

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 19, 2018

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. in the auditorium of Rocky Point High School.

Present: Susan Sullivan, President
Scott Reh, Vice President
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
Kelly White, District Clerk

Absent: Joseph Coniglione, Trustee

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:03 p.m. a motion was made by Edward Casswell and seconded by Scott Reh to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss confidential school safety plans and confidential personnel matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ring welcomed the meeting attendees and began the third and final presentation of the proposed 2018-2019 budget. He reminded the attendees that the first two presentations took place at the high school in January and February. Dr. Ring noted that following this final public review, the budget would then be submitted to the Board of Education for their consideration in April. Dr. Ring announced that the presentation will also be made available on the school website.

The following areas were covered in the presentation:

- Budget Goals
- Enrollment
- Expenditure Summary
- Expenditures
- Major Expense Categories
- Major Revenue Categories
- About the “Tax Cap”
- Tax Cap 2018-19 School Year
- Potential Impact of Contingency Budget
- The Proposed Budget: Efficient and Effective
- The Overarching Goal: Success for all students
- Budget Summary
- Dates to Remember

Dr. Ring inquired of the Board of Education if there were any questions.

Mr. Casswell asked to confirm that there are approximately \$900,000 in funds allocated to security enhancements in process. He also wanted to confirm that all of the previously approved security enhancements are still pending approval.

Dr. Ring confirmed that the number allocated for improvements in security is close to \$1,000,000 and that they are still pending approval from the SED on the previously approved items.

Mr. Casswell suggested, as there is an emphasis on safety and security protocols, that more money be allocated to this area before the budget is submitted to the Board of Education for consideration. He recommended \$500,000 in funds be added to the budget for security items that are likely to be recommended by the Health and Safety Committee, but, as he is opposed to breaking the cap he inquired as to how this could be done. He added that he is aware that the associated costs are not available as of yet on the many recommendations submitted to the Safety Committee, but feels the increased amount would assist in making valuable improvements.

Dr. Ring stated that there are several options in which additional funds can be obtained. He added that reserves can be used to offset the costs while avoiding any impact on the tax levy.

Mrs. Sullivan shared her opinion and agreed that the best course of action would be to have the funds available to use once the specific improvements are outlined.

Mr. Callahan advised that he was looking to cut the budget by \$500,000 prior to the most recent events taking place. He indicated that savings from the retirement of three teachers could be used for the purposes outlined by Mr. Casswell.

Mr. Reh added that it is difficult to make any decision without associated costs in hand.

Dr. Ring advised that deliberations have not yet begun on the recommendations submitted to the Health and Safety Committee.

There were no further questions/comments from the Board of Education.

Dr. Ring opened the floor to questions and/or comments by meeting attendees regarding the budget workshop presentation.

There were no questions/comments at this time.

Mrs. Sullivan reminded the meeting attendees of the public comment procedure.

She then opened the floor to questions and/or comments by meeting attendees.

- Ms. Ward thanked the Board of Education for scheduling a Superintendent's Conference Day on Election Day for the upcoming year. She suggested building additional snow days into the school calendar as well.

There were no further questions/comments at this time.

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.

III-IX CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh 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 February 5, 2018
- IV Budget Transfer Summary** – January 2018 and February 2018
- V: Treasurer’s Reports** – January 2018 and February 2018
- VI: Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer’s Report** – January 2018 and February 2018
- VII: Financial Reports** – January 2018 and February 2018
- VIII: Internal Claims Audit Report** – January and February 2018
- IX: Committees on Special Education Schedules 3-19-18-A and 3-19-18-B**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

X LIVE LIKE SUSIE SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

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, that the Board of Education approves and accepts the donation on behalf of the Live Like Susie Scholarship, totaling \$250.00 as follows:

Kenneth & Kathleen Sapanski \$250.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked the Sapanski family for their donation.

XI RP BOOSTER CLUB DONATION – PITCHING MACHINE

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 donation of a Mound Yeti Baseball / Softball Single Wheel Pitching Machine, valued at approximately \$550.00, from the Rocky Point Booster Club.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked the Booster Club for their donation.

XII DONATION OF BOOKS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accepts the donation of six (6) books from author, Joe Troiano, valued at approximately \$60.00. The books are as follows: It’s Your Cloud, Jelly Bean and the Unbreakable Egg, The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin, Layla Ladybug Learns About Love, Mistletoe and the Christmas Kittens, and Spookley the Square Pumpkin: A Family to be Thankful For.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XIII DONATION TO RPHS WALL OF HONOR

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, that the Board of Education accepts the \$500.00 donation from VFW Post No. 6249, the \$500.00 donation from 3256 Foundation Inc., and the \$500.00 donation from Firefighters Charitable Foundation Inc.

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 \$1,500.00 as a result of these donations.

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

A2020500030000 \$1,500.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mrs. Sullivan offered her thanks to the VFW, 3256 Foundation Inc., and the Firefighters Charitable Foundation, Inc.

XIV SURPLUS BOOKS -HS

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 approve for surplus the following list of attached books.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XV SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves for surplus the following attached list of equipment

Discussion ensued

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XVI 2017-2018 HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACTS

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, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President and Superintendent to enter into an agreement for health services for the 2017-2018 school year with the following districts:

Port Jefferson School District
Riverhead Central School District
South Huntington Union Free School District
Smithtown Central School District

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XVII RFP #R14-10 PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ADMINISTRATOR / CONSULTANT CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR 2018-19

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, that the Board of Education agrees to enter into a renewal contract with Seneca Consulting Group, Inc. for Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act administration, at a cost of \$10,500.00, as per the attached.

Motion carried 3-1
Sean Callahan opposed

XVIII RFP #R17-02 CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES NEW APPOINTMENT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the contract for Construction Management Services with the firm of The Lee Michaels Group LLC be cancelled, as of March 1, 2018, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the firm of Park East Construction be appointed to perform Construction Management Services, at rates in accordance with the scope of services submitted in response to the District's request for proposal, and the attached Agreement, beginning March 20, 2018.

Discussion ensued

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XIX REVIEW AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY NUMBER 7222 AND ADOPTION OF A NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY NUMBER 3330 (FIRST 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 policy (first reading) #7222 – Diploma or Credential Options for Students with Disabilities, and

FURTHERMORE, the Board of Education adopts the following policy (first reading) #3330 – Website Accessibility.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XX MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEBORAH DE LUCA

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 Deborah De Luca in accordance with existing provisions of her employment agreement, Paragraph 7 (i) effective March 19, 2018, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XXI APPROVAL OF AN 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 Scott Reh 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 an Agreement between the Board of Education and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association for the purpose of one-time exception allowing use of a personal day contiguous to a holiday as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XXII ADOPTION OF THE 2018-19 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education tables the 2018-2019 school calendar as presented.

All in favor – Motion tabled 4-0

XXIII PERSONNEL

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 attached Personnel changes, as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XXIV NEW BUSINESS

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

There was no new business at this time.

Mrs. Sullivan congratulated the following employees on their upcoming retirement:

- Ms. JoAnne (Jodi) Cook – Elementary Teacher
- Ms. Karen Nicholson – Elementary Teacher
- Ms. Joanne Ely – School Teacher Aide
- Ms. Donna Collier – School Teacher Aide
- Ms. Lynda McNicholas - School Teacher Aide

Mrs. Sullivan also congratulated the following new employees on their probationary appointments:

Mr. Jonathan Hart – HS Assistant Principal
Ms. Krista Legge – CSE/CPSE Administrator

Mrs. Sullivan once again invited the meeting attendees to come forth with any questions/comments.

- Mr. J. Pinkenburg shared his frustrations regarding consequences associated with the student walk-out that took place on March 14th. He advocated for free speech and his hopes for the students' voices to be heard.
- Ms. N. Green thanked the Board of Education for holding meetings that give the community the opportunity to discuss issues within the school. She stated that many students wore orange ribbons to symbolize solidarity. Ms. Green shared her disappointment in the events that transpired at the recent Health and Safety committee meeting. She advocated for change and shared her hopes to see the community thrive.
- Ms. J. Jacobellis thanked the Board of Education for closing school for students on Election Day for the upcoming 2018-19 school year. She suggested an alternate location be found for future use.

Mr. Casswell stated that this was one of the items discussed in executive session and that the Board of Education are pushing to find a new venue for future elections.

Dr. Ring urged the community to write letters to show their support for this change.

- Ms. E. Farrell cited the first amendment and shared her disappointment in the punishment associated with the walk-out that took place on March 14th.
- Mr. Botticelli commented on the consequences for the students who participated in the walk-out. He also shared his concerns regarding the negative connotation that has developed against the students that participated.
- Ms. N. Taveras stated her opinion that the walk-out acted as a call to legislators for change. She also commented on her concerns for school safety.
- Mr. R. Callahan announced his stance in support of the students that participated in the walk-out on March 14th. He added that he feels that the consequences for participation were not justified as Governor Cuomo stated there should not be any penalty associated.
- Ms. K. Reilly expressed her feelings in support of student participating in the walk-out. She noted that other school districts had different policies in response to the walk-out. Ms. Reilly also commented on security concerns.

- Mr. Q. Palifka thanked the panel members for hosting the St. Baldrick's day event at Rocky Point Middle School. He shared his opinion that the letter provided by the school district regarding the student walk-out was appropriate. Mr. Palifka added that the outlet provided, enabling the students to write letters to the Board of Education, elected officials or victims and their families, allowed for the voices to be heard.
- Ms. J. Bradley stated her support of the student walk-out. She also spoke on school security, noting the benefits associated with panic buttons. She recommended incorporating these devices to be used by staff in the case that an emergency should arise. Ms. Bradley also recommended improved communication between students, staff and building administration in the event of an emergency.

Mrs. Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Callahan to extend the time limit for public comment.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

- Mr. Savickas stated that he felt many great points were made at the Health and Safety Committee meeting regarding school safety. He noted some benefits of having an armed guard on site at school.
- Ms. Franco commented on her support of students being allowed to have their voices heard. She added that in the past, change has come as a result of protests.
- Ms. Curtin and Ms. Drago announced that they have recently formed the Eagles Education Coalition. They hope to help the community come together and assist in informing parents on policy and procedure. Ms. Curtin stated that they are currently focused on enhancing security but will work on improving additional areas of concern in the future. Ms. Drago advised that she has met with Dr. Ring and have submitted their (17) recommendations to the Health and Safety Committee. She added that cost and effectiveness still need to be investigated on the recommended items. Ms. Drago ended in saying the goal must be to protect our children, and not be a political debate.
- Mr. B. Sanchez stated his feelings in support of the students who participated in the walk-out and against the consequences that were given out.
- Mr. J. Condemni read Governor Cuomo's statements regarding the school walk-outs. He added his feelings in support of those statements.
- Ms. J. Herman shared her feelings regarding consequences handed out to students who participated in the walk-out. She voiced her opinion that record of their participation should not be part of their permanent record, barring nothing.
- Ms. Fregeau stated that she is a member of many community associations and is in the process of forming a Neighborhood Watch for community members. She urged anyone

interested in joining to reach out to her and left her contact information with the District Clerk. Ms. Fregeau shared her goal to keep Rocky Point a safe and happy place.

Mr. Casswell stated that there was a common thread in the comments made, which was the community member's voice and the need to be heard. He commended the students for being articulate and passionate in their beliefs. Mr. Casswell added that as a former history teacher, school shootings have always been omnipresent on his mind. He expressed his hope for our community to lock arms and balance safety and the educational process.

There were no further questions/comments.

XXV ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Scott Reh at 8:32 p.m., and seconded by Sean Callahan to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly White

District Clerk