

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Rockaway, New York

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

7:00 P.M., October 19, 2021, East Rockaway Jr. / Sr. High School

Preceded by a Salute to the Board of Education, Recognition of Tenure Candidates and Retiree Diane Dorato, Bond Status Update and Proposed Expansion Presentation, Recognitions of Madeline Prucha, Recipient of the College Board National Merit Scholarship, and Sofia Valdebenito, College Board National Hispanic Recognition, and a Public Forum

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND LIVESTREAMED

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members of the Board of Education: Kristen O'Hagan, Peter McNally, Dominick Vulpis, Joseph Kilgus, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scio, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, James DeTommaso

ABSENT:

Board of Education Trustee, Daniel DeMatteo
District Clerk, Nereyda Amaya-Moran

1. The meeting was called to order by Kristen O'Hagan at 7:11 p.m.
2. Mr. McNally introduced East Rockaway High School senior Elliot Reyes who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. O'Hagan welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Lisa Ruiz who began the evening's presentations.

Ms. Ruiz welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting and thanked everyone for coming out. It is our annual tradition that we celebrate the Board of Education as part of the NYSSBA's School Board Recognition Week which is October 18-22, 2021. Ms. Ruiz, on behalf of the East Rockaway community expressed her thanks for the continuous hard work of the Board. She also thanked their spouses and families for supporting the work of our trustees.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mrs. Calia Kelly, principal of Centre Avenue School who will be hosting this evening's board recognition. Mrs. Kelly spoke on behalf of the Board of Education and thanked them for all they do for the students.

A video tribute was shown wherein students in different grades expressed thanks to the board of education. Two Centre Avenue students also thanked the Board of Education with pre-recorded video messages. Certificates and items of appreciation were presented to the Board and a photo was taken. Ms. Ruiz thanked Mrs. Kelly, the Centre Avenue PTA, students, and staff for tonight's presentation.

Mrs. Ruiz then introduced Mr. Vincent Healy, PPS Director, who spoke about special education teacher Brianna Ostrander. Mr. Healy spoke about her accomplishments and successes in the district. A video tribute was shown. Mr. Healy was honored to recommend Ms. Ostrander for tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Thereafter, Mrs. Ruiz introduced Mrs. Calia Kelly, principal of Centre Avenue School, who spoke about elementary teacher Heather Figliozzi. Mrs. Kelly spoke about her accomplishments and successes in the district. A video tribute was shown. Mrs. Kelly was honored to recommend Ms. Figliozzi for tenure to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

Mrs. Ruiz then introduced Dr. Ayesha McArthur, Rhame Avenue School principal, who spoke on behalf of retiree Diane Dorato, library teacher aide at Rhame Avenue School. Mrs. Dorato was called to the stage and presented with a recognition gift. Ms. Ruiz wished her much happiness in the future and thanked her for her many years of service in the district.

Mr. Richard Schaffer, principal of the East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School, spoke about and congratulated Junior-Senior High School senior Madeleine Prucha who was named a Commended Student in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. Madeleine was recognized for demonstrating exceptional academic promise.

Mr. Schaffer also spoke about and congratulated Junior-Senior High School student Sofia Valdebenito on being selected for the College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program. Sofia was recognized for both her academic achievements and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT.

The next presentation was the Bond Status Update and Proposed Expansion. Mrs. Ruiz stated that these presentations were relative to the progress of our bond and the upcoming special vote to expand the bond work.

Mrs. Ruiz introduced Francesco Borgese and Gary Gonzalez from Park East Construction who provided a bond status update about the progress of our bond work. Following that presentation, Mrs. Scio, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations introduced district architect John Grillo, who explained the contingency projects already approved in the bond. He also discussed the new proposed ventilation expansion projects that will be presented to the community for a vote on November 15, 2021. Mrs. Scio then introduced Mr. William Jackson, of Hawkins Delafield and Wood, the district's bond counsel. Mr. Jackson explained the proposition on the ballot for the bond vote. If approved by the community, this proposition will authorize the district to expand the bond work to include the two new projects with no additional expenditures or additional impact to the taxpayer. A Power Point was also shown and will be posted on our website. Questions were asked and answered upon conclusion of the presentations.

The presentations concluded at 8:40 pm and the public portion of the agenda began.

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

If you are viewing the livestream of tonight's meeting and you have questions regarding items on the agenda or other school related items, you can email them to boardofeducation@ersd.org. This email will be monitored throughout the evening. Please be sure to include your full name and address. I also want to remind you that most concerns are appropriately addressed with your child's teacher and/or building principal. Other general district questions should be directed to Mrs. Ruiz, our Superintendent. Matters involving Curriculum and Instruction should be addressed to Mr. DeTommaso, and matters involving budget and facilities should be directed to Ms. Scio. If you need technological assistance or have issues with a device, please reach out to Mr. Fisk. Anyone who is attending in person, if you would like to make any comments, please complete a comment card.

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Dominick Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following minutes were approved:

A. September 14, 2021, Meeting of the Board of Education

5. Acknowledgment of Monthly Reports and Correspondence

A. Receipt of Monthly Financial Reports:

The board acknowledged receipt of the August 2021 monthly financial reports.

B. Correspondence: two emails were received from Rockville Centre residents regarding the lights on the athletic field and frequency of night games. An email was received from the Clerical Unit regarding scheduling a meeting and from a resident regarding a DASA complaint.

6. Recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A- K below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items A- K below.

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items A- K, were approved on a consent agenda.

- A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, grant tenure to the following staff member on the effective date indicated and subject to satisfactory evaluation:

<u>Staff Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure Date</u>
1. Brianna Ostrander	Special Education Teacher	November 10, 2021
2. Heather Figliozzi	Elementary Teacher	November 18, 2021

- B. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept, with regret, the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Diane Dorato, from her library teacher aide position, effective October 25, 2021.
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accept the following resignations:
1. Roxanne Lalama, substitute teacher, effective September 22, 2021
 2. Andrew Fenter, short term substitute teacher, effective September 24, 2021
 3. Antoinette English, monitor, effective October 25, 2021
 4. Estefany Toribio, foreign language teacher (.8 FTE) and substitute teacher (.2 FTE), effective October 15, 2021
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the revised club advisor assignments for the 2021-2022 school year as more fully set forth on the schedule of club/advisor assignments at the stipend salaries established by the East Rockaway Teachers Association contract for the 2021-2022 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the charters.
- E. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the winter sports coaching schedule dated October 19, 2021.
- F. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the previously approved 12-week FMLA leave of absence of Kristen Pisano to be effective September 3, 2021, through December 2, 2021.
- G. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the previously approved 12-week FMLA leave of absence of Alissa Nunes to be effective September 17, 2021, through December 13, 2021.
- H. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the request for an extension of a medical leave of absence of Karin Leary from her physical education teacher position through October 27, 2021.
- I. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve an extension of the appointment of Jessica Risso to the position of short-term substitute physical education teacher through October 27, 2021, at the per diem salary established by the East Rockaway Board of Education on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.

- J. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the appointment of Antoinette English to the position of teacher aide, effective October 26, 2021, at the Step 2 hourly salary established by the East Rockaway Teacher Aides Association agreement for the 2021-2022 school year.
- K. 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:
1. Amie Laino, substitute teacher, effective September 27, 2021
 2. Thomas Dwyer, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective September 3, 2021
 3. Jennifer Hickam, athletic supervisor (day/evening), effective September 30, 2021
 4. Rebeca Mantle, substitute teacher, effective January 31, 2022

7. Other Items

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items A-B below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items A-B below.

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Dominick Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items A- B were approved on a consent agenda.

A. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the financial audit and corrective action plan prepared by Nawrocki Smith, LLP, for the year ended June 30, 2021.

B. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts the Risk Assessment Update Report prepared by Cullen & Danowski, LLP for the year ended June 30, 2022.

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items C-D below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items C-D below.

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items C- D were approved on a consent agenda

C. Approve the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the East Rockaway UFSD authorizes and appoints the following individuals to serve in the capacity of election/poll workers in connection with the November 15, 2021, Bond Vote at the salary set forth on the Non-Contractual Salary Schedule for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Rose Trum, Chairperson
2. Apolonia Carasco, Poll Coordinator
3. Deirdre Boller, Election Inspector
4. Sheila Sincinito, Election Inspector
5. Jill Lander, Election Inspector
6. Carol Kramer, Election Inspector
7. Ronald DiRienzo, Election Inspector

D. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Nassau County Board of Elections for use of the optical scan voting systems on November 15, 2021 and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

Mrs. O’Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items E-G below. There were none and Mrs. O’Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items E-G below.

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, seconded by Dominick Vulpis, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items E-G were approved on a consent agenda.

E. Approve the contract between the East Rockaway UFSD and Education Week dated September 25, 2021, for job listing services, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the contract on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

F. Approve the two-year District Plan of Services for Special Education for the East Rockaway School District which outlines the district’s comprehensive strategy to address the needs of students with disabilities throughout the district.

G. Approve the members of the Professional Development Team pursuant to Policy 9700, Staff Development:

James DeTommaso, Chairperson	Vincent Healy
Mary Arapas	Robert Kennedy
Melinda Best	Bradley Krauz
Emily Brostowin	Emanuela Matthews
Caitlin Castellano	Ayesha McArthur
Toni Ann Donald	Kallen McNoble
Ryan Fisk	Pam Murano
Gary Gregory	Alexandra Pietrantonio
William Gibbons	Joseph Polite

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding Items H-M below. There were none and Mrs. O'Hagan asked for a motion to approve Items H-M below.

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following Items H-M were approved on a consent agenda.

H. Approve the admission of the following student to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the Special Education Summer 2021 Program and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreements between the Board of Education of East Rockaway UFSD and the Board of Education of the sending school districts:

1. Port Washington UFSD, No. 10001069

I. Approve the admission of the following student to attend the East Rockaway Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreements on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education:

1. Port Washington UFSD, Student I.D. No. 10001069

J. Approve the Special Education Services Tuition Contract with Seaford UFSD, for special education services for one (1) student, student I.D. No. 180008754 for Summer 2021 and 2021-2022 School Year and authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the tuition agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

K. Approve the Agreement with Yale University, acting by and through the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, for 2021-2022 RULER Institute Online Training and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Agreement on behalf of the East Rockaway Board of Education.

L. Declare obsolete for the purpose of disposal and/or recycling, the items listed on the following forms:

1. Textbook removal form dated September 25, 2021
2. Textbook removal form dated October 4, 2021

M. Accept the following donations:

1. From Stop & Shop A+School Rewards program, a check in the sum of \$1,137.37
2. From the Italian American Committee on Education, a check in the sum of \$8,000 for the District's Italian language program

8. Approval of CSE and CPSE Recommendations

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding the CSE and CPSE Recommendations. There were no questions. Mrs. O'Hagan then asked for a motion to approve the CSE and CPSE Recommendations.

Upon motion made by Peter McNally, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and unanimously passed, the CSE and CPSE Recommendations were approved.

9. Budget Transfers

Mrs. O'Hagan asked if the trustees had any questions regarding the following budget transfers. There were no questions. Mrs. O'Hagan then asked for a motion to approve the budget transfers.

Upon motion made by Joseph Kilgus, seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor AYE, opposed: NONE; abstained: NONE; the motion was unanimously passed, and the following budget transfers were unanimously approved.

A. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:

1. Transaction No. 22-005
2. Transaction No. 22-006

10. Policy Matters

A. Policy Subcommittee Report

Mrs. O'Hagan reported that the Committee has not met. A meeting is scheduled for the first week in November, the date to be determined.

B. For Adoption - None

C. For Review

1. 0115, 0115-R, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
2. 4710, Grading Systems
3. 8130, School Safety Plans and Teams
4. 9150, Non-Fraternization "New"
5. 6705, Federal Funds Purchasing
6. 8413, Transportation for Non-Public Schools
7. 4000, Student Learning Standards and Instructional Guidelines
8. 8110, School Building Safety
9. 8112, Health and Safety Committee
10. 8220, Buildings and Grounds Maintenance and Inspection
11. 8505, Charging School Meals and Prohibition Against Shaming

12. 1530, Smoking, Vaping and Other Tobacco Use on School Premises
13. 5300, Code of Conduct
14. 5420-R, Student Health Services Regulation
15. 5460, Child Abuse, Neglect, and maltreatment in a Domestic Setting
16. 8635-E, Parents Bill of Rights for Student Data Privacy and Security

11. Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

Achievement

Students in World Language in eight grade are working on speaking in the target language by presenting about themselves, their lives, and our school.

For the past several weeks, students have been immersed in a series of lessons around the One Book, One School text, *I Am Malala*. Staff participated in a trivia challenge; students analyzed statistics in math class about women in education; students evaluated culture components of the text in World Language. and watched a short interview in science. Students in Grades 7 - 9 watched the film version on PSAT day and participated in debrief activities after.

School Counselors presented to 10th and 11th grade classrooms to discuss the structure of PSATs, and tips for success. English and math teachers conducted content specific lessons to help prepare their students for the test. Our 10th and 11th Graders then took the PSAT on October 13, 2021. On this day, 164 students were tested.

In Algebra, 8th grade students engaged in a formative assessment project where they translated between words, symbols, tables, and area representations of algebraic expressions.

Driver's Education is beginning the Fall portion of the program. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students that were not able to complete the driving portion of the program, will be able to register for this portion of the class.

Opportunity

UHS Farmingdale course registration for the Fall took place and East Rockaway High School has 66 students enrolled for college credit in at least one dual enrollment course. Courses include Pre-Calculus, Statistics, Accounting, and Special Topics in Engineering. This represents an over 95% registration rate. Our Introduction to Legal Studies course through Farmingdale begins in the Spring in addition to the over 80 students enrolled in a course through Syracuse University Project Advance and other courses through our partnerships with St. John's University and SUNY Albany.

All 12th Grade students have participated in college essay workshops. All students were also able to meet with their counselors and English teachers to review their college essays before

they apply to colleges this fall.

The high school art department is planning its second annual virtual portfolio night, to take place November 4th, 2021. AP Art Students will be able to discuss their portfolios with representatives from various art colleges and programs.

Our Science Chairperson and resident science researcher, Mrs. Forbes, pushed into the science research classes to share her experience in the field and to get students excited about opportunities to conduct research on Long Island.

Athletics has provided additional opportunities for the winter season by offering a boys and girls winter track.

Innovation

In Ms. Olsen's multimedia class, students used Photopea to create collages that showed off their interests.

Connection

Students in advisory participated in a homecoming poster making contest to show their school spirit and build camaraderie.

Students in Mr. Crowley's AP Environmental class were able to attend a zoom meeting with professors from the University of Miami about the Atlantic Hurricane Season. This was a great opportunity for our young scholars to interact with professionals and graduate students in the field and to hear doctoral students discuss: What has happened this hurricane season so far, what to expect for the remaining months this season, and what active research is being done (in and out of the field).

This year's homecoming weekend was a great success! From our parade through the village, to Pep Rally at Memorial Park, it was truly a community event! Our homecoming game at Malverne was successful, as our football team defeated Island Trees, and our class and other clubs had extremely successful fundraisers! Our high school band and chorus students performed the National Anthem, School Fight Song and other selections during the Pep Rally and Homecoming game.

School counselors made two presentations to parents over the past few weeks. On September 29, 2021, our annual Financial Aid and Post-Secondary Planning Workshop was held for families of the Class of 2022. Additionally, on October 6, 2021, as part of the PTA meeting, parents of 8th and 9th grade students were invited to hear about the transition to high school level courses and how to begin thinking about post-secondary readiness.

12. Good and Welfare

- A. Congratulations to Alissa Nunes and family on the arrival of daughter, Chloe Grace on

September 16, 2021

- B. Condolences to Caitlin Castellano and family on the passing of her father, John Castellano
- C. Condolences to Joanne Morgan and family on the passing of her husband John Morgan Jr.
- D. Condolences to Betty Freeman and family on the passing of her brother-in-law Marc Freeman

13. Public Comments

Please be reminded that the meeting is livestreamed and being recorded. I encourage residents to contact the board at boardofeducation@ersd.org and to contact your child's teacher or appropriate administrator with any concerns. At this time if you have a comment, please complete the form prior to speaking.

There were no public comments.

14. Board Member Comments

Peter McNally: Mr. McNally thanked Mrs. Ruiz, Mr. Gregory, and Mr. Schaffer for the amazing job with the homecoming parade. He also thanked Mrs. Scio and Mr. Daly for all their hard work. He congratulated Ms. Ostrander and Ms. Figliozzi on receiving tenure and to Mrs. Dorato for her well-deserved retirement. Mr. McNally congratulated students Madeline Prucha and Sofia Valdebenito for earning college credits.

Dominick Vulpis: Mr. Vulpis thanked Superintendent Ruiz, Centre Avenue School principal Calia Kelly, and the PTA's for tonight's board recognition. He congratulated Mrs. Dorato on her retirement, Ms. Ostrander and Ms. Figliozzi on receiving tenure, and students Madeline Prucha and Sofia Valdebenito on their achievements.

Joseph Kilgus: Mr. Kilgus was appreciative of all administrators, teachers, and PTA for making a big difference in the student's lives and is honored to be able to represent the community.

Kristen O'Hagan: Mrs. O'Hagan began by thanking Superintendent Ruiz, Mrs. Kelly, the Centre Avenue School staff, and the PTA for the Board Recognition this evening. It is an honor serving the community in this position and working with a wonderful team to keep driving our district forward. Congratulations to Ms. Ostrander and Ms. Figliozzi on receiving tenure. Your hard work and dedication to the young people in this district does not go unnoticed. Congratulations to seniors, Maddie Prucha and Sofia Valdebenito on your achievements. Over the past month I have had the opportunity to attend various school

functions. As a parent, educator, and board member, what I love the most is seeing kids being kids doing things that they love. Pep Rally and Homecoming were amazing – a special thank you to all who were involved in making this event happen. I look forward to cheering our ROCKS on at the inaugural home football game on Saturday October 30th. On a side note – I would also like to encourage all parents and staff members to become members of the PTA. All they do benefits our kids and their classes. Please show your support by going to your school on the district website under PTA and join today.

15. Upon motion made by Peter McNally, and seconded by Dominick Vulpis, and passed unanimously, the public meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline A. Scio
Deputy District Clerk