

**MINUTES ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 26, 2004**

Meeting called to Order at 7:35 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President
Michael Matera, Vice-President
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
Mary Berretta, Acting District Clerk

Absent: Jane Bonner, Trustee
Irene Pedota, District Clerk

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

There were none. Mrs. Thalen reiterated that there would be another opportunity at the end of the meeting if anyone had questions or comments at that time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Principals' Reports

Rocky Point High School – Mr. William Caulfield:

- This past weekend in the Walt Whitman Cheerleading competition both JV and Varsity squads won their respective classifications. The JV team placed 1st out of 9 teams and the Varsity placed 1st out of 19 teams. Last weekend the Varsity squad placed 2nd in the Kellenberg Competition.
- The Boys Varsity Winter Track team won the League IV Championships. 1st place finishes were captured by: Josh Faeger in the 600-meter dash, Ahmet Sar Mahmout in the triple jump, and the 4 by 200 meter relay team (Ahmet, Joe Valerio, Josh Faeger and Brian McGlone).
- The Patriotic Concert will be held on Tuesday, February 3 at 7:30PM in the HS Auditorium. The groups performing are the 7th grade chorus, 9th and 10th grade band, 5th grade chorus and the High School band and chorus.
- Guidance Department is in the midst of scheduling students for the 2004-2005 academic year. The High School counselors have given scheduling orientations through English classes. Your child was given a course selection guide to help them with their choices. We urge parents to be a part of this very important process and to be involved with your child's course selections. You will receive certification of courses your child has chosen. If you have any questions, please call your child's Guidance Counselor.

Rocky Point Middle School – Dr. Joseph Tanen Centamore

- MS Technology labs are up and running 100% (flight, architecture robotics, laser, electronics, computer graphics and research/design).
- 8th grade ELA and Science Practical were given.
- Scheduling process for next year has begun – counselors will be visiting 5th grade JAE classes.

- Shared Decision Making Team in collaboration with other schools would like to have a joint –“Battle of the Buildings”- the goal being to foster school and community spirit, pride and unity.
- 2nd marking quarter/1st semester will be end Wednesday, 2/4.
- Art club has painted murals in the building. The new welcome sign in the lobby was a joint effort of Ms. Cantera-Potter and Mr. Boulin.
- The Patriotic Concert will be held on Tuesday, February 3 at 7:30PM in the HS Auditorium.

Joseph A. Edgar School – Mr. Ken Crawford

- Our 4th grade students will be administered the NYS ELA – 2/3,4,5 - makes ups will be 2/6. Attendance is very important. Our staff has worked very hard in preparing our students for this important assessment. We are asking parents to make sure your child is well rested and has a healthy breakfast.
- Our 4th graders also completed an “in-house” field trip entitled, “Journey into Indian Territories.” Students were completely immersed in Indian culture for an entire day in a variety of workshops.
- On Friday, 1/23 our school held the fifth DARE graduation. We were honored to have as guest speakers County Legislator Daniel Losquadro and Town Councilman Kevin McCarrick. Also in attendance, were Board of Education Trustee Mrs. Jane Bonner and approximately two hundred parents, relatives and siblings. Each guest received a program designed by the students as remembrance of this special day.
- Twelve students, one from each 5th grade class read their DARE essays reminding students to stay away from drugs and alcohol. The reading of the essays was interspersed with skits written and performed by students. Medals and certificates were distributed to the essay winners as well as to the artwork winners. Officer Val did an excellent job in organizing and orchestrating the graduation. Each graduate received a DARE t-shirt, a DARE certificate and certificates from Brookhaven Town and Suffolk County. Twelve lucky lottery winners also won DARE stuffed lions.
- Not to leave out the third grade...for the month of February our third graders will be using our Science Lab to explore properties of magnetism and electricity. Plus, congratulations are in order for Mrs. Abbato’s and Mrs. Smokler’s third grade classes; they have won a free field trip to the Atlantis Aquarium in Riverhead.
- Report cards will be sent home on Monday, 2/2 instead of the end of this week.

Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School – Mr. Paul Read

- The month of January has so far been remarkable. Several parents on active duty returned home from Iraqi much to the delight of their families and especially the children at FJC.
- Our 2nd grade students sent letters to soldiers now serving overseas.
- Five teachers at FJC are pregnant and expecting within the next month or so.
- A 1st grade teacher returned in January to announce she was engaged and a 2nd grade teacher returned in January as a newly wed and proudly shared with our staff the special moment of her wedding. And finally our school librarian announced the birth of his son, James William.
- Then came the snow! And it is still coming! Causing the cancellation of two PARP assemblies. Our PTA Team leaders have handled this very well so far. I truly appreciate their commitment this program and to our FJC children.

PARP is a three-week program designed to encourage reading at home and in school. This Thursday we will try again. All are welcome to attend and read to a class after the assembly. I would especially like to invite the Board of Education members.

- January was also a benchmark time in which we assess student academic growth since September. The children have recently completed the Terra Nova Test and we are now in the process of scoring. The results of this test will be used to determine remediation services.
- In February, second grade will be attending a field trip to the Long Island Science Center in Riverhead.
- We will also have a Patricia Shih Assembly 2/11 to help celebrate our 100th day of school.
- A PTA meeting, SEPTA meeting and Share Decision Meeting are also scheduled as indicated on the school calendar.

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, December 15, 2003, Special Meetings January 12, 2004 and January 20, 2004**. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

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 months of **November and December 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the Extra Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the months of **November and December 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the months of **November and December 2003** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

BOND ISSUE PROJECT CHANGE ORDERS

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 accept and approve the attached change orders with reference to bond issue related projects. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

METROPOLITAN LIFE SHARES

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple 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 approve the sale of the Rocky Point School District's trust interest in the MetLife Policyholder Trust. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

DONATION OF \$500 FROM THE ROCKY POINT ALUMNI FOUNDATION

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 a donation of \$500 from the Rocky Point Alumni Foundation for the 11th grade Honors English trip. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

ACCEPTANCE OF DELETED, RENUMBERED AND ADOPTION OF REVISED ROCKY POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES

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 votes to waive a second reading and to adopt the following District Policy changes:

Deletion of Policies

- #7560 Racial Harassment (incorporated into policy #3420)
- #7111, #7122, #7122.1 (incorporated into policy #7110)
- #5420, #5421, #5430 (incorporated into policy #5110)

Renumbering of Policies

- #7122.2 to #7111 - Release Time of Students
- #7123 to #7122 - Use of Surnames by Students
- #7616 to #7615 - Least Restrictive Environment
- #7617 to #7616 - Pre-referral Intervention Strategies in General Education
- #7618 to #7617 - Declassification of Students with Disabilities
- #7570 to #7560 – Notification of Release of Sex Offenders

Revisions of Policies

- #3231 Complaints and Grievances by Employees
- #3232 Complaints and Grievances by Students
- #3310 Public Access to Records
- #3410 Code of Conduct on School Property
- #3412 Threats of Violence in School
- #5640 Smoking/Tobacco Use
- #5681 School Safety Plans
- #5720 Bus Scheduling and Routing
- #5760 Qualifications of Bus Drivers
- #6120 Equal Employment Opportunity
- #6150 Drug-free Workplace
- #6170 Fingerprinting of Prospective Employees
- #6212.1 Incidental Teaching
- #7110 Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy
- #7130 Entitlement to Attend – Age
- #7310 School Conduct and Discipline
- #7313 Suspension of Students
- #7320 Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs and Other Substances (Students)
- #7361 Gun-free Schools
- #7513 Administration of Medication
- #7530 Child Abuse
- #7560 Notification of Release of Sex Offenders
- #7631 Appointment and Training of CSE Subcommittee on Special Education Members
- #7632 Appointment and Training of CPSE Subcommittee on Special Education Members
- #7640 Student IEP Development and Provision
- #7660 Impartial Hearings/Selection of Impartial Hearing Officers
- #8140 Equal Educational Opportunities

#8220 Career and Technical Education
#8280 Instruction for English Language Learners or Students with Limited
English
Proficiency

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

**ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: SPECIAL EDUCATION/ PRESCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT MEMBERS**

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple 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 approve the appointment of Cheryl Gugel, Maria Quaglia, Barbara Reardon, Sharon Farabaugh, Diana Savastano, Ellen Belcastro, Linda Hassett, Bernadette Fitzpatrick and Linda Fitzpatrick, as Parent Members to the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education. (In accordance with the Commissioner’s Regulations, Part 200 and the provisions of the Education Law, Section 4402.) All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

**COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL
EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 1-26-04-A and 1-26-04-B. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

PERSONNEL

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 accept the attached Personnel changes. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT’S CONTRACT EXTENSION RESOLUTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that inasmuch as much as negotiations between the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools James J. Gerardi, have been concluded, it is therefore resolved that the Board of Education authorizes its President, Geraldine Thalen, to enter into a contract extension with Mr. Gerardi for a period of one year from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

**PRESENTATION OF A FIRST DRAFT OF THE 04-05 SCHOOL BUDGET
COVERING ALL AREAS EXCEPT THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM**

- Mrs. Thalen explained to the audience that there would be a survey online at the district website asking for community feedback regarding the district budget. Susan Wilson informed us that the survey would be available through March 1.
- Mrs. Thalen explained that Mr. Bilyk would now give the audience a line-by-line overview of the first draft of the 04-05 budget. This would not include the instruction part of the budget.
- Draft handouts were given to the audience.

General questions:

Line #61 – BOCES Services – Teacher Registry –

Steve Romano – What Does the Teacher Registry Do?

Mr. Gerardi – The teacher registry is a service run by BOCES that finds a replacement teacher when a teacher is absent.

Mr. Romano – We pay all this money to get a sub? Why can't the buildings do this?

Mr. Gerardi – If our pool of subs were exhausted because they were all sick, we'd be out of luck. BOCES has a bigger selection and can fill our needs.

Line #81 – Propane gas

Mr. Bilyk – The propane gas and natural gas bill fluctuate depending upon which one you use more of and of course the price on the market.

Line #84 – BOCES Services – Health & Safety

Audience Participant – Why is there such a decrease from last year? Where does the extra money go?

Mr. Bilyk – From some health and safety areas - Blood Bourne Pathogen, Compliance Reports, Hazardous Materials – back into the general fund.

Line #90 – Special Projects

Mr. Bilyk – Fields need backstops – carpet in High School music room

Line #109 BOCES Services – SASI System/FM2000/OST

- Mr. Bilyk – We were under budgeted in prior years – now we need to cover it.
- Mrs. Thalen – Please tell the audience what the SASI system is?
- Mrs. D'Ambrosio – SASI is our computer system for attendance (including period by period) and grade reporting.
- Mrs. Thalen - Do we pay for a maintenance license and how much of this is aidable?
- Mr. Bilyk – Yes, 60 – 70 % is aidable.
- Mrs. Thalen – OST is at what % for service?
- Mrs. D'Ambrosio – Total network support – 2 people – 5 days
- Mrs. Thalen – What about staff development?
- Mrs. D'Ambrosio – They provide technology staff development - Microsoft Outlook, Excel.

Line #116 – Insurance

- Steve Romano – Are we using the same carrier or did we go out to bid?
- Mr. Bilyk – We use a broker to shop around for us to get the lowest prices available.

Line #123 – BOCES Admin charges

- Mr. Sanseverino – How are the BOCES charges determined?
- Mr. Bilyk – According to the school population.

Transportation

- Mr. Gerardi – Mr. Bilyk you have the transportation part of the budget increased by 10%, correct.

- Mr. Bilyk – Yes, however, the bus company wants a 20% increase. We are in the process of proceeding with RFP's to see if we can come in with a lower figure.
- Audience Participant: What is an RFP?
- Mr. Bilyk: - Request for Proposal.
- Mrs. Thalen – Mr. Bilyk would you please explain to the audience what undistributed means?
- Mr. Bilyk – These are State categories – Employee benefits, debt service, interfund transfers.

Line #676 – NYS TRS

- Mr. Sanseverino – Are TRS rates set by the State?
- Mr. Bilyk – Yes they are.
- Audience participant – Does the district produce forecast based on the expenditures for the year?
- Mr. Bilyk – Yes, it does. If you would like to come into my office to discuss this I would be happy to go over it with you. Just call to make an appointment.
- Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any further questions on this part of the budget. Since there weren't any, Mrs. Thalen told the audience that the next meeting would be on Monday, February 2nd at 7:30 in the High School Auditorium to go over the next part of the budget. She invited the community to please come and be a part of the process.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any other questions or concerns:

- Mr. Kevin Ward:
I noticed on the website that the SAT and the testing scores in general have significantly improved. Somebody must be doing something right. I would also like to make a comment on the fact that at this stage of the budget process the Business Office has done an outstanding job presenting the budget. They have made it clear and we are able to understand it. Shame on the community if they don't come out and vote for the budget.
I wanted to take this opportunity to tell Mr. Gerardi something if Mrs. Thalen hasn't already. I will be moving from Rocky Point to Shoreham. I bought a home there so now I can bother them. I appreciate being allowed to run for the School Board.
- Mrs. Thalen – Mr. Ward, we always welcomed your questions, you were polite and a gentleman. Good luck in Shoreham.
- Ms. Stegos–Brucoli - and two young girls:
She started her question by referring to an employee who had been recently suspended in the Middle School.
- Mrs. Thalen immediately stopped her. We are not allowed to discuss personnel issues in a public forum.
- Ms. Stegos - Brucoli - The students have the right to know what happened to this teacher.
- Mrs. Thalen suggested she meet with the building principal.
- Ms. Stegos – Brucoli – We want to know what is going on?
- Mrs. Thalen – He will tell you what he can.
- Ms. Stegos – Brucoli - What will he tell us?
- Mr. Gerardi – You may not like what you hear or you may want to hear more. The building principal is advised by the school district's attorneys as to what he can tell you.

There were no further questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:35 PM a motion was made by Michael Matera and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino to go into Executive Session to discuss certain personnel matters. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Berretta
Acting District Clerk

The Board returned to open session at 10:01 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:02 PM a motion was made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Michael Matera to adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Gerardi
Superintendent of Schools