MINUTES ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING October 18, 2021

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. in the library at the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Susan Sullivan, President

Edward Casswell, Vice President

Michael Lisa, Trustee Jessica Ward, Trustee

Scott O'Brien Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Susann Crossan, Assistant Superintendent

Christopher Van Cott, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Loretta Sanchez, Assistant District Clerk

Absent: Kelly White, District Clerk

At 5:56 p.m., a motion was made by Edward Casswell, and seconded by Jessica Ward, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel matters and contractual issues.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Sullivan reminded the audience of the standards expected for the public comment sections of the meeting by reading the following rules to the audience:

- Public comment at meetings of the Board shall be restricted to civil discourse, free from disparaging remarks or inferences toward any person or organization. Speakers who fail to observe this protocol will be ruled out of order.
- A period of time not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes, unless extended at any given meeting by resolution of the Board, shall be provided prior to Board action on the agenda. Each speaker shall be limited to a maximum of three minutes. Speakers may not share, defer, or otherwise reallocate any or all of the three minutes afforded them.
- A period of time not to exceed thirty (30) minutes, unless extended at any given meeting by resolution of the Board, shall be provided subsequent to the completion of Board action on the agenda. Each speaker shall be limited to a maximum of three minutes. Speakers may not share, defer, or otherwise reallocate any or all of the three minutes afforded them.
- Speakers shall be ruled out of order if they attempt to speak about any specific student or employee, by name or title.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. O'Brien invited Mr. Joseph Cognitore, from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rocky Point Post 6249 to the podium for his presentation of the 2020-2021 Smart/Maher VFW Citizenship Education Teacher Award at the High School Level to Mr. Richard Acritelli. This award is noteworthy as it is recognized at the national level and was presented to Mr. Acritelli for his numerous contributions in support of the VFW and the many memorials, tributes and ceremonies he was instrumental in organizing for our local veterans. Mr. Cognitore also expressed his appreciation to the Rocky Point Board of Education and Administration for their support of Mr. Acritelli's efforts on their behalf. Dr. O'Brien was presented with the 2020-2021 Smart/Maher VFW Citizenship Education Teacher Award at the High School Level on behalf of the Rocky Point High School.

Dr. O'Brien announced the completion of the Rocky Point Middle School outdoor classroom featured in Newsday. He thanked the PTA for their very generous gift and the planning from the Middle School administration and staff. Middle school and high school students are actively using this new learning space.

Dr. O'Brien announced additional SEL initiatives that have been created to better support our school community as a result of the pandemic include the hiring of four new counselors – one at each building. In addition, the district continues its work with Integrative Mental Health and Social-Emotional (IMSEL) professional development training for social and emotional learning. This training is intended to support and enhance educator's social-emotional resources and the integration of school-based approaches to support students' academic, social, and emotional development. The program is delivered in small group experiential based training followed by integrative coaching sessions with an emphasis on whole-person development and SEL instruction over the course of the school year.

The IMSEL training is a relational-based integrative whole-child development approach that is informed from the science and the practice of mindfulness, movement-based practices, integrative nutrition, restorative practice, and trauma-informed care. The IMSEL program is aligned with NYS standards for SEL and Mental Health.

Finally, a series of parent workshops have been designed for Rocky Point parents and guardians on how to connect with your child on a social, emotional level and learn strategies to reduce anxiety and build resilience after a difficult year. Three parent workshops per building are being hosted throughout this school year. These fliers and information on registration can be found in the virtual backpack.

Dr. O'Brien honored the Rocky Point School Board members as part of School Board Recognition Week. This is a time to promote awareness and understanding of the important work performed by school board members. Rocky Point UFSD is joining all public school districts across the state to celebrate School Board Recognition Week to honor local board members for their commitment to Rocky Point and its children. School board members give the Rocky Point citizens a voice in education decision making. Even

though we make a special effort to show our appreciation this month, their contribution is a year-round commitment.

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

Dr. Pinkenburg inquired about the identification requirements related to Board Policy Number 1510. Mrs. Sullivan informed him that the Board and Administration are working out a system where a person wishing to address the Board would show a security guard his/her license identifying them as a Rocky Point resident and, in turn, would receive a red card to approach the microphone. This system would eliminate the need to divulge their address at the microphone. Dr. Pinkenburg asked about students and Mrs. Sullivan said they would continue to look into the matter.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell, and seconded by Jessica Ward, 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, September 20, 2021

IV: Budget Transfer Summary – September 2021

V: Treasurer's Reports – September 2021

VI: Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer's Report – September

VII: Financials – September 2021

VIII: Internal Claims Audit Report – September 2021

IX: Committees on Special Education Schedules 10-18-21-A and 10-18-21-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 Donation

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Michael Lisa, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation on behalf of the Live Like Susie Scholarship, totaling \$100.00, as follows:

Kenneth / Kathleen Sapanski \$100.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked the Sapanski family for their generous donation.

XI Surplus Equipment

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, 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 lists of equipment.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XII Surplus Books

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell, and seconded by Jessica Ward, 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 books on the following attached list.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XIII Surplus Library Books (JAE)

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Michael Lisa, 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 books.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XIV Federal Grant-Funded Project: Network Closets

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, 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 hereby approves the following utilizing federal grant funds (Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act; CRRSA).

• Improve the environmental conditions of (9) existing wiring network closets by installing ductless split cooling systems

BE IT RESOLVED, the District will follow all purchasing regulations for contracting with vendors to complete this project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the District will coordinate the submission if project plans and specifications to the New York State Education Department as required.

XV Federal Grant-Funded Project: Wi-Fi Access Points

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following utilizing federal grant funds (Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act; CRRSA).

• Installation of additional Wi-Fi access points at the High School Press Box

BE IT RESOLVED, the District will follow all purchasing regulations for contracting with vendors to complete this project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the District will coordinate the submission if project plans and specifications to the New York State Education Department as required.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XVI Italian American Committee on Education (IACE) Grant Award

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Michael Lisa, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve and accept the Italian American Committee on Education (IACE) grant award in the amount of \$4,829.00, as per the attached.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District herby approves, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to increase the general fund budget by \$4,829.00 as a result of the IACE grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following budget codes be adjusted to reflect that increase:

A2110480040000 \$4,829.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XVII 2020-2021 Independent Auditors' Report

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, 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 Independent Auditors' Report with accompanying statements and schedules for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 as well as the Independent Auditors' Report on Extra-Classroom Activity Funds with accompanying statements and schedules for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, which have been submitted by the Board's external auditors, R.S. Abrams.

XVIII Resolution to Increase the Price of Staff Lunch Meals

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the increase in price staff lunch meal to \$4.78 + tax in accordance with updated regulations from the New York State Child Nutrition Department. This change took effect October 1, 2021.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XIX Transportation Contract Extension / Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI)

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Michael Lisa, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves a 31-day transportation contract extension with Developmental Disabilities, Inc. (DDI) located at 99 Hollywood Drive, Smithtown, NY, to provide minivan/small bus transportation on an as needed basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute said contract.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XX SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) Resolution - District-Wide Information Technology Network Closets

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvement projects:

• Installation of ductless split systems into existing network wiring closets. Work will include electrical and miscellaneous general construction. (the "Projects"); and

WHEREAS, said capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes,

unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2); and

WHEREAS, the SEQRA Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the Project is classified as a Type II Action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1) and (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 the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, after a review of the proposed action, hereby declares that the Projects are Type II Actions, which requires no further review under SEQRA; 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 correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed project from the New York State Education Department.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XXI SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) Resolution - Installation of Wireless Access Points

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvement projects:

 Installation of three additional wireless access points at the High School Press Box to expand the District's wireless network. (the "Projects"); and

WHEREAS, said capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2); and

WHEREAS, the SEQRA Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the Project is classified as a Type II Action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1) and (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 the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, after a review of the proposed action, hereby declares that the Projects are Type II Actions, which requires no further review under SEQRA; 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 correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed project from the New York State Education Department.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XXII Special Education Tuition Contract – Miller Place UFSD

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Michael Lisa, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves a tuition contact with Miller Place Union Free School District whereby the Rocky Point Union Free School District shall provide requested special education instruction services to Miller Place resident student(s) for the 2021-22 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board to execute said 2021-22 tuition contract, as attached.

XXIII Board of Education Review and Re-Adoption of Board of Education Policy Number 5661 (First Reading)

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, 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 reviews and re-adopts the following policy (first reading):

• 5661 – District Wellness Policy

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XXIV Review and Re-Adoption of Board of Education Policy Number 1510 (Second Reading)

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

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

• 1510 – Regular Board Meetings and Rules (Quorum and Parliamentary Procedure)

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XXV Review and Adoption of Board of Education Policy Number 5513 (First Reading)

Upon a motion made by Jessica Ward, and seconded by Michael Lisa, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education reviews and adopts the following policy (first reading):

• 5513 – Fund Balance

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

XXVI Assignment of Special Legal Counsel

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the firm of Lewis Johs Avallone (John Saville, Esq.) is hereby retained as Special Counsel, nunc pro tunc to its initial serving the District as defense counsel on matters not covered by District insurance coverage at an hourly rate of \$250.00.

XXVII Personnel

Upon a motion made by Edward Casswell, and seconded by Jessica Ward, 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

XXVIII New Business

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

The trustees did not have any new business to discuss.

With regard to Board Policy 1510, Mrs. Sullivan inquired if and when the students get ID cards. They could possibly use these cards as a form of identification to obtain a red card when addressing the Board at future board meetings. Dr. O'Brien will look into the matter further and advise Mrs. Sullivan.

Once again, Mrs. Sullivan invited the meeting attendees for questions/comments.

Dr. Pinkenburg inquired if student ID's show the student's address. Mrs. Sullivan informed him that they do not show the student's address.

Ms. Sheila McCarthy informed the board that she has a daughter in the district and is concerned that social emotional learning (SEL) initiatives are linked to Critical Race Theory. Dr. O'Brien provided background on the four years that the SEL program has been in place at Rocky Point. He also encouraged her to attend the three-part SEL Project Presence Program for parents that will begin this month at each of our schools. Details of the program are on the district's virtual backpack. He also suggested that she contact his office to arrange a meeting where he could discuss the SEL program in more detail. When the SEL discussion ended, Ms. McCarthy asked why there is no girls golf team at Rocky Point. Dr. O'Brien said he would look into the matter further.

Ms. Ernestine Ruberto asked what the policy will be on replacing Mr. Callahan's position. Mrs. Sullivan advised that the board are working through a few options.

Ms. Tamara Borella asked if the Board had considered the potential for vaccines being mandated for students in the future and what the district's stance will be. Mrs. Sullivan indicated that the Board had not heard of any mandates to date, but the District would be required to follow the law if it should come to pass.

XXX Adjournment

At 7:40~p.m., a motion was made by Edward Casswell, and seconded by Jessica Ward, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Sanchez Assistant District Clerk