

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
AUGUST 31, 2015**

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Rocky Point High School

Present: Susan Sullivan, President
Scott Reh, Vice President
Melissa Brown, Trustee
Sean Callahan, Trustee
Edward Casswell, 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 (arriving at 5:18 p.m.)
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

Executive Session

At 5:01 p.m. Sean Callahan made a motion and Edward Casswell seconded to adjourn to Executive Session in order to discuss ongoing school district legal matters and confidential personnel matters pertaining to select employees.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Sullivan invited Dr. Ring to begin with the Superintendent's Report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ring announced that the district was ready for Superintendent's Conference Day. Dr. Ring thanked all staff members of the buildings and grounds department, the secretaries, administrators and teachers for their contributions and assistance in their efforts to ensure a positive kick-off of the 2015-2016 school year.

**MRS. VIRGINIA KELLY-GIBBONS, PRINCIPAL, FRANK J. CARASITI
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

- Kindergarten students and their families were welcomed to Kindergarten Orientation on August 25th. The students met their teachers, took a bus ride and learned about a typical day in kindergarten. Important health information and pertinent building procedures were reviewed. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons extended her gratitude to the PTA for sponsoring the Kindergarten Social that followed wherein the students tried out their new playground and ate ices.
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons recognized the custodial staff for working tirelessly to prepare the building for the new school year noting the newly painted library and the polished floors throughout the building.
- The week of September 16th is Spirit Week. The staff and students are invited to demonstrate their school spirit via a different theme each day.
- Open Houses are scheduled for September 29th, 30th, and October 1st. The staff is looking forward to welcoming the families of the student on these dates.

MS. LINDA TOWLEN, PRINCIPAL, JOSEPH A. EDGAR SCHOOL

- Ms. Towlen thanked the custodial and secretarial staffs for their hard work and dedication in preparing the building and supplies to start the new school year. Ms. Towlen also thanked the teachers for preparing their rooms for the new school year.
- The third grade social was held on Monday, August 24th. Students and their parents came to the school to visit their classrooms and they participated in a scavenger hunt to learn where the important places in the building are located. Ms. Towlen thanked the PTA and the teachers for sponsoring the Ice Cream Social following the scavenger hunt.
- Open School Nights are scheduled for September 8th, 9th, and 10th in grade level order.

MS. SUSANN CROSSAN, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL

- Ms. Crossan provided an overview of her career leading up to her appointment to the position of principal of the Rocky Point High School and shared that she looked forward to working with Mr. Gabriel and Mr. Tapler in order to create a school culture full of pride and rich traditions.
- Ms. Crossan thanked the guidance staff for its ability to solve scheduling conflicts and for their commitment and dedication to the students.
- Ms. Crossan noted that 282 students participated in the ICARE credit recovery and test prep programs. Ms. Crossan extended her gratitude to Jason Rand, principal of the summer school program, and the dedicated teachers who worked diligently to help the students achieve their goals.
- Sixty students completed the summer driver's education program. Registration for the fall program will take place on September 8th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the high school main office.
- Incoming 9th grade students attended a detailed orientation program that began with a bagel breakfast funded by the PTA. Ms. Crossan thanked the PTA for its continuous support and all that the members do for the students. Students were introduced to their guidance counselors and reviewed graduation requirements. The students also learned about the attendance policy and the Code of Conduct.

Students were given the opportunity to try out their new lockers and locate their classrooms according to their individual schedules.

- Ms. Crossan thanked the nursing office staff for reviewing all the required paperwork necessary to clear student-athletes for their participation in the fall sports program.
- Ms. Crossan thanked the custodial staff for their hard work and extra hours to ensure the building was ready to go on opening day. In addition, Ms. Crossan thanked the clerical staff at the high school as they worked diligently during the summer months to update documents, prepare schedules and create first-day materials for the staff and students.
- Ms. Crossan announced that her door is always open and that she looks forward to working collaboratively with all members of the Rocky Point community.

DR. SCOTT O'BRIEN, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Dr. O'Brien thanked the custodial and secretarial staffs for all they do during the summer months on behalf of the students and faculty.
- The sixth Annual 6th Grade Middle School "Welcome Back Social" was held on Wednesday, August 19th. Dr. O'Brien thanked the PTA, with special thanks to Mrs. Hegggers, for sponsoring the event.
- Sports begin on Tuesday, September 8th.
- Open House is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 17th, for grades 6, 7 and 8.
- Dr. O'Brien congratulated students Bryant Liu and Paul Leheste for becoming semifinalists in the 2015 Broadcom MASTERS®, a program of Society for Science & the Public. This honor places Bryant and Paul among the top 300 middle school science and engineering projects in the United States from more than 6,000 nominees. Dr. O'Brien recognized their teachers, Ms. Katsapis and Ms. De Pinto for their efforts. Following an update on the next steps to be taken in the Broadcom MASTERS® program, Dr. O'Brien wished Bryant and Paul the best of luck.
- Dr. O'Brien closed his remarks by welcoming back staff on September 1st and students on September 2nd.

Mrs. Sullivan read aloud the protocol to be followed during the public comment portion of this evening's meeting and invited anyone with questions or comments to come to the microphone.

- Reading from a prepared statement, Anne Quartararo addressed her strong disagreement with the excessing of teacher aides and the hiring of teaching assistants. Ms. Quartararo thanked Mr. Callahan for voting no on this resolution.
- Patricia Scalone, president of the School-Related Professional Association, spoke strongly in opposition to the abolishment of teacher aide positions. Ms. Scalone argued that the hiring of teaching assistants would cost the taxpayers additional monies and that the board trustees had a fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers of the district. Ms. Scalone provided an overview of the varied duties and responsibilities performed by teacher aides. Ms. Scalone noted that an extremely

high percentage of those employed as school teacher aides are “neighbors and taxpayers.” Referencing the July 9th, 2015 Board of Education Organizational Meeting, Ms. Scalone thanked Mr. Callahan for his no vote on the abolishment of school teacher aide positions.

- Melanie Connelly also thanked Mr. Callahan for his dissenting vote on the abolishment of teacher aide positions. Ms. Connelly stressed many of the School-Related Professional Association employees “live here, work here, vote here.” Ms. Connelly asked why the floor was not opened for public comment at the end of the July 9th Board of Education meeting. Ms. Connelly shared that she had contacted the New York State Education Department with several of her concerns.
- Jessica Ward referenced resolution item number XXII on the evening’s agenda, the abolishment of two school teacher aide positions, and announced “I am item number XXII.” Ms. Ward also extended her gratitude to Mr. Callahan. Ms. Ward inquired as to why current school teacher aides were not afforded the opportunity to become certified teaching assistants with the help of the district.
- Reading from a prepared statement, school teacher aide Marianne Barber provided an overview of her daily duties and responsibilities to those students in her care. Ms. Barber said that in the course of her employment with the district she has purchased with her own money pens, pencils, snacks, shoes, and items of clothing for students. Ms. Barber shared that she has stopped physical altercations between students, interceded in bullying situations and attended to the physical and emotional needs of students. Ms. Barber noted the school teacher aides are in the classrooms, the library, the hallways, the cafeterias and the restrooms attending to students.

At this time, Mrs. Sullivan announced that the fifteen minute time period allotted to meeting attendees for public comment had expired. Mrs. Sullivan advised that she would once again open the meeting to public comment at the end of the business portion of the meeting.

Mrs. Sullivan, reading from a prepared statement, explained that school teacher aides do not provide instructional services to students as do certified teaching assistants. Furthermore, Mrs. Sullivan stressed that those teacher aide positions being abolished are not individual 1:1 school teacher aides but classroom aides. Mrs. Sullivan commented that she is very aware that school teacher aides are “talented, well-loved, respected and needed” and that it is not the position of the district to replace all teacher aides. At this juncture, Mr. Reh requested a motion be made to extend the public comment portion of the meeting as it was evident there were additional meeting attendees who wished to be heard.

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Edward Casswell, a motion was made to extend the public comment portion of the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

- Referencing documents she provided to the trustees on August 24th, 2015 for their consideration and review concerning possible changes in the Wellness Policy, Ms. Shannon Kelsey stated that she and others had questions and needed additional clarification on the wording of said policy. An extensive discussion ensued and touched upon the possible banning of particular food items and the possible limitations on where food items may be consumed. Mrs. Sullivan and Dr. Ring addressed each of Ms. Kelsey's concerns in detail. Stressing that the district is unfortunately unable to ensure every child with food allergies will always be 100% safe, Mrs. Sullivan said she believed this policy is a step in the right direction.
- Asserting that food is an essential part of our lives and culture, Ms. Lynn De Rosa suggested that the banning of certain food items is a measure that goes too far. Ms. De Rosa suggested possible alternatives other than the banning of food.
- Mrs. Donna McCauley voiced her opinion that the Bond Proposition contains too many frivolous and unnecessary expenditures and she asked the trustees to reconsider and remove additional items. Mrs. McCauley reminded several of the trustees that they had proclaimed themselves to be fiscally responsible and asked if the trustees believed the Bond Referendum, as presented, had the fiscal welfare of district taxpayers in mind.
- Ms. Shannon Giagios thanked the board trustees for adopting the Wellness Policy as presented. As a parent of a student with allergies, Ms. Giagios stressed that no one is anti-food and that the Wellness Policy will assist in limiting the amount of foods in classrooms and ultimately assist in helping students with allergies feel safe.
- Ms. Ernestine Franco engaged Dr. Ring in a detailed discussion concerning the Bond Referendum. Asking if the referendum would go up for vote on October 26th, Dr. Ring responded in the affirmative. Ms. Franco asked if a public hearing was required prior to the vote. Dr. Ring advised that the public forum held on June 16th, 2015 qualified as a public hearing/forum, as well as the special meeting for this purpose held on August 24, 2015, and therefore, an additional public hearing/forum would not be required. Referencing resolution item number XXVIII, SEQRA Resolution, Ms. Franco remarked that the language in said resolution was ambiguous and made it difficult to understand exactly what it was voters would be voting upon. Dr. Ring explained that the district only received the SEQRA resolution from the bond attorney over the weekend and that all corresponding documentation will be available for review on the website promptly.
- Ms. Angela Kiang shared her thoughts concerning the "emotionally charged food policy." Advising that research has shown that the banning of foods can result in more instances of allergies, Ms. Kiang suggested the use of hand washing stations and the importance of educating students, parents, teachers and administrators concerning food allergies. Ms. Kiang suggested that classes be held for all students explaining food allergies in order to reduce any possible stigma associated with the allergies and to help eliminate peer pressure for those students with allergies.

- Dr. Pinkenburg again expressed his opinion concerning the importance of looking into the air conditioning of classrooms. Noting that the temperature is expected to reach 90 degrees several times during the next two weeks, Dr. Pinkenburg asked if the trustees looked into the cost of air conditioning of the classrooms. Mrs. Sullivan responded affirmatively and said that the cost would be in excess of \$10,000,000 dollars. Dr. Pinkenburg suggested looking into the installation of solar panels which reportedly pay for themselves in approximately ten years. Mr. Callahan advised that the installation of solar panels was an item that had been removed from the bond referendum at this time due to the high costs. Mr. Callahan said going forward the district would look into other ways to finance the installation of solar panels.
- Referencing the Wellness Policy wherein students are guaranteed fifteen minutes to eat after sitting down, Dr. Pinkenburg stated that currently this is not possible at JAE. Mrs. Sullivan advised that an additional lunch period has been added at JAE beginning this school year and that this measure should remedy the situation.
- Referencing the District's Comprehensive Attendance Plan, Dr. Pinkenburg asked how changes contained therein would benefit the students. Mrs. Sullivan advised that she would look into it.
- Ms. Anne Quartararo asked for the amount of money the district would expend for the Bond Referendum Vote scheduled for October 26, 2015. Mr. Hilton responded that the cost would be approximately \$8,500.00

There were no further questions or comments. Mrs. Sullivan reminded those in attendance that they would have another opportunity to address the Board at the end of the business portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed below are presented as part of the Consent Agenda which can be adopted by the Board of Education under a single motion followed by a second and then a formal vote. On the following page the Consent Agenda items are listed in their regular order within a group. Before an actual vote is taken, any Consent Agenda item may be removed by a Board member without a formal motion or second. If this occurs, the indicated resolution will be discussed during its regular order on the agenda and voted on individually.

II-VII CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the following agenda items as one item.

- II: Minutes** – Special Meeting June 16, 2015; Regular Meeting June 22, 2015; Organizational Meeting July 9, 2015
- III Budget Transfer Summary** – June and Year-End 2015
- IV: Treasurer's Reports** – June 2015

- V: Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer's Report – June 2015**
- VI: Internal Claims Audit Report – June and July 2015**
- VII: Committees on Special Education Schedules 8-31-15-A and 8-31-15-B**
as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

VIII CLAIMS SERVICE BUREAU AGREEMENT

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Edward Casswell, 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 the Claims Service Bureau Claims Service Agreement for the 2015-2016 school year.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

IX POWER OF ATTORNEY – INDUSTRIAL U.I. SERVICES

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell and seconded by Sean Callahan, 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 grant limited power of attorney for the handling of unemployment insurance matters to Industrial U.I. Services, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

X ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF RESERVE FUNDS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby acknowledges and reaffirms the establishment and existence to date of an Insurance Reserve Fund under the authority of NY General Municipal Law Section 6-n; a Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund under the authority of NY General Municipal Law Section 6-r; a Workers Compensation Reserve Fund under the authority of NY General Municipal Law Section 6-j; an Unemployment Insurance Reserve Fund under the authority of NY General Municipal Law Section 6-m; and a Property Loss/Liability Reserve Fund under the authority of NY Education Law Section 1709 (8-c).

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XI 2014-2015 HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, 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 an agreement for health services for the 2014-2015 school year with the following district: Hauppauge Public Schools.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XII SPECIAL EDUCATION 2015-2016 CONTRACT – NYSARC, INC. – SUFFOLK CHAPTER

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Edward Casswell, 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 NYSARC, Inc. – Suffolk Chapter for special education instructional services for the 2015-2016 school year as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XIII ST. JAMES TUTORING – HOSPITAL BASED INSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell and seconded by Sean Callahan, 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 \$47.00 per hour, per student, as attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XIV CLEARY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF 2015-2016 CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 enter into a contract with Cleary School for the Deaf for special education students instructional services for the 2015-2016 school year as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or District Policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XV STANDBY SERVICES FOR SNOW REMOVAL - #15-10 BID
EXTENSION FOR 2015-2016**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education renews the agreement with Gallino & Sons Trucking for Standby Services for Snow Removal for the 2015-2016 fiscal year at no additional cost, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XVI SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Edward Casswell, 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 5-0

**XVII REVIEW, REVISION AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF
EDUCATION POLICIES (SECOND READING)**

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reviews and re-adopts the following policies (*second reading*):

- Policy 3410 Code of Conduct on School Property
- Policy 5220 District Investments
- Policy 5410 Purchasing
- Policy 5681 School Safety Plans
- Policy 7110 Rocky Point School District's Comprehensive Attendance Plan

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XVIII - A REVIEW, REVISION AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF
EDUCATION POLICY (SECOND READING)**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reviews and re-adopts the following policy (*second reading*):

- Policy 5661 District Wellness Policy

Motion carried 4-1; Mrs. Brown dissented

XVIII - B REVIEW, REVISION AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY (*SECOND READING*)

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reviews and re-adopts the following policy (*second reading*):

- Policy 7521 Students with Life Threatening Allergies

Motion carried 5-0

XIX REVIEW, REVISION AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES (*FIRST READING*)

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reviews and re-adopts the following policies (*first reading*):

- Policy 6214 Probation and Tenure
- Policy 6215 Disciplining of a Tenured Teacher or Certified Personnel
- Policy 7131 Education of Homeless Children and Youth
- Policy 7555 Student Gender Identity (New Policy)

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XX ROCKY POINT PTA DONATION FOR INCOMING 9TH GRADE ORIENTATION

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Edward Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the \$250.00 donation from the Rocky Point PTA.

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 \$250.00 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 500 03 0000 \$250.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Sullivan extended her gratitude to the PTA for this generous donation.

XXI STUDENT INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the contract between Rocky Point Schools and Louise Friedmann for her nephew, Dalton Fenoy, Grade 12, to attend the Rocky Point High School for the 2015-2016 school year beginning on September 1, 2015 and ending on June 24, 2016. Tuition for this period will be waived.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XXII ABOLISHMENT OF SCHOOL-RELATED PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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, in accordance with Sections 80, 85 and 86 of Civil Service Law and Rule 20 of Suffolk County Civil Service Rules, hereby abolishes the following positions in their respective classification areas: two (2) full-time non-competitive title school teacher aides.

Motion carried 4-1; Mr. Callahan dissented

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

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, 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 Teachers' Association for the purpose of providing compensation to select teacher who attend the Advanced Placement Institute during the months of June, July and August 2015.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XXIV MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Edward Casswell, 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 Teachers' Association for the purpose of amending Article XI: Evaluations, Records and Discipline, Section 2 Observation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XXV MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell and seconded by Sean Callahan, 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 Teachers' Association for the purpose of allowing a one-time exception for a teacher to receive approval for salary advancement for six (6) graduate courses for which prior approval was not requested.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XXVI MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE ROCKY POINT ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 stipend of \$1,000 a month for an Association member who will oversee the coordination of K-12 ELA responsibilities for the period of September 1, 2015, through November 30, 2015.

FURTHERMORE, 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 stipend of \$500 a month for an Association member who will oversee the coordination of K-12 Art and Library Media responsibilities for the period September 1, 2015 through November 30, 2015.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XXVII-A SEQRA RESOLUTION – 2015/2016 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
ROCKY POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL, FRANK J. CARASITI
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, JOSEPH A. EDGAR SCHOOL,
DISTRICT WIDE AND SITE WORK/GROUNDS – DW**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, 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 Declination, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XXVII-B SEQRA RESOLUTION – 2015/2016 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM – ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Edward Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to embark upon the Proposed 2015 Bond Referendum for the Rocky Point High School (Project), listed in attachment A hereto; and

WHEREAS, said Project is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the Project and has determined that the project as a whole listed in attachment A hereto is classified as an Unlisted Action as defined by Section 617.2 of the SEQRA Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Project as proposed on attachment A hereto will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the Short Environmental Assessment Forms and correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, in connection with its request for approval of said projects from the New York State Education Department.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XXVIII CAPITAL PROJECTS PROPOSITION

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLUTION of the Rocky Point Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York, adopted August 31, 2015, calling a special district meeting to authorize the expenditure of moneys for school purposes and the levy of a tax therefor. For a full resolution, see attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XXIX AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF FACILITIES BY SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER CSD

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 use of the district's stadium and appurtenances as well as select bathroom facilities for the purpose of conducting three (3) varsity football competitions during the period of September through October 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an appropriate agreement, prepared by the District's legal counsel, to effectuate this usage authorization and delineate the terms and conditions associated therewith.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XXX PERSONNEL - A

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, 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 excluding line item 3 on Schedule 08-31-15-B Certified Staff.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XXX PERSONNEL - B

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, 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 change referred to previously as line item 3 on Schedule 08-31-15-B Certified Staff.

Motion carried 3-2; Mr. Casswell and Mr. Callahan dissented

At 8:10 p.m. Mrs. Sullivan requested a brief recess in order to attend to a personal matter.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:18 p.m.

Prior to opening the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees, Mrs. Sullivan announced that it was not the district's intention to eliminate all teacher aide positions. Mrs. Sullivan proceeded to explain the reasoning behind the elimination of two teacher aide positions at this evening's meeting, i.e., the move out of the district of an IEP student. Mrs. Sullivan further explained that those aides excessed would be placed on the PELL recall list for rehire as student enrollment necessitates changes. Dr. Ring further explained at length the circumstances for the hiring of teaching assistants as contained in the proposal submitted to and adopted by the Board of Education. Dr. Ring further explained that he was not recommending the elimination of additional teacher aides at this time nor in the immediate future as only Phase I of the proposal for teaching assistants had been adopted.

Mrs. Sullivan opened the microphone to questions and comments for a period not to exceed thirty minutes.

- Ms. Nancy Morcerf asked each of the trustees and the administrators to divulge whether or not they were related in any way to the teaching assistants being recommended for employment. All but Melissa Brown responded no. Mrs. Brown advised that she was related to one of the newly hired teaching assistants, a cousin. Mrs. Brown asked how many individuals were interviewed for the positions. Mrs. Wilson stated that six applicants were interviewed over a period of approximately two weeks. It was also made known that no board trustee was seated on any of the interview committees.
- Ms. Melissa Mood announced that she was reading from a prepared statement on behalf of School-Related Professional Association member, Carolyn Doyle, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mrs. Doyle was in opposition to the abolishment of school teacher aides.
- Identifying herself as a longtime school district employee, Ms. Kate De Frank thanked Mr. Callahan for voting no on the abolishment of school teacher aides.

Ms. De Frank spoke in detail regarding the impact the loss of school teacher aides would have directly on the health office staff. Referencing the upcoming Bond Referendum, Ms. De Frank stressed that she lives, works and votes in the district.

- Mr. Callahan respectfully encouraged district residents to review and consider the merits of the Bond Referendum Vote independently as it is a separate matter from current personnel issues.
- Ms. Diane Poulos thanked Mr. Callahan for his support of the union. Ms. Poulos shared that as a school teacher aide she is sometimes physically abused by those students in her charge and that teacher aides are not “glorified babysitters” but act in several professional capacities to assist those children in their daily care. Mrs. Sullivan assured Ms. Poulos that none of the board trustees nor teachers and/or administrators refer to teacher aides as “babysitters.”
- School teacher aide, Nancy Kerrigan, stated that as a ten year employee of the district she has amassed many years of training in order to guide and comfort those students in her care. Ms. Kerrigan asked the trustees to keep this in mind if considering any additional excessing of school teacher aides.
- Ms. Victoria Pachinger, a fifteen year employee of the district, noted that she was speaking on behalf of the School-Related Professional Association members. Ms. Pachinger said that she and other employees were a “proud group of paraprofessionals who support and promote a healthy environment” for the students in their care and that these employees are part of a unique support system, acting as an extra pair of eyes, ears and voices for those students.
- Ms. Laura Riekert asked what the specific requirements were for employment as a teaching assistant. Dr. Ring advised that there were four different levels of teaching assistants and asked Mrs. Wilson to expand on his response. Mrs. Wilson explained the four different teaching assistant categories, the exams required and the workshops that needed to be completed. Mrs. Wilson suggested that those interested should access the New York State Education Department’s website for additional specific and detailed information.
- Ms. Darcie Stevenson, a custodian employed at the middle school, said that the recently purchased and installed Chiller at the middle school was exhibiting undue wear and tear. Ms. Stevenson suggested that the district invest in higher level maintenance contracts for items purchased so that higher quality repairs would be covered by the contract, if needed. Ms. Stevenson referenced a lack of school district-provided raincoats. Ms. Stevenson also spoke in support of the school teacher aides.
- Reading from a prepared statement, JAE school registered nurse Raffaella Nash, stressed the importance of school teacher aides and their value to the health and well-being of the students. Ms. Nash noted that JAE students require daily interventions and benefit from the vigilant support and monitoring by school teacher aides.
- Reading from a prepared statement, Ms. Virginia Yacko identified herself as a fifteen year employee of the district, the last three in which she has served as a school teacher aide. Ms. Yacko stated that she regrets not participating in school board meetings sooner and that she takes issue with meeting attendees not being

invited to speak publicly following the July 9th, 2015 Reorganizational Meeting. Ms. Yacko read aloud information from the Freedom of Information Law regarding open government and asked that the district and the Board of Education keep this information in mind. Ms. Yacko spoke in opposition to the abolishment of school teacher aide positions. Ms. Yacko presented Mr. Callahan with a packet of handwritten thank you notes written by School-Related Professional Association members.

- Expressing her opinion that Mr. Grillo's firm was responsible for the building problems the district is currently addressing, Mrs. Mary Carman asked why Mr. Grillo and his firm were still being utilized by the district. Referencing a recent school function that Dr. Ring and Mr. Hilton attended, Mrs. Carman voiced her dismay that they did not remain at the function long enough to satisfy students.
- Food service worker, Lisa Puccio, spoke in support of the School-Related Professional Association. Ms. Puccio shared that her daughter, from grades K-12, was involved in the special education program and that without the continued support of her 1:1 special education school teacher aides throughout the years, she would not have been able to pass her Regent exams and graduate.
- Identifying herself as an eleven-year school teacher aide in the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School, Joanne Morgan noted that the current staff of school teacher aides possesses more than 550 years of combined experience. Ms. Morgan asserted that some of the aides have college credits and BA degrees. Ms. Morgan shared that she herself is a certified teacher. Stressing that she does not have a negative opinion of teaching assistants, Ms. Morgan explained that what they do is very different from the responsibilities of school teacher aides. Ms. Morgan mentioned President Bush and the No Child Left Behind Act wherein she said Mr. Bush grandfathered teacher aides as teaching assistants. Ms. Morgan asked why the Rocky Point UFSD did not do this. Noting that Mrs. Brown is herself a special education teacher, Ms. Morgan asked how Mrs. Brown could not see the value of school teacher aides. Mrs. Brown responded that neither she nor any of the trustees are disputing the value of school teacher aides. Mrs. Brown said the district currently has five classes made up of multi-grade level students and by law, teacher aides can not legally teach, hence the need for teaching assistants. Further explaining that special education is continuously fluid, Mrs. Brown asserted her belief in the need for both teaching assistants and school teacher aides.
- Mrs. Quartararo thanked Mrs. Brown for acknowledging the scope of work and duties school teacher aides perform. Ms. Quartararo also provided those in attendance at the meeting with the qualifications required for a Level I teaching assistant and asked why only a select few of employees were given this information by the district.
- Ms. Melanie Connelly expressed her opinion that the district needs to hire a part-time registered school nurse.
- Mr. Peter Scalcione, middle school head custodian, referencing fire key boxes that were purchased by the district but not installed, asked if the district was wasting money. Dr. Ring, responding to Mr. Scalcione's comment, explained that the funds for the key boxes used by first responders were provided by a

federal grant, however, it was determined that the boxes were no longer required and therefore not installed, as first responders now carry keys and fobs to our buildings so that they do not need to approach a specific location in order to gain access to a building in an emergency.

- Mrs. Villafane-Kaplan thanked the trustees for adopting the Wellness Policy. Mrs. Villafane-Kaplan spoke again regarding the need for hand washing stations and was advised by Mrs. Sullivan that each hand washing station has three spouts to enable three children to utilize the station simultaneously. Mrs. Villafane-Kaplan asked if her daughter was in danger of losing her 1:1 school teacher aide. Mrs. Sullivan assured her that she was not.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:05 p.m. a motion was made by Sean Callahan and seconded by Scott Reh to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel matters pertaining to select employees.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:20 p.m.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Scott Reh, the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

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