

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Rockaway, New York

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

7:00 P.M., December 16, 2014 – East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School

Including Recognition of the CAPTA Story Pirates Creative Story Writing Contest Winners, Recognition of our Teachers and Administrators for our District's Selection to the College Board's 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll, and a Budget Presentation and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Kristin Ochtera, Patricia Nicoletti, Neil Schloth, Keith Gamache; Superintendent, Lisa J. Ruiz; Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, James P. Robinson; Director of Curriculum & Technology, John Piccarella; and District Clerk, Denise Lobascio.

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:05 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patti Nicoletti.
2. Upon motion by Keith Gamache, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the minutes of the November 18, 2014, and the December 9, 2014, Board of Education meetings were unanimously approved.
3. Acknowledged Receipt of Financial Reports
4. Acknowledged receipt of two pieces of correspondence.
5. Action Agenda

A. Personnel

Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following items #1-2 were unanimously approved:

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a FMLA leave of absence for Denise Lobascio, Business Office Secretary/District Clerk, effective January 2, 2015.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Winter Sports Coaching Schedule for the 2014-2015 school year.

Upon motion by Kristin Ochtera, seconded by Keith Gamache, the following item #3 was unanimously tabled:

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Latecia Lee to the position of monitor, effective December 17, 2014, at the Step 1 hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitor Union contract for monitors for the 2014-2015 school year.

B. Other Items

Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Keith Gamache, the following items # 1-5 were unanimously approved:

1. Approve the purchase of the following textbooks:

- a. Richtel, Matthew. A Deadly Wandering. New York: HarperCollins, 2014.

2. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling the following textbooks:

Quantity	Title	Publisher	Copyright
2	Literature Copper Annotated Teacher's Edition	Prentice Hall	1994
2	Literature Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes Copper Level	Prentice Hall	2000
1	Literature Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes Copper Level Annotated Teacher's Edition	Prentice Hall	2000
1	All Together	Scribner	1987
1	Literature Works	Silver Burdett Ginn	1997
1	Literature Annotated Teacher's Edition	Prentice Hall	1989
3	Reading & Writing Source Book	Houghton Mifflin	2002
1	Teacher's Guide, Reading & Writing Source Book	Houghton Mifflin	2002
5	Comprehensive Reading Assessment	Options Publishing	2004
302	Health	Holt	1994
202	Health Focus on You	Meeks Heit	1984

3. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling the following equipment:
 - a. Dynavox, Serial V0005539
 - b. FM Hearing System, Model No. 9304670 (2 units)
 4. Accept a grant award from the East Rockaway Education Foundation in the sum of \$9,174.69 in support of district-wide educational programs.
 5. Adopt the East Rockaway UFSD Comprehensive District-Wide Safety Plan for the 20142015 school year.
- C. Upon motion by Patti Nicoletti, seconded by Neil Schloth, the following budget transfer was unanimously approved:
- a. Transaction No. 15-0004
- D. Upon motion by Keith Gamache, seconded by Neil Schloth, with one abstention, the CSE Recommendations have been approved by majority vote.
- E. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Keith Gamache, with one abstention, CPSE Recommendations have been approved by majority vote.
6. Policy Matters: A. For Adoption -None
- B. For Review
- a. 5220, School-Sponsored Student Expression
 - b. 5225, Student Personal Expression
7. Good and Welfare
- a. Congratulations to Maria Treglia on the birth of her second grandson, Salvatore Fred, born on November 19, 2014
 - b. Condolences to the Vanegas family on the passing of Blanca Vanegas on December 4, 2014
8. Superintendent's Report
- Our elementary schools have been participating in various activities to promote reading over the past month:
- Centre Avenue is having a holiday Book Swap between grade level classes. Students were asked to bring in a gently used paperback book that is completely wrapped. Students were provided with a small tag to write a small blurb about the book without giving away the title. The Centre Avenue staff will participate in a holiday book swap as well.

- The "Caught Reading" campaign features teachers as readers. The purpose of the campaign is to create a school-wide reading culture to promote reading as a lifestyle.
- Students will be challenged to read over the December break. They will track their reading in a fun and creative way by decorating mugs of hot chocolate with marshmallows that have different reading challenges written on them.
- PARP, "Parents as Reading Partners," is being celebrated this week at Rhame Avenue with a number of exciting events planned. This year's theme is "Reading Around the World." Parents and children will complete a variety of reading activities at home and in school together throughout the week. Ms. Guggino-Hastings helped us kick things off as our mystery reader on Friday afternoon. Other PARP events this week will include "Dress like your favorite story book character," "Milk and Bookies" an activity where parents are invited to read with their children in the classroom while enjoying milk and cookies, and an exciting "Chinese Acrobats Assembly" as a culmination to our International PARP celebration.
- Sixth grade classes will be visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art this week. The students are excited for their "Tour of Ancient Egypt" which is connected to the social studies curriculum and will be examining the cultural achievements of Ancient Egypt along the way.
- Our Elementary Chorus, under the direction of Ms. Lalama, performed at the very rainy Village Tree Lighting ceremony. Spirits were not dampened by the weather though and our children's voices were raised in song to commemorate the event. Both elementary schools came together for the "Winter Concert" last week which was a special night for students to show off their musical talents. Mr. Ceglio led the band, Ms. Weill conducted the orchestra, and Ms. Lalama sang along with our junior and senior choruses. The children sounded amazing. Special thanks to our music teachers for preparing the students for this event.
- Both elementary Student Councils held holiday toy drives and collected gifts for children that are less fortunate, so they too can have presents for Hanukkah and Christmas.
- The Rhame Avenue Writing Action team is holding a "Holiday Writing Contest" this month and students on each grade level are writing about "A Favorite Family Holiday Tradition." Students in the upper grades are writing compositions and decorating holiday houses and our kindergarten classes are writing fantasy holiday stories about a gingerbread man that recently escaped from the school's oven!
- We have recently purchased 120 tablet devices that were purchased with this year's technology reserve funds. One cart of 30 tablets will be available in each school library to allow entire classes to complete individual research projects. The fourth set of tablets will be used in middle school AIS classes along with a new program, Compass Learning. This web-based curriculum package uses students' NWEA-MAP assessment scores to generate targeted learning activities. Grade 7 & 8 students in AIS classes will be using

the new tablet computers to access this online program as part of their intervention program. Teaching assistants will use the data from the program to support direct instruction in their AIS classes.

- Congratulations to Mr. Howard, Mr. Cimorelli, and our East Rockaway robotics students. The club, along with their Jericho partners, won the VEX Robotics qualifying tournament on Saturday December 6, 2014. Both teams now qualify for the State championship. In addition, the East Rockaway team, led by Michael Reichelson, lead engineer and driver, along with coaches Dillon Schreiber, Rachael Putelo, and Raymond Cerasoli took the Excellence Award for overall robot design and function. The team will compete in several more tournaments over the upcoming months. East Rockaway will also host the second Downstate Final Tournament in early March. Students placed 5th in the competition at Port Washington this past Saturday.
- Congratulations to our girls' varsity volleyball team. They are the 2014 Nassau County Conference C Champions!
- Congratulations to the following teams for achieving Team Scholar Athlete. This award is given to any varsity team who maintains a 90% overall average or higher throughout the sports season: Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer, and Girls Soccer.
- We would also like to acknowledge all of our County award winners (varsity only) by sport:
 - Boys Cross Country: Matthew Breidenbach-All Conference as well as All State participant
 - Football: Dominic DeRosa-All County; Chris Candreva-All Conference; Chris Amabile-National Football Association Student Athlete
 - Girls Volleyball: Kimberly McCann-All-State, All-County, Class C County Playoff Tournament MVP; Ally Cilluffo-All-Class, Class C County Playoff All-Tournament team; Fallon DeStefani- All-Conference; Diana Locoteta-Class C County Playoff All-Tournament team; Kelsey Radigan-Team Scholar Athlete
 - Girls Soccer: Kailey Hyland-All Class; Kristen Mihalich-All Conference
 - Boys Soccer: Chris Weiss-All Conference
- Congratulations to Brianna Holmes and Chris Amabile. They are this year's recipients of the Nassau Zone New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (N.Y.S.A.H.P.E.R.D.) Award. This award recognizes one young woman and one young man in the 2015 graduating class who exemplifies outstanding physical performance, scholastic ability, and leadership qualities. This prestigious award was presented to the students at an awards dinner at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury on Tuesday, December 2, 2014.
- On Wednesday, November 26, the Guidance Department hosted the 3rd annual Alumni Day. Seventeen members of the Class of 2014 returned and participated in assemblies for students in grades 9-12. The alumni shared information about their college experiences

including academic expectations, life on campus, living with a roommate, balancing time, and accessing support services on campus. The counselors moderated the panel and asked the alumni questions that were submitted by current students in grades 9-12. The alumni represented the following colleges and universities: Florida Gulf Coast University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Marist College, City College, SUNY Cortland, Nassau Community College, University of Massachusetts, Elizabethtown College, George Mason University, Syracuse University, SUNY Brockport, and Molloy College.

- This year, once again, our 8th grade students participated in the annual Pearl Harbor Day commemoration presented by the American Legion and East Rockaway Village officials. Following the ceremony, students were treated to lunch at the American Legion Hall. Prior to the event, students wrote essays about this important event in our history and winners will be selected by the American Legion representatives.
- High School Winter Concert is this Wednesday 7:00PM in the auditorium. Let our students get you into the holiday spirit, we've even included for the first time a community sing-along.
- Twenty three East Rockaway students have been selected to participate in All-County this year, based on their NYSSMA scores.

Centre Avenue Elementary School

Band: Matthew Pollackov, Alyssa Walsh

Chorus: Lauren Kelly, Victoria Kelly, Grace McNally

Orchestra: Sandra Quintanilla, Nicholas Saldana

Rhame Avenue Elementary School

Band: Antonia Prisciandaro

Chorus: Lauren Cronin, Emma Ellison

East Rockaway Junior Senior High School

Band: Matthew Cooney, Alexis Jackson, Christopher Levins

Chorus: Natalia Cuttitta, Michael Goldsmith, Michelle Landerer, Andrew Schwarzman Mixed

Chorus: Jack Cussen, Chris Scagnelli

Orchestra: Colleen Bennett, Scott Buzzolani, Emma Nicoletti, Amy Ogura

Concert will be coming up in mid January at the Tilles Center at C.W. Post

ERSD Prevention Task Force

The East Rockaway Prevention Task Force is excited about new opportunities in the community. A subcommittee of the Task Force this past week met with Nancy Landerer, East Rockaway Recreation Department Director, and began the following initiatives:

- Establish a community link directly to East Rockaway Recreation Department on the school district website.
- Facilitate a partnership to create ongoing events throughout the school year.
- Institute curriculum programs for students to create job opportunities in the community

Research indicates that a strong recreation department can influence students to make positive decisions. Our emphasis will be to empower all students with opportunities to develop and grow utilizing the resources available to them through the district and the East Rockaway Recreation Department.

I wish you all a joyous holiday season and all the best in the New Year but most of all good health and a peaceful year for all.

9. Privilege of the Floor

□ TJ Moore – 7th grade English and Social Studies

10. Board Member Comments

Patti Nicoletti – I would like to acknowledge all those who have been a bright light in our district – those who we have recognized tonight...the Story Pirate winners and the CAPTA, the high school administrators and AP teachers and students who have worked so hard. Thank you for helping the Board in their goal of raising the bar. Also, thank you to Mr. Robinson for his thorough budget presentation and, again, thank you to East Rockaway Education Foundation for yet another generous donation.

Neil Schloth – Thanks for doing a lot with a little, to the dedicated teachers, administrators and community. To Richard Meagher and the Ed Foundation, thank you for your donation and for attending our meetings. I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday!

Keith Gamache – I took my boys to the Robotics tournament this weekend. They had a great time and enjoyed it immensely. Wishing everyone a happy holiday!

Kristin Ochtera – We have had many challenges the past two years and we do not get the opportunity to thank the administration and staff, high-quality teachers and support at home. That puts us in a very strong position. Have a peaceful holiday. See you next year.

11. Upon motion by Neil Schloth, seconded by Keith Gamache, and unanimously passed the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Lobascio
District Clerk

