

**Rochelle Park Board of Education
Special Public Meeting– Board Retreat 6:00 P.M.
June 25, 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
- John DiPaola, Business Administrator
- Matt McGrath, Interim Principal
- 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, The Record and Our Town accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975.

IV. Board Items: *Mr. Ammerman- Mr. DiPaola and Mr. McGrath discussed and outlined the following:*

Mr. Ammerman, Mr. DiPaola and Mr. McGrath summarized for the board the status of the district stands. They are trying to build a strong foundation but are not sure it can happen with a 2% cap.

1. Board Self Evaluation- Mr. Ammerman stressed the need for it to be completed and approved by the board.
2. CSA Evaluation- Mr. Ammerman stressed the need to complete this process.
3. Maintenance Issues: Mr. DiPaola stressed that things are financially tight-
Things we were able to do:
 - A. Baseball fields
 - B. Lawn mower
 - C. Window repair

Extra state aid-replaced AC in gym, these were things that were not in the budget. The pre-audit went well Auditors will be back in August. Last year ended with \$50,000.00 surplus. Current surplus is \$50,000.00 that is the only money. You can't touch it without asking the state to use it. He asked the board if the \$50,000 should stay whole. We need direction to spend it or do you want to leave it intact. This money could be used to correct other issues. We did good things but we have a long way to go.

Mr. Ammerman- stated that with only 50,000.00 we cannot repair the roof and get a new boiler. As far as windows they should all be done, but not critical. I would like before I leave, to go out to the town for a referendum to get the roof fixed, new boilers and windows. We would need the complete support of the Mayor and Council. I would like a committee of two people, Pat and one more, to meet with the township. Referendum a couple million put everything in that you need boiler major issue. Second issue, \$50,000.00 surplus might have another 30-40, We bought Go Math series, K-5 Language Arts asked for textbooks \$52,000.00. Would like to get grade levels done now under this budget. Next year do another 3 grade levels. Some books are from 1990's. Next year Textbooks – Social studies- Science following year, goal then Math middle school, Social Studies middle school, Science middle school. Could also add that to the referendum.

4. Curriculum Issues –see above statements
5. Final Exams *M. McGrath*

Mr. McGrath is recommending the elimination of final exams for 8th grade sites.

- Some students are exempt
- One week for review
- Increases instructional time

6. End of year schedule- Mr. McGrath reported on next year's end of the year schedule:

Mr. Verhasselt questioned the 3 day 8th grade field trip.

Mr. Ammerman- explained that they wanted to pick up 3 additional instructional days. Not have instruction stop the 1st week of June. Kindergarten graduation would be moved to June 14th and give 8th grade the time they need to practice. The 8th graders would be dismissed at noon the day of the dance. We will move field day to Monday the 17th as a half day, the 18th would be a full day and a rain date for field day. 8th graders can practice the 18 & 19 and dismiss them at noon. K-7 full instruction thru June 14th.

Mr. Allos questioned no finals

Mr. Ammerman- yes but board could always change back.

Mrs. Cravello- asked if instead of finals could reports be done.

Mr. Ammerman stated that we have addressed it with 6th grade technology projects.

Mr. McGrath stated that the Social Study and Language Arts Teachers do a joint report with the students. We can teach more and then the report would be done later in lieu of the final. NJASK takes up a lot of time. Takes away from instruction, May becomes the month that fly's away.

Mr. Verhasselt- compare and contrast Rochelle Park with another district.

Mr. Ammerman- K-8 whether I was in N. Milford or North Vale, there was some loss of instructional time. Activities are wonderful, but there are too many. Had scheduling meeting with teachers, have to start getting the students back in the classroom. Spelling bee, Geography bee grades 5-8. 8th grade promotional exercise, stated he was so impressed, it's special- need to keep that family feeling, keep the promotional exercise. Could be better organized- move the kindergarten graduation up, that changes the conflict with 8th grade. Also field day- we should not be hiring sub's for field day.

Mr. McGrath- I was approached by the Phys Ed department- they need time to practice with the students for the dance segment to field day- we don't want to change the

dancing, Parents came out to see it, it's a nice thing so move the dance unit to the end of the year.

Mr. Ammerman- clap out- had never seen one before- very impressive, like a red carpet- have to keep it.

Mrs. Cravello questioned the 8th grade instruction and June 3rd, with a 3 day Washington trip with regard to chaperones- faculty.

Mr. Ammerman- Stated he could see the board paying for the one night and parents for the second night if they want to lengthen the stay.

Mr. Scully- asked if other k-8 schools have final exams

Mr. Esposito stated that Midland Park doesn't

Mr. McGrath stated Rutherford- no Parsippany No.

Mr. Ammerman- most have done away with them.

Mr. Esposito- stated they do projects, trying to do Middle School, can we do awards ceremony at night.

Mr. McGrath- you would have to look at contractual time for teachers.

Mr. Ammerman- I think it can be at night- phase it in.

Ms. Budanskaya- gave an overview of the technology needs that are facing the district. State is looking to move away from paper testing and have students take standardized tests on-line. It raises issues with the school in regard to, the building is not 100% wireless, the service would have to be upgraded for the number of students who would be on-line at the same time as well as the cost for additional computers to handle to volume of students being tested all at one time.

Mr. Ammerman explained that this is what is coming down the line, and the board needs to be prepared to meet the needs to implement this program.

The board continued with a healthy discussion regarding this issue.

7. Board and District Goals for 2012/2013

8. Other- *Mr. Ammerman mapped out other expenses coming down the line.*

The new teacher evaluations- depending on which method you choose there is a fee to the company looking at 20-40 thousand dollars we have to pick up that cost.

Carpets need to be cleaned- it's a health issue.

Mr. Allos- if we are a pilot will we get funding for the teacher evaluation

Mr. Ammerman- maybe, we will look into that.

Mrs. Cravello- asked John if he knows anything about the tablets that Hackensack High School is getting.

Mr. DiPaola- didn't have any information on it.

Mr. Allos- since the state is coming to the district they should fund a portion of it.

Mr. Ammerman- thirty seven states all under the same curriculum system they can take a kid from kindergarten to college and pull at that information.

Mr. Scully- tablet in each students hand- can books be online. What is the cost analysis?

Mr. Ammerman- five to ten years but not now- Pascack Valley went into a partnership with sony.

Mrs. Cravello- could this also be in the referendum

Mr. Ammerman- we would need another 250,00.00 Do we throw that in the referendum.

At this point the Board took a 5 minute break and reconvened at 7:50pm

Mr. Ammerman asked the board what they would like to see continued:

Mrs. Cravello- asked about all being on-line

Mr. Ammerman stated he could put a link on the website for transportation to the High School.

*President Bilka- was happy with the community involvement, day to day updates. Would like to see the Student Council Safety Patrol partnership continues.
Mr. Scully- would like more outreach out to the town, more involvement with town council, letter's from Superintendent in the local paper, , keep line of communication open, interaction should be the board not individual. Town counsel and Police Chief were invited to graduation and that was nice.*

V. 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. Scully, to open public comment at 6:26 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0

None

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman, seconded by Mrs. Cravello, to close public comment at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0

VI. Items for Board Action - Resolutions

POLICY #4111 – HIRING – CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

***P 1. RESOLVED: that on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education appoints Nicoletta LaMarca Sacco to the position of Maternity Leave replacement ESL Teacher starting September 4, 2012 until approximately January 4, 2013 at a per diem rate of \$220 to be adjusted upon settlement of the master contract for the 2012-2013 school year.**

Motion by Mrs. Cravello seconded by Mr. Allos

Roll Call 7-0

Motion Carried

P2. RESOLVED: upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Rochelle Park Board of Education approves summer work to complete the NJ Smart requirements for Tatyana Budanskaya, Technology Coordinator not to exceed four days, at a daily rate of \$279.86.

Motion by Mrs. Cravello seconded by Mr. Allos

Roll Call 7-0

M1. RESOLVED: that the Board of Education supports the memorial and therefore gives approval to move forward as it was presented to the Board at their June 11, 2012 meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Cravello seconded by Mr. Allos
Roll Call 7-0
Motion Carried

VII. Other Business

VIII. 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 Mr. Esposito, to open public comment at 7:58 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0

None

Motion by Mrs. Lauerman, seconded by Mr. Allos, to close public comment at 8:01 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0

X. Announcements

The next Caucus Meeting and Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, July 16, 2012 beginning at 7:00 P.M. with the regular meeting immediately following in the Media Center.

XI. 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. Esposito , seconded by Mr. Allos, to enter into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0

Motion by Mr. Verhasselt, seconded by Mrs. Lauerma, to close Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0

Motion by Mr. Scully, seconded by Mrs. Cravello, to resume Regular Meeting Agenda at 10:01 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Lauerma, seconded by Mr. Scully, to adjourn meeting at 10:02 p.m.

Roll Call 7-0