

**Rochelle Park Board of Education  
Joint Board Meeting Minutes with Township – 7:30 P.M.  
January 14, 2015**

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

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Mr. Mark Scully, Vice President	X	
Mrs. Abraham	X	
Mr. Sam Allos	X	
Mrs. Arlene Ciliento Buyck	X	
Mrs. Maria Lauerman	X	
Mrs. Dimitria Leakas	X	
Mr. Jay Esposito, President	X	

Others present:

- Dr. Geoffrey W. Zoeller Jr., Superintendent
- Mrs. Christine Werner, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Mrs. 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. Items for Board Action - Resolutions (not needed)**

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

**V. Other Business:**

The Board of Education along with the Township Committee discussed the following:

- Mayor Ouellette inquired as to the status of the OEM building on school grounds  
*Dr. Zoeller stated that he met with Mr. Davidson and the Emergency Management Director. Dr. Zoeller believes that there is misinformation out in the public. He wanted to be clear on the point that there have been no other meetings prior to tonight.*  
Mayor Ouellette confirmed that there were no meetings with the Township Counsel.  
*President Esposito stated that there was an informal meeting attended by Mr. Donatello (OEM), Mr. Scully, and himself.*  
Mayor Ouellette asked if the BOE is in agreement to sell or lease land to the Township.  
The Township Attorney Mr. Rotolo interjected that first there needs to be an agreement that both bodies want to move forward.  
*Dr. Zoeller stated he had a conversation with the County Office and the DOE would potentially lease, but not sell the land.*  
*Committeeman Scarpa- stated another location may be available.*

*The Boards agreed to further discussions, once the Township reviewed all its options.*

- Mayor Ouellette shared with the public present that this meeting is part of a Best Practice document which encourages the two boards to meet yearly. She then asked how the two could possibly share services/cut costs.

*Dr. Zoeller stated he has been in talks with Mr. Davidson regarding where the school obtains items such as gasoline and rock salt. Dr. Zoeller will also become a member of the Library Board which could work with the school's media center. The two groups together may get a better price on products, such as paper, etc.*

Mr. Davidson stated for the gas he just needs a letter from the Board of Education.

- Committeeman Kazimir asked about the school performance issues, what steps have been taken to improve test scores.

*Dr. Zoeller stated the District is currently working with RAC, the regional achievement center which is part of the DOE. He has a meeting tomorrow addressing curriculum in the areas of math and language arts. The district is looking at new textbooks and resources. The district website has the parent PARCC primer and other resources for test prep. New testing is technology based, so the district has directed the students to online keyboarding practice in school.*

Mayor Ouellette asked if it was K-8 curriculum the district would be working on.

*Dr. Zoeller stated PreK to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, math and language arts.*

- Mayor Ouellette asked when does testing start

*Dr. Zoeller explained in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, lower grades do have activities that feed into the testing.*

- Township Committeeman Valenzuela inquired about renovations

*Dr. Zoeller stated new doors have been installed, roofing, repointing, security system is just about done, and bathrooms have been upgraded.*

Committeeman Valenzuela asked about the handicapped bathroom.

*Dr. Zoeller explained there is one downstairs being approved tomorrow night in a room that will have a flexible footprint. Year to year it could change with the school population.*

Committeeman Valenzuela asked if that would allow for out of district students to come back to the district. So the district will have the facility if it is needed.

*Dr. Zoeller stated "yes" when we can serve them best. Dr. Zoeller added that the district will be going out to bid on the heating system, sprinklers. Other items energy audit with respect to lighting and technology upgrading of cables etc. A discussion continued regarding other ongoing projects within the scope of the referendum.*

- Vice President Scully congratulated Mrs. Ouellette on her appointment to Mayor, and Mr. Scarpa, Mr. Valenzuela on their reelection.

## **VI. 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 the Mr. Valenzuela, seconded by, Mr. Kazimir, on behalf of both entities, to open public comment at 8:00 P.M.

Mrs. Pascarella Theim Ave, asked where the money was coming from to fund the OEM building.

Committeeman Valenzuela stated the Township would bond. He believes this is something that needs to be done.

Mrs. Pascarella voiced concerns about her taxes going up.

Motion by Mr. Valenzuela, seconded by Mr. Kovalcik, on behalf of both entities, to close public comment at 8:02 P.M.

**XI. Announcements:**

**The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. in the Media Center.**

**XII. Executive Session Announcement (not needed)**

**XIII. Adjournment**

Motion by the Mr. Scully, seconded by Mrs. Buyck, to adjourn meeting at 8:03 P.M.  
Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried