

**Rochelle Park Board of Education
Caucus Meeting Minutes– 6:30 P.M.
November 11, 2013**

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

Board Members	Present	Absent
Mr. Jay Esposito, Vice President	X	
Mr. Sam Allos		X(arrived 6:35)
Mrs. Teresa Cravello	X	
Mrs. Maria Lauerman	X	
Mrs. Dimitria Leakas	X	
Mr. Mark Scully	X	
Mrs. Patricia Bilka, President	X	

Others Present:

Bert Ammerman Interim Superintendent,
Christine Werner, 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 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 the following:

- Mr. Ammerman congratulated Board Member Mark Scully on his run in the NY Marathon. Mr. Scully’s time was under 5 hours. He finished 29,275 out of 50,000. Mr. Scully has run 5 times in the NY Marathon for Fred’s Team with Sloan Kettering Hospital this year he raised \$6,500.00.
- Mr. Ammerman introduced Mr. Azzolino, Midland School Parent and EMS Chief for Aero Ambulance in Hackensack. Mr. Azzolino presented the district with a defibrillator for use on the athletic fields and Gymnasium. He has also offered to train all of the district staff in CPR and use of the defibrillator.
- There will be resolutions to approve several workshops and field trips.
- There will be resolutions to approve Faculty Professional Development day on February 18, 2014, as well as several appointments.
- There will be a resolution accepting, with regret Mrs. Oles retirement.
- Change in the school calendar for teaching staff, February 18th will now become a staff development day. School will still be closed for students.

- Other resolutions include first readings on policies, submission of NJQSAC statement of assurance and a special education placement.
- Mr. Ammerman reflected on his time in Rochelle Park, thanking several key people in the district. Mrs. Hurd, Mrs. Oles, Mrs. Genovese as well as Ms. Budanskaya and Mrs. Kobylarz. President Bilka thanked Mr. Ammerman, noting that when he arrived he wanted to accomplish three things, structure, forward movement and financial stability. He is a man of his word, honest, and President Bilka commended him on sticking it out.

At this time Mr. Ammerman presented the district testing report.

Mrs. Minichetti asked if there were any changes to the test.

Mr. Ammerman replied yes, 3 or 4 years ago. When you go to a new test numbers always drop. With PARCC test scores will go down. It relies on word problem solving. Mr. Ammerman attended a meeting of Superintendents, they were all given a 4th grade math problem, $\frac{3}{4}$ of them had difficulty doing it.

Mr. Scully asked if our teachers have current materials and Professional development Mr. Ammerman replied they do except for 6-8 grade Math and Science.

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

- Surveys are being taken on improving the school climate. Mrs. Hurd handed the board copies of the survey. Student surveys are for all students' 3-8. The parent survey is random and staff is all.
- Mrs. Hurd has hosted a number of Principal teas for parents by grade level. She plans to continue these throughout the school year.
- RAC personnel were here on Friday November 1st, to go over the SIP progress and conducted 8 classroom walkthroughs.
- For the week of respect in October the Prosecutors office held an internet awareness program for 7 & 8 graders. Mrs. Oles provided Kindergarten thru 3rd grade anti-bullying lessons. The older students had lessons in their general classes.

The school held theme days each day of the week such as sock it to bullying. The students were encouraged to wear their favorite socks.

Mr. Allos commented that the parents don't realize the magnitude of the problem with internet safety. He asked if there were any handouts given.

Mrs. Hurd stated no handouts were available and the program lasted for one hour. They stated they would like to do a parents night.

VI. Business Administrator's Report-Mrs. Werner reported the following:

- Congratulated Mr. Scully on his re-election to the Board of Education and Mrs. Ciliento-Buyck on her election to the board.
- Thanked Mr. Ammerman and wished him luck.
- Reviewed the agenda items up for approval with regard to the energy audit, and referendum vote on December 10th.
- POS system update for cafeteria
- Financial matters; dealing with routine resolutions.

- Flexible Spending Account.
- 2014-2015 School Budget Development is underway.

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

VIII. 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. Esposito, seconded by Mr. Allos, to open public comment at 7:20 p.m.
Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

Motion by Mrs. Leakas, seconded by Mrs. Cravello, to close public comment at 7:22 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

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

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

X. Other Business:

XI. 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 Mr. Allos, to open public comment at 7:23 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

Mrs. Minichetti Harvey Ave RP asked the board if they would entertain school uniforms, stating that area towns have recently gone that route, it's easier in the morning getting everyone ready. Gave information to the Board and listed the pro and cons for the idea.

Mr. Allos agreed with Mrs. Minichetti he has been an active proponent of school uniforms. He was reminded of working in the city and IBM workers wore blue, everyone knew they were from IBM.

Mrs. Minichetti asked if parent approval was needed.

Mr. Ammerman stated yes, the district would send out a survey, have an open meeting to discuss the issue, it's something that the board could look at in the future. It depends on the amount of people who want it.

Mrs. Pascarella -32 Thiem Ave RP- asked the Board to wait until Sept 2015, when her son is in High School.

Mrs. Abraham Forest Pl. RP. Thanked Mr. Ammerman for his time in the district.

Motion by Mrs. Leakas, seconded by Mr. Esposito, to close public comment at 7:34 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

XII. Announcements

The next Caucus Meeting will be held on Monday, December 2, 2013, at 7:30 P.M. in the Media Center.

XIII. 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/Legal

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. Lauerman, seconded by Mr. Allos, to open Executive Session at 7:34 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

Motion by Mrs. Cravello, seconded by Mrs. Leakas, to close Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

Motion by Mr. Scully, seconded by Mr. Esposito, to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 7:39 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried