

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 24, 2008

Members Present:

Joseph Sanseverino
Margaret Smith
Edward Darcey
Diane Burke
Michael Nofi

Also Present:

Carla L. D'Ambrosio, Ed.D.
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D.
David Pearl, Esq.

At 6:15 PM a regular public meeting of the Board of Education was called to order in the social studies office of the Rocky Point High School by Mr. Sanseverino.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:20 PM a motion was made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss particular personnel matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

At 7:00 PM a motion was made by Michael Nofi and seconded by Diane Burke to end Executive Session and re-convene to Open Session in the auditorium of the high school.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Sanseverino called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Joseph Sanseverino, President
 Margaret Smith, Vice President
 Edward Darcey, Trustee
 Diane Burke, Trustee
 Michael Nofi, Trustee
 Carla L. D'Ambrosio Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
 Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for Finance/Operations
 Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: Sherry J. Alessandro, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for HR/Administration

Mr. Sanseverino requested a moment of silence with reference to the death of Rocky Point High School student, Sean Johns. Following the moment of silence, Mr. Sanseverino, on behalf of the entire school board, administration, faculty and staff of Rocky Point Schools, extended sincere condolences to the family of Sean Johns.

Mr. Sanseverino introduced Peter Rodriguez, CPA, Coughlin Foundatos Cullen & Danowski, LLP. Mr. Rodriguez informed the meeting attendees that his firm was one of three auditing firms employed by the Rocky Point School District and that his firm was responsible for performing the functions of external auditor. Following a detailed explanation of his role as an external auditor for the district and the numerous functions provided by his firm, Mr. Rodriguez noted that the Rocky Point UFSD was given a grade of “unqualified opinion,” the highest opinion awarded among the possible designated gradings. In addition, Mr. Rodriguez affirmed that all reports issued by Coughlin Foundatos Cullen & Danowski were very positive with no instances of non-compliance or any material weaknesses noted.

Mr. Sanseverino thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his report and asked if any of the board members or meeting attendees had any questions for Mr. Rodriguez. There were no questions for Mr. Rodriguez.

Mr. Sanseverino opened the floor to general questions and/or comments from members of the audience.

- Ms. Charlene LaCascia, on behalf of the Friends of Music, expressed gratitude to Amy Schecher and Sara Ruggiero for raising \$2,773 through the Rocky Point Idol music competition. Ms. LaCascia noted that the raised funds would help provide instruments and band uniforms for the music program.
- Mr. Chris Pinkenburg identified himself as the parent of a third grade student. Mr. Pinkenburg expressed his concerns that his child had not brought home from school any textbooks, only dittos. Dr. D’Ambrosio suggested that Mr. Pinkenburg make an appointment with his child’s teacher and/or the building principal in order to discuss transporting textbooks to and from school.
- Melanie Connelly, identifying herself as a taxpayer and citizen of the United States and not as an employee or union member of the Rocky Point UFSD, read from a prepared statement. Ms. Connelly noted that the district presented, for the benefit of students, several assemblies addressing bullying. Ms. Connelly stated that following statements she made at the Board of Education meeting of October 27th, 2008, she was followed out of the meeting by a school district official and reprimanded for those statements. Ms. Connelly equated this encounter with bullying.
- Mr. Joseph Feldman identified himself as a parent with three children attending classes in the district. Mr. Feldman, noting the current economic climate, asked if the district had any provisions and/or preparations currently in place to deal with a possible impending financial crisis. Dr. D’Ambrosio responded that the district was in the process of implementing several pro-active measures and would be better able to assess the financial situation within the next few weeks.

- Mr. Feldman noted that additional housing was being built behind McDonald's on 25A in Rocky Point. Mr. Feldman questioned the financial impact such housing might impose upon the school district. Mr. Sanseverino remarked that the homes being built were part of a 55+ Planned Retirement Community. Both Mr. Sanseverino and Mrs. Burke agreed that such a retirement community would be "cash positive" for the Rocky Point School District.
- Mrs. Johannesen extended her congratulations to and expressed her pride of the varsity cheerleading team upon winning the Northeast Regional Cheerleading Championship.

There were no further questions and/or comments. Mr. Sanseverino reminded those in attendance of the opportunity to speak again at the end of the meeting.

PRESENTATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE – GRADES 9-12

Mr. William B. Caulfield, principal, Rocky Point High School, introduced a PowerPoint presentation overview of the academic performance for grades 9 through 12. Mr. Caulfield introduced Mr. Michael Gabriel, Math/Science/Technology Coordinator and Ms. Annette Sclafani, Director of Student Services. Mr. Gabriel provided an overview of the specific mathematics and science statistics for grades 9 through 12 encompassing a three year period. Ms. Sclafani provided both specific graduation data and class profiles for the past three years. At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. D'Ambrosio expressed her gratitude to the teachers and administrators of the district for their dedication to the students of Rocky Point Schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Carol Tvelia, principal, Joseph A. Edgar School

- The annual Veterans Day Assembly was well-attended. Veterans donated two flags to the JAE building. Ms. Tvelia will request the approval of the Board of Education to display these flags during special occasions/assemblies.
- The Winter Concert will be held on December 9th at the high school at 7 PM.
- The High Notes will perform on December 17th at JAE.
- The Mystery Reader is scheduled for December 17th at JAE.
- Students will be writing letters to our soldiers.

Dr. Scott O'Brien, principal, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School

- Thanks to the PTA and FJC school community for contributions to the Boxtops drive that resulted in FJC receiving a new sign outside the main entrance to the building.
- Community support programs include the food drive in October and Toys for Tots drive in November. In December, winter hats, mittens and scarves will be collected and donated to those in need. The FJC staff will once again hold the annual Angel event wherein staff members adopt families in the community during the holiday.

- Three FJC teachers have been named winners of the 2008-2009 Mesttract Grant Awards. Each teacher will receive a \$1500 grant: ESL teacher Nicole Fernandez, Technology Integration Specialist Jennifer Meschi, and reading teacher Ann Castro-Crowell. Dr. O'Brien extended his congratulations to each of the grant recipients.
- The nearly two hundred member second grade chorus, under the direction of Ms. Kyra Kenwood, will perform on December 4th in the high school auditorium.
- Lee Knight will perform for all students at FJC on December 5th. Through her interactive Books Alive performances, familiar book titles come alive with music and student participation.
- Kindergarten Family Literacy Night, sponsored by the PTA, will be held on December 10th at 6:30 PM. The event's goal is to inspire a love for reading. The PTA will provide winter treats and everyone is invited to wear pajamas.

Mr. William B. Caulfield, interim principal, Rocky Point Middle School:

- The sixth grade dance was held and deemed to be "quite an event."
- The seventh/eighth grade dance was a success and was comprised of the "best behaved" students of the Rocky Point Middle School. Mr. Caulfield extended his gratitude to both Mr. Tapler and Mr. Moeller for their contributions in ensuring this successful endeavor.
- Sixty-seven students were inducted into the Junior National Honor Society. Mr. Caulfield extended his congratulations to the students and their parents for this great achievement.
- Mr. Caulfield thanked the faculty and staff of the Rocky Point Middle School for welcoming him as the interim principal.

Mr. William B. Caulfield, principal, Rocky Point High School:

- Mr. Caulfield praised all teachers, from the elementary school to the high school, for their contributions to the district-wide academic success of our students.
- Mr. Caulfield thanked Mrs. Annette Sclafani and her staff for a job well done in assisting twenty needy families during the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Mr. Caulfield acknowledged and addressed the death of one Rocky Point High School student and the near-death of another. During this extremely difficult time, the guidance staff, particularly Mr. Michael Conlon, guidance counselor for both of these students, assisted the families and many members of the student body tremendously. Mr. Caulfield commended the teachers and staff for their ability to maintain the smooth operation of the building throughout this tragedy and near-tragedy.

Mr. Sanseverino thanked the principals for their respective reports. In acknowledgement of what he referred to as a "rough couple of weeks," Mr. Sanseverino expressed his gratitude to the administration, teachers, staff and students and voiced his opinion that the district had "much to be proud of."

MINUTES

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education meetings be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, October 27, 2008, Audit Committee Meeting, October 27, 2008, Executive Session Meeting, October 31, 2008, Policy Workshop Meeting, November 10, 2008.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TREASURER’S REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer’s Report for the month of September 2008 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

Upon a motion made by Michael Nofi and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of September 2008 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of September 2008 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Following the vote, Mr. Sanseverino announced the board members wished to update community members concerning circumstances surrounding state reimbursement for a 1999 bond. Mr. Sanseverino disclosed that it was only recently brought to his attention that due to an error, the required report was not submitted to the state in a timely manner in order to receive the monetary reimbursement due the school district. Mr. Sanseverino advised both Senator LaValle and Assemblyman Alessi would introduce legislation for an extension of this state aid. Mr. Sanseverino assured that the board would keep the community apprised of this matter. Mrs. Burke commented that the legislation being introduced was to forgive the missed deadline and will cover approximately 2.4 million dollars over a twenty year period. Mrs. Burke indicated that once the paperwork was resubmitted, the state aid would be reinstated. Mr. Sanseverino encouraged anyone with additional questions concerning this matter to contact Dr. Ring.

There was no further discussion.

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2008

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, the Board of Education accepts the September 2008 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – OCTOBER 2008

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

Upon a motion made by Michael Nofi and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the revised Audit Committee Charter, as attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino introduced Mr. Michael Nofi as the chairperson of the Audit Committee. Mr. Nofi indicated that only minor changes, including minor wording changes, were contained in the revised charter, along with the addition of three community members to the original five board members for a total of eight members on the committee.

There was no further discussion.

2009-2010 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the 2009-2010 Budget Development Calendar as attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino noted that the calendar will be available on the Rocky Point website for review. The first meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2009 and all community residents are invited and encouraged to attend the meetings.

CONTRACT FOR FLEXIBLE SPENDING ADMINISTRATION – 2008/2009

SCHOOL YEAR

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, the Board of Education authorizes the purchasing agent to enter into a contract with J.J. Stanis and Company, Inc. for Flexible Spending Administration services for the 2008-2009 school year, per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino asked Dr. Ring to provide a brief overview of the flexible spending plan. Dr. Ring explained that participation in this plan benefits financially both the school district and the employee enrolled. Enrollment in this plan provides monies to be deferred for both childcare and medical care expenses and includes tax advantages, as well.

There was no further discussion.

APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NYSUT MEMBER BENEFIT TRUST-ENDORSED GROUP DENTAL INSURANCE PROGRAM

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the purchasing agent to enter into an agreement for participation in the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-Endorsed Group Dental Insurance Program offered through Delta Dental of New York, for the two year period beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2010, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino asked Dr. Ring to comment on the district's participation in this plan. Dr. Ring advised that although the district sponsors this plan, the dental plan is paid for solely by the employees enrolled.

There was no further discussion.

403(B) RETIREMENT PLAN ADOPTION

Upon a motion made by Michael Nofi and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the Rocky Point Union Free School District 403(b) Retirement Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute all necessary documents in order to effectuate the adoption of the Rocky Point Union Free School District 403(b) Retirement Plan.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino asked Dr. Ring to comment. Dr. Ring advised that the Internal Revenue Service determined that the school district must specifically set out particulars of the plan and how the plan will be instituted.

There was no further discussion.

457 COMPENSATION PLAN ADOPTION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education to certify the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan adoption resolution, as heretofore approved by the Board of Education

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino asked Dr. Ring to comment. Dr. Ring advised that the 457 Compensation Plan is a plan that does not cost any monies to the district. Employees enrolled in this plan may avoid paying taxes until such time as they are no longer members of the plan. Furthermore, participation in this plan fulfills contractual obligations with school district administrators.

There was no further discussion.

**BOND ISSUE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND EXCEL AID PROJECT
CHANGE ORDER #1 SED: 58-02-09-02-0-001-010**

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, the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools to execute Change Order #1 to capital project 0001-010 and the Change Order Certification, respectively, with reference to the Bond Issue related project.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TARGET DONATIONS TO DISTRICT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and accepts the donations from Target:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Take Charge of Education – HS | \$414.54 |
| Take Charge of Education – HS | \$247.33 |

Take Charge of Education – HS \$268.52

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District hereby approves, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to increase the general fund budget by \$930.39 as a result of the donations from Target.

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

A 2110 500 03 0000 \$930.39

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

LANDSCAPING DONATION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Upon a motion made by Michael Nofi and seconded by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation of landscaping services from Great Outdoors Design Corp. valued at \$450.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino indicated that the landscaping services would be used specifically to spruce up the area around the Rocky Point Middle School marquee. Mr. Sanseverino, on behalf of the school board, thanked Mr. Robert Mindlin for this generous donation and his time and services.

DONATION – OHIOPYLE PRINTS, INC.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and accepts the donation from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc. in the amount of \$49.72.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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, the Board of Education votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 11-24-08-A and Schedule 11-24-08- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Michael Nofi, 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 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino asked if there were any questions or comments from the members of the audience before the meeting was adjourned. There were none. Mr. Sanseverino extended his best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving holiday to all.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 PM, a motion was made by Diane Burke and seconded by Margaret Smith, for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk

