

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 29, 2003

Meeting called to Order at 7:49 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. Boyle announced her resignation from the Board of Education effective June 30, 2003, which is a year before her term expires. Mrs. Boyle explained that her decision to resign was based on the fact that she has returned to work full-time and feels that she is no longer able to dedicate the time that she feels is required.

Mrs. Thalen expressed her regret concerning Mrs. Boyle's decision and added that the board would not have achieved all that they were able to accomplish without Mrs. Boyle's hard work and dedication. She asked the community to join her and the board in thanking her for her service to the community.

Mrs. Thalen reported that she received an email from the New York State School Boards' Association announcing that the state has decided to postpone the universal day of voting for all school districts from May 20, 2003 to June 3, 2003.

Mr. Gerardi announced that this decision would impact the district further financially by approximately \$50,000 in additional costs for advertisements and changes to the newsletter, which has already been sent to the printer.

Mrs. Thalen said that the district would have to wait and see if the date will change to June 3, 2003. She added that if the date of the vote were postponed until June 3, 2003, there would still be a regular board meeting on May 20, 2003, at which time school starting times (especially for the elementary schools) for next fall will be discussed. She urged all those who are interested to attend.

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

- Mrs. Soltysik announced that the PTA was recently notified that the Joseph A. Edgar School has been recognized by the National PTA as a "School of Excellence" for parent involvement and presented the award to Carol Tvelia and Ken Crawford.
- Mrs. Diminio expressed her concerns regarding several topics and offered several suggestions for improvements that she hoped would be made next year at the middle school regarding the scheduling of earth science labs, the number of children in inclusion classes, the number of periods that the cafeteria operates, the opportunity for middle school students to have outdoor recess during lunch, and the possibility that sixth grade students may have eight different teachers, which is a departure from middle school philosophy.
- Mr. Gerardi replied that current scheduling is not ideal and that plans for next year include the possibility of scheduling an accelerated science class during zero period so that students would not miss lab time for lunch..

- Mr. Centamore added that the reason that the cafeteria at the middle school operates for three periods only is that lunch periods are currently grade-inclusive.
- Mrs. Noto inquired why sports physicals were required to be performed by the school physician rather than students' own physicians.
- Mrs. Soltysik, a nurse at the Joseph Edgar School, added that the school physician is required to sign off on all physicals.
- Mrs. Noto added that she felt that parents should have the option to take their children to their own physician and that she wasn't comfortable with a doctor that wasn't familiar with her children examining them.
- Mr. Gerardi replied that the reason might be that the school doctor is reluctant to sign off on another doctor's examination. Mrs. Noto asked if the school doctor said that and if the school physician was paid extra for performing all of the examinations.
- Mr. Gerardi explained that the school physician is paid for reviewing all the examinations anyway.
- Mrs. Noto reiterated that she is not happy to have her children going to a doctor that she doesn't know.

At this time, Mrs. Thalen returned to the regular meeting.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2003 SCHOOL REPORT CARD BY CARLA D'AMBROSIO, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR INSTRUCTION

Mr. Gerardi introduced Mrs. Carla D'Ambrosio and the presentation of the 2003 School Report Card. Mrs. D'Ambrosio explained that the report contained four-year performance data regarding English Language Arts and Math exams, strategies to target areas of weakness and plans for continued improvement.

Mrs. Kerry Vann, the district's English Coordinator, described lateral comparison results from 1999-2003 for grade four and eight English Language Assessments and Comprehensive English Regents exams, as well as modifications to the ELA 8 administration during 1999 to 2003. She also explained how scores reflected improvements between levels and which areas were targeted for further improvement.

Mr. Robert Hill, the district's Mathematics Coordinator, explained changes in the state's secondary mathematics testing which now requires all regular education students to pass the regents examination in Math A in order to graduate. Mr. Hill described goals and strategies for improvement, which include lesson preparation, classroom presentation, and student evaluation and assessment. Mr. Hill also reviewed the results of the Math 4 and Math 8 Assessments from 1999 to 2002 and explained that both grade levels have made adequate yearly progress and that the eighth grade performance for 2002 was cited on the SED's most improved list for mathematics. Comparisons in achievement results for the Math A Regents Exam during 2002 and 2003 were also reviewed, as well as how students' achievements compared to those of students in neighboring districts with regard to all of these math scores.

Mrs. D'Ambrosio then examined the results and improved test scores for regents examinations in living environment, earth science, global history, US history, and foreign language, which she believes are the result of the combined efforts of administrators, teachers, parents, and students. Mrs. D'Ambrosio thanked the coordinators and chairpersons of the math, science, social studies, English and foreign language departments and expressed her pride in their efforts and accomplishments.

Mr. Gerardi added that the district should be extremely proud of these accomplishments when compared to our wealthier neighboring districts.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Building Principal Reports/Presentation of Awards

- Carol Tvelia announced that a huge technology event began today at the Joseph A. Edgar School with students participating in an e-mission where they will be simulating the actual evacuation of the island of Monserrat as the result of dual threats of a volcanic eruption and a hurricane. Students will celebrate Space Day on May 1, 2003 by signing

their names on a special poster that will be returned to NASA and digitized. The digital picture will be sent on the next space mission and the school will receive a certificate. Mrs. Tvelia presented awards to two students from the JAE School for “Kid Wrestling” - Jenna Burkett for achieving second place in the nation and Matt Ross for placing seventh in the nation. In addition, Brittany Stevenson was awarded third place for prose by Suffolk County Reading Council and Nancy McCarville received first place for her poem, *The Snow Deer*. Mrs. Tvelia also announced that as a result of the entire fifth grade being trained in CPR in February, three students were recognized for their life saving skills: Daniel Kruty and Mark Guerra were able to rescue their dogs by performing the Heimlich maneuver when their dogs were choking and Christopher D’Aspara saved his sister’s life by applying what he learned and performing CPR. Mrs. Barrett from the American Heart Association was on hand to present them with certificates and she explained that these 298 children are the only fifth grade class in Suffolk County that have been trained in CPR.

- Paul Read reported that second grade students at Frank J. Carasiti School would participate in a social studies challenge where they will compete against other schools. Standardized tests for students in first and second grades will take place from May 5 –9, 2003. The PTA has sponsored a planetarium show on May 12 and 13, 2003. Author’s Day, featuring Steven Knoll, will be celebrated on May 15, 2003. The Battle of the Buildings – FJC vs. JAE - is scheduled for May 30, 2003. Mr. Read took the opportunity to thank Mrs. Boyle for all she has done as a board member, especially for the students at the Frank J. Carasiti School.
- Michael Bowler announced that the high school newspaper, *The Eagle’s Eye*, was awarded second place in typography and layout in the *Newsday’s* School of Journalism Awards. Mrs. Blume, the newspaper advisor, editor-in-chief Jen Blake, and layout editor Katie Apsel are invited to a special reception hosted by *Newsday* on May 20, 2003. Senior David Lettieri has been chosen as one of six finalists in the *Newsday* 2003 High Honors Competition. Two of the finalists will be awarded the \$5,000.00 Alicia Patterson Memorial Grant for their first year at a college of their choice. Representatives from Hofstra, Dowling and Molloy will interview David tomorrow. The fashion and marketing skills class is sponsoring a “fatigue day” on Friday, May 2, 2003 and asking students and staff to wear fatigues or red, white and blue to support our troops. In addition, hats, which are otherwise not allowed to be worn in school, may be worn on that day.
- Mr. Gerardi introduced Dr. Joseph Tanen Centamore, principal of the Middle School and congratulated him on receiving his doctorate.
- Joseph Centamore thanked Mrs. Boyle and expressed his gratitude to her for all of her efforts in making the middle school a reality. He congratulated all of the students that were recognized this evening on their achievements. He also congratulated the Student Council for raising over \$1200.00 in donations as part of their fundraiser to benefit the USO and our soldiers. Eighth grade Math Assessments are scheduled for May 6 and 7, 2003. The annual Lois Lowery arts and literature awards night will be held on May 1, 2003. The first annual middle school Junior Honor Society induction will be on May 19, 2003. Fifth and six graders will participate in a shadowing program at the end of next week as part of orientation for fifth graders entering the middle school in September. The Frost Valley trip will be from June 9 – 12, 2003.

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 31, 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 **February 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 **February 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 **February 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

VOTE TO APPROVE/DISAPPROVE THE BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR 2003–2004

Upon a motion made by Francine Boyle, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the BOCES Administrative Budget for the 2003-2004 school year in the amount of \$20,772,854.

Mr. Kartel added that the amount approved for the BOCES budget is their total budget, not what the district would have to contribute to BOCES.

Roll Call:

- Ms. Thalen yes
- Ms. Boyle yes
- Mr. Gimple yes
- Mr. Kartel yes
- Mr. Matera yes

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

VOTING FOR TRUSTEES TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SERVICES OF THE FIRST SUPERVISORY DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education elect the following candidate(s) to serve for the term commencing on July 1, 2003 and ending June 30, 2006 (choose a maximum not to exceed five):

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Pamela Bethel | <u> X </u> |
| Stephen Dewey | <u> X </u> |
| Christopher Garvey | <u> X </u> |
| Joseph P. Loschiavo | _____ |
| John J. Ramacciato | _____ |
| Jeffrey Smith | _____ |
| Therese Watson | <u> X </u> |

Roll Call:

- Ms. Thalen yes
- Ms. Boyle yes
- Mr. Gimple yes
- Mr. Kartel yes
- Mr. Matera yes

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

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, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accept the attached Rocky Point Union Free School District Budget Notice that is associated with the adopted 2003-2004 fiscal year budget. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Thalen announced that a copy would be available in the District Office. Mr. Matera reminded everyone that the date of the hearing would be revised if the date of the budget vote were changed to June 3, 2003.

APPOINTMENT FOR SUBSTITUTE TELLERS AND POLL CLERKS FOR THE BUDGET VOTE

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 Substitute Tellers and Poll Clerks. The hourly rate is \$9.00. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Donna Wise - Substitute Teller/Clerk
Angela Greco - Substitute Teller/Clerk
Gloria Meyer - Substitute Teller/Clerk
Joyce Butler - Substitute Teller/Clerk

SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT - ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a supplemental agreement with the Rocky Point Teachers' Association to reopen the period of time in which a teacher may declare that he/she intends to retire and be eligible for the retirement bonus. Further, that the Superintendent be authorized to enter into a memorandum of agreement to permit the teachers to shelter the retirement incentive to the limits allowed by law. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Thalen explained that this resolution would allow teachers who have not yet decided to retire the opportunity to take advantage of an early retirement incentive.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 4-29-03-A and 4-29-03-B. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

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 Personnel changes. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Thalen added that as always a copy of the personnel changes would be available in the District Office.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any additional questions or comments before the board moved to executive session:

- Mrs. Sparks thanked Mrs. Boyle for her many years of dedicated commitment to the students of Rocky Point as a board member and even before that for all her work with the PTA.

- Mrs. Thalen reminded everyone that starting times for the elementary schools would be discussed at the next board meeting on May 20, 2003. She added that she hoped the annual budget vote and election would be held on May 20, 2003 and the community would be notified by the superintendent's office, as well as on the website if the date is changed.

There were no further questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Francine Boyle at 9:07 PM 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 10:45 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:47 PM a motion was made by Francine Boyle and seconded by Michael Matera for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Gerardi
Superintendent of Schools