

**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 30, 2004**

Meeting called to Order at 7:31 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President
Howard Gimple, Vice-President
Jane Bonner, Trustee
Joseph Sanseverino, Trustee
Carla D'Ambrosio, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Michael Ivanoff, Administrative Assistant
Irene Pedota, District Clerk

Absent: Michael Matera, Trustee
James J. Gerardi, Superintendent of Schools
Steven Bilyk, Interim School Business Official

Mrs. Thalen made the following announcements:

- Mr. Gerardi had some surgery recently and is recuperating at home. He is expected to return soon. Mrs. Thalen explained that Mrs. D'Ambrosio would be appointed as Acting Superintendent in his absence.
- In view of the fact that most people have read about the financial scandals in other districts, Mrs. Thalen reported that the Board of Education has been attempting to keep on top of everything by meeting with the district's outside auditors, Coughlin, Foundotos, Cullen, & Danowski, LLP, a highly regarded firm, to discuss any concerns. The Board has arranged for a representative of the firm to attend a board meeting in October to explain the district's accounting procedures and to give the community an opportunity to ask any questions they may have. Mrs. Thalen added that a copy of the report, which the external auditor provides to the district at the end of every year, is available at the North Shore Library.
- The district received optimistic news with regard to the budget. The district will receive more money than previously expected. The board met with Steve Bilyk, Mike Ivanoff, Mr. Gerardi and Mrs. D'Ambrosio to discuss how to handle the additional money. Mrs. Thalen explained that they determined that it was necessary to add money to the budget for transportation and other contracts that were settled after the budget was approved. Money that was taken from the district's reserves to hold down budget increases would also be restored. The additional money results in a decrease of approximately \$1.40 per one hundred dollars of the tax rate.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any questions or comments from the community. There were none. Mrs. Thalen reminded everyone that there would be another opportunity for questions at the end of the regular meeting before the Board moved to Executive Session.

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT AN ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Carla D'Ambrosio as Acting Superintendent of Schools.

Mrs. Thalen explained that this would be a temporary appointment. Mrs. D'Ambrosio has agreed to take over the duties of Superintendent in Mr. Gerardi's absence and that it is necessary for her to have the title in order to fulfill certain contracts.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. D'Ambrosio assured everyone that she would give 100% while serving as Acting Superintendent.

Principals' Reports:

William B. Caulfield – Rocky Point High School Principal:

- Mr. Caulfield welcomed everyone back for the new school year.
- He reported that the high school is ready to begin school on Thursday, 9/2/04.
- There were a number of schedule changes last week – changes were done on a grade-level basis on different days.
- The building is in excellent shape and ready to open thanks to head custodian, Willie Puricelli and John Tolson.
- He recommended that anyone who has not had an opportunity to visit the new Cosmetology classroom do so. He added that everyone at the high school is excited that Cosmetology students will be able to take Cosmetology I this year at the high school; both Cosmetology I and II will be offered next year.

Carol Tvelia – Joseph A. Edgar School Principal:

- Mrs. Tvelia reported that the JAE building is spotless and ready to open thanks to the custodians who did a very nice job.
- Mrs. Tvelia announced that she looks forward to having students return - especially after the success of the summer reading program.
- A "Bank Day" will be instituted for students at JAE, and representatives from the Bank of Smithtown will visit the JAE this year to teach children how to save.
- Students will participate in "The Health Smart Curriculum" this year.
- The Literacy Collaborative will begin its second year at the JAE.

Joseph Centamore – Rocky Point Middle School Principal:

- Dr. Centamore thanked the custodial staff for the outstanding condition of the middle school.
- He also thanked Mr. Bilyk and Mr. Ivanoff in the Business Office for their support and leadership.
- Dr. Centamore reported that the first "coffee with the principals" was held at the middle school tonight. The meetings, which will be held before each board meeting, will give members of the community an opportunity to stop in to chat informally with administrators at the middle school.
- He also announced that a 20-minute recess during every lunch period would be implemented at the middle school this year.
- Parents were urged to visit the website where they may now digitally mail their questions or comments to the administrators at the middle school.
- Open school night will be held on September 28, 2004.
- Dr. Centamore congratulated Len Kies for an outstanding beginning to his career as Athletic Director.

Paul Read – Frank J. Carasiti School Principal:

- Mr. Read reported that kindergarten orientation was held last week.
- The first Shared Decision Meeting of the year will be held on September 13, 2004. Mr. Read also reminded everyone that the PTA will hold its first meeting of the new year on September 14, 2004 and SEPTA will meet on September 15, 2004.
- Open School Nights will be held on the following nights: September 21, 2004 – Kindergarten; September 22, 2004 – First Grade; and September 23, 2004 – Second Grade.

Mrs. D'Ambrosio thanked the entire staff for their hard work to prepare for the opening of school this year.

MINUTES

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meetings
be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, June 28, 2004, Organizational Meeting, July 6, 2004 and Special Meetings, July 26, 2004, August 23, 2004 and August 25, 2004.**

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked Mrs. Wilson how long it usually takes for the approved minutes to be available on the district's website. Mrs. Wilson explained that once minutes are approved, they are usually posted on the website the same evening that they are approved. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

SURPLUS ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner 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 for surplus the following attached list.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino asked how surplus items are disposed of. Mr. Ivanoff replied that they are put out to bid. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA)

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple 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 adopt a resolution to approve the State Environmental Quality Review Action (SEQRA).

Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Ivanoff for a brief description. Mr. Ivanoff explained that the resolution included capital projects such as boiler replacement at the high school, routine maintenance and repair of various items and some asbestos abatement. Mrs. Thalen asked if it was always necessary to file a SEQRA. Mr. Ivanoff explained that it was necessary in this instance due to the boiler replacement. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 8-30-04-A and 8-30-04-B. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner 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 4-0.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A SECTION XI INDIVIDUAL COMPETITOR

Howard Gimple made a motion and Joseph Sanseverino seconded, for the Board of Education to table the resolution pending further discussion.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that such a resolution becomes necessary when students wish to compete in a sport in another district because the particular sport is not sponsored by the student's own district.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any questions or comments from the community before the Board moved to Executive Session. There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:01 PM a motion was made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Jane Bonner for the Board of Education to go into executive session to discuss particular personnel matters. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Pedota
District Clerk

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:20 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:21 PM a motion was made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla D'Ambrosio
Acting Superintendent