

**MINUTES**  
**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**April 13, 2016**

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Susan Sullivan, 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  
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: Scott Reh, Vice President

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:00 p.m. Sean Callahan made a motion and Edward Casswell seconded to adjourn to Executive Session in order to review and discuss the appeal of a student suspension and to discuss confidential personnel matters pertaining to select individuals.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:04 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 Drug Free Community Forum held on April 5, 2016 was a great success and the information presented at the forum provided those in attendance with a new awareness of the drug epidemic in Suffolk County. With approximately seven to nine-hundred people in attendance, Dr. Ring said that five percent of the school district's population was present.

Dr. Ring further announced that NARCAN training was conducted on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> with approximately seventy people in attendance. Dr. Ring thanked Amy Agnesini for her fine efforts with both the Drug Free Community Forum and NARCAN training. Dr. Ring also thanked Susann Crossan for her contributions to the events.

Dr. Ring invited members of Girl Scout Troop 1133 Cassidy Sander, Riley Watson and Gabrielle Bush to the podium in order to speak about an upcoming Blood Drive and Bone Marrow Swab Party to be held on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Rocky Point Firehouse. Miss Sander, Miss Watson and Miss Bush provided information pertaining to the donations of blood, bone marrow

and organs. In addition to sharing current statistics surrounding such donations, they also shared the eligibility criteria for those interested in making donations at the blood drive and bone marrow swab party. Dr. Ring thanked the students for their most informative presentation and announced that a flyer with a complete synopsis of the presentation was available in the Virtual Backpack.

Dr. Ring invited Mrs. Crossan to the podium.

**MRS. SUSANN CROSSAN, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL**

- Mrs. Crossan offered her gratitude to the community for its support of the Drug Free Community Forum. Mrs. Crossan also thanked Ms. Amy Agnesini, Director of Health, PE, Athletics and Intramurals, for organizing this very successful event.
- Students in Mr. Armine's drawing and painting class helped create keepsakes for children halfway around the world through an initiative called The Memory Project.
- Under the direction of Mr. Butcher, the Chamber Orchestra performed at the Rose Caracappa Mount Sinai Senior Center. Mrs. Crossan shared that former Board of Education trustee, June Schmidt, extended her appreciation to the students for a wonderful performance.
- Student leaders assisted faculty members in the Autism Speaks fundraiser for which a total of \$900.00 was raised. Ms. Valvo and Ms. Zaffino expressed their pride for the way in which the students were able to come together for this effort. Mrs. Crossan thanked all of those who participated in the event.
- The third marking period ends on Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> and report cards will be posted to the parent portal on April 21, 2016.
- Mrs. Crossan extended invitations to all for the Pocket Theater performance of "The Curious Savage" on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and Jazz Night on April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Senior Citizens' Prom will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**MRS. SUSAN CROSSAN ON BEHALF OF DR. SCOTT O'BRIEN, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- A modified bell schedule will be utilized while middle school students take the New York State math exams April 13<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Seventh grade students will experience a field trip to the Museum of Natural History next week.
- Third quarter report cards will be posted to the parent portal on April 21, 2016.
- Current fifth grade students will visit the middle school in a few weeks for the student portion of the sixth grade orientation. Parent packets with information covered at the parent orientation held last month are still available in the guidance office. On behalf of Dr. O'Brien, Mrs. Crossan thanked the guidance staff and Mrs. O'Connell for their support of both events through the National Junior Honor Society.
- The drama production, *My Son Pinocchio, Jr.* was a great success. Students performed a dress rehearsal for sixth graders and the students from the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School. On behalf of Dr. O'Brien, Mrs. Crossan extended special thanks to parent volunteers and Mrs. Collier and Mr. Maggio for a job well done.

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

- ELA assessments were administered last week and mathematics assessments will be administered this week.
- The JAE annual blood drive is scheduled for May 2, 2016 from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Ms. Towlen invited all to donate a pint of blood for this worthy cause.
- Upcoming events in addition to the blood drive during the month of May include the spring concert and the Mini-Relay for Life. Ms. Towlen thanked all for their support throughout the year.

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

- On behalf of the students at FJC, Dr. Kelly-Gibbons thanked Dr. O'Brien for the opportunity to see the dress rehearsal of *My Son Pinocchio, Jr.*
- Students thoroughly enjoyed the Kyle Dine & Friends Allergy Awareness Assembly held on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Kelly-Gibbons thanked the Villafane-Kaplan and Giagios families for providing the students with a very informative and age-appropriate experience.
- Students are very excited to have their work exhibited at the FJC Art Show scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>. Both Mr. West and Mrs. Goelz are busy preparing for the show.
- Under the direction of Ms. Kyra Kenwood, the second grade chorus is in full practice mode as they prepare for the spring concert on May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Kindergarten screening is scheduled to begin on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Kelly-Gibbons is looking forward to welcoming the incoming kindergarten students and their parents.

Mrs. Sullivan thanked all for their reports and opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

There were no questions or comments.

**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. 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.

**III-IX          Consent Agenda Items**

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

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

- III:    Minutes – Regular Meeting March 21, 2016**
- IV    Budget Transfer Summary – March 2016**
- V:    Treasurer's Reports – March 2016**
- VI:   Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer's Report – March 2016**

**VII: Financial Reports** – March 2016

**VIII: Internal Claims Audit Report** – March 2016

**IX: Committees on Special Education Schedules 4-13-16-A**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**X Resolution to Adopt the 2016-2017 School District Budget and Property Tax Report Card**

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 adopts the Rocky Point Union Free School District Budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year pursuant to the Education Law Section 1716 in the amount of \$80,623,643 and the Property Tax Report Card, as attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XI 2016-2017 BOCES Cooperative Bidding Services Purchasing Contract**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 resolution to participate in the BOCES Cooperative Bidding Purchasing Program for the 2016-2017 fiscal year on an “as needed” basis as per the attached Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program Resolution (A).

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XII Rita E. Sullivan Scholarship**

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 and accepts the \$1,000 scholarship donation from Roger and Susan Sullivan.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Casswell and Mr. Callahan offered their gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan for this generous donation.

**XIII Donation of New Student Backpacks from the Rotary Club of Rocky Point**

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 accepts the donation of \$2,481.72 from the Rotary Club of Rocky Point, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Sullivan thanked the Rotary Club for this donation.

**XIV Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Education of the Rocky Point UFSD and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association for the purpose of modifying the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Plan for the 2015-2016 school year in compliance with Education Law Section 3012-c, 8 N.Y.C.R.R. 30-2 and 8 N.Y.C.R.R. 100.2 to include backup Student Learning Objective (SLO) ratings for all teachers who do not receive a state-provided growth score in case there are not enough students, not enough scores, or other unforeseen data issues that will not allow NYSED to generate a growth score.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XV Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Education and the Rocky Point School-Related Professionals' 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 Board of Education and the Rocky Point School-Related Professionals' Association for the purpose of permitting a one-time transfer of up to one-hundred and eighty (180) compensated absence days between specific unit members and an individual member of the Rocky Point School-Related Professionals' Association.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XVI Approval of a "Juul" Agreement between Christine Kistner, Special Education Teacher; Dr. Michael F. Ring, Superintendent of Schools and Michael Friscia, President of 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 Juul Agreement between Christine Kistner, the Superintendent of Schools and the President of the Rocky Point Teachers' Association is hereby approved, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

## **XVII Personnel**

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 accepts the attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mrs. Sullivan extended her congratulations to Melinda Brooks upon Ms. Brooks' appointment to the position of Director of Humanities, Ms. Leslie Frank-Ziegler upon Ms. Frank-Ziegler's appointment to the position of School Nurse and Ms. Jamie McCue upon Ms. McCue's appointment to the position of .5 Special Education teacher.

## **XVIII APPEAL OF STUDENT SUSPENSION**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that after careful consideration of Board Policy and review of the record and appeal of the suspension of a student made known to the Board, the Board of Education hereby upholds the disciplinary decision of the Superintendent of Schools in the suspension of said student.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

## **XIX NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Sullivan inquired of the board trustees if there was any new business they wished to discuss.

There was no new business.

Mrs. Sullivan opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Mr. Roy Buccola identified himself as both the parent of a seventh grader and a music teacher in the Riverhead Central School District. After complimenting the middle school music/drama program, Mr. Buccola shared with the Board his disappointment with the quality of the sound system at the Rocky Point High School during the recent middle school production of *My Son Pinocchio, Jr.* Mr. Buccola asked the Board to consider investing in an upgrading of the sound system noting that all of the schools utilize the high school auditorium. Mr. Buccola recommended the following upgrades be considered and implemented prior to the 2016 winter concert season: one new speaker for each of the four corners of the auditorium; four to six wireless microphones; two stage monitors, and a wireless projector to be installed towards the top of the auditorium. Mr. Buccola thanked the Board for their attention and consideration of his request. Mrs. Sullivan thanked Mr. Buccola for his comments and shared that she was in attendance at the dress rehearsal performance of *My Son Pinocchio, Jr.* and understood his concerns. Mrs.

Sullivan encouraged Mr. Buccola to share with the district his valid ideas for improvements.

- Ms. Lisa McMillan shared with the Board a story she had written to illustrate the difficulties involved with a “square peg trying to fit into a round hole.” Ms. McMillan explained that she fully supports educating all children and some children require special accommodations. Ms. McMillan stated that a district’s decision to remove a child from an environment to which a child had become accustomed and comfortable was unsafe and an unacceptable attempt to make a square peg fit into a round hole.
- Referencing a recent posting announcing anticipated openings, Ms. Jessica Ward inquired if the district was changing the current teaching model. Dr. Ring responded that a similar posting goes up each year as it is a requirement to do so under the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the RPUFSD and the Rocky Point Teachers’ Association. Dr. Ring further responded that the district posts for most teaching positions in the event there are any openings, including fractional openings, for which a strong résumé pool would be an asset. Dr. Ring advised that the district is currently in the process of analyzing enrollment numbers and will have a better idea of its needs in the very near future.
- Ms. Ward offered her congratulations to Melinda Brooks upon her new appointment as Director of Humanities and inquired as to the responsibilities of the position. Dr. Ring responded the Director of Humanities is an instructional leadership role responsible for instructional oversight of English Language Arts, Social Studies, LOTE, and Business Education, among other areas of responsibility.

There were no further questions or comments.

## **XXI                    ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:40 p.m. Melissa Brown made a motion and Edward Casswell seconded to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones  
District Clerk