

**MINUTES**  
**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**January 14, 2013**

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the library of the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School.

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

Absent: Scott Reh, Trustee

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Nofi welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and invited Dr. Ring to begin the meeting with the Superintendent's Report.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Ring announced the first budget workshop meeting for the 2013-2014 school year was conducted immediately prior to the start of this evening's Board of Education meeting. Dr. Ring encouraged all community members to attend the next budget workshop that is scheduled in conjunction with the February Board of Education meeting. The workshop will be held in room 135 of the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School. Dr. Ring noted the particulars for both the February Board of Education meeting and the February Budget Workshop are available on the district's website.

**Mr. John DeBenedetto, Principal, Rocky Point High School**

- The guidance department hosted a well-attended financial aid night on Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Amy Thompson, Director of St. Joseph's Financial Aid office, conducted a presentation on essential financial aid topics and procedures for seniors and their parents.
- Shaun Martinsen and Connor Voss have been invited to attend the High School Inaugural Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Both students will attend the presidential inauguration on Monday, January 21, 2013.
- The cheerleaders held a successful competition at home on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-seven teams competed in three divisions. Our varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders took first place. Mr. DeBenedetto thanked the parents for their tremendous assistance with this function. The wrestling team took first place in

- the Ironman Tournament competition that was held in Staten Island on January 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Eleventh graders have met with guidance counselors in order to facilitate registration for the spring 2013 SAT exam and ACT exam. The SAT subject tests are scheduled for Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Students are preparing for the district-wide Patriotic Concert. The “Celebration of American Music” is scheduled for Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the high school auditorium. The concert will feature performances by the JAE High Notes Select Chorus, the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus and all of the high school music ensembles.
  - High school junior, Samuel Raleigh, was selected to participate in the All County Percussion Ensemble and will perform at a special concert in February at Sayville High School.
  - Kyle Berkoski, Lisa LaFontaine and Fred Volz have been chosen to participate in the Long Island String Festival Association Orchestra in February.
  - The first semester will end on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Second quarter report card grades will be posted to the portal on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

- Dr. O’Brien wished everyone a happy new year.
- Students will be changing elective classes as the new semester begins on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The induction ceremony for eighth grade students into the National Junior Honor Society will take place on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> in the high school auditorium at 7 PM. Dr. O’Brien extended his congratulations to all of the inductees.
- All middle school students who entered the Rocky Point Idol competition have progressed to the final round scheduled to be held on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr. O’Brien offered his congratulations and best wishes to the students.
- Middle school students participated in making paper snowflakes on behalf of the children of Sandy Hook Elementary School and the community of Newtown, Connecticut. Because of the tremendous response from around the world to this project, Rocky Point Middle School students will send the Newtown school a photo of the snowflake wonderland display as a show of solidarity for the Newtown families. Dr. O’Brien offered special thanks to student government advisor Grant Connelly and class advisors Tara Scalone, Dawn Callahan and Courtney Bane-Honan for their support of this project. Dr. O’Brien also extended special thanks to all the students for their heartfelt and amazing creations and for all of their magnificent notes and kind wishes for the Newtown community.
- Progress Reports will be posted to the parent portal on Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Late winter sports will begin on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Ms. Linda Towlen, Principal, Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School**

- Fourth graders will participate in a Read-A-Thon. On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, students attended an assembly hosted by Dr. David Krause, a paleontologist from SUNY Stony Brook. The students learned about Dr. Krause’s work and the humanitarian efforts taking place in Madagascar. Children are challenged to read two hundred pages or more during the first three weeks in January. Students who reach their goal will attend “Prime Time” on January 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:45 PM to 8:45 PM. Parents and students will attend with pillows and blankets for the read-in. The evening

will culminate with a “Battle of Books” question and answer contest and ice cream. A portion of the program will involve a voluntary fundraising event to support the schools in Madagascar. Ms. Towlen thanked the fourth grade teachers, parents and students for their work on this project.

- Fourth graders learned about Native Americans as they participated in a special presentation “The Journey into Indian Territories” held on January 7<sup>th</sup> through January 9<sup>th</sup>. The students actively participated in Native American culture as they viewed and handled artifacts, created clay items, sang and danced to Native American songs and held a tribal council. Ms. Towlen thanked the PTA for sponsoring this event.
- On January 17<sup>th</sup> third grade students will attend a special presentation on epilepsy in order to raise their awareness of this important topic.
- In conjunction with the PARP project a book fair will be held during the last week in January.
- Ms. Towlen congratulated the classes of both Mr. Falcone and Mr. Krapf for participating in the fall Stock Market Game. Out of all of the teams in the Long Island Elementary Division, JAE had the three top teams. Mr. Krapf’s Red Team had the highest portfolio value of the entire state for the elementary division.

**Mrs. Virginia Kelly-Gibbons, Principal, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School**

- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons extended warm wishes for a happy new year.
- Both the science club and the garden club continue to meet on their scheduled Fridays.
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked the PTA for sponsoring the PARP activities at FJC during the month of January. Local author, Peter Catalanotto, will visit on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Both Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons and Dr. Herbert will be hosting story time in the gymnasium on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Three grade-specific sessions for both parents and children will begin at 5:30, 6:00 and 6:30. Each story will be followed by chocolate milk in the cafeteria.
- The vocabulary initiative is proving to be very successful. This month the word *said* is being retired. Everyone looks forward to the synonyms the students will use in place of the word *said*.
- First graders are studying the Chinese New Year and will share the dragon parade with kindergarten and second grade students on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Nofi thanked the building principals for their reports.

Mr. Nofi opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Dr. Pinkenburg thanked all those at the middle school involved with the Robotics Club. Dr. Pinkenburg noted that the participants “go above and beyond” and are doing a great job.

There were no other questions or comments.

**MINUTES**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Kathleen Hegggers, 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 17, 2012.**

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **TREASURER’S REPORTS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer’s Report for the month of December 2012 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

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

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 December 2012 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of December 2012 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2012**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Heggens 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 December 2012 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – DECEMBER 2012**

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 December 2012 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **TARGET DONATION TO DISTRICT**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler and seconded by Kathleen Heggens, 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 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 \$460.75 as a result of the donation from Target.

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

A2110 500 03 0000 (HS)      \$460.75

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers 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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 01-14-13-A and Schedule 01-14-13- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**ASSISTANT DISTRICT CLERK (ED. LAW 2114, 2130, 2503; COMM. REG. 170.2)**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Loretta Sanchez be and hereby is appointed as Assistant District Clerk replacing Mary Berretta effective February 1, 2013.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND MARY BERRETTA**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler 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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and Mary Berretta in accordance with existing provisions of her employment agreement, paragraphs 7(b) and 7 (c), effective January 31, 2013, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**PERSONNEL**

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers 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 attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**RESOLUTION TO CHANGE DATE OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED  
FEBRUARY 2013 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING and BUDGET  
DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR WORKSHOP SESSION**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education meeting previously scheduled to be held on February 11, 2013 be rescheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2013.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Budget Development Calendar be amended to reflect a change for the Budget Workshop previously scheduled to be held on February 11, 2013 to be rescheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mr. Nofi opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

There were no questions or comments at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:16 p.m. a motion was made by Diane Burke and seconded by Kathleen Heggors for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones  
District Clerk