

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 23, 2009

Mr. Sanseverino called the meeting to order at 7:43 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
Sherry J. Alessandro, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for HR/Administration
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for Finance and Operations
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

Following his welcoming remarks to those in attendance, Mr. Sanseverino announced that the meeting would begin with a budget overview presentation. Dr. D'Ambrosio reported that the preparation of the budget overview was a "daunting task" and explained the many details surrounding the budget process as a whole. Dr. D'Ambrosio stressed that prudent spending was a necessity and the guiding principle in order to maintain budget goals. Dr. Michael Ring was invited to the podium in order to begin the budget overview PowerPoint presentation.

Following the slide presentation, Dr. Ring opened the floor to questions.

- Ms. Renee McDonald expressed her concerns surrounding the decision to hold the 2009-2010 pre-K program out-of-district, the possibility of increasing class size, and the ramifications of losing support staff personnel.
- Mr. Al Longman inquired about the possibility of high school students utilizing internet and/or "distance learning" and the benefits of such programs. Dr. D'Ambrosio responded that the New York State Education Department does not recognize programs of this kind at the present time. Mr. Longman noted that utilization of such programs would be cost-effective for the district by eliminating monetary compensation for staff members. Dr. D'Ambrosio responded that all acceptable/accredited educational programs would be reviewed and assessed by the district.
- Mr. Longman mentioned the possible stimulus package advantages surrounding energy costs. Dr. D'Ambrosio assured Mr. Longman that some energy cost initiatives are currently in place throughout the district. Additionally, Dr. Ring confirmed the district's willing participation in any cost-saving programs initiated by Governor Paterson.

- Mr. Longman asked if the district could apply for any federal government grants in addition to state grants. Dr. Ring responded that he was not aware of any federal programs being offered at the present time.
- Mr. Anthony Scotto questioned the minimal amount of administrative cuts to the budget presented in the budget overview. Dr. D'Ambrosio responded that two administrative positions were eliminated. Dr. Ring noted that there was a corresponding 3.75% reduction in administrative positions resulting in a 9% reduction in administrative salaries.

There were no further questions and/or comments. Mr. Sanseverino stated that there would be another opportunity at the end of the meeting for questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- Rocky Point High School senior, Amelia Kelly, placed first at the Level Five French examination in the Suffolk County High School French Poetry Contest. Participating students were judged on memorization, pronunciation, intonation, and interpretation of the poem.
- The National Honor Society, Math Honor Society and Drama Club students will be hosting the 3rd Annual Variety Show and Chinese Auction. This event will raise money for The Kids in Need Fund, assisting needy families in the Rocky Point community. The event will be held on Friday, April 24th at 7 PM in the high school auditorium.
- Third quarter progress reports were mailed out on Friday, March 20th.
- The third annual *Challenge Day* program will take place on March 31st, 2009.
- On Wednesday, March 25th, at 7 PM in the high school auditorium, the Middle School will begin hosting dramatic performances of Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka Junior*.

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

- On April 2nd, 2009, Mr. Knapp will begin performances of the spring musical production.
- Approximately 125 seniors were in attendance at the annual Senior Citizens St. Patrick's Day Breakfast.
- Ms. Amoscato and Mr. Camarda raised more than \$5,800 for the American Heart Association during the Jump Rope for Heart Health program.
- The Mini-Relay for Life has been scheduled at JAE for May 1, 2009. All third through fifth grade students and their parents are invited to take part in this event to raise money for the fight against cancer.
- Third grade students will once again experience the hatching of baby chickens and butterflies following spring recess.
- A representative from the Long Island Farm Bureau will speak to fourth graders about the process of food going from the farm to the market.

- Fourth grade students visited the Brookhaven National Lab.
- Ms. Monique Safina was awarded a Mesttract grant.

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

- The third annual science fair was held this week. More than one hundred and fifty students in grades kindergarten through second grade participated. Two students from each grade level will be taking their winning FJC science projects and representing Rocky Point Schools at the Brookhaven National Laboratory Science Fair on May 2nd, 2009.
- The following students were recognized and congratulated for their very special achievements: Briana O'Connor from Ms. Eberle's second grade class; Sarah Taylor from Ms. Ferraro's second grade class; JohnHenry Dryoff from Ms. Pilkington-Kaler's first grade class; Madison Gennaro from Mr. Costa's first grade class; Benjamin Gansle from Ms. Colamussi's kindergarten class; Fiona McEvoy from Ms. Ritchie's kindergarten class.

Dr. D'Ambrosio announced that school board president Joseph Sanseverino was presented with the SCOPE School Board Service Award. This award is presented only to distinguished individuals in the field of education. Dr. D'Ambrosio congratulated Mr. Sanseverino on this significant accomplishment. Dr. D'Ambrosio also announced that school-related professional association member Mary Ann Jayne was presented with the SCOPE Support Staff Service Award. Dr. D'Ambrosio extended her sincere congratulations to Ms. Jayne upon her recognition for this prestigious award and thanked her for her dedicated service to the students of Rocky Point Schools.

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 Meeting be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, February 23, 2009.**

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 Reports for the month of January 2009 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 Reports for the month of January 2009 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 Report for the month of January 2009 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2009

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 January 2009 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2009

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 February 2009 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

INTERNAL AUDIT SCHEDULE MODIFICATION

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 authorizes the district's internal auditor, Nawrocki, Smith, LLP, to modify the district's internal audit schedule in order to allow for an assessment of the district's administrative operations.

Mr. Sanseverino noted that this resolution concerned an internal review of the administrative staff and the overall administration functions at no additional cost to the district.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

WAMU DONATIONS TO DISTRICT

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 donations from Washington Mutual.

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 \$158.52 as a result of the donation from Washington Mutual.

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

A 2110 500 03 0000	\$101.58
A 2110 500 02 0000	\$ 56.94

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino extended his gratitude to Washington Mutual for the donations.

TARGET DONATIONS TO DISTRICT

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 approves and accepts the donations from Target.

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 \$627.33 as a result of the donations from Target.

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

A 2110 500 03 0000	\$441.52
A 2110 500 02 0000	\$185.81

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino thanked Target and those district residents who shopped at Target for the donations made in support of Rocky Point Schools.

DONATION TO CHALLENGE DAY

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 donation of \$25.00 in memory of Sean Johns, to be used for *Challenge Day*.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

GROUP LTD PROGRAM 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 approves the adoption of a Group Long-Term Disability program with Security Mutual Life. Said long-term disability program shall be adopted in accordance with the terms of the district's collective bargaining agreement with the Rocky Point Administrators' Association and at no cost to the district. The aforementioned notwithstanding, once instituted, the program shall be open to all contractually eligible employees of the district.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino asked Dr. Ring to explain to which contractually eligible employees the program would be open. Dr. Ring responded the long-term disability program was open to members of the Rocky Point Administrators' Association and those contractual employees with a Memorandum of Agreement in place for participation in this program. Mr. Sanseverino thanked Dr. Ring for his response and noted that this program was provided to those eligible employees at no cost to the district.

There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

DJ & LIGHTING CONTRACT FOR JUNIOR PROM – IMPACT SOUNDS

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 purchasing agent to enter into a contract with Impact Sounds for DJ and lighting services for the high school junior prom on May 16, 2009, at a cost of \$895.00.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

2009-2010 BOCES COOPERATIVE BIDDING SERVICES PURCHASING CONTRACTS

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 Rocky Point Union Free School District will enter into an agreement to participate in the BOCES Cooperative Bidding Services Purchasing Contracts for the 2009-2010 fiscal year on an "as needed" basis as per the following Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program Resolution:

WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and

WHEREAS, the Rocky Point Union Free School District, an educational/municipal corporation (hereinafter the “Participant”) is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and

WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law §119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter Eastern Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the “Program”) in the areas mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES’ standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and

WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, awarding the bids, and reporting the results to the Participant.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in *Newsday*, which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Membership Committee consisting of one (1) representative from each Participant shall be formed. The Participant shall accordingly appoint one (1) representative to the Membership Committee. Said representative shall be provided with a list of bids. A meeting of the Membership Committee shall be held annually. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law § 119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino summarized this resolution by noting the district's participation in shared services with BOCES for the 2009-2010 fiscal year on an "as needed" basis would measurably reduce the district's costs for covered services.

RESOLUTION FOR HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT

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 Board President to enter into an agreement for health services for the current 2008 – 09 school year with the following districts:

Hauppauge Public Schools
Middle Country Central School District
Patchogue-Medford Schools
Riverhead Central School District

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Sanseverino noted that this resolution is in accordance with the district's obligation to pay for health services to districts providing services to our resident students attending private or parochial schools located within those district boundaries.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT NEW DISTRICT POLICIES

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 adopts the new District Policy Manual, effective March 23, 2009. The policies contained are in compliance with current federal/state laws and regulations.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino announced that the new District Policy Manual would be available on-line for review as soon as possible.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT MEMBERS

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 the appointments of Amy Maza, Regina Bonello, Karla Gentile and Elizabeth Stone as Parent Members to the Committee on Special Education/Committee on 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 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 3-23-09-A and Schedule 3-23-09-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

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Sanseverino extended his congratulations to Mr. Nicholas Butcher upon his tenure appointment and thanked Mr. Butcher for his dedicated service to the students of the district.

Mr. Sanseverino opened the floor to questions and/or comments.

- Ms. Bea Roberto of the Sound Beach Civic Association reminded all of the two scholarships being offered to Rocky Point High School seniors, one residing in Rocky Point and one residing in Sound Beach. The deadline for applying for the scholarships is April 30th. Ms. Roberto also extended an invitation to attend the scholarship fundraiser to be held on April 19th at the Sound Beach Firehouse. The food fair and Chinese auction will begin at 2:00 pm. Signature dishes from local restaurants will be available and music will be provided by students of Rocky Point High school. On a personal note, Ms. Roberto extended her gratitude to Dr. D'Ambrosio and Ms. Amy Schecher for their kind assistance with this endeavor.
- Mrs. Johannesen issued a public thank you to Mr. Craig Knapp for his affiliation and participation in the Washington, D.C. National Music Conference held earlier this month. Mrs. Johannesen commended Mr. Knapp's personal commitment to this project noting that it was outside of the parameters of his professional job responsibilities. On a personal note, Mrs. Johannesen disclosed that participation in this function impacted her daughter tremendously and also gave her family the opportunity to see the capitol with fresh eyes. Mrs. Johannesen extended her gratitude to the school district administration and school board members for encouraging student participation in extra-curricular activities such as this.

Mr. Sanseverino thanked Mr. Knapp for his involvement and participation in this very special program.

- Ms. Lisa Hrysko expressed her concerns regarding a rumor that the middle school and the high school would have the same start time beginning with the 2009-2010

- school year. Dr. D'Ambrosio remarked that the district was awaiting a final proposal from First Student Bus Company regarding busing plans for next year.
- Ms. Hrysko advised that the information packets for the Sound Beach Civic Association Scholarship Fund were disseminated to all appropriate students via the guidance office.
 - Ms. Dawn Callahan asked if the Board of Education had reconsidered the idea of presenting a full budget to the voters at the annual school budget vote and election to be held on May 19th. Mr. Sanseverino responded that to do so would be to present a budget with a tax rate that would go up considerably higher from the tax rate presented during the budget overview presentation. Mrs. Burke commented that to do so would be inappropriate; to ask the taxpayers to approve a budget higher than the cost of living index, particularly during today's dire financial circumstances, would be fiscally irresponsible.
 - Ms. Callahan noted that at this time two administrative positions were being cut: Rocky Point Middle School principal and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Administration. Ms. Callahan expressed her opinion that a cut in personnel administration would result in important matters falling by the wayside. Ms. Callahan asked that the administration look to avenues other than personnel administration for cut backs.
 - Mr. Sanseverino asked Ms. Callahan for any specific ideas or thoughts on this matter.
 - Ms. Callahan cited the possible monetary relief that the stimulus package additions would provide to the district and noted that Rocky Point has the third lowest spending per capita pupil formula county-wide.
 - Ms. Callahan once again asked if the school board would reconsider/review the cuts presented during the budget overview presentation.
 - Dr. D'Ambrosio responded that throughout the course of the budget workshop process, no one offered other ideas/proposals to effect a different final outcome and, as such, the proposed budget as would stand "as is."
 - Dr. Ring offered that it would be inappropriate to present to the voters a contingent budget greater than the initial budget offered and that the district would not present a punitive budget to the taxpayers for their consideration.
 - Ms. Danielle Taveras asked if the GATES program was under consideration for cancellation. Dr. D'Ambrosio responded that the GATES program would remain the same. Mr. Sanseverino suggested that Ms. Taveras contact the New York State Education Department, state representatives and/or the state senator for further information regarding more detailed information pertaining to information she was seeking.

There were no further questions or comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:50 PM, a motion was made by Michael Nofi and seconded by Diane Burke for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk

