

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 27, 2004**

Meeting called to Order at 7:32 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 community:

There were none. Mrs. Thalen informed everyone that there would be another opportunity for questions at the end of the regular meeting before the Board moved to go into Executive Session.

PRESENTATION OF THE NEW HEALTH CURRICULUM BY MARTHA KAHAN, BOCES

Ms. Kahan explained that the new health program, which is the most comprehensive health curriculum on the market, includes education for smoking cessation and prevention of other risky behaviors, and is provided at no cost to school districts through funds received by Suffolk County as part of a settlement that was reached in 1998 with the four largest tobacco companies in the United States. The curriculum incorporates resources, training for teachers and lessons for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade to establish healthy behaviors and features interactive and cooperative learning approaches for each grade level. At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Kahan made copies of the curriculum available to members of the audience.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any questions:

- Mrs. Veronica Gilbert asked if the DARE program would be continued.
- Mrs. D'Ambrosio replied that it would.
- Mrs. Thalen thanked Ms. Kahan for her comprehensive overview of the program, and she encouraged the audience to please feel free to take the material provided by Ms. Kahan.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Principals' Reports:

- **Paul Read – Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School Principal reported:**
 - A workshop has been scheduled for parents with children entering kindergarten.
 - Terra Nova testing for students in grades one and two will take place during the first week of May.
 - Kindergarten students will be visiting the North Shore Library and the Atlantis Aquarium.
 - First graders will be going on a field trip to Cedar Beach.
 - Second Grade Students will be visiting the Vanderbilt Planetarium.
 - Mr. Read thanked Mary Vuolo for all her work with the Literacy Collaborative. He added that there has been a significant improvement in students' reading abilities as a result of her efforts.
- **Carol Tvelia – Joseph A. Edgar School Principal announced:**
 - Mrs. Tvelia congratulated teacher Mark Yashowitz who recently received The 2004 Long Island Council for the Social Studies Margaret Simon Award for Excellence in Elementary Social Studies Education. Mr. Yashowitz will be presented with this award during a ceremony in Hauppauge on May 19, 2004.
 - NYS Math tests will be administered to fourth grade students next week and science testing will take place at the end of the month.
 - Fifth grade students will visit Old Bethpage Restoration Village and fourth grade students will be participating in various science activities at Brookhaven National Lab.
 - Last week representatives from the Bank of Smithtown visited students at the JAE as part of "National Teach Your Child to Save Day," and children learned about the importance

of saving through various activities. Next year, students will learn more about finances as part of the math curriculum. They are also considering having a "bank day" once a month.

- The JAE Art Show will be held on May 17, 2004.
 - Mrs. Tvelia thanked Mrs. Richardson for all her work and training 11 teachers this year on the Literacy Collaborative.
 - In addition, Mrs. Tvelia announced that Irene Fountas, co-developer of the Literacy Collaborative Program will be filming a training video at the JAE on May 18, 2004 that will be used nation-wide.
 - Mrs. Tvelia expressed her sadness at having to share the news that Mary Utting, the food service director at JAE for the past 30 years, passed away suddenly on Sunday.
- **Joseph Centamore – Rocky Point Middle School Principal announced:**
 - Ms. Roviello and sixteen middle school students attended a mock trial at NYIT in March. The students won both of their cases even though one of the cases was stacked against them.
 - Also as part of social studies, students attended an enlightening Frederick Douglas presentation.
 - The student government sponsored several spring dances that were well attended. Additional dances will take place later in May and June.
 - Dr. Centamore thanked the PTA for sponsoring National Literacy Week at the middle school. Activities included a visit by guest author Brian Heinz, comic literature performances by "the Brothers Grinn," a home-based reading contest, and a cookie dough fundraiser.
 - Math assessments will be administered to eighth graders on Tuesday and Wednesday next week.
 - There will be a presentation for sixth graders – "From the Fire – Voices of the Holocaust"
 - Fifth grade students will begin visitations to the middle school during the week of May 6, 2004. Parent orientations will take place in June.
 - The spring concert will take place on May 12, 2004.
 - Also scheduled in May is the Lois Lowry Literary Ice Cream Social.
 - **Susan Crossan – Rocky Point High School Assistant Principal reported:**
 - For the twenty-first consecutive year, the Golden Eagle Marching Band performed at Shea Stadium on opening day for the New York Mets on April 12, 2004.
 - The high school band, including a select group of ninth and tenth graders, performed at the 1939 and 1964 World's Fair Anniversary Gala, which took place at the Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows on April 15, 2004. They performed for several celebrities including Mayor Bloomberg, Tom Seaver and Rusty Staub.
 - The spring concert will take place on May 20, 2004 at 7:30 PM in the high school auditorium.
 - The Future Business Leaders of America Club attended the 2004 State Leadership Conference in Rochester from April 21 through 23, 2004. The students were accompanied by club advisor Bill Reyes and chaperone Lynne Basileo. Congratulations to Nick Koridis who placed third in NYS in the category of Computer Concepts. All students who attended represented Rocky Point in a positive and professional manner.
 - Last week, Mr. Vincent Basileo led the senior class in a "Hope for the Homeless Drive," which included the collection of gently used clothing, non-perishable foods, and unused hygiene products and school supplies. Congratulations to the class of 2004 for exceeding their goal of 75% participation with 76.5% of the senior class getting involved in the drive.

PRESENTATION OF A TECHNOLOGY REPORT BY CARLA D'AMBROSIO, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR INSTRUCTION

Mrs. D'Ambrosio presented an overview of how technology is integrated in classrooms at every grade level. She explained that since the beginning of the 1990's, the internet has drastically changed the way we conduct business and how we teach our children. The entire district is now on-line. Mrs. D'Ambrosio explained how technology integration facilitates instruction, communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills and enhances student learning. Highlights of the presentation also included various events and workshops attended by the district's students and staff. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mrs. D'Ambrosio thanked the Superintendent, Board of Education, Ms. Hohenstein, Ms. Viecco, Mr. Spina, Ms. Manitta, Mrs. Wilson and the technology staff for their help and support.

Mrs. Thalen asked if anyone had any questions for Mrs. D'Ambrosio with regard to the presentation. There were none. Mrs. Thalen returned to the regular meeting and reminded everyone that there would be another opportunity for questions at the end of the regular meeting before the Board moved to go into Executive Session.

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 Meeting be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, March 29, 2004**. 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 March **2004** 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 **March 2004** 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 accept the Financial Reports for the month of **March 2004** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

VOTE TO APPROVE/DISAPPROVE THE BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR 2004–2005

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve/disapprove the BOCES Administrative Budget for 2004-2005 in the amount of \$22,222,432.

Roll Call

Ms. Thalen	yes
Mr. Matera	yes
Ms. Bonner	yes
Mr. Gimple	yes
Mr. Sanseverino	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 Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Howard Gimple, 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, 2004 and ending June 30, 2007 (choose a maximum not to exceed five):

William Hsiang	_____
George J. Eleazer, Jr.	_____
Lisa Israel	_____ X _____
Fred Langstaff	_____ X _____
Joel C. Peterse n	_____
Ann Savino	_____ X _____
John Wyche	_____

Roll Call

Ms. Thalen	yes
Ms. Matera	yes
Ms. Bonner	yes
Mr. Gimple	yes
Mr. Sanseverino	yes

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET NOTICE

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 2004-2005 fiscal year budget.

Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Bilyk to explain the notice. Mr. Bilyk explained that the notice, which the district would be sending out to residents, shows the budget, the increase from last year's budget, CPI, and information relative to the STAR program. He explained that the formula, which is used to explain the STAR exemption, is required by the state and may be confusing to some because it is based on full property value.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE DISTRICT-WIDE HEALTH CURRICULUM K-12

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, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, adopts the District-Wide Health Curriculum K-12.

Mrs. Thalen asked the audience to hold any questions or comments until the end of the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

POLICY REVISION #7130 – ENTITLEMENT TO ATTEND – AGE AND RESIDENCY - FIRST READING

As a result of recently enacted laws and decisions by the Commissioner, we have determined Policy #7130 Entitlement to Attend – Age and Residency to be wholly inadequate and to this end, recommend the Board of Education to approve its revision which has been drafted by counsel. This policy needs to be moved and voted on affirmatively at two successive meetings of the Board of Education.

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, Policy Revision # 7130 – Entitlement to Attend – Age and Residency, a copy of which will be included in the Minutes Book and on file in the District Office, and will be available as well on the district's website and at the North Shore Library, was presented for a first reading. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 4-27-04-A and 4-27-04B.

Mrs. Thalen took the opportunity thank Ms. Eileen Manitta for her leadership this year as Director of Special Education and said that this has been an incredibly smooth year because of Ms. Manitta's efforts.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

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, that the Board of Education accept the attached Personnel changes and to separate Schedule B – Certified Staff, Items 2 and 3 - Retirement. All in favor - Motion carried 5-0.

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, that the Board of Education accept the attached Personnel changes per Schedule B – Certified Staff, Items 2 and 3 - Retirement.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen took the opportunity to personally thank Diane Armet for the tremendous leadership she has shown as the Athletic Director and for the remarkable growth that the athletic program has experienced since she became the district's Athletic Director. Mr. Sanseverino also thanked Ms. Armet for her invaluable assistance to the Booster Club while he was president of that organization.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the audience:

- Mr. Jeff Davis of the Rocky Point Rotary explained how his organization attempts to promote world understanding by sponsoring a student exchange program. Their organization has brought students to the area from South America and Russia, and next year a student will come from Spain. He explained that the organization relies on host families to house the exchange students and that they currently have two families committed for next year. They are still looking for another family, and he encouraged anyone who might be interested to contact the Board of Education, the Superintendent or him at 744-9000.
- Mrs. Thalen asked if the host family housed the student for the entire school year.
- Mr. Davis replied that the three host families would each take turns housing the student from Spain.
- Mrs. Johannson congratulated Mr. Knapp and Mrs. Tvelia for their work on the fourth grade play. She added that she was truly impressed with the quality of the performance.

There were no further questions or comments.

Mrs. Thalen reminded everyone that the Budget Hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2004 at 7:30 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:35 PM a motion was made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Michael Matera for the Board of Education 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 9:42 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:43 PM a motion was made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Gerardi
Superintendent of Schools