

**MINUTES**  
**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**January 27, 2003**

**Meeting called to Order at 7:34 PM.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President  
Howard Gimple, Trustee  
Howard Kartel, Trustee  
Michael Matera, Trustee  
James J. Gerardi, Superintendent of Schools  
Carla D'Ambrosio, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction  
Irene Pedota, District Clerk

Absent: Francine Boyle, Vice-President

**Mrs. Thalen opened the meeting to questions or comments from the audience:**

- Mr. Joseph Sanseverino, President of the Rocky Point Booster Club, announced that the Booster Club recently donated \$6400.00 to the district for new scoring tables for both the High School and Middle School. He also reported that upcoming fundraising events include a "Ladies Night Out" on March 20, 2003 and a golf outing in May, in addition to selling merchandise and food at various sporting events throughout the year.
- Mrs. Thalen thanked Mr. Sanseverino and the Booster Club for the scoring tables and asked if a location had been determined for their storage. Mr. Sanseverino replied that they would be stored in the gymnasium, and he thanked the administration in each building for all their cooperation.
- Mr. Peter Noto inquired about the training that is provided by the district for the use of AEDs. Mr. Gerardi explained that all of the district's nurses are trained and well over 30 staff members have been trained so far. Additional staff members will be trained and certified in each building.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- William Caulfield announced that the Guidance Department was recently written up in *The North Shore Sun* for the record number of college applications that have been processed so far this year. An additional College Information Night for tenth and eleventh grade students and their parents will be held on March 4, 2003 at 7:00 PM in the high school auditorium. The annual patriotic concert will be on February 4, 2003 at 7:30 PM in the high school auditorium, and the dates for performances of the annual spring musical production, *The Music Man*, are February 27, 28, and March 1, 2003. Curtain time for all performances is 7:30 PM and tickets are \$8.00 per person.
- Joseph Centamore reported that plans, assessments and evaluations are already being made for Middle School students for next year. Eighth grade students recently completed ELA Assessments and science lab practicals. As part of the "Character Counts" recognition program that was initiated this month, students will receive certificates for exemplary behavior that will entitle them to receive a special treat from the cafeteria. He expressed his appreciation to the PTA for funding an assembly for seventh and eighth grade students that will be held on March 17 and 18, 2003, at which time Officer Paul Faller will address students regarding tolerance, and he thanked the Booster Club for their donation of scoring tables.
- Carol Tvelia announced that as part of PTA Cultural Arts, fourth grade students took part in an in-house field trip called Journeys into American Indian Territory, which allowed students through participation in various activities to learn about American Indians without having to leave the building. In addition, the PTA

sponsored an assembly for all students in the building called Poetry Alive. Mrs. Tvelia added that third and fifth grade students took Terra Nova tests in January, and fourth grade students took ELA practice tests during the week of January 21, 2003; actual testing will take place the first week in February. Three hundred fifth-grade students graduated from the DARE program on January 24, 2003. On February 7, 2003, the second annual Jump Rope for Heart will take place to benefit the American Heart Association and seventy-five students have already signed up. In addition, Mrs. Tvelia noted that the fifth-grade Middle School orientation that took place on January 21, 2003 was very successful.

- Paul Read reported that Terra Nova tests and Mid Year Assessment exams were completed last week. A workshop for twenty-five parents who will participate in the parent volunteer reading training program will be held on January 28, 2003. Report cards will be sent home for all students on Friday, January 31, 2003. Upcoming events at the Frank J. Carasiti School include the Annual Scholastic Book Fair and a pancake breakfast. Mr. Read thanked the PTA and especially Margaret Smith for sponsoring the Parents as Reading Partners Program (PARP), and he announced that 200 children have been registered so far for kindergarten.
- Mr. Gerardi introduced and welcomed newly appointed Interim School Business Official Stephen Bilyk. Mr. Gerardi added that Mr. Bilyk is an extremely competent official whom he has known for many years.

## MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meetings be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, December 16, 2002, and Special Meeting, January 14, 2003**. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0. Mrs. Thalen announced that accepted board minutes will now be available on the district's website.

## TREASURER'S REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Howard Kartel, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Treasurer's Reports for the months of **November and December 2002** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

## EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Extra Classroom Activity Treasurer Reports for the months of **November and December 2002** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Financial Reports for the months of **November and December 2002** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

## SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF POLICY – CARDIAC AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDS)

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Howard Kartel, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education votes to adopt the new policy – Cardiac Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

## **SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF POLICY – COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Upon a motion made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education votes to adopt the new policy – Comprehensive Student Attendance. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

## **\$11.4 BOND ISSUE PROJECT CHANGE ORDERS**

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendents of Schools, that the Board of Education accept and approve the attached schedule with reference to bond issue related projects and contracts on the \$11.4 million voter approved bond issue. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

## **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON**

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Howard Kartel, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Sandra Wojnowski as a member of the Committee on Special Education Chairperson (In accordance with the Commissioner's Regulations, Part 200 and the provisions of the Education Law, Section 4402.) All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

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

Upon a motion made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 1-27-03-A and 1-27-03-B. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

## **PERSONNEL**

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the attached Personnel changes, a copy of which will be included in the Minutes Book. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

## **AMENDED ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS**

Due to the appointment of Stephen Bilyk, Interim School Business Official the following appointments and resolutions made on July 9, 2002 at the Annual Organization Meeting and amended on December 16, 2002, be amended further as follows:

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Howard Kartel, the following resolutions were offered:

### **A. DEPUTY TREASURER**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Stephen Bilyk, Interim School Business Official, be and is hereby appointed as Deputy Treasurer effective January 28, 2003 for the remainder of the school year 2002-2003.

**B. EXTRA CLASSROOM ACTIVITY**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Stephen Bilyk, Interim School Business Official, be appointed auditor for the Extra Classroom Activity Accounts effective January 28, 2003 for the remainder of the school year 2002 –2003.

**C. AUTHORIZATION TO ACT AS SCHOOL PURCHASING AGENT**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Stephen Bilyk, Interim School Business Official, be authorized to act as the Purchasing Agent effective January 28, 2003 for the remainder of the school year 2002-2003.

**D. DESIGNATION OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE ON CHECKS**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Stephen Bilyk, Interim School Business Official, be authorized to sign checks for the 2002-2003 school year in the absence of Rose Monz, District Treasurer, effective January 28, 2003 for the remainder of the school year 2002-2003.

**E. AUTHORIZATION TO INVEST DISTRICT FUNDS**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Stephen Bilyk, Interim School Business Official, be authorized to invest district funds effective January 28, 2003 for the remainder of the school year 2002-2003.

**F. BONDING**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Stephen Bilyk, Interim School Business Official, shall be bonded at a minimum of \$1,500,000.00, effective January 28, 2003 for the remainder of the school year 2002-2003.

Mr. Gerardi explained that these resolutions were necessary because at last month's Board of Education meeting, he accepted all the duties of the district's school business and he was now turning them over to Mr. Stephen Bilyk who was appointed Interim School Business Official. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

**Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any additional comments or questions before the board moved to Executive Session:**

- Mrs. Peggy Nestler asked for an explanation of the backpack policy. Mr. Caulfield explained that a letter was sent home to parents in August explaining that due to safety issues and Project SAVE, no backpacks, book bags, duffle bags, etc. would be allowed in the high school during the day. Students were permitted to bring them to school; however, they must remain in students' lockers until dismissal. He also explained that whenever a building has to be evacuated, no one is permitted back into the building until every back pack, book bag, etc. that is left in a classroom is searched.
- Mrs. Nestler said that she felt that her son was being unfairly disciplined for carrying a bag in school since other students who carried similar bags were not. She added that her son has been assigned in-school suspension twice so far this school year for carrying a bag and that she feels it is sexual discrimination since females are permitted to carry pocketbooks. She added that her son does not carry books in his bag.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that it was not appropriate to discuss issues pertaining to specific students at a board meeting and that she should address her concerns with Mr. Caulfield.
- Ms. Nestler replied that she could not resolve the issue with Mr. Caulfield and that he directed her to the board.
- Mrs. Thalen assured Ms. Nestler that the board has faith that Mr. Caulfield will fairly enforce the policy for all students.

There were no further questions or comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:15 PM a motion was made by Howard Kartel and seconded by Michael Matera for the Board of Education to go into executive session to discuss particular personnel matters. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Pedota  
District Clerk

The board returned to Open Session at 9:22 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:23 PM a motion was made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

James J. Gerardi  
Superintendent of Schools