

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 31, 2003**

Meeting called to Order at 7:40 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President
Francine Boyle, Vice-President
Howard Gimple, Trustee
Howard Kartel, Trustee
Michael Matera, Trustee
James J. Gerardi, Superintendent of Schools
Carla D'Ambrosio, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Stephen Bilyk, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business
Irene Pedota, District Clerk

Absent: None

Mrs. Thalen opened the meeting to questions and comments from the audience:

There were none. Mrs. Thalen informed the audience that if questions arose during the regular meeting, there would be an opportunity to address board members again before the board moved to executive session.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Frank J. Carasiti School principal, Paul Read, announced:
 - The kindergarten field trip to Atlantis Aquarium was rescheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2003.
 - To date, two hundred ninety-six children have registered for kindergarten in September with screening for these students scheduled in April and May.
 - First graders will visit the Suffolk County Farm from April 2 through April 9, 2003.
 - Carasiti students will participate in the Great American Read Aloud on April 10, 2003.
 - Parent-teacher conferences will take place from April 14 through 16, 2003.
- Joseph A. Edgar School principal Carol Tvelia reported:
 - On April 9, 2003 Joseph A. Edgar students will also participate in the Great American Read Aloud with everyone switching places for the day and staff moving around the building to read to the children.
 - The JAE health office and students have been involved in a fundraising program called "pennies for patients" to benefit the lymphoma association.
 - Third grade students visited the Riverhead Atlantis Aquarium on Friday, March 28, 2003.
 - The JAE school play will be performed on April 9 and 10, 2003.
 - On May 1, 2003, students will celebrate Space Day by signing a poster that was provided by NASA, which will be included on the next trip into space. The poster will be returned to the Joseph A. Edgar School along with a certificate from NASA.
 - Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for April 14, 15, and 16, 2003, at which time report cards will be issued to parents.
- Middle School principal Joseph Centamore announced:
 - Staff at the Middle School has been tending to the academic and emotional needs of students during this time of war.
 - The Middle School Student Government is involved in a fundraiser to benefit the USO. He explained that proceeds from the sale of stars and flags, which line the halls, will go to aid the USO and in just a short time, \$500.00 has been collected.
 - SEPTA has a staff development workshop planned for April 1, 2003 at 7:30 PM.

- The PTA sponsored a presentation by Officer Paul Failla who spoke to students regarding tolerance.
- High School principal William Caulfield reported:
 - High school students participated in the second annual Student Conference Day on March 12, 2003.
 - The Guidance Department hosted Mini-College Day last week with over 50 colleges sending representatives to speak to students.
 - Parents of all juniors were sent invitations to meet with counselors to discuss college and career choices.
 - He and Mr. Gerardi followed the Marching Band to Shea Stadium today for their opening day ceremonies. This was the twentieth consecutive year that the band has participated in this ceremony. Mr. Caulfield congratulated Mr. Texeira for doing an outstanding job with the Marching Band.
 - Last Thursday, junior and senior students were treated to a professional production of *Hamlet*.
 - New York State has recognized the Rocky Point School District for making significant improvement in their Math 8 scores.

Mrs. Thalen thanked the principals for their reports and said that it was great to hear good news about improved Math 8 test scores.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Francine Boyle and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meetings be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, March 3, 2003 and Special Meetings, March 6, 2003 and March 11, 2003**. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Treasurer's Reports for the month of **January 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Howard Kartel, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Extra Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of **January 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Francine Boyle, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Financial Reports for the month of **January 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF POLICY – MILITARY RECRUITERS' ACCESS TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND INFORMATION ON STUDENTS

Upon a motion made by Francine Boyle and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education votes to adopt the new policy – Military Recruiters' Access to High School Students and Information on Students. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2003-2004 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the Rocky Point Union Free School District Budget for the 2003-2004 fiscal year pursuant to Education Law Section 1716 in the amount of \$46,928,508. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Matera read from a statement in which he protested the budget process. He expressed his outrage that for the nineteenth consecutive year, the state has missed the budget deadline of April 1st. Therefore, school district boards are forced to adopt a budget that must be presented to district residents without any idea of how much state aid to expect. The proposed budget represents a 4.9% increase over last year’s budget. This increase will result in a thirteen dollar per hundred increase in the tax rate if the district receives the same amount of aid as last year. Mr. Matera added that unless Albany adopts their budget before May 20th, everyone will be voting on a budget without knowing the final cost to taxpayers. He expressed his outrage that this was permitted to go on year after year without anything being done about it.

Mrs. Thalen added that she was in complete agreement with Mr. Matera. She also spoke about Fairport School District in upstate New York, which passed a resolution to delay the adoption of their budget until the state adopts their own.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Howard Kartel, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the attached Property Tax Report Card associated with the adopted 2003-2004 fiscal year budget. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND VOTE WORKERS FOR BUDGET HEARING/VOTE/ELECTION (BUDGET HEARING – MAY 13, 2003/BUDGET VOTE-ELECTION – MAY 20, 2003); BOARD OF REGISTRATION; CHIEF INSPECTOR; POLL CLERKS; TELLERS; AND SUBSTITUTE TELLERS AND POLL CLERKS.

Upon a motion made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Francine Boyle, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint the following persons as Chairperson of the Budget Hearing/Budget Vote/Election; Board of Registration; Chief Inspector; Poll Clerks; Tellers and Substitute Tellers and Poll Clerks. The hourly rate for the Board of Registration and vote workers will be \$9.00.

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| Richard Salerno | Chairperson, Budget Hearing/Budget Vote/Election |
| Douglas Haeffner | Chief Inspector |
| Maureen Strauss | Teller/Substitute Chief Inspector |
| Dorothy Tis | Board of Registration |
| Peggy Staudermann | Board of Registration/Teller |
| Lucy Bello | Board of Registration/Teller |
| Loretta Reiter | Poll Clerk Machine #1 |
| Betty Voboril | Poll Clerk Machine #1 |
| Debbie O’Neill | Poll Clerk Machine #2 |
| Maria Kurz | Poll Clerk Machine #2 |
| Mildred DiSpigno | Poll Clerk Machine #3 |
| Mary Vecchio | Poll Clerk Machine #3 |
| Lillian Horan-Plihcik | Poll Clerk Machine #4 |
| Ann Reynen | Poll Clerk Machine #4 |
| Dolores Tursellino | Teller |
| Patricia Jones | Teller |
| Lucille Brand | Teller |
| Rose Sanchez | Teller |
| Marjorie Sokolski | Teller |

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| Mary Ann Murphy | Teller |
| Debra McCarville | Teller |
| Joan Gallo | Teller |
| Patricia Sparks | Teller |
| Laurie Savage | Teller |
| Maureen Strauch | Teller |
| Lisa Salerno | Teller |
| Karen Audette | Substitute Teller/Clerk |
| Margaret Smith | Substitute Teller/Clerk |

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER: SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT MEMBER**

Upon a motion made by Francine Boyle and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Denise Cervello as Parent Member to the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education. (In accordance with the Commissioner’s Regulations, Part 200 and the provisions of the Education Law, Section 4402.)
All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Howard Kartel, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 3-31-03-A and 3-31-03-B. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PHYSICIAN

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Christopher Ng, M.D. as a School Physician for the remainder of the 2002-2003 school year. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Francine Boyle, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the attached Personnel changes as listed on Schedule 03-31-03B Certified Staff with regard to the granting of tenure to Carol Tvelia, Lynn Ricca, and Robert Hill and a change in title from Administrative Assistant to Assistant Principal for Susann Crossan. A copy of these changes will be available in the district office. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Francine Boyle, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the remainder of the attached Personnel changes, a copy of which will be available in the district office. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any questions or comments from the audience before the board moved to Executive Session.

- Mrs. Karen Audette asked what would be the consequence if we were to follow Fairport School District and decide not to vote with everyone else on “Super Tuesday.” Mrs. Thalen replied that she wasn’t sure. Mr. Gerardi explained that we are accountable to

follow New York State law and that the district could face a great deal of financial woe if it fails to do so.

- Mrs. Audette asked if the board could find out what would happen. Mrs. Thalen assured her that the board would be in touch with Fairport Schools and report their findings at the next board meeting.
- Mr. Bilyk added that Fairport is a suburban district outside of Rochester and he's not sure how much they depend on state aid.
- Mrs. Alessandro added that Fairport is a wealthy suburb of Rochester that relies on a strong tax base with revenue from a large electric supply plant rather than state aid.
- Mr. Kevin Ward spoke about the budget hearing that he attended on March 19, 2003. He said that there was considerable concern from the community regarding the lack of dialogue at the hearing and that he believes the hearing should have permitted two-way dialogue with input from the community. He added that a 4.9% increase in the budget amounts to a 9.9% increase in the tax rate, and that it follows a 19% increase last year. He expressed his concern for residents who live on a fixed income.
- Mrs. Patricia Sparks took the opportunity to thank a number of retiring teachers who made an impact on her children's lives including Mr. Rudin, Mr. McGonigle, Mrs. DeCerbo, Mr. Hiney, Mr. Mammina and Mrs. Raymond.
- Ms. Ann Marie Johansen asked if the board would reconsider school hours for next year and have students at the Carasiti and Edgar Schools start at the same time so that kindergarten and other students from the Carasiti School will not arrive home as late as they do this year. Mr. Gerardi replied that he could not in good conscience recommend changing starting times and bus runs because it would result in over an additional three million dollars in transportation costs. Mrs. Thalen said that there is still a great deal of discussion and that the subject was not closed.

There were no further questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:15 PM a motion was made by Francine Boyle and seconded by Michael Matera for the board to go into executive session to discuss particular personnel matters. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Pedota
District Clerk

The board returned to Open Session at 9:55 PM.

Mrs. Francine Boyle has submitted a letter of resignation as a member of the Rocky Point Board of Education effective June 30, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:00 PM a motion was made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Howard Kartel for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Gerardi
Superintendent of Schools