

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 27, 2014

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Susan Sullivan, President
Scott Reh, Vice President
John Lessler, Trustee
Sean Callahan, Trustee
Melissa Brown, 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: None

Executive Session

At 6:41 p.m. John Lessler made a motion and Sean Callahan seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to review the confidential personnel files of one administrator and one teacher.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Sullivan invited Dr. Ring to begin with the Superintendent's Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ring presented information in follow-up to items discussed during the September Board of Education meeting:

- With reference to Miss Franco's request for additional information concerning the Smart Schools Technology Bond Act Referendum, Dr. Ring advised that an informational presentation provided by CORE BTS has been posted on our district's website.
- Pursuant to inquiries for possibly expanding the Art Club in the middle school, to include grade 7 and 8, Dr. Ring advised that the circumstances to do so had been reviewed and the addition of a Middle School Art Club for grades 7/8 has been approved.

- Dr. Ring advised that in follow-up to the discussion concerning the possibility of having art as an elective at all three grade levels the Shared Decision Making Team continues to review and consider and will make recommendations following the completion of a survey addressing this matter.
- Dr. Ring addressed the discoloration of one area of the easternmost portion of the newly installed high school track. Dr. Ring advised that the architect, installers and manufacturer have been notified of the issue. Dr. Ring further advised that following a review by the manufacturer, if it is determined that there was a defect in a batch of the material used, the district will request that the manufacturer and/or installer remedy the situation at no cost to the district.
- In further follow-up to Mr. Callahan's request to review the Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation Policy Dr. Ring provided the Board with a draft policy and asked that they review same and provide feedback. Following a brief review of the document, discussion among Dr. Ring and the trustees ensued. Mr. Callahan stated he was of the opinion that the revised document represented a codification of the present policy and that the revised policy should be made stronger, i.e., fail one class, on probation; fail two classes, off the team/sport/club. Mr. Reh offered that he was of the opinion student eligibility to participate should be reflected in progress reports as opposed to report cards. Dr. Ring noted progress reports may not be grade-exact as they may be based on one test only. Mrs. Sullivan shared her concerns with a student's ability to participate in a sport/club following their attendance at a summer academic program resulting in a passing grade for a course. Mrs. Brown agreed with Mr. Callahan, Mr. Reh and Mrs. Sullivan indicating that the district's focus should be on academics. Both Mr. Reh and Mrs. Sullivan stated that the revision of the Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation was a work in progress and that the Board would need to further review same. Dr. Ring summarized the entire exchange of ideas presented and advised he would provide the recommendations made to Ms. Amy Agnesini, Director of Physical Education, Health, Athletics and Intramurals for further review and analysis.

Dr. Ring announced Governor Cuomo has designated this week as School Board Recognition Week. Dr. Ring acknowledged the many skills each school board trustee must possess in the areas of law, politics, economics, community service and education. Dr. Ring stressed that the contributions school board trustees make are critical to the successful outcomes of each of our students and benefit the community at large. Dr. Ring reminded all that the board trustees are volunteers who give freely of their time and efforts. Dr. Ring invited the trustees to the podium in order to accept personalized plaques as tokens of the district's recognition and appreciation for all that they do.

Dr. Ring invited Mr. DeBenedetto to the podium to begin the building principal reports.

Mr. John DeBenedetto, Principal, Rocky Point High School

- On October 16th the Rocky Point Golden Eagle Marching Band, under the direction of Ms. Amy Schecher, performed at the annual Newsday Marching Band Festival.

- The Cheerleading Squad held the annual Pack the Track event on October 8th. Students, teachers, administrators, parents and cheerleaders from neighboring Mount Sinai School District raised close to \$5,000 for the Hewlett House. Mr. DeBenedetto thanked all who participated and extended a special thank you to Coach Spallina for organizing the event.
- PSATs were administered on October 18th to approximately two hundred and forty three sophomores and juniors.
- Mr. DeBenedetto thanked the PTA and Mrs. Crossan for organizing another meaningful and successful Challenge Day program.
- Mr. DeBenedetto reported seventy two students have been named AP Scholars by the College Board as a result of their academic achievements on the AP exams scheduled last spring. In addition, eighteen students have been granted one of the College Board's highest honors, AP Scholar with Distinction. Two students received the high honor of National AP Scholar. Mr. DeBenedetto attributed the noticeable success of these students to the hard work and dedication of the staff members of the Rocky Point High School and expressed his desire to publically thank the teachers and support staff for their commitment to the overall success of all students.
- On October 24th the volleyball program hosted the "Dig Pink" event. Through ribbon sales and other fundraising events, the volleyball program raised over \$6,000 for the Side Out Association.
- In commemoration of National Bullying Prevention month the English classes will show the poetic video clip entitled *To This Day* by Shane Koyczan. Physical education classes will discuss bullying and hazing followed by team-building and project adventure-type activities. Other classes are addressing the issue of bullying as well. Resources were provided to the faculty to assist in fostering an environment of respect in our schools and our community.

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

- The PTA hosted the first middle school Book Fair. The PTA also hosted an assembly during lunch periods to introduce students to the Eagle card fundraiser. Dr. O'Brien thanked the PTA and all parent volunteers for their support of both events.
- Students and staff continued to support the local community throughout the month of October collecting items of food and supplies as part of a food drive to support Veterans of Foreign Wars. Members of the Friends of Rachel Club generously supported the Dig Pink fundraiser. Dr. O'Brien thanked the students and staff for supporting these projects and helping those in need in the community.
- Dr. O'Brien congratulated 8th grade student, Bryant Liu, for being selected to participate in the Lang Lang 101 Pianists Program at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, October 26th. Brian was selected through a rigorous application and audition process and was chosen among over hundreds of applicants in the state of New York. Following an overview of the Lang Lang Program, Dr. O'Brien invited Bryant and his brother, high schooler Allen Liu,

also recognized as a participant in the program, to the podium in recognition of their fine accomplishments.

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

- Family Folk Dancing was held on the evening of October 22nd. Ms. Towlen thanked Mr. Knapp for this great event and all the students and parents who participated.
- Ms. Towlen thanked the PTA for the Hip Pickles musical presentation anti-bullying event held on October 21st.
- Ms. Towlen thanked Ms. DiGiovanni and the parent volunteers for their support of the PTA-sponsored Book Fair and also thanked the PTA for its support of Picture Days.
- Ms. Towlen acknowledged physical education staff members Ms. Amoscato, Ms. Famighetti and Mr. Camarda for their creation of extensive displays and their series of games and activities during the month of October.
- In support of UNICEF fourth graders will create baby scarecrows to be displayed in the fourth grade hallways in support of children's health and education around the world. Ms. Towlen reported that through the years, the Joseph A. Edgar School has raised over \$25,000.00 as a result of this fundraiser.
- On October 31st the annual Book Character Dress-Up Day will take place. Students may come to school dressed as their favorite book character.
- This year's annual Veterans Day celebration is scheduled for November 10th in the old gym.

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

- Character Education has officially begun with two school-wide assemblies. On October 6th Mrs. Adamski and Dr. Herbert presented the Six Pillars of Character and read aloud Carol McCloud's *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked the PTA for its sponsorship of Picture Days.
- During the annual Homecoming Parade students of FJC carried the Nations of the World banner as they marched in the procession. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked Mr. West for his creation of the banner.
- Kindergarteners received a visit from the Rocky Point Fire Department and learned about *stop, drop and roll*. The students were also given the opportunity to tour a real fire engine.
- First graders visited the FJC Pumpkin Patch as each child was able to pick out just the right pumpkin. Classes will be doing pumpkin math, pumpkin observations and pumpkin writings. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked the PTA for its support of this program.
- The annual Storybook/Harvest Parade will take place on October 31st.
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons offered her gratitude to Mrs. Tripp for her efforts with the successful Book Fair, Mrs. Spallina for including the students of FJC in the Pack the Track fundraiser and Mrs. Iberger and her students for their work with veterans.

Mrs. Sullivan thanked Dr. Ring and the building principals for their reports.

Mrs. Sullivan opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Miss Franco thanked Dr. Ring for publicizing the Smart School Bond information on the district's website. Miss Franco inquired as to how district residents could provide input to the administration and whether or not a public hearing on the matter was being planned. Dr. Ring advised that members of the district's Technology Committee would provide information that could be discussed in public at a future school board meeting.
- Ms. Heather Basirico, reading from a prepared statement, shared her concerns related to the levels of special education services being offered by the district. Ms. Basirico stated that it was her opinion that the district's integrated classrooms and 15:1 self-contained classrooms are understaffed. Ms. Basirico expressed her concerns that it has come to her attention that some students in a 15:1 class are being assisted by a teacher aide or student teacher and not a certified teaching assistant. Ms. Basirico questioned the prudence of what she deemed a cost-effective measure. Ms. Basirico asked the board to examine educational decisions more closely and to address them.
- Mrs. Brown asked why the district does not hire teaching assistants. Following Dr. Ring's detailed response to the question, Mrs. Brown suggested the district look into utilizing a teaching assistant in the 15:1 setting as an educationally sound practice. Dr. Ring responded he would request from the special education department a cost analysis pertaining to these concerns.

There were no further questions and/or comments.

Mrs. Sullivan reminded meeting attendees of the recent addition of the consent agenda and explained the workings of the new consent agent portion of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed below are presented as part of the Consent Agenda which can be adopted by the Board of Education under a single motion followed by a second and then a formal vote. On the following pages the Consent Agenda items are listed in their regular order and preceded by an asterisk (*). Before an actual vote is taken, any Consent Agenda item may be removed by a Board member with a formal motion or second. If this occurs, the indicated resolution will be discussed during its regular order on the agenda and voted on individually.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that agenda items II through X and item XVIII be approved as one item.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

II (*) MINUTES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education meetings be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, September 22, 2014, Special Meeting, October 20, 2014**

III (*) TREASURER'S REPORTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Reports for the month of September 2014 as presented.

IV (*) EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2014 as presented.

V (*) FINANCIAL REPORTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of September 2014 as presented.

VI (*) BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 2014

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the September 2014 Budget Transfer Summary Report.

VII (*) DONATION FROM PTA FOR CHALLENGE DAY

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the \$1,000.00 donation from the Rocky Point PTA for Challenge Day.

VIII (*) KENNETH J. EDWARDS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and accepts the donations on behalf of the Kenneth J. Edwards Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$450.00.

IX (*) FRIENDS OF MUSIC DONATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the donation of \$774.00 from the Rocky Point Friends of Music.

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 \$774.00 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 said increase:

A 2138 500 03 3120 \$774.00

X (*) INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2014

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the September 2014 Internal Claims Audit Report.

XI 2013-2014 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the Independent Auditors Report with accompanying statements and schedules for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2014, which have been submitted by our external auditors, R.S. Abrams.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XII 2013-2014 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT ON EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 Independent Auditors Report on Extra-Classroom Activity Funds with accompanying statements and schedules for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2014, which have been submitted by our external auditors, R.S. Abrams.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XIII INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH MILLER PLACE UFSD – BUDGET CODE AMENDMENT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following budget codes be amended to reflect the increase to the general fund budget as a result of the District sale and Miller Place Union Free School District purchase of READ 180/System 44 materials as per the Inter-Municipal Agreement with Miller Place Union Free School District, approved at the August 25th,

2014 meeting of the Board of Education, as revised to reflect the actual cost of document preparation:

A 2110 500 06 0000 \$12,492.14

A 2110 130 09 0000 \$ 2,507.86

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XIV SURPLUS TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves for surplus the attached list of books/materials.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XV SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves for surplus the following attached list.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XVI CLEARY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF – 2014-2015 CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with Cleary School for the Deaf for special education students' instructional services for the 2014-2015 school year as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XVII APPROVAL OF A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Upon a motion made by John Lessler 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 President of the Board of Education to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association for the purpose of adding new stipends for clubs – HS Chess Club, MS Chess Club, Grade 6 Art Club, Grades 7/8 Art Club--that shall become part of Schedule B of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association effective September 1, 2014, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**XVIII (*) COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

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 10-27-14-A and Schedule 10-27-14- B.

**XIX ACTING CENTRAL TREASURER—EXTRA CLASSROOM
ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS (ED. LAW 2503; COMM. REG. 172.5)**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Linda Bilski be and hereby is appointed as Acting Central Treasurer—Extra Classroom Activity Accounts, for the period of October 28, 2014 through a date to be determined; not to exceed June 30, 2015.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

XX PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Scott Callahan, 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, Mrs. Sullivan extended her congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Moscatiello upon her tenure as Director of Special Education and Mr. John Mauceri upon his tenure as Special Education Teacher.

Before addressing New Business, Mrs. Sullivan announced she wished to thank the PTA for the generous donation to Challenge Day, those that contributed generously to the

Kenneth J. Edwards Memorial Scholarship and the Friends of Music for their continuous generous donations to the students of the district.

XXI NEW BUSINESS

GREEN HOMES TAX EXEMPTION

Referencing the new business item, Green Homes Tax Exemption, Dr. Ring advised that information was being provided to the board trustees for their consideration and feedback. Dr. Ring invited Mr. Hilton to address the board and meeting attendees with an overview of the Green Building Exemption highlights. Mr. Hilton stated the purpose of the exemption, provided the eligibility requirements residents would need to meet in order to participate in the exemption and the LEED Certification Exemption values. Mr. Hilton also provided an example of how the exemption works.

Noting that the Board has recognized exemptions over the years, Dr. Ring thanked Mr. Danny Andersen for bringing the particulars of the Green Building Project to the district's attention.

Noting that Mr. Andersen was present at the meeting, Dr. Ring invited him to address the Board and meeting attendees.

Mr. Andersen explained how he became aware of the initiative and commended and thanked both Mr. Hilton and Mr. DeBenedetto for their quick and kind assistance. Mr. Andersen identified the district as a progressive and green-minded school district with whom he hoped to be able to work. Mr. Andersen submitted an informational document and detailed diagram in support of the initiative. Noting that the law allows school districts to opt into this program, Mr. Andersen expressed his desire that Rocky Point Schools will do so.

Mrs. Sullivan thanked Mr. Andersen for the information he shared and Dr. Ring indicated that the item may be placed on a future agenda for the potential of the district to opt in.

Mrs. Sullivan opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Mrs. McCauley requested clarification pertaining to the proposed amendment(s) to the public comment portion of the agenda requested by Mr. Callahan in July of this year. Mr. Callahan assured Mrs. McCauley that the change he sought, i.e., the elimination of limiting public comment addressing only those items that are on the agenda before the Board at a specific meeting, had been addressed and implemented. Mrs. McCauley asked if the Board would consider an additional change to the public comment portion of the agenda permitting the usage of the title of an individual being discussed.
- Prefacing her next question with the statement that she is aware personnel items cannot be discussed in public session, Mrs. McCauley said she was of the opinion that a replacement teacher was needed in one of the school buildings and asked if

a replacement was included on the evening's approved personnel agenda. Dr. Ring asked Mrs. Wilson to address Mrs. McCauley's inquiry as it pertained to the appointment of two leave replacement positions on the personnel agenda posted on the district's website. Mrs. Wilson announced that Ms. Kristen Darby will be teaching science in the high school and Ms. Janece Guerra will be teaching mathematics in the high school, both as leave replacements.

- Reading from a prepared statement, Mr. Michael Friscia, president of the Rocky Point Teachers' Association, publically thanked Marie Stewart of Brooklyn Bagels and Assistant Fire Chief Mike Yacubich and the men and women of the Rocky Point Fire Department for their contributions to the Third Annual Safe Halloween Night sponsored by the Rocky Point Teachers' Association. Mr. Friscia also acknowledged and extended his gratitude to the members of the Interact Club for assisting the members of the Teachers' Association in order to ensure that the students had an enjoyable afternoon as they learned about fire safety and prevention.
- Referencing the recent school picture days in the different school buildings, Dr. Pinkenberg inquired as to why the district does not utilize the same photographer/photography company to take the photographs of all the children of the district and therefore be able to benefit from the promotional reduced rate offer of buy two and get the third free. Dr. Ring advised to his knowledge, Picture Day at the elementary schools is sponsored by the PTA and Picture Day at the high school is sponsored by the Yearbook Club. Both Dr. Ring and Mrs. Sullivan said they would look into the matter further.
- Mr. Michael Nofi requested the Board address his request for additional information concerning the district's recent Request for Proposal for legal services for the 2014/2015 school year. Mr. Nofi asked why the original RFP was rescinded. Mr. Nofi shared that his FOIL request for further information concerning the circumstances surrounding the RFP had not yet been addressed. Mr. Nofi further asked the Board if they had addressed any possible improprieties associated with the RFP. Mrs. Sullivan responded that the Board did conduct an investigation and that it was the Board's decision to issue a new RFP. Mrs. Brown shared the Board was in agreement that there were no improprieties and collectively decided to go forward with the issuance of a new RFP based upon the recommendation of counsel.

There were no further questions and/or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:12 p.m. Scott Reh made a motion made and Melissa Brown seconded to go into Executive Session to review the confidential personnel files of five administrators and one teacher.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:13 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:14 p.m. a motion was made by Scott Reh and seconded by Sean Callahan to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Michael F. Ring, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools