

**Rochelle Park Board of Education
Caucus Meeting Minutes– 7:00 P.M.
November 12, 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	(arrived 7:25)	
Mr. Jay Esposito	(arrived 7:05)	
Mrs. Maria Lauerman	x	
Mr. Mark Scully	(arrived 7:15)	
Mrs. Patricia Bilka, President	x	

Others Present:

- Bert Ammerman, Interim Superintendent
- Vincent Occhino Business Administrator/ Board Secretary
- Cara Hurd, Principal
- 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 Regular 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:

- Mr. Ammerman spoke about the recent storm Hurricane Sandy. He was impressed with the response from the town. It was decided to close school for the week. He further explained that the next week (November 5-10) was on the calendar as a week off. The rationale behind that was seven full weeks of instruction with no days off. In the past, school would normally only be open two days that week so it was planned that the district would close school for the entire week. The Board of Education will decide tonight how to make up the three days that the district is now short. With the recent storm and school closing Mr. Ammerman reminded parents to sign up for the e-mail blast to get any alerts the school may issue.
The board discussed the calendar and it was decided that Monday November 19th would be a full day instead of a half day. February 19th would now be a full day of school along with April 8th & 9th.
- Mr. Ammerman introduced Mrs. Hurd who called upon current Midland School Students to come forward and be recognized for scoring a perfect 300 on the 2012 NJASK test given last spring.

- S. Meyers will attend an “Obesity Prevention” workshop. T. Genovese, S. Vafegh & M. Leccese & R. Redlick will attend a workshop on ‘Integrated Therapy in the General Ed Preschool Classroom’. A. Jacobus will attend the workshop” Standards Solution-Train the Trainer”.
- School Violence Awareness week was held the week of October 15- Mrs. Hurd will report on the activities during her report.
- Two Library Volunteers were up for approval as well as one student volunteer.
- The Band and Chorus will perform for the Rochelle Park Senior Citizens in December and will also visit the Bristol manor Nursing Home.
- During the regular meeting the district testing report will be presented.
- A resolution to approve the NJQSAC statement of assurance will be up for approval.
- Music and Art curriculum guides are also up for approval at the regular meeting.
- A cyber bullying class which was initiated by Mr. Allos, will be taught by Miss O’Brien. This class is experimental; no other districts have this type of class.

V. Principal’s Report- Mrs. Hurd reported the following:

- The first marking period was scheduled to end on Wednesday October 31st. Due to the storm and school being closed the marking period will now be extended to November 13th, in order for the teachers to wrap up projects, tests and reports with the students. Report cards will still be distributed on Friday November 16th.
- Mrs. Hurd reminded the parents that Genesis Grade book will not be accessible for parents from November 12-16 for teachers to submit grades and report card distribution.
- In order to celebrate National Education Week, parents have been invited to attend Open Classroom Visitation day on Tuesday November. 13th.
- Mrs. Hurd recognized student John Califano who coordinated a “clean up” of Midland School’s fields and grass area as a community service project for the Boy Scouts.
- During the month of October Fire Prevention week was recognized. The Fire department held a drill and two assembly programs. The students were excited to get goodie bags handed out by the department. Mrs. Hurd thanked the Rochelle Park Firemen who attended the assembly with a special thanks to Daryl DeMott for coordinating the assemblies.
- School Violence Awareness week was October 15-19. Mrs. Oles went to classrooms to discuss bullying and spoke to upper grade students during their gym classes. Mr. Ramirez and Miss O’Brien discussed the importance of ways to avoid strangers, this occurred in their health classes.
- Mix it up at Lunch was scheduled to be held on Tuesday October 30th. It was decided that it will now take place on Thursday November 15th. The event provides an opportunity for the children to sit and converse with other students in the school other than their friends.
- The Halloween Parade was cancelled as well as the Mock Election that was planned for November 1st. Neither of these will be rescheduled.
- Mr. Grossman and the Student Council will open the Midland School Store during lunch periods on Wednesdays.

VI. Business Administrator’s Report Dr. Occhino reported the following:

- The election results: Mr. Esposito received 501 votes Mrs. Leakas 400 votes. They will be sworn in at the January 7th meeting.
- Dr. Occhino gave a detailed report to the board on the condition of the playground equipment. He focused on how much it would cost to replace the structure, how much it would cost to fix the structure and possible ways to fund the project. The figures that Dr. Occhino received were an estimate.

President Bilka inquired about a grant.

Mr. Ammerman explained that the grant only applies to a new playground. The grant would be 1/3 the district. The county would have to come up with 1/3 and then the company usually gives the final third in discounts.

Further discussion occurred regarding what accounts the money could be taken from if the Board chooses to repair the playground. The Board asked Dr. Occhino to speak to the company that would do the repair and see if they could give a solid number on updating the equipment. Dr Occhino's recommendation would be to save the playground equipment.

VII. Reports – Committee Action Items – deferred to regular meeting

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. Esposito, seconded by Mrs. Lauerman, to open public comment at 7:35 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0

Motion carried

Mrs. Abraham 138 Forest Place- Teacher convention- Who attends? Isn't it there to educate teachers?

Mr. Ammerman- All teachers can attend however only a small percent do attend. Usually your association leadership goes or teachers who are looking for professional development hours.

Mrs. Abraham- Thought that all teachers had to go.

Mr. Ammerman- No they don't all have to go and that would be a conversation to have with the Governor. We had given the full week off and we knew that some teachers would not be available to come in that week. Traditionally, teachers get convention days off even though across the state a small number attend.

Mrs. Abraham 138 Forest Place- with regard to the playground, would you consider asking the PTA or parents to fund raise as an option?

Mr. Ammerman- Board is open to take the money from the budget- they will have to spend \$7500.00 to get rid of it.

Mrs. Leakas 41 Powell Ave – With regard to the calendar, Martin Luther King Day the school will still be closed?

Mr. Ammerman- Yes, there is a workshop that the district is looking into on the subject of closing the achievement gap which is what is needed being a focus school. I hope to have that workshop for the teachers on Martin Luther King Day.

Mrs. Murado 45 Thiem Ave- Why is there so much money in Latchkey?

Mr. Ammerman- stated there is a healthy surplus. Program is flourishing – the program uses the playground, therefore we can allocate a portion of that money for the playground. We are limited by the law as to how those funds can be used.

Motion by Mr. Esposito, seconded by Mrs. Lauerman, to close public comment at 7:54 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0
Motion carried

XI Announcements

The next Caucus Meeting will be held on Monday, December 10, 2012, at 7:00 P.M. in the Media Center, with the Regular Meeting immediately following.

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

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. Allos, seconded by Mr. Scully, to open Executive Session at 7:54 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0
Motion carried

Motion by Mr. Verhasselt, seconded by Mrs. Cravello, to close Executive Session at 8:03 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0
Motion carried

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman, seconded by Mr. Scully, to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 8:03 p.m.

Roll Call
Motion carried