

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

Meeting called to Order at 7:38 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President
Michael Matera, Vice-President
Jane Bonner, Trustee
Howard Gimple, Trustee
Joseph Sanseverino, 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 opened the meeting to questions or comments from the public.

- Mrs. Dawn Kruse thanked the Board of Education and the administration for getting religion buses back for students. Mrs. Thalen informed her that the decision came from the Superintendent's office.
- Mrs. Kruse commented that last year parent-teacher conferences at both the Carasiti and Edgar schools were scheduled on the same days. This year they were scheduled for two different weeks. She asked if there was a problem with the schedule last year. Mr. Gerardi replied that having conferences on the same days presented a conflict for some parents who have children in both schools.

There were no further questions. Mrs. Thalen informed the audience that there would be another opportunity for questions at the end of the meeting before the Board moved to Executive Session.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **Frank J. Carasiti School** - Mr. Paul Read reported:
 - The Frank J. Carasiti School experienced a very smooth start this year.
 - This is the fourth year of participation in the Literacy Collaborate for teachers in that building. He expects that 90% of the staff will be trained by the end of this year.
 - He announced that school pictures would take place on October 17 and 18, 2003.
 - The Shared Decision Making Team will meet on October 20, 2003.
 - Students at Carasiti can look forward to celebrating different themes each month – Harvest during October, Family in November, and Holiday Traditions in December. Plans for October's Harvest activities include a performance by the high school band while the children parade around the track.
- **Joseph A. Edgar School** - Mrs. Carol Tvelia announced:
 - The opening of school at Joseph A. Edgar School also went well.
 - She thanked Mr. Gerardi for reinstating the religion buses.
 - Upcoming events include school pictures on September 29 and 30, 2003.
 - Students will celebrate Spirit Week during the week of October 22, 2003 by participating in activities such as "crazy hat day" and "mixed up clothes day."
 - The Literacy Collaborative is moving forward and ten new teachers will be trained this year.
 - The Shared Decision Team will meet the first Monday of each month. The team has two openings for parent members, and she encouraged anyone interested to send a letter to the PTA president.
- **Rocky Point Middle School** - Dr. Joseph Centamore reported:
 - Middle school students also experienced a smooth opening with sixth graders making an easy transition in the building.

- He congratulated Mr. Caulfield and the high school for a successful Homecoming Weekend, which he had the opportunity to enjoy along with his family.
 - All clubs and sports were going well.
 - Open School Night was a huge success.
 - Officer Paul Failla was recently a guest speaker at student assemblies where he spoke on the topic of tolerance.
 - The first dance of the year will be held on Friday, October 10, 2003.
 - He reminded everyone that the middle school would be returning to four marking periods and that progress reports will be mailed home on October 10, 2003.
 - The PTA has arranged to have school pictures taken on October 28 and 29, 2003.
- **Rocky Point High School** - Mr. William Caulfield announced:
 - Homecoming weekend on September 20 and 21, 2003 was a huge success with ten different teams and the marching band participating in the activities.
 - There was a wonderful turnout for Open School Night on September 25, 2003.
 - The Golden Eagle Marching Band was invited by the Steam Fitters Union to march down Fifth Avenue in the New York City Labor Day Parade on September 6, 2003.
 - The Marching Band will perform their half-time show for the *Newsday* Marching Band Festival at Hofstra University on October 23, 2003. Tickets are on sale for \$8.00 and may be purchased from the Music Department.
 - The yearbook has been chosen by Taylor Publishing as a semi-finalist from more than 8,000 yearbooks in their *Yearbook Yearbook* competition.

MINUTES

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meetings be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, August 25, 2003**. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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 **July and August 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 Jane Bonner, the following resolution was offered:

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

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

SCHOOL TAX LEVY

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accept the assessed valuation of \$17,013,249 to establish the tax levy for the 2003-04 school year as follows:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the tax levy for the 2003-04 school year be established at \$28,304,882. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

SURPLUS ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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 following schedule for surplus:

Schedule 9-29-03A	Miscellaneous Text Books	Rocky Point High School
Schedule 9-29-03B	Miscellaneous Text Books	Joseph A. Edgar School

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked what becomes of these surplus items. Mr. Bilyk replied that a textbook company examines them to decide if they will issue a credit. However, most often the books are too worn out to be eligible. There was no further discussion. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

DONATION OF 30-GALLON FISH TANK

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the donation from Kathleen Shea of a 30-gallon fish tank to the Middle School Library.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked if there was a place in the library for the tank and who would be responsible for taking care of the fish when no one was in school. Mr. Centamore assured everyone that the tank was in good shape, that there was room for it in the library, and that he would make sure the fish were taken care of. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PLACEMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve the District's entering into an instructional contract with the East Moriches School District to provide educational services, including related services, to a special education student for the 2003-04 school year; that the East Moriches School District will pay tuition, estimated to be \$47,175 for such services in accordance with the formulas established by the Commissioner of Education; that the East Moriches School District will provide all transportation services for such student; that the student will begin attending the Rocky Point School District with an effective start date of September 1, 2003 pending final approval of the instructional contract in accordance with Section 2042 of the Education Law and that the Board President is authorized to sign such contract.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked how it was that we are able to provide a student from East Moriches with services. Mrs. Manitta replied that the student is in need of specialized placement services that are not available in the student's home district. She added that such placement is considered on a year-by-year basis, that it does not adversely impact our students, and that there is room in our program for the student. Mr. Sanseverino asked for an explanation regarding the tuition, and Mr. Bilyk explained that the amount, which is set by the state, covers this student's placement. There was no further discussion. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, 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 9-29-03-A and 9-29-03-B. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any other questions or comments before the Board moved to go into Executive Session:

- Mrs. Charlene LaCascia expressed her concern regarding the poor condition of some of the football equipment that was recently issued to her son. She asked Mr. Sanseverino for the Booster Club's assistance. Mr. Sanseverino replied that he is no longer the president of that organization; however, he would pass along the information.

There were no further questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:05 PM a motion was made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Jane Bonner for the Board of Education to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Pedota
District Clerk

The Board returned to open session at 10:40 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:41 PM a motion was made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Howard Gimple to adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Gerardi
Superintendent of Schools