

Minutes
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
September 26, 2011

I Meeting called to Order: 6:00 PM

Present: Michael Nofi, President
Diane Burke, Vice President – 6:01 PM
Kathleen Hegggers, Trustee
John Lessler, Trustee
Scott Reh, Trustee
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Deborah De Luca, Ed.D., Asst. Superintendent
Gregory Hilton, School Business Official
Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services
Mary Berretta, Acting District Clerk

Absent: Patricia Jones, District Clerk

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:00 PM Kathleen Hegggers made a motion and John Lessler 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 7:10 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Ring stated Dr. Courtney Herbert would be acknowledging Cynthia Ritchie, a SRPA member, who is retiring after twenty-four years of service to the district.

Dr. Herbert read a prepared statement honoring Cynthia Ritchie and wished her the best of luck in retirement.

Ms. Ritchie gave a brief statement of thanks.

WILLIAM B. CAULFIELD, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL

- The last BOE meeting we were praying that school would start on time. I would like to thank all of the people who were instrumental in getting the building ready for a successful back to school.
- On Tuesday, 9/13/11, in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, high School students attended a number of assemblies in which guest speakers delivered a somber and fascinating living history of that tragic day as well as character profiles of alumni who perished in the World Trade Center attacks. In addition to guest speakers, members of Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post 6249 presented the colors. Under the direction of Secondary Music Chairperson Amy Schecher, the band played patriotic music. After the assemblies, the guest speakers and select students gathered to admire the Rocky Point High School September 11 Memorial, which was partially built with funds donated by VFW Post 6249. Special thanks to Rich Acritelli for all of his help putting this special day together.
- Open School Night took place at the high school last Thursday evening. At 7:00 PM we began with an orientation for parents of 9th graders where the administration discussed graduation requirements, the attendance policy, and the Code of Conduct and parents were given the opportunity to have any of their questions answered. Club and activity guides were distributed to parents and the administrators explained that students are encouraged to become active members of the student body. All parents then had an opportunity to visit each of their child's classes to meet teachers and learn about course requirements.
- During the past 2 weeks, high school counselors met with students in grades 9 and 12 to discuss the importance of school, attendance, and being active community members.
- On Saturday, October 15, 2011, at 7:45 a.m., we will administer the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude/National Merit Scholarship Qualification Test (PSAT) to all interested students. The examination will serve three purposes:
 - 1) to provide 10th and 11th grade students experience in college testing;
 - 2) to provide the counselor and student with test scores that have a high correlation with the SAT; and
 - 3) to provide an opportunity for 11th grade students to compete for National Merit Scholarships.

Please contact the high school guidance office for additional information.

- Homecoming took place on Saturday with a parade beginning at 12:30 PM starting from the Frank J Carasiti School followed by a dedication of the newly renovated 9/11 memorial at 1:00 PM. During half-time, a banner, which will be

hung in our gymnasium, was presented in recognition of our grand marshals – Al Ellis, Jeff and Scott Reh – who were also inducted into the Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame for their outstanding accomplishments. Various athletic contests were held throughout the day.

DR. SCOTT O'BRIEN, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Dr. O'Brien made a brief statement thanking Cynthia Ritchie for working with him while he was a teacher and also as principal and wished her well in retirement.
- Dr. O'Brien thanked Richard Acritelli for involving the middle school students in the 9/11 ceremony.
- I want to begin by thanking the teachers, staff and parents at the Middle School for a smooth and wonderful opening. Even our new sixth graders have quickly adjusted to the Middle School day. Students showed their spirit all last week as we celebrated "Spirit Week" with hat day, sports day and Rocky Point School colors pride day. This all lead up to the Middle School participating in the High School Homecoming Parade this past Saturday. Special thanks to all Middle School students and our student council advisor, Mr. Connelly for representing the Middle School at this event. We are excited for a great year ahead.
- **Sports/Clubs:**
Middle School sports and clubs have begun and our students are actively involved in these after school activities. There is a club guide link on the Middle School web site with all clubs, advisors and dates of meetings. In addition, the Middle School bi-weekly flier is also posted on the Middle School web site. This bi-weekly flier has the most updated information about school wide events and after school activities.
- **Middle School Open House:**
The Middle School Open House was held on September 15th for grades 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Despite the bad weather that evening, many parents attended the opening presentation in the HS auditorium and proceeded to follow their child's schedule. Parents learned about student curriculum, class expectations and communication procedures. Thanks to all the parents that attended.
- **9/11 Assembly:**
In commemoration of the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, Rocky Point Middle School students attended assemblies in which two guest speakers recounted their personal stories related to 9/11. The first speaker was Chris Hardej, who was at work for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council in Tower One when the attack occurred. He recounted the moments of that day from the first plane hitting the building very close to where he worked, exiting the tower with hundreds of other people, his personal escape from the mall stores on

the lower level, and the final moments before he exited the collapsing building. Middle School Italian teacher Tara Scalone gave a moving account of her friendship with deceased alumni Samantha Egan and the impact she had on her life. The students listened to the music of Tommy Sullivan, former West Point band member and member of Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge. Middle School student Nick Lovaglio sang the national anthem at both Middle School assemblies. Students from the Student Council also presented plaques to each guest and speaker for his or her involvement in the anniversary assemblies. After the assemblies, the guest speakers and student presenters gathered to admire the Rocky Point High School September 11 Memorial, which was partially built with funds donated by the VFW Post 6249 Veterans.

- **PTA Book Fair:**

The PTA is hosting a Middle School Book fair this month from September 26th – September 28th for all Middle School students. Special thanks to the PTA and all parent volunteers for their support of this event.

- Finally, the Middle School will be celebrating the International Day of Peace on Wednesday, September 28th. All staff and students are encouraged to wear white to symbolize peace. A dedication wall in the main hallway of the Middle School will be available for viewing throughout the day displaying images and written reflections pertaining to peace.

CAROL TVELIA, PRINCIPAL, JOSEPH A. EDGAR SCHOOL

- We experienced an uneventful start of the new school year. No lost or crying children, and for the first time, no kindergarten children who got on the wrong bus. As usual, third and fourth grade students met their teachers in the old and new gym, and fifth graders went directly to their classrooms. The bldg was festooned with blue and white star balloons.
- I would like to thank Melinda Brooks and the Rocky Point Fire Department for the 9/11 assembly.
- All three Open Houses were very well attended.
- Thank you to Ms. Craig and Ms. Lopez for all the work they did for the homecoming parade.
- The new reading and math blocks are meeting our expectations. We are almost finished with all of our benchmark testing. Benchmark testing results in ELA and Math will help inform classroom and individual student instruction for the next few months. Results of these benchmarks will be discussed with parents during the Nov. parent conferences.

- All parents should have received their child's ELA/Math, and for last year's grade 4 students, Science parent NYS Assessment reports. If you have any questions or have not received the reports, please contact the school.
- The final two days of PTA sponsored school pictures will be taken tomorrow and Wednesday. PTA fundraising materials went home last week. The first PTA meeting is tomorrow night at the middle school at 7: 00 PM.
- The first SDM meeting will be held at 7:55 AM in the main office conference room on Oct 5th. This is also the date of our first Mystery Reader. Teachers will be sending information home about mystery readers this week.
- Parents are also reminded when checking their teacher's e-board, they can also check mine, for the monthly newsletter and JAE specific monthly calendar. The JAE calendar can be accessed through the drop down menu on the district website. The October information will be up by the end of this week.

**VIRGINIA KELLY-GIBBONS, PRINCIPAL, FRANK J. CARASITI
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

We would like to thank Melinda Brooks for her work on our 9/11 assembly – “Salute to Heroes.”

The beginning of school was an exciting time at FJC. Our new kindergarteners were eager to start, while the first and second grade students were happy to meet their new teachers and see their old friends. We’re off to a great start.

- Open House was well attended; the parents began their evening with the Principal and Assistant Principal in the gym and proceeded to their child’s classrooms. The PTA, cheerleaders, boy scouts, and the Rocky Point Public Library presented their wares and provided information to our FJC families
- Spirit Day was well received; our staff and children came to school decked out in blue and white
- Mr. West, our art teacher created a beautiful banner for the children to carry in the Homecoming Parade
- We recognized 11 Golden Eagle class winners on 9/24/11
- The children are busy composing a school pledge and will begin putting it to music
- Permission slips for chorus have been sent home and Mrs. Kenwood is ready for her new second grade singers
- The students are practicing their smile for school picture days Oct 5,6,7
- Kindergarten bingo is planned for the morning of Oct. 25th
- The rain held off and the garden club met on the morning of Friday Sept 24th ; the final fall meeting will be held on Friday, Oct 7th
- First grade has ordered pumpkins

- Plans for the Storybook/ Harvest Parade are in the works; we plan to march on October 28, 2011
- We are saddened to say goodbye to an irreplaceable member of the FJC family, Cindy Ritchie who has worked for the Rocky Point School District for 24 years

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and opened the floor to questions and/or comments.

Mr. Nofi reminded all that there would be another opportunity to address the Board at the end of the meeting.

The following girl's soccer team players Angela Torriero, Arianna Schultz, Dana D'Aquila, Cassandra Costarelli and Cheyenne Voight each read a prepared statement in support of their coach Nicole Dunn, a candidate for the physical education position.

Mr. Nofi expressed kudos to the students for speaking and briefly spoke to them about all the policies relative to hiring staff.

Dr. Ring elaborated further on the hiring process and how the finalist was chosen.

Cody Wilkins – 10th grade – read a prepared statement about his disability and how the autism consultant at the middle school had been eliminated.

Dr. Ring expressed to Cody how remarkable it was that he spoke in public knowing how hard it is for a student with a disability. Dr. Ring further explained that the position was not eliminated but moved due to student demands and finances.

Ms. Healy asked who will be there go-to person.

Ms. Wilkins expressed her concerns about hiring from the outside and how there was a general lack of communication. Are their needs being met? They need to work together and communicate. Students deserve an answer.

Dr. Ring explained that he would never address the needs of any student publicly nor would he debate what was said in public but did disagree with a number of comments that Ms. Wilkins had made. Dr. Ring continued to explain that the movement of faculty was necessary and we did go out to BOCES for itinerant services.

Ms. Wilkins responded her questions were not answered. How were students notified?

Dr. Ring explained that changes in enrollment over the summer hindered personnel. Information on the first day of school was not available but all services will be received as per their IEP.

Cory Wilkins commented that what was going on should have been explained as soon as possible.

Ms. Wilkins commented that her son had received three different stories which made him upset.

Mr. Nofi thanked both of them and appreciated their comments.

Mr. Pickenburg questioned the minutes from the June 20th meeting where he read a science teacher was being excessed. What is the impact?

Dr. Ring responded as to why the teacher was excessed.

Mr. Pickenburg stated that he had seen the concussion program on the website. How many students are being affected?

Dr. Ring explaining the concussion program.

Jenny Anderson asked who took Ms. Valvo's position.

Dr. Ring explained about the itinerant service providers that we contract from Eastern Suffolk BOCES and how we use them.

Jenny Anderson asked if there is someone in place for the children.

Dr. Ring commented there was someone in place.

Dr. De Luca commented that all children are receiving their services.

Mr. Nofi asked if anyone else had a question or comment.

Oscar Barrero from Local 78 (inflatable rats outside) spoke about the many violations the asbestos removal company has received.

Mr. Gabrinski, an organizer for Local 78, spoke and made only negative comments about the company.

Mr. Reh commented to both men by responding, with all due respect and having no ties to New York Insulation, they should be careful about the negative comments. Mr. Reh continued by speaking about the bidding process.

Mr. Gabrinski commented that his information was valid.

Dr. Ring responded by giving an overview of general municipal law and responsible bidders.

Oscar Barrero stated that he had all the information on this company and it was available.

Mr. Gabrinski commented that he would keep the organizers here if we use them again. Mr. Gabrinski made an additional comment about the company not doing their job and how union workers should be hired.

Nancy Cincotta thanked the Board for putting their time and energy into this job and questioned whether New York Insulation gave them any reason to believe they used unsafe practices.

Mr. Nofi responded that work has been exemplary on both occasions. On time and under budget.

Dr. Ring commented that an environmental monitoring firm took pictures of the work to show other companies.

Ms. Cincotta questioned whether the work was inferior.

Mr. Nofi explained the lowest responsible bidder process.

Ms. Cincotta questioned if they were to get hauled into court are they guilty.

Ms. Burke responded that she did research three years ago when this company was used and explained her experiences.

Dr. Ring spoke about the company, the workers and their qualifications.

Ms. Cincotta spoke about unemployment numbers being up and whether the “right to work” is only for union workers.

Dr. Ring explained the prevailing wage law.

Ms. Cincotta expressed her thanks.

Therese King asked if asbestos abatement was being done while the students were in school.

Dr. Ring explained when the abatement was done and also the nature of asbestos.

Mr. Nofi asked if there was anyone else and stated there would be another session later.

MINUTES

Upon the 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 Meetings be accepted as presented: Regular Meeting, August 29, 2011, as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

TREASURER’S REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer’s Reports for the month of August 2011 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

EXTRA CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Reports for the months of June, July and August 2011 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon the 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 months of June, July and August 2011 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – JUNE 2011 and JULY 2011

Upon the 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 June 2011 and July 2011 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – AUGUST 2011

Upon the 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 accepts the August 2011 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

INSURANCE PROCEEDS ADVANCED PAYMENT

Upon the 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 and accepts the advanced payment of insurance proceeds from our insurer, Chubb Services Corp., in the amount of \$100,000.00

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 \$100,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following budget codes be adjusted to reflect current and future replacement purchases:

A 2110 500 04 0000	\$46,030.63
A 2630 515 75 0000	\$44,045.34
A 2630 201 75 0000	\$ 8,691.00
A 2110 208 04 0000	\$ 1,233.03

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Nofi explained this was proceeds for our insurance coverage during the rains in August.

TAX LEVY

Upon the 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 tax levy of \$43,491,898 for the 2011-2012 fiscal year be approved.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Nofi commented the tax levy is the dollar for dollar amount.

TARGET DONATION TO DISTRICT

Upon the 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 approves and accepts the donation from Target.

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 \$818.70 as a result of the donation from Target.

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

A 2110 500 02 0000(JAE)	\$225.84
A 2110 500 03 0000(HS)	\$592.86

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Nofi thanked Target.

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTMENT

Upon the 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 members of the Board of Education be and hereby are appointed to serve on the Audit Committee during the 2011-2012 school year.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY NUMBER 8290 – ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOL (INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES)

Upon the 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 hereby adopts Policy Number 8290, Animals in Schools (Instructional Purposes).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board, in accordance with the provisions of Policy Number 1410, hereby waives the “second reading” of Policy Number 8290.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED 2011-2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Upon the 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 adopts the amended 2011-2012 school calendar as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Nofi asked Dr. Ring to shed some light on this resolution.

Dr. Ring explained the reason for the change was due to assessments being given right after a school recess period.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE ROCKY POINT UFSD ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW PLAN IN COMPLIANCE WITH EDUCATION LAW SECTION 3012-c, 8 N.Y.C.R.R. 30-2 and 8 N.Y.C.C.R. 100.2

Upon the 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 of the Rocky Point Union Free School District does hereby adopt, effective September 1, 2011, the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Plan in compliance with Education Law Section 3012-c, 8 N.Y.C.R.R.30-2 and 8 N.Y.C.R.R. 100.2; and that due to obligations related to collective bargaining, details regarding the components of this plan cannot be completed at this time and that this Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Plan will be amended to reflect the agreed upon system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to file the foregoing documents in the Office of the District Clerk and post the attached documents on the District website.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon the 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 9-26-11-A and Schedule 9-26-11- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS WITH CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEES

Upon the 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 employment agreements between the Board of Education and Mrs. Mary Beretta, Ms. Debra Hoffman, Ms. Patricia Jones and Mrs. Jill Marolla, respectively.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the president of the Board of Education to execute said employment agreements on behalf of the Board.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

Upon the 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 School, the Board of Education accepts the attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Nofi congratulated Michelle Maggio for receiving tenure and asked if there were anymore questions/comments.

Ms. King asked if the animals would be in school.

Dr. Ring explained the new policy from the State.

Ms. King asked if we are having class pets.

Dr. Ring explained proper handling.

Ms. Healy asked if there is a physical education and will you tell us who it is.

Mr. Nofi: Yes.

Ms. Healy inquired about the teacher's name.

Mr. Nofi responded Dan Spallina. He thanked the audience and said good night.

Adjournment

At 8:20 PM a motion was made by Diane Burke and seconded by Kathleen Heggers that the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Berretta
Acting District Clerk