

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
7:00 P.M., May 24, 2016 – Centre Avenue Elementary School
Including Recognition of
Tenure Candidates and a Public Forum

MINUTES

Present: Members of the Board of Education: Kristin Ochtera, Patti Nicoletti, Neil R. Schloth, John Giannotti, Jr., Keith Gamache; Superintendent, Lisa J. Ruiz; Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, James P. Robinson; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, John Piccarella, District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristin Ochtera at 7:02 p.m. and Patti Nicoletti led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Upon motion made by John Giannotti, Jr., and seconded by Keith Gamache, the following minutes were unanimously approved:
 1. April 19, 2016
 2. May 10, 2016, Budget Hearing
 3. May 17, 2016, Extract of Minutes for Budget Vote and Trustee Election
3. Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Reports – March 2016
4. Correspondence:
 1. Assemblyman Brian Curran – Alternative Polling Places Legislation
 2. NSSBA – Notification of Nomination – Kristin Ochtera to NSSBA Executive Committee
 3. Randi O’Moore, Praise for Mr. Cimorelli, European Trip

Board President Kristin Ochtera turned the meeting over to the Superintendent. Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone and spoke about Item 5(A)(1) on the agenda. She stated that tonight we are celebrating the wonderful work our staff does and granting tenure to five staff members. She spoke about the requirements and process that is involved when granting tenure.

Ms. Ruiz introduced Mr. Joe Spero who spoke on behalf of the East Rockaway Jr. /Sr. High School staff members receiving tenure. Mr. Spero spoke about the accomplishments of Jennifer Spiteri (School Counselor) and Meridyth Hansen (Math/Science Chairperson). He recommended their tenure to the Board of Education and the Superintendent.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Erik Walter and Mr. John Piccarella who spoke on behalf of Rhame Avenue School’s Reading Specialist Michelle Rodgers. Mr. Walter thanked the audience for recognizing teachers for their hard work. Mr. Piccarella read a few things about what co-workers

said about Ms. Rodgers. Mr. Walter and Mr. Piccarella then recommended Ms. Rodgers for tenure to the Board of Education and the Superintendent.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Tim Silk who spoke on behalf of Dana Zingale, Centre Avenue School Teaching Assistant, and ToniAnn Donald, Centre Avenue School Teacher. Mr. Silk welcomed the community and Board of Education back to Centre Avenue School. He stated that Ms. Zingale has 14 years of experience at Centre Avenue School and Ms. Donald has 7 years of experience. Both staff members were recommended for tenure to the Board of Education and the Superintendent.

Ms. Ruiz thanked the building principals for speaking so highly of their staff. She also thanked faculty, staff, and ERTA for being present tonight and for supporting the tenure candidates. Ms. Ruiz then asked the Board to grant tenure to the candidates.

Ms. Ochtera asked the Board if they had any comments regarding Personnel Item No. 1.

Ms. Nicoletti responded that she is very confident that when administrators make a tenure recommendation, their opinion is respected and the nomination is well deserved. She welcomes them all.

Mr. Schloth congratulated all five candidates. He said they all have shown a motivation to do better. The District continues to get better and improve and all these teachers exhibit those qualities. He wished them much success.

Mr. Gamache stated that when he received tenure in his District the support was not like it was at this meeting. He appreciates all faculty coming out and supporting their colleagues. Congratulations to the new tenured teachers.

Mr. Giannotti, Jr., offered his congratulations as well. He stated that it is a pleasure to have you and hope you remain in the District for a very long time.

Ms. Ochtera stated that the Board has a file containing all the back up for the recommendations and does take it seriously. They want all tenured teachers to have a long and successful future in the District. Ms. Ochtera asked for a motion to approve and announced there would be a short recess for picture taking, etc.

5. Action Agenda

Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following Item No.1 was unanimously approved.

A. Personnel

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>
Jennifer Spiteri	School Counselor	August 22, 2016
Meridyth Hansen.....	Mathematics Teacher	August 28, 2016
Michelle Rodgers	Reading Teacher	August 28, 2016
Dana Zingale	Teaching Assistant.....	August 29, 2016
ToniAnn Donald	Elementary Teacher	August 29, 2016

Ms. Ochtera continued the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Ms. Ochtera asked if there were any questions regarding the items on tonight’s agenda and reminded the audience that there will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting.

Ms. Ruiz continued with Item 2 and reminded the audience that at the June 14th Board meeting we will recognize the retirements of the dedicated individuals, whose cumulative years of service to the District is approximately 100 years.

Upon motion made by John Giannotti, Jr., and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Item Nos. 2-8, No. 9 as amended, and 10 - 23 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the following resignations, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2016:
 - a. Timothy Silk, Elementary Principal
 - b. Diane Rafferty, Elementary Teacher
 - c. Judith Posimato, Teacher Aide/Monitor
 - d. Mary Orzano, Mathematics Teacher
3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
 - a. Lauren Pontrello, substitute teacher
 - b. Lauren Dubois, probationary ESL teacher, effective June 30, 2016
 - c. Dina Reilly, assistant principal, effective June 30, 2016
4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, rescind the appointment of Rob Lettieri as a substitute cleaner effective immediately.

5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Meaghan Pickard to the position of short term substitute teacher, effective May 25, 2016 through June 23, 2016, at the salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for short term substitute teachers for the 2015-2016 school year.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Marie Anderson to the position of ESL teacher for the Jump Start Program, effective August 8, 2016, to August 12, 2016, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2016-2017 school year.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following special education summer school appointments, effective July 6, 2016, through August 16, 2016, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2016-2017 school year:

Kathleen CrowleySpecial Education Teacher
 Kristen DonovanSpecial Education Teacher
 Allison Gerbert.....Special Education Teacher
 Randi KilcommonsSpecial Education /Resource Room Teacher
 Diana CollinsSpecial Education/Resource Room Teacher
 Edward Correll.....School Psychologist
 Dr. Alissa NunesSchool Psychologist
 Bethany KinkaidSpeech/Language Teacher
 Jacqueline PurteeSubstitute Teacher
 Eileen LevineSubstitute Teacher

8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following appointments for summer CSE/CPSE meetings, effective July 1, 2016, through August 31, 2016, at the hourly salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2016-2017 school year:

Edward Correll..... School Psychologist
 Dr. Alissa Nunes School Psychologist
 Laura Peterson Special Education Teacher
 Jacqueline Purtee Special Education Teacher
 Eileen Levine Special Education Teacher
 Kimberly Rosenkrantz Speech Teacher
 Dawn O'Shea Rooney..... General Education Teacher
 Eileen Levine General Education Teacher
 Laura Peterson General Education Teacher
 Laura Peterson Chairperson, CSE/CPSE
 Edward Correll..... Chairperson, CSE/CPSE

Dr. Alissa Nunes Chairperson, CSE/CPSE

Ms. Ruiz stated that an error appeared in the hiring date and school year date for the employees in Item 9 below. She asked a motion be made to amend Item 9 to reflect the correct dates.

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the following Item No. 9, as amended, was unanimously approved.

9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following special education summer school teacher aide appointments, effective July 6, 2016 through August 14, 2016, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year:

Stefanie Medina	Teacher Aide
Janet Block.....	Teacher Aide
Melissa Hawxhurst.....	Teacher Aide
Darlene Woods.....	Teacher Aide
Linda Lindsley	Teacher Aide
Jill Toy	Substitute Teacher Aide
Nicole Winters	Substitute Teacher Aide

10. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following summer school nurse appointments for the special education summer school program, effective July 6, 2016, through August 16, 2016, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2016-2017 school year.

TBD.....	School Nurse
Elisa Cheung	Substitute School Nurse
Michele Daniels	Substitute School Nurse

11. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Francesca DeVivo to the position of summer monitor, effective July 6, 2016, through August 16, 2016, at the Lead Monitor Step 2 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Food Service and Monitors Union agreement for the 2016-2017 school year.

12. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following Driver and Traffic Safety Instructor appointments, effective July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, at the hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for Other Educational Assignments for the 2016-2017 school year:

Nicholas Cimorelli
Christian Soto
Dominick Vulpis

13. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the four-year probationary appointment of Kristie Hirten to the position of art teacher (tenure area: art; certification: initial), effective September 1, 2016, through August 31, 2020, at the MA, Step 2, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year.
14. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time (.7 FTE) appointment of Kelsey Erwin, to the position of reading teacher, effective September 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, at the prorated MA, Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year.
15. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Stephen Raimondi to the position of part-time (.5 FTE) social studies teacher, effective September 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, at the prorated BA, Step 2 annual salary set forth by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year; and further approve the appointment of Stephen Raimondi to the position of part-time (.167 FTE) teaching assistant, effective September 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, at the prorated Step 2 annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for teaching assistants for the 2016-2017 school year.
16. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the part-time (.5 FTE) appointment of Alexandra Mendyk, to the position of science teacher, effective September 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, at the prorated BA, Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year.
17. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Jacqueline Purtee-Beytin to the position of leave replacement special education teacher, effective September 1, 2016, through January 27, 2017, at the MA, Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year.
18. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Thomas Canale to the position of leave replacement English teacher position, effective September 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, at the BA, Step 1, annual salary set forth in the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2016-2017 school year.

19. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Michelle Rodgers for a maternity leave of absence from her reading teacher position, effective September 6, 2016, through October 31, 2016, pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act.
20. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Erin Kennedy for a maternity leave of absence from her special education teacher position, effective September 6, 2016, through November 25, 2016, pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act.
21. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Casey Wise for a maternity leave of absence from her teaching assistant position, effective September 26, 2016, through December 16, 2016, pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act.
22. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request of Wendy Beauchesne for a maternity leave of absence from her elementary teacher position, effective October 5, 2016, through November 18, 2016, pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act.
23. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the following temporary assignments at the salary approved by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for substitute workers for the 2015-2016 school year:
 - a. Caitlin Klingbeil, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective April 1, 2016
 - b. David Swift, substitute groundskeeper, effective upon Civil Service Approval

B. Other Items

Upon motion made by Patti Nicoletti and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., the following Other Items 1-8 were unanimously approved on a consent agenda.

1. Approve the contractual agreement with Edward M. Petrosky, Psy.D, ABPP, for neuropsychological evaluation for one (1) student, I. D. No. 180006030, for the 2015-2016 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the contractual agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
2. Approve the terms of the Letter of Intent with Nassau BOCES for a five-year lease for two (2) Xerox multi-task copy machines and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Letter of Intent on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

3. Approve the resolution to issue Tax Anticipation Notes in the sum not to exceed ten million dollars (\$10,000,000.00).
4. Approve the following resolution to authorize Capital Reserve Fund Expenditure Propositions:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD is the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Process for the purpose of required determinations respecting the proposed Capital Improvement Projects as follows:

NEW ELECTRONIC SIGN & DECORATIVE BRICK PIERS AT EAST ROCKAWAY HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, in 1995, amendments were made to the SEQRA Regulation (Part 617) to classify projects, which will be excluded from the requirements for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (Type II Actions). The project mentioned above is now classified as Type II Actions as determined by 6NYCRR§617.5; and

WHEREAS, these projects fall under the following categories:

- A. Maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure of facility;
- B. Replacement, Rehabilitation, or Reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in Section 617.4 of this Part;
- C. Construction or expansion of a primary or accessory/appurtenant, non-residential structure of facility involving less than 4,000 square feet of gross floor area and not involving a change in zoning or a use variance and consistent with local and use control, but not radio communication or microwave transmission facilities.

THEREFORE, as the lead agency for the SEQRA determination, the above referenced project falls under Categories “C” above. The procedure for Type II Actions, with regard to the SEQRA Process for Capital Projects noted above is “No Additional Required Action under 6NYCRR§617.5(a).”

5. Approve the agreement with Textbook Central, a division of Tel/Logic Inc. d/b/a CentralEd with East Rockaway UFSD for textbook information and management services for the 2016-2017 school year and authorize the Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations to execute the Letter of Intent and agreement for said services

on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

6. Approve the Fund Surplus Resolution Agreement and Release between Questar III and the East Rockaway UFSD for the Questar III BOCES other post-employment benefits (OPEB) liquidation plan in the amount outlined in the Agreement and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.
7. Authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations to sign the Student Accident Coverage Request with the Pupil Benefits Plan, Inc. effective July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.
8. Accept the following donation:
 - a. From the Centre Avenue PTA books by visiting author, David Adler, for the Reading Team valued at \$140.67
 - b. From Harris Corporation GCSD, a check in the amount of \$35 in the memory of John Ohman for the East Rockaway High School-Music Department
 - c. From Brian Seinwels, 24 cases of 8 ½ X 14 white copy paper valued at \$815.00 and 10 cases of 11 X 17 white copy paper valued at \$270.00

Ms. Ochtera read the resolution contained in Item 9. She updated the audience on the work being done to repair the water main break and explained that this Resolution would limit the cost of the repair work at this time to \$100,000. If additional sums are needed, another Resolution authorizing the expense would have to be made. She asked Mr. Robinson to provide an update.

Mr. Robinson replied that the main is much larger and deeper in the ground than first expected. Some challenges were presented and the crew is working diligently all day and committed to staying until the work is done. He has been in touch with the State Education Department and Mr. Grillo, the school's architect. He does not know about school tomorrow.

Ms. Ruiz stated that making a decision to close school is difficult especially at this time of the year with approaching exams and end of year activities. The water had to be shut off in the building and it is a health code violation to have people in the building without the facilities operating. She thanked Mr. Robinson and Mr. Quercia for being present at the site and for keeping her informed. She is hoping to open school tomorrow. She reminded the audience that school is open on Friday, May 27, 2016, which is a snow make up day. The District will inform the community by a Connect-Ed message of any school closing. Mr. Robinson said that since hot meals are prepared at the High School, only cold lunch will be served at the elementary schools, similar to what took place today. This will also be communicated by a Connect-Ed message.

Ms. Ochtera stated that contractors are pulled off the NYS approved list and the District

will be looking for insurance funds to offset the cost. She asked the Board if anyone had any questions or comments.

Ms. Nicoletti questioned if the water main break was related to the recent water main break on Pearl Street in Oceanside. Mr. Robinson responded that he was not aware of it being related.

Ms. Ruiz stated that when school reopens the District will reach out to the 4th Precinct to help with traffic flow because the oval will be restricted.

Ms. Ochtera thanked Mr. Robinson, Mr. Piccarella and Mr. Quercia for their work the past two days and for keeping us informed. She also thanked the Centre Avenue School staff for setting up tonight's meeting.

Upon motion made by Keith Gamache, and seconded by Neil Schloth, the following Other Item 9 was unanimously approved.

9. Approve the following Resolution for emergency water main repair work:

WHEREAS, on or about May 23, 2016, a main line in a water supply system to the East Rockaway High School ("Water Main") ruptured, due to unforeseen and previously unknown deterioration of the Water Main; and

WHEREAS, based on the recommendation of the District's architect and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, it is essential to undertake certain immediate action to address and remedy the damage to the Water Main and the school building in order to preserve the health, safety and welfare of the students and staff in the building and to preserve the building and functionality of this educational space, including the repair, replacement and/or reconstruction of said Water Main, all affected facilities and surrounding areas ("Emergency Repair Work");

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway Union Free School District declares the Emergency Repair Work to be emergency project that is essential for the protection of the health and safety of students and staff and for the protection and preservation of the District's property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby finds that, pursuant to General Municipal Law sections 103(4) and 6-d, the above-described Emergency Repair Work is an emergency project affecting public buildings, public property and the health and safety of students and staff, which require immediate action and cannot await competitive bidding, and which are necessary to repair and restore the Water Main and affected facilities to normal operating condition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Emergency Repair Work as an ordinary contingent expense at an estimated cost not to

exceed \$100,000.00, to be financed initially by appropriations from the District's General Fund's unassigned fund balance up to such amount, and offset by insurance proceeds to the maximum extent available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, or her designee, to execute the necessary steps to effectuate the Emergency Repair Work in order to remedy the damage and restore a safe water supply to the affected facilities pursuant to New York State Education Department requirements, including the execution of contracts for public work and/or the purchase of supplies, material or equipment in connection therewith, in accordance with the District's purchasing policy and regulations.

C. Budget Transfers

Upon motion made by John Giannotti, Jr., and seconded by Patti Nicoletti, the following Budget Transfers were unanimously approved on a consent agenda:

- a. Transaction No. 16-0002
- b. Transaction No. 16-0003

D. Upon motion made by Patti Nicoletti, and seconded by Keith Gamache, the CSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

E. Upon motion made by John Giannotti, Jr., and seconded by Neil Schloth, the CPSE Recommendations were unanimously approved.

6. Policy Matters - None

7. Good and Welfare

- a. Congratulations to Meridyth Hansen and family on the birth of their son, Ryan Owen on April 29, 2016
- b. Condolences to Mary Boll and family on the passing of her father-in-law, Richard C. Boll

8. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Ruiz thanked the community for passing this year's school budget with over 77% voter approval. She also congratulated Ms. Ochtera and Ms. Nicoletti on their re-election to the Board. She referred the audience to Item 4(2) under Correspondence and congratulated Ms. Ochtera on her nomination as a NSSBA Executive Committee member and wished her much luck in her role. She stated that her report tonight will be in alignment with the four focus areas of the District's Strategic Plan.

Opportunity:

We are excited for James Tierney and Conor Irvine, who have been accepted and will be attending the Summer Business Leadership Academy at Mercy College. Corinne Haab was also accepted to the High School Business Bootcamp at Molly College this summer as well. Congratulations to all three students on their acceptance and their pursuit of a career in business.

Marissa DeSilvio and Michael Saporito (both Grade 11) will be inducted into the Joseph M. Barry Career and Technical Education Center Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. These exemplary students have been identified based on a rigorous selection process that includes academic excellence, good citizenship, high achievement, outstanding employability skills and exceptional attendance.

The second grade classes at Rhame Avenue have begun cultivating their vegetable garden this week. The students have finished weeding and will soon be adding organic materials to the soil and planting radishes, peas and bean seeds. They will also be planting a variety of lettuce and spinach which they will enjoy after the June harvest at their annual end of the year salad party. This year, a very special opportunity was presented to Mrs. McLeod and the entire second grade by an East Rockaway High School Senior. As part of her aspiration to achieve the "Girl Scout Gold Award," Meaghan Ochtera dedicated her creative mind, time and energy to enhance our school garden and provided us with a brand new raised bed, organic soil and irrigation system that can be set for automatic watering. This will enable the garden to thrive throughout the summer months in hopes for our very first Fall harvest when we come back to school in September. Our students have gained so much from this experience and they even had an opportunity to learn about Sustainable Micro-Farming from Meaghan herself during a recent class visit.

Centre Avenue School is also participating in the Brian Curran Flag Day essay contest. Students Kindergarten through Grade 6 are writing essays and creating art work for the event to be held June 12, 2016.

Centre and Rhame Avenue students were recently treated to an assembly with Author, David Adler of Danny's Doodles and the Cam Jansen series. Students were thrilled to meet a real author in person and learn how the writing process works. Students were motivated to write their own books. Many thanks to our reading teachers Ashley Tener, Danielle Schaetzel and Sherina Lugo that coordinated the event. Double special thanks to the East Rockaway Education Foundation that funded the event!

A reminder to all parents that Friday May 27th is a make-up school day for our snow day used this past winter.

Achievement:

AP exam administration took place over the last several weeks and finished this past week. We thank Ms. Hecht, Ms. Yzaguirre, our students and their families for their dedication and commitment and hope to see positive results over the summer. Eighty-five students in 13 classes completed 176 Advanced Placement exams during this testing period (May 2-20, 2016).

Students are finishing up the curriculum with their teachers in preparation for final and Regents exams, as well as NWEA final assessments.

Our District Art Show and Spring Concert were truly outstanding this year, as teachers continue to build excitement for these programs.

The Long Island Science Congress recognized the following East Rockaway Middle School students based on their Science Fair projects:

- Nora Donovan (7th grade) - High Honors
- Matthew Machovec (8th grade) – Honors
- Kaitlyn Maltempi (8th grade) – Honors

Dr. Chris Parker was back at Rhame and Centre Avenue Schools this past week conducting his “Spring Walkthroughs” for all classrooms in Grades K-4. The focus of his classroom visitation was to observe small group instruction being led by the classroom teachers in alignment with the instructional model we have recently adopted and continue to enhance under his guidance. After de-briefing with each individual teacher in the afternoon, we were very pleased to hear his positive feedback and delighted with the steps we have taken to help move our students forward. We were especially pleased with the level of “rigor” and “student engagement” that were present during each small group lesson that we had the opportunity to watch. The professional development that Dr. Parker has provided and the work that we continue to move forward with as a team will help provide our students with the best possible opportunities for academic success and achievement.

Centre Avenue 5th grade students participated in the Lynbrook Restorative Therapy and Nursing home essay contest this past month. Last Thursday night, Mrs. Donald and Mrs. Napolitano attended the awards ceremony where Jason Nunes, Gabriella Folk, Victoria Jandzinski and Christopher Becker accepted their awards for their submissions.

Innovation:

The visitor management system for the building has been enhanced and changes have been put in place in an effort to make continuous improvement for the safety of all staff and students.

Fifth grade students in Ms. DeVarso and Mrs. Donovan’s classes are preparing for Entrepreneur’s Day which will take place at Rhame Avenue this Thursday during “Special Visitor’s Day.” As part of our districts 1:1 tablet initiative, the students were able to use their

devices to bring this year's presentation to a whole new level! The students have created their own business websites, including QR (Quick Response) codes where consumers can use their smartphones to go directly to the student's individual website. They have devoted a lot of time, conducted in depth research and even watched a few episodes of "Shark Tank" for inspiration along the way. We look forward to this upcoming event and thank Mrs. Schoen for her continued efforts and dedication to helping our students use innovative approaches for their presentations using technology.

Centre Avenue School held its Grade 6 science fair on May 5th at 7 p.m. to a standing room only crowd. Students explained their projects and the scientific method to our visitors. Special thanks to our young scientists, Mrs. Rafferty, Dr. Soto, Mrs. Acampora, and Mrs. Maini for an outstanding science fair.

Connections:

Students from River East Elementary School visited East Rockaway High School on Friday to collaborate with our students and produce their music. The event was well-received and productive, and helped establish relationships with our friends from Manhattan.

Unified basketball finished its season with a 4-1 record and a culminating day at Freeport High School on Saturday, May 21, 2016, with game and skill play. There were many benefits to this program:

- Increase in attendance of several at risk students
- Increase in grades of several at risk players
- Increase public awareness of the spirit and skills of individuals with intellectual disabilities
- Development of friendships through a spirit of equality and team unity

As a culmination to this month's focus on "PARP – Pick a Reading Partner" at Rhame Avenue, we have two very special events planned to wrap things up. This Friday, Bideawee will be visiting our school with Three Therapy Dogs and all students in Grades 1-3 will have the opportunity to read with them. The "Reading to Dogs School Partnership Program" is an opportunity for children to make a reading connection with a different audience that utilizes the human-animal bond to help build self-confidence as readers. We will also be hosting our very first "Community Read Aloud" on Monday, May 31st at Rhame Avenue. Local legislators, district administrators, Board of Education members, law enforcement officials and community stakeholders will be joining us to read stories in every single classroom connected to our PARP theme of "Read Like a Detective." We look forward to welcoming our guests and sharing the value of this kind of community partnership with our students and staff.

Congratulations on the performance of our band, orchestra, and chorus groups at the elementary spring concert last Wednesday night. Special thanks to Pete Ceglio, Marichele Weill, and Roxanne Lalama for their work in preparing the students for the concert.

The Centre and Rhame Avenue Band performed at the East Rockaway Senior Center last Friday afternoon to the delight of our local senior citizens. Mayor Bruno Romano and Frank Pignataro were wowed by the performance of our young musicians.

Thursday May 26th is an emergency dismissal drill all schools. The elementary school drill will be held at 2:45 p.m. and the Jr. / Sr. High school at 2:35 p.m. Parents should note the 15 minute early dismissal.

East Rockaway Schools look forward to participating in the East Rockaway Memorial Day parade to be held on Monday, May 30th, Memorial Day, at 10:00 AM.

9. Privilege of the Floor

Ms. Regina Walsh inquired about electronic assignments in a school closing.

Ms. Christine DelValle commented on Ms. Reilly's resignation. She expressed her opinion about having to fill out comment cards.

Ms. Claudia Marx also commented on Ms. Reilly's resignation.

Ms. Ozzie Lonergan questioned remaining school days in the calendar and if missed school days have to be made up. Ms. Ruiz responded accordingly.

Ms. Tina Lewald posed a question regarding communication to parents when school is closed.

Ms. Ozzie Lonergan inquired about hiring of employees to replace those that are leaving and if internal employees would be considered.

Ms. Bridget Saporito inquired if students will be able to get their belongings while school is closed due to the water main break.

Ms. Ozzie Lonergan posed a question about insurance coverage for the water main break.

Ms. Ozzie Lonergan posed a question regarding grant funds for teacher professional development.

Ms. Ozzie Lonergan also inquired about busing of students to Bay Park for Jr./Sr. High School after school sports.

Ms. Walsh asked for clarification of busing for after school activities.

Mr. Tyler Lonergan questioned District liability regarding after school activities.

Ms. Araoz inquired about crossing guard posts.

Ms. Lonergan posed a question regarding District policy on student transportation.

10. Board Member Comments

Keith Gamache: Mr. Gamache thanked the residents for supporting the budget. He congratulated Ms. Ochtera and Ms. Nicoletti on their re-election to the Board. He also thanked Ms. Ruiz for highlighting so many things that happen in the District on all levels in her monthly report.

Neil R. Schloth: Mr. Schloth thanked everyone for staying late. He congratulated Ms. Ochtera on her nomination to the NSSBA Executive Committee. He said this group advocates for school districts on Long Island. As budgets get tighter, Ms. Ochtera will give us another voice and another group to assist with school aide. He stated that we all feel that Ms. Reilly is a great Assistant Principal and she will be missed. A special thanks to our teachers and administrators for all the hard work they do.

Patti Nicoletti: Ms. Nicoletti congratulated all the tenured teachers. She thanked Mr. Silk for his many years as a principal and will say more about the retirees at next month's board meeting. She thanked all who voted for the budget and for the confidence in voting her back on the board. She thanked Ms. Fazi and her team for coordinating this year's budget vote. She reiterated that the reason for asking people to fill out the comment cards, is to give the Board Members an opportunity to formulate their thoughts about issues being addressed. Most school districts do not allow the informal and open privilege of the floor section as is done here. She reminded the audience that many of the questions asked at the Board meeting can be addressed to the administrators and/or Superintendent.

Kristin Ochtera: Ms. Ochtera apologized to Mr. Lewald for not getting to his question this evening as he had already left. She thanked everyone for their support as these times are eye-opening and promote conversation in the district. The Board will do their best to notify you of the progress in the repair work.

Mr. Giannotti, Jr.: Mr. Giannotti, Jr. congratulated Ms. Ochtera and Ms. Nicoletti on their re-election to the Board. He thanked everyone for getting the vote out. He also congratulated the tenured teachers and thanked everyone for coming this evening.

11. Upon motion made by Neil Schloth, and seconded by John Giannotti, Jr., and passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. to executive session to discuss matters of personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk