# MINUTES ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING March 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. in the auditorium of Rocky Point High School.

Present: Jessica Ward, President

Michael Lisa, Vice President Edward Casswell, Trustee

Erin Walsh, Trustee (Arriving at 5:03 p.m.) Scott O'Brien, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Susann Crossan, Assistant Superintendent

Christopher Van Cott, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Kelly White, District Clerk

Absent: Susan Sullivan, Trustee

Aaron Factor Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:01 p.m. a motion was made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Ed Casswell, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel and legal matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 3-0

At 5:58 p.m. a motion was made by Erin Walsh, and seconded by Michael Lisa, to adjourn Executive Session in order to attend the Budget Workshop presented by Mr. Christopher Van Cott.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 6:22 p.m., upon completion of the Budget Workshop, a motion was made by Ed Casswell, and seconded by Michael Lisa, to continue their discussions regarding confidential legal and personnel matters.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Ward reminded the meeting attendees of the public comment procedure.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. O'Brien thanked Mr. Van Cott for his budget presentation. He also expressed his appreciation to Mr. Van Cott and the Board of Education members for their hard work in establishing the budget. Dr. O'Brien reminded the meeting attendees that the next presentation would occur on March 18, 2024.

Dr. O'Brien congratulated the Rocky Point coaches and cheer team on their National Championship title. He added that they would be recognized at the May 21, 2024 Board of Education meeting along with the other sports and academic recognitions.

Ms. Ward opened the floor to questions/comments regarding the agenda.

There were no questions/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.

### III-IX CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Erin Walsh, the following resolution was offered:

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

**III**: **Minutes** – Regular Meeting February 5, 2024

IV: Budget Transfer Summary – January 2024

V: Treasurer's Reports – January 2024

VI: Extra-Classroom Activity Account Treasurer's Report – January 2024

VII: Financials - January 2024

VIII: Internal Claims Audit Report – January 2024

**IX:** Committees on Special Education Schedules 3-4-24-A and 3-4-24-B as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, to arrange for appropriate services, as indicated.

### X DONATION OF GOLF CLUBS (2 SETS) AND GOLF ORGANIZER

Upon a motion made by Erin Walsh, and seconded by Ed Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the two (2) sets of Wilson golf clubs and a golf organizer, valued at approximately \$400.00 and \$100 respectively, totaling \$500.00 from parent, Maureen Montanaro.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Ms. Ward thanked Ms. Montanaro for her generous donation.

### XI DONATION FROM OHIOPYLE PRINTS, INC.

Upon a motion made by Ed Casswell, and seconded by Michael Lisa, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve and accept the donation from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.

**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 \$97.94 as a result of the donation from Ohiopyle Prints, Inc.

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

A2110500030000 \$97.94

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Ms. Ward thanked Ohiopyle for their donation.

### XII FRIENDS OF MUSIC DONATION FOR JAZZ BAND CLINIC

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Erin Walsh, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approve and accept the donation from The Friends of Music for High School and Middle School jazz band students to attend a jazz clinic, workshop and tour of The Jazz Loft.

**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 \$1,200.00 as a result of the donation from The Friends of Music.

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

A2138 436 03 3120 \$1,200.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Ms. Ward thanked the Friends of Music for the opportunity for the students to attend this great event.

### XIII LIVE LIKE SUSIE DONATION

Upon a motion made by Erin Walsh, and seconded by Ed Casswell, 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 on behalf of the Live Like Susie Scholarship, totaling \$100.00, as follows:

Robert/Elizabeth Lauritsen, \$100.00

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Ms. Ward thanked the Lauritsen family for their donation.

### XIV DONATION OF TWO PITCHING MACHINES - ROCKY POINT ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

Upon a motion made by Ed Casswell, and seconded by Michael Lisa, 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 two (2) hack attack pitching machines from the Rocky Point Athletic Booster Club, valued at approximately \$3,750.00 each, totaling \$7,500.00.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Ms. Ward thanked the Booster Club for their generous donation.

## XV BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEW AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY NUMBER 3411 (FIRST READING)

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Erin Walsh, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the following revised policy (first reading):

3411 Prohibition of Weapons on School Grounds

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

## XVI BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEW AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY NUMBER 5621 (FIRST READING)

Upon a motion made by Erin Walsh, and seconded by Ed Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the following revised policy (first reading):

5621 Accounting of Fixed Assets

## XVII BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY NUMBER 6191 (SECOND READING)

Upon a motion made by Ed Casswell, and seconded by Michael Lisa, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the following policy (second reading):

6191 Workplace Violence Prevention

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

## XVIII BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEW AND RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY NUMBER 7350 (SECOND READING)

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Erin Walsh, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the following revised policy (second reading):

7350 Corporal Punishment

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

## XIX BOARD OF EDUCATION REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY NUMBER 7351 (SECOND READING)

Upon a motion made by Erin Walsh, and seconded by Ed Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the following policy (second reading):

7351 Use of Emergency Interventions

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

## XX BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY NUMBER 7441 (SECOND READING)

Upon a motion made by Ed Casswell, and seconded by Michael Lisa, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the following policy (second reading):

7441 Student Voter Registration and Pre-Registration

### XXI BID #24-01 IN-CAR DRIVER EDUCATION CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR 2024-25

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Erin Walsh, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education renew the agreement with Suffolk Auto Driving School for the 2024-25 fiscal year at no additional cost, as per the attached.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

### XXII SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER CSD 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR CONTRACT

Upon a motion made by Erin Walsh, and seconded by Ed Casswell, 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 Shoreham-Wading River Central School District for special education students' instructional services for the 2023-2024 school year as required under applicable Individual Educational Programs, applicable law, and/or District Policy.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

## XXIII 2023-2024 HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT-SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Upon a motion made by Ed Casswell, and seconded by Michael Lisa, 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 and the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an agreement for health services for the 2023-2024 school year with the following districts:

Smithtown Central School District

### XXIV ANNUAL MEETING (BUDGET VOTE AND TRUSTEE ELECTION)

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Erin Walsh, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Annual Meeting (Budget Vote and Trustee Election) of the Rocky Point Union Free School District, Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York be conducted on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 2017 of the Education Law, a Public Hearing for the purpose of discussion of the expenditure of funds and the budgeting thereof be held at 5:00 PM on May 7, 2024 at the Rocky Point High School, Rocky Point, New York and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Legal Notice of the Public Hearing and Annual Meeting, as required by law, be published in the *LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS*, on April 5, April 19, May 3 and May 17 and in *THE VILLAGE BEACON RECORD* on April 4, April 18, May 2 and May 16 and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Legal Notice of the Annual Meeting (Budget Vote and Trustee Election), as required by law, be published in the *LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS*, April 5, April 19, May 3 and May 17 and in *THE VILLAGE BEACON RECORD* on April 4, April 18, May 2 and May 16 and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following location is hereby designated as the polling place:

Rocky Point High School Gymnasium; and further

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Education, in addition to the legal publication in four editions of each of the two above-mentioned newspapers, will send a notice with all information relative to the date and time of the vote and election to all residents within the District, and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the residents of the Rocky Point Union Free School District may register to vote for School District Meetings at the office of the District Clerk between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM on any day that the office is open, and on the evening of May 14, 2024 until 9:00 PM. However, such registration may not take place less than five (5) days preceding any School District Meeting, and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the District Clerk is authorized to assign the necessary personnel to function as Election Inspectors, and further

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the final tally of votes shall be held at the Rocky Point High School, 82 Rocky Point-Yaphank Road, Rocky Point, New York at 9:00 PM on the evening of the election as soon thereafter as the election inspectors can certify as to the necessary information.

## XXV APPOINTMENT OF POLL CLERKS AND TELLERS FOR THE ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 21, 2024

Upon a motion made by Erin Walsh, and seconded by Ed Casswell, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education appoints the Board of Registration; Poll Clerks; Tellers and Substitute Poll Clerks and Tellers at an hourly rate of \$16.00.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED,** that the District Clerk is authorized to canvass individuals to serve as Poll Clerks/Tellers and Substitute Poll Clerks/Tellers for the Annual Budget Vote and Board of Education Election to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, during the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and is authorized to fill any vacancies in these positions which may occur before such date.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

### XXVI SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Upon a motion made by Ed Casswell, and seconded by Michael Lisa, the following resolution was offered:

**RESOLVED,** that the Board of education President is authorized to execute the confidential Agreement between the District a d Rocky Point UFSD Employee # 1437 on the matter of resignation.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

#### XXVII PERSONNEL

Upon a motion made by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Erin Walsh, 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

Ms. Ward congratulated the following employee on their appointment:

- Ms. Stephanie Katz – School Hall Monitor - HS

### XXVIII NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Ward inquired of the trustees if there was any new business they wished to discuss.

There was no new business at this time.

Ms. Ward once again opened the floor to questions/comments.

- Ms. Johnson, President of the RP Historical Society & Homestead Museum, thanked Mr. Van Cott for his clear budget presentation. She inquired about the deadline to submit a proposition to the voters as well as the required number of signatures. Mr. Van Cott advised that (35) signatures would be required and stated he would get back to her regarding the deadline for submission. Ms. Ward advised the audience that the reason the Historical Society is asking these questions is that they want us to put a proposition on our ballot for May that would result in a tax to district residents. The Board is still looking into the legality of their ask and the item is still being discussed.
- Mr. McNamara from the RP Rotary Club announced that the establishment of a Corridor of Peace had been approved, making our community the 402<sup>nd</sup> Community of Peace in the world. Mr. McNamara thanked the Board of Education for their support. He also thanked the Drama department for their outstanding presentation of the Adams Family.
- Ms. Polanco spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. She described him as a respectful role model with a passion for teaching and an asset to the District.
- Mr. Reisinger spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as a mentor and spoke of the positive impact he has had on the students.
- Miss M. Blaising spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. She described him as a wonderful teacher and coach with a good conscience and stated he would be missed.
- Mr. Amayo spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as good man.
- Mister G. Marmol spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as a role model and someone who believed in him.
- Mister P. Reisinger spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as someone that provided principles that he could apply to everyday life.
- Mister L. Parker spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as impactful, and someone who pushed him to be better.
- Mister D. Colon spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as a big brother figure who would reach out outside of school and push him to succeed.
- Ms. Behringer spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. She described him as dedicated, professional, patient, resilient and impactful.
- Ms. Jablonski spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. She described him as someone who has the ability to bring people together.

At 7:46 p.m., upon a resolution by Michael Lisa, and seconded by Erin Walsh, it was approved to extend the public comment portion of the meeting for another (30) minutes.

- Ms. DeRosa spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. She described it as a true testament to his character based on the number of people showing support for him.
- Miss Madelyn (student) spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. She expressed feeling safe around him and added that his absence leaves an empty space.
- Mister N. Moore spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as taking the time to help and teaching valuable life lessons.
- Mister M. Blaising spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for
- reconsideration of the decision. He described him as a blessing to work with and someone that promotes confidence.
- Mr. Polanco spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for
- reconsideration of the decision. He described him as an impactful role model in a time where role models are scarce.
- Mister Q. Palifka spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as impactful and someone who is all about the students.
- Mister J. Concessi spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as a great man with an impact who made you feel protected.
- Mister M. Williams spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as an inspiring man with a military background.
- Mr. Castro spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for
- reconsideration of the decision. He described him as a veteran with impeccable character.
- Ms. Hanley spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. She spoke of his enthusiasm and positivity.
- Mister J. Nadeau spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as impactful man that taught valuable lessons.
- Ms. Blaising spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. She described him as someone who went above and beyond and taught students to earn what they received.
- Mister E. Watkis spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for
- reconsideration of the decision. He described him as someone who made an effort to make a connection.
- Mister P. Logan spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as an impactful role model.

- Ms. Lucian spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as someone who deserves a second chance.
- Mr. Cascione spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as a fair, honest role model and noted that it would be a loss for the school.
- Ms. Caraballo spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. She described him as someone who inspired and encouraged the students.

At 8:16 p.m., a resolution was made by Erin Walsh, and seconded by Ed Casswell, to extend the public comment portion of the meeting for an additional (30) minutes.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

• Mister G. LaMacchia spoke on behalf of a former employee and urged for reconsideration of the decision. He described him as a pillar in the community who provides support to students.

There were no further questions/comments.

### XXIX ADJOURNMENT

At 8:18 p.m. Michael Lisa made a motion, and Erin Walsh seconded, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor – Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly White District Clerk