

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 8, 2024

Mrs. Jessica Ward called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in Rocky Point High School Room 121A.

Present: Jessica Ward, President
Michael Lisa, Vice President
Edward Casswell, Trustee
Susan Sullivan, Trustee
Erin Walsh, Trustee
Scott O'Brien, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Susann Crossan, Assistant Superintendent
Christopher Van Cott, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Aaron Factor, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Loretta Sanchez, Assistant District Clerk

Absent: Kelly White, District Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:30 p.m., a motion was made by Erin Walsh and seconded by Susan Sullivan to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel and legal matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:33 p.m.

Mrs. Ward asked Mr. Christopher Van Cott to the podium to present the Partial Property Tax Exemption Public Hearing.

Mr. Van Cott gave the presentation on the matter of the proposed resolutions affording partial real property tax relief to those residents qualifying for such under the terms of the cited NY Real Property Tax Law sections. After concluding the presentation (copy attached), Mr. Van Cott asked if there were any questions of the Board of Education or the audience. There were no questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:35 p.m., a motion was made by Susan Sullivan and seconded by Michael Lisa to return to Executive Session to further discuss confidential personnel and legal matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

The Board returned to Open Session and the meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. O'Brien presented the Mid-Year Strategic Planning Implementation Report to the audience. Ms. Traci Baldi-Cozzolino asked if the presentation would be released to the public. Dr. O'Brien advised that copies were available on the tables at the back of the auditorium and the report would be emailed and available on the website the following day.

Mrs. Ward opened the floor to questions and/or comments from the meeting attendees regarding items on the board agenda only. She reminded the audience of the rules regarding public comment.

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-VII CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Susan Sullivan, 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 December 11, 2023
- IV: Treasurer's Reports** – December 2023
- V: Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer's Report** – December 2023
- VI: Financials** - December 2023
- VII: Committees on Special Education Schedules 1-8-24-A and 1-8-24-B** as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

VIII AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ("ARP") GRANT AMENDMENTS RESOLUTION

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan, and seconded by Erin Walsh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby affirms the attached grant amendments submitted to the New York State Education Department related to the American Rescue Plan ("ARP") program funds.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

IX LIVE LIKE SUSIE DONATION

Upon a motion made by Erin Walsh, and seconded by Edward 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 donation on behalf of the Live Like Susie Scholarship, totaling \$500.00, as follows: Maura McHugh-Andrews/Gerard D. Andrews, \$500.00.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Ward thanked the McHugh-Andrews family for their generous donation.

X SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell, 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 approve for surplus the following attached list of equipment.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XI EDUCATIONAL DATA NY/LONG ISLAND COOPERATIVE SERVICES 2024-25

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business to enter into an agreement with Educational Data Services, Inc. for participation in cooperative bids for the purchase of supplies, materials, and equipment for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XII PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan, and seconded by Erin Walsh, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has duly conducted a Public Hearing, as required by statute, this 8th day of January, 2024 on the matter of the proposed resolutions affording partial real property tax relief to those residents qualifying for such under the terms of the cited NY Real Property Tax Law sections;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, to separately adopt resolutions effecting the real property tax reliefs as follows:

a) RPTL Section 467 – to adopt the real property tax relief afforded senior citizens under the terms of the amendments of Chapter 59 of the NYS Laws of 2023, by way of increasing the income limits pursuant to the attached chart; and, further, to define “income” as provided for and as permitted under the amended statute and as set forth within the attached resolution adopted by the Town of Brookhaven.

b) RPTL Section 459C – to adopt the real property tax relief (Basic Minimum) afforded qualified persons with disabilities with limited incomes under the terms of the amendments of Chapter 59 of the NYS Laws of 2023 under the terms of the attached chart; and, further, to define “income” and “disability” as provided for and as permitted under the amended statute and as set forth within the attached resolution adopted by the Town of Brookhaven.

c) RPTL Section 466C – to adopt the real property tax relief (10% of the assessed value of owned/taxed real property) to qualified volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers under the terms of the amendments of Chapter 59 of the NYS Laws of 2023 by way of maintaining as five (5) the number of years of Rocky Point UFSD residency required to be eligible for the subject partial real property tax exemption under the terms of the attached resolution adopted by the Town of Brookhaven.

d) RPTL Sections 458A and 458B – to reauthorize the partial tax exemptions (Basic Maximum) afforded both qualified “Alternative” (15% of the assessed value of owned/taxed real property) with local options 1-4 and “Cold War” (10% of the assessed value of owned/taxed real property) veterans afforded by and as defined under the subject statutes with local options 1-3 and as cited within the attached resolution adopted by the Town of Brookhaven.

All in Favor – Motion carried 5-0

XIII PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Erin Walsh, and seconded by Edward 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 5-0

Mrs. Ward congratulated the following employees on their appointments:

Gerard Gersbeck – Guard

Elizabeth Fleming – Administrative Assistant

Salvatore Sorrentino – Guard

Monica Falango – Guard

Cody Becker – Custodial Worker I

Daniel Felicetti – School Teacher Aide

Nicholas Mitchko – Elementary Education Teacher (Regular Substitute)

XIV NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Ward inquired of the trustees if there were any new business items they wished to discuss. There was no new business at this time.

Mrs. Ward thanked Dr. O'Brien for the comprehensive Mid-Year Strategic Planning Implementation update he presented to the Board of Education and audience.

Once again, Mrs. Ward opened the floor to questions/comments.

- Ms. Tracy Baldi-Cozzolino asked if there was a decision made with regard to obtaining armed security guards. Mrs. Ward advised that discussions were continuing and that potential companies would be identified under the "Facilities" section of the February and/or March budget presentations.
- Mr. Kenneth Krapf of the Rocky Point Historical Society thanked the Board of Education and Rocky Point administrators who attended the recent Hallock Landing tour. He thanked Ms. Mara Lopez and Mr. Benjamin Paquette for working to arrange student tours of the Noah Hallock House beginning in April 2024.
- Mr. John McNamara thanked the Board of Education and the student clubs for their support of the International Cities of Peace Project and their help installing the Peace Polls at the Rocky Point UFSD.
- Dr. O'Brien thanked Mr. Kenneth Krapf for his role as a previous Rocky Point teacher in participating in the Stock Market Game with our Joseph A. Edgar students. Dr. O'Brien announced that Joseph A. Edgar students had recently achieved 1st place in the Stock Market Game competition for the Long Island region.

XVI ADJOURNMENT

At 7:27 p.m., a motion was made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Susan Sullivan to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Sanchez
Assistant District Clerk