

**MINUTES  
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2012**

Mrs. Burke called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School.

Present: Michael Nofi, President (arriving at 6:33 p.m.)  
Diane Burke, Vice President  
John Lessler, Trustee (arriving at 6:04 p.m.)  
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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:03 p.m. Kathleen Hegggers made a motion and Scott Reh seconded to adjourn to Executive Session in order to meet with the school district's attorney to discuss collective bargaining matters pertaining to multiple bargaining units and to discuss confidential personnel matters relating to select employees.

All in favor – Motion carried 3-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:03 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Nofi welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Mr. Nofi invited Dr. Ring to begin the meeting with the Superintendent's Report.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Ring announced that the Community Forum to discuss the Capital Reserve Fund Proposition held on September 12<sup>th</sup> was well-attended and that those in attendance provided pertinent feedback with reference to the issues at hand. Dr. Ring stated that there would be a resolution on this evening's agenda specific to this item.

Dr. Ring reported that the PTA has invited administrative personnel to attend a meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on October 2, 2012 at the Joseph A. Edgar School to discuss

Next S.T.E.P. Dr. Ring invited all to join him and Dr. DeLuca for this informative meeting.

Dr. Ring invited Mr. DeBenedetto to the podium to begin the evening's Principal's Reports.

**Mr. John DeBenedetto, Principal, Rocky Point High School**

- The high school is off to a great start. The first two weeks of school have been successful with staff and students fully engaged in the learning process.
- Senior, Monica Giannotti, has been recognized for her academic achievement by the National Hispanic Recognition Program. Monica qualified for this award based upon her performance in the classroom as well as her 2011 PSAT scores.
- Students Samuel Raleigh, Zachary Riley and Daniel Wood have been selected to participate in the 2012 All-County Music Festival. The students were chosen for this honor based upon their NYSSMA Solo conducted last spring.
- In recognition of September 11<sup>th</sup>, high school seniors and juniors attended an assembly on September 12<sup>th</sup> in which guest speakers delivered a message of remembrance. John Feal and Chief Roy Gross spoke to the students regarding their involvement with 9/11. John Feal, founder of FealGood Foundation, discussed his experiences during and after 9/11. Mr. Feal worked with the government to better support the rescue workers and he advocated for the adding of cancer as a possible sickness for Ground Zero First Responders. Mr. Feal offered the students a \$1,000 FealGood Foundation scholarship. Students were asked to submit an essay describing 9/11 and how they can and are volunteering in their community, or how they are making the United States a better nation. Two students will be selected to receive the scholarship later in the school year. Chief Roy Gross of the SCPA spoke with students about the efforts of the rescue dogs that worked at Ground Zero. The high school band, led by Amy Schecher, played patriotic music. Mr. DeBenedetto extended his gratitude to Mr. Richard Acritelli for organizing the assembly.
- Open School Night was held on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The evening began with an orientation for parents of ninth graders. During the orientation, administration discussed with both parents and students graduation requirements, the attendance policy, high school expectations, and college readiness. Parents received a pamphlet on preparing their child for college and a handout guide on clubs and activities.

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

- Dr. O'Brien thanked the teachers, staff, students and parents at the middle school for a smooth and wonderful opening.
- Middle school sports and clubs have begun and the students are actively involved in after-school activities. A club guide is available on the middle school website with all clubs, advisors and dates of meetings. The middle school bi-weekly flyer is also posted on the website and available through Virtual Book Bag. This bi-weekly flyer contains the most updated information relative to school-wide events and after-school activities.

- Open House was held on September 13, 2012. Parents and guardians followed their child's daily schedule and learned about student curriculum, class expectations and communication procedures. Dr. O'Brien thanked all those who attended this event.
- In commemoration of the eleventh anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>, the students studied the events of 9/11 with presentations in both English and social studies classes. Students discussed and wrote about the role of heroes in their current lives and the students wrote about heroes in literature, history and present-day events.
- The PTA will host a Book Fair this month from September 25<sup>th</sup> through September 28<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to the PTA and all parent volunteers for their support of this event.
- Students will demonstrate their school spirit as Spirit Week is celebrated during the week of October 9<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>, leading up to the middle school's participation in Homecoming and the Rocky Point High School Homecoming Parade on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Ms. Linda Towlen, Principal, Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School**

- JAE faculty and staff welcomed the new third graders to the building as well as the returning fourth and fifth graders.
- Open Houses were well attended. Parents began the evening in the old gym with a PowerPoint presentation and then went to their child's classroom to meet with the teacher. Representatives from First Student Bus Company, Rocky Point PTA and the Girl Scouts provided information at tables set up in the front lobby.
- The PTA's annual Cookie Dough fundraiser is underway with students earning "ducks" for their sales.
- Faculty members have been busy getting to know their students and completing assignments that will support them in their instructional plans. Results will be shared during parent-teacher conferences in November.
- Students and teachers commemorated the September 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a PowerPoint presentation, discussion and writing piece. Ms. Towlen thanked Ms. Melinda Brooks for her support with this presentation.
- School pictures are scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>, September 27<sup>th</sup> and September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- School Spirit Week will be held during the first week in October with activities planned daily.

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

- School began on a positive note with mostly smiles from the kindergarteners. First and second graders were happy to see their old friends and excited to meet their new teachers. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked staff and parents for their contributions resulting in a smooth opening day.
- The Kindergarten Open House was well-attended. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked parents for their commitment and support. Keeping with the schedule introduced last year, the parents began their evening with the principal and assistant principal in the gym and then proceeded to their child's classrooms. The PTA,

- cheerleaders, boy scouts and the North Shore Public Library provided information to all of the FJC families in attendance.
- First and Second Grade Open Houses will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> and September 27<sup>th</sup>, respectively.
  - Today was the kick-off for Spirit Week and will include Blue & White Day, Team Day, Wacky Day and Hawaiian Day.
  - Mr. West and Mrs. Buonconsiglio are making a banner for the children to carry during the Homecoming Parade on October 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Golden Eagles class winners will be recognized on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - Plans for SHARP (Striving for Higher Achievement at Rocky Point) are moving forward.
  - Ms. Kenwood is getting ready for second grade chorus. Ms. Kenwood has selected her theme and it should generate much holiday cheer.
  - School pictures are scheduled for October 3, 4 and 5.
  - First graders will have the opportunity to pick pumpkins in the FJC pumpkin patch located in the back of the FJC building.
  - The students will once again march around the track during the annual Storybook/Harvest Parade to be held on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Nofi thanked Dr. Ring and the building principals for their reports.

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

- Ms. Ernestine Franco addressed several issues and expressed her concerns regarding the Community Forum held on the evening of September 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Franco stated her belief that there were discrepancies between several points contained in a district-provided fact sheet comments made during the meeting. Ms. Franco took issue with a statement made at the meeting that expenditure of the capital reserve funds would reflect no costs to taxpayers. Ms. Franco voiced her opinion that the Board was not being fiscally responsible in putting up for vote all three projects as one and asked the members of the Board of Education to consider separating the three items to be voted upon individually.
- Mr. Nofi commented that he was unable to attend the community forum held on September 12<sup>th</sup> due to previously scheduled professional commitments. Mr. Nofi addressed each of Ms. Franco's comments and concerns. Mr. Nofi advised that the community and not the Board of Education will ultimately make the decision regarding the expenditure of capital reserve funds at a special vote to be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Ring and the board explained in detail that the district will receive state aid for outside improvements only if bundled with indoor improvements.
- Ms. Intravaia suggested that capital reserve funds be used to refurbish student bathrooms in the district and any other issues that directly address the needs of the students. Ms. Intravaia also suggested the district revisit the parent portal policy on the district's website.
- Discussion ensued. Mr. Nofi responded that he, too, raised the issue of refurbishing student bathrooms. Dr. Ring referenced a 2011 referendum which

included the refurbishment of bathrooms district-wide and that the process had a four-year time table beginning in August, 2011. Dr. Ring agreed with Ms. Intravaia that the bathrooms in the high school cafeteria were in the greatest need of refurbishment. Dr. Ring further noted that in addition to bathrooms that were renovated in 2011, the Board approved additional renovations at its August, 2012 meeting.

- Ms. D'Aquila offered comments in support of the artificial turf improvement as it pertained to an increase in home values and the accompanying state aid connected with this item. Ms. D'Aquila said our teams were at a disadvantage when playing opposing teams who are accustomed to competing on artificial turf.
- Ms. Bea Ruberto engaged both Mr. Nofi and Dr. Ring in an ongoing discussion pertaining to the time period for the accumulation of cash reserve funds, transfer of funds and surplus funds. Ms. Ruberto remarked that in the present economic climate people are financially at a disadvantage to spend money. Ms. Ruberto, referencing the May 2012 annual school budget vote wherein the district pierced the 2% property tax cap, asked why reserve funds were not used at that time to provide monies to ensure full day kindergarten and still remain under the cap.
- Dr. Ring provided Ms. Ruberto with information specific to the expenditure of reserve funds as they pertain to state aid, the annual school budget and the tax levy. Dr. Ring discussed in detail the concept of using one-time revenues for a one-time expense and not recurring expenses.
- Mr. Nofi reiterated that this was the reason behind putting forth a special vote so that the community could and will decide how the monies are to be spent. Mr. Nofi remarked that the board would of course respect the outcome of the vote and execute the wishes of the community.
- Mrs. Burke shared that it was members of the community that asked the board to address this issue and that the board asked the district to host a community forum for this very purpose. Mrs. Burke noted that both pro and con sides came forward at the forum and that the board is responding to requests from the public to decide the expenditure of capital reserve funds. Mrs. Burke engaged in discussion with Mr. Ruberto and specifically responded to each of Ms. Ruberto's numerous questions and comments regarding the expenditure of capital reserve funds and how the referendum should ultimately be presented to the district voters at the special vote to be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Joseph Spallina, identifying himself as a former student-athlete, coach and physical education teacher at Rocky Point Schools, offered his strong support for turf field. Mr. Spallina provided clarification between both Astro-Turf and field turf. Mr. Spallina continued to present a list of factors for the adoption of a voter approval of artificial turf.
- Mr. Jeff Sciulla spoke in support of refurbishing the track. Referencing both the abilities of the field hockey team and the efforts of Mr. Camarda, Mr. Sciulla stressed the importance of also making improvements to the field.
- Dr. Pinkenburg thanked the district for its implementation of the Robotics Club. Dr. Pinkenburg expressed his concerns with the late start for the third grade GATES program. Dr. Ring thanked Dr. Pinkenburg for bringing this to his

attention and advised that both he and Ms. Towlen will look into this concern immediately.

- Dr. Pinkenburg also expressed his dismay with the magnitude of the number of school supply items required, i.e., glue sticks, at the kindergarten level in the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School. Dr. Ring thanked Dr. Pinkenburg for bringing this issue to his attention and advised that he will follow-up with same immediately.
- Dr. Pinkenburg addressed the issue of the Capital Reserve special vote and asked that the three issues be presented to the voters separately. Mr. Nofi responded that the board decided that the referendum will be presented as one item and not three separate items.
- Ms. Stacey Golik shared her approval of artificial turf and was in support with the proposition as presented by district.
- Mrs. Lomas requested clarification of state aid for the expenditure of capital reserve funds as it pertains to future expenditures ten to fifteen years from now. Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Hegggers and Dr. Ring, together with Mr. John Grillo, provided detailed information, including cost percentage ratios, in response to Ms. Lomas' request.

## **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 August 27, 2012.**

Motion carried 4-0. Mrs. Burke abstained as she was not present at the meeting of August 27, 2012.

## **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 August 2012 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

## **EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT**

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 Report for the month of August 2012 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 June 2012, July 2012 and August 2012 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – AUGUST 2012**

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 August 2012 Internal Claims Audit Report

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**TAX LEVY**

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 tax levy of \$44,883,120 for the 2012-2013 fiscal year be approved.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**TARGET DONATIONS TO DISTRICT**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and accepts the donations 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 \$234.32 as a result of the donations from Target.

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

A 2110 500 02 0000 (JAE)	\$ 47.86
A 2110 500 03 0000 (MS)	\$186.46

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**DONATION OF SCHOOL SUPPLY BAGS FROM DOLLAR TREE STORE**

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 approves and accepts the donation of bags of school supplies from Dollar Tree Store in Rocky Point.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi thanked both Target and Dollar Tree Store of Rocky Point for their generous donations to the district.

**ROCKY POINT UFSD ACADEMIC INTERVENTION PLAN 2012-2014**

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 adopts the revised and updated Academic Intervention Plan for the 2012-2014 school years as heretofore submitted.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE ROCKY POINT UFSD 2012-2015 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW PLAN**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Heggers 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 July 1, 2012, the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Plan, as amended, 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

**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's website.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi thanked and commended central office administration and all those involved in the finalization of the 2012-2015 Annual Performance Review Plan. Mr. Nofi noted that Rocky Point was one of only a few districts that was able to comply in a timely fashion with the directives of New York State Education Law mandates with respect to adopting a new APPR.

**SEQRA RESOLUTION – TRACK & FIELD AND INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE RENOVATION – ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL**

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 approves the attached SEQRA Negative Declaration, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0



## **CAPITAL RESERVE FUND PROPOSITION**

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

**Resolution**, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District, New York, effective September 24, 2012, hereby calls a special district meeting to authorize the expenditure of moneys for school purposes from the Capital Reserve of the District, theretofore established following approval of a proposition by the voters of the district on May 19, 2009, as per the attaché resolution.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

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

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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 09-24-12-A and Schedule 09-24-12-B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

## **PERSONNEL**

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 attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

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

- Dr. Pinkenburg asked for an approximate cost amount for the special vote to be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Ring responded that at the present time, the projected cost is approximately \$6,000.00. Dr. Pinkenburg also asked if the referendum could be held in May in conjunction with the annual election and budget vote in order to save the cost of the special election. Dr. Ring indicated that the vote could be held in May but that would necessitate delaying the capital projects until the summer of 2014.

There were no further questions or comments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:01 p.m. a motion was made by Diane Burke and seconded by Kathleen Hegggers for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones  
District Clerk