

**MINUTES**  
**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**February 28, 2011**

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Present: Michael Nofi, President  
Diane Burke, Vice President  
John Lessler, Trustee  
Kathleen Hegggers, Trustee  
Scott Reh, Trustee  
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Deborah DeLuca, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent  
Gregory Hilton, School Business Official  
Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services  
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Nofi welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Mr. Nofi invited Dr. Ring to the podium for the superintendent's report.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Ring announced he would begin the superintendent's report by inviting 2011 School-Related Professional Association retirees, Mr. William Puricelli and Mr. Joseph Nowaski, to join him at the podium in recognition of their combined seventy-six years of dedicated service to the district. Noting that Mr. Nowaski had not yet arrived, Dr. Ring, following an overview of Mr. Puricelli's career with the district, congratulated and thanked Mr. Puricelli, head custodian of the Rocky Point High School, for dedicating thirty-eight years of his professional career to the students of Rocky Point Schools. Dr. Ring presented Mr. Puricelli with a plaque commemorating his years of service to Rocky Point Schools and expressed his sincerest congratulations for a job well done. Upon Mr. Nowaski's arrival, Dr. Ring presented Mr. Nowaski to meeting attendees and recounted Mr. Nowaski's history with the district. Dr. Ring noted both Mr. Nowaski and Mr. Puricelli served two generations of students during their tenures and provided the district with immeasurable valuable contributions of service. Following Dr. Ring's presentation of a retirement plaque to Mr. Nowaski, Mr. Nowaski reminisced and remarked that the Rocky Point School District was always a "small school doing great things; we are a family and will always be a family."

Dr. Ring announced it was a tremendous honor to be able to recognize the Varsity Cheerleaders as first place winners of the National Championship. Following a viewing of a celebrated video, Dr. Ring invited Ms. Amy Agnesini to the podium.

**Ms. Amy Agnesini, Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Intramurals**

- Ms. Agnesini proudly recognized and celebrated the following accomplishments of the Varsity Cheerleaders and Varsity Cheerleading Coach, Anna Spallina: the team's seventh consecutive Regional Championship title; sixth Long Island Championship; and the accomplishment of earning the title of National Champions, something no other Long Island team had ever achieved. Ms. Agnesini highlighted other accomplishments of this team, including its many philanthropic activities to raise money for those less fortunate; its recognition as a Scholar Athlete Team; the awarding of two LICCA scholarships to team members Hayley Sanchez and Ally Kaleita; and the most prestigious honor of being awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award bestowed upon Mrs. Spallina. Ms.

Agnesini also commended the parents of the team members for their support and encouragement. Ms. Agnesini called each member of the team to the podium to accept a certificate in honor of this great accomplishment: Nicole Danisi, Rebecca Farley, Heather Haas, Angela Henriksen, Cori Icopelli, Elizabeth Johannesen, Ally Kaleita, Amanda Lang, Kaity Moran, Emily Cincotta, Heidi Lebens, Brianna Lent, Margie Nociforo, Brianna Norbury, Haley Sanchez, Stephanie Savage, Paige Thomsen, Sarah Vaden, Sarah Viola, Melissa Carniero, Naomi Bauer, Jenna Orlando, Megan Keane, Kim Oliver, Jaclyn Lang and Danielle Ortolani.

**Mr. William B. Caulfield, Principal, Rocky Point High School**

- Mr. Caulfield extended his congratulations to the Varsity Cheerleaders.
- Mr. Caulfield thanked both Mr. Nowaski and Mr. Puricelli for their years of dedicated service and wished them well in their retirements.
- Mr. Caulfield invited Ms. Amy Schecher to the podium for recognition of All County Musicians Anne Schindler, Zach Krase, Mark Infranco and Megan Viglione. Ms. Schecher announced Ms. Schindler was recognized for All County Women's Choir; Mr. Krase was recognized for All County Choir; Mr. Infranco was recognized for All County Band; and Ms. Viglione was recognized for All County Choir. Ms. Schecher presented each of the students with certificates from both Rocky Point Schools and Councilwoman Jane Bonner.
- This year's high school musical production, *Phantom of the Opera*, will be performed from March 3<sup>rd</sup> through March 5<sup>th</sup>. A free performance for senior citizens will be presented on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 p.m.
- The Rocky Point Golden Eagle Marching Band will be performing in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.
- The Suffolk County Music Educator's Association Division II All County Festival will be hosted by our music department at the Rocky Point High School during the month of March.

**Dr. Scott O'Brien, Principal, Rocky Point Middle School**

- Dr. O'Brien, on behalf of the entire Rocky Point Middle School, congratulated Varsity Cheerleading Coach Anna Spallina and the Rocky Point Varsity Cheerleaders for being awarded first place at the Cheerleading Nationals Competition.
- All middle school student report cards were posted to the portal.
- During the month of February, students attended the student government- sponsored Winter Dance. Dr. O'Brien reported that both the dance and the newly formed Friends of Rachel club were huge successes.
- Tryouts for the middle school play, Disney's *Aladdin Jr.*, have been completed. The play will be performed in early April.
- Eighth grade social studies students will be participating in a reenactment of the Roaring Twenties. Students and teachers will dress in the attire of the 1920s.
- Singer/songwriter Jared Campbell's "The Blue Project" will take place on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Ms. Carol Tvelia, Principal, Joseph A. Edgar School**

- Ms. Tvelia offered her congratulations to the retirees and the Varsity Cheerleaders.
- The Peer Mediation kick-off assembly was held on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-eight fourth and fifth grade peer mediators participated in this event.
- The third grade Valentine Soiree was held on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Gratitude is extended to the parent volunteers and third grade teachers for making this annual event such a great success.
- The Jump Rope for Heart event raised more than \$7,700 for the American Heart Association. Thank you to Ms. Amoscato, Ms. Famighetti and Mr. Camarda for their dedicated service to this project. Ms. Tvelia invited student Kenneth Massa and his family to the podium. Kenneth was recognized as the top funder raiser for the Jump Rope for Heart event; Kenneth raised \$1,795.00.
- Prime Time for the Madagascar-Ankizay Fund, held on February 4<sup>th</sup>, raised more than \$1,600 for the children of Madagascar. This "penny for a page" reading project was held during the month of January. Thank you to Mr. Krapf for his continued dedicated service to this project.

- The Character Education kick-off in-school field trip was held on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The students learned the importance of the six pillars of character: respect, trustworthiness, fairness, responsibility, caring and citizenship.
- The Late Bird Reading program began on February 8<sup>th</sup> and will continue through March 24<sup>th</sup>. Late Bird Math and Writing programs will begin on March 28<sup>th</sup> and will run concurrently. These programs are designed to focus on specific student skill weaknesses as related to the NYS assessments in ELA and mathematics.
- The annual senior citizen St. Patrick's Day Breakfast is scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup> in the JAE cafeteria. All RPUFSD senior citizens are invited to attend. Thank you to Mr. Knapp and the High Notes Chorus and Mr. Yashowitz and members of his Student Council for providing their kind assistance and entertainment on this day.

#### **Mr. Kenneth Crawford, Acting Principal, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School**

- Mr. Crawford recognized Mrs. Stacy Iberger and Mrs. Jennifer Golding for organizing and implementing a Valentine's Day care package program entitled "Lunch Bags of Love." Their second grade classes packaged parent-provided donations of candy, playing cards, crossword puzzles, toiletries and other items to be sent to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Each student in both classes will receive a certificate of appreciation from Mr. Crawford for their outstanding efforts. Mr. Crawford read aloud a thank you letter addressed to Mrs. Iberger and her class sent by Sgt. Kevin Murtha, United States Army, Protective Services Detail, USF-1 Baghdad, Iraq, expressing his appreciation for the lunch bags of love. Sgt. Murtha acknowledged expressions of support help to keep moral high for soldiers away from their homes and their families.
- An anti-bullying presentation, "Reading People," was viewed today by students. This program combined character education and language arts in order to better understand others. Thank you to the PTA for funding this presentation.
- The PTA PARP Pancake Breakfast and Book Fair, held on February 12<sup>th</sup>, was a huge, well-attended success. Thank you to the PTA and FJC staff volunteers for working so diligently on this project. The FJC PARP students exceeded their reading goal by twenty-five hours. In celebration of this accomplishment, Mr. Crawford served lunch to all FJC students on February 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be early dismissal for students on these days at 11:45 a.m.
- First grade students will have a Bucket-Filling assembly on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Nofi invited anyone with questions and/or comments to come forward. There were no questions or comments at this time.

#### **MINUTES**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meeting be accepted as presented:  
**Regular Meeting, January 24, 2011.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Heggors and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2010 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of January 2011 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of January 2011 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2011**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the January 2011 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – JANUARY 2011**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the January 2011 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **ADOPTION OF THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the 2011-2012 school calendar as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **BUDGET VOTE AND TRUSTEE ELECTION**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Annual Budget Vote and Trustee Election in the Rocky Point School District, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 2017 of the Education Law, a Public Hearing for the purpose of discussion of the expenditure of funds and the budgeting thereof be held at 7:30 PM on May 10, 2011 at the Rocky Point High School, Rocky Point, New York and be it further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Legal Notice of the Public Hearing, as required by law, be published in the *LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS*, on April 1, April 15, April 29, May 6, and in *THE VILLAGE BEACON RECORD* on April 7, April 14, April 28, May 5 and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Legal Notice of the Annual Budget Vote and Trustee Election, as required by law, be published in the *LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS* on April 1, April 15, April 29, and May 6, and in *THE VILLAGE BEACON RECORD* on April 7, April 14, April 28, May 5 and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following school is hereby designated as polling place:

Polling and Registration Place: Rocky Point High School Gymnasium

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, in addition to the legal publication in four editions of each of the two above-mentioned newspapers, will send a notice with all information relative to the date and time of election to all residents and taxpayers within the District, and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the residents of the Rocky Point School District may register to vote for School District Elections at the office of the District Clerk between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM on any day that the office is open, and in the evening on May 10, 2011 until 9:00 PM. However, such registration will not take place less than five (5) days preceding any School District Election, and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the District Clerk be authorized to appoint the necessary personnel to function as Election Inspectors, and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the final tally of votes shall be held at the Rocky Point High School, 82 Rocky Point-Yaphank Road, Rocky Point, New York at 9:00 PM on the evening of the election as soon thereafter as the election inspectors can supply the necessary information.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi announced two Board of Education seats were up for election this year. Mr. Nofi advised those who may be interested in running for these seats should contact the district clerk for further information.

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON; BOARD OF REGISTRATION; CHIEF INSPECTOR; POLL CLERKS; TELLERS; AND SUBSTITUTE TELLERS AND POLL CLERKS FOR ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING TO BE HELD ON MAY 10, 2011 AND ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 17, 2011.**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education appoints the Chairperson; Board of Registration; Chief Inspector; Poll Clerks; Tellers and Substitute Tellers and Poll Clerks for the annual Budget Hearing/Vote/Election at an hourly rate of \$10.00, as per the attached list.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**AUTHORIZATION FOR POLLING PLACE CONTRACTS**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers and seconded by Scott Reh, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute Polling Place Contracts between the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Board of Elections – County of Suffolk, for the 2011 and 2012 primary and general elections, as attached hereto.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**APPOINTMENT OF THE 2010-2011 MEDICAID COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Deborah DeLuca be appointed to serve as District Medicaid Compliance Officer during the school year 2010-2011.

Mr. Nofi asked Dr. Ring to explain the timeliness of this agenda item so late in the current school year. Dr. Ring advised that this appointment was a result of recent changes in federal and state laws and regulations in an effort to maintain the integrity of New York's Medicaid Program by preventing fraud, waste and/or abuse. Dr. Ring noted Dr. DeLuca will be responsible to oversee compliance with said changes in the law and regulations and would report her findings to the superintendent of schools.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**DONATION – GREAT AMERICAN OPPORTUNITIES**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler 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 from Great American Opportunities and the PTA in the amount of \$38.00.

**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 \$38.00 as a result of the donation.

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

A 2110 500 02 0000                      \$38.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**DONATION – ROCKY POINT FRIENDS OF MUSIC**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation from the Rocky Point Friends of Music, totaling \$651.10.

**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 \$651.10 as a result of the donation from the Rocky Point Friends of Music.

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

A 2110 500 02 0000                      \$651.10

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi, on behalf of the Board of Education, extended his gratitude to the Friends of Music for their continuous and ongoing donations to the students of Rocky Point Schools.

**COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers and seconded by Scott Reh, 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 2-28-11-A and 2-28-11-B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**PERSONNEL**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, 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. Nofi invited anyone with questions and/or comments to come forward.

- Mrs. Burke requested the adopted 2011-2012 school calendar be available for review on the district’s website immediately following the Board of Education meeting.

- Mrs. Burke informed meeting attendees that she and Dr. Ring met with Mr. Daniel Losquadro regarding recently announced budget cuts and the subsequent impact of same would have on Rocky Point schools. Mrs. Burke stressed the proposed cuts were much more significant than those currently reported by local newspapers. Mrs. Burke stressed that the concerns of the district were heard by Mr. Losquadro and publically thanked Mr. Losquadro for the opportunity to have a one-on-one meeting with him regarding this matter and the financial burden such cuts would place upon the children of the district.
- Mr. Jerry Cinisi inquired about the specific cuts being considered by the district and how such cuts might affect the schools. Dr. Ring provided a detailed overview of the budget workshop sessions previously held and those yet to come and indicated detailed information concerning the budget workshops was currently available on the district's website. Dr. Ring noted school districts were awaiting the legislative response to the governor's current budget proposal. Dr. Ring further commented upon the financial impact of state imposed mandates in relation to the consistent cutting of state aid funds to school districts.
- Mr. Reh announced his recent attendance at various seminars concerning the impact of fiscal inequities surrounding school budgets and purported financial caps. Mr. Reh assured meeting attendees that he will continue to share pertinent information as it becomes available.

There were no further questions or comments.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Diane Burke, the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones  
District Clerk