

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

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM in the library of the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School.

Pledge of Allegiance

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 De Luca, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
 Gregory Hilton, School Business Official
 Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services
 Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

Mr. Nofi began the meeting with the Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Ring introduced Peter Rodriguez, CPA, of Cullen & Danowski, the external auditing firm for the Rocky Point School District. Mr. Rodriguez provided an overview of his firm's duties and responsibilities to the district. Following Mr. Rodriguez's synopsis of the analytic review and thorough summary of Cullen & Danowski's 2010-2011 Independent Auditors' Report, Mr. Rodriguez announced the district was granted the highest level opinion, i.e., "unqualified." In addition, findings contained in the report presented "no material weaknesses" in the internal control structure of Rocky Point Schools and the district was in compliance with all laws and regulations. Mr. Rodriguez noted one minor comment in need of address concerning user permissions in Finance Manager. Mr. Rodriguez advised this matter was being immediately addressed by the district. Following Mr. Rodriguez's presentation, he asked if there were any questions from members of the Board or meeting attendees. There were no questions.
- Ms. Amy Agnesini, Director of Health, PE, Athletics and Intramurals, introduced Mr. Jeremy Thode, Sportsmanship Coordinator for Section XI and Athletic Director at Center Moriches School District. Mr. Thode presented to Dr. Ring, on behalf of Amy Agnesini and the Rocky Point School District, the 2010-2011 Sportsmanship Promotion Award. This prestigious award is sponsored by the

New York State Public High School Athletic Association in recognition of districts that show growth and a commitment to promoting sportsmanship. Dr. Ring thanked Mr. Thode for the honor. Dr. Ring offered his congratulations to Amy Agnesini for all her efforts and the wonderful job she is doing with the physical education department.

- Dr. Ring announced next week in the month of October is annually set aside in order to recognize school board members for their service to students and community. Noting the vast responsibilities undertaken by school board trustees and their uncompensated service “through thick and thin,” Dr. Ring presented the board trustees with digital picture frames containing digitized art work by Ms. Cara Buonconsiglio’s FJC art students in commemoration of the district’s gratitude for their dedicated service.

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

- Mr. Caulfield invited Mr. Michael Conlon to the podium in order to recognize Commended Student to the National Merit Scholarship Program, Alan Rozet. Reading from a prepared statement, Mr. Conlon spoke in detail of Alan’s many academic skills and his ability to carefully balance extra-curricular activities with his rigorous academic schedule which includes tutoring six students in chemistry and one in algebra trigonometry through the Peer Tutoring Program at the high school. Meeting attendees gave Alan a warm welcome with resounding applause as Mr. Conlon asked Alan to join him at the podium in recognition of this outstanding achievement.
- The Gay-Straight Alliance Club promoted safe schools for all students by asking students and staff to wear a rainbow ribbon in support of anti-bullying.
- Approximately two hundred and forty students sat for the PSAT examination on October 15th.
- On October 17th the cheerleaders organized the “Pack the Track” fundraiser. Over \$6,800 was raised for breast cancer with all proceeds going to the Hewlett House.
- On October 20th the Rocky Point Golden Eagle Marching Band gave an outstanding performance at the 49th *Annual Newsday Marching Band Festival* held at Hofstra University. The band once again made Rocky Point proud as it continues its long tradition of excellence in music and marching.
- Under the direction of the Leaders’ Club, a fundraiser was held in support of breast cancer. Through a combination of *Denim and Pink* and the *Dig Pink Volleyball Rally*, \$6,200 was raised. Thanks to the players, members of the Leaders’ Club, parents, faculty staff, friends and business owners, Rocky Point’s Dig Pink is the most successful in all of Suffolk County.
- Members of the SADD Club are planning a celebration of National Red Ribbon Week, a national campaign to bring awareness of the dangers of drug use and drug trafficking. This is scheduled for October 24th through the 28th.
- Mr. Caulfield noted the constant and unwavering generosity of the students of Rocky Point High School as they continuously try to “make things better” for those less fortunate.

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

- Thank you to all of the Middle School students, teachers, staff and community members who participated in the several of the High School events Mr. Caulfield previously mentioned.
- The October PTA Book Fair and Eagle Card Fundraisers were great successes. Thank you to the PTA and all parent volunteers for their support of these events.
- International Day of Peace was celebrated by the Rocky Point Middle School on September 28th. Students in social studies classes studied Gandhi's message of non-violence and his teachings for making the world a better place to live. Under the direction of art teacher Kristen LaBianca the students participated in different art projects to illustrate their knowledge of Gandhi's teachings. Students in Grant Connelly's social studies classes, together with other classes, created construction paper doves containing inscriptions on thoughts to improve the world. In commemoration of the school's participation in the International Day of Peace, eighth grade students Emily Aleci, Kaylee LaLima, Kaitlyn Kennedy and Deborah Ferrer designed and painted a permanent mural to be displayed in the main office foyer entitled "Peace, Happiness, and Love." Special thanks to Ms. LaBianca for her creativity and support of this project and all those students and staff members for their contributions.
- The Fall Dance will be held on November 18th from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM for sixth grade students only and from 5 PM to 7 PM for seventh and eighth grade students. The dance is sponsored by Mr. Connelly and the Student Council.

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

- This year's first Mystery Reader event was held on October 5th. Parents may check the e-board of their child's teacher for specific information concerning this program.
- The second annual Family Folk Dance Night is scheduled for October 26th. More than fifty families are expected to participate in this event which was begun last year by Mr. Knapp during his general music classes.
- The annual Book Character Dress-Up Day will take place on October 31st. Students may come to school dressed as their favorite book character. Parents are reminded dyed hair, long fingernails, masks and any costume accessories resembling weapons are not permitted.
- Fourth graders, in support of UNICEF, will create baby scarecrows to be on display in the fourth grade hallways in support of children's health and education around the world. All students may vote for their favorites by dropping spare change in front of each of their selected scarecrows. Last year, through this event, more than \$1,000.00 was collected for UNICEF.
- Please be reminded school will be open for students on Election Day, November 8th.
- Parent-Teacher conferences will be held November 16th through the 18th. Evening conferences are scheduled for Thursday, November 17th.

- Mr. Yashowitz, Mr. Knapp, Ms. Varriale and the Student Council will salute Rocky Point Veterans on Thursday, November 10th. This year the students are participating in the History Channel's "Adopt a Veteran Program."
- The PTA Book Fair will be held during the week of October 31st.
- The JAE Food Drive has begun and will continue through Thanksgiving.

Ms. Virginia Kelly-Gibbons, Principal, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School

- Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring last week's very successful Book Fair. A special thank you to all the parent volunteers.
- Kindergarteners will be visited by the Sound Beach Fire Department in order to learn about Stop-Drop-Roll. The students will have the opportunity to take a tour of a fire truck and an emergency vehicle.
- Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring school pictures and to Mr. Yannucci who organized second grade "seniors" for their 2012 yearbook picture.
- Character Education has officially begun with a special assembly. Ms. Adamski presented the six pillars of character education. Mrs. Gibbons and Dr. Herbert will be reading character-inspired stories to each class. At this assembly, the FJC Pledge was introduced and is recited every day during the announcements.
- A record number of students will be participating in Chorus on Wednesday and Friday mornings this year.
- The Garden Club has "put the gardens to bed" for the winter but will continue planning the garden and garden activities for next spring.
- First graders enjoyed pumpkin picking on the grounds of FJC and participated in pumpkin observations, pumpkin writings and pumpkin math as they measured, cut and decorated the pumpkins.
- On Friday, October 28th, the annual Storybook/Harvest Parade will take place. Students will march in the parade dressed as different storybook characters or as a harvest-themed character. Thank you to the High School Marching Band for providing the music for this exciting event.
- The FJC Science Club, under the direction of Ms. Tandy, will begin in November.
- On Veterans Day, second graders will honor veterans at a very special assembly.

Mr. Nofi thanked everyone for their reports. Mr. Nofi invited anyone with questions or comments to approach the microphone.

- Mrs. Noto inquired about a rumor she heard concerning the district downsizing the total number of nurses in the district to one. Dr. Ring responded the rumor was untrue and that there is one registered nurse in each of the four school buildings. Mrs. Noto shared her concerns regarding an apparent lack of coverage for school nurses when they are absent due to illness and during their lunch periods. Dr. Ring explained the district utilizes substitute nurses for coverage needs but that it has been difficult to secure substitute nurses based upon the district's current hourly remuneration and the fact that the district is competing with surrounding districts for a limited pool of substitute nurses. Dr. Ring advised

- the administration is reviewing its options to remedy the situation and will make a recommendation to the Board of Education in time for the November meeting.
- Retired school nurse teacher, Judy Stringer, expressed her concerns with the present school nurse-to-student ratio. Citing student medicinal need statistics for students in each of the four buildings, Mrs. Stringer asked the Board to look into the situation. Mrs. Stringer also asked about the JAE health office being closed for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon while the nurse rides a bus with a student. Mr. Nofi commented that the health and safety of the students were of the foremost concern to the Board of Education. Mr. Nofi assured Mrs. Stringer that the Board is discussing this challenge with administration and the administration is addressing the situation. Dr. Ring explained the health office was not closed for one hour in the morning and/or one hour in the afternoon for the purpose of the nurse attending to a student during transportation; the transportation time is ten minutes before school and ten minutes after school. Addressing Mrs. Stringer's comments concerning the downsizing from two nurses to one nurse in the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School, Dr. Ring noted the decline in student enrollment over the past ten years of approximately four hundred students. Dr. Ring advised that although the law does not require a nurse in every building, he anticipates proposing the costs for continuing to provide a nurse in each building in the upcoming annual budget which will then be presented to the voters for their consideration.

There were no further questions or comments.

Mr. Nofi thanked everyone for their comments and reminded meeting attendees there would be another opportunity to address the Board at the end of the meeting.

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, September 26, 2011.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Upon a 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 September 2011 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

Upon a 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's Report for the month of September 2011 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 September 2011 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2011

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 September 2011 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SURPLUS ITEMS

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 approves for surplus the following attached list.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2011

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 September 2011 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2010-2011 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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 accepts the Independent Auditors' Report with accompanying statements and schedules for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2011, which have been submitted by our external auditors, Cullen & Danowski, LLP.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2010-2011 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS

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 Independent Auditors' Report on Extra-Classroom Activity Funds with accompanying statements and schedules for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2011, which have been submitted by our external auditors, Cullen & Danowski, LLP.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2010-2011 INDEPENDENT AUDIT CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

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 accepts the Independent Audit Corrective Action Plan responding to Current Year Comments from the district's external auditors, Cullen & Danowski, LLP, dated September 26, 2011.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi remarked this action plan was the result of one finding made by the external auditors during their end-of-year audit concerning user access levels to the Finance Manager System software. Mr. Nofi noted this issue has been satisfactorily addressed by district administration and that the administration is very responsive in addressing such items as and if they arise.

BID #12-08 STAND-BY SERVICES FOR SNOW REMOVAL

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 awards Bid #12-08 Stand-By Services for Snow Removal to Gallino & Sons, the lowest responsible bidder, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH SUFFOLK COUNTY - POD SITE

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 District to enter into the Point of Dispensing (POD) Sites Memorandum of Understanding with Suffolk County, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**Capital Improvement Program RP High School – SED No.:
58-02-09-02-0-005-025 Asbestos Abatement-New York Insulation, Inc. Change
Order No. 1**

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 and approves the attached change order in reference to the Capital Improvement Program related project, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said change order.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi commented this Change Order was directly related to flood damage following the heavy summer rains thus resulting in a need to expand the area in need of remediation. Dr. Ring provided additional information and details pertaining to the Change Order.

**Capital Improvement Program RP High School – SED No.:
58-02-09-02-0-005-025 and Joseph A. Edgar School – SED No.:
58-02-09-02-0-001-010 Asbestos Abatement-New York Insulation, Inc. Change
Order No. 2**

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 accepts and approves the attached change order in reference to the Capital Improvement Program related project, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said change order.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**Capital Improvement Program RP High School – SED No.:
58-02-09-02-0-005-025 Roof Replacement – Plato Construction Corp. - Change
Order No. 1**

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 order in reference to the Capital Improvement Program related project, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said change order.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi disclosed there was a reduction in fees to the district relating to the assessment and imposition of late charges upon Plato Construction Corp. during the completion of

the roof replacement. Dr. Ring provided meeting attendees with the particulars and confirmed that the penalty fees were paid to the district and not by the district.

**Capital Improvement Program RP High School – SED No.:
58-02-09-02-0-005-025 Toilet Reconstruction – ACL Construction Corp. Change
Order No. 1**

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 and approves the attached change order in reference to the Capital Improvement Program related project, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute said change order.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**SPECIAL EDUCATION 2011-2012 CONTRACT – CLEARY SCHOOL FOR THE
DEAF**

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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with Cleary School for the Deaf for special education students who will attend Cleary School for the Deaf in the 2011-2012 school year, under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SPECIAL EDUCATION 2011-2012 CONTRACT – HARMONY HEIGHTS

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 Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contract with Harmony Heights for special education students who will attend Harmony Heights in the 2011-2012 school under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SASBO 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 and accepts the \$500.00 scholarship donation from the Suffolk Association of School Business Officials.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi thanked the Suffolk Association of School Business Officials for this generous donation.

TARGET DONATION TO DISTRICT

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 approves and accepts the donation from Target in the amount of \$383.56.

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 \$383.56 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 01 0000 (FJC) \$383.56

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi thanked Target for this generous donation.

Revision and Re-Adoption of Board of Education Policy Number 7222 – Credential Options for Students with Disabilities (*First Reading; Second Reading Waived*)

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 hereby moves the re-adoption of Board of Education Policy Number 7222 – Credential Options for Students with Disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, in accordance with the provisions of policy number 1410, hereby waives the “second reading” of Policy Number 7222.

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 Scott Reh and seconded by Kathleen Heggers, 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 adding one (1) FJC club that shall become part of Schedule B of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rocky Point Union Free

School District and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2011, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Committees on Special Education/Preschool Special Education Recommendations

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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 10-24-11-A and Schedule 10-24-11- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

PERSONNEL

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 the attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

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

- Patricia Proven, editor of the *Times Beacon Record Newspapers*, requested clarification of the Memorandum of Understanding with Suffolk County – POD Site. Dr. Ring explained the Rocky Point High School was designated as a POD (Point of Dispensing) in the event of a public health emergency and would therefore be available for use by the public and for the public welfare in the event of an emergency.

There were no further questions or comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:56 p.m. a motion was made by Diane Burke and seconded by John Lessler for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk