

**MINUTES  
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2013**

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Michael Nofi, President  
John Lessler, Trustee  
Scott Reh, Trustee  
Susan Sullivan, 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: Diane Burke, Vice President

**Executive Session**

At 6:04 p.m. Susan Sullivan made a motion and Scott Reh seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to meet with district counsel to discuss litigation.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Nofi invited Dr. Ring to begin the public session of the meeting with the Superintendent's Report.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Ring announced he wished to recognize Suffolk County Police Department School Crossing Guard, Lisa Lawry, for her outstanding efforts during the afternoon of September 26<sup>th</sup> at which time the traffic lights went out at the intersection of Route 25A and Rocky Point-Yaphank Road. Dr. Ring reported that Ms. Lawry went beyond the call of duty in order to secure the safety of the children and community members as she stood in the middle of this intersection with only her hand-held Stop sign in order to direct eight lanes of busy traffic, as well as two turning lanes. Dr. Ring shared that Ms. Lawry advised him that she was intent upon ensuring the school buses would be on time in getting the children safely home. Dr. Ring noted that in addition to having witnessed Ms.

Lawry's courageous actions personally, he also received e-mails from community residents commenting upon Ms. Lawry's performance during the traffic light outage. Dr. Ring presented Ms. Lawry with a certificate of appreciation from the school district as well as a Rocky Point School District jacket as a token of his and the community's gratitude for a job well done. Dr. Ring also presented Ms. Lawry with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of Brookhaven Town Councilwoman Jane Bonner, who was unable to personally make the presentation.

Suffolk County Legislator, Sarah Anker, advised that she was on the road and witnessed firsthand how well Ms. Lawry controlled the traffic during the signal outage. Legislator Anker thanked Ms. Lawry for putting her personal safety on the line and remarked that it was her honor to present Ms. Lawry with a Certificate of Notable Recognition for her efforts on the afternoon of September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Lawry thanked everyone for their support and offered her appreciation for being recognized for her efforts.

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

- Mr. DeBenedetto thanked the faculty and staff for facilitating a smooth opening to the 2013-2014 school year.
- Senior Evan Komorowski was recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program for academic achievement both in the classroom and on the 2012 PSAT exam.
- Junior Casey Williamson has been selected to the All County Choir and will perform with the choir later this year.
- Open School Night took place on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Parents of ninth grade students participated in an orientation program during which administrators discussed the attendance policy, high school expectations, graduation requirements and college readiness. Parents were provided with information concerning preparing their children for college and handouts on clubs and activities.
- Mr. DeBenedetto recognized Mr. Bonomi and the members of the Be A Nicer Neighbor club for their participation in the coastal cleanup program on September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Homecoming is scheduled for Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 12:15 p.m. This year's theme is "Rocky Point's Cereal Box Favorites." The parade will be followed by a ceremony in commemoration of the new field.

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

- Dr. O'Brien thanked the middle school teachers, staff and parents for a smooth opening to the 2013-2014 school year.
- The middle school sports and club programs have begun. There is a club guide link on the middle school website that contains pertinent information concerning the clubs. The middle school bi-weekly flyer is also available for viewing on the website.

- Open House was held on September 19<sup>th</sup> for all middle school grades. The Open House was well-attended by parents and guardians who learned about student curriculum, class expectations and communication procedures. Dr. O'Brien thanked parents, faculty and staff members for their attendance at Open House.
- The PTA will host a book fair from October 16<sup>th</sup> through October 18<sup>th</sup>. Dr. O'Brien extended his gratitude to the PTA and all parent volunteers for their support of this event.
- Spirit Week is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> through October 11<sup>th</sup> and will lead up to the middle school participation in the homecoming and the High School Homecoming Parade on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The first Middle School Pep Rally and PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) will have a kick-off assembly on October 11<sup>th</sup>. The PBIS program will showcase school pride and a new approach to recognizing and rewarding positive student behavior.

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

- Ms. Towlen reported a wonderful start to the school year welcoming the new third graders and returning fourth and fifth graders.
- Open House was well-attended as the parents began the evening in the old gym with a Power Point presentation prior to visiting their child's classroom to meet with the teacher.
- Spirit Week was held last week with a special event planned for each day.
- The first PTA fundraiser (cookie dough) is underway with students earning "ducks" for their sales. The grand prize for this fundraising event is a Kindle.
- The teachers will complete their student assessments which will assist them in their instructional planning.
- On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Family Folk Dance will be held at 7 p.m. in the old gym.
- Upcoming events will include picture days on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and the "Invite a Veteran to School" on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons reported FJC was off to a great start this year.
- The Open Houses were well-attended. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked the parents for attending and the teachers for their presentations. The PTA, cheerleaders, Boy Scouts and the Rocky Point library provided information for the FJC families.
- Last week was Spirit Week and included Blue & White Day, Team Day, Wacky Day, Hawaiian Day and Dress for Success Day.
- Mr. West is making a banner for the children to carry in the Homecoming Parade on October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Kenwood has selected the second grade chorus theme and is looking forward to the holiday concerts.
- The Science and Garden clubs are preparing invitations to be sent out shortly.
- School pictures will be taken October 2<sup>nd</sup> through October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- As October is fire safety month, FJC is looking forward to the annual fire department visit with kindergartners.

- First graders will “pick” pumpkins in the FJC pumpkin patch on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Plans for the Storybook/Harvest Parade have been finalized with the march to be held on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Nofi thanked the principals for their reports.

Mr. Nofi invited meeting attendees to approach the microphone with questions or comments pertaining to agenda items.

- Mrs. Heely requested clarification concerning the implementation of the new protocol for public discussions prior to the formal adoption of Education Policy Number 1510 following a first and second reading of same. Mr. Nofi responded to Mrs. Heely’s request for clarification, explaining that the board had the ability to institute a new procedure prior to formally adopting a written rule. Mrs. Heely expressed her dissatisfaction with the new protocol stating her belief that it discouraged the community from participating and having a voice in school matters.

There were no other questions or comments concerning agenda items.

## **MINUTES**

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 August 26, 2013.**

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

## **TREASURER’S 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 Treasurer’s Report for the month of August 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 Susan Sullivan, 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 2013 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the months of June 2013, July 2013 and August 2013 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – AUGUST 2013**

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 accepts the August 2013 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – AUGUST 2013**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the August 2013 and the June year-end Budget Transfer Summary Reports.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **TAX LEVY**

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 \$46,473,856 for the 2013-2014 fiscal year be approved.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **BID AWARD #14-13 LEXMARK OEM TONER CARTRIDGES & SUPPLIES**

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 awards Bid #14-13 Lexmark OEM Toner Cartridges & Supplies to CDW Government LLC, the lowest responsible bidder meeting bid specifications, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **TARGET DONATIONS TO DISTRICT**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Susan Sullivan, 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 \$684.86 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 01 0000 (FJC)	\$454.72
A 2110 500 02 0000 (JAE)	\$230.14

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **TIME FOR KIDS DONATION**

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 donation of 1,300 TIME for Kids student subscriptions for the Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School and Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School, paid from a voucher issued as a result of a postcard campaign sponsored by the PTA, valued at \$5,200.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Nofi extended his gratitude to members of the PTA for their continuous hard work.

#### **ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION DONATION**

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 accepts the donation of a refrigerator, valued at approximately \$488.80, from the Rocky Point Teachers' Association.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **ROCKY POINT BOOSTER CLUB DONATION – TENNIS TUTOR**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Susan Sullivan, 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 Tennis Tutor Plus Ball Machine with Wireless Remote, valued at approximately \$1,500.00, from the Rocky Point Booster Club.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Nofi thanked the Boosters for their generous donation.

**MUSIC THERAPY SERVICES AGREEMENT 2013-2014 – ILENE B. MORRIS**

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 Rocky Point Union Free School District to enter into a Service Agreement with Ilene B. Morris, LCAT, MT-BCV, for music therapy services for the 2013-2014 school year, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION SERVICES AGREEMENT 2013-2014 – ACCESSIBLE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ALTERNATIVES**

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 authorizes the Rocky Point Union Free School District to enter into a Service Agreement with Accessible Learning Technology Alternatives for assistive technology services for special education students for the 2013-2014 school year, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**IMPARTIAL HEARING OFFICER APPOINTMENT**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education appoints Leah Murphy from the New York State Education Department’s impartial hearing rotational list to serve as the impartial hearing officer in the matter of a demand hearing for a classified student, initiated on September 2, 2013.

All in favor - Motion carried 4-0

**FIRST READING – REVIEW, REVISION AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY NUMBER 1510- -REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS AND RULES (QUORUM AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE)**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby moves the re-adoption of Board of Education Policy Number 1510 (*first reading*)—Regular Board Meetings and Rules (Quorum and Parliamentary Procedure).

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**ADOPTION OF THE REVISED AND UPDATED ACADEMIC INTERVENTION PLAN**

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 adopts the revised and updated Academic Intervention Plan as heretofore submitted.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

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

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Susan Sullivan, 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 09-30-13-A and Schedule 09-13-13-B.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE ROCKY POINT ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION**

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Rocky Point Administrators' Association for the purpose of permitting a one-time payment of nineteen (19) vacation days for an Association member who was unable to utilize said vacation days in accordance with both his previously approved vacation request and the relevant terms of the prevailing collective bargaining agreement between the parties.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **PERSONNEL**

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 accepts the attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

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

- Rocky Point Teachers' Association president, Michael Friscia, reading from a prepared statement, encouraged the trustees to pass a resolution at the next scheduled Board of Education meeting in opposition to high stakes standardized testing. Mr. Friscia reported other districts have done this and urged the board to



support teachers, parents and the community by taking a stand against standardized testing.

- Multiple community residents requested changes in the posting of the board agenda prior to the board meetings. In response, Mr. Nofi indicated the district would post the abbreviated agenda in addition to the full agenda and would endeavor to do so earlier than the day of the meeting.
- Noting the hiring of fifteen new teachers, a community resident inquired as to whether or not their remuneration had been factored into the 2013-2014 school year. Following a detailed response to this inquiry, Dr. Ring confirmed that the 2013-2014 budgets for special education and instruction are sufficient to support all new positions. This community resident also requested that the minutes of the July 11, 2013 Board of Education meeting be changed to include the specific comments made by the public during the meeting. Mr. Nofi stated that the minutes reflected the business conducted by the board during said meeting, the board voted to approve said minutes, and the minutes will not be changed.
- Mrs. Erica Watson asked for the specifics of the revised and updated Academic Intervention Plan. Both Mr. Nofi and Dr. Ring provided Mrs. Watson with information in satisfaction of her request for additional information.
- Mr. Peter Luciano, referencing the new protocol for public discussion and Policy #1510, asked if he would be considered to be out of order if he was to publicly recite the name of a district employee in order to offer praise for this individual. Mr. Nofi responded in the affirmative. Mr. Nofi pointed out that the board regularly recognizes, by name, students, faculty, staff and administrators for their accomplishments.
- Ms. Nicole O'Neill expressed her concerns regarding students being required to take two math Regents exams, each of which is to be administered in a different format. Ms. O'Neill voiced her support of the Rocky Point Teachers' Association in their stand against standardized testing.
- Reading from a prepared statement, Mrs. McEvoy expressed her opposition to high stakes testing. Mrs. McEvoy referenced various research studies that indicated possible damage such tests can cause to younger learners. Mrs. McEvoy provided the district clerk with a copy of her prepared statement and a list of school districts who have adopted resolutions against standardized testing for distribution to the board trustees and administrators for their consideration and review.
- With reference to students being required to take two math Regents tests, Mrs. Heggars asked what would happen if the child failed both tests. Dr. Ring asked Dr. DeLuca to provide additional information before he responded in detail to Mrs. Heggars inquiry. Mrs. Heggars asked the board to please consider a resolution against high stakes testing.
- Ms. Melissa Brown voiced her displeasure with the new protocols for public discussions and criticized the board for implementing same.
- Ms. Jenny Andersson spoke out against the restriction of public comments during board meetings. Ms. Andersson cited the respectful discourse that had occurred in the past and asked the board to reconsider this change in policy. Following her reading from a recent editorial appearing in the *Times Beacon Record*, Ms.

Andersson requested the board encourage dialogue in the spirit of communication between the board and community members.

There were no further questions or comments from meeting attendees.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:00 p.m. John Lessler made a motion and Susan Sullivan seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss particular and confidential personnel matters related to select employees.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones  
District Clerk

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:46 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:46 p.m. a motion was made by John Lessler and seconded by Susan Sullivan to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Michael F. Ring, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools