

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
April 20, 2006

Mrs. Thalen called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, 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: Joseph Sanseverino, Vice-President

Mrs. Thalen announced that the results of the Fairfield Properties survey were included in a handout that was available at the back of the auditorium. Sixty people gave their input and there were a variety of responses. She expressed her appreciation to everyone for his or her polite responses to the survey. Mrs. Thalen explained that the handout should provide a fair understanding of how the community feels. A decision has not been reached about what type of public benefit Fairfield will donate in addition to the administration building and the fields that are supposed to be constructed. Mrs. Thalen encouraged everyone to attend the Civic Association's meetings, which are held the second Wednesday of every month (except August) for more information. However, accepting the pool is not something that the board is willing to do at this point.

Mrs. Thalen asked for questions or comments from the community. She reminded everyone that it would be necessary to keep to the two-minute time frame in order to be fair to all. Questions would be taken for fifteen to twenty minutes before the regular meeting and then resume at the end of the meeting:

- Ms. Diane Burke, Civic Association President, explained that although there are no concrete plans yet, the Civic Association would take the money for some kind of community benefit.
- Mrs. Thalen announced that the plans for the administration building and the soccer fields would remain in place.
- Ms. Burke announced that nothing else has been decided at this point. She urged the community to attend the civic meetings because they would like to have everyone be able to say what they would like to see Fairfield donate.
- Mrs. Johannesen said that she had a question about the agenda item relating to the abolishment of the nurse teacher position and what will happen to the health curriculum
- Mrs. Thalen replied that when they get to that item, questions would be directed to the appropriate administrator.
- Mr. Piraglia wanted to discuss the same item.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that once the board got to that item on the agenda, an explanation would be forthcoming. She explained that discussion relating to employees could not be entertained.
- Mr. Piraglia referring to Mr. Read leaving the Frank J. Carasiti School, asked if it was the same situation?
- Mrs. Thalen replied that an announcement would be made about someone being appointed to that position.
- Ms. Susan Colasidis asked why members of the community were allowed to use the athletic fields while school was in session during the day.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that they should not be.
- Ms. Colasidis said that teachers don't ask them to leave.

- Dr. D'Ambrosio said that there are signs posted notifying the community that they should not be using fields when school is in session. She assured Ms. Colasidis that the district would take care of it.
- Mr. Kies added that students have just started to go back outside for phys ed.
- Mrs. Sparks thanked the board and administrators for all of their hard work on the budget and for the children of the school district. She had a question with regard to the elimination of a program.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that there weren't any programs being eliminated.
- Mrs. Sparks said she was referring to the elimination of the health curriculum.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that the program was not being eliminated, merely restructured. The position was being eliminated.
- Mrs. Sparks asked if she could speak about the elimination without mentioning anyone's name.
- Mrs. Thalen explained that she didn't want to keep Mrs. Sparks from speaking. However, decisions about eliminating a position could not be discussed in public.
- Mrs. Sparks explained that after working for the community ed before school program over the past four years, she has witnessed that not all children have an opportunity to learn about such important topics such as personal hygiene, safety, and good touch/bad touch, not to mention sex offenders. Many parents have to work. For the past 35 years, a program has addressed these issues and now the program is being eliminated as a cost saving measure. She said that she understands that the board needs to make difficult decisions. However, at a time when more of this type of instruction is necessary, she asked why is it being eliminated. We are supposed to be receiving additional state aid. She asked the board to please reverse their decision.
- Mrs. Thalen thanked Mrs. Sparks, and she explained that the program was not being eliminated, only the position. She explained that she understood that Mrs. Sparks was concerned that the program not be eliminated. Now, the athletic director will be overseeing the program.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that we have a district-wide health program called, *Health Smart*, which is taught by all of our teachers. Nothing will be changed except that now classroom teachers instead of the nurse-teacher will teach it. The program will be maintained; just the position is being eliminated.
- Mrs. Thalen reminded everyone that discussions regarding personnel could not be entertained.
- Mr. Sean Callahan expressed his concerns as the parent of a kindergartner regarding the elimination of the nurse-teacher position and how it would impact his child.
- Mrs. Thalen assured Mr. Callahan's that the program was not being eliminated.
- Mr. Callahan replied that parents would like to have the current program that is implemented by the nurse-teacher carry forward.
- Mrs. Thalen explained that the board will monitor the program for the next two years and they will be unhappy if they find that it isn't running. However, they remain confident that it will be.
- Mr. Callahan said that with regard to discussing personnel issues, the individual may waive their right and then the issue could be addressed directly. He also suggested that the decision should be left to the community.
- Mrs. Thalen said that it would not be appropriate to leave decisions regarding personnel up to the community.
- Mr. Callahan said he would like the community to be able to decide whether or not it should be changed.
- Mrs. Thalen repeated that it is not something that will be put up for the community to decide. The program is not being eliminated; how the program is being run is being changed.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that classroom teachers in grades one through eight would administer the program. The program is being restructured so that it is done the same way that it is done in every other classroom, and the content will be maintained.
- Mr. Read assured everyone that although everyone has expressed his or her concerns about the nurse-teacher; the reality is that the health program will continue. The children in kindergarten will get an extra period of gym, during which health issues will be addressed. The program will be continued and there is an argument that the extra time in gym will also benefit the children.

- Mrs. Thalen asked Dr. D’Ambrosio to explain how the high school program is doing since it was added two years ago.
- Dr. D’Ambrosio explained that we have a more cohesive health program.
- Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Kies how it would be integrated in the classroom.
- Mr. Kies replied that as it is in the middle school and high school, the program would be implemented by classroom teachers. The program includes state mandated topics such as HIV, good touch/bad touch, personal hygiene, etc. The program is still the same. It was adopted to provide uniformity so that the curriculum is the same across each grade level. Physical education teachers will cover many of the topics. There will be several meetings to make sure that teachers are well trained.
- Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Kies to keep a very serious eye on this and to let the board know that the restructuring has been successful.
- Mrs. Johanessen asked if *Health Smart* was the health curriculum that will be administered at FJC.
- Mr. Kies replied that it was.
- Mrs. Johannesen said that the children don’t come home talking about what they learned in health from their classroom teachers. However, when her children come home after learning something from the nurse-teacher, the information is the topic at dinner. Also, classroom teachers are already very pressed for time. She doesn’t think it will have the same impact although the curriculum is not being changed because the teacher is being changed. She agrees that extra gym time is a good idea. However, she believes that expecting them to cover these issues during gym time will be counter-productive. We discuss these issues at home but many children don’t. She thinks we are doing a big disservice to those children who don’t have the opportunity to talk about these things at home. Also, we will be hiring athletic staff in place of nursing staff.
- Mrs. Thalen asked if we would be hiring additional physical education staff.
- Mr. Kies replied not at this time. We are still working on schedules. It will not be taught in the physical education setting. It will be taught much the same way it is now – in the classroom.
- Mrs. Johannesen asked if we are not hiring any new teachers, and if we would be just saving one person’s salary, then why was it being changed.
- Mrs. Thalen explained that it is very difficult to discuss this in a public setting.
- Mrs. Johannesen said that change is always hard. Anyone who works in the FJC nurses’ office knows that it is always packed. She doesn’t see the point of just replacing one person with another one.
- Mrs. Thalen announced that although everyone knows that she doesn’t like to shut anyone down, it was time to move on to the regular meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Susann Crossan, Assistant Principal – Rocky Point High School:

- On May 23, 2006, high School students will once again participate in Employment Day where they will learn about appropriate dress and interviewing techniques, as well as make helpful contacts with employers to obtain full-time employment after high school or part-time work while they attend college.
- Juniors will have an opportunity to attend the Spring College Fair on May 16, 2006 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Sports Plus in Lake Grove. Evening hours from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. are also available for students and their parents.
- Forty-six of our students will be inducted into the National Honor Society on April 26, 2006 during a ceremony, which will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. This is the largest group of students ever to be inducted, and we are very proud of their accomplishments.
- On April 27, 2006, the Be A Nicer Neighbor Club will host the Senior Citizen Prom; the theme for this year is “Sea Cruise.” Guests will be treated to a show performed by our students at 4:30 p.m. in the auditorium, followed by dinner and dancing in the cafeteria.
- Many of our music students are currently preparing for the NYSSMA music festival that will take place on April 28 and 29, 2006 at William Floyd High School.

- Students are also preparing for our spring concert and art show scheduled for May 24, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.
- Mrs. Crossan introduced Mrs. Linda Sperl, Foreign Language Chairperson, who spoke about *Challenge Day*, a character education program that several of our students and staff participated in recently.
- Mrs. Sperl reported that on April 3, 2006, ten high school student leaders along with four staff members attended *Challenge Day* at Commack High School. This daylong workshop was designed to encourage everyone to put aside their traditional school roles and share a part of who they really are. During scheduled activities, social, cultural and economic differences that typically separate students were suddenly erased and everyone had an opportunity to realize just how alike they are. Through the program's exercises, students learned that many adults in their school have survived the same difficulties they face. Participants left the program with techniques they could use immediately to make changes they would like to see in their schools. Mrs. Sperl said that our students were wonderful and that they were proud to see that Rocky Point student leaders really shone on that day. She added that they hope to be able to bring *Challenge Day* to Rocky Point in the near future for all of our students. Mrs. Sperl said that it was her pleasure to honor the ten students and thank them for their willingness to share their feelings on that day: Jordan Bauer, Jenifer Chiodo, Christopher Gerace, James Mayr, Kyle Meditz, Jazmine Olson, Tom Palasek, Jackie Grillo, Katie Smith and Dylan Schaefer.
- James Mayr, one of the students who attended *Challenge Day*, expressed his hope that this workshop would be made available to all the students at Rocky Point High School. He explained that students, through participation in a variety of exercises, had an opportunity to see who they really are and he spoke about the impact his participation had on him as an individual.
- Mrs. Thalen thanked James Mayr and commended him for coming forward to speak about his impressions.

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

- Congratulations to high school student leaders on their participation in *Challenge Day*.
- Dr. Centamore said that he hopes everyone had a nice holiday.
- The sixth grade marching band marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade last month.
- Thirty student leaders will be trained in peer mediation.
- A BOCES mentoring program allowed staff members - administrators, teachers, aides and clerical staff - to spend quality time with students through a variety of activities.
- All three grades participated in Multi-Cultural Day on April 7, 2006. In the future, they hope activities can be individualized by grade level.
- Forty students will participate in middle school poetry night tonight.
- Eighth grade science practical exams will be administered on May 9, 2006.
- Performances of the first ever middle school drama production, *The Wizard of Oz*, under the direction of Ms. Jackson, is scheduled for May 5 and 6, 2006. A dress rehearsal/senior citizen performance will be held on May 4, 2006.
- Fifth grade students from the JAE will "shadow" sixth grade students at the middle school on May 4, 2006.

Kenneth Crawford, Assistant Principal – Joseph A. Edgar School:

- National Read Aloud Day was held on April 3. Administrators, teachers, secretaries, and supporting staff selected individual classrooms to visit and read to the students. The students enjoyed the reading as well as the suspense of seeing who would visit their classrooms.
- The Shared Decision Team met on April 5, 2006 and the next meeting will be held on May 3, 2006 at 7:50 a.m. in the JAE conference room.
- The fifth grade chorus presented the spring musical, *Rats* on April 6 and 7, 2006. Mr. Knapp divided the students into two casts to offer ample opportunity for students who auditioned to get an acting part. Performances were superb.
- Parent-teacher conferences were held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week and report cards were distributed at conferences.

- Ms. Ross' fourth grade class has been writing articles and illustrations for *Newsday's* Kidsday. Their Sunday edition will be released on July 30, 2006.
- Three of Ms. Ross' students will be going with Ms. Ross and Mr. Crawford to Manhattan to interview Yankee catcher, Jorge Posada, who is the author of a new children's book named, *Play Ball!*
- Third grade students will participate in an in-school field trip on April 27, 2006 where they will experience an interactive light show on the solar system and discovering planets and galaxies.
- On April 28 and 29, 2006, more than seventy-five JAE students will be participating in the NYSSMA Solo Evaluation Festival at William Floyd High School.

Paul Read, Principal – Frank J. Carasiti School:

- There will be a parent literacy workshop on May 4, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. for parents of children entering kindergarten next year. The workshop will provide helpful tips on reading strategies.
- There will also be a parent math workshop for parents of students in grades one and two on May 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The focus will be on helping parents to understand elementary math and ways to support their child.
- Terra Nova tests will be administered to students in grades one and two the week of May 8, 2006. Results will be sent home to parents with their child's last report card in June.

MINUTES

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meeting be accepted as presented: **Special Meeting, March 22, 2006, Regular Meeting, March 27, 2006**. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE 2006 –2007 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the Rocky Point Union Free School District Budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year pursuant to Education Law Section 1716 in the amount of \$58,045,674. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple 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 attached Property Tax Report Card associated with the adopted 2006-2007 fiscal year budget.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Ivanoff about the projected tax increase. Mr. Ivanoff explained that based on the recent increased projections for state aid, the increase is down to 5.88%, which does not include any type of PILOT money from the state, which amounts to 1.78 million dollars that will be used to reduce taxes. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

VOTE TO APPROVE/DISAPPROVE THE BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR 2006–2007

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve/disapprove the BOCES Administrative Budget for 2006-2007 in the amount of \$27,304,223.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that this item had nothing to do with the school district's budget and that this budget related to the oversight of BOCES. There was no further discussion.

Roll Call

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

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

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 Geraldine Thalen and seconded by Michael Matera, 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, 2006 and ending June 30, 2009 (choose a maximum not to exceed six):

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that this item also had nothing to do with anyone in our district. The individuals were from other school districts and were being elected to serve on the board for BOCES. There was no further discussion.

Pamela Bethiel	<u> X </u>
Stephen Dewey	<u> X </u>
Chris Garvey	<u> X </u>
Joseph LoShiavo	<u> X </u>
Jeffrey Smith	<u> X </u>

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

DONATION TO THE DISTRICT

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 and accept the donation from Target.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that this donation comes as a result of using your credit card to shop at Target. All anyone needs to do is designate the FJC as the recipient and one percent of all the money you spend goes to FJC. Mrs. Thalen thanked everyone who participates. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

DONATION TO THE DISTRICT

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple 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 and accept the donation from Big Apple Auto Target for \$375 to defray the cost of transportation for a field trip to the Cohalan Court Complex taken by the Criminal Justice class.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that this was a one-time donation. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

DONATION OF DIGITAL SPORTS EDIT SOFTWARE & EQUIPMENT

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera 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 donation from the Rocky Point Athletic Booster Club of digital sports edit software and equipment valued at \$7,500.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Kies to explain exactly what the software is and why the district wants it. Mr. Kies explained that it is a wonderful program, which will be used to provide videos for colleges who are recruiting our student athletes. It is crystal clear video or DVD, which will be at no cost to our students while many agencies charge \$300 to \$400. It will also be used by teams to video football or basketball games. Mr. Kies thanked the Booster Club for providing it. Mrs. Thalen asked if the equipment would be valuable to all of our teams. Mr. Kies replied that it would. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

RESOLUTION FOR HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT

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 authorizes the Board President to enter into an agreement for health services for the current 2005-06 school year with the following district:

Smithtown Central School District

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT POLICY # 6122 - NEPOTISM

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple 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 in accordance with Policy 1410 waive a second reading and adopt the following policy #6122 – Nepotism.

Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Steven Lagnena had a question with regard to how the policy will effect the assignment of classroom aides that are related to teachers. Mrs. Alessandro explained that classroom aides are assigned as needed in each building and aides will not be assigned to teachers who are related to them and would be responsible for supervising them.
- Mrs. Veronica Gilbert asked if the policy also applied to anyone working for community ed. Mrs. Alessandro said that it was up to the board. Mrs. Thalen said that she thinks it has to be carried out in all of the district's programs. Mrs. Gilbert asked if someone was working for her in the summer program and needed an assistant, would it mean that they wouldn't be able to hire someone from their family? Mrs. Thalen replied that it would. Mrs. Gilbert said that for several years they have had family members work for community ed who are outstanding players and were former students as well as members of our community. Mrs. Thalen explained that we have to have an appropriate policy in place and that if it wasn't carried out across the board, the policy would be weakened. Mrs. Gilbert said that many of the people who work for community ed during the summer are graduates of Rocky Point and who aren't paid a lot of money. Mrs. Thalen advised Mrs. Gilbert

that if she had a concern about the community program, she should speak to the board, but the policy does have to be complied with across the board.

- Mrs. Bonner said that we could thank the Roslyn and William Floyd School Districts for all of their problems, which have had an impact all of the local districts that in the past have been able to do business on a handshake. The auditors are now forcing us to look at these things. Of course, we want to hire our own. This policy is really and truly a direct result of Roslyn and William Floyd.
- Mr. Gimple said that exemptions could be applied for if there is a case where the children of the district will be directly impacted by the policy and the board will look at each situation.
- Mr. Daniel Vedder said that the board passed a nepotism policy approximately two years ago that wasn't that different from this one. Mrs. Thalen explained that the other nepotism policy applied to relatives of members of the Board of Education, and the new policy is in addition to that one.

There was no further discussion. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

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

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera 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 approve the appointment of Karen Heneghan as a 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 4-0.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 4-20-06-A and 4-20-06-B. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple 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 attached Personnel changes.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen congratulated Mr. O'Brien on his appointment to FJC Principal. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

ABOLISHMENT OF ONE SCHOOL/NURSE TEACHER POSITION

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera 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 in accordance with Section 3013 of New York State Education Law hereby abolishes one position in the tenure area of School/Nurse teacher effective June 30, 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School/Nurse teacher whose position has been abolished shall be placed on a preferred eligible list in accordance with Section 3013 of the New York State Education Law.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked Mrs. Alessandro about the preferred eligible list. Mrs. Alessandro explained that the district is required to maintain a preferred eligible list in case a position is eliminated, the person who held the position can be called back in the future. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

ELIMINATION OF SIX TEACHER POSITIONS

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 in accordance with Section 3013 of New York State Education Law hereby abolishes six positions in the tenure area of Elementary Education effective June 30, 2006.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the employment of the teachers having the least seniority in the system within the tenure area of the position abolished shall be discontinued effective June 30, 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the excessed teachers whose positions have been abolished shall be placed on a preferred eligible list in accordance with Section 3013 of the New York State Education Law.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked why these positions were being eliminated. Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that due to decreased enrollment in both kindergarten and sixth grade next year, fewer teachers were needed. In addition two teachers who are currently out on leave will be returning. The teachers whose positions are being eliminated are at the bottom of the seniority list and there are no other positions available. Mrs. Thalen asked if we were eliminating six positions or four. Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that four positions are being eliminated due to low enrollment and two other positions were leave replacement positions and the teachers who they were replacing will be returning to the classroom. Mrs. Alessandro further explained that six teachers were being excessed – four actual positions. Mrs. Thalen said that it was necessary to clarify that there were four positions being eliminated; not six. She explained that we were losing six teachers, but abolishing four positions.

- Mrs. Dawn Krase asked if eliminating these positions would increase class sizes. Dr. D'Ambrosio replied that currently there are seventeen or eighteen students in each of twelve sections and there will not be more than twenty-five in a class.
- Ms.Carolynn Reynen asked where the class number comes from. She thinks we should be looking to have smaller classes. Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that the number is determined by the number of classes divided by the number of sections.
- Ms. Reynen asked who comes up with that. Dr. D'Ambrosio replied that it is an administrative decision. Mr. Matera further explained that classes have a certain cap because of the agreement with the Rocky Point Teachers' Association.
- Ms. Reynen asked if it was appropriate to talk about salaries, specifically the Business Manager's salary. Mr. Ivanoff explained that the Business Manager's position has been vacant. Ms. Reynen asked why it was necessary to add a position for the Business Manager when we never had one in the past and yet be willing to lose teachers. She said that she would rather keep a teacher than add a Business Manager. Mrs. Thalen replied that if she only understood the situation that every district is in because the requirements for recording financial documents have changed drastically, she would understand the need for a Business Manager. Ms. Reynen asked wasn't Mr. Ivanoff brought in as an intern to learn that position. Mrs. Thalen assured Ms. Reynen that the board looked very closely at this. We understand how complex finances are and the board is looking to make sure we are handling the district's money appropriately. Ms. Reynen said that she didn't want to see an administrator's position added at the expense of a teacher's position. Mr. Gimple said that they just adopted a budget for a little over \$58 million, which includes running five buildings, sports facilities, security, etc. He said that if this were a

business, it would be unlikely that there would be only one person in charge. We are a small community that is becoming a mid-size community and the responsibilities that go along with it have grown also. Our friends in Roslyn have made it necessary to have an audit committee, external and internal auditors, etc. He assured Ms. Reynen that this board cherishes our teachers. Ms. Reynen said that when people take positions such as the one held by Mr. Ivanoff, they know what they're in for. In her business, the paperwork has become a nightmare, but she expected it to happen. When you take on a position as a finance director, there is always a lot of paperwork. It is part of the business.

- Mrs. Thalen said that the salary for the Business Manager's position is money that is being spent to watch the district's money. As an example, she said that when she did her own taxes, she did okay. However, now that she hired someone to do them, she is doing much better. We are spending money to be sure that we are only spending the money that should be spent.
- Ms. Reynen said that when the external auditor gave his report, he said that we are nowhere near Roslyn's situation and that we were in good shape. If we are not at risk because we do such a great job, why do we need another person. She would rather see the money go towards a teacher.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio said that Ms. Reynen shouldn't think for one minute that she would jeopardize the instructional program. She assured Ms. Reynen that there would only be 20 to 21 kids in a class and that we would still be fine. Although she agrees that less is better, we can't hold on to two teachers and it has to be done. If enrollment goes up, it will be addressed.

There was no further discussion.

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF SIX TEACHER POSITIONS TO THE ELIMINATION OF FOUR TEACHER POSITIONS.

A motion was made by Geraldine Thalen and seconded by Howard Gimple to amend the resolution to read, **ELIMINATION OF FOUR TEACHER POSITIONS** instead of six positions. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

ELIMINATION OF FOUR TEACHER POSITIONS

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 in accordance with Section 3013 of New York State Education Law hereby abolishes six positions in the tenure area of Elementary Education effective June 30, 2006.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the employment of the teachers having the least seniority in the system within the tenure area of the position abolished shall be discontinued effective June 30, 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the excessed teachers whose positions have been abolished shall be placed on a preferred

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any additional questions or comments before the board moved to executive session:

- Ms. Rose Abrams spoke as a resident of the district for over 50 years and as a former nurse-teacher employed by the district, she knows how difficult the board's job is, but she also wants to say as a member of the community how disappointed she is that you have decided to eliminate a nurse-teacher whom she mentored and who has brought the school program to where it is now and has made Rocky Point's health program known all over Long Island. She said that you have heard that this person is not only loved, but has made a difference in other people's lives. She added that she truly hopes that the board will reconsider their decision.

- Mrs. Thalen reminded Ms. Abrams that the board could not discuss personnel issues during an open meeting.
- Ms. Abrams replied that she was just telling the board how she feels and this person is someone who is making an impression on the children of the district. Ironically, physical education teachers were in charge of teaching health years ago and the nurses were brought in to help them.
- Mrs. Callahan asked if after Roslyn, did Rocky Point have internal and external auditors, if the new position was required because of the Roslyn scandal, and would this person be performing similar functions as the internal claims auditor.
- Mrs. Thalen explained that Rocky Point has had internal and external auditors long before it became a requirement because of the Roslyn scandal.
- Mr. Gimple added that similar districts have similar positions.
- Mr. Lagnena took the opportunity to acknowledge Paul Read for his years of service to the district.
- Mrs. Thalen announced that they had planned to hold off on announcing retirements, but she is always happy to hear that our administrators are appreciated.
- Mrs. Callahan said that the district has not had a census in over twenty years and that the district needs to know how many students will be registering in kindergarten in the future.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that there was money in the 2006-2007 budget for a census.
- Mrs. Callahan asked how many kindergarten students typically register over the summer since we don't publicize registration.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that she wasn't sure that Mrs. Callahan was accurate in saying that we don't advertise. She has noticed it advertised in the local papers.
- Mrs. Bonner added that notice is also given to local nursery schools.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio added that in the past, approximately thirty students registered over the summer for kindergarten.
- Mrs. Callahan referring to the restructuring the physical education to accommodate the health schedule, said that her son who is in kindergarten is on his fourth phys ed teacher because of poor scheduling and that there already aren't enough health teachers. She sees a problem with having to schedule the health curriculum when there is already a problem when her son is on his fourth PE teacher. Also, since not all phys ed teachers are certified in health, trying to restructure by eliminating another positions seems absurd.
- Mrs. Johannesen asked if the four positions were k-6 positions, why they couldn't be used to alleviate crowded second grade classes that have 27 students in them.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that because there would be a big increase this year to meet the needs of the district due to a lack of revenue from the state, it became necessary for the board to look at positions that could be eliminated.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio added that space is always an issue when consideration is given to the creation of additional sections.
- Mrs. Johannesen congratulated the board on their selection of the new Frank J. Carasiti School Principal. She also suggested that the board should recognize Mrs. Cox-Jackson, the middle school drama teacher. She said that it was wonderful for students to have an opportunity to perform in the middle school.
- Another member of the community said that she totally agreed with the comments that were made as far as how young children react to the nurse-teacher when she enters a classroom at the FJC. She said that all eyes are on that person. The children look forward to a break in their routine and really pay attention when the nurse-teacher enters the classroom.
- Mrs. Ferdinandsen said that she agreed with Mrs. Callahan that numbers have to be looked at as far as the number of health teachers that area available to teach fourteen sections of kindergarten classes because she thinks Mr. Kies would agree wither that right now it is difficult to come up with the number of classes that have to be taught. She said that she thinks that the board is losing a very good program and that we are probably one of the last districts on Long Island that has a nurse-teacher.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that she appreciates everyone's concern about the program and that everyone could be sure that the board will be looking very closely at how the program is operating and will ask for monthly reports. It will be a regular question for the board. The board hopes they have made the right decision. As far as Mr. Ivanoff, she said it is very difficult to discuss the Business Office. She said that the

board is asking Mr. Ivanoff to be thick skinned and not take the comments that were made tonight personally.

There were no further questions. Mrs. Thalen reminded everyone that the budget hearing was scheduled for 7:30 PM on May 9, 2006 and the budget vote would be held on May 16, 2006.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:35 PM a motion was made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Michael Matera for the Board of Education 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 9:58 PM

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:59 PM a motion was made by Michael Matera 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,

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