

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING/BUDGET ADOPTION
April 17, 2007

Mrs. Thalen called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President
Joseph Sanseverino, Vice-President
Jane Bonner, Trustee
Margaret Smith, Trustee
Carla L. D'Ambrosio Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
Sherry J. Alessandro, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources/Administration
Michael W. Ivanoff, Director of Finance and Operations
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: Michael Matera, Trustee

Mrs. Thalen announced to those in attendance that the purpose of the meeting was to adopt the 2007-2008 budget. Mrs. Thalen invited Dr. D'Ambrosio and Mr. Ivanoff to proceed with their budget summary presentation.

Following the presentation, Mr. Ivanoff asked if there were any questions.

- Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Ivanoff about the possibility of Governor Spitzer securing additional monies for Long Island school districts. Mr. Ivanoff replied that he could not definitively answer that question. He stated that there were possibilities for change in the assessed value and Star Enhancement figures.
- Mr. Dan Vedder asked about the Alternate Learning Center and its ability to save as much money as was indicated during the presentation. Mr. Vedder also asked about the usage of school district teachers at the ALC. Dr. D'Ambrosio responded that the Alternate Learning Center has been in existence since October 2006 and has been cost effective in comparison to outside agencies. Dr. D'Ambrosio stated that by using school district employees at the ALC students could be assured that they are receiving consistency in their education as Rocky Point educators are teaching them.
- Mrs. Ronnie Gilbert asked how taxpayers could know what items were specifically being eliminated from the budget's earliest stages in order to arrive at the final budget numbers. Mrs. Diane Burke asked how the final budget compares to slides, etc., previously shown during earlier budget workshop presentations. Dr. D'Ambrosio responded that the areas addressed were usually "personnel" related. Equipment and supply needs were also carefully looked into. Class sizes were increased within contractual limits. Mrs. Thalen assured Mrs. Burke that the district was not losing any teachers or programs, such as AIS.

- Mr. Steven Lagnena asked if it was possible to get a cost breakdown of each state mandate. Dr. D'Ambrosio responded that an approximation of the costs of the mandates was possible but not the actual cost of each mandate.

There were no further questions. Dr. D'Ambrosio thanked members of the audience for coming to the budget summary meeting. Dr. D'Ambrosio announced that after reviewing the informational handout provided at this meeting, if anyone had further questions or concerns, they might contact the district office.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Margaret Smith, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon a recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, adopts the Rocky Point Union Free School District Budget for the 2007-2008 fiscal year pursuant to Education Law Section 1716 in the amount of \$62,415,212.

All in favor - Motion carried 4-0.

RESOLUTION TO REOPEN THE RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROVISION OF THE TEACHERS' CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Jane Bonner, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Carla L. D'Ambrosio, on behalf of the Board of Education, is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Rocky Point Teachers' Association to reopen the retirement incentive provision of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rocky Point UFSD and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association for the 2006-2007 school year only, in accordance with the terms of such Agreement.

Mrs. Thalen explained that by reopening the retirement incentive, additional teachers would be able to retire at the end of the 2006-2007 school year. Mrs. Thalen described this as a "win-win" situation for both the school district and the teachers who might take advantage of this opportunity.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Thalen announced that two candidates would be running for Ms. Bonner's open seat on the school board. Mrs. Thalen reminded all those in attendance to be sure to vote for the candidate of their choice on May 15th, 2007.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:15 PM a motion was made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino to go into executive session to discuss particular personnel matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk

The Board returned to open session at 8:30 PM.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
FOLLOWING DISCIPLINARY CHARGES AGAINST A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE**

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Margaret Smith, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, on or about September 25, 2006, pursuant to Section 3020-a of the New York State Education Law, the Board of Education found probable cause to prefer Charges (“2006 Charges”) against a tenured teacher and;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3020-a, a disciplinary hearing was scheduled to be held in case number 6632 before a designated Hearing Officer; and

WHEREAS, at a mediation session held prior to the scheduled disciplinary hearing, the parties agreed upon the terms of a settlement which was placed on the record and “so-ordered” by the Hearing Officer; and

WHEREAS, the tenured teacher was represented by counsel from the New York State United Teachers and agreed to all the terms and conditions of said settlement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the terms of the “so-ordered” Settlement Agreement and, in accordance with the terms of said Settlement Agreement, the tenured teacher is hereby suspended from teaching duties, without pay, for the months of April and May, 2007 and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tenured teacher may return to work on June 4, 2007 and shall be assigned to non-teaching duties for the month of June, 2007; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the period of suspension without pay, the tenured teacher shall receive all insurance benefits currently received by the tenured teacher, under the same terms in effect for full-time teachers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the tenured teacher shall be fined the sum of Four Thousand (\$4,000) Dollars to be paid in equal installments during the 2007-2008 school year, said fine to be paid after all taxes have been deducted; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that should future Section 3020-a Charges be brought against said tenured teacher on or before September 1, 2010, and should such future Charges allege misconduct “similar” to that contained in the 2006 Charges, the Hearing Officer shall retain jurisdiction of said future Charges and also consider, in consideration of any penalty to be imposed, the 2006 Charges; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the “so-ordered” Stipulation of Settlement shall be placed in the tenured teacher’s personnel file and shall remain there until September 1, 2010, when it shall be removed, unless future disciplinary Charges, similar to the 2006 Charges, have been filed prior to September 1, 2010.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 PM a motion was made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Margaret Smith for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla L. D’Ambrosio
Superintendent of Schools