

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 20, 2010**

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

Present: Michael Nofi, President
Diane Burke, Vice President
John Lessler, Trustee (arriving at 6:10 P.M.)
Kathleen Hegggers, Trustee
Scott Reh, Trustee
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Deborah DeLuca, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent (arriving at 6:15 P.M.)
Gregory Hilton, School Business Official
Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

Executive Session

At 6:07 P.M. Diane Burke made a motion and Kathleen Hegggers seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss particular personnel matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:05 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Nofi, commenting upon the large turnout of meeting attendees, thanked everyone for coming. For those who may not have been in attendance at the November meeting, Mr. Nofi once again announced that the board members were utilizing school district laptops instead of the previously used paper board agenda books in keeping with the district's green initiative. Mr. Nofi stated that the laptops would be returned for use in the school district following the board meeting.

Mr. Nofi turned the meeting over to Dr. Ring. Dr. Ring extended best wishes for the holiday season and introduced Ms. Amy Agnesini in order to begin the student recognition portion of the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Amy Agnesini, Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Intramurals

- The Middle School 8th Grade Boys Soccer Team was awarded the Suffolk County Soccer Officials Association Junior High Sportsmanship Award, an award bestowed upon only one team in Suffolk County at this level of play. Soccer officials award this distinction to a team that “displays the qualities and behavior befitting a sportsman to the game of soccer in Suffolk County.” Ms. Agnesini, together with Coach Dave Falcone, awarded certificates to the members of the 2010 8th Grade Boys Soccer Team:
Avery Atkinson, Elgar Benavides, Vincent Bonafede, Marc Bruno, Brendan Cain, John Drews, Wayne Farley, Mike Ferrara, Alex Infantino, Carson Kimball, Kevin Kucharczyk, Kamren Leardi, Shaun Martinsen, Tommy Mayr, Matthew Santiago, Christopher Vaden, Michael Wagner and Keegan Ziegler.
- Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner and Suffolk County Legislator Dan Losquadro praised the student-athletes for this well-deserved award. Mr. Losquadro noted receipt of this award demonstrated the importance of “how you play the game” in today’s complex world of competitiveness. Mr. Losquadro extended his congratulations to the athletic director, Coach Falcone, the athletes and their parents for their exemplary behavior both on the field and on the sidelines. Ms. Bonner, noting it was her honor to be invited to speak at the award ceremony, offered her gratitude and admiration to the parents of the boys for the fine job they did in raising them. Ms. Bonner commented upon the constant and continuous support of the sports teams by community members, physical education teachers, and school administration and thanked all in her roles as both a resident of the community and an elected official.

Ms. Carol Tvelia, Principal, Joseph A. Edgar School

Ms. Tvelia introduced the following faculty members for the purpose of student recognition in their respective areas:

- Mr. Craig Knapp recognized the students who participated in the Suffolk County Music Educators’ Association PEAK (Parents, Educators and Kids) Festival held on November 20, 2010: Brianna Lamoureux, Julia Brandow, Hayley Nofi, Paul Lehest, Sabrina Duenas, Bryant Liu, Delaney Vu, Joshua Vogel, Jacqueline Baur and Kelsea Thompson. Hayley Nofi and Josh Vogel provided an overview of the PEAK Festival and shared with meeting attendees the favorite moments they experienced with their parents during the festival.
- Mr. Mark Yashowitz, Student Council Advisor, recognized Student Council members for their hard work and dedication in preparing for the 13th Annual Veterans Day Assembly. The students contacted veterans groups, collected donations, decorated the gymnasium and invited family members to commemorate the occasion.
- Ms. Laurie Varriale, Technology Integration Specialist, acknowledged Anna Lee, Jade Pinkenburg, Nina Santoro and Kaitlyn Walsh for their dedication of time and energy assisting with the technology portion of the Veterans Day Assembly. The students shared information with assembly attendees and were instrumental in setting up a POW/MIA Remembrance Table. The students also created a video honoring POWs and MIAs that was included in the event.

- On behalf of the 5th grade selective chorus, “High Notes,” students Emily Wojnowski and Megan Hrysko reported on their contribution to the Veterans Day Assembly program. The “High Notes” performed four songs, “The Star Spangled Banner,” Remember to Remember,” “We Will Not Forget,” and “Armed Forces-The Pride of America.”

Ms. Tvelia thanked the faculty members and students for their presentations and continued with her building report:

- Ms. Tvelia thanked the PTA and Mr. Joseph Tapler for the monies donated from the Box-Top campaign and supply money, respectively, in order to purchase the electronic sign for JAE.
- Faculty and School-Related Professional Association members adopted thirty children/twenty two families and provided them with holiday food items and gifts.
- In cooperation with the Suffolk County Office of the Homeless, students participated in a drive to assist the homeless by packaging soaps, deodorants, toothpaste and tooth brushes in baggies for distribution.
- Thank you to all who donated hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks for the “Giving Tree” located in the JAE library. All of the donations remain in the Rocky Point community and benefit needy families of the school district. Supporting programs such as this helps foster the realization that a child truly can make a difference in the lives of others.

Mr. Kenneth Crawford, Acting Principal, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School

- Mrs. Eye and Ms. Conlan were honored for their contributions of time, effort, supplies and expertise in making the FJC Garden Club a tremendous success. They planned lessons for the club on planting, worms, root plants and other science and social studies related themes. Thank you!
- On December 3rd, second grade teacher, Mrs. Catherine Ladani, was presented with the 2010-2011 Dowling College/News 12 Long Island Educator of the Month Award by Dowling College dean, Dr. Payne. The award was presented to Mrs. Ladani in the presence of students, administration and family members.
- Mrs. Fasano’s first grade students are participating in a holiday project together with the Macy’s *Make a Wish Foundation*. Macy’s will donate one to two dollars for each letter received. The students created a mailbox designated to be the drop off for letters to Santa, stuffed envelopes and addressed each envelope to Santa: North Pole. The students raised \$620.00 dollars for the foundation.
- Congratulations to Ms. Kyra Kenwood and the second grade chorus for a tremendous holiday concert.
- On December 17th, selected members of the “High Notes” chorus visited and performed selections from the winter musical, “North Pole Musical.” The second grade chorus also performed some of the musical numbers from their concert.

Mr. William B. Caulfield, Principal, Rocky Point High School

- This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Singing Santas. The students performed, under the tutelage of Mr. Brooke Bonomi, at many nursing homes and

- events during the holiday season. On December 11th, the Singing Santas performed their annual holiday concert to a sold-out crowd.
- Rocky Point High School students participated in the annual tree lighting ceremony in downtown Rocky Point on December 4th. Mr. Caulfield commended the Rocky Point school community for doing more for needy families, in his opinion, than anywhere else. This generosity is a tribute to the parents of the students and the entire community. Thank you!
 - On December 14th and 15th, in an effort to increase awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department set up a driving course and provided golf carts and special goggles in a simulated drunk driving event during the students' physical education classes.

Dr. Scott O'Brien, Principal, Rocky Point Middle School

- Dr. O'Brien expressed his belief that children can definitely make a difference in the lives of others and noted his pride in the difference the Middle School students make in the lives of others.
- Congratulations to the Middle School students for their successful winter concerts held under the direction of Ms. Schecher, Mr. Ragona, and Mrs. Gatto.
- Progress reports will be posted to the parental portal on Thursday, December 23rd.
- The induction ceremony for the 8th grade students into the National Junior Honor Society will take place at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 13th at the high school. Congratulations to all 8th grade National Junior Honor Society inductees.
- The *Rachel's Challenge* program will be presented to the students on January 20th, 2011. The program will include two student assemblies, a training session for student leaders and an evening event open for parents to hear the positive message of caring, compassion, and kindness the program fosters. All parents and community members are invited to attend the evening event on January 20th.

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

- Dr. Pinkenburg asked why the Joseph A. Edgar School did not have a Science Fair. Mrs. Burke disclosed that she had questioned the lack of a Science Fair at JAE during her tenure as a member on the Shared Decision Making Team some time ago. Mrs. Burke encouraged Dr. Pinkenburg to pursue the matter with school administration and members of the current Shared Decision Making Team.
- With reference to Board of Education Policy Number 7619, Use of Time Out Rooms, Dr. Pinkenburg suggested that a specific period for time out be stated in the policy as opposed to the current wording of "reasonable" when putting this policy into effect. Dr. Ring responded that Policy Number 7619, as written, is in essence a boilerplate policy pursuant to the Commissioner's Regulations and thus allows the implementation of different time-out periods for different circumstances. Dr. Ring noted the time-out room assists in providing students the opportunity to recompose themselves in an appropriate environment. Dr. Ring called upon Dr. DeLuca to provide more detailed information concerning the use of the time out room. Dr. DeLuca presented a thorough synopsis of the time out room, the parameters in which it may be used as may be defined by each student's

IEP, and the staff members who will present a team approach during the time out period.

There were no further questions and/or comments.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Kathleen Hegggers, 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 22, 2010.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TREASURER’S REPORT

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer’s Report for the month of October 2010 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Reports for the months of October 2010 and November 2010 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the months of October 2010 and November 2010 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2010

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the November 2010 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2009-2010 INDEPENDENT AUDIT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Independent Audit Corrective Action Plan responding to current year comments from the district's external auditors, Cullen & Danowski, LLP, dated October 13, 2010.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

DESIGNATION OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES ON CHECKS

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Virginia Holloway, School District Treasurer, be authorized to sign checks for the 2010-2011 school year, and that Kim Lake, Part-Time Deputy School District Treasurer, and Gregory Hilton, School Business Official, and Michael Ring, Superintendent of Schools, be authorized to sign checks for the 2010-2011 school year in the absence of Virginia Holloway, and furthermore, that two signatories be required for any check exceeding \$10,000 and that the signatories for such checks be the Part-Time Deputy School District Treasurer and the School District Treasurer or the Superintendent of Schools or the School Business Official

Mr. Nofi announced this school business item is addressed at the annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of the Education but needed to be revisited upon the resignation of the former school district's treasurer, Irene Rosener, and the hiring of the new district treasurer, Virginia Holloway.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

AUTHORIZATION – BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP DUES

Upon a motion made by John Lessler, the following motion was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the renewal of its membership in the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association and the New York State School Boards Association for the 2010-2011 fiscal year, in the amounts of \$3,000 and \$9,885.00, respectively, funds for which have been allocated in the voter approved 2010-2011 school district budget.

Failing to garner a second, the motion failed to carry.

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2010

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the November 2010 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**BOND ISSUE RELATED CAPITAL PROJECT SCIENCE LAB
RECONSTRUCTION CHANGE NO. 1 (SJ HOERNING CONSTRUCTION, INC.)**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts and approves the attached change order in reference to the bond issue related project, and authorizes the president of the Board of Education to execute said change order.

Mr. Nofi relayed this resolution was advantageous to the district as the original contract between the district and SJ Hoerning would be monetarily reduced as a result of the lack of unforeseen conditions arising during the science lab reconstruction.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND THE ROCKY POINT SCHOOL-RELATED PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATION**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Rocky Point School-Related Professional Association for the purpose of amending Article VIII (A) and Article VIII (B) of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Rocky Point School-Related Professional Association effective December 20, 2010, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND THE ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler 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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association for the purpose of amending Appendix B Group 3 Athletics-Interscholastic Coaches, Interscholastic Sports for the Challenged, of the collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association effective December 20, 2010, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY NUMBER 7619, SECOND
READING**

RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 3020-a of the New York State Education Law, the Board of Education found probable cause to prefer Charges against a tenured teacher and;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3020-a, a disciplinary hearing was held in case number 14,096 before a designated Hearing Officer whereat there was full and fair disclosure of the nature of the case against the tenured teacher and a full and fair opportunity for the teacher to present a defense, and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the disciplinary hearing, the Hearing Officer rendered a written decision setting forth findings of fact on each Charge, his conclusions with regard to each Charge, and stating what penalty, if any, shall be imposed, and

WHEREAS, the Hearing Officer found the teacher guilty of a certain Charge and determined that a penalty of a fine in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) shall be imposed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with the determination of the Hearing Officer, that the respondent teacher is hereby fined the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be paid to the Rocky Point Union Free School District by deducting said amount from respondent's net pay in equal installments over the next eighteen (18) months; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that respondent shall attend a one-day course as set forth in the Hearing's Officer's decision.

Roll Call

Board Members Voting in Favor of the Resolution:

Mrs. Burke - Aye
Mrs. Heggens - Aye
Mr. Reh - Aye
Mr. Lessler - Aye
Mr. Nofi- Aye

Board Members Voting Against the Resolution:

None

Board Members Abstaining:

None

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Kathleen Hegggers, 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

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – EASTERN SUFFOLK BOCES SPECIAL ELECTION

In accordance with a vacancy on the Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services of the First Supervisory District of Suffolk County, resulting from the resignation of Andrew T. Wittman,, Jr., effective December 30, 2010, Mr. Nofi called for nominations from members of the Rocky Point Board of Education to be filled by special election scheduled for Monday, February 14, 2011.

No nominations were proffered.

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

- Susan Collesidis voiced her concerns regarding the low number of 8th grade students presently participating in chorus and the impact this could have on the district's current and future music program(s).
- Dr. Ring, Mr. Nofi and Dr. O'Brien offered several possible circumstances that possibly play a part in limiting the 8th grade students' access to continue their participation in this music program. Ms. Collesidis was strongly encouraged to pursue her concerns in order to rectify the situation by revisiting several potential avenues, including brainstorming with the building-based Shared Decision Making Team and pursuing potential solutions prior to the finalization of class schedules for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Mrs. Hegggers shared that her family also experienced a similar predicament resulting from scheduling conflicts in the area of art education.

There were no further questions or comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:16 P.M. a motion was made by Diane Burke and seconded by Kathleen Hegggers to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk