

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2007**

Mrs. Thalen called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President
Joseph Sanseverino, Vice-President
Edward Darcey, Trustee
Michael Matera, Trustee
Margaret Smith, Trustee
Carla L. D'Ambrosio, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
Sherry J. Alessandro, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources/Administration
Michael W. Ivanoff, Director of Finance and Operations
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

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

- Ms. Janet Young, parent of a varsity cheerleader, read from a prepared statement. Ms. Young addressed the issue of the cheerleaders' ability to attend the National Cheerleading Championship competition to be held in Orlando, Florida during the 2007-2008 school year. Ms. Young highlighted past accomplishments of the cheerleaders and complimented Ms. Anna Spallina, varsity cheerleading coach, for her role as a true inspiration for the student-athletes. Ms. Young concluded her comments by expressing her desire for the Board of Education to allow the cheerleaders to travel to Orlando in order to compete in the NCA Finals in the 2007-2008 school year. Mrs. Thalen thanked Ms. Young for her comments.
- Lenee Passiglia, a graduate of the Rocky Point UFSD class of 2005 and currently a student at Hofstra University, read from a prepared statement. She spoke in support of the cheerleaders' attendance at the NCA Finals this year. Ms. Passiglia thanked the members of the Board of Education for permitting her to speak at the meeting. Mrs. Thalen thanked Ms. Passiglia for her comments.
- Mrs. Thalen announced that there was no resolution slated for this evening's agenda concerning permission for the cheerleading squad to travel to Orlando, Florida in connection with the NCA Competition during the 2007-2008 school year. Ms. Young inquired if the community would be advised as to when this particular issue would be presented before the board for its consideration. Mrs. Thalen assured Ms. Young that notification of this issue would absolutely be provided to the community via publication of the agenda on the district website.

There were no further comments or questions. Mrs. Thalen reminded the audience that there would be another opportunity, at the end of the meeting, for any other questions or comments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. D'Ambrosio advised that each of the buildings was in "high-gear" with regard to readiness for the start of the 2007-2008 school year. Dr. D'Ambrosio announced that the FJC and JAE schools held socials for their students in order to assist them with the transition from one building to the other. Dr. D'Ambrosio discussed the grant-funded Universal Pre-K program for children three years of age. She thanked the members of her staff for all their hard work in making the program a reality. Dr. D'Ambrosio announced that there would be an orientation held on Friday, September 7th, 2007, for those students and their parents who were accepted into the program. Mrs. Thalen thanked Dr. D'Ambrosio for her report.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education meetings be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, June 25, 2007, Audit Committee Meeting, June 25, 2007, Organizational Meeting, July 2, 2007, Special Meeting, July 27, 2007 and Special Meeting July 31, 2007.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Report for the month of May 2007 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Reports for the month of May 2007 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of May 2007 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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 awards bid #08-02 Athletic, PE Uniforms and Supplies and bid #08-03 Athletic, PE First Aid Supplies to the lowest responsible bidders as follows:

Athletic Uniform Bid Summary:

Passon's Sports	3,492.68
Port Jeff Sports	27,064.42

Athletic Supply Bid Summary:

Passon's Sports	9,819.84
Port Jeff Sports	13,036.29
ARC Sports	5,943.30
Greg Larson Sports	12,209.71

Athletic First Aid Supply Bid Summary:

Henry Schien, Inc.	4,959.54
MacGill	3,372.02
School Nurse Supply	3,889.10
Moore Medical	2,797.06
School Health Corp.	4,524.70

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Margaret Smith, 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 \$1,000 scholarship from the Suffolk Association of School Business Officials.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Ivanoff if this scholarship was for the 2007-2008 school year. Mr. Ivanoff responded that the scholarship was awarded during the 2006-2007 school year.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approves the donation of the attached itemized list of books to the Hope Children's Fund, Ltd. in Kenya, Africa.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey 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 adopts the following resolution from Commerce Bank:

WHEREAS, the Rocky Point UFSD proposes to execute its checks by means of a mechanical check signer:

RESOLVED, that Rocky Point UFSD hereby authorizes and directs Commerce Bank to accept and pay out of the monies on deposit with said Bank to the credit of Rocky Point UFSD and any and all checks drawn upon said Bank in the name of Rocky Point UFSD bearing the facsimile signature(s) of its officer(s) now or hereafter authorized to sign checks on behalf of Rocky Point UFSD, no matter by whom or how said facsimile signature(s) shall have been impressed thereon, the said facsimile signature(s) to be in the form of a specimen furnished to said Bank.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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 appoint Michael W. Ivanoff as Records Access Officer for the 2007-2008 school year.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Margaret Smith, 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 as per the attached schedule.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that three Rocky Point student-athletes will be in partnership with the Port Jefferson UFSD Gymnastic Team: The terms and conditions to be approved by both school districts: Total fees not to exceed \$3,200.00.

Mrs. Thalen extended her best wishes for good luck to the girls competing in this sport.
All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Schools, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, establishes a Universal Pre-K

program and accepts the funds to do so in accordance with Section 3602-e of the Education Law and the Commissioner's Regulations.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino asked how many slots were available for this program. Mrs. Thalen requested that Scott O'Brien, principal of the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School, respond. Mr. O'Brien stated that there were thirty-six slots available and that there were ninety-seven applicants for said slots. Mr. O'Brien explained that participating students must be four years of age by December 1, 2007, in order to participate. Mrs. Thalen commended Dr. D'Ambrosio and the members of her staff for researching such a program for the students of the Rocky Point School District and thanked all involved for their hard work and dedication in making such a program available to the students of the Rocky Point UFSD.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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 adopts the Special Education District Plan 2007-2009 as attached hereto.

Mrs. Thalen announced that said plan would be available in each of the buildings and the district office for interested parties to review.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education adopts the Medical Services Handbook.

Mrs. Thalen announced that a copy of said handbook would be available in each of the buildings and the district office for all interested parties to review.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education adopts the District Technology Plan for the 2007-2008 school year.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen commented that the area of technology is an area that is consistently growing and changing and that in order to keep up with such growth, the district must "run fast" to remain on par with such strides. Mrs. Thalen thanked the members of the committee for putting together this plan.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey 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 approves William B. Caulfield to serve as an additional Title IX Coordinator for the 2007-2008 school year.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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 approves the appointment of Stacy F. Lasurdo as a Parent Member to the Committee on 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 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Margaret Smith, 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 8-27-07-A and Schedule 8-27-07- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the terms and conditions of an agreement extending Dr. Carla D'Ambrosio's employment as Superintendent of Schools through June 2010 and authorizes Geraldine Thalen, as President, to execute such agreement.

Mrs. Thalen extended her congratulations and appreciation to Dr. D'Ambrosio for her commitment and dedication to the students of the Rocky Point UFSD. Mrs. Thalen announced that the district will remain stable and continue to move forward under the direction and leadership of Dr. Carla D'Ambrosio.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey 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 accepts the attached personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Mrs. Thalen opened the floor to those in attendance for any questions or comments before the Board's recess to Executive Session:

- Mrs. Johannesen, in reference to the wording contained in one of the bid items on the evening's agenda, asked if intramural uniforms currently existed, and, if not, would they be provided. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Kies to respond to this question. Mr. Len Kies advised that at the present time, there were no uniforms for intramurals. Mrs. Johannesen asked about intramurals for sixth graders. Mr. Kies responded that Touch Football would be offered in the spring. Mrs. Johannesen responded by questioning what would be offered to the girls.
- Lisa Sanchez identified herself as the mother of one of the girls who will be participating as an individual gymnastic competitor. Ms. Sanchez stated that information pertaining to this program was limited and asked if more detailed information could be provided. Mrs. Thalen explained that the Board of Education has approved the participation of the three Rocky Point student-athletes as individual competitors; however, there are "glitches" which must still be worked out.
- Valerie Kelly asked why art classes were reduced in the seventh grade program. Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that the reduction in art classes for seven graders was a result of problems with scheduling and that Rocky Point does not have a nine-period day. AIS demands interfered with the art classes. As a result, the extra art classes were relegated to the elementary level. Dr. D'Ambrosio assured Ms. Kelly that art classes have been scheduled for the required number of credits. Ms. Kelly asked Dr. D'Ambrosio to expand on the topic of a nine-period day. Dr. D'Ambrosio responded by saying that a nine-period day comes with a great cost to the district, i.e., approximately one-half million dollars to go from an eight-period day to a nine-period day.
- Mrs. Johannesen asked Mrs. Thalen when the items to be reviewed at the monthly Board of Education meetings would be available to the public. The clerk announced that the public agenda is available on the district website on the Friday afternoon prior to the scheduled Monday evening meetings. Mrs. Thalen mentioned that Mrs. Johannesen brought up an important topic. Mrs. Thalen explained that there is no law that states that community members must be allowed to speak at said meetings. Mrs. Thalen said that it is important to the Board of Education members that people have the opportunity to speak and express their concerns at the Rocky Point board meetings and that public comment is always welcome. Such comments reflect the passion of the people, and, as a result, the board members will continue to conduct board meetings in this manner. Mrs. Thalen thanked Mrs. Johannesen for bringing this matter to light.
- Ms. Young returned to the microphone to thank the board members for allowing her to speak on behalf of the cheerleaders. Ms. Young asked Mrs. Thalen if there was anything else she could do to persuade the board members to allow the

cheerleaders to travel to Orlando, Florida next year. Mrs. Thalen responded that Ms. Young and the cheerleaders did quite a bit of persuading at this meeting; however, there were other issues that must be addressed before a decision could be rendered.

- Doreen Buckley stated that her daughter is entering RPHS in September and that she does not have a lunch period scheduled each day of the week. Mrs. Thalen suggested that Ms. Buckley speak with the building principal concerning this matter. Mr. Caulfield, principal of the Rocky Point High School, was in the audience and advised Ms. Buckley that it is common practice for those students who do not have a lunch period scheduled everyday to eat their lunch at an assigned period in a classroom.
- Christine Guido expressed her thanks and appreciation to the principal and assistant principal of the RPMS for volunteering their time and talent in erecting the stone sign in front of the building. Continuing, Ms. Guido mentioned that opportunities for academic extra-help were only being offered to students two days per week. Mrs. Guido commented that this was not enough. Mrs. Thalen responded that the amount of time offered was the required amount, however, teachers could stay on their own time and that this decision was up to the individual teacher. Mrs. Guido stated that it was necessary for her to hire a math tutor for her child due to the lack of extra-help offered by her child's teacher. Mrs. Thalen responded that the issue was between the student and the teacher. Mrs. Thalen suggested that parents contact the teacher directly to see if extra-help sessions, beyond those required, are available. Mrs. Thalen thanked Ms. Guido for presenting her individual perspective on this matter.
- Steven Lagnena, president of the Rocky Point Teachers' Association, requested the opportunity to clarify the extra-help issue. Mr. Lagnena stated that prior to two years ago, many teachers stayed for extra-help. Since that time, there have been changes in how things are "being run."
- Melanie Connelly thanked the administrators of the middle school for their hard work on the Middle School sign during the extremely warm days of summer. Ms. Connelly continued by asking how students were selected for scholarships and if there was a specific procedure that was followed. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Caulfield if he would respond to Ms. Connelly's question. Mr. Caulfield stated that the awarding of scholarships did involve specific criteria. He advised that the criteria may differ depending upon the specific scholarship being awarded, i.e., the involvement of a scholarship committee.

There was no further discussion. Mrs. Thalen wished everyone good luck upon the opening of school and extended her best wishes for a successful 2007-2008 school year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:25 PM a motion was made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Michael Matera to go into Executive Session to discuss particular personnel matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk

The Board of Education returned to Open Session at 9:25 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 PM a motion was made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Carla L. D' Ambrosio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

