

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:30 P.M., April 16, 2008 – East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School
Preceded by a Presentation on Poetry Readings from the ERHS Poetry Contest
and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Marie Girace, Vicki Alspector, Linda Schmidt, Debbie Tufano, Superintendent, Dr. Roseanne Melucci; Director of Finance and Operations, Connie Robinson; District Clerk, Denise Lobascio; staff and members of the community.

Absent: Mary Boccuzzi

1. The meeting was called to order by Marie Girace and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Debbie Tufano.
2. Upon motion by Vickie Alspector, seconded by Debbie Tufano the minutes of the March 18, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.
3. Receipt of Financial Reports for February 2008 was acknowledged.
4. Correspondence: Two
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Debbie Tufano, seconded by Linda Schmidt the following items #1 – 12 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff members on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
Joseph Cangemi.....	Secondary Science Teacher.....	September 1, 2008
Emanuela Alessandro...	Secondary Science Teacher.....	September 1, 2008
Pamela Murano.....	Secondary English Teacher.....	September 1, 2008
Jennifer Toppi.....	Secondary English Teacher.....	September 1, 2008
Virginia Sievers.....	Secondary English Teacher.....	September 1, 2008
Petra Schoen.....	Library Media Specialist.....	September 1, 2008

2. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the request of Kimberly Mellor for a leave of absence for personal reasons from her teacher aide position with the ALPSS program, effective March 7, 2008 through June 30, 2008.
3. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the request of Cheryl Nelson Poland for an extension of a child rearing leave of absence from her special education teacher position, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.
4. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the request of Deanna Mignella for a child rearing leave of absence from her mathematics teacher position, effective May 19, 2008 through January 29, 2009.

5. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Fran Dixon to the position of leave replacement teacher aide, effective April 3, 2008 and ending no later than June 30, 2008, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association for the 2007-2008 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the request of Petra Schoen for a child rearing leave of absence from her library media specialist position, effective September 3, 2008 through November 21, 2008.
7. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Ksenia Ferrand to the positions of Athletic Supervisor and Concert Supervisor at the respective salaries set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association Contract for supervision, effective February 1, 2008.
8. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointments of Mary Orzano and Virginia Sievers to teach the SAT Prep Course, effective March 25, 2008 through April 28, 2008 at the stipend set forth by the East Rockaway Board of Education for the 2007 – 2008 school year.
9. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation of Catherine B. Murray, RN, for the purpose of retirement from her school nurse position at St. Raymond's School, effective June 30, 2008.
10. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the appointment of Theana Cheliotis to the position of part-time school social worker for the ALPSS program, effective April 1, 2008 and ending no later than June 30, 2008 at the hourly salary set forth in an agreement with the East Rockaway Teachers' Association for the 2007-2008 school year.
11. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education:
 - a. Annamae Taylor, substitute teacher, effective March 28, 2008
12. Upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approve the continuation of the emergency conditional personnel appointments for the following individuals pending receipt of notification of their fingerprint clearance from the State of New York, Department of Education:

NONE

B. Other Items:

Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Debbie Tufano the following items #1-9 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the budget to be presented for public vote on May 20, 2008 in the amount of \$32,004,070.00.
2. Authorize the District Clerk to cast one ballot for each of the following individuals for their election to the Board of Cooperative Educational Services: Deborah Ann Coates, Stephen B. Witt.
3. Adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2008 – 2009 school year in the amount of Seventeen Million, Six Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand Ninety-Two (\$17,687,092.00) Dollars be and hereby is approved by this Board.

4. Authorize the creation of the position part-time assistant business manager; and further, approve the terms and conditions of the employment agreement with Fred Smith for services as the part-time assistant business manager, effective April 10, 2008 and authorize the superintendent of schools to execute the

employment agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

5. Approve the contract for Asbestos Abatement for the 2007-2008 Capital Improvement Program to the lowest responsible bidder, JBH Environmental, Inc., in the amount of \$65,204.00.
6. Approve the contract for masonry for the Capital Improvement Program, Phase III to the lowest responsible bidder, Capitol Restoration Corp., in the amount of \$97,000.
7. Appoint the following persons to serve as a Board of Registration for the annual District election scheduled to be held on May 20, 2008: Jane Brezenoff (Inspector), Steven Fried (Inspector), Christopher Mueller, Kristen Ochtera, Al Lazzaro, MaryJo Keane, and Emily Alspector.

8. Approve the terms and conditions of the contract with RCP Consultants, Inc. for NCLB Consolidated Grant Application Training for the period May 2008 through August 2008 and authorize the superintendent of schools to execute the contract.

9. Approve the terms and conditions of the contract with Angela Bruno-Carron for physical therapy services for the period April 17, 2008 through June 26, 2008 and authorize the superintendent of schools to execute the agreement.

C. Approval of CSE Recommendations - NONE

D. Approval of CPSE Recommendations - NONE

6. Policy Matters for Review – None

7. Superintendent's Report.

The floor in new locker room area was not pitched properly for drainage in the shower. Mr. Ristano is working with the contractor and architect to correct this problem.

Some other items that we are still addressing include heating issues; missing doorway saddles, and the outside climbing wall.

The sod has been put down on football, softball and baseball fields. We're having a problem keeping the geese off of the sod. We are looking into preventative measures.

The English department will hold the annual Shakespeare festival this Friday. Some of Shakespeare's work that the students are reading include: Romeo & Juliet, Othello, The Tempest.

The elementary science fair took place at Centre Ave. and will take place this week at Rhame.

Our 8th grade Technology class will be visiting The Cradle of Aviation to race CO2 cars for competition.

I am happy to announce that the girls' varsity basketball team is the Long Island champions.

One of our seniors, Kelly Hughes, has won the outstanding athlete award presented by the Nassau County Commission.

Our social/emotional learning words for this month are overcoming obstacles, frustration, adapt, impulsive, guilty, remorse and scapegoat.

To update you about our state audit, the auditor brought to our attention that he feels too many people have keys to areas that should be restricted to most. He recommended we reduce the number of keys that are distributed to these areas. We have made some changes to meet his suggestions.

At Rhame Avenue some teachers are studying co-teaching models by participating in a professional development opportunity through a collegial circle by reading a book together and discussing its contents. The name of the book is Co-Teach! By Marilyn Friend.

We received notice that our Math 8 Assessment books will be audited. This is a typical procedure whereby the state notifies us of which booklets to send. They double check the scoring and notify us of any inaccuracies. We copied all books and after two days of clerical work and 4 reams paper the books were sent.

I would like to thank the Education Foundation for bringing the Harlem Wizards event to our schools. It was a wonderful.

Earlier this year I reported that one of our reading teachers, Lorraine Donlan, wrote a book, *The Other Kid*. This book now has a website www.theotherkid.com. It is for siblings of children with special needs. Ms. Donlon tells me that The Ronald McDonald house is using this book for their families. We are very proud of this accomplishment.

East Rockaway has participated in Family Math Day for the past twenty years and recently Mr. Silk represented the district to accept an award for our continued participation. In addition, Ms. Kohn, one of our kindergarten teachers, has been a presenter for at least fifteen year.

Rhame Ave. has been eating through the rainbow. The students and teachers have been participating in a project on healthy eating. They have eaten red: apples, Orange: oranges and yellow: bananas. We'll see what they come up with for the rest of the colors.

I would like to read a partial list of college acceptances our seniors have received: Adelphi Honors, Boston College, Boston University, Baruch, Fordam University, George Washington University, etc. This is a fabulous list of colleges for the East Rockaway graduates. We are proud of our guidance department for working so hard with these students.

At a recent meeting there was a question regarding a conflict of schedule between Rock Rivalry and basketball finals. We are still in discussion with this as there are many factors involved. There is a six week time frame and it seems easier said than done but we are still looking into it.

Privilege of the Floor

Vera Gallagher – I would like to thank the Board for use of the gym for the Harlem Wizards event and staff. We encourage you to foster parents who might be interested in joining. Staff, if there is something you think the foundation could be useful let us know. Kids had fun.

9. Board Member Comments

Linda Schmidt – thank you to the students and teachers for your presentation. Congratulations to the teachers on receiving your tenure. Thank you for your time.

Vicki Alspector - Congratulations teachers on your tenure. Thank you poets...I am amazed that kids can get up and read poems. Boys getting up and reading poetry is something I never experienced. Harlem Wizards – community was great...bought lots of shirts and basketballs. Thank you for coming.

Debbie Tufano – Congratulations to our newly tenured teachers, thank you for coming out this evening. Thank you to our student poets, nice work!

On a personal note, it is with a heavy heart I have decided not to seek re-election for BOE trustee. This was not a decision made lightly or in haste. I have been a member of this BOE since 2003. They are a dedicated, caring group of individuals that always have one common goal "our kids". I will miss working with them and want them all to know I have learned so much both personally and professionally from them. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly say thank you to the entire staff of ER schools and the ER community for their support. Last but not least I would like to thank my family for their total understanding, many times doing without, because of my commitment to our schools.

Marie Girace – thank you teachers and the teachers who presented poetry. Mrs. Orzano, thank you for bringing in your group, I am sure they went home to rest their brains. It is with a very heavy heart we learn of your decision Debbie. Thank you for the many years of dedication and concern and for your service to the children of this community. It has been a pleasure to work and learn from you and your level of understanding. As a board, we can't thank you enough for your coherence. Wish you well for the rest of your endeavors. Thank you.

10. Adjournment

Upon motion by Vicki Alspector, seconded by Debbie Tufano and unanimously approved the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk