

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 17, 2007**

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President
Joseph Sanseverino, Vice-President
Edward Darcey, Trustee
Michael Matera, Trustee
Margaret Smith, Trustee
Carla L. D'Ambrosio Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Sherry J. Alessandro, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for HR/Administration

Also Present: David Pearl, Esq.

At 5:00 PM, a regular public meeting of the Board of Education was called to order in the District Office by Mr. Michael Matera.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:05 PM, a motion was made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Margaret Smith for the Board of Education to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter regarding a request for a leave of absence.

All in favor – motion carried 5-0

The Board returned to open session at 5:15 PM for the purpose of conducting a policy workshop session.

Policy Workshop Session

At 7:05 PM, a motion was made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey to end the workshop session and re-convene to the Regular Public Session in the High School auditorium.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Thalen called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President
Joseph Sanseverino, Vice-President
Edward Darcey, Trustee
Michael Matera, Trustee
Margaret Smith, Trustee

Carla L. D'Ambrosio Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Sherry J. Alessandro, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for HR/Administration
Michael W. Ivanoff, Director of Finance and Operations
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

Mrs. Thalen opened the floor to questions and/or comments from members of the audience.

- Ms. Bauer stated that she had written a note to Mrs. Thalen concerning an incident of theft that had taken place during an event sponsored by the Middle School. Mrs. Thalen advised Ms. Bauer that Dr. D'Ambrosio had provided her with the particulars concerning the situation to which Ms. Bauer referred. Ms. Bauer stated that her child's coat was stolen during a school event at the Middle School and it was her belief that nothing was done to prevent this situation from happening. Ms. Bauer also stated that she had offered solutions to the district to possibly prevent a situation such as this from happening again.
- Mrs. Thalen commented that a great deal of time was expended by Dr. D'Ambrosio and others in consideration of this issue and that the members of the Board of Education sincerely wished they were able to change the circumstances surrounding this incident and others like it.
- Ms. Bauer suggested possible remedies so that situations such as this would not occur again, i.e., the implementation of a "coat check" procedure and/or the practice of allowing students to have access to their lockers to store their belongings during school-sanctioned functions. Ms. Bauer mentioned that a local dry cleaner would donate hangers for the coat check and parents, including her, were available to volunteer their services at such events. Ms. Bauer commented that the district was insured against such thefts; therefore, Ms. Bauer expected to be reimbursed for her monetary loss. In addition, Ms. Bauer asked that a plan be put into place in time for the next school sponsored event in an effort to help prevent another incident such as this.
- Mrs. Thalen asked Ms. Bauer if she had been in contact with the building principal concerning this matter. Mrs. Thalen assured Ms. Bauer that she was not minimizing her concerns and that as a parent herself, she was very familiar with the situation Ms. Bauer was bringing to the attention of the board members.
- Ms. Bauer advised Mrs. Thalen that she would be looking into the next school event to see if anything was being done to prevent a similar theft from happening again. Ms. Bauer reiterated her request to allow the students to go to their lockers during school sanctioned events for the purpose of storing their belongings.
- Mrs. Thalen thanked Ms. Bauer for her comments concerning this issue and commended Ms. Bauer for her approach to possible remedies of the situation.
- Ms. Melanie Connelly identified herself as a resident of the district for thirty years and also a taxpayer and an employee of the district, presently assigned to the building in which the loss occurred. Ms. Connelly stated that she understood the monetary loss suffered by Ms. Bauer. Ms. Connelly voiced her need to comment on behalf of the building in which she works and to express her praise for the

members of the administration, particularly Dr. Centamore, Mr. Tapler and Mr. Moeller.

- Mrs. Thalen extended her appreciation and thanked Ms. Connelly for her comments.

There were no further questions or comments.

In recognition of the Autism Fair volunteers, Dr. D'Ambrosio introduced Dr. Joseph Tanen Centamore. Dr. Centamore wished all in attendance a happy holiday season. Dr. Centamore commended the students being recognized for giving up their personal time in order to make a difference and help lead the public to a greater awareness of autism. With great pride, the faculty and administration recognized the following students with certificates in honor of their contributions to the Autism Fair: Jessica Barber, Jessica Coello-Zichittella, Emily Coleman, Courtney Coleman, Matthew Dellaquila, Megan Loughran, Alexis Celentano, Samantha Picciotti. Dr. Centamore announced that in addition to her volunteering at the Autism Fair, Megan Loughran also donated her hair to "Locks of Love."

As part of her recognition of the participants of the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention, Ms. Anja Groth commended five students for their exceptional art work which was featured on the NCTE program brochures: Fabrice Fantal, Christine Hansen, Elise Incze, Taylor Little and Matthew Pabo. Ms. Groth also thanked Joyce Connolly for her part in getting the students involved in this project. Ms. Groth thanked those educators who represented the Rocky Point UFSD by volunteering their time and efforts. She commended them for their dedication to the field of English language arts, and their commitment to continuous growth and professional development. Ms. Groth also expressed her special thanks to Nicole Waldbauer for her assistance in coordinating the event.

Mr. Steve Lagnena introduced Mr. Anthony Nobre. Mr. Nobre announced the winners of the Nassau/Suffolk "President's Council Essay Contest." Mr. Nobre explained that over three hundred essays were submitted and that these were the best. Mr. Nobre then asked each winner to come forward to be acknowledged and to read his/her essay. The following students were introduced as winners of the Long Island Presidents' Council Annual Essay Contest: Julia Bogart, second grade; Samantha Rivera, fifth grade; Alexandra Porter, sixth grade; Matt Maggio, tenth grade. Mrs. Thalen extended her congratulations to the students for their outstanding achievements.

Dr. D'Ambrosio expressed her congratulations to all for their achievements and thanked them for helping to open up the evening's meeting on such a positive note.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Rocky Point High School principal, Mr. William Caulfield:

- Mr. Caulfield wished all in attendance a happy holiday season.

- Mr. Caulfield advised that the guidance department was instituting a new college search program that would be available in the very near future for use by students and their parents.
- Mr. Caulfield invited all to the holiday winter concert on Thursday, 12/20, in the HS auditorium.
- Mr. Caulfield announced the second annual HS Poetry Jam would take place on 12/19/07 at which thirty students would recite poetry. This event would be co-hosted by Shari Hull and Christine Blume.
- Mr. Caulfield expressed his sincere pride and gratitude to Brooke Bonomi and the Singing Santas for twenty years of amazing work. He explained that the ensemble is made up of more than 200 students who represent all groups at the Rocky Point High School. The Singing Santas have played to “sold out” crowds and have raised monies for needy families of the RPUSFD and in sponsorship of the Senior Citizens Prom. This year’s performances raised more than \$4,000.00 for these worthy causes.

Rocky Point Middle School principal, Joseph Tanen Centamore, Ed.D.:

- Dr. Centamore extended his thanks to the Friends of Music, student performers, and music teachers for their outstanding performance at the first holiday concert presentation. Dr. Centamore explained that the second concert was rescheduled due to the inclement weather.
- Dr. Centamore expressed his sincere appreciation to the PTA for the outstanding Book Fair.
- Dr. Centamore mentioned the ongoing collection of items for the overseas troops taking place in all four school buildings. These troops include parents of current students and former students of the RPUFSD. Dr. Centamore expressed his gratitude to all those who are participating in this cause.
- Dr. Centamore wished all a very happy holiday season.

Joseph A. Edgar principal, Carol Tvelia:

- Ms. Tvelia announced that more than three hundred students participated in the holiday concert and she thanked Mr. Craig Knapp for the fantastic job he continues to do with the students of the JAE.
- The DARE graduation would take place at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, December 18th. The DARE program would now be part of the “Health Smart” curriculum.
- A recent internet safety program presentation for fifth graders revealed that one-half of fifth graders have MySpace and/or Face Book pages on the internet. Ms. Tvelia encouraged parents to attend the January PTA meeting at which a police officer is scheduled to discuss the many issues surrounding internet safety.
- The JAE “High Notes” will be presenting a winter musical on Tuesday, 12/18/07.
- Ms. Tvelia extended her best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School principal, Scott O’Brien:

- Mr. O’Brien extended his congratulations to all of the students for their accomplishments at the NCTE Fair. Mr. O’Brien made special mention of former FJC student, Matthew Paybo, for his outstanding artwork.

- The December “Imaginary Journey Cross Country” led the staff and students of FJC to South Dakota wherein they learned all about what it was like to live in this state, go to school there, and other important facts, via video, children’s books, presentations, songs and skits.
- As a school community, new hats, mittens, glove and scarves for those in need in the community were collected through the FJC “Warm and Fuzzy Drive.”
- Second grade students participated in a program regarding personal safety presented by the Meghan’s Law Organization. Mr. O’Brien extended his special thanks to Legislator Dan Losquadro for completely funding all costs related to the presentations associated with this program.
- The very magnificent second grade chorus “Winter Concert,” under the direction of Ms. Kyra Kenwood, was held on December 6th. Mr. O’Brien stated that programs such as this helped to prove the importance of exposing the youngest students to as many educational and cultural experiences as possible.
- Mr. O’Brien, on behalf of the entire FJC school community, wished all a wonderful holiday season.

Len Kies, Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Intramurals:

Mr. Kies presented his Fall Athletic Wrap-Up by recognizing the following student-athlete fall season accomplishments:

- Varsity football won its second Big 4 Championship in the past three seasons before losing in the county semi-finals to Half Hollow Hills West. Varsity football ended its season with a record of 5-3 playing the most difficult schedule in Division 3.
- The girls’ tennis team experienced another strong season with an overall record of 10 wins and 4 losses.
- Varsity golf team finished its season with a 7-5 record, its best season in several years.
- Varsity field hockey enjoyed its best season in many years by posting a record of 9 wins and 7 losses, barely missing the playoffs.
- Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Soccer, and Cross-Country teams enjoyed exciting and competitive seasons.
- Post-season awards included: All-State girls soccer player, Kara Mupo; All-County football players Matt Clark, Matt Toohey and Tom Palasek; All-Conference boys soccer player Javier Rodriguez. Jacob Rusek, boys soccer team player, earned academic All-County honors.
- Twenty-eight fall season student-athletes earned All-League/All-Division honors.
- The Varsity Cheerleaders captured their fourth straight UCA Regional Championship and are now qualified for the National High School Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida, in February of 2008.
- Seven students received and signed National Letters of Intent with colleges and universities offering athletic scholarships: Michele Kurtz, Brianne LoManto, Brianna Spatarella, Alison Staudt, Justin Annunziata, Tom Palasek and Jessie Passiglia.

- Mr. Kies extended his congratulations to the Varsity Boys Basketball team for capturing the Southhold Tournament title by defeating the host, Southhold HS, by a score of 63-41.

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, November 26, 2007.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TREASURER’S REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer’s Report for the month of October 2007 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of October 2007 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of October 2007 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVANCE FUNDS

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, the Board of Education approves the attached Authorization to Advance Funds.

Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Ivanoff for a quick explanation of this resolution. Mr. Ivanoff explained that the district would be borrowing from the general fund instead of a bank issued Bank Anticipation Note, thereby saving the district money by eliminating borrowing costs, in order to begin the Excel Proposition.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SEQRA RESOLUTION – HS SCIENCE LABS

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, the Board of Education approves the attached Negative Declaration.

Mr. Matera commented that this resolution was considered to be a routine maintenance and repair, resulting in no substantial change in the existing facility and presenting no environmental impact. Mrs. Thalen thanked Mr. Matera for his explanation of this resolution.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SURPLUS ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the items, as presented, per the attached Surplus Equipment Disposal schedule.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

DONATION - ETR ASSOCIATES HEALTH SMART

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and accepts the \$100.00 donation from ETR Associates for teacher participation in the Health Smart Evaluation Survey;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District hereby approves, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to increase the general fund budget by \$100.00 as a result of the donation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following budget code be adjusted to reflect that increase:

A2110500020000	\$100.00
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All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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, the Board of Education votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 12-17-07-A and Schedule 12-17-07- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

PERSONNEL

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, the Board of Education accepts the attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Thalen opened the floor to questions/comments before adjourning the meeting.

- Mr. Steve Lagnena announced that after ten years as a teacher, coach and advisor for the Rocky Point UFSD, he was moving on as he had accepted a position with NYSIT. Mr. Lagnena thanked the Board of Education for its positive working relationship with the Rocky Point Teachers' Association. Mr. Lagnena also extended his sincere appreciation to Mr. William Caulfield in his capacity as a mentor, and both Mrs. Thalen and Dr. D'Ambrosio for their help over the years.
- On behalf of the Board of Education, Mrs. Thalen extended her best wishes to all for a happy and healthy holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:33 PM a motion was made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk