

**MINUTES  
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
AUGUST 25, 2014**

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Susan Sullivan, President  
Scott Reh, Vice President  
Melissa Brown, Trustee  
Sean Callahan, Trustee  
Michael F. Ring, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Deborah De Luca, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent  
Gregory Hilton, School Business Official  
Susan Wilson, Executive Director for Educational Services  
Patricia Jones, District Clerk

Absent: John Lessler, Trustee

**Executive Session**

At 6:02 p.m. Sean Callahan made a motion and Scott Reh seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and ongoing litigation.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:05 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Sullivan invited Dr. Ring to begin with the Superintendent's Report.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- Dr. Ring announced the first day of school for faculty and staff was scheduled for Tuesday, September 2, 2014 and the first day of school for students was scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2014.
- Dr. Ring extended his congratulations and appreciation to Mr. Chris Malone, Mr. Greg Hilton and the buildings and grounds crew for ensuring the buildings were ready for the return of faculty, staff and students.

Dr. Ring invited Mr. DeBenedetto to begin the principal reports.

**MR. JOHN DEBENEDETTO, PRINCIPAL, ROCKY POINT HIGH SCHOOL**

- To aid in the transition to high school, a freshman orientation and bagel social is scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. During this time, students will

have the opportunity to socialize with old friends, build new friendships, attend an assembly on high school expectations and graduation requirements, listen to upper classmen describe life as a freshman in high school, tour the building and practice opening lockers. Mr. DeBenedetto extended his gratitude to the PTA for funding this event.

- The annual 9/11 Assembly, organized by Mr. Acritelli, will be held on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> during periods 2 and 3 for juniors and seniors. Guest speakers will discuss how their lives were impacted on that day. Mr. DeBenedetto thanked Mr. Acritelli for organizing this assembly.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent orientation will take place on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Parents will be provided with general information regarding requirements for high school graduation and will receive a pamphlet on preparing 9<sup>th</sup> grade students for college. Open School Night will immediately follow.
- Mr. DeBenedetto extended his thanks to Mr. Benes and the custodial staff for the completion of all interior construction projects.

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

- Entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade students received their schedules at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School "Welcome Back Social" held on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Dr. O'Brien thanked the PTA for sponsoring this annual event. During the event, students were given the opportunity to review their schedules, locate their classrooms and set up and organize their lockers. Guidance counselors were available to assist students and parents with any scheduling concerns.
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students had the opportunity to visit their classrooms and lockers on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Middle School sports will begin on Wednesday, September 3, 2014.
- Middle School Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 p.m.

#### **Ms. Linda Towlen, Principal, Joseph A. Edgar School**

- Ms. Towlen thanked the custodial and secretarial staff members for their dedication and hard work as they prepared the buildings and supplies to start the new school year. Ms. Towlen also thanked the teachers for having their individual classrooms ready for the new year.
- The annual third grade Ice Cream Social was held today. Students and parents visited the school to locate their classrooms and participated in a scavenger hunt to learn where the important places in the building were located. The Mr. Softee truck, sponsored by the PTA, provided ice cream during this event. Ms. Towlen extended her gratitude to the PTA and the teaching staff for their support of this event.
- On the first day of school, third graders will report to the "new" gym to meet their teachers, fourth graders will meet their teachers in the "old" gym and fifth graders will go directly to their classrooms.
- Open School Nights are scheduled for the evenings of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, according to grade level order.

- Spirit Week is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>. Special events are planned for each day.

**Mrs. Virginia Kelly-Gibbons, Principal, Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School**

- Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Students and their families will meet their teachers, take a school bus ride, and learn about a typical day in kindergarten. The Kindergarten Social will follow. The students will enjoy the new playground, eat ices and listen to the reading of *Marley Goes to School*. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons extended her gratitude to the PTA for its sponsorship of this program.
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons acknowledged the custodial staff for its tireless work in preparing the building for the new school year.
- Spirit Week will be celebrated during the week of September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons acknowledged Ms. Brooks for the creation of the PowerPoint presentation created to commemorate the heroes of 9/11 to be presented in the individual classrooms.
- Annual Open Houses are scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Following the building principal reports, Dr. Ring reminded meeting attendees of the three early dismissal days scheduled for kindergarten. In addition, Dr. Ring referenced the informational letter posted on the district's website concerning the newly implemented Visitor Management System. Noting that this system was a great improvement over the previous system, Dr. Ring asked for the patience of all visitors as the district collectively learns and implements the system. Dr. Ring stressed the importance of visitors arriving at the buildings with personal identification in tow to ensure access into the buildings.

Mrs. Sullivan thanked the building principals for their reports and opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Ms. Melanie Connelly thanked Dr. Ring, the administration and most importantly, the custodial staff, for their continued efforts in support of the students of Rocky Point Schools. Ms. Connelly made note of the dearth of custodial/groundskeeper employees and stressed the importance and need for additional hires in these areas.
- Mrs. Sullivan expressed her agreement with Ms. Connelly's assessment upon the appearance of the buildings noting the custodial employees regularly do a phenomenal job.
- Ms. Allison Villafane-Kaplan spoke in detail about the specifics concerning the dangers surrounding her daughter and all those suffering from life-threatening food allergies. Ms. Villafane-Kaplan provided a comprehensive outline of the CDC/NYS guidelines related to food allergies and offered specific and comprehensive recommendations to aid in the prevention of a student coming into contact with a food allergen. Ms. Villafane-Kaplan stressed the importance of all students washing their hands to mitigate the possibility of peanut butter residue coming into contact with those students with food allergies. Ms. Villafane-Kaplan

- asked that the district adopt a policy to enforce hand washing for all students after eating peanut butter. Ms. Villafane-Kaplan also asked the district to limit food to the cafeteria and classroom and restrict it from common areas such as music and art rooms. Ms. Villafane-Kaplan urged the district to consider hiring only those teacher aides willing to administer an EpiPen to a child in need.
- Ms. Yvonne Castelli revealed her son was a fifth grade student who suffered from severe allergic reactions. Ms. Castelli asked how the district could assure her and make her certain that her son's classroom was a "safe classroom." Ms. Castelli offered her opinion that the school district did not take as seriously as it should the importance of those students suffering from food allergies. Ms. Castelli requested teachers be assigned to classrooms in advance so that they may be made aware of the circumstances they face with particular students. Ms. Castelli advised that she was dissatisfied with the district's inability to provide her with an exact placement for her son after she made several attempts to reach out to the building administration to secure this information. Ms. Castelli also emphasized her recommendation that other school employees, besides the school nurse, be trained and ready to respond in the case of a food allergy emergency.
  - Mrs. Sullivan responded that she and the board would look into this matter as soon as possible.
  - Dr. Ring invited Ms. Castelli to remain in the auditorium following the meeting to discuss with him and Ms. Towlen her immediate concerns.
  - Mrs. Brown voiced her dismay upon learning that EpiPens were not in the classrooms and only available in the office of the school nurse. Mrs. Brown stated that this issue should be rectified immediately.
  - Ms. Markland shared that she has two children attending the district that suffer from food allergies. Ms. Markland expressed her opinion that the food allergy situation was a serious issue and a growing epidemic in the county and that the district needed to be proactive in this matter.
  - Mrs. Mary Heely, reading from a prepared statement, referenced the legal findings that the lack of CPR training and failure to use an EpiPen could be construed as a liability on the part of the school district and that employers are responsible in a medical emergency.
  - Mrs. Heely expressed her support of the utilization of drug sniffing dogs in the district. Mrs. Heely noted use of the dogs was statistically proven to lower drug-related incidents. Mrs. Heely shared the East Islip SD has partnered with the Suffolk County Police Department Canine Unit and those who would like additional information concerning this partnership could access same on the East Islip School District website.
  - Mrs. Sullivan thanked Mrs. Heely for sharing this information with the board.

There were no further questions or comments.

## **MINUTES**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education meetings be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, June 23, 2014 and Organizational Meeting, July 10, 2014.**

Noting that both he and Mrs. Brown were not board trustees at the time of the Board of Education meeting of June 23, 2014, Mr. Callahan asked if he and Mrs. Brown should abstain from the motion to accept the minutes from said meeting. Following a brief discussion, Dr. Ring and Mr. Reh offered that Mr. Callahan's and Mrs. Brown's votes to accept the minutes of the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting would reflect that said minutes were created by and submitted for approval by the district clerk.

There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Reports for the month of June 2014.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

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

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the Extra-Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of June 2014 as presented.

Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Brown requested information concerning the formation of school clubs. Dr. Ring provided Mrs. Brown with the procedures currently in place and the protocols to be followed upon the institution of prospective new clubs.

There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### **BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – JULY 2014**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the July 2014 Budget Transfer Summary Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – JUNE 2014**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the June 2014 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**CLAIMS SERVICE BUREAU AGREEMENT**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the Claims Service Bureau Claims Service Agreement for the 2014-2015 school year.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**POWER OF ATTORNEY – INDUSTRIAL U.I. SERVICES**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, 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 grant limited power of attorney for the handling of unemployment insurance matters to Industrial U.I. Services, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**SPECIAL EDUCATION 2014-2015 CONTRACT – DDI**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, 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 Developmental Disabilities Institute, Inc. for a special education student's services for the 2014-2015 school year under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**SPECIAL EDUCATION – RIVERVIEW SCHOOL – SUMMER 2014**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with Riverview School for a special education student's services for the summer

2014, as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**SPECIAL EDUCATION – RIVERVIEW SCHOOL**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, 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 Riverview School for a special education student's services as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Brown expressed her desire to discuss the least restrictive environment aspect of student placement. Mrs. Sullivan recommended that such discussion should be addressed later in the meeting.

There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**SPECIAL EDUCATION 2014 SUMMER CONTRACT – CAREER & EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS, INC.**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, 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 summer 2014 under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**SCO FAMILY OF SERVICES/WESTBROOK PREPARATORY SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONAL AGREEMENT**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with SCO Family of Services/Westbrook Preparatory School for special education students services who will attend Westbrook Preparatory School in the 2014-2015 school year under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**ST. JAMES TUTORING – HOSPITAL BASED INSTRUCTION CONTRACT**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, 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 St. James Tutoring, Inc. for hospital based instruction at a rate of \$44.00 per hour, per student, as attached.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Callahan requested information pertaining to the contract between St. James Tutoring and the Rocky Point UFSD concerning the structuring of fees. Dr. Ring advised that this contract is to provide hospital-based tutoring and is utilized when students are hospitalized for a period of time necessitating in-facility tutoring.

There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION SERVICES AGREEMENT 2014-2015 ACCESSIBLE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ALTERNATIVES**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the Rocky Point Union Free School District to enter into a Service Agreement with Accessible Learning Technology Alternatives for assistive technology services for special education students for the 2014-2015 school year, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**MUSIC THERAPY SERVICES AGREEMENT – ILENE B. MORRIS 2014-2015**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 authorizes the Rocky Point Union Free School District to enter into a Service Agreement with Ilene B. Morris, LCAT, MT-BC, for music therapy services for the 2014-2015 school year, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**BID AWARD #15-14 ASPHALT/CONCRETE PAVING & REPAIR – REBID**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education awards Bid #15-14 Asphalt/Concrete Paving & Repair – REBID to Park Line Asphalt Maintenance, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder meeting bid specifications, as per the attached.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Callahan requested clarification as to the reasoning behind the difference in quoted costs for the Rocky Point HS/MS, Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School and the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School. Mr. Hilton advised the price quotes for the specific buildings were not based upon the number of lots but the size of each lot.

There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**REVIEW, REVISION AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES 1510 AND 3280 (SECOND READING)**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education reviews and re-adopts policy number 1510 Regular Board Meetings and Rules (Quorum and Parliamentary Procedure) and policy number 3280—Use of School Facilities, Materials and Equipment (*second reading*).

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**REVIEW, REVISION AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES (SECOND READING)**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education reviews and re-adopts the following policies (*second reading*):

- Policy 3410 Code of Conduct on School Property
- Policy 5220 District Investments
- Policy 5410 Purchasing
- Policy 5681 School Safety Plans
- Policy 6111 Testing Misconduct and Mandatory Reporting Requirements
- Policy 7110 Rocky Point School District's Comprehensive Attendance Plan

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**RECERTIFICATION OF THE ROCKY POINT UFSD 2012-2015 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW PLAN**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Rocky Point Union Free School District hereby recertifies the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Plan in compliance with Education Law Section 3012-c, 8 N.Y.C.R.R. 302 and 8 N.Y.C.R.R.100.2; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED**, that the Superintendent is directed to file the foregoing Implementation Certification Form certifying that the Rocky Point UFSD multi-year APPR Plan is still in effect for the 2014-2015 school year.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**DONATION - A+ SCHOOL REWARDS FROM STOP & SHOP**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, 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 Stop & Shop and the A+ School Rewards Program in the amount of \$43.31, as per the attached.

**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 \$43.31 as a result of the donation from Stop & Shop and the A+ School Rewards Program.

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

A 2110 500 06 0000 (MS)     \$43.31

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mrs. Sullivan thanked Stop & Shop for the donation.

**ROCKY POINT PTA DONATION FOR INCOMING 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ORIENTATION**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 \$250.00 donation from the Rocky Point PTA.

**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 \$250.00 as a result of the donation from the Rocky Point PTA.

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

A 2110 500 03 0000                    \$250.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mrs. Sullivan offered her gratitude to the PTA for its continued generous support of this event.

**LIVE LIKE SUSIE SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves and accepts various donations on behalf of the Live Like Susie Scholarship in the amount of \$1,125.00.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Mrs. Sullivan made note that several individuals and an organization made contributions to this fund and thanked them for their generosity.

**INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, 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 the Inter-Municipal Agreement with Miller Place Union Free School District for the district sale and Miller Place UFSD purchase of READ 180/System 44 materials at a cost of \$13,000.00 and an additional cost of \$2,000.00 to prepare, copy, pack and ship the materials, as per the attached.

**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 \$15,000.00 as a result of the sale of the READ 180/System 44 materials to Miller Place UFSD.

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

A 2110 500 06 0000    \$13,000.00  
A 2110 130 99 0000    \$ 2,000.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan and seconded by Melissa Brown, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the attached Memorandum of Agreement between the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE ROCKY POINT SCHOOL-RELATED PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh and seconded by Melissa Brown, 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 a Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Education and the Rocky Point School-Related Professional Association for the purpose of adding the Civil Service title of Principal Account Clerk that shall become part of the recognition clause of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Rocky Point School-Related Professional Association, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ROCKY POINT UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, 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 a Memorandum of Agreement between the Rocky Point Union Free School District and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

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

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 8-25-14-A and Schedule 8-25-14-B.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

## **APPOINTMENT OF RECORDS ACCESS OFFICER AND RECORDS APPEALS OFFICER**

Prior to the reading of the motion, Mrs. Sullivan stated that she had discussed this holdover agenda item from the Organizational Meeting of July 10, 2014 in depth with Dr. Ring.

Discussion ensued among the trustees.

Mrs. Brown expressed her dissatisfaction with FOIL requests going directly to members of the administration. Mrs. Brown referenced the request she made at the July meeting to poll other districts for a consensus of the procedures followed. Noting that the results of said poll indicated that in many districts it was the district clerk who was appointed as the Records Access Officer, Mrs. Brown expressed her opinion that the district clerk of Rocky Point should be appointed. Mrs. Sullivan polled the other trustees for their opinions and input on the matter. Mr. Callahan expressed his ambivalence on the matter noting that he was not aware of prior issues with an administrator being appointed to perform this function. Mr. Reh shared that it was the function of the district clerk in the Mount Sinai School District and that it entailed a large amount of work.

Following the discussion, Mrs. Sullivan determined the appointments of the Records Access Officer and Records Appeals Officer should remain as they were in the past and would be reevaluated as necessary. Mrs. Brown encouraged community members to come forward with any concerns or complaints they may have as a result of this recommendation. Mr. Callahan asked Dr. Ring for the number of appeals he has presided over during his tenure as the Records Appeals Officer. Noting that he had taken over the responsibilities of this appointment from his predecessor, Dr. Ring advised that during his four-year tenure as the Records Appeals Officer he presided over only one appeal and that said appeal had been granted.

There was no further discussion.

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education appoints Mr. Gregory Hilton as the Records Access Officer and Dr. Michael F. Ring as the Records Appeals Officer, for the 2014-2015 school year.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

## **PERSONNEL**

Upon a motion made by Melissa Brown and seconded by Sean Callahan, 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.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Callahan remarked that he had several questions concerning the personnel agenda. Mr. Callahan asked for additional information concerning the reduction by one year of a customary three year probationary period of a newly hired probationary teacher due to the awarding of Jarema credit and the benefit, if any, to the school district.

Mrs. Wilson explained in detail the application of Jarema credit and the specific circumstances under which Jarema credit is awarded.

Mr. Callahan expressed his concerns with the large number of class coverage appointments and inquired as to the large class sizes generating the sixth class overages.

Mrs. Wilson engaged in discussion with Mr. Callahan as to the need for appointments as opposed to hiring new probationary teachers to fill less-than-full-time positions. Noting that the class overages were specific to certain classes, Mr. Reh shared that he was in agreement with Mr. Callahan concerning the need to hire more teachers if the current class sizes warranted it. Mrs. Wilson said she would look into the precise class sizes driving the necessity for additional class coverage. Dr. Ring advised that the overages were not necessarily a result of additional classes due to class size, but due to various circumstances, many of which have existed for some time in certain disciplines. Additionally, Dr. Ring indicated that the hiring of fractional teachers becomes more challenging but that the district would review the numbers for the next school year.

Mrs. Sullivan, on behalf of the Board, welcomed the new employees to the district and extended her congratulations to the newly hired probationary teachers and those teachers recalled from the PEL list.

Motion carried 3-0-1

Mr. Callahan abstained citing a possible conflict of interest.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

- Mrs. Brown discussed in detail her concerns with current K-12 CSE placements and the issues she has with CTD. Mrs. Brown expressed her desire for the district to rethink the scope of course offerings to those students with special needs. Dr. Ring responded that during the 2013-201 school year the ICT model was implemented in grades 6-12 and that for the 2014-2015 school year it has been implemented in grades K-5, also. Additionally, Dr. Ring explained that the Next STEP action planning team for Special Education had reviewed data pertaining to expanding ICT into additional areas and had determined that the need existed in the area of more rigorous courses. Dr. Ring also indicated that the Next STEP

action planning team recommended extending ICT at the K-5 level to all six core academic periods from the current four.

Mrs. Sullivan opened the floor to questions and/or comments from meeting attendees.

- Mrs. Heggens inquired if ICT classes would be available for foreign language students in the high school. A lengthy and detailed discussion followed wherein Mrs. Heggens, Dr. Ring and Dr. De Luca discussed the need for this program to be introduced to students at the middle school level. Mrs. Heggens asked if the district would look into the possibility of this taking place.
- Mrs. Heggens asked why the My School Lunch program was changed to My School Bucks. Mr. Hilton advised that the district is now utilizing the NutriKids program through BOCES and that program is affiliated with My School Bucks. Mrs. Heggens expressed her concerns that said program was cited for violations by the Better Business Bureau wherein Mr. Hilton responded he would look into the matter.
- Melanie Connelly inquired as to the number of teachers recalled from the PEL list. Ms. Connelly stressed that the district is in need of additional custodians and groundskeepers and a full-time floating registered nurse. Noting that the members of the School Related-Professional Association do so much to help ensure the teachers can do their jobs, Ms. Connelly made it known that she is actively advocating for additional non-instructional staff.
- Ms. Villafane-Kaplan spoke in detail concerning the dangers posed to those students with food allergies and the importance of educating the public and all school employees about the guidelines recommended by New York State and the CDC for addressing this life threatening health issue.
- Mrs. Heely recommended both adults and children be educated about the complexities of food allergies and suggested the district conduct an assembly addressing the dangers posed by allergic reactions to food.
- Referencing the questions she posed to the board at the July meeting concerning testing in the Middle School, Mrs. Heely asked if the board had the opportunity yet to review her concerns. Mrs. Sullivan responded that she and the other trustees had not yet had the opportunity to look into Mrs. Heely's concerns as a board but would do so as soon as possible. Mr. Callahan apologized for not having the opportunity to review the tests to which Mrs. Heely referred.
- Mrs. Sullivan remarked that board policies are presently reviewed in a cycle and asked the other trustees if they are presently in agreement with the cycle. The trustees responded in the affirmative.
- Mr. Reh noted the Mount Sinai SD puts its monthly agenda on a screen on stage for board meeting attendees to visually view and read the resolutions just as the board members do. Dr. Ring remarked the agenda might possibly be projected on a screen on the stage for meeting attendees to read. Following the vote on each resolution, the board could then follow with discussion.
- Mrs. Wilson provided input regarding the technology aspect of a set-up of this kind and touched upon the logistics involved in the undertaking of this task.

- Mrs. Sullivan indicated the board would try out this new practice.
- Mr. Callahan spoke about the current Athletic Eligibility Policy. Mr. Callahan said he was of the opinion that the guidelines should be stricter across the board, including participation in clubs and intramurals. Following a brief overview of the current policy, Mr. Callahan stated the policy should be changed to tougher standards as education takes precedence.
- Mr. Reh provided an overview of the academic eligibility policy standards currently in place at the Mount Sinai SD.
- Mrs. Sullivan shared that she was in favor of toughening up the standards but that the endeavor must be taken slowly so as to take the time to read, review and comment on the present policy.
- Referencing his attendance at a recent conference, Mr. Callahan noted the Miller Place SD is implementing and will be utilizing solar energy in its schools with an anticipated projected savings of two million dollars in the last six years. Mr. Callahan asked Dr. Ring if he would look into the possibilities for the Rocky Point SD.
- Dr. Ring responded he was familiar with the Miller Place UFSD solar program and that the district would review this matter for future consideration.
- Mrs. Sullivan remarked that she and the board had reviewed the new policy of public speaking at board meetings and will adhere to same for the present time.

There were no further questions and/or comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:47 p.m. a motion was made by Sean Callahan and seconded by Melissa Brown to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones  
District Clerk