upon the motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the November 2012 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2012

Upon the motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Kathleen Hegggers, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the November 2012 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SURPLUS ITEMS

Upon the motion made by Kathleen Hegggers and seconded by Diane Burke, 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.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SURPLUS TEXTBOOKS

Upon the motion made by Diane Burke seconded by John Lessler, 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 textbooks.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SALE OF 1998 CHEVROLET VENTURE THROUGH AUCTIONS INTERNATIONAL

Upon the motion made by John Lessler seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the sale of the 1998 Chevrolet Venture Mini Van, VIN number 1GNDX03E5WD259418, for \$410.00, the highest bid, through Auctions International, Inc.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE NATRUAL GAS PURCHADE THROUGH SUFFOLK COUNTY NATURAL GAS - RFP 2012-2013

Upon the motion made by Scott Reh seconded by Kathleen Hegggers, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the attached resolution to authorize the purchase of natural gas through Suffolk County Natural Gas – RFP 2012-2013, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED 2012-2013 SCHOOL CALENDAR

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the amended 2012-2013 school calendar as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi asked Dr. Ring to explain the amended school calendar.

Dr. Ring briefly explained the calendar. He also stated a letter explaining the change in the calendar along with the new calendar would be on the website and will also be added to the virtual backpack.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Upon the motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association for the purpose of revising the 2012-2013 school calendar.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

APPROVAL OF THE 2012-2015 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE ROCKY POINT ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION

Upon the motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015, between the Board of Education and the Rocky Point Administrators' Association. Be it further resolved that the Board authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said Collective Bargaining Agreement on behalf of the Board.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEE

Upon the motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Kathleen Heggens, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the employment agreement between the Board of Education and Mrs. Loretta Sanchez. Be it further resolved that the Board authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said employment agreement on behalf of the Board.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon the motion made by Kathleen Heggens and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 12-17-12-A and Schedule 12-17-12- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

PERSONNEL

Upon the motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by John Lessler, 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 5-0

Mr. Nofi opened up the microphone for questions/comments.

Kathy Conner asked in reference to the amended calendar, how will it be handled for staff that already have reservations.

Dr. Ring responded that he is not recommending any special accommodations for staff with existing reservations. Dr. Ring further indicated that all staff should act accordingly when planning for the March break.

Daniel Vedder, a retired teacher, commented about the life insurance that retirees continue after they retired and how they are no longer covered under the District's policy.

Mr. Nofi briefly spoke about the old policy and that a conversion feature exists, but probably at a higher rate. He also discussed the contractual issues.

Mr. Vedder was not sure of the effective cutoff date for the old policy.

Mr. Nofi suggested that he call the insurance broker.

Tina Bogart spoke about how the 7th grade textbooks are not being used with regards to homework assignments. eBoard has all of the assignments but it does not coincide with the textbook chapters.

Dr. Ring asked if she had spoken to either the building principal or the teacher. Mrs. Bogart indicated that she had not spoken with either the teacher or building principal, to which Dr. Ring suggested she contact these individuals regarding this matter and contact the District Office if continues to have concerns following these conversations.

Ms. Bogart also spoke about children with disabilities.

Tyler Dluginski and Lawrence Bastianelli-Conlon, the two students who were honored for their community service, thanked the Board of Education for recognizing them.

Ms. Intravaia asked if anyone was having issues with email. She indicated that she was experiencing trouble with connecting with the school.

Dr. Ring responded there have been no issues but would check with Ms. Wilson.

There were no further questions/comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.58 PM a motion was made by Diane Burke and seconded by Kathleen Heggers that the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted

Mary Berretta
Assistant District Clerk