

**MINUTES**  
**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**September 21, 2009**

**Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 7:46 P.M.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Michael Nofi, President  
Diane Burke, Vice President  
Edward Darcey, Trustee  
Michael Ferrara, Trustee  
John Lessler, Trustee  
Carla L. D'Ambrosio Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Asst. Supt. for Finance and Operations  
Anja Groth, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Instruction  
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: None

Mr. Nofi invited anyone with questions and/or comments to come to the microphone.

- Rocky Point Teachers' Association president, Michael Friscia, speaking on behalf of the Association, expressed his disappointment that the district was not willing to meet at the negotiation table and/or go to fact-finding at this juncture of contract negotiations. Mr. Nofi thanked Mr. Friscia for his remarks and noted that the district was willing to continue the negotiation process to work towards an agreement between the district and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association.
- Mr. Pinkenburg asked why the district chose to limit the viewing of President Obama's live speech broadcast to only certain students. Dr. D'Ambrosio commented that students in grades kindergarten through third grade were excluded from live viewing of the speech due to the purported length of the speech and concern for the students' ability to remain seated, still and focused for a lengthy period of time. Dr. D'Ambrosio cited concern for the age-appropriateness of the contents of the speech in direct proportion to students in lower grade levels. Mr. Nofi advised that the Board of Education, together with the administration, decided to allow teachers of students in grades five through twelve to exercise discretion concerning the live viewing of President Obama's speech as it pertained to the direct correlation to the curriculum in progress. Mr. Nofi stated that the Board of Education supported the administration's decision surrounding the parameters in showing the speech live. In response to Mr. Pinkenburg's question concerning who ultimately made the decision whether or not to air President Obama's speech live, Dr. D'Ambrosio stated that the decision was a collaborative one, with input from members of the Board of Education, building principals, and administrative personnel. Dr. D'Ambrosio further noted

- that additional factors were involved concerning the viewing of the live broadcast of the speech, i.e., student scheduling conflicts and the district's technological ability to broadcast the speech via computers, television, etc. Dr. D'Ambrosio further commented teachers had the option to present the speech for viewing at a later day and time for those choosing to do so.
- Reading from a prepared statement, Ms. Mary Heely voiced her dismay with the lack of after-school clubs and activities available to special education students. Ms. Heely noted that she had approached members of administration and teaching staff concerning the inability of special education students to compete and participate in school-based sports and clubs. Ms. Heely implored the district to take the initiative to explore and utilize any and all programs offered by Section XI and any other resources to the fullest extent available to special education students. Mr. Nofi thanked Ms. Heely for bringing this issue to the attention of the board; Mr. Nofi stated that the issues and concerns detailed by Ms. Heely would be addressed by the district as quickly as possible. Dr. D'Ambrosio announced the Interscholastic Athletics for the Challenged program is ready to go, however, specific criteria is required for participation in this brand new program. Dr. D'Ambrosio assured Ms. Heely that the district would utilize all aspects of the program(s) available to those students eligible to participate. Ms. Heely noted that the number of learning disabled students in the district was large and asked the administration and Board of Education to revisit those numbers to better understand the need for after-school clubs and activities for the benefit of these students. Mr. Nofi remarked that the Board of Education had met with Mr. Kies regarding his plans to put a program like this in place and that future communication between the district and the community will be expanded.
  - Ms. Jenny Andersson expressed her thoughts on the creation of a "Special Education Advisory Committee" to act as a solution-oriented type of committee to run similarly to the state-level Shared Decision Making Committee. Ms. Andersson suggested such a committee meet three or four times a year in order to brainstorm ideas and solutions. Ms. Andersson remarked that the creation of such a committee as this would be a better forum to share ideas in a non-threatening manner. Dr. D'Ambrosio invited Ms. Andersson to phone her in order to further explore Ms. Andersson's suggestions and ideas.
  - Ms. Andersson invited all to the September 22<sup>nd</sup> PTA meeting and encouraged all teachers to actively participate in the PTA.
  - Ms. Erica Watson reported that the new JAE playground was closed down due to vandalism and inquired as to what could be done to prevent this from happening again. Mr. Nofi commented that this act of vandalism was shameful and upsetting to parents, students, and teachers alike. Mr. Nofi suggested the possibility of a fence being placed around the playground to be locked at the end of each day. Mr. Nofi further noted the possibility of lights to be repowered in the direction of the playground and the implementation and utilization of a security camera.

There were no further questions or comments.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Mr. Caulfield, Rocky Point High School principal, reported a successful 2009-2010 school opening. Back to School night was held on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. Homecoming Weekend will begin with the homecoming dance on Friday evening and the homecoming parade on Saturday. Mrs. Marjorie Fischer, retired German and English teacher of Rocky Point Schools, is this year's Grand Marshal.
- Dr. Scott O'Brien, Rocky Point Middle School principal, thanked the teachers, staff and parents for a smooth and wonderful 2009-2010 school opening. Students are actively involved in the Middle School sports and clubs. A club guideline is available on the Middle School website with all clubs, advisors and dates of meetings. The bi-weekly flier, containing the most updated information about school-wide events and after-school activities, is also posted on the Middle School website. Open House will take place on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. for grades 6, 7 and 8. The PTA Book Fair is open in the library during Open School night for parents and guardians and on Thursday and Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, the PTA Book Fair is available to students. The Middle School will participate in the High School Homecoming Parade on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year's parade is "Icons of Music." Student council members are looking forward to representing the Middle School at this event.
- Ms. Carol Tvelia, Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School principal, reported a very successful opening for the 2009-2010 school year. Each night of Open School Night was well attended by parents and guardians. A large number of students participated in Spirit Week. The PTA Book Fair will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. PTA will sponsor school pictures on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. Ms. Tvelia shared her dismay as she reported vandalism of the JAE playground over the weekend. Ms. Tvelia reported that special materials were needed to cleanse the playground of the many profanities sprayed on the equipment. Ms. Tvelia noted that the playground was closed to the children until the cleaning could be completed as she did not want to subject the children to such vulgarities. Ms. Tvelia reported that the students of JAE were also involved in this weekend's Homecoming festivities.
- Mr. Kenneth Crawford, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School acting principal, reported 753 anxious students reported to school on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Crawford thanked the support staff for their assistance with the kindergartners on the first four days of school and noted that on the fifth day, the students were able to walk unescorted into the building to their classes. Mr. Crawford extended his congratulations to ESL teacher, Nicole Fernandez, for winning an ING grant allowing her to start up a "who's who" program of important local residents who will speak to students about their roles in the community. Mr. Crawford noted Ms. Fernandez was one of one hundred winners nationwide from a pool of two thousand applicants. Shared Decision Making Team will meet on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 A.M. FJC picture days are scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The PTA Book Fair is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Mr. Len Kies, director of health, physical education, athletics and intramurals, reported the 2009-2010 fall high school sports season was up and running. The

weekend's Homecoming festivities would include the traditional annual Alumni Soccer Game and include a full sports schedule with the cheerleaders cheering all day. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, several student-athletes will be signing letters of intent for prestigious colleges. Mr. Kies shared his excitement for the addition of the Athletics for the Challenged program, remarking that its implementation was truly the results of a grass roots effort. Mr. Kies extended his gratitude to all those who made it happen.

## **MINUTES**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education meetings be accepted as presented: **Meeting August 31, 2009, Meeting September 8, 2009 and Meeting September 15, 2009.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

## **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2009.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

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

Upon a motion made by Michael Ferrara 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 July 2009 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

## **BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – JULY 2009**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler 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 July 2009 Budget Transfer Summary as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

## **RESERVE FUND TRANSFER**

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 approves the transfer of an amount not-to-exceed \$1,500,000 into

each of the following reserve funds: Workers' Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, Retirement Contribution, Capital, Employee Benefit and Insurance, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009.

Mr. Nofi commented that this transfer of funds pertained to internal bookkeeping for the funding of possible future necessary projects and/or repairs and that the community would be apprised of the specifics surrounding any of these projects and/or repairs.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **2009-2010 TAX LEVY**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the tax levy of \$40,170,361 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year be approved.

Mr. Nofi remarked that the tax levy was consistent with the amount previously budgeted.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – AUGUST 2009**

Upon a motion made by Michael Ferrara 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 August 2009 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **CONTRACTS FOR UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN SERVICES FOR THE 2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR**

Upon a motion made by John Lessler 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 authorizes the Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with Step by Step Preschool, Trinity Nursery School, St. Anselm's Nursery School, and ABC's Always Blooming for Universal Pre-Kindergarten services for the 2009-2010 school year, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACT – METRO THERAPY, INC.**

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 President of the Board of Education to enter into a

contract with Metro Therapy, Inc. for special education instructional services for the 2009-2010 school year as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACTS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to enter into contracts with Ms. Susanne Willoughby for special education music therapy services; Matthew J. Dettleff, P.T., for physical therapy services; Stony Brook Psychological Center for home-based psychological assessment and treatment intervention, and Career & Employment Options , Inc., for specialized career assessment, respectively, for the 2009-2010 school year as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**TARGET DONATION TO DISTRICT**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, 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 \$478.17 as a result of the donation from Target.

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

A 2110 500 02 0000	\$116.40
A 2110 500 03 0000	\$361.77

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

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

Upon a motion made by John Lessler 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 09-21-09-A and Schedule 09-21-09-B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**PERSONNEL**

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 accepts the attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ANJA GROTH, ACTING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR INSTRUCTION**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District approves the employment agreement between the Board of Education and Anja Groth, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Instruction from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 and authorizes Michael Nofi, as president, to execute same on behalf of the Board of Education.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND LISA ALTER, THREE-FIFTHS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/CENTRAL REGISTRATION COORDINATOR**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District approves the employment agreement between the Board of Education and Lisa Alter, three-fifths Administrative Assistant/Central Registration Coordinator from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 and authorizes Michael Nofi, as president, to execute same on behalf of the Board of Education.

Motion carried 4-1

**RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW, WITH PREJUDICE, THE DISCIPLINARY CHARGES VOTED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON JUNE 22, 2009 PURSUANT TO SECTION 3020-A OF THE EDUCATION LAW**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education withdraws, with prejudice, the disciplinary charges against a tenured teacher voted by the Board of Education on June 22, 2009, pursuant to Section 3020-a of the education law.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE TERMS OF THE STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND A TENURED TEACHER**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the terms of the Stipulation of Settlement between the Board of Education and a tenured teacher and authorizes Michael Nofi, as president, to execute the stipulation on behalf of the Board of Education.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE ROCKY POINT ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes Dr. Carla L. D'Ambrosio to execute an Agreement between the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Rocky Point Administrators' Association regarding temporary Coordinator positions in English and Social Studies in the Rocky Point Middle School and the Rocky Point High School, effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees. There were no further questions and/or comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:35 P.M. Diane Burke made a motion and Edward Darcey seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss particular personnel matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones  
District Clerk

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:15 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:18 P.M. a motion was made by Edward Darcey and seconded by Diane Burke to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Carla L. D'Ambrosio  
Superintendent of Schools

