

**MINUTES  
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
June 23, 2003**

**Meeting called to Order at 7:35 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 School Business Official  
Irene Pedota, District Clerk

Absent: None

**Mrs. Thalen presented a plaque to outgoing Board of Education Vice President Francine Boyle for her service to the students and community of the Rocky Point School District, and she expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Boyle for her outstanding service, hard work and devotion to the students of the community over the past five years.**

**Mrs. Thalen also presented a plaque to outgoing Board of Education Trustee Howard Kartel in appreciation for his service to the students and community of the Rocky Point School District for the past eighteen months. She thanked him for always putting children and education first.**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**HIGH SCHOOL** – Principal William Caulfield announced the following:

- The Junior Prom was held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Carl Scalfani did an outstanding job with preparations and decorations.
- The Senior Prom was held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by the Annual Post-Prom Breakfast. Mr. Caulfield thanked all the parents who were involved in making it such a success.
- The Spring Concert was held on June 4, 2003.
- The high school graduation will take place Friday evening at 6:00 PM. Everyone is praying for good weather so that the ceremony can be held outdoors.
- Registration for summer school will be on June 30 and July 1, 2003 from 8:00 to 11:00 AM in the high school cafeteria.
- The American Cancer Society Relay for Life will be held on July 11 and July 12, 2003.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Principal Joseph Centamore congratulated all staff members who were recently awarded tenure, thanked all of those who are leaving to retire for their years of service to the district, and he reported the following:

- The middle school successfully completed its first year, and plans are currently in place for next year.
- Students are completing their end-of-year exams.
- The eighth grade moving up dance was held on June 6, 2003.
- Orientation and a tour for incoming sixth graders was held on June 17, 2003.
- End of the year breakfast for sixth graders will be held on June 25, 2003 and for seventh graders on June 26, 2003.
- An eighth grade moving up social and awards ceremony will be held on June 26, 2003 from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm.
- He expressed his gratitude to Lisa Salerno and the PTA for all their assistance in putting together grade-appropriate supply packets that can be purchased by parents next fall.
- Dr. Centamore wished everyone a healthy and safe summer.

**JOSEPH A. EDGAR SCHOOL** – Assistant Principal Ken Crawford reported the following:

- He read from a letter that he recently received from a parent expressing appreciation to her son's teacher, Mrs. Brown for such a wonderful first year at the JAE.
- Fifth graders recently visited the Deep Hollow Ranch in Montauk.
- Third grade students went on a field trip to the North Shore Public Library this month.
- Field day for fourth and fifth graders will take place on Tuesday.
- Mr. Crawford wished everyone a wonderful summer.

**FRANK J. CARASITI SCHOOL** – Principal Paul Read reported the following:

- The staff at the FJC is extremely grateful to the Booster Club for their donation of \$200.00, which was used to purchase games for students to use during recess.
- He thanked high school technology teacher Robert Boulin and his class for making easels that will be used by elementary school students because they are easier for young students to use than traditional blackboards.
- Students took part in an Earth Day celebration on June 6, 2003.
- Mr. Read presented a plaque to Sandy DeHayes for her work with *Newsday's* Future Corps.

#### **PRESENTATION OF SCHOOL TIMES SURVEY BY MRS. THALEN**

Mrs. Thalen explained that the Superintendent and the Board of Education, in an effort to meet the needs and concerns of the community, posted a survey recently on the district's website requesting feedback from residents regarding school starting times and bus routes for the coming school year. She reported that over 400 responses were received from parents, teachers, staff and community members, which included helpful suggestions and comments.

- The five options that were offered included: the current 2002-2003 school times; Option 1 - swapping start times for the FJC and JAE schools; Option 2 - the same starting times for both the FJC and JAE schools; Option 3 - the same start time for both the high school and middle school; and Option 4 - the high school, then FJC, then middle school, and then JAE.
- The results of the survey were as follows: 48.10% favored the current schedule of starting times; 23.60% favored Option 1; 10.10% thought Option 4 was best; 10.8% considered Option 2 optimal; and 6.9% believed Option 3 would best fit their families' needs.
- Mrs. Thalen added that many working parents who have planned their work schedules to accommodate the current start times felt it would not be fair to have to disrupt their lives in order to adjust to new schedules.
- Mrs. Thalen also added that although the current schedule may be inconvenient for her family, she believes the board should follow the consensus of the community and recommends that the current school times should be kept.
- Mrs. Thalen thanked the community for their responses.

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

- Mrs. Pat Sparks thanked Mr. Kartel for his invaluable commitment to the students of Rocky Point.
- Mrs. Pat Sparks asked if there were any plans in place to include a music program for second grade students at the Frank J. Carasiti School. Mr. Gerardi replied that there were no plans to change the current program.
- An unidentified parent attempted to express her concerns regarding a wrestling coach. Mrs. Thalen informed her that personnel issues could not be discussed during open session.
- Mr. Jeff Trilling asked the board if it was true that the Frost Valley trip was being eliminated for fifth graders in the future. He added that according to other students and parents, the trip was very beneficial to students and he asked what the motivation was to cancel it. Mrs. Thalen replied that after lengthy discussions last year with the community and faculty members, it was decided that the Frost Valley trip would be replaced by a trip that was more in line with the current curriculum. Mr. Trilling inquired if would be possible to get more information regarding this decision. Mrs. Thalen suggested that he contact board members through the district's website.

#### **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 Meeting be accepted as presented: **June 3, 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 **May 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

#### **EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT**

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 **May 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 **May 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF POLICY – FINGERPRINTING OF PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES**

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 – Fingerprinting of Prospective Employees. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that fingerprinting of new employees is required under New York State law. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS NEW YORK STATE AND SUFFOLK COUNTY PURCHASING CONTRACTS FOR THE 2003-04 FISCAL YEAR ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS**

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 participate in various New York State and Suffolk County Contracts for the 2003-04 fiscal year on an as-needed basis. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN BOCES COOPERATIVE BIDDING SERVICES PURCHASING CONTRACTS FOR THE 2003-04 FISCAL YEAR ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS**

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 participate in various “BOCES Cooperative Bidding Services Contracts” for the 2003-04 fiscal year on an as-needed basis. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS FEDERAL PURCHASING CONTRACTS FOR THE 2003-04 FISCAL YEAR ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS:**

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 participate in various Federal Contracts for the 2003-04 fiscal year on an as needed basis. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Gerardi to explain the need for this resolution. Mr. Gerardi explained that it enables the district to take advantage of the lowest prices that are available as a result from bids that are obtained by the federal government. Mr. Kartel asked why the district would be using federal contracts. Mr. Bilyk explained that the district most often uses state, county or BOCES bids as opposed to federal contracts. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **RESOLUTION: CAFETERIA COOPERATIVE BIDDING**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education favorably passes the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, It is the plan of a number of public school districts in Nassau/Suffolk Counties, New York, to bid jointly on Food Products and Supplies for the 2003-04 school year;

**WHEREAS**, The Rocky Point UFSD is desirous of participating with other districts in Nassau/Suffolk Counties in the joint bidding of the commodities mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 and,

**WHEREAS**, The Rocky Point UFSD wishes to appoint a committee to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising the bids, accepting and opening bids, reporting the results to the boards of education and making recommendations thereon; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District hereby appoints the Long Island School Food Service Directors Association Cooperative Bid Committee to represent it in all matters related above, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District Board of Education authorize the above-mentioned committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above-mentioned commodities, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District Board of Education agrees to assume its equitable share of the costs of the cooperative bidding, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District Board of Education agrees (1) to abide by majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (2) that unless all bids are rejected, it will award contracts according to the recommendations of the committee; (3) that after award of contract(s) it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s). All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

#### **TAN BORROWING FOR THE 2003-04 FISCAL YEAR**

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Michael Matera offered and Howard Gimple seconded the adoption of the following resolution:

**Tax Anticipation Note Resolution, dated June 23, 2003, authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$9,000,000.00 Tax Anticipation Notes of the Rocky Point Union Free School District, in the Town of Brookhaven, County of Suffolk, State of New York, in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes to be levied in and for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2003.**

Discussion ensued. Mr. Kartel asked Mr. Bilyk to explain. Mr. Bilyk explained that all districts in Suffolk County rely on taxes and state aid to run their schools. The district needs to borrow approximately \$6,000,000.00 in anticipation of receiving its share of taxes and state aid. This resolution allows the district to borrow up to \$9,000,000.00 in the event that it becomes necessary to do so.

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 FOR TUITION CONTRACT – SUMMER SCHOOL**

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 approve the tuition rate of \$250 per summer school class, for non-residential students who wish to enroll in the 2003 summer school program. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that there would be no cost to students in the district for summer school. Tuition would be charged only to students who live outside the district. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

#### **SURPLUS ITEMS**

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 approve for surplus one IBM, Wheelwriter 10 Series II Typewriter, model# 6783, serial#11-0045847. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

#### **SURPLUS ITEMS**

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 for following schedule for surplus:

Schedule 6-23-03A      Miscellaneous Foreign Language Text Books  
                                  Rocky Point High School  
Schedule 6-23-03B      Miscellaneous Social Study Text Books  
                                  Rocky Point High School

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

#### **BID-AWARD #03-07 PIZZA**

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 renew the agreement with Salara's Pizzeria for the 2003-04 fiscal year at no additional cost.

Mrs. Thalen explained that the pizza that is served in the cafeteria is brought in from an outside vendor and not made in the cafeteria. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

#### **RESOLUTION FOR HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT**

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 authorize the Board President to enter into an agreement for health services for the current 2002-03 school year with the following districts:

Commack U.F.S.D.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked why the district would be in a partnership with the Commack School District for health services. Mr. Bilyk explained that it pertains to students from our district that attend private schools in the Commack district. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

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

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 approve the appointment of Lisa A. Puccio 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 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 arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 6-23-03-A and 6-23-03-B. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

#### **PERSONNEL**

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 accept the attached Personnel changes, which will be included in the Minutes Book. There are over 100 Personnel changes. Copies are available from Ms. Pedota, District Clerk. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

#### **RESOLUTION TO SET THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING DATE**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Tuesday, July 1, 2003 is set as the date for the Board of Education Annual Organizational Meeting. Furthermore, the meeting will take place in the Rocky Point High School Auditorium at 7:30 PM. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

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

- Mrs. Karen Audette thanked Mrs. Boyle for everything that she has done for the community and the students of the district.
- Mr. Kevin Ward had a question regarding the interest rate for TAN borrowing. Mr. Bilyk explained that borrowing was for the current school year only and that the interest rate would be whatever the prevailing rate is when the district sets out to borrow the money.
- Mr. Kevin Ward commented that in the interest of security, it might be a good idea to require all teachers to be fingerprinted. Mr. Gerardi explained that it is state law that requires all new teachers and staff members hired after July 1, 2001 to be fingerprinted and that it costs over \$100.00 per employee.
- Mr. Kevin Ward asked if the district has a requirement for a drug-free workplace. Mr. Gerardi replied that the district is a drug-free, smoke-free school zone. Mr. Ward asked if

employees are required to be tested for drugs, and Mr. Gerardi replied that the district does not require it.

- Mrs. Pat Sparks inquired if based on the results of the survey for school starting times, the community could expect on-line board of education meetings in the future. Mrs. Thalen replied that the survey was a wonderful way to “take the community’s temperature,” and that the board intended to take full advantage of surveys in the future to gather community input.
- Mr. Howard Kartel commented that although the survey was a valuable tool for gathering input from the community, the board would have the final say regarding certain decisions. Mrs. Thalen added that on-line surveys are a great tool for determining the consensus of the community on certain issues.
- Mrs. Nicole O’Neal commented that she is very happy that school starting times and bus routes will remain the same, but suggested more research should be done to make everyone happy.
- Mrs. Thalen commented that she especially liked the part of the survey that allowed respondents to make comments and suggestions. Mrs. Thalen added that the results of the survey would be posted on the website.
- Mr. Daniel Vedder, on behalf of the Rocky Point Teachers’ Association, thanked Mrs. Boyle for always being a friend of education and for all of her hard work in making the middle school a reality.

**There were no further questions or comments.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:25 PM a motion was made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Francine Boyle 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 10:21 PM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

AT 10:22 PM a motion was made by Francine Boyle and seconded by Howard Kartel for the Board of Education adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Gerardi  
Superintendent of Schools