

**MINUTES**  
**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**April 22, 2015**

Mrs. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. in the auditorium of the Rocky Point High School.

Present: Susan Sullivan, President  
Scott Reh, Vice President  
John Lessler, Trustee (arriving at 6:52 p.m.)  
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: Melissa Brown, Trustee

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:05 p.m. Sean Callahan made a motion and Scott Reh seconded to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss tenure recommendations, confidential personnel matters pertaining to select employees and disciplinary matters pertaining to select employees.

All in favor –Motion carried 3-0

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:08 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mrs. Sullivan welcomed those in attendance to the meeting. Explaining that her father's funeral and burial occurred only the day before this meeting, Mrs. Sullivan apologized if she was not fully prepared for this evening's meeting and assured all that her fellow trustees would assist her in conducting the meeting, if need be.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Ring thanked Dr. O'Brien and members of his staff and Ms. Towlen and members of her staff for "a job well done" as they navigated the extraordinary circumstances presented to them during their administration of the New York State Assessments.

Referencing the budget workshops and budget presentations held during the past several months in connection with establishing the property tax cap for the 2015-2016 school year, Dr. Ring advised that the district will be receiving additional building aid monies

from the state then what was originally indicated. As a result of this increase, Dr. Ring announced that the tax levy had decreased from the previously approved and accepted 1.97% to 1.70%, thus the need for the Board to approve the revised property tax cap form at this evening's meeting.

Dr. Ring reminded all of the Budget Hearing scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> in the high school auditorium and the annual School Budget Vote/Election to be held on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

Dr. Ring invited Dr. O'Brien to the podium to present principal reports for both the middle school and the high school, as Mr. DeBenedetto was not in attendance at this meeting.

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

- The parent orientation for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students was held last month. Current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be visiting the middle school in a few weeks for the student portion of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation. Dr. O'Brien thanked the guidance staff and Mrs. Salbu for their support of both events.
- The middle school drama production, *Peter Pan, Jr.* was a great success. The students performed a dress rehearsal for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and those students from the Frank J. Carasiti Elementary School. Dr. O'Brien thanked the parent volunteers for their assistance and congratulated Mrs. Collier and Mr. Maggio for a job well done.
- On April 1<sup>st</sup> singer/songwriter, Jared Campbell, returned to the middle school with "The Blue Project," the interactive live concert that teaches students practical life lessons through song.

#### **Dr. O'Brien, Presenting the Rocky Point High School Building Report**

- The science club, under the supervision of advisor Joe Gabrinowitz, will present at Stony Brook University's Earthstock Festival on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. The students will present "Diversification of Solar Power."
- The Pocket Theatre will proudly present the spring 2015 production of *Edelweiss* at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. O'Brien conveyed that Mr. DeBenedetto extends his gratitude to Mrs. Ely and Mrs. Wade for their dedication to the students and for their commitment to the continued success of the Pocket Theatre.
- Mrs. Messinetti and the members of the Interact Club, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, will continue the rebuilding of a home later this month. The students will insulate, sheet rock and spackle. This endeavor is the fifth outing to a job site since the partnership with Habitat for Humanity began two years ago.
- The National Honor Society induction will take place on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.

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

- Ms. Towlen thanked the performers of the middle school production, *Peter Pan, Jr.* for performing several of the songs from the show during the JAE lunch periods.
- Mrs. Towlen thanked Mr. Knapp for the JAE spring musical, “The American Dream,” held the last week in March. Ms. Towlen reported that the students did a wonderful job and the play was fantastic.
- Looking ahead – during the month of May – Spring Concert, the annual blood drive, the Art and Technology Show, the Book Fair and the Mini-Relay for Life.

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

- Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons thanked Dr. O’Brien for inviting FJC students to the middle school to see *Peter Pan, Jr.* The students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.
- Kindergarten screening took place today. Mrs. Kelly-Gibbons enjoyed welcoming the incoming kindergarten students and their parents.
- The Kindergarten Parent Orientation is scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- Ms. Kyra Kenwood and the second grade chorus is in full practice mode as they prepare for the spring concert scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Following the winter hiatus, both the Garden Club and the Science Club have resumed.

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

- Ms. Ernestine Franco thanked the board trustees for rescinding the LEEDS tax exemption. Ms. Franco also thanked the board trustees for their decision to allow themselves more time in order to research the items to be addressed on a possible future Bond Referendum vote to be put forth to the community. Ms. Franco extended her condolences to Mrs. Sullivan upon the death of Mrs. Sullivan’s father.
- Melanie Connelly advocated for the hiring of a full-time district-wide floating nurse. Citing the number of students enrolled in the district and the number of students considered to be “medically fragile” Ms. Connelly voiced her opinion that a floating nurse would be able to alleviate the tremendous workload upon the current nursing staff and also be able to stand-in for those nurses who may be absent on any given day. In addition, Ms. Connelly offered that the floating nurse could also assist current staff during screenings, sports physicals and immunizations.
- Ms. Michelle Anzaldi spoke in support of Ms. Connelly’s recommendations and the district’s need to hire a full-time floating nurse.
- Ms. Villafane-Kaplan spoke in detail regarding food allergies and the findings of the Food Allergy Sub-Committee of which she was a member. Ms. Villafane-Kaplan advised that the sub-committee presented its findings to the Wellness Committee on April 21, 2015 but unfortunately, due to the lack of a quorum, the Wellness Committee was unable to adopt said findings. Ms. Villafane-Kaplan thanked Mr. Hilton for his assistance in recommending the committee reconvene for one additional final meeting before the end of the school year. Ms. Villafane-

Kaplan advocated for the creation of a permanent food allergy committee or a stand-alone food allergy committee. Ms. Villafane-Kaplan encouraged students to apply for the \$1,000 Food Allergy Scholarship she recently implemented. Students are asked to write an essay containing suggestions to improve food allergy awareness. Lastly, Ms. Villafane-Kaplan voiced her dissatisfaction with the lack of a food allergy table being offered in the Middle School cafeteria. Ms. Villafane-Kaplan said that as a result, those students with food allergies are being directed to eat in the Middle School library.

- Ms. Anne Quartararo, speaking as a resident, spoke in support of Ms. Connelly's request for consideration of the hiring of a full-time floating nurse. In addition, Ms. Quartararo advocated for the hiring of additional guards to patrol the four school buildings. Noting that currently there is one guard circulating all four buildings, Ms. Quartararo pointed out the possible difficulties of locating said guard in a timely manner in the case of an emergency and the possible resultant legal ramifications of such a situation.

Mrs. Sullivan thanked all for their questions and comments.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The items listed below are presented as part of the Consent Agenda which can be adopted by the Board of Education under a single motion followed by a second and then a formal vote. On the following page the Consent Agenda items are listed in their regular order within a group. Before an actual vote is taken, any Consent Agenda item may be removed by a Board member without a formal motion or second. If this occurs, the indicated resolution will be discussed during its regular order on the agenda and voted on individually.

### **II-VIII CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accepts the following agenda items as one item.

- II: Minutes** – Regular Meeting March 23, 2015; Special Meeting April 1, 2015
- III Budget Transfer Summary** – March 2015
- IV: Treasurer's Reports** – March 2015
- V: Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer's Report** – March 2015
- VI: Financial Reports** – March 2015
- VII: Internal Claims Audit Report** – March 2015
- VIII: Committees on Special Education Schedules 4-22-15-A**, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**IX RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROPERTY TAX CAP FORM  
– REVISED**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 Rocky Point Union Free School District Property Tax Cap Form, as attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**X RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BUDGET AND PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD**

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 adopts the Rocky Point Union Free School District Budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year pursuant to the Education Law Section 1716 in the amount of \$78,780,743 and the Property Tax Report Card, as attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XI SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACT – RIVERVIEW SCHOOL –  
SUMMER 2015 AND 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR**

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

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XII SPECIAL EDUCATION 2014-2015 AMENDED CONTRACT –  
MARYHAVEN**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 enter into a contract with Maryhaven Center of Hope for special education students' services for the

2014-2015 school year, as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or district policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XIII            THREE VILLAGE CSD SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACT  
2013-2014**

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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to enter into a contract with Three Village Central School District for non-public or parochial special education students' 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 4-0

**XIV            DONATION TO JOSEPH A. EDGAR SCHOOL**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh 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 a donation 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 4-0

**XV            DONATION OF BOOKS FOR FJC BOOK ROOM**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 donation of a large collection of books from Lois Davila, valued at approximately \$2,000.00.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XVI DONATION FROM 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 donation from Great American Opportunities in the amount of \$30.40, 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 \$30.40, 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 \$30.40

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XVII TARGET DONATION TO DISTRICT**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh 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 Target.

**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 \$115.65, as a result of the donation.

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

A 2110 500 03 0000 (HS) \$115.65

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XVIII FUNDING FACTORY RECYCLING REWARDS DONATION**

Upon a motion made by Sean Callahan 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 donation of fourteen (14) IPEVO Point 2 View USB cameras, purchased from \$1,000.00 in gift cards, awarded through the Funding Factory’s recycling program.

All in favor –Motion carried 4-0

**XIX GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY PLAN RESOLUTION**

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 designates the Southampton Union Free School District as lead entity for purposes of submission of the Government Efficiency Plan on behalf of the Rocky Point Union Free School District.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent and the Business Official to certify the submission of the Government Efficiency Plan on behalf of the Rocky Point Union Free School District and provide to the Southampton Union Free School District as lead entity.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Official to submit the Government Efficiency Plan as an individual district if it is decided by the Superintendent of Schools to be in the best interest of the district.

Discussion ensued. Dr. Ring provided a detailed explanation of the workings of the property tax freeze credit and the ensuing Governmental Efficiency Plan. Dr. Ring advised that it was determined at a meeting of school business officials hosted by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to be in the best interest of our school district to submit our plan in conjunction with the plans of eleven other school districts. Dr. Ring further explained the benefits of the concept of safety in numbers if there was an event involving unforeseen circumstances.

There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XX VOTE TO APPROVE/DISAPPROVE THE BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET FOR 2015-2016**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education approves/disapproves the BOCES Administrative Budget for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$36,889,176.

Roll Call:

Mrs. Sullivan	Approve ___x___	Disapprove _____
Mr. Reh	Approve ___x___	Disapprove _____

Mrs. Brown	Approve ___x___	Disapprove _____
Mr. Callahan	Approve ___x___	Disapprove _____
Mr. Lessler	Approve ___x___	Disapprove _____

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XXI 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 made by Scott Reh and seconded by John Lessler, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education elects the following candidates(s) to serve for the term commencing July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2018. (*Choose up to five*):

Stephen Dewey (Eastport-South Manor CSD)	_____x_____
Stephen Gessner (Shelter Island UFSD)	_____x_____
Theodore Imbasciani (Connetquot CSD)	_____x_____
Joseph LoSchiavo (Patchogue-Medford UFSD)	_____x_____
Jeffrey Smith (Mattituck-Cutchogue UFSD)	_____x_____

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XXII AUTHORIZATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SIGN THE APPR EXPEDITED MATERIAL CHANGE FORM ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION EFFECTIVE MARCH 30, 2015**

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 authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Plan Expedited Material Change Form solely to eliminate unnecessary student assessments, effective March 30, 2015.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XXIII ADOPTION OF THE REVISED AND UPDATED NEXT S.T.E.P. FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

Upon a motion made by Scott Reh 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 adopts the revised and updated Next S.T.E.P. five year strategic plan as heretofore submitted.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Callahan presented several questions to Dr. Ring for clarification. Dr. Ring offered that the revised and updated Next S.T.E.P. Plan was a conceptual plan subject to subsequent approvals. Mrs. Sullivan shared that she was a member of the committee charged with revising and updating the plan and that a lot of efforts went into the task. Mrs. Sullivan further shared that only some small changes were made and that she still found the Plan to be cumbersome and wordy, as did Mr. Reh.

There was no further discussion.

Motion failed to carry – 2-2

Mrs. Sullivan:	Yea
Mr. Lessler:	Yea
Mr. Reh:	Nay
Mr. Callahan:	Nay

**XXIV 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 Sean Callahan 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 a Memorandum of Agreement between the Board of Education and the Rocky Point Teachers' Association, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XXV PERSONNEL**

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 attached Personnel changes.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

**XXVI NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Sullivan inquired of the board trustees if there was any new business they wished to discuss.

There was no new business.

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

- Ms. Jenny Andersson asked the board trustees to address the failure of the passage of the Next S.T.E.P resolution. Ms. Andersson specifically asked Mr. Reh why he voted no. Mr. Reh responded that he agreed with Mrs. Sullivan's assessment that the Plan was too wordy and cumbersome. Mr. Reh also stated he had questions regarding the monetary value of the Plan over the next five year period.
- Mrs. Andersson asked Mr. Lessler to provide the reason why he voted no on the appointment of the new district counsel. Mr. Lessler responded that he voted no because he was satisfied and comfortable with the current counsel serving the Board of Education.
- Ms. Connelly strongly advocated for the hiring of additional security guards and custodial workers. Referencing the number of administrators/coordinators employed by the district in comparison to the number of custodial and grounds employees, Ms. Connelly implored the board trustees to consider the hiring of additional support staff.
- High school junior, Robert Thomas, inquired of Mrs. Sullivan if the board trustees had reviewed his request to not be charged with two unexcused absences during the spring recess as he volunteered on an international service project sponsored by Global Leadership Adventures. Mrs. Sullivan advised Mr. Thomas that the board reached the decision to not charge him with unexcused absences due to the nature of his absences. Mrs. Sullivan requested that Mr. Thomas allow her to attend his class presentation on his project as she was very interested in learning more about his humanitarian endeavor.
- Mrs. Heely expressed her concerns regarding the board's decision to vote down the adoption of the Next S.T.E.P. Five Year Strategic Plan. Mrs. Heely inquired if the no vote designated the Plan null and void. Mr. Callahan responded that the board trustees would revisit and discuss the Plan as the board was of the opinion that the Plan required "tweaking" and that the trustees were unable to approve it in the format presented. Mr. Reh shared that he was of the opinion that the Plan contained many great things and he applauded the individuals who worked so diligently on it but that he, too, had reservations with the present format.
- Mrs. Heely discussed her displeasure with midterm examinations not being sent home to parents. Mrs. Heely said the reasons she was given by members of the administration for parents not to be able to view the exams were "poor excuses." Mrs. Heely spoke in detail about her concerns with the terms "examination" and "assessment" as Mrs. Heely is opposed to "assessments." Mrs. Heely asked the board trustees to look into why the exams are not being sent home to parents.
- Rocky Point High School student, Kelly McCauley, inquired as to why student bathrooms are not open and accessible to students after 9<sup>th</sup> period except in the locker rooms and in the gymnasium hallway. Because of the number of student-

athletes in the locker rooms and using the bathrooms, Miss McCauley said the bathroom lines have caused her and other students to be late for extra-help classes. Miss McCauley asked if it would be possible to open other bathrooms during 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> periods to accommodate all students.

- Ms. Evelyn Gallino, speaking as a resident and member of the Green Committee, extended her congratulations and gratitude to Frank J. Carasiti teacher, Ms. Jennifer Meschi, for Ms. Meschi's continued dedication to the recycling programs at school and, in particular, the Funding Factory Recycling Rewards Donation that emanated from Ms. Meschi's efforts.

There were no further questions or comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:59 p.m. a motion was made by Scott Reh and seconded by Sean Callahan to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Jones  
District Clerk