

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 22, 2013

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Michael Nofi, President
 Diane Burke, Vice President
 John Lessler, Trustee (arriving at 7:02 p.m.)
 Kathleen Hegggers, 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: Scott Reh, Trustee

Executive Session

At 6:14 p.m. Diane Burke made a motion and Kathleen Hegggers seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of meeting with school district counsel.

All in favor – Motion carried 3-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Nofi welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and invited Dr. Ring to begin the public session of the meeting with the Superintendent's Report. Dr. Ring invited Mr. DeBenedetto to the microphone.

Mr. John DeBenedetto, Principal, Rocky Point High School

- Third quarter report cards were posted to the portal on Friday, April 19th.
- The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) club presented the *Stop Program* to all high school students. The students participated in an interactive anti-drunk driving program from the Suffolk County Sheriff Department. The students were offered the opportunity to participate in a simulated drunk driving experience by wearing altered goggles as they drove a buggy through a traffic course. Mr. DeBenedetto thanked Ms. Werthner and Ms. Gibbins for organizing this event.

- The Science Club members led by advisor Mr. Gabrinowitz presented their findings on the sustainability and usefulness of nuclear power on April 19th at Stony Brook University.
- The Pocket Theatre will present its spring production, *Foibles and Folly* by Michelle R. Davis, beginning April 25th through April 27th at 7 p.m. Twenty-four students will participate in the production. Mr. DeBenedetto thanked Ms. Ely and Ms. Wade for their dedication to the students and their commitment toward the continued success of the Pocket Theatre.
- Students Taylor Campbell, Chade Walker, Vincent Viggiani, Elizabeth Kidney, Brandon Badillo, Gabrielle Walters and Gabriela Hnizdo were awarded 2013 Scholarships for Academic Excellence, ranging from \$500.00 to \$1,500 each.
- The Be A Nicer Neighbor (BANN) Club hosted the *Decades Dance* on April 12th. Mr. DeBenedetto thanked Mr. Bonomi and Mr. Acritelli for organizing the event which included a DJ, band, video game room and snacks from Entenmanns Bakery.
- The Senior Citizen Prom took place on April 18th and was hosted by BANN and the Student Council. Mr. DeBenedetto thanked Mr. Bonomi and Mr. Scalfani for organizing the event which included food, refreshments and music.
- The Chamber Orchestra and Flute Ensemble volunteered to perform at the Lions Club Food Tasting event held at East Wind on April 17th.
- Mr. DeBenedetto congratulated all the students who participated in the NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival at Miller Place High School during the weekend of April 20th.
- Jazz Night is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30th at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. The concert will feature performances by the middle school jazz band, the guitar club, the high school jazz choir and the high school jazz band.
- Students Sara Whitworth and Rachel Dwyer continued their message of peace as they asked students and staff to honor the victims of violence by trying to make the world a more peaceful place one week at a time. Both students placed post-it notes on every locker in the school with a positive, handwritten message. Peace week will culminate with a Day of Silence sponsored by the Gay-Straight Alliance.
- The third annual Spring Fest is scheduled for April 27th. The lacrosse, softball, baseball and tennis teams will compete and various clubs will have booths in the parking lot for Rocky Point fans to visit.
- Mr. DeBenedetto announced that student-athlete, Matt Amoscato, was the recipient of the Golden Long Island Football Scholar Athlete Award. Mr. DeBenedetto invited Ms. Amy Agnesini to the podium to present Matt with the award in honor of his hard work and dedication both on the field and in the classroom.
- Mr. DeBenedetto invited school counselor, Matt Poole, to the podium. Mr. Poole introduced this year's Valedictorian, Sidarth Menon; Salutatorian, Elizabeth Kidney; and Exhortation Speaker, Matt Amoscato and extended his congratulations for their accomplishments.

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

- Middle school students are in the process of taking the New York State ELA and Math examinations. During the testing, a modified bell schedule will be utilized.
- Darren Sardelli, award-winning poet, motivational speaker and children's book author, will visit and present to all middle school students beginning May 2nd through May 6th.
- Current fifth grade students will visit the middle school in a few weeks for the student portion of the sixth grade orientation. Dr. O'Brien thanked the guidance staff and Ms. Salbu for their support of the event through the National Junior Honor Society.
- The middle school drama production, *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, was a great success. Dr. O'Brien thanked the parent volunteers, Mrs. Collier and Mr. Maggio for a job well done.
- On Tuesday, April 23rd, students will have the opportunity to listen to Holocaust survivor Werner Reich. Mr. Reich will share with the students his experiences at Auschwitz. Dr. O'Brien thanked Mrs. Alemaghides for her efforts in bringing this guest speaker to Rocky Point Schools.
- Author Gordon Korman will visit the middle school on May 17th. With more than seventy-five published books, Mr. Korman will speak with the students about developing characters, dialogue, rewriting and revision. Dr. O'Brien thanked Mrs. O'Connell for her efforts in bringing Mr. Korman to the middle school.
- Dr. O'Brien wished the Radical Robotix team and Mr. Moorman, Ms. Burns and parent volunteer, Dr. Pinkenburg, the best of luck as they travel to St. Louis, Mo. in order to compete on an international level at the World Festival competition.

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

- Students have been involved in taking the New York State ELA and Mathematics assessments during the month of April. Ms. Towlen thanked the parents for ensuring all students were well-rested and on-time during the tests.
- The first spring concert is scheduled for May 6th. The third grade chorus and fifth grade band will be performing.
- The Art and Technology Show is scheduled for May 9th.
- JAE's first blood drive is scheduled for May 13th from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the old gym.
- The Mini Relay for Life will be held on May 17th.
- Ms. Towlen thanked all of the parents and teachers for their support of all of these special events.

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

- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons reported that the students of FJC thoroughly enjoyed the middle school presentation, *The Little Mermaid Jr.*
- Kindergarten orientation is scheduled for April 23rd.
- The second grade chorus, under the direction of Ms. Kenwood, is in rehearsals for this year's concert, *The Sounds of Summer*.

- The Garden Club and the Science Club, under the direction of Mrs. Starke and Mrs. Tandy, respectively, have both resumed following a winter hiatus.
- The PTA treated students to performances by Janice Buckner. The performances focused on kindness, character education and anti-bullying. The students particularly enjoyed the puppet shows and songs.
- Second graders will attend a field trip to Safety Town which will culminate in a Bicycle Assembly at the end of this month.
- Preparations are underway for the administration of the New York State assessment tests.

Mr. Nofi thanked the building principals for their reports and opened the floor to meeting attendees for questions and/or comments.

- Mr. Michael Friscia, president of the Rocky Point Teachers' Association, read from a prepared statement in which he referenced a letter he sent to the special education office on December 20, 2012. The letter referred to a district-wide special education training session for CTD teachers facilitated by Ms. Janice Patterson. Mr. Friscia asserted that during this training session, Ms. Patterson offered recommendations for flawed areas in the current model. Mr. Friscia stated that he did not receive a response to his letter from the special education department. Mr. Friscia advised he forwarded a copy of the letter to the members of the Board of Education and because he has not yet received a response asked if the members did receive the letter.

Mr. Nofi assured Mr. Friscia that the letter was received by both administration and the members of the board. Mr. Nofi stated the recommendations contained therein will be taken under consideration by the district as the district moves forward to the 2013-2014 CTD model.

Mr. Friscia voiced his dismay regarding a lack of communication concerning this issue and noted a timely response to his concerns would have been appreciated.

- Reading from a prepared statement, Mrs. Mary Heely expressed her dissatisfaction concerning the failure of the district to post on the district's website a letter the Rocky Point Teachers' Association sent to the members of the Board of Education and the lack of a response to her request to have the letter posted. Mr. Nofi responded that upon his review of the letter from the Rocky Point Teachers' Association he determined that the letter could not be posted on the district's website as it contained references to current and ongoing contractual negotiations. Dr. Ring noted that he was unable to respond to the letter as it was sent specifically to the Board of Education and not the superintendent.

Mrs. Heely further inquired about receiving specific salary information and benefit compensation pertaining to the superintendent and assistant superintendent, principals and all administrators, faculty and staff in the event the 2013-2014 school budget is passed. Mrs. Heely requested confirmation that some

school district employees have lost a portion of their benefits while the same is not true for the superintendent. Mr. Nofi responded that the salaries for all administrators are contractual and not dependent upon the passing of the annual school budget. In response to Mrs. Heely's question concerning the loss of benefits to school district employees, Mr. Nofi reported that that was not true.

Mrs. Heely asked if a portion of the monies from the capital reserve fund could be transferred to the general fund and used to hire more teachers. Mr. Nofi explained that once monies are allocated to the capital reserve fund they may not be reallocated as the expenditures from the fund must be absolutely specific to the items originally established in said fund.

Continuing to read from a prepared statement, Mrs. Heely presented a detailed summary regarding learning labs and resource rooms and the criteria established for each. Mrs. Heely made reference to specific board policies related to services under IDEA. Mrs. Heely strongly expressed her desire to access the 2013-2015 Special Education Plan as it has not yet been made available for review or implementation.

Lastly, Mrs. Heely closed her remarks by stating her belief that educating our students to enable them to reach their full potential should be the first priority of the district.

There were no further questions or comments.

MINUTES

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meetings be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, March 18, 2013.**

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Reports for the month of March 2013 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

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 Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of March 2013 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of March 2013 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – MARCH 2013

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers 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 March 2013 Budget Transfer Summary Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – MARCH 2013

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 accepts the March 2013 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

ADOPTION OF THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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 adopts the 2013-2014 school calendar as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

RESOLUTION TO AWARD A BID – 2012/2013 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, ROCKY POINT HS, SED NO.: 58-0209-02-0-005-029

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, awards the contracts for the 2012/2013 Capital Improvement Program at Rocky Point High School totaling \$2,100,415 as follows:

Contract No. 1: Athletic Field & Running Track Reconstruction
Landtek Group

\$1,472,600

<u>Contract No. 2:</u> General Construction Valco, Inc.	\$ 426,500
<u>Contract No. 3:</u> Plumbing Reconstruction Rocon Plumbing & Heating Corp.	\$ 110,500
<u>Contract No. 4:</u> HVAC Reconstruction Xtraire, Inc.	\$ 26,900
<u>Contract No. 5:</u> Electrical Reconstruction Eldor Contracting Corp.	\$ 63,915
	<u>\$2,100,415</u>

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

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 adopts the Rocky Point Union Free School District Budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year pursuant to the Education Law Section 1716 in the amount of \$74,261,582 and the Property Tax Report Card, as attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

SURPLUS TEXTBOOKS

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 approves for surplus the following attached list of textbooks.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

FIRST READING: REVIEW, REVISION AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers 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 hereby moves the re-adoption of Board of Education Policy Numbers (*first reading*):

- 8110
- 8120
- 8250
- 8260

- 1110
- 1120
- 1210
- 1220
- 1230
- 3120
- 8270
- 8370
- 5110
- 5120
- 5130
- 5140
- 5150
- 7315
- 7222
- 7210
- 5640

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

DONATION – JOSEPH CIRILLO FOUNDATION – SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT

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 accepts the donation from the Joseph Cirillo Foundation of a batting cage, cage netting, a pitching machine and softballs, valued at approximately \$3,500.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Nofi thanked the Cirillo Foundation for this very generous gift.

DONATION – ROCKY POINT PTA – STAGE CURTAIN

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 donation of a fireproof stage curtain for the Frank J. Carasiti cafetorium, valued at \$5,185.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Nofi thanked the PTA for this donation and the continued generosity of the Rocky Point PTA.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Heggens 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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 4-22-13-A and Schedule 4-22-13- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

APPOINTMENT OF RESIDENCY DETERMINATION DESIGNEE

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 hereby designates Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services, as the Board of Education's designee for the purpose of determining whether a child is a resident entitled to attend the Rocky Point Union Free School District.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Nofi extended his congratulations to Deborah De Luca, Assistant Superintendent, Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services and Amy Agnesini, Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Intramurals, upon their tenure awards.

Mr. Nofi opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees. There were no questions or comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:43 p.m. a motion was made by Diane Burke and seconded by Kathleen Heggens for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk