

**MINUTES  
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2016**

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Susan Sullivan, President  
Scott Reh, Vice President  
Melissa Brown, Trustee (arriving at 4:57)  
Sean Callahan, Trustee  
Edward Casswell, Trustee (arriving at 5:55)  
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools (arriving at 5:55)  
Deborah De Luca, Ed.D. Assistant Superintendent (arriving at 5:55)  
Gregory Hilton, School Business Official (arriving at 5:55)  
Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services (arriving at 5:55)  
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Also Present: Keith Gutstein, Esq.  
David Tauster, Esq.

Absent: None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 4:10 p.m. Scott Reh made a motion and Sean Callahan seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation and confidential personnel matters pertaining to select employees.

All in favor – Motion carried 3-0

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

Mrs. Sullivan announced that the Board was returning from Executive Session.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Ring advised meeting attendees that there will be a Smart Schools Presentation and Public Hearing beginning at 7 p.m. on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 during the regularly scheduled monthly Board of Education meeting. Dr. Ring further advised that the presentation is currently available on the district's website for those who wished to review the

Preliminary Investment Plan on the NY State Smart Schools link prior to the public informational hearing.

Dr. Ring invited Mrs. Crossan to begin the principals' reports.

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

- Grade level assemblies were conducted to review the code of conduct and student expectations.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent orientation was held on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> prior to the Open School Night program. Parents received the club and activity guide together with a document entitled “Positive Attitude and Actions Will Make a Difference.” The guidance and support service staff members were introduced and parents were provided with an overview of graduation requirements, the attendance policy, and the code of conduct. Parents then proceeded through their child’s schedule in ten minute class periods in order to meet each teacher and learn about curriculum, course requirements and grading policies.
- Mrs. Crossan thanked social studies teacher Mr. Rich Acritelli for his efforts in putting together a 9/11 ceremony for ninth and tenth grade students. Keynote speakers, Mr. Anthony Flammia and Mr. Owen McCaffery, shared their experiences during 9/11 in an effort to preserve history and to keep the memory of the many heroes alive for the students.
- Homecoming was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Festivities included Spirit Week, a Pep Rally and a Powderpuff football game. The annual Homecoming Parade included the marching band and grade-level floats created around the theme “Four Sensational Seasons.” Mrs. Crossan thanked the grade level advisors, students and staff for their participation in the program. The graduating class of 1976 was honored as the Grand Marshalls of the parade. Mrs. Crossan extended special thanks to the cheerleaders for their dedicated efforts in making Homecoming a spirited and festive event.
- Many of the school clubs are underway as officers of the clubs are being selected. Mrs. Crossan encouraged all students to become actively involved in the clubs and programs.
- The Varsity Club members sold bracelets to help raise monies for the Wounded Warrior Project. Members of the Be A Nicer Neighbor (BANN) club held a car wash in an effort to raise monies for Hubner’s Homeless Helpers.
- Mrs. Crossan reminded those in attendance of the following upcoming events:
  - Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>: Class Ring Parent Night
  - Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>: PSAT exams
  - Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>: Newsday’s Marching Band Festival at Hofstra

**DR. SCOTT O’BRIEN, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- Dr. O’Brien thanked the faculty, staff and parents at the middle school for a smooth 2016/2017 school year opening.
- Middle school sports and clubs are underway with many students actively involved in after-school activities. Dr. O’Brien invited all to view the club guide link available on the middle school website for information concerning all clubs, advisors and meeting dates. Dr. O’Brien also announced the availability of the bi-

weekly flyer that is posted to the website as this flyer has the most updated information about school-wide events and after-school activities.

- Open House was held on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Parents and guardians were able to follow their child's schedule and learn about student curriculum, class expectations, and communication procedures. Dr. O'Brien thanked all those parents and guardians who attended the program.
- Dr. O'Brien reported that Spirit Week was a success as was the third annual Middle School Pep Rally.
- Dr. O'Brien advised that the staff is very busy planning the third annual PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) kick-off. The event will showcase Rocky Point School PRIDE in order to recognize and reward positive student behaviors. Dr. O'Brien offered his gratitude to all those teachers and staff members that have been busy helping to make this upcoming event possible.

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

- Ms. Towlen reported a wonderful start to the new school year as JAE welcomed new 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and returning 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Ms. Towlen advised that Open Houses were well-attended and thanked all the parents and teachers for their support of the events.
- Spirit Week was celebrated during the week of September 12<sup>th</sup>. The students participated in various themes throughout the week.
- On September 17<sup>th</sup>, JAE students and teachers carried their banner as they marched in the annual Homecoming Parade. Ms. Towlen offered special thanks to Ms. Craig and Ms. Lopez for their contributions to the event.
- Teachers have been busy getting to know their new students and completing assessments that will help support them in their instructional plans.
- The first PTA meeting is scheduled to take place at FJC on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**MS. LINDA TOWLEN ON BEHALF OF DR. VIRGINIA KELLY-GIBBONS, PRINCIPAL, FRANK J. CARASITI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

- Open Houses were well-attended and Ms. Towlen, on behalf of Dr. Kelly-Gibbons, thanked all FJC teachers for their welcoming presentations. Members of the PTA, the North Shore Public Library and the Boy Scouts were on hand to provide FJC families with important information.
- FJC students showed their school spirit with Blue and White Day, Crazy Hat Day, Hawaiian Shirt Day or Dress for Success Day, Team Day and Crazy Sock Day.
- Ms. Towlen, on behalf of Dr. Kelly-Gibbons, thanked Mr. Treewolf West for once again creating the beautiful Homecoming banner as the students and Mrs. Leary marched in the 2016 Homecoming Parade.
- Ms. Kenwood is making preparations for the second grade chorus as she chooses a theme for the holiday cheer.
- Both the Science Club and the Garden Club are getting ready to send out invitations.
- School picture days are scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Kindergarten students are looking forward to the annual fire department visit scheduled this year on October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Everyone is looking forward to the First Grade Pumpkin Patch and Harvest Day Parade activities scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup> and October 28<sup>th</sup>, respectively.
- Ms. Towlen, on behalf of Dr. Kelly-Gibbons, thanked the PTA for sponsoring the Character Education Assembly, *Cultivate Kindness*, coming to FJC on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Sullivan thanked the principals for their reports.

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

- Referencing Schedule E – Co-Curricular Positions on the personnel schedule for this board meeting, Dr. Pinkenburg asked for clarification of the appointment of a swim coach/chaperone for independent swimmers. Dr. Ring explained that it has been a long-time practice of the district and the Board of Education, at its discretion, to support students that compete as an independent athlete in sports for which Rocky Point does not have a team. These athletes compete along with other students from other public schools, both independents and teams. Dr. Pinkenburg expressed his opinion that the District and the Board of Education should not continue this practice as, in his view, it does not benefit the District. Mrs. Sullivan thanked Dr. Pinkenburg for his comments.

There were no further 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 below 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 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.

- III:    Minutes** – Regular Meeting, August 29, 2016
- IV    Budget Transfer Summary** – June Year-End, July and August 2016
- V:    Treasurer’s Reports** – July and August 2016
- VI:   Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer’s Report** – July and August 2016
- VII:  Financials** – June, July and August 2016

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

**IX: Committees on Special Education Schedules 9-26-16-A and 9-26-16-B** as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**X Tax Levy**

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 tax levy of \$48,084,714 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year be approved.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XI Surplus Equipment**

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 for surplus the following attached list.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XII Surplus Textbooks**

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 approves for surplus the following attached list of textbooks.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XIII Special Education Contract - DDI**

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 a contract with Developmental Disabilities Institute, Inc. for special education students' services for the 2016-2017 school year under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XIV Special Education School-Year Contract – Three Village CSD**

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 Three Village Central School District for special education students' services for the 2016-2017 school year under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XV Special Education School Contract – Summit School of Nyack**

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 Summit School of Nyack for special education students' services for the 2016-2017 school year under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XVI Resolution to Award a Bid – Playground Reconstruction at Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School - SED No.: 58-02-09-020-006-015**

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 awards the contract for Playground Reconstruction at Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School, as follows:

<u>Contract No. 1:</u>	Playground Reconstruction	
	Louis Barbato Landscaping, Inc.	\$33,925.00

Discussion ensued. Mr. Reh commented upon the discrepancy in bid quotes from the four businesses bidding for the contract indicating that this bid was far below the others received. Dr. Ring responded that the bid before the board was indeed both the lowest responsible bid and far below the other bids submitted.

There was no further discussion

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XVII Authorization of One-Time Exception to Certain Provisions of Policy 7120**

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 a one-time exception to the cutoff date specified in Board of Education Policy 7120, for a student made known to the Board of Education.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XVIII PTA Donation of LeapFrog LeapStart Interactive Learning Systems**

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 donation of three (3) LeapFrog LeapStart Interactive Learning Systems from the Rocky Point PTA, valued at approximately \$105.00.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked the PTA for its continued generosity.

**XIX Friends of Music Donation of Marching Band Audio Equipment**

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 a Sound Machine SM-5-HBM-HBMCD, Sport-1 Sound Porter convertible transport system and a Kenny Cable from the Rocky Point Friends of Music, valued at approximately \$4,513.00.

Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked the Friends of Music for this very generous donation.

**XX Donation to School Lunch Program**

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 accepts the \$400.00 donation from the Heely family. The money will be used to continue the Heely Emergency Lunch Program (HELP).

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked family members of the Heely family very much for their donation.

**XXI            2016 Fuel Up to Play 60 School Nutrition Equipment Grant Award**

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 and accepts the Fuel Up to Play 60 grant from the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council in the amount of \$2,500.00, 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 school lunch budget by \$2,500.00 as a result of the Fuel Up to Play 60 Grant program.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the following budget codes be adjusted to reflect that increase.

C2860200041000     \$2,500.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XXII            Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District 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 approving a change in the method of payment for stipends for select chairpersons (ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies) to be paid in equal increments via remaining 2016-2017 biweekly paychecks, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XXIII           Personnel**

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XXIV           New Business**

Mrs. Sullivan inquired of the 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.

- Ms. Joanne Morgan inquired of the Board if they had any current information on the Pay to Play laws in the United States, particularly as they may pertain to New York State, and charging students fees to participate in team sports. Ms. Morgan explained that it was her understanding that student-athletes on the JV football team were being asked to sell ten coupon books at \$25.00 per book by the next scheduled practice session in order to be able to participate in the practice. Mr. Reh suggested that the coupon books might be part of a fundraiser and not associated with Pay to Play which he, Mrs. Sullivan and Dr. Ring believed to be illegal in New York. Mrs. Sullivan assured Ms. Morgan that she and the board trustees would certainly look into the matter. Ms. Morgan thanked Mrs. Sullivan for investigating the issue.
- Ms. Jessica Ward, referencing recommendations submitted to the district in June by a Next S.T.E.P. committee of which she was a participant, asked when the recommendations would take effect. Dr. Ring responded that upon completion of his review of the recommendations of the committee and his approval of same, he will forward the recommendations to the Board of Education for its consideration and action. Dr. Ring believed this procedure would be completed before the end of the calendar year.
- Ms. Kathi Heggens offered to clarify the JV football fundraising currently taking place. Ms. Heggens advised that the selling of the coupon books was a fundraiser and not Pay for Play. Ms. Heggens said the monies raised would help to pay for various team items unable to be funded through the school. Ms. Heggens confirmed that the student-athletes ability to participate in practice was not associated in any way with the fundraiser.

There were no further questions or comments.

## **XXV ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones  
District Clerk