

MINUTES

ROCKY POINT SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

September 25, 2006

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

Pledge of Allegiance

District Clerk took the attendance.

Present:

Jane Bonner
Michael Matera
Joseph Sanseverino
Margaret Smith
Geraldine Thalen
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
Elise Darnell Boehm, District Clerk

Absent: None

I PRESIDENT THALEN ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- Karen Audette expressed satisfaction with the new 9 period day, which was negotiated by the Teacher's Union. Each period was shortened in the High School by two minutes and a 9th period added. She congratulated the High School for a great plan.
- Bill Whaley brought up his concern about the dress code being enforced among *some* students and *not all*. He felt that some students were being singled out and that others were getting away with ignoring the dress code rules and that he didn't think that was fair. If you have a dress code then everyone should follow it. Mrs. Thalen advised him to contact the building Principal and make an appointment to discuss the problem as soon as possible.
- Pat Noto inquired about the Nursing staff at the elementary schools. She was not clear on whether there would be adequate nursing staff and asked if the Nurse's Aide that was hired had a nursing license and was a trained EMT. Dr. D'Ambrosio responded that yes the new Nurses Aide was EMT trained and would provide suitable coverage during the Nurse's breaks/lunch periods. This aide, however, cannot dispense medication.

- Brian Russell reported an incident that occurred over the Labor Day weekend on the Rocky Point Soccer Field that upset him greatly. He investigated and uncovered that this group called the LA Union, which consisted of 50 – 60 immigrants, were using the Joseph A. Edgar soccer field for a “Practice” and had a permit to use the field. The problem was that he witnessed them drinking, smoking, and urinating on the field. He strongly urged that their permit be revoked as he felt that this was not appropriate behavior and that they left a mess for the school children to be exposed to. He did call the police and filed a report. According to Mr. Russell the police did not follow through with any action. He asked the board if anything was being done about this. Dr. D’Ambrosio stated that the police did not give the school a report at this time however, she was aware of his concerns and replied to Mr. Russell with a letter stating that she had not received any complaints nor was there a report of unusual debris on the field during September 4th or 5th. President Thalen apologized to Mr. Russell that she had not been aware of this and to please send her and the board a letter with all the details. Jane Bonner was aware of the complaint as Mr. Russell had contacted her office to speak to Legislator Losquardo’s about this. Ms Bonner was told by Police Officer John Mehan that the LA Union permit was ok and that they would monitor the situation but that they would still be allowed to practice. President. Thalen expressed concern and stated that she was anxious to help with this matter and thanked Mr. Russell for bringing this to her attention. She requested that he send a letter to all the board members. He then passed out copies of the letter that he sent to the school. Mr. Russell asked the board if he could have a meeting with someone about this. Dr. D’Ambrosio recommended that he contact her at her office and they would discuss it further.**
- The Rocky Point Middle School Cheerleaders were all present and wanted to petition the board about being allowed to cheer for the Rocky Point Football and Basketball Teams. They felt that this would increase school spirit and that they were dedicated and proud to do it. They asked that they please be allowed to cheer at their games. President Thalen asked them if they had contacted the Athletic Director and they replied that they had not but that they had a petition with 225 signatures. President Thalen directed them to call Mrs. Rose Monz and set up an appointment with Lenny Kies who was in the audience at the time.**

II SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

BREAKING RANKS II PRESENTATION:

Student Centered Learning

Strategies for Increasing Personalization at the Secondary Level

Resource for Secondary Schools BREAKING RANKS II

Presenters: Sue Crossnan Asst Principal of the High School

Tammy MacPherson High School Guidance Counselor

- The Assistant Principal and the Guidance Counselor of the High School presented their findings regarding the research of BREAKING RANKS II, a program that will focus on Student Centered Learning and Strategies for Increasing Personalization at the Secondary Level. Some areas of this research will be gradually integrated into the Rocky Point Secondary School to enhance the current teaching strategies.**

- **A LEADERSHIP TEAM WAS ORGANIZED AND HEADED BY ANJA GROTH
DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION:**
 - ❖ *Psychologist/Social Worker*
 - ❖ *Guidance*
 - ❖ *High School Principal*
 - ❖ *Assistant High School Principal*
 - ❖ *Director of Instruction*
 - ❖ *Dean of Students*

- **The purpose of this training is to deviate from the familiar practice of the past and integrate other steps that will lead to improved learning.**
Some topics of interest were:
 - Families as partners
 - Collaborative Leadership
 - Curriculum Instruction and Assessment
 - Flexible Scheduling
 - Student Classroom Maximums
 - Critical Thinking
 - Learning Styles
 - District Wide Leadership
 - Integrate Technology
 - Enhance Communication
 - Additional 9th period

- **THIS TEAM'S OBJECTIVE WILL BE:**
 - To determine Rocky Point's needs specifically.
 - The Mission will be that all students will learn every day.
 - Increase Student Attendance and Performance.
 - Determine issues that affect students and focus on 1 or 2 this year.
 - Collect data to identify areas of improvement.
 - Teachers will be taught how to use a program that will calculate test scores and highlight where changes need to occur.

Questions

- President Thalen questioned when this would be implemented.
- The first committee meeting will take place in early October of this year.
- The next report to the Board of Education regarding this committee's work will be the end of the year according to High School Principal Bill Caulfield.

III 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 August 28, 2006 Board of Education Meeting be accepted as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

IV DONATION – TARGET AND COMPUTERS FOR EDUCATION

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Margaret Smith, 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 donations from Target (Take Charge of Education) for \$98.61 and Computers for Education for \$462.96

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

V DONATION – COST OF TOURNAMENT FOR BOYS SOCCER TEAM AT ONEONTA

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith 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 of \$1,289.30 from the Athletic Booster Club to assist with player fees for the Boy's Soccer team who participated in the 7th Annual High School Hall of Fame Cup in Oneonta, Sept. 9th and 10th.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

VI DONATION – VERIZON FOUNDATION

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 approve and accept the donations from the Verizon Foundation for \$750 on behalf of Mrs. Gibaldi, a District Parent.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

VII DONATION – INDIVIDUAL SPORT TEAM BANNERS

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 and accept a donation from the Rocky Point Athletic Booster Club of \$6,341.50 to be used to purchase individual Sport Team Banners for display in the High School Gymnasium. Another donation of \$6,342.50 will be given at the end of the school year (June 2007). The total amount of the donation is \$12,685.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

VIII TAN BORROWING FOR 2006-07 Fiscal Year

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE RESOLUTION OF ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW YORK, ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 25, 2006 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$7,000,000.00 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RECEIPT OF TAXES TO BE LEVIED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2007.

Roll Call:	Mrs. Thalen	Yes
	Mr. Sanseverino	Yes
	Ms. Bonner	Yes
	Mr. Matera	Yes
	Ms. Smith	Yes

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

IX COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith 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 9-25-06-A and 9-25-06-B.

X 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:

- Diane Burke told the board that she had previously sent a letter to the school thanking them for the wonderful job they did at the La Crosse Camp this past summer. This was the second year that her son attended and she said it was a wonderful experience for him. She commended the Camp Leaders for a great time had by the children.
- Karen Suhan asked why the Football team can't play on the varsity field where the conditions are better. The field that they must use has no shelter from the rain in the pit, it is too small, and the seating is scarce. Mr. Kies who was in the audience answered that they are planning on lessening the problem and are working on a feasible solution. President Thalen asked about a

turf field. The present field gets muddy and dangerous to walk on in the rain. President Thalen said Turf would be ideal but knows they have to find the money to pay for it. Mrs. Suhan showed concern about the Junior Varsity team not being proud as their field is embarrassing. President Thalen thanked her for expressing her concern.

- Jane Bonner said the Boys varsity trip to Oneonta was a success. The boys were well behaved, neat and clean and had a great time. The Bus was great and she thanked the staff and the Booster club, Mr. Kies, Mr. Ellis and said this District does nice things for our kids.

President Thalen: If there are no further questions, we will now adjourn.

At 8:21 PM a motion was made by Jane Bonner, seconded by Joseph Sanseverino to go into executive session. It was determined that there was no need for executive session as one took place prior to the Board of Education meeting concerning a personnel matter from 6-7:30 pm.
All in favor – Motion 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Darnell Boehm
District Clerk

VIII ADJOURNMENT

At 8:21 PM a motion was made by Michael Matera and Margaret Smith to adjourn the meeting.
All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

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