

**Rochelle Park Board of Education
Caucus Meeting– 7:30 P.M.
February 6, 2012**

- I. Call to Order and Flag Salute**
- II. Roll Call**

Board Members	Present	Absent
Mr. Robert Verhasselt, Vice President	x	
Mr. Sam Allos	x	
Mrs. Teresa Cravello	x	
Mr. Jay Esposito	x	
Mrs. Maria Lauerman	x	
Mr. Mark Scully	x	
Mrs. Patricia Bilka, President	x	

Others present:

- Bert Ammerman, Interim Superintendent/Board Secretary
- Matthew McGrath, Interim Principal
- Ellen Kobylarz, Board Recording Secretary

III. Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, and P. L. 1975 Announcement – by Board President

In accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, I wish to announce that:

“The New Jersey Open Public Meeting Law was enacted to insure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meeting of bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. Notices announcing the date, time and place for this Meeting were sent to all concerned individuals, associations and sent to the Star Ledger, The Record and Our Town, in accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

IV. Superintendent’s Report -Mr. Ammerman reported the following:

- Introduced Ms. Tatyana Budanskaya, Tech. Coordinator for the Rochelle Park School District. Mrs. Budanskaya presented the new school website; there was a question and answer period. Mr. Ammerman as well as the Board of Education congratulated Ms. Budanskaya for the work she has done with the new website.
- There will be a resolution to approve several faculty & staff workshops.
- PTA founder’s day program will be held on Wednesday February 8, 2012 at 7:30 pm
- Gymnastics Program will be held February 16, 2012 at 7PM and also during the morning of February 17, 2012 for students.
- Preschool registration is currently underway, Kindergarten registration will be held on February 7th, 8th & 9th. Forms can be found on the school website.
- Mr. Ammerman shared with the board a survey taken by Superintendent’s in Bergen County regarding changing the school board elections. Mr. Ammerman stated he believes that a majority of districts will change.
- A discussion regarding the school calendar for 2012/2013 occurred there may be a change to the calendar which was presented to the board; Mr. Ammerman stated he should know by Thursday, February 9, 2012. To save money, districts that transport

special education students try to coordinate the bus transportation and so having the same week off helps with costs, hence the reason for the delay.

V. Business Administrator's Report – Mr. Ammerman reported the following on behalf of Mr. DiPaola

- There will be a resolution seeking approval to waive participation in (SEMI) which is a special education waiver the district has annually done in the past.
- If the Board chooses to move the election to November it has to be approved no later than February 17, 2012. *Mr. Verhasselt inquired, as to the cost, if the vote is moved to November. Mr. Ammerman stated there would still be some cost to the board, but it would be less than when the election is held in April. Mrs. Cravello- inquired as to the date of the November election. Mr. Ammerman stated it would be held on the general election day but you would only be voting on School Board Members not the budget.*
- The Board was supplied with a budget time line.

VI. Principal's Report – Mr. McGrath reported on the following:

- Faculty meetings will be restructured. The staff will be grouped by levels and will meet separately. The focus for the next several months will be reviewing NJASK data, Learnia and Study Island. In addition, individual students deemed at risk will be identified and a plan to address the identified areas of deficiency will be implemented.
- PTA hosted a welcome reception for Mr. Ammerman & Mr. McGrath on January 24th. Parents were very receptive to Mr. Ammerman's message – remain positive because good things are happening in the classroom.
- PTA Exec. Meeting took place on February 2nd. Mr. McGrath made a request to the PTA to fund the purchase of safety patrol belts for student volunteers when we implement the new AM entry procedures. Unfortunately money was not budgeted to do so. However, the ladies in attendance donated their own money and Jean Grater (PTA President) handed Mr. McGrath an envelope with \$55.00. Mr. McGrath will be sending them a thank you note. He was incredibly touched by this gesture.
- Resource Center teacher, Mrs. Lauren Metcalfe, has been selected as the Midland School 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year.
- The furnace servicing six classrooms broke down on January 18th. The classes were moved to another location, the valve was replaced by lunchtime and most of the students were back in their classrooms later that day.
- During the last week in January more than thirty letters were sent to parents regarding student tardiness. Together with Mike, the head custodian and Mr. Grossman, the Student Council advisor, a plan was developed whereby Parents can drop off their children utilizing the Williams Street parking area where Student Council members will be on hand to help see that the younger students are escorted into the building. Before implementing the plan Mr. McGrath met with Chief Zavinsky and Mr. Ammerman.

VII. Reports – Committee Action Items - Committee reports were deferred to the Regular Meeting

VIII. Items for Board Action – Resolutions - None

Note: Resolutions marked with an asterisk are as a result of Executive Session Discussion.

IX. Other Business:

X. Open to the Public (Any Item)

During this portion of the meeting, the residents are invited to address the Board with any questions, comments or concerns that may be in respect to the operation of their school.

Motion by Mr. Esposito, seconded by Mrs. Lauerman, to open public comment at 8:45 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0
Motion Carried

NONE

Motion by Mr. Allos, seconded by Mr. Scully, to close public comment at 8:46 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0
Motion Carried

XI. Announcements:

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 8:00 P.M. in the Media Center. There will be a Budget Meeting on February 29, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the Media Center. The next Caucus Meeting will be held on Monday, March 5, 2012, at 7:30 P.M. in the Media Center.

XII. Executive Session Announcement (if needed)

WHEREAS, the Rochelle Park Board of Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") will convene in Executive Session to discuss confidential matters which include:

Legal/ HIB/Pupils

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board shall move into Executive Session to discuss the above referenced matter(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the minutes of the executive session will provide as much information as possible without violating any applicable privilege or confidentiality so that the public can understand what was discussed and when available what the Board decision was.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the minutes of the executive session will be released to the public in an appropriately redacted form within a reasonable period of time after the privilege or confidentiality is no longer applicable to such minutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the redacted portion of the executive session minutes will not be released until such time as the privilege or confidentiality is no longer applicable.

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mrs. Lauerman, to open Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0
Motion Carried

Motion by Mr. Scully, seconded by Mr. Esposito, to close Executive Session at 9:45 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0
Motion Carried

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Allos, second by Mrs. Cravello, to adjourn meeting at 9:46 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Kobylarz,
Board Recording Secretary