

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 24, 2003

Meeting called to Order at 7:38 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President
Michael Matera, Vice-President
Jane Bonner, Trustee
Howard Gimple, Trustee
Joseph Sanseverino, Trustee
James J. Gerardi, Superintendent of Schools
Carla D'Ambrosio, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Stephen Bilyk, Interim School Business Official
Irene Pedota, District Clerk

Absent: None

Mrs. Thalen opened the meeting to questions or comments from the community:

- Rocky Point High School senior Melissa Mooney said that it was brought to her attention in her journalism class that Long Island has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the nation and that the average age that teenagers become sexually active is fifteen. She expressed her concern regarding the fact that her health education teacher will not broach the subject of sex education, and she believes that there is a lack of information available to students at the high school about contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, etc.
- Mrs. D'Ambrosio replied that sex education is taught as part of the sixth and eighth grade curriculums and that it is the district's policy to endorse abstinence. She added that additional sex education is taught as part of the high school curriculum.
- Ms. Mooney replied that the average teen does not practice abstinence and that other districts provide more information to students. She believes that sex education should be taught to high school students. Mrs. D'Ambrosio assured her that students are taught according to the state's recommendations.
- Mrs. Thalen added that other districts might choose to do things outside of what is required by the state. She asked Ms. Armet, the district's Director of Physical Education and Health Education to provide additional information.
- Ms. Armet said that sex education is presently being taught in the sixth and eighth grades in an attempt to reach out to our students at an earlier age.
- Mrs. Audette said that while it is a good idea to reach students at age eleven, it seems "bogus" not to continue educating students when it is more likely that they will be facing these issues.
- Ms. Armet explained that it is difficult to touch on every subject because the health curriculum is a half-year course. Ms. Armet added that hopefully students will remember what they have been taught when they are faced with these decisions.
- Ms. Armet added that she and Mr. Poole are investigating how to expand the health curriculum.
- Mrs. Thalen thanked Ms. Mooney for bringing up the topic.
- Mrs. Bonner asked what sort of things Ms. Mooney hoped students would learn.
- Ms. Mooney said that students should be made aware of how many sexually transmitted diseases there are, how easily they are transmitted, and that students should have information about contraception. She added that last year a student attempted to write an article about myths that circulate among teenagers, but that the principal decided that it was inappropriate.

- Mrs. Thalen informed Ms. Mooney that it was determined by the Supreme Court in the “Hazlewood Decision” that a principal has the right to review and approve any article that is meant for publication in a school newspaper.
- Sixth grade student, Emily Rutter, presented a petition to the Board of Education that was signed by her fellow students in protest of the board’s decision to cancel the Frost Valley trip.
- Mrs. Thalen said that the Board of Education applauds her efforts in coming to speak to them and that the board will certainly consider her request. However, Mrs. Thalen made it clear that she did not want to mislead her to think that the board would change their decision.
- Mrs. Smith had a question about a flyer that was included in a letter that was sent home to parents about early dismissal in which parents were asked to be considerate of our neighbors when they attend school functions.
- Mr. Gerardi replied that the district is facing a huge problem with regard to parking and that there have been complaints from residents who live in the complex across the street from the high school and elementary school. They allege that parents who attend school functions are parking in their lots and that they are having problems getting in or out of their facility because of the associated traffic. He added that he would be happy to hear any suggestions on how to alleviate the problem.

There were no further questions or comments at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- **Rocky Point High School** – Mr. William Caulfield announced:
 - This past weekend the Thespian Troup presented four sold-out performances of *Our Town*, under the direction of Ms. Maya Montemurro and produced by Andrew Levine and included over thirty students as actors and crew.
 - The annual blood drive was held on November 18th with over 100 volunteers registering to donate and seventy-six pints of blood being collected. Long Island Blood Services commends our students, staff and community for their generosity.
 - The High School Brass Ensemble will be performing at the tree lighting ceremony on December 6.
 - Auditions for the high school musical, *Damn Yankees*, are scheduled for December 11 and 12.
 - The high school holiday concert will be on December 18, 2003 at 7:30 PM.
 - The Girls’ Cross Country Team won the League Championship this year and Nicole Staudt and Melissa Salerno were state qualifiers their team.
 - Kaitlyn Naylor received All State Honors and was selected as League 5’s “Player of the Year” in girls’ soccer.
 - Mr. Matera took the opportunity to congratulate everyone that was involved in the production of *Our Town* for the excellent performance.
- **Rocky Point Middle School** – Dr. Joseph Centamore reported:
 - Mrs. Karen Gambino’s Math Team scored well in a recent competition.
 - The fall teams had a successful season.
 - The National Junior Honor Society Induction ceremony will be held on Tuesday night, November 25, 2003.
 - The PTA is sponsoring a contest for designing a Rocky Point Middle School T-Shirt.
 - Seventh grade students will be attending a performance of *A Christmas Carol* at a local theater on November 25, 2003.
 - Dr. Centamore thanked the PTA for sponsoring the t-shirt contest and book swap at the middle school.
 - There will be a dance for middle school students on December 5.
 - The holiday concert will be held on two nights this year to alleviate congestion.
 - Dr. Centamore wished everyone a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving.

- **Joseph A. Edgar School** – Mr. Kenneth Crawford:
 - Mr. Crawford reminded everyone to visit the website for up-to-date information about events at the Joseph Edgar School.
 - He thanked parents for helping to supply students in Iraq with school supplies.
 - Social Studies assessments were administered last week and make-ups were given last Friday and today.
 - The winter concert is scheduled for December 11, 2003 at 7:00 PM at the high school, and they are urging parents to carpool.
 - The District Wide Emergency Drill will be on Wednesday, November 26, 2003 and all students will be dismissed ½ hour earlier than usual.
 - Mr. Crawford wished the community a safe and healthy Thanksgiving.

- **Frank J. Carasiti School** – Mr. Scott O’Brien:
 - Mr. O’Brien thanked the Rocky Point community for helping to raise \$4,000.00 to defray the medical expenses for the family of a first-grade student who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor.
 - The PTA also sponsored a McDonald’s night where 50% of the proceeds also went towards this worthy cause.
 - Four teachers from FJC – Barbara Kjaerbye, Maria Amascoto, Christine Edmonds, and Carrie Caswell - have been awarded Mestract grants.
 - Mr. O’Brien thanked everyone who attended the Harvest Parade and Bruce Texeira and the high school marching band for their performance during the parade.
 - Their new assembly program, which celebrates students’ achievements, birthdays, and monthly themes, is a tremendous success.
 - Mr. O’Brien, on behalf of everyone at the Carasiti School, wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Superintendent James J. Gerardi introduced Mr. Michael Ivanoff, who is joining the district in the Business Office and will be working with Mr. Stephen Bilyk as part of an intern program for the rest of this year.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meeting be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, October 27, 2003**. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

TREASURER’S REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Treasurer’s Reports for the month of **October 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Jane Bonner, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Extra Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of **October 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of **October 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

SURPLUS ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve for surplus the following: Two FM Trainer – Telex Model #s 267686 & 812948, a Hawk Communication Board, ITI – 3939 and a ZYGO Communication Board, MACAW A/503. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Bonner asked what the items were. Mr. Gerardi replied that they were outdated pieces of equipment that the district cannot dispose of unless a resolution is passed. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PRIVATE ROAD TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education renew the attached private road transportation contract with the private community know as the Terraces on the Sound Property Association and authorize the Board President to sign such contract. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Jane Bonner, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 11-24-03-A and 11-24-03-B. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the attached Personnel changes. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the audience before the board moved to executive session:

- Mr. Ward asked about a personnel item that was included in last month's meeting regarding the outcome of a district employee's hearing with an impartial hearing officer. Mr. Gerardi replied that the individual resigned from the position.
- Mr. Ward asked if there was any cost to the district associated with the intern program that Mr. Ivanoff would be participating in. Mr. Gerardi replied that Mr. Ivanoff would be paid a nominal salary during the last few months of his internship.
- Mrs. Johannsen said that she had the opportunity to attend one of the assemblies that Mr. O'Brien spoke about and thought it was a wonderful program and that her children enjoyed them very much. She also commended the young girls for getting up in front of everyone to address the board.
- Mrs. Thalen added that someone at last month's meeting inquired about the possibility of having a student member on the board. She explained that the board has decided in favor of it and is investigating how to implement the idea. She expressed her appreciation to the students for attending board meetings and especially for speaking up about their concerns. She also said that she looks forward to working with the high school administration to arrive at a way to choose a student representative.

There were no further questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:15 PM a motion was made by Michael Matera and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Pedota
District Clerk

The Board returned to open session at 8:40 PM.

RESOLUTION FOR EVALUATION OF A CERTAIN EMPLOYEE

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Jane Bonner, the following resolution was offered:

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

WHEREAS, a certain employee made known to the Board of Education has recently exhibited unusual behavior in the discharge of his/her duties as a member of the teaching staff of the Rocky Point Union Free School District;

and

WHEREAS, such behavior has raised issues with respect to this employee's mental and physical condition;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 913 of the Education Law,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this employee is directed to report for examinations to determine his/her mental and physical capacity to perform the duties required of such employee, the same examinations to be performed by Dr. Randall Solomon and Dr. Carl Korpi on or before December 19, 2003 or any adjourned date. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:42 PM a motion was made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino for the Board of Education adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Gerardi
Superintendent of Schools