

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 22, 2008

Mr. Sanseverino called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Joseph Sanseverino, President
Margaret Smith, Vice President
Edward Darcey, Trustee
Diane Burke, Trustee
Michael Nofi, Trustee
Carla L. D'Ambrosio, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Sherry J. Alessandro, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for HR/Administration
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for Finance/Operations
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Mr. Sanseverino announced that recognition presentations would be made prior to opening the meeting to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Dr. D'Ambrosio welcomed all in attendance to the evening's meeting and announced that Mr. Sanseverino would be making a special presentation. Mr. Gene Buchner was invited to approach the microphone. Mr. Sanseverino explained that a medical emergency involving a student recently occurred during a gym class at the high school. As a result of Mr. Buchner's quick thinking, valiant efforts, and utilization of his training as an emergency medical technician to provide CPR, the student's life was saved. Mr. Sanseverino presented Mr. Buchner with a Proclamation from Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy in commemoration of his life-saving actions during this medical emergency.

Dr. D'Ambrosio noted that Mr. Buchner's actions were part of a team effort involving several Rocky Point school employees. Dr. D'Ambrosio invited Mr. William Caulfield to the microphone to continue the recognition presentation. Mr. Caulfield recounted what had happened during gym class that day, detailing the circumstances of the student's medical distress. Mr. Caulfield commented that Mr. Buchner, as well as Karen Rosman, R.N., and members of the physical education staff, Chris Nentwich, Andrew Aschettino, Cindy Krejci and Joseph Spallina, were right there responding to the emergency, knowing exactly what to do and reacting so well. Mr. Caulfield presented each with a certificate of achievement in recognition of their selfless and diligent efforts in assisting in the care of a student in need of emergency medical treatment in a life-threatening situation. Mr. Caulfield advised that Mr. Keane, father of the stricken student, was in the audience, and that both he and his son, Peter, wished to extend their sincere

gratitude to Mr. Buchner, Ms. Rosman, Mr. Nentwich, Mr. Aschettino, Ms. Krejci and Mr. Spallina.

- Dr. D'Ambrosio introduced Ms. Amy Aprile, chairperson for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Ms. Aprile thanked the members of the Board of Education for their support of the annual Relay for Life event, noting that 2008 was a tremendous success. In appreciation, Ms. Aprile presented Dr. D'Ambrosio and the board members with a plaque of appreciation in honor of their generous commitment of time, support and inspiration in the fight against cancer. Ms. Aprile also recognized Kyra Kenwood and her chorus students, Amy Schecher and the members of the marching band, and Mr. Joseph Spina and members of the Milesroad Band, for their contributions during the 2008 Relay for Life event. Ms. Aprile noted that the 2009 Relay for Life event would be held on May 28th through May 29th with the kick-off beginning in January.

Mr. Sanseverino, on behalf of the Board of Education, extended his thanks to Ms. Aprile.

Mr. Sanseverino opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

There were no questions/comments at this time. Mr. Sanseverino made note that there would be another opportunity to pose questions/comments at the end of the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. William Caulfield, principal, Rocky Point High School:

- Thank you to Ms. Amy Schecher and her talented students for a wonderful holiday concert.
- The Singing Santas, under the direction of Mr. Brooke Bonomi, raised more than \$4,000.00 for charitable organizations. Mr. Caulfield thanked Ms. Michelle DeMarco and Mr. Michael Conlon for their efforts in assisting Mr. Bonomi.
- Forty-five needy families were assisted through the charitable efforts of staff and students of Rocky Point High School during this holiday season.

Mr. William Caulfield, interim principal, Rocky Point Middle School:

- Through the efforts of the student government, five fifty-five gallon drums of food were collected.
- For the first time, the middle school hosted two concerts; one for grades six and seven and the other for grade eight.
- There was a flood in the middle school due to a ruptured pipe resulting in the unavailability of six classrooms. Through the diligent efforts of the custodial staff, clean-up and maintenance was performed quickly and professionally, allowing for only a brief period of inaccessibility.

Ms. Carol Tvelia, principal, Joseph A. Edgar School:

- Five hundred pounds of food was donated to St. Anthony's food pantry.
- Twelve families were adopted by JAE during this holiday season.

- The Student Council's Giving Tree provided hats and gloves for needy families through the "Fish Church."
- Mara Lopez initiated letter writing to veterans and soldiers, thanking them for their service.
- Mr. Craig Knapp was acknowledged for his wonderful winter concert.
- Mara Lopez and Tanya Meehan were recognized for organizing and providing care packages for those in need.
- Ms. Tvelia extended her best wishes to all for a happy holiday season.

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

- First grade students attended a field trip to Theatre Three; second grade students arrived at school early to play Winter Bingo.
- Students have been learning about the meaning of tolerance and holiday or winter traditions in our Long Island community through the assembly programs.
- New hats, mittens, gloves and scarves were collected for those in need in the community through the FJC "Warm and Fuzzy Drive."
- Congratulations to Ms. Kyra Kenwood and her second grade chorus students for their winter concert. A special thanks to Dr. D'Ambrosio for playing the piano!
- FJC sponsored its first Kindergarten Family Literacy Night where *Books Came Alive* with performer Lee Knight. Special thanks to the PTA for providing winter treats for students and their families. Students and families heard stories read aloud by their teachers and staff, received awards for reading at home, and participated in an interactive book musical concert.
- Art teacher, Ms. Kristen LaBianca, submitted student artwork to the Long Island Museum in Stony Brook. Dr. O'Brien recognized and presented three students, Gavin DaVanzo, Victoria Cruz and Tristan Lanze with certificates in honor of being chosen to have their artwork displayed at the museum through February 1st, 2009.
- Dr. O'Brien, on behalf of the entire FJC school community, wished all a wonderful holiday season.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey, 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 24, 2008.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2008 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

Upon a motion made by Michael Nofi and seconded by Diane Burke, 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 2008 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of October 2008 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – OCTOBER 2008

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 accepts the October 2008 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2008

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the November 2008 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SEQRA RESOLUTION – HS SCIENCE LABS – PHASE 3

Upon a motion made by Michael Nofi and seconded by Diane Burke, 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.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino announced that this resolution was a formality in order to note that the actions required are in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act and do not pose any environmental impact and are in accordance with routine maintenance and repair actions.

CONTRACT FOR CHALLENGE DAY

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 authorizes the Purchasing Agent to enter into a contract with *Challenge Day* for the program taking place at the Rocky Point High School on March 31, 2009.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino asked Dr. D’Ambrosio to provide an overview of the Challenge Day agenda. Dr. D’Ambrosio commented that this was the third year of her participation in this project. Dr. D’Ambrosio noted that Challenge Day involved the respectful sharing of personal and emotional issues among the participants and fostered connections between students and adults. Each individual was “equal” as he/she shared emotions, issues and concerns. Furthermore, Dr. D’Ambrosio expressed her opinion that Challenge Day was the ultimate celebration of the sharing and acceptance of both the differences and the similarities of all those who participated in the event.

There was no further discussion.

DONATIONS TO CHALLENGE DAY

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 accepts the donations totaling \$630.00 in memory of Sean Johns to be used for Challenge Day.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino thanked those who contributed for their generous and kind donations.

DONATION OF CHIN-UP BARS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation of five (5) chin-up bars from the North Shore Wrestling Club, valued at approximately \$586.00.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino thanked the North Shore Wrestling Club for its generous donation.

REVISION OF SCHEDULE OF CHARGES FOR COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES

Upon a motion made by Michael Nofi and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Schedule of Charges for Community Use of Facilities and the Guidelines for the Use of School District Facilities by Community Groups, as presented. This revision will supersede all previously approved fee schedules and guidelines.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino commented that the revised policy would result in little or no charges for community-associated usage of school district facilities. Mr. Sanseverino asked Dr. Ring to comment on the new plan. Dr. Ring stated that the revised schedule of charges was a result of joint efforts made by the by PTA and leaders of the district. In addition, Dr. Ring noted that the previous schedule of charges appeared to be punitive and that the new schedule of charges allows the district to charge “for profit” groups on a specific fee schedule.

There was no further discussion.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY
GRANT APPLICATION**

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

WHEREAS, the Rocky Point Union Free School District Board of Education believes that expanded availability of shared services and the functional consolidation of certain school district operations will result in greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association, the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, Suffolk County Government, Eastern Suffolk BOCES, and Western Suffolk BOCES have engaged in discussions regarding the expansion of shared services and functional consolidation amongst Suffolk County school districts; and

WHEREAS, the state has made Local Government Efficiency Grants available to school districts to promote the expansion of shared services; and

WHEREAS, three grant applications are being submitted to solicit funding for the study and establishment of cost-effective shared services to be introduced by Suffolk County school districts; and

WHEREAS, the areas to be studied with the grant funding include the expansion of regional non-public school transportation services (Lead Educational Agencies: Connetquot SD; Eastern Suffolk BOCES; Western Suffolk BOCES), the establishment of a countywide school employee health insurance plan (Lead Educational Agencies: Lindenhurst SD; Eastern Suffolk BOCES; Western Suffolk BOCES), and the

introduction of a shared school purchasing office which will serve as a pilot (Lead Educational Agency: Hampton Bays SD); and

WHEREAS, all three of these areas to be studied offer potential savings for all school districts in Suffolk County;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District Board of Education supports the application of the Connetquot SD, Lindenhurst SD, and Hampton Bays SD for funding for the New York State Local Government Efficiency Grant Program in order to assure that new cost-effective services options are available to Suffolk County school districts.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino explained that this resolution offered school districts the opportunity to explore methods to combine efforts in order to reduce costs, ultimately resulting in cost-saving opportunities for the local school district taxpayers.

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER: SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT MEMBER

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 appointment of Suzanne Roman as a Parent Member to the Committee on Special Education/Committee on 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 5-0

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Michael Nofi, 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 12-22-08-A and Schedule 12-22-08- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

RESOLUTION TO AMEND ANNUAL APPOINTMENT – AUTHORIZATION FOR THE BUSINESS MANAGER TO ACT AS SCHOOL PURCHASING AGENT (COMM.REG.170.2)

Upon a motion made by Michael Nofi and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

Due to the recommendation of external auditing firm, Coughlin, Foundotos, Cullen & Danowski, LLP to separate the duties and responsibilities of Purchasing Agent from the duties and responsibilities of the Business Manager, the following appointment and resolution made on July 2, 2008 at the Annual Organization Meeting will be amended as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Debra Hoffman be and hereby is appointed as Purchasing Agent for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year at an annual stipend of \$19,290, pro-rated, as compensation for the first 7.5 hours per week worked, beyond her normal work week, in performing her existing duties as well as those of purchasing agent.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino commented that this item was in direct response to the auditors' recommendation for separation of duties and/or functions performed by the business office. Mr. Sanseverino noted that this specific part-time appointment was made with the goal of saving the district monies and was indeed a cost-effective measure. Dr. Ring confirmed the necessity of the separation of duties as explained by the auditors. He concurred with Mr. Sanseverino that the district was not in need of a full-time purchasing agent. Dr. Ring reported that Ms. Hoffman is qualified to perform the functions of the position noting that she had taken and passed the civil service examination in the title of purchasing agent.

There was no further discussion.

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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

Mr. Sanseverino opened the floor to questions and/or comments.

- Mrs. Noto inquired about the search process for a new middle school principal. She asked if the district had begun the process and mentioned that it was her understanding that advertising for this administrative vacancy would cost the district approximately \$25,000. Dr. D'Ambrosio responded that the search process had not yet begun and that the district would not spend \$25,000 for advertising. Mrs. Noto asked why the district would bother to advertise the vacant position at all when the district has qualified people in-house. Both Mr. Sanseverino and Dr. D'Ambrosio thanked Mrs. Noto for her comments.
- Mrs. Johannesen asked for a more detailed explanation of the revised schedule of charges for community use of school facilities. Dr. Ring offered that Level I users pertained to school-affiliated or community-based organizations that provide

direct services to students, such as the PTA, CYO, and scouts. Level II users included not-for-profit community-based organizations, i.e., local fire departments, American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, etc. Level III users are classified as for-profit organizations. Dr. Ring advised that the schedule of charges would be posted on the district's website for review, together with the application forms. Dr. Ring noted that the language and criteria for determining the appropriate level is clear. Mr. Sanseverino invited any group with questions to contact Dr. Ring's office directly for clarification and/or determination of their proper level.

- Ms. Dawn Callahan thanked Dr. O'Brien for taking her husband's call on Friday, December 19th, during an early dismissal due to weather conditions. Ms. Callahan asked why the procedures that were put into place on the 19th were not practiced during the district's emergency drill early dismissal in November. Ms. Callahan commented that the one-half hour Connect-Ed call prior to the early dismissal announcement did not allow parents enough time to react and/or respond. Dr. D'Ambrosio reminded Ms. Callahan of the Connect-Ed telephone call placed on Thursday evening, December 18th, alerting parents to the strong possibility of a weather-related early dismissal taking place on Friday. This call urged parents to discuss and solidify their plans with their children/caregivers in the event of inclement weather. Ms. Callahan expressed her concerns with the younger students arriving home prior to the older students. Dr. D'Ambrosio related that the order of dismissal put into place on the 19th was in accordance with plans adopted by the Shared Decision Making Team and would be evaluated at the end of the school year. Dr. D'Ambrosio commented that early dismissal can be a disaster for all working parents and noted, overall, the early dismissal procedures put into place on the 19th were very successful. Dr. D'Ambrosio thanked Ms. Callahan for her comments concerning the issue and advised that the procedures put into place on the 19th of December would be practiced at a future date.

There were no further comments or questions from meeting attendees.

Mr. Sanseverino, on behalf of the Board of Education, extended his gratitude to each and every member of the Rocky Point school community for their charitable acts and donations, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:28 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

