

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 16, 2013

Mrs. Burke called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Michael Nofi, President (arriving at 6:18 p.m.)
Diane Burke, Vice President
John Lessler, 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: Scott Reh, Trustee

Executive Session

At 6:11 p.m. Susan Sullivan made a motion and John Lessler seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss confidential security and personnel matters pertaining to select employees.

All in favor – Motion carried 3-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:20 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ring thanked the meeting attendees for coming out on such a cold evening so close to Christmas and for their patience in the Board's delayed return to Open Session from Executive Session.

Dr. Ring announced that the Varsity Cheerleaders, for the tenth consecutive time, have been named UCA Empire Regional Champions and will be traveling to Florida in February to compete at UCA Nationals in Orlando.

Dr. Ring also announced that Rocky Point High School principal, Mr. John DeBenedetto, welcomed a new addition to his family and was therefore unable to attend the meeting. In Mr. DeBenedetto's absence, Dr. Ring invited retiring high school librarian, Mrs. Patricia Bergel, to the podium in recognition and honor of twenty years of service to the students

of Rocky Point Schools. Reading from a prepared statement, Dr. Ring summarized Mrs. Bergel's career at Rocky Point Schools and thanked her for her dedicated service to students, faculty and staff. In closing, Dr. Ring, on behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. DeBenedetto, and the students and staff of Rocky Point High School, wished Mrs. Bergel a long and adventure-filled retirement and presented Mrs. Bergel with a retirement plaque in commemoration of her dedicated service.

Mrs. Bergel thanked Dr. Ring, the members of the Board of Education and her husband, Dr. Steve Bergel, for their support. Mrs. Bergel thanked Dr. Galvin and Mrs. Clifford for the opportunities they afforded her. Mrs. Bergel also thanked Mr. DeBenedetto, Mrs. Crossan and Mr. Gabriel, the teachers with whom she collaborated through the years, and her teacher aide, Mrs. Joanne Ely, her "right arm" for ten years in the high school library.

Dr. Ring invited Ms. Amy Agnesini to the podium in order to recognize two senior student-athletes awarded Suffolk Zone awards. Reading from a prepared statement, Ms. Agnesini explained that the Suffolk Zone of New York State AHPERD recognized high school seniors across the country for their outstanding leadership in physical education. The students, one female and one male from each high school, are selected by their physical education teachers based upon scholastic ability, leadership, physical education performance and their ability to be role models in class. Ms. Agnesini invited TJ Strazzeri and Reagan Lynch to the podium in recognition of their accomplishments.

Dr. Ring, on behalf of Mr. John DeBenedetto, Principal, Rocky Point High School

- Members of the High School Band and Singing Santas performed at the annual Town of Brookhaven Tree Lighting on December 6th and the Rocky Point Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 7th.
- The Singing Santas Annual Holiday Concert has been rescheduled due to inclement weather. The concert will be held on Friday, December 20th. Special thanks to Mr. Bonomi for his hard work and dedication to the Singing Santas during the month of December.
- Members of the Art Honor Society have set up a holiday "Giving Tree" in the main office and are collecting gifts for families in need within the community.
- The Winter Concert will be held on December 19th and will feature performances by the Orchestra, 9th and 10th Grade Band, Chorus, and the 11th and 12th Grade Band.
- Second quarter progress reports will be posted on the portal on Friday, December 20th.
- All ten fall varsity teams were recognized as New York State Scholar Athlete Teams for the third consecutive year.
- Five teams received the Section XI Sportsmanship Award: Varsity Football, JV Football, Golf, Girls Varsity Soccer and Girls Junior Varsity Soccer.
- Varsity Girls Soccer coach, John Mauceri, was awarded "Coach of the Year" by his league.

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

- Dr. O'Brien offered his congratulations to Mrs. Bergel and Mr. DeBenedetto.
- Author's Day was held on December 5th. Special thanks to Mrs. O'Connell and the PTA for their generous support of the Author's Day program.
- The PTA hosted the second Middle School Book Fair of the year last week for all middle school students. Special thanks to the PTA and all parent volunteers for their support of this event.
- Congratulations to the students for their Winter Concert performances held this week under the direction of Ms. Schecher, Mr. Ragona, Mrs. Ruggiero, Mr. Butcher, Mrs. Donovan and Mrs. Gatto.
- Congratulations to the following teams and their coaches for being awarded Fall Season League Sportsmanship Awards: MS Football Blue (Coaches Anthony DiLorenzo and Dan Spallina); MS Boys Soccer (Coach Tom Rotanz) and MS Girls Tennis (Coach Scott Lindsay).
- During the month of December, students and staff continued to support our local community by collecting hundreds of new gifts as part of the Holiday Drive. Thank you to the guidance department for overseeing the project and helping to distribute the items to those in need in our community.
- The Robotics Club participated in the Robotics League Tournament earlier this month at Ronkonkoma Middle School. Under the direction of club advisors Mr. Moorman and Ms. Burns, two teams entered the tournament. Our team, Rocky Point Radical Robotix, took second place in the robot competition. This team also won another award as they placed first for "gracious professionalism" by earning five times as many votes as the second place team. Dr. O'Brien congratulated all on these impressive accomplishments.
- Progress reports will be posted to the portal on Friday, December 20th.
- The induction ceremony for eighth grade students into the National Junior Honor Society will take place on January 16th at 7 p.m. in the high school.

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

- On December 3rd members representing the New York Islanders visited JAE to share with students the importance of teamwork, a strong education and being a good citizen. Ms. Towlen extended special thanks to Ms. Maria Amoscato for planning this event.
- The first concert took place on December 9th in the high school auditorium. Ms. Towlen thanked Mr. Knapp for his work with the students along with the third grade chorus students, fourth and fifth grade intermediate chorus students and the fifth grade High Notes for their performances.
- The winter musical, "Dear Santa," will be presented on December 18th with performances by the High Notes.
- Students in Ms. Vieira's, Ms. Celentano's and Ms. Jackson's classes donated pajamas and Scholastic Book Clubs matched the donation with picture and chapter books. All donations were given to a local shelter.
- The kick-off for W.A.R.M. (We Are Reading More) was held on December 16th. Students are encouraged to read over the holiday recess and will have activities throughout January to encourage reading. Author Steven "the Dirtmeister"

Tomecek will present to students on January 15th. Ms. Towlen thanked the PTA, Mrs. DiGiovanni and the Shared Decision Making Team for their help and support of these events.

- Third grade students will take a ride on the *Polar Express* on December 20th. They will read the story and enjoy hot chocolate.
- The staff of JAE is again donating holiday packages to families in order to ensure that everyone has a wonderful holiday. Ms. Towlen thanked all of those who supported this effort. Student Council members have been volunteering their time and energy at the soup kitchen this month. They have also created the “Giving Tree” on display in the library. The tree is filled with donated mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and socks which will be given to a local church to benefit community members. Ms. Towlen thanked Mr. Yashowitz for his efforts with this endeavor.

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

- Mrs. Adamski and the FJC Angel Committee hosted an Angel Breakfast to garner staff support for families during this holiday season. Mrs. Adamski coordinated with JAE to organize the pajama drive. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons invited the children to wear their favorite pajamas and join her and Dr. Herbert for a reading of “*The Polar Express*” in celebration of the successful pajama drive.
- Ms. Kenwood led the second grade chorus in the winter concern entitled “The FJC Penguin Palapalooza.”
- Ms. Kenwood and Mr. Ventura have been busy practicing with the children for singing holiday favorites at the school-wide Winter Sing-A-Long scheduled for December 19th. Mrs. Buonconsiglio and Mr. West have been adding to the festive spirit as kindergarten students will be donning red and green and wearing elf hats; first graders will be dressed all in white with snowflakes on their caps; and second graders will lead the way as penguins.
- Individual classes are hosting holiday celebrations during this last week of school and are eagerly awaiting carolers from the high school who plan to stroll the halls of FJC and spread good cheer and goodwill.
- Mrs. Pilkington-Kaler has invited all of the children to write letters to Santa as a Make-A-Wish fundraiser. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked Mrs. Pilkington-Kaler for her efforts with this project.

Mr. Nofi thanked the principals for their reports and invited meeting attendees to approach the microphone with questions and/or comments pertaining to agenda items.

- Patricia Scalone, President of the School-Related Professional Association, addressed agenda item XIII, Rejection of Arbitrator’s Decision in Case No. 13 390 00878 13. Noting that the arbitrator, in his decision, ruled in favor of both the District and the SRP Association, Mrs. Scalone extended an invitation to the trustees to discuss the arbitrator’s ruling with the Executive Board of the School-Related Professional Association before a final vote is executed on this resolution.
- Mrs. Ernestine Franco thanked the Board for providing agenda items and documents for review by the public on the Friday before the scheduled Monday

meetings. Mrs. Franco expressed frustration that she was unable to locate documents on the agenda that were referenced “as per the attached” for agenda item XIV. Mr. Nofi explained that the documents to which Mrs. Franco referred were confidential and not available for public review until the Board formally approved the resolution for this agenda item. Mrs. Franco also referenced agenda item XIII and shared that she was unable to understand the resolution as written. Mr. Nofi advised that this agenda item was personnel-related.

There were no further questions or comments.

MINUTES

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education meeting be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, November 25, 2013.**

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

TREASURER’S REPORT

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 November 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 November 2013 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

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

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2013

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 November 2013 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – NOVEMBER 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 November 2013 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 approves for surplus the following attached list.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

SURPLUS TEXTBOOKS

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 for surplus the following attached lists of textbooks.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

ST. JAMES TUTORING - HOSPITAL-BASED INSTRUCTION CONTRACT

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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with St. James Tutoring, Inc. for hospital-based instruction at a rate of \$40.00 per hour, per student, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

DONATION FROM ROCKY POINT PTA – FUNDS TO OFFSET COST OF MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 \$2,275.00 donation from the Rocky Point PTA to be used to offset the cost of the 8th grade field trip to New York City.

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 \$2,275.00 as a result of the donation from the Rocky Point PTA.

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

A 2110 406 06 0000 \$2,275.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Nofi thanked the PTA for its generous gift.

DONATION FROM GREAT AMERICAN OPPORTUNITIES

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 \$23.20 donation from Great American Opportunities in the amount of \$23.20, as per the attached.

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 \$23.20 as a result of the donation from Great American Opportunities.

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

A 2110 500 02 0000 \$23.20

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:50 p.m., Diane Burke made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session in order to discuss a confidential personnel matter relating to a specific employee. Mrs. Sullivan seconded the motion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:23 p.m.

REJECTION OF ARBITRATOR'S DECISION IN CASE NO. 13 390 00878 13 IN THE MATTER OF THE ARBITRATION BETWEEN THE ROCKY POINT SCHOOL-RELATED PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

WHEREAS, the Rocky Point School-Related Professional Association requested advisory arbitration of a grievance on behalf of a particular unit member;

WHEREAS, the arbitration, case number 13 390 00878, was held on Thursday, October 24, 2013, before Arbitrator Howard C. Edelman, Esq.; and

WHEREAS, the Board received the decision by Arbitrator Edelman dated November 20, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the decision is non-binding as per Article V, Third Step: Advisory Arbitration, of the collective bargaining agreement;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby rejects, in its entirety, the arbitrator's decision dated November 20, 2013 regarding case number 13 390 00878 13 between the Rocky Point School-Related Professional Association and the Rocky Point Union Free School District.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ROCKY POINT UFSD AND THE ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 12-16-13-A and Schedule 12-16-13- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

PERSONNEL

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 attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

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

- Mrs. Intravaia requested specific guidelines pertaining to home teaching be put into place for circumstances in which a student is determined to be a “victim.” Mrs. Intravaia expressed her opinion that the current home school policy be revisited and revised. Mrs. Burke concurred with Mrs. Intravaia’s suggestion to revisit said policy. Mrs. Intravaia further requested that administrators and teachers refrain from saying “I know how you feel” in situations or circumstances of which they may not have first-hand experience.
- Mrs. Beth Dimino requested an overview of the protocol followed by the Board regarding its review and discussion of agenda items leading up to the monthly meetings. Mr. Nofi, Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Lessler each offered responses to Mrs. Dimino’s specific requests for this information. Following the Board’s response, Mrs. Dimino, along with Mr. Sean Callahan and Mrs. Ernestine Franco, expressed their opinions that not enough dialogue was taking place among the board members during the Board’s monthly meetings.
- Referencing the periodic updating of Board of Education Policies, Mr. Callahan asked if each policy was specifically discussed by the Board prior to being revised and/or updated. Mr. Nofi explained the policies are prepared in cooperation with policy services provided to the district by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), Erie 1 BOCES. Mr. Nofi further explained that the Board both comments upon and may make changes to each of the policies offered by BOCES prior to adoption by the Board if it is deemed necessary.
- Mrs. Jennifer Hoffman expressed her frustration with the FOIL process, indicating that several of her FOIL requests had been denied by the district. Mrs. Hoffman shared that she had been in contact with Mr. Robert Freeman of the Committee on Open Government concerning the denial of her FOIL requests. Mrs. Hoffman offered her opinion that matters before the Board should be discussed in open session. In response to Mrs. Hoffman’s question as to whether or not she should resubmit her previously denied FOIL requests, Dr. Ring explained in detail the appeal process for denied FOIL requests and invited Mrs. Hoffman to submit her appeal for a review which Dr. Ring will judge independently.
- Mrs. Sullivan commented that she does not care for the board meeting layout presently in place, specifically, the linear positioning of the Board of Education table. Mrs. Sullivan stated this format was not conducive to discussion among the board members when executing the agenda. In reference to a question addressed

to Mrs. Sullivan pertaining to communication of the Board with the public, Mrs. Sullivan commented “there is work to be done” in this area.

There were no further questions or comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 p.m. a motion was made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk