

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 31, 2005**

Meeting called to Order at 7:35 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Absent: None

Mrs. Thalen made the following announcements:

1. Mrs. Thalen reminded everyone of the link on the district's website which allows residents the opportunity to offer their input regarding the superintendent's search. Mrs. Thalen reported that there have already been many thoughtful responses to the questionnaire. She encouraged everyone to take advantage of this opportunity. Mrs. Thalen added that the search is well underway and advertisements have been placed in both *The New York Times* and *Education Week*. Applications will be accepted through February 18, 2005.
2. Mrs. Thalen explained that the Board has begun to work on the budget for the 2005-2006 school year. Several meetings have been set up for community input. She further explained that handouts, which list the dates for these meetings, were available in the back of the auditorium.
3. Mrs. Thalen reported that the Board would soon begin negotiating the teachers' contract and that the Board would like to go into the summer with a new superintendent hired and all open contracts settled. She added that the Board is anxious to begin negotiations with teachers. She assured everyone that any changes to the contract would be beneficial to the learning environment as well as fair to the teachers. All changes would be to improve the educational process and for the benefit of the students. The Board hopes to have the contract in place by the end of this school year.

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

- Two JAE students – Elizabeth Johannesen and Angelina Anzalone expressed their concerns regarding the quality and variety of school lunches in their building. The students said that they believed there should be a wider variety of nutritious lunches offered and that the quality of the food and milk should be examined.
- Mrs. Bonner asked what kind of foods they would like to see added to the menu and whether or not their concerns, especially with regard to the freshness of milk, were brought to anyone's attention in that building.
- The students said that they hadn't spoken to anyone in that building about the situation.
- Mrs. Thalen explained that if milk is being sold past its expiration date, the matter should immediately be brought to Mrs. Tvelia's attention. She asked the students if there was a Student Council in their building and if they had brought the matter to their attention to find a solution. She then suggested that this would be a good way for the students to learn about the political process.

- Mrs. Tvelia explained that there is a nutrition committee at the JAE that meets monthly with Mrs. Lynch-Dobert and the children (one child from each section). Mrs. Tvelia added that the committee has been meeting for the past three years and that students have an opportunity to choose or suggest different foods during these meetings. She further explained that each year a different grade level has the opportunity to be on the committee and that this year is the third grade's turn.
- Mrs. Johannesen said that the girls had a long list of examples of foods that were poorly or badly prepared. She said that she would like to see someone else review the lunchroom.
- Ms. Jeanne Sabo expressed her concern that there was a lack of communication with parents with regard to rumors pertaining to a security issue in the district.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that she believes the situation that Ms. Sabo was referring to involved one student and did not pose a threat to the entire student body. She believes that the administration did not want to alarm anyone.
- Mr. Caulfield explained that this was an isolated incident that pertained to one particular student and that at no time were any other students in jeopardy.
- Ms. Sabo said that she believes more than one incident occurred and that there was also a lockdown during the period of January 4 through January 10, 2005. Ms. Sabo said that she believes parents should be kept informed.
- Mrs. Johannesen asked if the doors were locked from the outside.
- Mrs. Thalen explained that during lock down drills, classroom doors and windows must be locked and all children must be inside a locked classroom. Doors are not locked from the outside.
- Mr. Caulfield explained that the incident was captured on the school's security cameras and that the perpetrator was identified.
- An unidentified member of the audience expressed her concerns regarding security issues and the fact that there aren't metal detectors in the buildings. She said that parents should be kept informed in order to warn their children what to look out for.
- Mrs. Bonner said that she feels very fortunate to have her son attend the high school. She added that as a parent and a board member, she feels that parents should be educating their children in safety all the time. She suggested that if parents had questions regarding security issues, they should call the building principal.
- Mr. Ken Troeller suggested that letters be sent home to parents whenever there is a security issue or a threat to students.
- Mrs. Thalen reiterated that this event did not pose a threat to any other students in the building. The situation involved a person with a vendetta against another student. A student opened a locked door to allow that person to enter into the building. The episode was recorded on the security camera. The intruders have been apprehended and are very unlikely to return.
- Mr. Troeller said that he believes communication with parents is still necessary.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that if a situation warrants notification to parents, it would be done. She believes that the response in this instance was appropriate.
- Mr. Steven Lagnena, a high school teacher and Rocky Point Teachers' Association representative expressed that he believes both the high school and central administration handled the incident properly and that teachers feel safe.
- As an example of the district's willingness to keep the community informed as necessary, Mrs. Thalen referred to the notification of a Level 3 sex offender residing in the district that was recently mailed home to every member of the community.
- Mr. Caulfield said that it would be necessary to send a letter home every day if that was the procedure every time there was a rumor. He assured everyone that if there were ever a time that he feels students are in jeopardy, he would surely make the community aware.

There were no further questions or comments. Mrs. Thalen explained that there would be another opportunity for discussion at the end of the regular meeting before the Board moved to Executive Session.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

William B. Caulfield, Principal – Rocky Point High School announced:

- The annual high school patriotic concert will be held on Thursday, February 3, 2005 at 7:30 PM.
- Set design and rehearsals continue for the spring musical, *Bye, Bye Birdie* and performances are scheduled for March 3, 4, and 5, 2005.
- Congratulations to the members of the Girls' Leaders' Club and the National Honor Society who along with several other high school clubs raised more than \$1,900 to help tsunami victims. Seniors and freshman raised the most money. A "chain of support" can be seen in the front lobby of the school signifying the dollar amount that has been raised by each class. Thanks also to senior Dawn Walker who attended a Civic Association meeting to request and was awarded a \$200 donation for this fundraiser.
- The Guidance Department has arranged on-site registration with several local colleges. Last week, over \$30,000 in scholarships was awarded by a Dowling admissions officer to five of our students, and six of our students have already received \$56,000 in scholarships to date from St. Joseph's.
- The health office is involved in an on-going food drive for 18 needy families from the high school. Everyone is pleased that these students feel comfortable coming forth, and their families are overwhelmed by the school's support.

Leonard Kies, Director of Athletics:

- Mr. Kies extended his best wishes to the boys' varsity basketball team on their upcoming game against Westhampton, and he congratulated them on their outstanding season. Mr. Kies also announced that a spectator bus would be provided for their game at Westhampton on Tuesday, February 1, 2005.
- Mr. Kies also congratulated high school senior, Caitlin Naylor, and presented her with a plaque for her record career goals as a soccer player at Rocky Point. Caitlin has had 83 career goals, 27 of which were from this past season. Caitlin was also named this year's League VI Player of the Year and will be attending the College of St. Rose, which is a League 2 school.

Joseph C. Centamore, Principal – Rocky Point Middle School announced:

- Dr. Centamore offered his congratulations to Caitlin Naylor on her athletic achievements.
- Middle school students received a touching thank you from Army Specialist Mike Tanner, who is currently serving in Iraq, for the letters and packages that were sent to the soldiers in his unit by the students.
- January has been a busy testing month for middle school students. Sixth and seventh grade students took Terra Novas and eighth grade students took the ELA exams on January 11 and 12, 2005. Eighth graders also took science practicals during January.
- The Student Government hosted a school-wide dance to raise funds for the victims of the tsunami disaster on January 21, 2005. Approximately \$2,000 was raised and donated to the Red Cross.
- The middle school will be hosting a "community astronomy night" on Thursday, February 3, 2005 before the patriotic concert beginning at 7:00 PM on the field behind the middle school.
- In closing, Dr. Centamore announced that the deadline for Lois Lowery submissions is February 18, 2005.

Carol Tvelia, Principal – Joseph A. Edgar School announced:

- Mr. Knapp will be taking thirteen fifth graders to perform in SCMEA's All County Festival later this spring.

- Meghan Viglione will be performing in Los Angeles this week at the National Conference of American Choral Directors. Meghan is one of five students from New York State that has been chosen for this honor.
- Fourth grade ELA exams will be administered on February 1, 2, and 3, 2005, and fifth graders will be taking Terra Novas during the week of February 14, 2005.
- One thousand dollars was collected and donated to UNICEF thanks to the generosity of JAE students, parents and staff for the children who were victims of the tsunami disaster.
- Best Buy awarded JAE teacher, Tanya Meehan, a \$2,000 grant for technology.
- Fourth and fifth grade students submitted an “I-Movie” to Stony Brook’s SCOPE Technology Fair in January and were awarded “Best in Show” for their public service announcement.
- The fifth grade DARE graduation was held on Friday, January 28, 2005.
- This month, students will be participating in Hoops and Jump Rope for Heart during their gym classes as part of American Heart Month.
- The JAE staff is looking forward to the annual JAE vs. FJC Volleyball fundraiser, which will be held on February 11, 2005 in the high school gym.
- Third grade students will have their first ever Valentine’s Day dance this year. The dance will be held during the school day.

Paul Read, Principal – Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School announced:

- Mr. Read offered his congratulations to Caitlin Naylor. Caitlin and her older sister, Stephanie, were former students of his.
- Mr. Read explained that FJC students celebrated the 91st day of the year today as part of the learning to count process. There will be a “One Hundred Day” celebration on February 11, 2005.
- A pirate theme has been decided upon for this year’s PTA PARP Program, and in conjunction with the program, the PTA sponsored Book Fair will be held this week.
- The annual and ever-popular PTA pancake breakfast will take place on Saturday, February 5, 2005.
- Mr. Read and the FJC staff are also looking forward the annual JAE vs. FJC volleyball game.
- Students at FJC raised over \$1,000 for the tsunami victims by selling “lolly-grams” for Valentine’s Day. Each lolly gram cost ten cents and over 1,500 were sold.
- To date, 197 children have been registered for kindergarten for the 2005-2006 school year, and we can expect approximately 300 children in total to be enrolled in kindergarten next year.

PRESENTATION BY SUSAN WILSON ON ROCKY POINT CAREER ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP (CAP)

Mrs. D’Ambrosio explained how discussions during the last few years with other administrators on the subject of how children need to see a relationship between what is learned in the classroom and how it will be relevant to their careers led to the development of the CAP Program (the Rocky Point Career Advisory Partnership). A kick-off meeting was held on November 20, 2004 with representatives from over 20 local businesses in attendance. Mrs. D’Ambrosio introduced high school teacher and CAP advisor, Mrs. Susan Wilson, to present an overview of the program.

Mrs. Wilson explained that too many students leave high school without the occupational and academic skills necessary to succeed in the workplace or in college. In view of this, CAP was established as a school-to-work initiative that will work in conjunction with the Long Island Works Coalition to identify the critical skills that are or will be in demand in the future by area employers and to develop training and education to ensure that Long Island has a properly qualified workforce.

Mrs. Wilson introduced CAP member and high school student, Taron Clark, who explained that several activities were planned for this year including workshops and a

career power brunch, which will be held on April 20, 2005 at East Wind in Wading River.

Mrs. Wilson announced that long-term goals include developing an integrated curriculum, work-based learning opportunities, and providing professional development activities. This will be accomplished by working with business, industry, and the community. CAP has many active members in the community and she mentioned that a list of these members was included in a handout that was available in the back of the auditorium. She explained that there is no cost to the district since the program is funded entirely by the business members. Mrs. Wilson added that many area businesses are sponsoring tables for their brunch on April 20, 2005.

Mrs. Wilson asked if there were any questions pertaining to the presentation:

- Mr. Sanseverino inquired if CAP was open to all grade levels at the high school.
- Mrs. Wilson replied that CAP is currently open to eleventh and twelfth grade students. There will be a discussion at their next meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2005, on whether to include tenth grade students as well. Mrs. Wilson believes once the program evolves, all grades will be involved.
- Ms. Carolyn Reynen asked if events were during school or after school. Mrs. Wilson replied that events could occur both during and after school. The students will be bused to the brunch at East Wind. The meetings are held after school and are open to the public. Meeting dates and times can be found on the CAP website.

There were no further questions regarding CAP. Mrs. Thalen reminded everyone that any other questions would be taken at the end of the regular meeting.

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 20, 2004 and Special Meeting, January 19, 2005**. 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 months of **November and December 2004** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

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 months of **November and December 2004** 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 accept the Financial Reports for the months of **November and December 2004** 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 attached list. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

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.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that this change order is a reduction of \$10,000, which had been set aside for possible complications for underground electrical work that fortunately did not arise. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Thalen explained that policy revisions must be read and voted on two separate occasions.

POLICY REVISION – #7130 – SCHOOL ADMISSIONS AND RESIDENCY (1ST READING)

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

The significant changes: Kindergarten entrance from being five (5) years old on December 1st to being five (5) years old on September 1st and proof of residence. This policy needs to be moved and voted on affirmatively at two successive meetings of the Board of Education.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that this change was a result of input from teachers, administrators and parents who feel that younger kindergarteners are not ready to face a full day of kindergarten. Mrs. Johannesen asked how this change would be publicized. Mrs. Thalen replied that it would not take effect until September 2006 and that it would be publicized in the school newsletter, on the calendar, and on the district's website. Mrs. Johannesen suggested that area nursery schools be notified, as well as the North Shore Public Library. Mr. Read added that many developmental issues were considered in this decision, and that many districts use August 1st as a cut-off date. An unidentified member of the audience asked when the second reading would take place. Mrs. Thalen replied that it would be at the next regular Board meeting on February 28, 2005. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

POLICY REVISION - #8450 – HOME TUTORING (TEMPORARY INSTRUCTION) (1ST READING)

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

The amendment to this policy formalizes our current practice. This policy needs to be moved and voted on affirmatively at two successive meetings of the Board of Education.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen announced that copies of this revision would be available on the district's website as well as in each district building tomorrow. She explained that the policy already exists. This amendment merely formalizes the requirements so that everyone will be aware of them. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

DONATION OF AN UPRIGHT PIANO

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 the donation of a upright piano to the Music Department of the Rocky Point School District from Ms. Stoller.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Gerardi reported that it is his understanding that the piano is in excellent condition. Mrs. Thalen thanked Ms. Stoller for her generous donation. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT LEASE BETWEEN THE ROCKY POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND NORTH SHORE YOUTH COUNCIL

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 authorize the President to enter into a contract between the Rocky Point School District and the North Shore Youth Council, for the purpose of leasing portable units on the grounds of the Joseph A. Edgar School.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that the district is renewing a relationship that already exists between the district and the North Shore Youth Council, which provides many excellent services to students and their families. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

ROCKY POINT CAREER ADVISORY PARTNERSHIP (CAP)

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 approve the Rocky Point Career Advisory Partnership (CAP).

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that this resolution was to formally approve the program, and she publicly thanked Mrs. Wilson and everyone who was involved in the creation of the program for all of their hard work. There was no further discussion. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 1-31-05-A and 1-31-05-B. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

PERSONNEL

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 accept the attached Personnel changes. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Thalen introduced Michael Ivanoff, the district's School Business Official, to speak about the 2005 – 2006 Budget.

Mr. Ivanoff announced that a handout was available at the back of the auditorium that provided a list of upcoming meetings where the community would have an opportunity to provide input. Mr. Ivanoff explained that several factors would have an impact on the budget including No Child Left Behind Act mandates, remediation, staff mentoring, an increase in special education enrollment, employee contractual increases, possible increases in TRS/ERS, disability and health insurance premiums, transportation costs, etc. Mr. Ivanoff invited everyone to the first public budget meeting, which has been scheduled for Monday evening, February 7, 2005.

Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any other questions or comments before the Board moved to Executive Session:

- Mr. Jeff Davis of the President of the Rocky Point Rotary and Chairman of the CDC announced that together with the high school's Interact Club, 200 surplus books were collected and shipped to very grateful school children in Russia. The Rotary's 100th Anniversary Centennial Celebration will be held at the East Wind in Wading River on March 19, 2005 and a community fundraiser for scholarships will be held on May 26, 2005 at Majestic Gardens. Mr. Davis congratulated Mrs. Pat Sparks who was recently honored by the Times Beacon Newspaper as the Times Beacon Record's Good Neighbor of the Year for 2004 for her support of Rocky Point students and the community.

There were no further questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:46 PM a motion was made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Howard Gimple for the Board to go into executive session to discuss particular personnel matters. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Pedota
District Clerk

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:01 PM a motion was made by Michael Matera and seconded by Jane Bonner for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Gerardi
Superintendent of Schools