

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 29, 2005

Meeting called to Order at 7:40 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President
Joseph Sanseverino, Vice-President
Jane Bonner, Trustee
Howard Gimple, Trustee
Michael Matera, Trustee
Carla L. D'Ambrosio Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
Sherry J. Alessandro, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources/Administration
Michael W. Ivanoff, Director of Finance and Operations
Irene Pedota, District Clerk

Absent: None

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Susan Sullivan, Assistant Principal – Rocky Point High School:

- Mrs. Sullivan announced that the high school is ready for the return of students in September.
- Student schedules were mailed out and there was an opportunity for parents/students to meet with guidance counselors if they had any concerns.
- The building is all set and in excellent shape thanks to the custodial staff.
- Mrs. Sullivan reminded parents to please feel free to contact the high school administrative staff if they had any questions or concerns.
- Mrs. Thalen asked if there has been an increase in enrollment at the high school.
- Mrs. Sullivan replied that based on the number of new students that she has observed who enrolled at the high school within the last couple of weeks it appears that enrollment has increased.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio added that there are over 310 kindergarten students enrolled in the district, which resulted in the creation of an additional section.
- Mrs. Thalen further added that the difference between the new kindergarten class and the 207 graduating seniors last June shows an increase of 103 children.

Joseph Centamore, Principal – Rocky Point Middle School:

- Dr. Centamore announced that he was notified at the end of the summer that the middle school has been recognized by the New York State Education Department as a "High performing/Gap Closing School" for meeting all applicable standards for English and Math and making adequate annual progress in English, Math, and Science for two consecutive years. In addition, received the 2005 Suffolk County Anti-Bias Award for leadership in promoting racial and ethnic harmony via their work with violence and bullying prevention. Dr. Centamore said that he is very proud of his students and staff and is confident that they will do even better this coming school year.
- Dr. Centamore thanked the custodial and grounds staff for their outstanding work in preparing the building.

- Information regarding new clubs and activity schedules will be made available and the website will be updated.
- Students' handbooks, locker combinations, the code of conduct, etc. will be distributed to students during the first week of school.
- Dr. Centamore also announced that the middle school and high school students will be participating in the "Rachel's Challenge" character education program in September.
- Dr. Centamore urged parents to feel free to contact him or the guidance office for an appointment if they had any concerns.

Carol Tvelia, Principal – Joseph A. Edgar School:

- Mrs. Tvelia announced that the JAE is also in wonderful shape. The custodians have been going a great job and the building is all set to go.
- The JAE hosted the North Shore Youth Council's summer program during the first six weeks of the summer.
- For the past two weeks, ninety-three third, fourth, and fifth grade students participated in the "Jump Start Program" in an effort to improve their reading and writing skills. The program has been very successful and will help them to prepare for their state tests this year.

Frank J. Carasiti School – Dr. D'Ambrosio announced:

- Dr. D'Ambrosio recently attended kindergarten orientation for over 310 new kindergartners. The orientation included a presentation by the school nurses and Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Read provided a slide show depicting a typical kindergartner's day.
- The FJC building is ready to welcome students.
- Students will have half-days for the first week of school.

Leonard Kies – Athletic Director:

- Ten sports are already underway, and athletes have been working hard all summer long.
- They are jumping right into the season with the first varsity football scrimmage against Ward Melville scheduled for 7:00 PM on September 6, 2005.
- A new kick line has been added and members will be performing at JV and varsity football games this year.
- Homecoming is scheduled for October 1. Preparation for the festivities, including the second annual parade and the crowning of a homecoming king and queen new for this year, are underway.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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: **Regular Meeting, June 27, 2005, Organizational Meeting, July 12, 2005 and Special Meeting, July 26, 2005**. 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 **June 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 **June 2005** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Financial Reports for the month of **June 2005** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM RESERVE FUND

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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 establishment of an Employee Retirement System Reserve Fund in the amount of \$2,000,000.

Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Ivanoff for a brief explanation. Mr. Ivanoff explained that the state requires the district each year to set aside funds for the retirement system and that this amount fluctuates each year. Mrs. Thalen asked where this money comes from. Mr. Ivanoff replied that last year the district received excess money from the state. Mrs. Bonner asked if this is something that will happen each year. Mr. Ivanoff replied that the district would look each year to see if some of the funds can be returned to the taxpayers in the way of a tax break, but it depends upon the circumstances from year to year. There were no additional questions.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDED BOARD POLICY #7131 – NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS – FIRST READING

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, Policy # 7131 – Non-Resident Students, a copy of which will be included in the Minutes Book and on file in the District Office, as well as will be available in each district building tomorrow morning, was presented for a first reading.

Discussion ensued. Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that the district has specific rules regarding students' eligibility to attend school in the district. There have been a number of requests recently to allow exchange students to attend school here. Dr. D'Ambrosio further explained that in these times of terrorist threats, the district needs time to investigate the sponsor agencies involved to insure that they are legitimate. Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any questions. There were none. Mrs. Thalen announced that the policy would be offered for a second reading and be voted on at the next Board of Education meeting.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 8-29-05-A and 8-29-05-B. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner 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 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 Executive Session:

- Ernestine Franco asked as a taxpayer who voted against the budget last year, what could be done to lower the budget. Mrs. Thalen explained that more students move into the district each year. She added that the Board is looking into a new budget process that will start earlier this year and recommended that Ms. Franco attends as many meetings as possible in order to make an informed decision when it comes time to vote.
- Mrs. Bonner explained that when she moved into the district the state paid 60% of the costs, now they pay 40%, and each year more and more students with special needs move into the district. The district is mandated by the state to pay for these services. The Board of Education tries to give money back to the community whenever possible. She urged Ms. Franco to contact Governor Pataki and Senator LaValle to request more state aid.
- Mrs. Thalen added thanked Ms. Franco for taking the time to come to the meeting to express her opinion and urged her to continue to attend meetings. Mrs. Thalen reminded everyone that the next meeting would be held on September 19, 2005.

There were no further questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:06 PM a motion was made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Howard Gimple 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 9:29 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 PM a motion was made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Jane Bonner for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla D'Ambrosio, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools