

**MINUTES**  
**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**January 28, 2008**

**Mrs. Thalen called the meeting to order at 7:44 PM.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Geraldine Thalen, President  
Joseph Sanseverino, Vice-President  
Edward Darcey, Trustee  
Michael Matera, Trustee  
Margaret Smith, Trustee  
Carla L. D'Ambrosio Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Sherry J. Alessandro, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for HR/Administration  
Michael W. Ivanoff, Director of Finance and Operations  
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

**Mrs. Thalen opened the floor to questions and/or comments from members of the audience.**

- Ms. Janene Gentile, executive director of the North Shore Youth Council, congratulated Mrs. Thalen for being named “educator of the year” by *The Village Beacon Record*. Ms. Gentile presented Mrs. Thalen with a bouquet of flowers and a poster made by the many children who participate in the programs offered through the council. Ms. Gentile expressed her sincere appreciation to Mrs. Thalen and the members of the board of education for allowing the NSYC to continue to be a safe place every morning and afternoon for the children who avail themselves of its many services.
- Mrs. Thalen thanked Ms. Gentile for her thoughtfulness as she announced that she was acknowledged as the “woman of the year in education” as opposed to the “educator of the year.” Mrs. Thalen remarked that the programs of the NSYC are in place and successful because of Ms. Gentile’s dedication and continuous hard work.
- Ms. Michelle Micallef addressed Mrs. Thalen as she read from a prepared statement. She thanked the NSYC for its affordable care and nurturing environment. Ms. Micallef highlighted the different programs offered by the council and their importance to her family and many families in the community. Ms. Micallef sincerely thanked the board of education for its continued support of the NSYC.
- Ms. Courtney Brewer thanked the board of education for allowing the NSYC to continue to meet the needs of the community. She offered her gratitude to Dr. D'Ambrosio in acknowledgement of her continuous open-door policy and her “open ear” to the concerns of parents and students in the district. Ms. Brewer also thanked Ms. Carol Tvelia for continuing to share her space at the Joseph A. Edgar School with the NSYC.

- Mrs. Thalen remarked that the district is fortunate to have the NSYC to provide a safe, healthy, and pleasurable place for children to go to in the mornings and in the afternoons.
- Ms. Mary Wandle asked if the Relay for Life fundraiser would be permitted to take place on the center field of the Rocky Point track. She also asked if the Relay for Life program would be held financially responsible for any damages sustained during the overnight fund raiser.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio affirmed that the Relay for Life fundraiser was scheduled to take place during the second week of June 2008 on the center field of the Rocky Point High School track. Dr. D'Ambrosio confirmed that the Relay for Life program would be fiscally accountable for any repairs necessary upon completion of the fundraiser for any property damage incurred.
- Speaking as a PTA parent, Ms. Wandle expressed her thanks to the students of Mrs. Susan Wilson's Dream Weavers class.
- Ms. Wandle outlined circumstances concerning a rumored incident involving inappropriate behavior exhibited by certain students in the district and asked Mrs. Thalen to express the views of the board regarding same. Mrs. Thalen remarked that she was unable to comment on behalf of the board because Ms. Wandle's remarks concerned a student situation. Mrs. Thalen did confirm that Ms. Wandle's comments were "so noted."
- Ms. Wandle questioned the recently revised early dismissal routine of releasing the students of the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School first as opposed to last. Ms. Wandle asked why the community was not surveyed for its opinion and/or input concerning this issue.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio stated that this issue was discussed by members of the Shared Decision Making Team and many concerns were reviewed and addressed. It was decided by the Shared Decision Making Team that the final decision to change the format of early release should be made by the building principals and school district administration. Dr. D'Ambrosio commented that after careful deliberation, it was determined that it would be in the best interests of all concerned to have the students of FJC dismissed first instead of last.
- Ms. Diane Burke mentioned the Relay for Life fundraiser issues and asked if the particulars concerning same could be clarified.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio responded by confirming that the board of education agreed to host the Relay for Life fundraiser at Rocky Point Schools. Dr. D'Ambrosio reiterated that both she and the board of education were concerned with the timing of the event, i.e., high school graduation ceremony taking place on the same grounds approximately two weeks following the fundraiser.
- Mrs. Burke stated that she wished to have it "on record" that the Relay for Life fundraiser had permission to use the center field located on the track of the Rocky Point High School. Dr. D'Ambrosio responded affirmatively to Ms. Burke's request.
- Mrs. Burke questioned the idea of purchasing hybrid vehicles for the security staff. Mrs. Burke expressed her opinion that since security vehicles do not normally travel at a speed of forty miles per hour, it would not be an economically good choice to purchase hybrid vehicles for this purpose. Mrs. Burke

recommended that the district look into other types of vehicles to serve this purpose. Mrs. Burke asked if these vehicles would only be budgeted if excessive repairs are needed on the currently used security vehicles.

- Mrs. Thalen responded that these vehicles have not been formally budgeted. At the present time, the purchasing of hybrid vehicles is only a request.
- Mrs. Burke noted that security guards had recently been hired by the district. Mrs. Burke commented that she is often at the buildings and did not take notice of security guards. Mrs. Burke asked if each building had its own security guard.
- Mrs. Thalen asked the building principals to respond to Mrs. Burke's question. Mr. Caulfield, Mrs. Tvelia and Mr. O'Brien answered affirmatively; Dr. Centamore announced that he is currently engaged in the process of staffing same.
- Mrs. Burke wished to both confirm and take issue with the concept that items under \$1,000 were labeled as a "supply." Mrs. Burke specifically mentioned musical instruments as an example of this.
- Mr. Ivanoff stated that items under \$1,000 are labeled supplies and everything over \$1,000 is tracked as a fixed asset.
- Mrs. Thalen thanked Mrs. Burke for her inquiries and reminded all that there would be another opportunity for questions and/or comments at the end of the meeting.

There were no further questions or comments.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. William Caulfield, Rocky Point High School principal, announced the following:

- The Winter Semi-Formal would take place on February 8<sup>th</sup> from 7 PM to 10:30 PM. All profits would offset the costs of the prom.
- This year's musical, *Annie*, would present a special performance on February 26<sup>th</sup> for senior citizens. General audience performances of the musical would take place on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM in the high school auditorium.
- Mr. Caulfield thanked Mr. Walter Adamko and the fifty-two parents who volunteered their time and efforts in creating the set of the *Annie* production.
- The Patriotic Concert is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> in the high school auditorium.
- The guidance department has begun class scheduling for the 2008-2009 school year.
- Mr. Caulfield recognized the outstanding and dedicated service of Ms. Patti Gangi, a secretary in the guidance department who recently retired after thirteen years of service. Mr. Caulfield noted that all of the secretaries are valued members of the district.

Joseph Tanen Centamore, Ed.D., Rocky Point Middle School principal, announced the following:

- The ELA assessments have been completed.

- The late winter sports programs have begun.
- The second marking period ends this month.
- The middle school winter dance is scheduled to be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Shared Decision Making Team and the Guidance Department have scheduled a Spring Career Day for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Preparations for the dramatic production of *Rumpelstiltskin* are currently underway. The play will be presented in April.

Ms. Carol Tvelia, principal, Joseph A. Edgar School, announced the following:

- The New York State ELA assessment tests have been completed.
- Fourth graders are studying the Long Island economy. A local farmer will speak to the students about the importance of agriculture to the Long Island economy.
- Ms. Keenan was awarded a Mesttract grant. Representatives of the Tenement Museum in New York City will arrive at JAE during the week of February 10<sup>th</sup> to present assemblies for students. The theme of these assemblies will be “Life As An Immigrant in the 1900s.”
- February 14<sup>th</sup>: The third grade annual Valentine’s Soiree will be held.
- Gratitude was extended to Ms. Carolyn Reynen for arranging to have the Brookhaven Town Office of Waste Management present an assembly to the students highlighting the benefits of recycling.
- Gratitude was also extended to the PTA for sponsoring the “Journey to Indian Territories” traveling museum show on January 30<sup>th</sup>, January 31<sup>st</sup>, and February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- International Space Day: Four years ago students of the JAE participated in a program wherein they signed a banner that was to be flown into outer space. Ms. Tvelia was notified that the banner did indeed enter outer space this past summer. Several of the students who participated in this program while attending JAE are currently in the high school. They will celebrate in a planned ceremony commemorating this exciting accomplishment.

Mr. Scott O’Brien, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School principal, announced the following:

- The Rocky Point UFSD would like to continue the Pre-K program, pending New York State funding. Student selection will be made by a lottery system for any child who will be four years old on or before December 1, 2008 as per state regulations. Applications are available at the district office, the school district website, and the North Shore Public Library. All applications are due by March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Kindergarten registration for the 2008-2009 school year will begin in March. Children turning five years old on or before December 1, 2008 are eligible for registration. Registrations are by appointment only. Applications are available on the website and must be returned to the FJC main office. Appointment times and registration packets will be mailed after initial applications have been received.
- Parent Math Night for grades K-2 is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. All parents and/or guardians of students in grades K-2 are welcome and encouraged to attend this interactive evening to learn more about the new SRA

Real Math program. Parents will have the opportunity to learn and play math games that are used at school to use at home with their children.

- The PARP program had its kick-off assembly on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Students were provided with American flags and treated to a special presentation from Mrs. Wilson's high school web design class. In correlation with the FJC Traveling Across Country theme, the high school students created an entire interactive website for the FJC school that included pages for each state with specific links for students, teachers and parents. The two-week PARP program will conclude on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, with the annual PARP Character Pancake Breakfast.
- The entire FJC staff welcomes back Dr. Courtney Herbert and extends congratulations upon the birth of her son.
- Thank you to Mrs. Barbara Kjaerbye for her assistance and hard work as interim assistant principal during Dr. Herbert's absence.

### **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 following Board of Education meeting be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, December 17, 2007.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

### **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2007 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

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

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of November 2007 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, the following motion was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of November 2007 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

### **BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2007**

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, the Board of Education accepts the November 2007 Budget Transfer Summary as presented.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen advised that this motion would be explained by Michael Ivanoff after the resolution was read. Following the reading, Mr. Ivanoff explained that following his attendance at a recent financial seminar, it was decided that any budget transfers made from one account to another would be duly noted at the Board of Education meeting during the month in which the transfer was made. Mr. Sanseverino asked Mr. Ivanoff if only two budget transfers were made during the month of November. Mr. Ivanoff confirmed that two transfers were made. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

### **SENIOR PROM – PRESTIGE YACHT CHARTERS, INC.**

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, the Board of Education approves and accepts the contract for the Senior Prom with Prestige Yacht Charters, Inc.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen stated that she had concerns regarding this issue. Prestige Yacht Charters operates in New York City, quite a distance from Rocky Point. Mrs. Thalen expressed her concerns with keeping the prom students both safe and close to home. Mrs. Thalen asked for comments from Mr. Caulfield. Mr. Caulfield responded that the prom committee recommended Prestige Yacht Charters as its first choice for safe travel for the senior class of 2008. Mr. Caulfield reported that prom participants would be transferred by bus to NYC and would return to Rocky Point via the same bus. The students would be under the direct supervision of chaperones at all times. Mr. Matera noted that according to the terms of the contract it would be necessary for a minimum of two hundred and fifty students to participate in this venture and asked Mr. Caulfield if he thought that number of participants could be guaranteed. Mr. Caulfield responded affirmatively. Mr. Sanseverino asked if the traditional Prom Breakfast would still be held. Mr. Caulfield stated that he saw no reason why it would not be held. Mrs. Thalen expressed her concerns regarding the ability of chaperones to appropriately and effectively handle any and all circumstances, should they arise, if any students attending the trip were to engage in inappropriate behavior of any kind during the harbor cruise. Mr. Caulfield assured Mrs. Thalen that all precautions would be put into effect, including Breathalyzer tests, chaperones, etc. Mrs. Thalen thanked Mr. Caulfield for his thoroughness concerning this venture. Mr. Caulfield offered his opinion that the four-hour excursion provided the seniors an opportunity to participate in something very special. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to enter into an agreement for health services for the 2007-2008 school year with the following district:

Riverhead Central School District

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**DONATION – VERIZON EXTRA CREDIT FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, 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 Verizon Extra Credit for Schools Program in the amount of \$43.61.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**BOND ISSUE PROJECT CHANGE ORDER – PHASE V HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATIONS, KEM CONSTRUCTION (CONTRACT #2)**

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, the Board of Education accepts and approves the change order with reference to bond issue related project, as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**BOND ISSUE PROJECT CHANGE ORDER – PHASE V HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATIONS, KEM CONSTRUCTION (CONTRACT #3)**

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, the Board of Education accepts and approves the change order with reference to bond issue related project, as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

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

Upon a motion made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey, 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 01-28-08-A and Schedule 01-28-08- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **PERSONNEL**

Upon a motion made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, 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

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

- Ms. Soltysik commented that she had received a letter at her home concerning a drug and alcohol survey. Ms. Soltysik asked if the results of said survey would be available at a future board of education meeting because she was interested in learning the results of this survey. Dr. D’Ambrosio advised that she would look into whether or not the information would be available to be disseminated to the public. Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Caulfield about the specific information/data the survey would be able to provide to the community and what would be done with this information. Mr. Caulfield responded that the company involved in the survey would certainly utilize the data obtained from same but that at this time he was not quite certain of exactly what would be done with the information obtained.
- Ms. Amy Aprile, chairperson for the Relay for Life fundraiser, expressed her thanks to Dr. D’Ambrosio, Mr. Ivanoff, and the members of the board of education for hosting this year’s Relay for Life. Ms. Aprile confirmed that the American Cancer Society would pay all costs, if necessary, for the repair of damages incurred to the field, sprinklers, etc., during the course of the fundraiser.
- Ms. Sarah Cullen, co-chair for the Relay for Life fundraiser, thanked the board of education for allowing the fundraiser to return to the Rocky Point site. She assured all that there would be a minimal amount of damage, if any, to the property of the RPUFSD and expressed her understanding of the concerns associated with hosting a fundraiser of this magnitude.
- Mrs. Burke asked for clarification of the Bond Issue Change Orders discussed during the evening’s meeting and how said changes would modify the original contract put through earlier this school year. Mr. Sanseverino advised that there was a \$5,000 decrease in cost to the district for the bond issue project and this factor was the issue being addressed at tonight’s meeting.

There were no further questions or comments.



**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:30 PM, a motion was made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Michael Matera to go into Executive Session to discuss particular personnel matters and legal issues.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones  
District Clerk

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:45 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:00 PM, a motion was made by Margaret Smith and seconded by Edward Darcey, for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Carla L. D'Ambrosio, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



