

**MINUTES  
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS BOARD OF  
EDUCATION MEETING  
March 14, 2022**

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Rocky Point High School conference room.

Present: Susan Sullivan, President  
Edward Casswell, Vice President  
Gregory Amendola, Trustee (Joined meeting at 7:07 p.m. after being sworn into office)  
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:

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:30 p.m. a motion was made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Michael Lisa, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss confidential legal and specific personnel issues.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Ed Casswell, the Board adjourned Executive Session at 6 p.m. to attend the Budget Workshop presented by Christopher Van Cott.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

At 6:25 p.m., upon completion of the Budget Workshop, a motion was made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Ed Casswell, for the Board to return to Executive Session to continue their discussions regarding confidential legal and personnel matters.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:04 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Sullivan announced that Mr. Gregory Amendola would be filling the vacant Board of Education Trustee seat until the budget vote and election.

At 7:07 p.m. Gregory Amendola was sworn into office as Board of Education Trustee filling an unexpired term commencing immediately and terminating upon the conclusion of the trustee election to be conducted at the next Annual Meeting, which is scheduled to take place on May 17, 2022.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

Dr. O’Brien spoke about the last two weeks, noting last Wednesday as the day that masks became optional in our schools. He added that school cafeteria and library tables were brought back, replacing the individual snack tables that allowed for social distancing. Dr. O’Brien directed the attendees to view the changes on the updated opening plan, posted on the district’s website.

Dr. O’Brien thanked the Booster Club for a very successful sold out basketball event on Saturday night in the High School Gymnasium, hosting the Harlem Wizards against Rocky Point Faculty. He thanked the administrators, teachers, staff and volunteers for their time and effort put into planning such an enjoyable evening. Dr. O’Brien extended a special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Weisman from the Booster Club for their hard work, making it such a memorable night.

Dr. O’Brien announced that a 9-period day was being proposed, to begin September 2023. He added that this was dependent on Foundation Aid funding which will be announced at the beginning of next year. Dr. O’Brien stated that additional information would be available in the coming months.

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

There were no questions/comments.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The items listed below are presented as part of the Consent Agenda which can be adopted by the Board of Education under a single motion followed by a second and then a formal vote. On the following page the Consent Agenda items are listed in their regular order within a group. Before an actual vote is taken, any Consent Agenda item may be removed by a Board member without a formal motion or second. If this occurs, the indicated resolution will be discussed during its regular order on the agenda and voted on individually.

### **III-IX CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the following agenda items as one item.

- III: Minutes** – Regular Meeting February 7, 2022;
- IV Budget Transfer Summary** – January and February 2022
- V: Treasurer’s Reports** – January and February 2022
- VI: Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer’s Report** – January and February 2022
- VII: Financial Reports** – January and February 2022
- VIII: Internal Claims Audit Report** – January and February 2022
- IX: Committees on Special Education Schedules 3-14-22-A and 3-14-22-B**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**X DONATION FROM OHIOPYLE PRINTS, INC.**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and accepts the donation from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District hereby approves upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to increase the general fund budget by \$29.07 as a result of the donation from Ohiopyle Prints. Inc.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the following budget code be adjusted to reflect that increase:

A2110 500 03 0000 \$29.07

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XI DR. JOHN HAGGERTY SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and accepts the donation on behalf of the Dr. John Haggerty Memorial Scholarship, totaling \$1,020.00, as follows:

Maureen Haggerty	\$900
Kathleen/Dominick Yovino	\$ 60
Monica Manning	\$ 40
Todd Grathwohl	\$ 20

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked all those who donated.

**XII INTERDISTRICT COUNCIL OF SUPERINTENDENTS – DONATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, 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 and accepts the \$500 donation from the Interdistrict Council of Superintendents, to be deposited in the Scholarship Fund-CM-2020.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XIII                    LIVE LIKE SUSIE DONATION**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and accepts the donation on behalf of the Live Like Susie Scholarship, totaling \$100 as follows:

Robert Lauritsen / Elizabeth Lauritsen                    \$100

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked the Lauritsen’s for their donation.

**XIV                    SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Gregory Amendola, 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 lists of equipment.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XV                    SEQRA (STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT)  
RESOLUTION – 2022 – 2023 CAPITAL PROJECTS (SUBJECT TO  
VOTER APPROVAL)**

Upon a motion made by Gregory Amendola 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 on the following capital improvement projects:

**ROCKY POINT MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL:**

- Retrofit LED Lighting for Tennis Courts and Upper Turf Field
- Install LED Pole Lighting at Lower Turf
- Construct Lower Turf Seating Area and Improve Drainage
- High School Burglar Alarm
- Middle School Floor Tile Replacement

**JOSEPH A. EDGAR SCHOOL:**

- Playground and Surface Replacement
- Burglar Alarm

**FRANK J. CARASITI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:**

- Playground, Surface Replacement and Related Site Work
- Burglar Alarm

(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 5-0

## **XVI                    RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FINAL 2022-2023 PROPERTY TAX CAP FORM**

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, 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 the final Rocky Point Union Free School District Property Tax Cap form, as attached.

Motion carried 4-0

1 Abstention – Gregory Amendola

**XVII            MOTION TO DESTROY BALLOTS CAST, SPOILED AND UNUSED  
AT THE MAY 18, 2021 ANNUAL DISTRICT BUDGET VOTE AND  
BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Education Law Section 2034, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the District Clerk to destroy all of the ballots cast, spoiled and unused for the May 18, 2021 Annual District Budget Vote and Board of Education Election, no earlier than March 14, 2022.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XVIII            2021-2022 HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACTS**

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Gregory Amendola, 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 and the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an agreement for health services for the 2021-2022 school year with the following districts:

Center Moriches Union Free School District  
Smithtown Central School District  
West Islip Union Free School District

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XIX            SACHEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR  
CONTRACT**

Upon a motion made by Gregory Amendola and seconded by Michael Lisa, 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 enter into a contract with Sachem Central School District for special education students' instructional services for the 2021-22 school year as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or District Policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XX SPECIAL EDUCATION SOLE SOURCE VENDOR – POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT CONSULTING & PSYCHOLOGICAL RESOURCE, INC.**

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, 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 Positive Behavior Support Consulting & Psychological Resource, Inc. for special education evaluation services, as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or District Policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XXI SPECIAL EDUCATION SOLE SOURCE VENDOR – DR. JESSICA SCHER LISA**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves Dr. Jessica Scher Lisa, clinical psychologist, for special education evaluation services, as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or District Policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XXII ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR – COMPLETE REHABILITATION**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Rocky Point Union Free School District to enter into a Service Agreement with Complete Rehabilitation PT, OT, SLP of the Hamptons, PLLC for Orientation and Mobility Training and Evaluations, for the 2021-2022 school year, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XXIII APPOINTMENT OF IMPARTIAL HEARING OFFICER**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board appoints Kenneth Ritzenberg, from the New York State Education Department's Impartial hearing rotational list to serve as the Impartial Hearing Officer in the matter of a demand hearing for a classified student, initiated by the parent on February 4, 2022.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

## **XXIV EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT – DOROTHY TIS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rocky Point UFSD approves the employment agreement between the Board of Education and Dorothy Tis, Secretarial Assistant, and authorizes the president of the Board of Education to execute same on behalf of the Board of Education.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

## **XXV PERSONNEL**

Upon a motion made by Ed Casswell, and seconded by Jessica Ward, 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, as presented.

Motion carried 4-0

1 Abstention – Jessica Ward

## **XXVI NEW BUSINESS**

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

At 7:21 p.m. Ms. Ward shared that they will be proceeding with the formation of a Legislative Committee. She added that they will be soliciting members from each facet of the community including, but not limited to members of the PTA, RPTA and SRP unions. Ms. Ward announced that their first meeting is scheduled to take place in May or June where they will set the agenda for the upcoming school year. Anyone interested in joining the committee should reach out to Ms. Ward.

There was no further new business.

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

- Mr. Cohn advocated for a 9-period school day. He expressed a concern that other schools were able to make the transition without the contingency of additional funding. Mr. Cohn emphasized the importance of adequate recess time as well as the elimination of the need for special education students to choose between resource room and LOTE. He urged the Board to strive to, not only meet the minimum requirements, but to exceed them.

- Ms. Subject shared her frustration that the 9-period day plan is contingent upon additional funding. She voiced concerns that some students are currently forced to give up their lunch period at a time where socialization is very important. Ms. Subject added that difficult class choices had to be made due to only having an 8-period day.
- Ms. Cohn reiterated concern that the students are being forced to make unfair sacrifices when choosing their classes due to the limits of the 8-period school day. She also stressed the importance of the need to play, socialization and learning peoples skills. Ms. Cohn asked for assurances that the 9-period day plan would come to fruition.
- Ms. Weisman expressed her appreciation, on behalf of the Booster Club, to Mrs. Crossan, Dr. O'Brien and Mr. Delargy for the great success of the Wizards game. She also thanked the players: Mr. Apicella, Ms. Boyle, Mr. Bullis, Mr. Capell, Mr. Colon, Mr. Connelly, Mr. Delargy, Mr. Durney, Ms. Fisher, Mr. LaRosa, Ms. Larson, Ms. Licata, Ms. McGuire, Ms. Neckin, Dr. O'Brien, Ms. Serpico, Mr. Stern, Mr. Westerlund and Mr. Yashowitz. Additionally, Mrs. Weisman thanked the scorekeeper - Mr. Maggio, the referee - Mr. Moorman and the coach - Mr. Moeller and all of the volunteers that donated their time and contributed to such a successful night.
- Dr. Pinkenburg shared his excitement hearing a plan for a 9-period day and its allowance for additional electives. He reiterated concerns of long bathroom lines during school. Dr. O'Brien suggested he reach out to the Principal to discuss his concerns.
- Mr. Contes inquired if hard copy books were still being utilized. He also asked if they were able to be recycled or receive a rebate for the unused books. Mrs. Sullivan and Dr. O'Brien stated that they would look into it.
- Ms. Kelly asked if the extra help period would still exist in the 9-period school day. Dr. O'Brien explained that the details have not been finalized. Ms. Kelly also inquired when the RPTA contract was set to expire. Dr. O'Brien stated the current contract expires in 2025. Ms. Kelly asked if there was an existing policy to include checking identification for vendors that work within the school buildings. Dr. O'Brien shared that most of the work is completed outside of school hours. He added that if emergency repairs were needed, vendors would follow the same procedures as parents when entering the school.
- Ms. McCarthy spoke regarding a specific representative from an outside agency and his inappropriate behavior towards a student. She stressed the importance of security protocols. Dr. O'Brien stated he would discuss this further in private, along with the Principal.
- Ms. Solano inquired as to where to find the COVID-19 positive rate information. Dr. O'Brien directed her to a website containing daily reports that allows you to search by both town or school district.
- Ms. Vergara brought forth concerns with the high number of hours of screen time associated with the use of the school issued chromebooks. She inquired if there is a plan to continue with the electronic learning format. Dr. O'Brien stated that chromebooks would continue to be used along with hard copy materials as well.

- Ms. Walsh stressed her concern with a 9-period day being contingent upon receiving additional aid. She requested to know where the COVID aid funds have been spent. Mr. Van Cott advised that the American Rescue Plan containing all planned expenditures can be located on the District's website homepage. Ms. Walsh also spoke about the importance of not allowing COVID testing of students in school.
- Mr. Ford advocated for a 9-period day and provided comparisons of instructional minutes in neighboring school districts.
- Mr. Diesa spoke regarding the auditor's report and the high employee overtime expenditures during a period when the buildings were not open. Mr. Van Cott clarified the timeline of the audit report, noting it was pre-pandemic, from July 1, 2017 – April 2019.
- Ms. Diesa inquired if our school district has been penalized or fined as a result of not being in compliance with the required number of instructional hours. Dr. O'Brien explained that there have been no fines or penalties, as a waiver for RPUFSD was filed with and approved by the NYSED.  
Ms. Diesa asked if the 9-period day could be put into action earlier than proposed. Mrs. Sullivan shared that they are actively working on plans but are not able to implement this change earlier than expected. She clarified that it does not have to wait until the RPTA's contract is up in 2025 as they can amend it, but it cannot start prior to September 2023 due to the immense amount of necessary planning required. Dr. O'Brien added that contracts with the bus company as well as course selection would not allow for the newly structured day to begin in the middle of the school year.

There were no further questions/comments.

## **XXVII            ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:21 p.m. Michael Lisa made a motion, and Jessica Ward seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly White  
District Clerk