

**MINUTES**  
**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**May 17, 2005**

**Meeting called to Order at 7:32 PM**

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President  
Howard Gimple, Vice-President  
Jane Bonner, Trustee  
Michael Matera, Trustee  
Joseph Sanseverino, Trustee  
James J. Gerardi, Superintendent of Schools  
Carla D'Ambrosio, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction  
Michael Ivanoff, School Business Official  
Mary Berretta, Acting, District Clerk

Absent: Irene Pedota, District Clerk

**Mrs. Thalen opened the meeting to questions or comments from the audience.**

- Mr. Eric Alexander – consulting firm – *Visions* – will be at the JAE cafeteria on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> to work with the community on their input for the 33 acre parcel of land adjacent to the JAE school. The parcel of land proposed as Fairfield Knolls is currently to be zoned for thirty-three single-family homes.
- Mr. Alexander's company will be meeting with other community groups to discuss the proposals for the development of this land.
- Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> will have a final presentation at the Middle School.
- Mr. Alexander would like to thank the School Board for allowing him to make this presentation. He welcomes anyway that we could spread the word about the up coming meeting so as to make the community aware and he would like to thank the School Board for allowing his company the use of the school facilities. He realizes that this does not mean that the district endorses his company.
  
- Mr. Jack Daniels, President, Rocky Point Rotary Club  
May 26<sup>th</sup> Rotary/Lions 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual People of the Year Fund Raiser  
This fundraiser is for community improvement and a scholarship. One of this year's recipients is our very own Pat Sparks. I hope you can all join us for this very special night.
  
- Mrs. Anne Marie Johannasen – I would like to make a quick comment. Kathleen, my pride and joy will be moving on to JAE. What a wonderful experience she has had at FJC. Thanks to everyone who helped her turn into who she is now. Cathy Conner her teacher who has helped her so much, Christine Sarli who works with her everyday, Therese King worked with her last year in the library and Wendy Duffy who now helps her with her books. I am a really satisfied parent. You all helped this little girl who could barely walk turn into what is the heart and soul of FJC. And last but not least Mr. Read and Mr. O'Brien, thank you also for all your patience and understanding over the years.
  
- Mrs. Thalen – Are there any further questions/comments? Since there are no questions at the present time, we will ask again at the end of the meeting.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Paul Read, Principal – Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School announced:**

- Literacy Night – 5/11 – parents of children entering kindergarten participated in literacy workshop. Provided parents an opportunity to learn about our literacy program and how to help their child learn to read.

- Math Parent Workshop – 5/18 – will help parents understand how math is taught in the classroom along with the best practices for helping children learn math.
- Terra Nova Testing Grades 1-2 – administered 5/2-5 – results will be sent home with reports cards on the last day of school.
- Screening results – over 260 children entering kindergarten in September were screened to date. There are 290 students registered to date and we expect enrollment to be over 300 by September.
- Second and Third Grade Teacher Meeting – 5/25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers will meet to begin to discuss and prepare for the new third grade tests in reading and math. These tests are part of the new requirements dictated by the NCLB Act.
- Handwriting without Tears Training in June – In June, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers will receive training in a program called Handwriting Without Tears Program. We introduced this in kindergarten this year and we will transition this program into first and second grade over the next two years.
- Tenure – I want to extend my congratulations to all the teachers in the Rocky Point District receiving tenure tonight and especially those teachers at FJC. Tenure is something that is earned, and I am proud of my staff receiving this recognition tonight because of their dedication and commitment to the children.
- Great American Read Aloud – held on May 6<sup>th</sup> – over 200 guests attended and read to children. One special moment was when Legislator Losquadro read to Ms. Sarlo's 1<sup>st</sup> grade – *Diary of a Worm*. Several guest readers discovered that sometimes the best books are children's books.

**Ken Crawford – Assistant Principal, Joseph A. Edgar School announced:**

- 5/4 – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade beginner chorus and 5<sup>th</sup> grade recorder ensemble treated us to Spring Concert under the director of Craig Knapp.
- 6/6 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra and band, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade intermediate and select chorus will be performing at their Spring Concert.
- May is testing month. Last week, 4<sup>th</sup> graders completed the NYS Math Assessment – next week will be the NYS Science Assessment. All testing will be complete by the end of May.
- 5/4,5,6 – PTA sponsored plant sale. Donated \$1,180 to JAE's Student Council. We would like to thank the PTA for their fine effort and donation.
- 5/5 – Cinco de Mayo – Staff and students dress in Mexican clothing. Our kitchen served fine Mexican food. Nachos!
- Ken Krapf – 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and his class learned all about Wall Street by playing *Newsday's* Stock Market Game. Mr. Krapf introduced five of his students who were Wall Street experts. These student's did exceptionally well in accumulating over \$18,000 in a tough Stock Market this year. Each student spoke about the stock they purchased, some of which were Starbucks, Payless, 7-Eleven and the reason they picked that particular stock.

**Dr. Joseph Tanen Centamore, Principal – Rocky Point Middle School announced:**

- Thank you for letting me read at the Great American Read Aloud.
- Congratulations to all of the teachers who were awarded tenure at tonight's meeting. I am very proud of the teacher's especially those in my building for their hard work and dedication to the students.
- Lois Lowry ice cream social was last week – Thanks to Andy Levine and Donna Ericson for all of their help.
- Thank you to Mr. Caulfield and Mr. Kies for the use of the HS gym for the 5/18 and 19 – Spring Concert & Arts Festival and PTA Book Fair.
- Ms. Salbu's student's work was published in the *Beacon*.
- Pine Barren's – Save the Earth Contest – two students were winners.
- Middle School was recognized on 5/26 by the Suffolk County Interfaith Anti-bias task force for our work with violence/bully prevention and promoting tolerance by studying the holocaust.
- 5/20 – 6/7 grade dance.
- 6/3 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance.
- Thank you to the Executive Board of the PTA, who are stepping down, for all their hard work in helping get the Middle School established.

**Susann Crossan – Assistant Principal – Rocky Point High School announced:**

- Marching Band performed on the Intrepid on 5/6 as part of the ALS Ride for Life Kickoff Celebration. They were approximately 500 people in the audience including former Yankee David Cone.
- Two students performed for a rating at NYSSMA Jazz Festival at Commack High School on 5/13 and 14. Results forthcoming.
- 5/19 - 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade band will perform at the NYSSMA Major Organization Festival at Sachem North High School.
- District wide over 300 students will be performing in NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival, which will be held at Shoreham-Wading River.
- High School will sponsor and Percussion Clinic for students in grade 5-12 on 5/23 from 6-9 PM. The clinic will be taught by professional percussionists and music educators and review technical methods useful for percussionists and piano players.
- 5/25 – Spring concert and art festival will take place at 7:30 PM in the auditorium
- Brass Quintet – Students were featured at the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony and will perform at the staff retirement party next month.
- Guidance Department – Suffolk County Employment Day – 5/25 – for seniors interested in learning more about careers on Long Island. Ms. McKibbin has been offering workshops on resume writing, interview skills and dressing for success.
- Scholarships – check the web for new scholarships. It is updated every two weeks. The counselors developed a new scholarship information form given to each senior through their English class. This information will be useful for the scholarship committee when deciding on recipients for scholarships.
- Congratulations to the Boys Track team who was undefeated this spring.

**Len Kies – Director of Physical Education, Health, Athletics & Intramurals announced:**

- Girls Lacrosse – will be playing for County Championship at Center Moriches HS – 7:30
- Boys Track – first time in 1<sup>st</sup> place as County Champs in 34 years.
- Boys Baseball – playoff game against Huntington 5/18.
- Boys Lacrosse – playoff game against Sayville 5/19.
- 6/1 – Girl's Athletic Dinner – Majestic Gardens.
- 6/8 - Boy's Athletic Dinner – Majestic Gardens.

**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, April 20, 2005 and Special Meetings, April 18, 2005, and April 19, 2005.** 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 2005** 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 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 2005** 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 2005** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**RESOLUTION: CAFETERIA COOPERATIVE BIDDING**

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, 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 2005-06 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.

**RESOLUTION FOR HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT**

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 authorize the Board President to enter into an agreement for health services for the current 2004-05 school year with the following districts:

- Center Moriches U.F.S.D.
- Commack U. F. S. D.
- Middle Country Central School District
- Port Jefferson U.F.S.D.
- South Huntington U.F.S.D

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**APPOINTMENT VOTE WORKERS FOR VOTE/ELECTION (BUDGET VOTE-ELECTION – MAY 17, 2005) BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND POLL CLERK/TELLER**

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 appoint the following persons as Board of Registration and Poll Clerk/Teller for the Budget Vote/Election. The hourly rate for the vote workers will be \$9.00.

Linda Apicella – Board of Registration

Lisa Salerno – Board of Registration

Gloria Meyer – Pole Clerk/Teller

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

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

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, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Arlene Danielsen 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 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 5-17-05-A and 5-17-05-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.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF A GIFT**

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 a gift of \$2,000 from the Rocky Point Alumni Association. These funds will be used to offset the cost of repairing the sound system at JAE. This gift is accepted with heartfelt thanks and appreciation. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Mrs. Thalen opened the meeting to questions or comments from the audience.**

- Ms. Pat Sparks

I would like to extend my congratulations to all the newly tenured teachers and administrators, many of whom I know, but I would like to especially congratulate the Board of Education and Administration for their wise decision in granting a well- deserved tenure to Amy Schecher of our Music Department.

I have had the privilege and honor to have observed and work closely with this lovely young woman during the past several years, and in addition to being a positive role model, she has proven herself to be one of the most dedicated, talented and hard-working teachers that I have ever known.

I recall marveling at the incredible performances she evoked from her students at the first holiday concert she conducted just 2 ½ months after starting here. I believe “blown away” was the term I used to describe my feelings after witnessing that performance. Ms. Schecher never hesitates to assist in any way, and she consistently does so calmly, cheerfully and patiently, and she possesses a sunny disposition that I could only wish for in my wildest dreams. She is a most valuable asset to our music department, our district and our very fortunate student musicians. I wish her many happy years at Rocky Point.

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I would like to thank Anna Nemes for her many years of dedicated service to the children of this district and to gratefully acknowledge her tireless work and efforts in support of Rocky Point’s students. Mrs. Nemes and all of Rocky Point’s School Related Personnel are the backbone of the district, without them the district could not function, and whose important work is far too often taken for granted by the public, myself included, and I wish to thank all of them.

On a personal level, Mrs. Nemes has often taken time from her very full workload to assist me on occasions when I worked in the high school, and during my time working as summer school support staff. She did so cheerfully, patiently and always professionally, and I will always be thankful to her for steering me through some uncharted waters. Anna is a valuable asset to Rocky Point, and she will be terribly missed. I wish her a blessed and well-earned retirement.

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Finally, for the approximately 15 plus collective years of voluntary service to our district, I would like to thank the outgoing PTA executive board members: Karen Audette, Charlene LaCascia, Suzanne Soltysik and Lisa Salerno (please forgive any omissions), for donating so much of their valuable time and talent to unselfishly benefit the children of Rocky Point. These devoted individuals were responsible for countless book fairs, plant sales, family cultural nights, picture days, playground constructions and repairs, wrapping paper sales, and so much more, providing donations for many needy causes within the district.

Thanks to each of these wonderful, caring people for choosing to spend their “spare” time to provide excellent support for the education of our children. I’m sure we won’t be seeing the last of them, but I wish them well in all their future endeavors.

**Ms. Thalen asked if there was anyone else.**

- Mr. Davis – President, Rocky Point Rotary/Lions – did we know about “Interact” – high school level of the Rotary club – they helped raise money to bring a 10 year old foreign boy over to this country to have some surgery. June 7<sup>th</sup> they will be having a raffle. For more information just give us a call.

Ms. Thalen asked if there were no other questions/comments, we would take a recess till 9PM when we would accept the budget/election results. We would then return to the auditorium to finish the meeting.

**RECESS**

At 8:20 PM, a motion was made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Michael Matera for the Board of Education to recess the meeting to accept the budget vote and election of Board members. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

The Board reconvened the meeting at 9:37PM.

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF THE BUDGET VOTE/ELECTION OF TRUSTEES**

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 accept the results of the Budget Vote/Election of Trustees.

Votes/Budget	YES	886	NO	571
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Votes/Board Members	Michael Matera	989
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	Geraldine Thalen	1002
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Write-In:	Jane St. Pierre	1
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Michael Matera and Geraldine Thalen were re-elected to three-year terms commencing July 1, 2005.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:39 PM a motion was made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Howard Gimple for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Berretta  
Acting District Clerk