

**MINUTES  
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
January 13, 2014**

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Michael Nofi, President  
Diane Burke, Vice President  
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: John Lessler, Trustee

**Executive Session**

At 6:46 p.m. Susan Sullivan made a motion and Diane Burke seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel matters pertaining to a select employee.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:16 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Ring extended his best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Referencing the recent inclement weather conditions, Dr. Ring thanked parents, faculty and staff members in advance for their patience and understanding for any inconvenience that may be caused if future inclement weather conditions necessitate changes in the regularly scheduled school day.

Dr. Ring mentioned that the first budget workshop was held just prior to this evening's Board of Education meeting and that the next budget workshop would be at 6 p.m. on the evening of the February meeting of the board. Dr. Ring encouraged all to attend the future budget workshops and indicated that the presentation from this evening's workshop would be posted to the district's website this evening or tomorrow.

Dr. Ring spoke briefly about the implementation of present and ongoing initiatives pertaining to safety and security matters. Dr. Ring advised a detailed letter outlining the initiatives would be available on the district's website. Dr. Ring announced that the costs

for the improvements of the safety measures and emergency response plans are included in the 2014-2015 school budget. Dr. Ring invited anyone with questions concerning the enhanced security measures to contact him directly.

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

- Mr. DeBenedetto wished all a Happy New Year.
- On January 9th the guidance department hosted a financial aid night with Mr. Michael Turner of the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation presenting the various aspects of the financial aid process. Mr. DeBenedetto thanked Mrs. Tammy MacPherson for her efforts with this endeavor.
- Guidance counselors have met with eleventh grade students in order to facilitate the registration for the spring 2014 SAT and ACT exams. The SAT subject tests are scheduled for Saturday, January 25th, 2014.
- During the fall athletic season, Rocky Point finished in first place out of sixteen schools in the conference for Sportsmanship. Nine teams took the League Sportsmanship Awards.
- Wrestling participated in a highly competitive tournament in upstate New York during the winter recess placing fourth in the tournament. As a result of this placement the team will receive an automatic bid for the 2015 tournament. Mr. DeBenedetto offered his congratulations to the wrestlers and coaches Darren Goldstein and Timothy Matias.
- Mr. DeBenedetto reminded all that the first semester ends on January 31st. Second quarter report card grades will be posted to the parent portal on February 7th. Mr. DeBenedetto encouraged parents to encourage students to attend extra-help. Extra-help is scheduled on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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

- Dr. O'Brien wished all a Happy New Year. The first semester will end on January 31st. Students will change their elective classes when the new semester begins on Monday, February 3rd.
- The Induction Ceremony for eighth grade students into the National Junior Honor Society will take place at 7 p.m. on January 16th in the Rocky Point High School auditorium. Dr. O'Brien extended his congratulations to all of the inductees.
- The Rachel's Challenge program will be presented to students on January 22nd. The program will include two student assemblies, a training session for student leaders, and an evening event for parents. Dr. O'Brien invited all parents and community members to attend the evening event on January 22, 2014 at 7 p.m.

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

- Ms. Towlen wished all a Happy New Year.
- Ms. Towlen advised that the students have been engaged in reading great books, writing pieces that they can be proud of, and strengthening their mathematical skills. Ms. Towlen thanked parents and teachers for their work and support during the first semester of the year to ensure the success of students.
- The W.A.R.M. (We Are Reading More) program is continuing in January. Students record the minutes they read each day at home on log sheets and complete several fun activities both at home and in the classroom. On Friday, January 10th, the teachers participated in Teacher Switch Day. Staff visited different classrooms to

share one of their favorite books with the students. On Wednesday, January 15th, guest author, Steven “The Dirt Meister” Tomecek, will visit and conduct grade-level assemblies. Ms. Towlen thanked the PTA for sponsoring this event. During closing ceremonies, teacher races will take place and raffle winners will be announced. Ms. Towlen expressed her gratitude to the PTA, the Shared Decision Making Team members and Mrs. Monica DiGiovanni for their support and hard work in making the W.A.R.M. PARP celebration a success.

- Ms. Towlen announced that during the month of February a Patriotic Concert will take place on February 4<sup>th</sup>, the Jump Rope for Heart will take place on February 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Fourth Grade Read-A-Thon will take place on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons wished all a Happy New Year.
- The Science Club and the Garden Club are on a short winter hiatus and will resume following the spring thaw.
- PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) activities are scheduled for February. This year’s theme will incorporate Dr. Seuss. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons is looking forward to once again coordinating PARP activities with JAE.
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons expressed gratitude to Mr. West and Mrs. Buonconsiglio for their collaboration with the PTA for the curriculum-based “Square Art” fundraiser project.
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons extended her thanks to all for their continued support at FJC.

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

Mr. Nofi opened the floor to meeting attendees for questions and/or comments pertaining to meeting agenda items.

There were no 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, December 16, 2013.**

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2013**

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 December 2013 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**TAX EXEMPTION FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh 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 opts into legislation (Assembly bill A00565 and Senate bill S00119) Alternative Veterans' Exemption.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**DONATION FROM ROCKY POINT PTA – AUTHOR VISIT - FJC**

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 \$930.15 donation from the Rocky Point PTA to offset the cost of the *Salute to Seuss* author visit at the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School.

**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 \$930.15 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:

A2110 490 04 0000 \$930.15

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**PERSONNEL**

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 attached Personnel changes.

Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Nofi announced Jessica Schnall has been appointed as the new school library media specialist in the high school. Mr. Nofi provided meeting attendees with a brief overview of Ms. Schnall's background and credentials and extended to Ms. Schnall a warm welcome to Rocky Point Schools.

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

There were no questions or comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:30 p.m. Susan Sullivan made a motion and Scott Reh 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 8:15 p.m.

**RESOLUTION TO CHANGE DATE OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED  
FEBRUARY 2014 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING and BUDGET  
WORKSHOP SESSION**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education meeting scheduled to be held on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 7 p.m. shall be rescheduled to Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 7 p.m. and the budget workshop scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2014 at 6 p.m. shall be rescheduled to Wednesday, February 12, 2014 with locations for both events remaining unchanged.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:17 p.m. a motion was made by Scott Reh and seconded by Diane Burke to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

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