

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 23, 2006**

Mr. Sanseverino called the meeting to order at 7:46 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: 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: Geraldine Thalen, President

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

William B. Caulfield, Principal – Rocky Point High School:

- Regents exams for those students who need to re-take them as well as midterm exams will be administered at the high school this week.
- Suffolk County Police Sergeant Cowie will attend the next faculty meeting on February 16, 2006 to speak about computer misuse. A meeting for parents to discuss this may also be scheduled at a later date.
- Guidance counselors are currently scheduling for next year. Mr. Caulfield urged parents to discuss course options with their children and to review the course curriculum guides that were distributed to all students.
- The Patriotic Concert is scheduled for next Thursday, February 2nd at 7:30 PM.
- Set construction has begun for the 2006 spring musical, *Anything Goes*. This production will be presented on March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.
- Congratulations to Brittany Manseau, Salutatorian of the Class of 2005, for selection to Hershey's All USA Band over the summer. Brittany's biography was printed in the October 2005 issue of InTune Magazine.
- Mr. Caulfield thanked John Gallagher for his contributions to Rocky Point and extended his best wishes for continued success at Longwood.

Joseph Centamore, Ed.D., Principal – Rocky Point Middle School:

- Two weeks ago, a second dance was held at the middle school for each grade level. Approximately 500 students combined attended. Dr. Centamore thanked the student government and the chaperones.
- Last week, NYS ELA assessments were administered to students in grades six through eight.
- Tomorrow marks the beginning of the late winter sports season for students in grades seven and eight.
- Astronomy night for students and their families will be held on Wednesday night at 7:00 PM behind the middle school.
- A mandated meeting for coaches, middle school students, and their parents is scheduled for January 26, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the high school auditorium.
- Autism Awareness Training for middle school staff will be conducted during the February faculty meeting.
- An informal meeting was held with teachers to discuss planning for the first ever middle school play, *The Wizard of Oz*. Performances are scheduled for May 5 and 6, 2006.

Carol Tvelia, Principal – Joseph A. Edgar School:

- Students at JAE recently completed NYS ELA assessments.
- In preparation for these exams, students took practice assessments during the months of November and December. The early bird math program begins tomorrow to help students prepare for the NYS math assessments that will be administered at the end of February. Fourth grade science assessments will be given in March.
- This year as part of the life science unit in grade three, the entire third grade will be trained by Cornell Cooperative Extension to learn about chick embryology. All the classes will incubate a dozen eggs and hopefully most will hatch.
- The third grade Valentine's soiree will be held in school on February 14, 2006.
- Fourth grade students raise money for the Madagascar-Ankizay fund by reading at home and garnering pledges. Enough money has been raised over the years to build a room on a school. This year, a school is being built in honor of JAE students and will be called the Rocky Point School. Children who read at least 300 pages will attend a special evening event on March 3 – "Prime Time."
- Report cards will be sent home on February 10, 2006.
- Peer mediation training sessions are scheduled in February.
- Eighteen chorus students from JAE have been selected to represent Rocky Point at NYSSMA.

Scott O'Brien, Assistant Principal – Frank J. Carasiti School:

- Nine teachers from FJC represented Rocky Point at the East Suffolk BOCES Technology in Education Fair. A first grade group of students created a movie on playground safety, and second graders showed how to make maps, and several students and teachers won prizes.
- Terra Nova tests were administered to first and second grade students from January 17 through January 20, 2006.
- The PARP kick-off assembly is scheduled for January 26, 2006. This year the theme is "Around the World in 180 Days."
- Mr. O'Brien thanked high school teacher Susan Wilson and her students for creating a PARP website. The website was designed to provide shared reading opportunities for parents and children and contains information about the countries FJC will be visiting. Mrs. Wilson's class will be invited to the kick-off assembly.
- Congratulations to teacher Jennifer Meschi for bringing eight teachers and two representatives from each class to the Technology Integration in Education Fair. Ms. Meschi also won a \$2500 Best Buy grant for promoting the integration of technology in the classroom.

Dr. D'Ambrosio congratulated the teachers and students for their participation at the fair. Dr. D'Ambrosio said that initially only one or two teachers participated each year. This year we had the most representatives at the technology fair with 17 teachers and students to demonstrate what we in Rocky Point do to integrate technology in instruction. Dr. D'Ambrosio thanked Ms. Meschi, Ms. Wilson and everyone responsible for their participation.

Dr. D'Ambrosio introduced Ms. Janene Gentile, Executive Director of the North Shore Youth Council.

Ms. Gentile announced that several Rocky Point High School students would be honored this evening for their service to the community. On behalf of Legislator LoSquadro, Mrs. Bonner and Ms. Hayduk presented Jon Bakewicz, Rebekah Bennet, Tiffany Giambrone, Amanda Heil, Johnilee Lysen, Maureen Malone, Kyle O'Connor, Angel Oliveira, Kaitlynn Paduano, and Samantha Williams with certificates in honor of their commitment to their community by helping to raise money to feed the needy and collecting items to send to members of the armed forces serving in Iraq.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Sanseverino thanked the students for all of their hard work and expressed his appreciation to Ms. Gentile and Ms. Hayduk for having programs in place to keep our youth involved in the community.

Mr. Sanseverino opened the meeting to questions or comments from the community:

- Ms. Nicole O’Neal expressed her concern that children at the JAE were told that they have to choose one music class when they enter middle school. She said that these children have worked hard for the past three years and just as they are able to get started in band or orchestra, they are told that they have to make a choice. She added that she hopes that this can be addressed so that a solution is in place and children can remain involved in different areas of music.
- Dr. D’Ambrosio thanked Ms. O’Neal and suggested that she should contact the building principal since it is a scheduling issue.
- Ms. O’Neal suggested that perhaps a nine-period day would be the answer.
- Mrs. Patricia Sparks thanked Mr. John Gallagher for his contributions to the district, which include the marching band’s participation in the NYC St. Patrick’s Day Parade and the district being named as one of the top one hundred communities for music education. Mrs. Sparks expressed her best wishes for Mr. Gallagher’s continued success.
- Tiffany, a Rocky Point High School student, said that she was concerned because orchestra students have not had a permanent teacher for the past month and students are not progressing.
- Dr. D’Ambrosio explained that it is difficult to find a teacher at this time of the year. They have someone who is being appointed as a substitute effective tomorrow and hope to have a permanent substitute in the near future.

There were no further questions. Mr. Sanseverino explained that there would be another opportunity for questions at the end of the regular meeting.

MINUTES

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meeting be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, December 19, 2005 and January 11, 2006.** All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

TREASURER’S 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 Treasurer’s Reports for the month of **November 2005** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

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 Extra Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of **November 2005** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

FINANCIAL 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 Financial Reports for the month of **November 2005** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

RESCINDING OF H. SCHRIER BID

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 request of the Long Island Food Service Cooperative to rescind the bids awarded to H. Schrier, effective November 28, 2005.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Ivanoff explained that this vendor was not fulfilling his obligations. There was no further discussion. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

4TH & 5TH GRADE CHORAL PRIZE ACCEPTANCE

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 accept the prize of a 52” wide screen HD-ready Projection TV from 77 WABC Radio and Electronics Expo.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino explained that this is an award that the students received for having the best song on WABC radio. Mr. Sanseverino extended his congratulations to the students. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

SURPLUS ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera 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 attached lists. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE VARSITY CHEERLEADING TRIP TO THE UCA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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 authorize the Varsity Cheerleading trip to the UCA National Championships in Orlando, Florida and that the three district coaches be able to take these days as “School Business” days.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino asked how they were doing with their fundraising. Mr. Kies replied that they were doing very well. 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 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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 1-23-06-A and 1-23-06-B. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera 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.

BUDGET PRESENTATION: GENERAL SUPPORT – MICHAEL IVANOFF, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Mr. Ivanoff presented an overview of the general support portion of the proposed 2006-2007 budget, including expenses for the annual election, the district clerk, the Board of Education, the chief school administrator, business administration/finance, costs associated with facilities maintenance, printing and mailing, BOCES administrative services, insurance, school association dues, and transportation costs for the district.

- Mr. Sanseverino noted a big jump in the cost of auditing. Mr. Ivanoff explained that the increases were due to mandated audits and federal, state, and county inquiries into the district's finances.
- Mr. Sanseverino asked how much of this was the result of what happened in Roslyn. Mr. Ivanoff replied that approximately \$175,000 is necessary to cover these mandates and are not funded by the state.
- Mr. Matera asked if the existing bond could be used to offset some of the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the plant. Mr. Ivanoff replied that they might be able to use some of the money from the bond to offset these costs.
- Mrs. Bonner asked about the increase in the cost of emergency and unforeseen repairs. Mr. Ivanoff replied that emergency boiler and HVAC repairs, carpeting, etc. were included in this item.
- Mr. Sanseverino asked if all of the utility costs were included here or if they were broken down by building somewhere else. Mr. Ivanoff replied that they all were included here.
- Mrs. Bonner made reference to the increased transportation charges and commented that unfortunately Laidlaw is the only game in town.

There was no further discussion with regard to the budget presentation.

Mr. Sanseverino announced that the next budget presentation would be on February 8, 2006, and he asked if there were any other questions or comments from the community:

- Dr. D'Ambrosio took the opportunity to wish Mr. Gallagher good luck and welcomed new music department chairperson, Sara Ruggiero.
- Mr. Sanseverino took an opportunity to congratulate Kimberly Rink on being awarded tenure.
- Mr. Sanseverino announced that the Board has interviewed candidates for the Audit Committee. A final decision will be announced at the next board meeting. No other applications will be accepted at this point.

There were no further questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:45 PM a motion was made by Jane Bonner 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 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Pedota
District Clerk

The board returned to open session at 9:34 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:35 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 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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