

**Rochelle Park Board of Education
Caucus Meeting Minutes– 7:00 P.M.
August 13, 2012**

- I. Call to Order and Flag Salute**
- II. Roll Call 4-0**

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
- Vincent Occhino, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Ellen Kobylarz, Board Recording Secretary

III. Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, 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 Caucus Meeting were sent to all concerned individuals, associations and sent to the The Record and Our Town, in accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

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

- **Staff has been busy getting ready for the start of the 2012-2013 school year.**
- **Seven classrooms have been painted; the main hallway is being painted in the school colors. Jorge has done a wonderful job.**
- **53 steam traps have been installed; the pump will be replaced sometime in the next two weeks.**
- **Re-registration: HHS- 6 remaining, 9 remaining in other schools.**
- **We will have a resolution tonight to approve Annual update to the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement. The agreement is between law enforcement and education; it is done in every school district, outlines rules and responsibilities.**

- **The board will be approving a first reading of several bylaws, policies and regulations. Some are mandatory; others are just changes to the language.**
- **Mr. Ammerman stated he has met with Mr. Donatello from the town's Emergency Management Department they will meet again in a few weeks to discuss the emergency management plan as well as a drill for the upcoming school year.**
- **NJ ASK scores in Math were good, Lang. /Arts mediocre – he has already been in contact with the County office. Mrs. Hurd and Mrs. O'Brien are attending a three day workshop to address the scores and put a plan in place. To address this issue the district also purchased new Lang. /Arts text books for grades 1-5 and the Go Math series for grades K-5. This was an important step because the other books were old and there were no replacements for them. K-5 and Special Education teachers will have a workshop when they come back on how to use the new math series and he is hoping to have workshops in September for the Lang. /Arts series as well.**

V. Acting Business Administrator's Report- Dr Occhino reported the following:

- **Dr. Occhino recently toured the facilities with a professional architect to get first hand information regarding the state of the building. Dr. Occhino will meet with the facility committee to go over the findings.**
- **The Auditor's have been here for their annual audit of the financial records. They were here for over a week. Team consisted of 3 to 4 people the report is currently in a draft stage and the final report to the community will be made once it is received.**
- **There are many requirements that need to be made in order to open the school for the upcoming year and we are currently working on getting everything in order.**

VI. Reports – Committee Action Items- deferred to regular meeting

VII. Public Questions on the Resolutions (Agenda Items Only)

During this portion of the meeting, the residents are invited to address the Board regarding agenda items only.

Motion by Mr. Scully, seconded by Mr. Allos, to open public comment at 7:08 p.m.

Roll Call 4-0

None

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mr. Allos, to close public comment at 7:25 p.m.

Roll Call 4-0

VIII. Items for Board Action - Resolutions (If needed)

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. Scully, seconded by Mrs. Cravello, to open public comment at 7:26 p.m.

Roll Call 4-0

Mrs. Pascarella- 32 Thiem RP- Study Island not working, not recording hours.

Mr. Ammerman- verification of hours not as important as the students going on the program., the idea is to give the students a baseline to ready for the new school year.

Mrs. Pascarella- Stated she spoke to Mr. Hornes, it is doing what it's suppose to do.

Mr. Ammerman- The hours are irrelevant, the goal is to get the students on it. We have to look at it and see if we want to continue.

Mrs. Pascarella- It does keep their minds fresh.

Mr. Ammerman- there is always two sides, some like it, and some don't.

Debbie Leakas- 41 Powell Ave- RP. As it gets close to school opening it seems to get worse, maybe due to the volume of users.

Mr. Ammerman- will talk to Ms. Budanskaya

Mrs. Napolitano Guallpa 41 E. Passaic St. RP- asked about the Pre-K classes being combined and what was the staff/student ratio was for that class.

Mr. Ammerman- stated that the 2 pre-k classes were combined into one. He stated that there were fourteen to fifteen students. PreK classified students were in all day, the others did not sign up for full day. Law states that you have to integrate regular Ed and special Ed together. Mrs. Genovese and Mr. McGrath looked into it and stated that this was the case and so the district moved in that direction. On September 6th there will be a new teacher; she was interviewed by Mr. McGrath, Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Hornes. She is dual certified; she is really excited about this opportunity. In the coming weeks we will address the need for one or two aides.

Mrs. Napolitano Guallpa- expressed her concern over having enough aides in the classroom

Mr. Ammerman- stated that Mrs. Genovese will be in next week and he will speak to her about it.

Mrs. Genovese has also been in contact with the County Office regarding this merger.

Mrs. Napolitano Guallpa- IEP has to specify separate classes.

Mr. Ammerman- Mrs. Genovese will be sending out paperwork for Mrs. Guallpa to sign.

Mrs. Napolitano Guallpa- stated she has not received any paperwork. Is concerned, doesn't want to see any regression.

Mr. Ammerman- Stated district will be monitoring- let Mrs. Genovese get to you. We only finalized it this week.

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mr. Allos, to close public comment at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call 4-0

XI. Announcements:

The next Caucus Meeting will be held on Monday, September 17, 2012, at 7:00 P.M. in the Media Center. The next Regular Meeting will be held immediately following the Caucus 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:

Personnel, Student Issues

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 Mr. Scully, seconded by Mr. Allos, to open Executive Session at 7:08 p.m.

Roll Call 4-0

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mr. Allos, to close Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

Roll Call 4-0

Motion by Mr. Scully, seconded by Mrs. Cravello, to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 7:26 p.m.

Roll Call 4-0

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mr. Allos, to adjourn meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call 4-0