

MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 27, 2011

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM in the library of the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School.

Present: Michael Nofi, President
Diane Burke, Vice President (arriving at 6:05 PM)
John Lessler, Trustee (arriving at 6:07 PM)
Kathleen Hegggers, Trustee
Scott Reh, Trustee
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
Deborah DeLuca, 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 6:03 p.m. Scott Reh made a motion and Kathleen Hegggers seconded to adjourn in order to attend a contractually mandated meeting with the leadership of the Rocky Point Teachers' Association.

All in favor – Motion carried 3-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:19 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Nofi welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. William B. Caulfield, Principal, Rocky Point High School

- On Tuesday, April 12th, forty students were inducted into the National Honor Society. Each of the inductees met the level of excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, character and service.
- Congratulations to the students and teachers who participated in the annual Jazz Concert held on April 13th. Ms. Gatto directed the high school Jazz Band, Ms. Donovan directed the high school Jazz Choir, Mr. Ragona directed the middle school Jazz Band and Mr. Ventura directed the Guitar Club. A special commendation to Mr. Ventura for the work he has done in building the guitar ensemble during the three years it has been in existence.

- The annual Senior Citizen Prom was held on April 14th. This event was sponsored by the high school Student Council with assistance from the Be A Nicer Neighbor Club. Approximately two hundred senior citizens were invited to attend dinner and listen to the music of the Island Jazz Express.
- The spring Pocket Theater production of *Opal's Husband* will be performed on April 28th, April 29th and April 30th at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00.
- On Saturday, April 30th, the first annual Spring Fest will be hosted by the Rocky Point High school. Many of the spring sports teams will be in competition throughout the day. Family fun activities will be available, with games and activities such as ring toss, cupcake creations, win-a-goldfish, and strength-throwing testing.

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

- During the month of April the middle school celebrated teacher and staff appreciation via the new "Secret Pal" project.
- The dramatic production, *Aladdin, Jr.*, was presented earlier this month. The students performed a full dress rehearsal for sixth grade students and kindergarten students from the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary Schools. Congratulations to all on a job well done.
- Mr. Werner Reich, a Holocaust survivor, spoke to middle school students about the importance of being a "just" person, i.e., Judge the situation, Understand the problem, Solve it and Take action. Mr. Reich also shared with the students his experiences at Auschwitz and what he has learned in his life experiences as a Holocaust survivor. Thank you to Ms. Alemaghides for her efforts in bringing Mr. Reich to the middle school as a guest speaker.
- Career Day will be held on April 28th. Approximately thirty speakers will share their experiences related to their individual professions. Thank you to guidance counselors Patrick Panella, Courtney Bane-Honan and Janine Quigley for their work in organizing this event for the middle school students.

Ms. Carol Tvelia, Principal, Joseph A. Edgar School

- The first round of baby chicks hatched and were returned to the farm during the week of April 11th. There were fifty six hatchlings out of seventy two incubated eggs, resulting in a seventy eight percent success rate. The next group of eggs is expected to arrive on May 3rd. All third grade classes will soon receive their butterfly larvae.
- The New York State Assessments will be given on May 3rd, 4th and 5th for ELA and May 11th and May 12th for math. Please note this change in dates. It is important that students arrive at school on time during the testing dates. The students should have a healthy breakfast and a restful night of sleep during the testing period.
- A recent survey conducted by AVG, an internet security firm, revealed the following statistics: 58% of children aged 2 to 5 know how to play a basic video game, 63% can turn a computer on and of, and 69% can use a computer mouse. By contrast, only 52% of children aged 2 to 5 can ride a bike, 39% know their home address and telephone number, 37% can write their first and last name, and 11% can tie their shoes!

- The first spring concert will be held on May 9th at 7 PM and will feature the debut performance of the fifth grade band. Tickets will be limited to three tickets per family due to space restrictions in the high school auditorium.
- The national program of Six Pillars of Character, has begun at JAE. Posters referencing the six pillars of trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness, responsibility and respect, are prominently displayed throughout the halls of JAE together with a large banner hanging in the front entranceway. As students are “caught” practicing each of the pillars they will be given slips of paper denoting the specific character pillar displayed to be placed in a large container in the front hallway. On Fridays, Mrs. Biagotti and Mrs. McGuire will pick twenty slips from the container and present the children with rubber bracelets imprinted with the character trait for which they were being recognized. The slips will be formed into chains of character that will wind up and down each hallway. Special thanks to the peer mediators for their assistance in making the chains.
- A very special thank you to Ms. Alberti and Ms. Quartararo and the PTA and Neil’s Wheels for sponsoring the very successful food drive. Donations from the food drive went to the Trinity Lutheran Church food pantry.
- Fourth grade students raised more than \$150.00 through UNICEF for the victims of Japan’s recent earthquake and tsunami. The students raised the money by creating a wishing well and making origami cranes.

Mr. Kenneth Crawford, Acting Principal, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School

- On April 8th, kindergarten classes visited the high school auditorium to attend a dress rehearsal of the middle school’s production of *Aladdin, Jr.* The students and staff had a wonderful time.
- On Friday, April 15th, second grade students attended a special assembly. Mr. Chris Pendergast, an ALS patient and former teacher, informed the students about Lou Gehrig’s disease and the *Ride for Life*. The theme of Mr. Pendergast’s presentation was everyone faces problems but the choice of how to cope with them is up to you.
- During May 16th through the 18th, kindergarten classes will visit Benner’s Farm in East Setauket. The students will learn about mammals, hold baby bunnies, see a milking demonstration and have the opportunity to bottle feed lambs, goat kids and piglets. The kindergarten students will also visit the North Shore Public Library on May 25th and May 27th.
- Second grade classes will attend Brookhaven Safety Town and Wildlife Center at the Holtsville Ecology Site from May 6th through May 13th. Through hands-on experiences, the students will learn about traffic and pedestrian safety. They will ride bicycles and miniature electric cars through a replica village. The students will have the opportunity to tour the Wildlife Center where more than one hundred injured and/or non-releasable wild animals may be viewed.
- There will be a bucket-filling assembly for kindergarten students on April 29th. The theme of the assembly will be “Respect and Earth Day.”
- The PTA is sponsoring a plant sale for Mother’s Day on both May 5th and May 6th.

Mr. Nofi thanked the building principals for their reports.

Mr. Nofi opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Mrs. Mary Heely, president of the Rocky Point PTA, advised the PTA was sponsoring a special PTA meeting for the purpose of “Meeting the BOE Candidates.” Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to meet the six BOE candidates running for the two available open seats on the Board of Education. The meeting is scheduled for May 5th at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. In addition, the PTA is sponsoring plant sales at the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School, the Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School and the Rocky Point Middle School during the first week in May. Mrs. Heely expressed her gratitude to Mrs. Patricia Alberti, Mrs. Anne Quartararo and Neil’s Wheels for their efforts for the food drive. Twenty five boxes were donated to the food pantry of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Rocky Point. The donated items, consisting of non-perishable food items and assorted non-food items, served several families during the Easter holiday. A special thank you to Mrs. Tvelia, Mr. Tapler, and all those who participated in this wonderful effort.

There were no further questions or comments. Mr. Nofi reminded meeting attendees that there would be another opportunity to address the board prior to the closing of the meeting.

MINUTES

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meetings be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, March 28, 2011 and Special Meeting, April 4, 2011.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Financial Reports for the month of March 2011 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of March 2011 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – MARCH 2011

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 March 2011 Budget Transfer Summary.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – MARCH 2011

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 accepts the March 2011 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the Rocky Point Union Free School District Budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year pursuant to the Education Law Section 1716 in the amount of \$69,509,578.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SPECIAL EDUCATION 2011-2012 CONTRACT -CAREER & EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS, INC.

Upon a motion made by Kathleen Hegggers 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 President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with Career & Employment Options, Inc. for specialized career assessment for the 2011-2012 school year, under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke 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 execute an instructional services contract between Rocky Point Schools and Scott and Judith Bruno for their daughter, Shelby Bruno, Grade 4, to attend Joseph A. Edgar for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year beginning on Monday, April 4, 2011 and ending on Friday, June 24, 2011 at a cost of \$6,057 pro-rated to be paid to Rocky Point Union Free School District by Scott and Judith Bruno of Miller Place, as attached hereto.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

DONATIONS – GREAT AMERICAN OPPORTUNITIES

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 approves and accepts the donations from Great American Opportunities in the amount of \$299.20 and \$24.00, respectively, as per the attached.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rocky Point Union Free School District hereby approves the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to increase the general fund budget by \$323.20 as a result of the donation.

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

A 2110 500 02 0000 \$323.20

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi extended his gratitude to Great American Opportunities and the PTA particularly, for its continued generosity resulting from collaboration with various associations.

SURPLUS ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Kathleen Hegggers, 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

Mr. Reh confirmed with Mr. Nofi the item designated for surplus was a laptop computer.

VOTE TO APPROVE/DISAPPROVE THE BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR 2011-2012

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves/disapproves the BOCES Administrative Budget for 2011-2012 in the amount of \$28,782,128.00.

Roll Call

Mr. Nofi	Disapprove
Mrs. Burke	Disapprove
Mr. Lessler	Disapprove
Mrs. Hegggers	Disapprove
Mr. Reh	Disapprove

All in favor – Motion to Disapprove the BOCES Administrative Budget for 2011-2012 carried 5-0

VOTING FOR TRUSTEES TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SERVICES OF THE FIRST SUPERVISORY DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

Upon a motion read by Diane Burke, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education elects the following candidate(s) to serve for the term commencing on July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2014. (*Choose up to five*):

Walter Denzler	_____
Stephen Gessner	_____
Susan Lipman	_____
Anne Mackesey	_____
William Miller	_____
Katherine Heinlein	_____

The motion was not seconded. The motion failed to carry to vote for trustees to serve on the BOCES First Supervisory District of the County of Suffolk.

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

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 votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 4-27-11-A and Schedule 4-27-11- B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Kathleen Hegggers, 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

Mr. Nofi opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Mrs. Ronnie Gilbert asked if the special education 2011-2012 contract with Career and Employment Options, Inc. was a new contract. Dr. Ring responded the contract for the 2011-2012 school year was a new contract but that the district had contracted with Career and Employment Options, Inc. in the past. In response to additional questions from Mrs. Gilbert concerning the particulars of the contract, Dr. Ring explained the contract addressed transitional services for special education students and provided specific services for specific students. Mrs. Gilbert thanked Dr. Ring for his response.

- Mr. Jerome Vessichio spoke in detail regarding home track team meets. Mr. Vessichio explained that the district's failure to provide pole-vaulting mats during home meets puts Rocky Point student-athletes at an automatic 9-0 point disadvantage as visiting teams are automatically awarded 9 points because mats are not provided. Mr. Vessichio stated this was the second time he was addressing the Board of Education about this matter. Mr. Nofi acknowledged the board's awareness of the issue as it was originally brought to the board's attention during the tenure of the previous athletic director. Both Mr. Nofi and Dr. Ring assured Mr. Vessichio that the matter would be pursued with the current athletic director, Ms. Amy Agnesini, and the trustees of the Board of Education.

There were no further questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:45 PM Diane Burke made a motion and John Lessler seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss and review the appeal of a student suspension.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

The Board returned to open session at 8:20 PM.

APPEAL OF STUDENT SUSPENSION

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that after careful consideration of Board Policy and review of the record and appeal of the suspension of a student made known to the Board, the Board of Education hereby upholds the decision of the Rocky Point High School principal in the suspension of said student.

Motion carried 4-1

Mrs. Heggens noted, for the record, that it was her preference to modify the suspension decision imposed by the Rocky Point High School principal in the suspension of said student as opposed to upholding the decision of the Rocky Point High School principal.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Kathleen Heggens, the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk