

**MINUTES
ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
AUGUST 26, 2013**

Mr. Nofi called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Michael Nofi, President
Diane Burke, Vice President
John Lessler, Trustee (arriving at 5:13 PM)
Scott Reh, Trustee
Susan Sullivan, 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: None

Executive Session

At 5:12 p.m. Diane Burke made a motion and Susan Sullivan seconded to adjourn to Executive Session in order to meet with school district counsel.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:06 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Nofi called for a motion to suspend the rules and revise the agenda.

Mrs. Burke made the motion which was seconded by Mrs. Sullivan.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

A resolution was introduced by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan as follows:

PROTOCOL FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that prior to a formal reading and adoption of an amendment to Policy #1510, the following shall apply to public discussions during Board of Education meetings:

- Public comment at meetings of the Board shall be reserved for residents of the District. Non-residents may address the Board if invited to do so by the Board.
- A period of time not to exceed fifteen minutes, unless extended at any given meeting by resolution of the Board, shall be provided prior to Board action on the agenda. Said period of time shall be for the exclusive purpose of addressing items that are on the agenda before the Board at the meeting in question. Each speaker shall be limited to a maximum of three minutes. Speakers may not share, defer, or otherwise reallocate any or all of the three minutes afforded them.
- A period of time not to exceed thirty minutes, unless extended at any given meeting by resolution of the Board, shall be provided subsequent to the completion of Board action on the agenda. Each speaker shall be limited to a maximum of three minutes. Speakers may not share, defer, or otherwise reallocate any or all of the three minutes afforded them.
- Speakers shall be ruled out of order if they attempt to speak about any specific student or employee, by name or title.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ring reported that over the summer months hundreds of students participated in the Summer ICARE and Summer SHARP programs. The programs provided academic support, as well as second chances to students in all grade levels. Included in these programs were elementary literacy, READ 180/System 44 at the middle school and credit recovery and Regents test preparation at the high school. Dr. Ring thanked the leaders of these programs, Ms. Kim Smoker. And Mr. Gregory Gerkens, and all of the teachers who worked in the programs for the betterment of the students.

Dr. Ring announced that he participated in a New Teacher Orientation to welcome eighteen new teachers, ten of whom are additional staff. Dr. Ring thanked the Board for supporting the addition of the new positions as the district continues its strategic plan goals under Academic Excellent to improve outcomes for all students.

Dr. Ring also announced that the capital projects undertaken during the summer were complete or near completion. It is expected that all projects will be wrapped up by the start of school. Dr. Ring thanked School Business Official Greg Hilton, Architect John Grillo and Project Manager John Drenckhahn for their efforts and hard work during the construction process. Projected completed projects this summer are: three science classrooms/renovated labs; special education in-classroom bathroom; artificial turf field; new track and events; four renovated bathrooms in the high school cafeteria and new skylights in the high school stairwells.

Dr. Ring acknowledged the buildings and grounds teams for the exceptional work done in order to ensure the readiness of the facilities for the opening of school and the return of students and staff.

Dr. Ring noted he was pleased to report that on the agenda for the Board at this meeting was a Memorandum of Agreement between the Rocky Point Teachers' Association and the district. If approved by the Board of Education at this meeting and subsequently by the membership of the Teachers' Association, it would provide for an agreement that will reach to the year 2020. Dr. Ring asserted the proposed agreement was good for our students as it provides more time for differentiation of instruction to help close the achievement gap for our most at-risk students; good for our faculty as it provides certainty and stability into the year 2020; and good for our community as it represents a fiscally sustainable agreement.

Mr. John DeBenedetto, Principal, Rocky Point High School

- A freshman orientation and bagel social will be held on Wednesday, August 28th from 9 a.m. to 11a.m.
- The 9/11 assemblies, organized by Mr. Acritelli, are scheduled on Friday, September 13th, for junior and seniors.
- 9th grade parent orientation will take place on September 26th at 7 p.m. followed by Open School Night.
- Mr. DeBenedetto thanked Mr. Benes and the custodial staff for their efforts in securing completion of all interior construction projects in time for the opening of school.

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

- Incoming sixth grade students received their schedules during the Fourth Annual 6th Grade Middle School "Welcome Back Social" on August 21st. Sponsored by the PTA and catered by Cow Palace, a local business, the students participated in a barbeque and ice-cream social. Guidance counselors were available to assist students and parents with any scheduling questions.
- On August 22nd, 7th and 8th grade students had the opportunity to visit their classrooms and lockers.
- RPMS sports will begin on Monday, September 9th.
- RPMS Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 19th, at 7 p.m.

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

- Ms. Towlen thanked the custodial and secretarial staffs for their contributions during the summer to ensure the building was ready for students and faculty and for ordering and organizing the supplies and materials for the upcoming school year, respectively.
- The 3rd Grade Ice Cream Social was held on August 19th. Ms. Towlen thanked the PTA for sponsoring the social and all of the parent volunteers for their assistance. Ms. Towlen also thanked Mrs. Alberti, Mrs. Lopez, Mrs. Milliesen, Mrs. Maggio and Mrs. Richardson for their participation and support during the event.
- Third grade students will report to the "new" gym to meet their teachers on the first day of school; fourth graders will meet their teachers in the "old" gym; fifth graders will go directly to their classrooms.
- Open School Nights are scheduled as follows: Third grade: September 16th; Fourth Grade: September 17th; Fifth Grade: September 18th.

- JAE will celebrate Spirit Week with special events planned daily during the week of September 23rd.

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

- Kindergarten Orientation was held on August 22nd. The students and their families were able to meet their teachers, take a bus ride and learn about a typical day in kindergarten. The Kindergarten Social, sponsored by the PTA, followed. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked the PTA for its generosity in support of this annual event.
- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked the custodial staff for their hard work to ensure FJC was prepared for the first day of school.
- Spirit Week will be celebrated during the week of September 23rd.
- A PowerPoint presentation is planned to be shown by teachers in their classrooms in commemoration of the heroes of 9/11.
- Open House is scheduled for September 23rd, September 24th and September 25th.

Mr. Nofi thanked the principals for their reports. Mr. Nofi reminded those in attendance of the protocol for public discussion and invited anyone with comments or questions concerning items on the evening's agenda to approach the microphone.

- Referencing the Memorandum of Agreement between the Rocky Point UFSD and the RPTA, Mrs. Franco inquired as to the length of the proposed Agreement, i.e., 2011-2020. Mr. Nofi confirmed the length of the proposed Agreement and asked that the approval process of the Agreement be respected by the public until the union votes on the Agreement in September.
- Reading from a prepared statement, Mrs. Hegggers commented upon several issues, including the AIS plan and the release of test scores by the New York State Education Department. Mrs. Hegggers inquired if the trustees of the Board of Education would adopt a resolution to join other school districts to stop state testing. Mrs. Hegggers also shared her concerns with the accuracy of the placement of students in particular AIS programs.
- In response to Mrs. Hegggers comments, Dr. Ring advised the Revised and Updated Academic Intervention Plan on this evening's agenda was revised pursuant to some guidance from NYSED and that the district was expecting further guidance from NYSED. Dr. Ring addressed Mrs. Hegggers concerns pertaining to the placement of students in the AIS program and assured Mrs. Hegggers that many considerations were taken into account prior to placement. Dr. Ring referred Mrs. Hegggers to the August 7, 2013 letter he sent to parents via the school district's website concerning the release of scores of grades three through eight English Language Arts and Math assessments in which he made his views clear on the matter. In reference to a child's placement in the AIS program, Dr. Ring suggested any questions concerning said placement should be referred to the child's building principal.

There were no further questions or comments.

Mr. Nofi advised meeting participants they would have another opportunity to be heard on agenda items following the business portion of the meeting.

MINUTES

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan, 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 17, 2013 and Organizational Meeting, July 11, 2013.**

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Reports for the month of July 2013.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh 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 2013 as presented.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

BUDGET TRANSFER SUMMARY – JULY 2013

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 2013 Budget Transfer Summary Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – JULY 2013

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the July 2013 Internal Claims Audit Report.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

CLAIMS SERVICE BUREAU AGREEMENT

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 2013-2014 school year.

All in favor – Motion carried

SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES RATE SCHEDULE

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh 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 approves the revised rate schedule for food services, effective July 1, 2013, as follows: Elementary Lunch \$2.25; Middle School/High School Lunch \$2.50; Adult Lunch \$3.30 plus applicable sales tax; Student Breakfast (all levels) \$1.25; Adult Breakfast \$1.91 plus applicable sales tax; Milk (all levels) \$0.50 (subject to sales tax for non-students).

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SPECIAL EDUCATION 2013-2014 CONTRACT – DDI

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 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 2013-2014 school year under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SPECIAL EDUCATION 2013-2014 CONTRACT – EMPOWERING MINDS THERAPY, INC.

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan, 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 Empowering Minds Therapy, Inc. for a special education student's services for the 2013-2014 school year under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

SPECIAL EDUCATION 2013-2014 CONTRACT – NYSARC, INC. – SUFFOLK CHAPTER

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 NYSARC, Inc. – Suffolk Chapter for special education instructional services for the 2013-2014 school year as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER SERVICES AGREEMENT 2013-2014 –
MILL NECK SERVICES**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh 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 Superintendent of Schools to enter into a service agreement with Mill Neck Services for sign language interpreter services for the 2013-2014 school year, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

**ADOPTION OF THE REVISED AND UPDATED ACADEMIC INTERVENTION
PLAN**

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 adopts the revised and updated Academic Intervention Plan as heretofore submitted.

Mr. Reh asked for and received confirmation that the above-referenced Academic Intervention Plan could be revised and updated at any time.

Mrs. Sullivan requested and was provided additional information regarding the Credit Recovery Program.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

DONATION - A+ SCHOOL REWARDS FROM STOP & SHOP

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan, 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 \$207.69, 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 \$207.69 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) \$207.69

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

ROCKY POINT PTA DONATION FOR INCOMING 9TH GRADE ORIENTATION

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan and seconded by Scot 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 400 03 0000 \$250.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Nofi extended his gratitude to the PTA for its continuous hard work and generosity.

DONATION FROM GREAT AMERICAN OPPORTUNITIES

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh 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 approves and accepts the donations from Great American Opportunities in the amount of \$20.00 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 \$20.00 as a result of the donation.

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

A 2110 500 02 0000 \$20.00

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

ROCKY POINT PTA DONATION TO PURCHASE TABLETS

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 \$11,171.70 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 \$11,171.70 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:

A2630 515 75 0000 \$11,171.70

Mrs. Sullivan asked where the tablets would be used. Dr. Ring advised the tablets would be utilized in the Joseph A. Edgar Intermediate School. At Dr. Ring's request, Mrs. Wilson provided additional technological information regarding the tablets, including the set-up of same and plans for their usage within the school district.

Mr. Nofi thanked the PTA for this generous donation and for enabling the latest technology to be brought to the students of the district.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND NORTH SHORE YOUTH COUNCIL – MODIFIED

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan, 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 Modified Agreement (see Amendment A) with the North Shore Youth Council to provide certain services for the 2013-2014 school year as set forth within the attached modified Agreement.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

APPROVAL OF THE 2011-2020 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 Susan Sullivan 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 the Memorandum of Agreement for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2020 between the Rocky Point Teachers' Association and the Rocky Point Union Free School District.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND MAUREEN BRANAGAN, SCHOOL LUNCH MANAGER

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh 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 Maureen Branagan, School Lunch Manager, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute same on behalf of the Board of Education.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND VIRGINIA HOLLOWAY, DISTRICT TREASURER

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 of the Rocky Point Union Free School District approves the employment agreement between the Board of Education and Virginia Holloway, District Treasurer, and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute same on behalf of the Board of Education.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon a motion made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan, 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 8-26-13-A and Schedule 8-26-13-B.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Susan Sullivan 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 attached Personnel changes.

Mrs. Sullivan inquired about the inclusion of “German Club” on the personnel agenda noting that the German Club was no longer in existence. It was determined that Mrs. Sullivan was making reference to the Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer Report and not the personnel agenda and it was explained why inactive clubs were still denoted on said report carrying a zero balance.

Mrs. Sullivan also requested additional information with reference to an ICARE – Sharp liaison appointment that was not included on the personnel agenda.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

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

- Reading from a prepared statement, Mrs. Franco stressed the importance of fiscal conservancy and community oversight. Mrs. Franco provided the district clerk with a “petition to express dissatisfaction” with regard to the contract and compensation paid to a particular administrator, Board oversight, and the placement on administrative leave of a district employee. Mrs. Franco voiced her desire to have the minutes from the July 11, 2013 Board of Education meeting amended to include the specific comments made by the public during the public comment section of the meeting.
- Mr. Michael Friscia, president of the Rocky Point Teachers’ Association, thanked parents for their efforts, encouragement and time during the recent school year.
- Mrs. McCauley began to read from a prepared statement referencing a current administrator’s salary. Mr. Nofi advised Mrs. McCauley that she was out of order and requested that any further comments not address any specific student or employee, by name or title.
- Ms. Melissa Brown read snippets from a letter written by Stacy King-Golik which included references to a current administrator’s salary and the graduation rate of high school seniors.
- Mr. Minton expressed his support of the teaching staff and thanked the Board for listening to the community input during the meeting of July 11, 2013.
- Mrs. Intravaia voiced her displeasure with the salary and benefit package of a particular administrator and asked the Board to modify said contract. Mrs. Intravaia requested additional information concerning the contract modification resolution of Dr. Ring’s contract at the June 13, 2013 meeting. Mr. Nofi and Mrs. Burke responded to Mrs. Intravaia’s question regarding the length of Dr. Ring’s contract. Mrs. Burke clarified that the extension was only three months to align the contract with the school year.
- Mrs. Intravaia stated her displeasure with her perception of the Board’s lack of a response to an AP exam question presented to the Board by an entering high school senior during the July 11, 2013 meeting. It was explained to Mrs. Intravaia that the question regarding the AP exam was addressed both prior to and after the meeting.
- Mrs. Bea Ruberto observed that the community should be more concerned than it appeared to be with the salaries of many of the teachers who currently earn more than \$100,000 per annum as opposed to a single administrator’s financial compensation. Going forward, Mrs. Ruberto stressed the importance of civility on the part of all parties concerned.
- Mrs. Heely advised she had attended a rally at the Comsewogue School District in support of a stand against SED testing. Mrs. Heely stated that she was impressed

with the unity of the school district's administrators, teachers and community members. Mrs. Heely encouraged open mindedness and cooperation among all within the Rocky Point community.

- An unidentified meeting attendee requested that the monthly meeting agenda and accompanying documents be posted to the district's website several days in advance of the actual meeting date so that community members could be more informed.
- Ms. Jenny Andersson expressed her satisfaction with the hiring of the new special education teachers and the resultant decline in CTD ratios. As an advocate for fewer children in special education classes, Ms. Andersson thanked the administration and Board of Education for taking steps to make this happen.
- A district parent inquired of meeting attendees if their children were able to access Facebook and thus be subjected to the negativity currently being posted thereon. She encouraged those using Facebook pages to try and maintain a civil discourse.
- Mr. Albert Garske began by making general comments concerning the negativity currently posted on Facebook and his opposition to the testing mandated by NYSED. Mr. Garske was asked by Mr. Lessler to please direct any specific comments or questions he had to the trustees of the Board so that said comments or questions could be appropriately addressed. Mr. Garske voiced his displeasure with monies being allocated for track improvements instead of the proper heating and air conditioning of classrooms. Mr. Garske inquired about the length of time it took to have doors installed on the boys' bathrooms in JAE. Mr. Garske was deemed to be in violation of the maximum time limit of three minutes and was determined to be out of order.

There were no further questions or comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:15 p.m. Diane Burke made a motion and John Lessler seconded to go into Executive Session to meet with school district counsel.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:13 p.m. a motion was made by Diane Burke and seconded by Susan Sullivan for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones
District Clerk

DRAFT