

**MINUTES**  
**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**January 24, 2011**

**Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.**

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

Absent: None

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Nofi welcomed those in attendance and asked Dr. Ring to proceed with the superintendent's report.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Ring advised a budget workshop meeting was conducted in room 135 of the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School prior to this evening's meeting. A continuation of the budget workshop is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. and will again be held in room 135 of the Frank J. Carasiti building.

Dr. Ring offered his congratulations and best wishes to school board trustee Scott Reh upon Mr. Reh's upcoming induction into the Suffolk Sports Hall of Fame. Dr. Anthony Bonasera, Superintendent of Schools of the Mount Sinai School District, wrote a letter in support of Mr. Reh's nomination for this honor. Dr. Ring recapped Mr. Reh's many accomplishments in the sports arena from his high school career through present day. Noting the impressiveness of these accomplishments, Dr. Ring announced that pertinent information pertaining to Mr. Reh's induction into the Hall of Fame will be posted on the district's website as soon as it becomes available.

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

- Mr. Caulfield offered his congratulations to Mr. Reh.
- The English Regents was administered on January 11, 2011. Other Regents exams are scheduled to begin tomorrow and will continue through Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The Rocky Point Idol Finals competition was held on January 14<sup>th</sup> in the Rocky Point High School auditorium. Alexandra Schmitt was the high school Idol winner and Okan Kazdal was awarded the trophy for outstanding entertainer.

- Rocky Point High School will present *Phantom of the Opera* during the first week of March with a special matinee performance for senior citizens on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 P.M. Members of the Friends of Music will serve refreshments at this performance.
- The annual Patriotic Concert is scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 P.M. in the high school auditorium. Students from the Joseph A. Edgar School *High Notes* Select Chorus, the Rocky Point High School Orchestra and Chorus, the eleventh and twelfth grade band and the Rocky Point Middle School Select Chorus will perform.

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

- Dr. O'Brien extended congratulations to Mr. Reh.
- Sixth grade students will participate in an on-site field trip sponsored by the Long Island Science Center during the week of January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The Rocky Point Idol final competition was held on Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Eighth grader Julia Kutsch was awarded the title of middle school Idol. Congratulations to Julia and all of the contestants participating in the event.
- The National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony for eighth graders was held on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all fifty 8<sup>th</sup> grade National Junior Honor Society inductees.
- *Rachel's Challenge* was held on January 20, 2011. Two student assemblies, a training session for students, and an evening event open to parents in order to hear the positive message of *Rachel's Challenge* were scheduled. Thank you to the PTA for its continued support at the middle school. The PTA organized and distributed "I Accept" tee shirts for students and staff to be worn on the day of the program. Students signed a banner in support of the program and wore "I Accept..." bracelets provided by the PTA in order to keep the message going forward after each student signed the banner and agreed to accept the challenge. A new club, Friends of Rachel, will also support the ideas learned. The club is open to all students and will meet weekly to support the goals and ideals of *Rachel's Challenge*.

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

- Ms. Tvelia offered congratulations to Mr. Reh.
- Ms. Tvelia thanked the PTA for its continued support of the Journey into Indian Territories program for fourth graders.
- Ms. Tvelia thanked the Friends of Music for their support of the production of the Pocahontas Ballet scheduled for Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- On February 10<sup>th</sup> the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser will take place. This fundraiser is held in conjunction with the American Heart Association. Thank you to Ms. Amoscato, Mr. Camarda and Mrs. Famighetti for organizing and supporting this event.
- On February 9<sup>th</sup>, *Miles of Smiles, the Story of Roxey, the Long Island Railroad Dog* author Heather Worthington, will make a presentation to third and fourth grade students.
- The character education program, *Put Yourself in Their Shoes*, will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

- Dr. Krause of Stony Brook University addressed fourth grade students in conjunction with the kick-off of the annual Penny-A-Page Read-A-Thon in support of the Madagascar Ankizay Fund. Through this fund, fourth graders of JAE have raised enough money to build a school in Madagascar and help with additions being made to two other schools.
- Peer mediators were trained in December for participation in the Peer Mediation Program. Ms. Biagotti and Ms. McGuire trained twenty-eight fourth and fifth graders. The first mediation took place several weeks ago and was deemed to be a success. Ms. Tvelia spoke of the benefits provided to the students through this program, including teaching the children to take responsibility for themselves and their actions.

**Jennifer Golding, Interim Principal, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School**

- The Dibels assessment will be administered to students during the week of January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Kindergarten classes will host their grade level bucket-filling assembly on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. This assembly will highlight the character trait of responsibility.
- PARP will begin on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The theme will be FJC'S BUCKET FULL OF READERS. If the students reach their reading goal, Mr. Crawford will be responsible for serving the students lunch.
- Singer/songwriter Robert Poe will perform on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Poe will play superhero Broccoli Rob, along with other characters, in order to demonstrate the importance of eating fruits, vegetables, and other high nutrient foods.
- Mrs. Iberger and Mrs. Costa's second grade classes will be working on a Valentine project for troops overseas. "Lunch Bags of Love" will be sent to the men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated and must be received by Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Last year's NYS Third Grade ELA Assessment test will be administered in the next few weeks in an effort to determine how well students will do and in order to plan on using the results to help with future instruction.

On a personal note, Ms. Golding extended her gratitude to Dr. Ring and the members of the Board of Education for allowing her the opportunity to serve as interim assistant principal and for supporting her during what she deemed to be one of the most rewarding professional experiences of her career.

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

- Dr. Pinkenburg inquired about any planned changes to the curriculum and the methods that will be utilized for determining success of same. Dr. Ring referenced the "Next S.T.E.P. Plan." Explaining that the academic plan was a process, Dr. Ring stated that measurements of success would be made at regular intervals through a consistent system of assessments. Noting that the main goal of the plan is to improve the outcomes of success for all children, Dr. Ring advised the plan is designed to determine where assistance is needed and to provide strategies to achieve enhanced academic goals and achievements for all students.

- Dr. Pinkenburg asked about plans for a Gifted and Talented Program. Dr. Ring provided a detailed overview of the requirements needed in order to meet the criteria for a program to be deemed a truly Gifted and Talented Program. Dr. Ring reported the district presently provides an Enrichment Program for students. Mrs. Burke commented that the district always had an Enrichment Program and that the Next S.T.E.P. plan will assist the district's decision in changing from an enrichment program to the Gifted and Talented Program. Dr. Ring added the district supports the Gifted and Talented Program and that such a program must be officially adopted by the district.
- Mrs. Burke announced she wished to discuss the in-school field trip requirements at the Joseph A. Edgar School. Dr. Ring advised in-school field trips had been in place for several years. He explained these trips, presently at a cost of seven to ten dollars per student, alleviated the cost for transportation and reduced the cost to students. Dr. Ring referred to the possible negative perception and the blurring of lines when charging a fee for trips being held within a school building. Dr. Ring suggested that concerns involving this issue might be brought to the Shared Decision Making Team for discussion and review. Mr. Nofi expressed his agreement with Dr. Ring's suggestion concerning the Shared Decision Making Team becoming involved with this matter. Mrs. Burke explained she wished to address this issue in a public forum as some district residents are not comfortable coming forward to the microphone during the public session of a board meeting to discuss such matters. Mrs. Heggens reported she had been contacted by families because they were unable to pay the fee imposed for participating in the field trip assemblies and that parents with more than one child in the building experienced particular hardship. Both Mrs. Heggens and Mrs. Burke stated they were fielding many phone calls from parents concerning this issue. Mrs. Heely, president of the PTA, advised the PTA will support any family in need of assistance. Mrs. Heely suggested parents contact the PTA directly or the guidance department of the school in which their child attends. Dr. Pinkenburg suggested noting on the permission slip for in-school field trips the options available for those who were unable to afford the cost. Noting that the PTA was phenomenal with stepping in to provide assistance when needed, Dr. Ring confirmed the district schools have the mechanics in place when assistance is required and all is done on a confidential basis. In conclusion of this item of discussion, Dr. Ring confirmed his understanding of the concerns of the members of the board. Dr. Ring commented he would look further into the matter and report back his findings.
- Mrs. Noto encouraged the Gifted and Talented/Enhancement Program to become more inclusive for students in the lower grades. She shared that her child had participated and that his participation in the program proved to be a wonderful experience for him.

There were no further questions or comments.

## **MINUTES**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education meeting be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, December 20, 2010.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **TREASURER’S REPORTS**

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

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

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer Report**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Heggens 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 December 2010 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of December 2010 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2010**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler 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 December 2010 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – DECEMBER 2010**

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

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

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **BOND ISSUE RELATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT & EXCEL AID PROJECTS-PHASE II-CHANGE ORDER NOS. 2 AND 3 (ROLAND’S ELECTRIC)**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers 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 accepts and approves the attached change orders in reference to the bond issue related project and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said change order.

Mr. Nofi explained the district would receive an allowance in the amount of approximately \$8,000.00 from Roland's Electric in accordance with the terms of the original contract pertaining to unforeseen circumstances.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**CONTRACT FOR RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT – OUR LADY OF PEACE ACADEMY AT MONTFORT THERAPEUTIC RESIDENCE**

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 enter into a contract with Our Lady of Peace Academy at Montfort Therapeutic Residence for educational services for a student as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**AUTHORIZATION – OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the official school district newspapers designated for legal notices are *The Village Beacon Record*, *The Long Island Business News* and *Newsday* for the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Nofi announced the district was adding *The Long Island Business News* as an official newspaper of the district as a result of *The North Shore Sun* changing to an on-line publication only, no longer available in print.

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 Kathleen Hegggers 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 adding the Civil Service title of Accountant that shall become part of the recognition clause of the Collective Bargaining Agreement

between the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Rocky Point School-Related Professional Association effective January 24, 2011, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**OWEN CASSIDY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers 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 establishment of the Owen Cassidy Memorial Scholarship as per the criteria defined on the attached, subject to the receipt of funds necessary for awarding the scholarship for the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Nofi thanked the Mount Sinai Middle School staff members and co-workers of Mrs. Cassidy for their generous donation.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**ROCKY POINT FRIENDS OF MUSIC DONATIONS**

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 accepts two donations from the Friends of Music, totaling \$2,300.00.

**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 \$2,300.00 as a result of the donations from the Friends of Music.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the following budget codes be adjusted to reflect said increase:

A 2138 400 03 3120	\$ 900.00
A 2138 400 03 3120	\$1,400.00

Mr. Nofi thanked the Friends of Music for their generous donations.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY AWARD TO HIGH SCHOOL**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler 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 \$200.00 award to Rocky Point High School from Hofstra University as a result of an essay writing competition.

**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 \$200.00 as a result of the award from Hofstra University.

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

A 2110 500 03 0000

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh 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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 01-24-11-A and Schedule 01-24-11- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**PERSONNEL**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers 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 accepts the attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

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

- Ms. Susan Niver asked if the Next S.T.E.P. Plan was available on the district's website. Mrs. Burke responded that the original overview of the plan is presently available on the website. Dr. Ring pointed out that the actual development of the plan is presently in the process of being finalized. Upon finalization, the Board of Education will review the plan. The final phase will be the Board's acceptance of the plan. Upon acceptance, the plan will be made available on the district's website.
- Dr. Pinkenburg engaged Dr. Ring in a lengthy discussion involving both a Gifted and Talented Program and an Enrichment Program. Both Dr. Pinkenburg and Dr. Ring explored some of the pros and cons of the selection criteria of the respective programs. In response to Dr. Pinkenburg's question regarding a gifted/enrichment program for third graders, Dr. Ring commented that the screening process will begin for third graders in the coming weeks.
- Mr. Scott Guinther commended Ms. Golding for a job well done as interim assistant principal of the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School during Dr. Herbert's absence and announced that he, his colleagues, and Ms. Golding's students, were looking forward to her return to her teaching position.

There were no further questions or comments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Kathleen Heggens, the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones  
District Clerk