

MINUTES

ROCKY POINT SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING October 23, 2006

Ms. Geraldine Thalen, President, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

District Clerk took the attendance.

Present:

**Jane Bonner
Michael Matera
Joseph Sanseverino
Margaret Smith
Geraldine Thalen
Carla L. D'Ambrosio, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools
Sherry J. Alessandro, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources\Administration
Michael W. Ivanoff, Director of Finance and Operations
Elise Darnell Boehm, District Clerk**

Absent: None

I PRESIDENT THALEN INVITED ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Mrs. Ann Marie Johannesen thanked Assistant Principal Crawford for the McDonalds lunch he shared with her 3rd grade daughter who was chosen to participate in a special lunch. She praised Mr. Crawford for this good idea and how it makes the children feel special.
- Mrs. Kate Bittner praised the Athletic Department, specifically the Field Hockey's fabulous coaches, who encourage positive body image and teach valuable life lessons to the players.
- Mrs. Johannesen inquired about what the district will do to improve the school's Math scores in the future. She observed that English is a strong area but would like to see improvement in Math. Dr. D'Ambrosio expressed her disappointment and assured her that it is being investigated.
- Steve Lagnena announced that the girls Varsity Tennis became the League Champions over the weekend.
- Carolyn Reynen, Chairperson of JAE Shared Decision, requested that something be done to enable the removal of the old playground and replace it with a new and updated setup suitable for the Joseph Edgar School. While emphasis on instruction is important, she asked that the District dedicate some funds for a playground so the students have a well-rounded school experience that provides learning and safe and fun play. Ms. Thalen said it was a coincidence since Senator Kenneth LaValle was present tonight and he was responsible for raising \$25,000 for the last playground. Everyone laughed when he was asked for more money for this playground. Ms. Thalen did ask Mrs. Reynen to check with the PTA for some ways of raising money for this. Mrs. Reynen also commented that Edgar was due for this and with emphasis on wellness this should be considered important
- A request was made to post a phone number for security on the Carasiti playground so they can be called when necessary.

II SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- ❖ **SENATOR KENNETH LAVALLE** was a special guest at tonight's meeting in order to be presented with an award plaque to show appreciation for:
 - Being a strong proponent of educators and fighting for a bigger share of educational dollars from Albany.
 - Senator LaValle secured Pilot dollars in the amount of \$1.7 million for Pine Barren land owned by the District, which will benefit the Rocky Point Schools.
 - Board President, Gerladine Thalen thanked Senator La Valle and presented him with a plaque.

SENATOR KENNETH LAVALLE thanked everyone for the plaque and brought up the playground topic. He made a recommendation that the district make their own playground with tires and pipes like some others have done in the past until they can raise enough money for a new one. He also thanked the Board for all of their work and praised the Rocky Point Community. He believes that other districts would like to emulate Rocky Point as it enjoys a nice balance and possesses grace. He encouraged the community to continue to keep education a strong focus in the future.

❖ **SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK**

A law was passed in 1790, enabling New York State citizens to govern schools when the work within the school became too complicated and demanding. In order to ease the burden, these citizens began donating their personal time to help the schools. Many are community leaders who provide valuable resources ensuring a good future for school children.

- Dr. D'Ambrosio acknowledged the entire Rocky Point Board of Education individually and thanked them on behalf of the School and Governor George Patacki for all that they do for the children of Rocky Point.
- Ms. Thalen thanked Dr. D'Ambrosio and Governor Patacki on behalf of herself and the Board.
- Steve Lagnena, President of the Teacher's Association, presented the Board members with gift baskets to show their appreciation for all of their efforts.
- The SRP Association raised and donated \$500 on behalf of the Members of the School Board of Rocky Point to 20 servicemen/women who graduated from Rocky Point High School. These funds will be used for much needed supplies while they are away from home. The SRP asked that the Board accept this contribution as dedication to them.
- Mr. William Caulfield, Rocky Point High School Principal, presented the Board with gift bags on behalf of the Rocky Point Administrator's Association. He expressed his thanks to them for working 1-2 times per month and that they deserve recognition for what they do.
- Geraldine Thalen, Board President, thanked everyone for all of the gifts and all of the appreciation shown to the Board.

❖ **HEART OF THE PROGRAM AWARD TO JOANNE DAVIS OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM**

- Elena Lynch Dobert, Director of Child Nutrition, presented Joanne Davis with the New York State School Nutrition Association award for exemplary service "Heart of the Program". It was noted that only one person is chosen each year throughout the whole State of New York. She shared with the audience the fact that Joanne provides a friendly, fun, and caring environment for the Middle School children during meal times. She recognized her valuable contribution to the school for all of her friendly caring service.
- Additionally, due to Ms. Davis quality work, the Rocky Point Breakfast Program has increased to 100 children from 30. She makes sure that all the children are well fed and makes a point to advertise that she is there for them. She allows Special Education students to help out in the kitchen, which also contributes to the positive environment of her cafeteria.
- President Thalen thanked Mrs. Dobert for her presentation.

❖ **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT RECOGNITION**

Mr. William Caulfield, High School Principal, presented the following members of the Business Department with congratulations and certificates for the Marketing/Business of the year award. They developed an effective program and provided the High School students with a rigorous Business and Marketing education:

- **Ms. Lynne Basileo**
- **Ms. Susan Wilson**
- **Ms. Kristin Coen**

- Ms. Basileo thanked the Administration and the Board for all of their efforts and help.

❖ **ACADEMIC RECOGNITION TO 7 STUDENTS RECEIVING NEW YORK STATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

The Rocky Point School District recognized the following students for their achievement in attaining the highest averages:

- **Michael Filimon**
- **James Dimino**
- **James Browning**

- **Rebecca Gimple**
- **Danielle Lyons**
- **Kara Sparling**
- **Ahmad El-Gendi**

❖ **PRESENTATION BY PETER RODRIGUEZ, CPA –Coughlin, Foundotos, Cullen, Danowski, LLP-District Finances**

Peter Rodriguez presented his findings after an external audit was performed on the Rocky Point School District's financial statement to determine if any weaknesses existed and to report them. The ultimate goal of the audit was to offer an opinion following the standards recommended for school districts. Government standards must be followed.

The following areas were investigated:

- Balance of Accounts.
- Test transactions through accounts payable to ensure that they are legitimate.
- Confirm balances from Banks and State Aid by tracing everything and examining receipts.
- Bids and Contracts awarded
- Internal control over grants
- Purchase Order procedures

Results

- No apparent weaknesses among New York State, Local, or Federal.
- Grants received were tested and found to be compliant.
- Improvements recommended as a result of last years audit also found compliant.
- Rocky Point School District is financially sound.

Recommendations:

- Collateral Bank account recommended ensuring district regulation documents on insurance from 2007 and on.
- Although financially sound, recommends extra dollars in reserve for unexpected problems.

MS THALEN INVITED ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Diane Burke questioned whether proper procedures were being following regarding purchase orders.
- Mr. Rodriguez responded that a very small percentage had minor procedural problems. About 4 out of 60. The District currently enforces strict policy on proper procedures of gaining P.O. approval prior to ordering goods and services.
- Moreover, District is compliant with receiving bids for amounts on goods and services for \$10,000 or more.
- Diane Burke and Carolyn Reynen then commended Richard Mondello, Head of Buidings and Grounds, for a great job done on the new sidewalk and fence for the Edgar School.
- Mr. Lagnena thanked the Board for allowing the donation from the Booster Club for the new tennis backboard.

III MINUTES

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of September 25, 2006 and Special Meeting on October 16, 2006 be accepted as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

IV SCHOOL TAX LEVY

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the tax levy of \$32,713,171 for the 2006-07 school year be approved. All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

V DONATION – TARGET

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Jane Bonner, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve and accept the donation from Target (Take Charge of Education) for \$196.55

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

VI ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS MEMBERS

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, 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 4 parent members to the Committee on Special Education/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

VII COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino 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 10-23-06-A and 10-23-06-B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0

VIII PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Margaret Smith, 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.

All in favor – Motion carried 5 – 0.

President Thalen asked if there were any other questions or comments.

- There were no further questions or comments.

IX ADJOURNMENT

At 8:32 PM a motion was made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino to go into executive session. It was determined that there was no need for executive session.

All in favor – Motion 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Darnell Boehm
District Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Carla D’Ambrosio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools