

**ROSLYN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Meeting of the Board of Education**

**Thursday, March 3, 2011**

**8:30 p.m.**

**Held in the Administration Building Board Room**

**MINUTES**

Meryl W. Ben-Levy, President  
Clifford Saffron, Vice President  
Dani E. Kline  
Adam Haber  
David Seinfeld (arrived at 9:05pm)  
Stanley D. Stern  
Bruce G. Valauri

Dan Brenner, Ph.D  
Allison Brown  
Joseph C. Dragone  
Edward A. Salina, Jr., Ed.D

Cathie L. Britt  
Nicole Berman

**ALSO PRESENT**

Superintendent  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum &  
Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Assistant Superintendent for Administration  
Instruction  
District Clerk  
Student Delegate

**ABSENT**

**7:30 p.m.-Executive Session**

Pursuant to Public Officers Law, Section 105, it was duly moved, seconded and carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Seinfeld had not arrived yet) that the Board of Education adjourns to Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 8:40 p.m. and the Board reconvened in Public Session in the Administration Building Board Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

**8:30 p.m.-Board of Education Meeting**

Preliminary Announcements  
Emergency Procedures  
Cell Phones

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Recommendation to accept the check warrants for December 2010 (reviewed by Ms. Ben-Levy)  
[Tabled 2/3/11]

**Mr. Saffron moved, seconded by Ms. Kline and it was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Seinfeld had not arrived yet) to accept the check warrants for December 2010.**

**Ms. Kline recommended the board discuss and consider revising the current check warrant review procedure to develop a more in-depth review methodology. Mr. Dragone suggested the board may want to spend time with the claims auditor.**

Recommendation to accept check warrants for January 2011 (reviewed by Mr. Saffron) **[TABLED]**

**Mr. Saffron moved, seconded by Dr. Valauri and it was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Seinfeld had not arrived yet) to TABLE the check warrants for January 2011.**

Recommendation to accept the minutes from the following meeting(s):  
February 3, 2011

**Mr. Saffron moved, seconded by Mr. Stern and it was carried by a vote of 4-0-1 (Mr. Saffron abstained since he was not present at this meeting; Mr. Seinfeld had not arrived yet) to accept the February 3, 2011 meeting minutes.**

### **Board President's Comments**

On behalf of the Board of Education, Ms. Ben-Levy spoke about the very sad passing of a beloved teacher, Catherine Dodd and extended the board's condolences to her family and friends.

### **Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. Brenner echoed Ms. Ben-Levy's sentiments about Ms. Dodd's passing and he stated he will accept an award honoring her as an outstanding Nassau County Physical Education teacher. He spoke about her spirit, her love of teaching and how she will be greatly missed.

Dr. Brenner reported the RHS cafeteria renovation bid opening took place and the initial results appear favorable. A thorough review of the bids is under way and the winning bid results are expected to be announced shortly. He also noted the artwork in the board room was provided by the students from Harbor Hill School.

Lastly, Dr. Brenner stated that six (6) North Shore school districts met to discuss consolidating some of our out-of-district bus runs, with the hope it will reduce costs. He stated a real, cooperative effort is under way to figure out a way to work with other districts to address reducing this expense. Mr. Saffron praised Ms. Kline and Mr. Haber, who were the driving force and instrumental in this effort, and he thanked them and acknowledged their efforts on behalf of the board.

### **Student Delegate's Comments**

Ms. Berman stated the “Clash of the Classes” has started and will be extended to next week with various activities planned. The students are excited about the upcoming puzzles and have enjoyed all activities thus far.

**Discussion Item(s):**

1. Budget Presentation
  - a. Athletics

Ms. Cerrone gave a 2011-2012 budget presentation on Physical Education, Health Education, Intramurals, Recreation and Interscholastic Athletics. She stated the philosophy used in building this budget is as follows:

- ✓ No increase year to year
- ✓ Budget closer to actuals from the year before
- ✓ Create initiatives utilizing existing funds
- ✓ Take a fresh look at the whole program with a vision to enhance what is already excellent

She presented and discussed with the board the Physical & Health Education budget and the Interscholastic Athletics Budgets. The Physical Education supplies and equipment budget includes new equipment to be purchased for Project Adventure, specifically a 60’ vertical climbing wall and overhead apparatus.

In response to a question from the board, Ms. Cerrone explained coaching salaries are salaries paid to coaches for after-school athletic activities and athletic supervision attends all functions and ensures crowd control, safety and sportsmanship is enforced. She noted our athletic programs could not exist if not for this supervision. New equipment also includes the purchase of new wrestling mats at an estimated cost of \$10,000.00. It was discovered the wrestling mats were double counted in the budget and will be removed from the Athletics budget code.

The board and Ms. Cerrone entered into a discussion regarding the track service contract, security & supervision, MRSA, field maintenance, and the possibility of installing bowling lanes instead of leasing lanes. Ms. Cerrone noted the increase of \$10,000.00 for the middle school fields includes the purchase of additional soccer nets, soccer balls and benches.

Ms. Cerrone indicated she does not at this time anticipate any reduction in any teams, including gymnastics which currently has a team of 10 and she highlighted the student “Scholar-Athletes” and the athletics awards achieved to date. A complete copy of Ms. Cerrone’s presentation can be found on the district’s website.

Dr. Brenner praised and complimented Ms. Cerrone for working tirelessly, attending every event and the contributions she has made to the district.

Meeting adjourned for 5 minutes at 9:20pm for yearbook photos of the Board of Education. Meeting reconvened at 9:25pm.
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b. Transportation

Mr. Shoob presented the Transportation budget for 2011-12. The total budget proposed for 2011-12 is \$1,382,148, excluding salaries as compared to the total budget for 2010-11 which was \$1,387,468 excluding salaries, which reflects a year-over-year decrease of \$5,290 (0.01%).

Mr. Haber inquired and discussed the financial implications of leasing versus purchasing buses. Mr. Dragone explained the aid the district receives and it was suggested by Mr. Haber that we examine purchasing buses versus leasing. Dr. Brenner explained it is the district's procedure to purchase school vehicles using a lease-purchase agreement, which reduces the annual expense and at the end of the five-year period the district owns the bus outright. He further explained to purchase a bus is a large financial commitment, which under tighter budget constraints would be difficult to do. The question is whether the board wants to increase the annual expense from \$70,000 to \$270,000.

Mr. Saffron inquired about the purchase of a replacement school vehicle. He was unaware that the school had two school vehicles – one used by Mr. Mohrman (which he was familiar with) and one used by Mr. Shoob for school district business only. Mr. Shoob stated the vehicle he is seeking to replace is a 1997 Jeep with 145,000 miles.

In an effort to improve how the district budgets for transportation costs associated with field trips, Mr. Shoob explained the cost for field trips were moved to the building budgets with no increase in their budget. Mr. Shoob stated there is no trip expense included in this year's transportation budget, with one exception noted which is athletic overtime included in salaries.

Dr. Brenner noted with the potential to enter into a cooperative agreement with other North Shore districts one of the parameters we will be challenged by is the length of the ride. Currently, most kids' ride is about 30-40 minutes (in- and out-of-district runs). However, he noted once ridership increases it is anticipated the ride length will increase.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Ms. Ben-Levy commended Mr. Shoob and all the drivers and staff for doing a wonderful job. She commented on the amazing job the drivers do as they are sometimes the only adult on the bus and they manage to keep their eyes on the road while keeping the peace during the ride.

c. Technology

Dr. Salina gave a budget presentation for Human Resources, Instructional and Administrative Technology for 2011-12 and he noted the year-to-year decrease of \$140,517 in the technology budget. The budget for Human Resources, Instructional and Administrative Technology represents 2% of the total district budget. He presented and discussed with the board the various computing initiatives planned. He explained the rovers have been extremely successful in the elementary schools and incorporated in

next year's budget is the expansion of 5 – 9 rovers for the elementary schools and one for the athletics department. The board and Dr. Salina entered into a discussion regarding the educational uses and cost-benefit of rovers, discounted pricing for the purchase of new rovers and the demand and use of Smartboards.

The district has budgeted for an additional 10 Smartboards and recommendations for iPads or slate devices will be presented later. Dr. Brenner stated what's about to emerge is video textbooks and what will ultimately drive which class receives the iPad will be based on which subject matter and textbook is released to the market first. Under the Governor's current budget and for the first time the district can purchase textbooks which will be aidable.

The board and Dr. Salina discussed the district's vision of virtual classrooms, and he spoke about creating a comprehensive, digital portfolio for standardized testing for every student, including all report cards, progress memorandums, photos, etc. which would be accessed via a new website.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Ms. Ben-Levy thanked Dr. Salina for his tireless effort and for bringing the district into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She noted it is light years from where we can from and spoke that Dr. Salina has been so busy doing the work and never taking the credit.

- d. Follow-up on Capital
  - i. Transportation Building

The question presented by Dr. Brenner to the board is whether the board authorizes the expenditure of \$60,000 for a new roof for the transportation given its dire state of disrepair. Mr. Saffron suggested the board consider a referendum which would provide the flexibility to set up a new reserve. Of the original \$10 million approved for renovations by the voters in 2007, \$1 million is left. Dr. Brenner responded if a new reserve is approved by the voters, it would not be tapped into until next year.

Ms. Kline stated the immediate need is the roof and she feels strongly that the expense to rebuild is too great to take on. Dr. Brenner spoke that he and Mr. Mohrman have investigated various options and it is their recommendation that the roof be repaired. Dr. Brenner explained a new roof has been desperately needed for the past 5+ years, but was never pursued because it was believed the building might be retired at some point.

**The board reached consensus and it was decided to leave this initiative on the capital project listing.**

- ii. Harbor Hill Fields & Removal of Tennis Court

The question presented by Dr. Brenner to the board is whether the board authorizes the expenditure of \$53,000 for the Harbor Hill School tennis court

removal only which would allow for more open field space, however, it was noted that the grading of this ground may be unsafe.

The board discussed their preference would be for the administration to develop a master plan to ensure the funds designated would be spent wisely and in support of a greater plan.

**The board reached consensus and it was decided to eliminate this initiative from the capital project listing. The board requested the administration investigate funding and creating a master plan for the Harbor Hill field renovation.**

iii. Field House

The question presented by Dr. Brenner is given the fact that \$250,000 of the cafeteria grants have been reneged whether the board wishes to go forward with the field house project and, if so, how will it be funded.

Dr. Brenner explained the grant money designated for the field house remains in question and it is unknown at this time whether the state will authorize the release of these funds, yet the possibility still exists.

Mr. Saffron suggested the board consider reviewing and reprioritizing those projects where the money has not yet been expended. Mr. Stern asked if a summary of all the reserve funds can be provided to the board. Mr. Dragone responded this information is provided on a quarterly basis; however, it is his goal to provide the board with a current and up-to-date reserve fund listing.

Mr. Saffron stated the field house is in deplorable condition and before it gets to the point where it creates an unsafe condition he asked the board to consider this when prioritizing projects. He further stated it is his opinion that the field house renovation should be prioritized over asphalt and masonry. He noted the grant was written broadly to reflect the grant money can be used for athletic facilities at the high school and not specific to the field house. Mr. Saffron stated if awarded the grant money must be expended no later than the mandated deadline and if the money is not used this year it will be permanently lost.

Mr. Haber stated he could not support shifting money from other initiatives because he felt it would be disingenuous since this was not the plan as presented to the community last year. However, he indicated he would support this initiative if presented to the community in this year's referendum. Dr. Valauri suggested the foundation fund the field house, however, it was noted it could take three years to complete.

Mr. Seinfeld stated his concern about the potential impression it may give while we move forward with major capital improvement initiatives in light of the challenging economic and political environment while several districts are faced

with losing teachers.

Mr. Dragone presented and discussed with the board the list of pending capital projects and stated assuming the board moves forward with the projects listed the remaining \$53,000 is all we have control over.

Ms. Kline stated since the financing is no longer secure at this time she does not support reallocating funds to this project. She noted it was a compelling project due to the financial contributions of the grant money and contribution from Bulldog Boosters.

Mr. Stern stated it is the age-old question of prioritizing project and if we lose the Bulldog Booster money it would be unfortunate, however, he stated he would have difficulty voting in favor of this project and suggested waiting a year. Dr. Valauri spoke he would probably not support reallocating funds to support this project given the grant money may not be forthcoming.

**Dr. Brenner stated the reality is the \$200,000 is gone and has been reallocated to the high school cafeteria renovation. He summarized and asked for consensus of the board's position with respect to delaying the field house initiative, with the understanding that the \$53,000 left in this referendum will not be spent and that this conversation will be revisited next year.**

**The board reached consensus and it was decided to delay the renovation of the field house.**

#### iv. Total Expenditure for Capital Referendum

Ms. Ben-Levy stated in her view the district has the money and there is no shortage of places where it could be put to good use and there may never be a better time to do as much as we can. Mr. Haber stated it may be financially advantageous and prudent to consider waiting for the ability to do a cooperative bid. Mr. Dragone explained we could obtain voter authorization now by referendum and then wait until we can put it out for a cooperative bid. Dr. Brenner noted the board should also consider the impact of a certiorari reserve. Mr. Dragone stated the referendum could be worded in the most generic terms possible for specific items, such as district-wide window replacement and the various kinds of projects the board deems necessary.

**Dr. Brenner noted the question whether the board authorizes a referendum to fund the reserve in excess of \$10 million will continue to be discussed at the next board meeting.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT #1 Limited to Agenda Items ONLY**

(Will be limited to ½ hour, no more than 2 minutes per speaker).

Though not required by law, the Roslyn Board of Education invites public comment during its meetings. Citizens will be recognized by the presiding officer. Please state your name and address before speaking and direct all comments to the Board. This is not a time for citizen to citizen exchanges. We ask that comments not include the names of students or staff members, and comments are not permitted with respect to

confidential matters. Please also be reminded that Board meetings are designed by law to facilitate the school district's business and provide for public Board deliberations. Thank you

**The following items were discussed during public comments: a resident recommended the superintendent review the current capital project budget lines with the hope of finding the addition money needed for the field house; a resident and active member of the Roslyn Lacrosse Club spoke about field availability and fundraising efforts for the field house. Ms. Ben-Levy requested he provide the district clerk with his contact information and Dr. Brenner encouraged him to schedule an appointment to meet.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

Action may be taken for each individual resolution or by the titled subgroups. Bracketed information following resolutions is not part of the Board's official action and does not become part of the official record.

**PERSONNEL:**

**ALL PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS LISTED ARE FUNDED IN THE CURRENT BUDGET UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

**Dr. Salina moved from the floor to add items numbered #9 and #10 to Agenda Item numbered P.1 Professional (ADDENDUM).**

**P.1.** It is the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLVED**, that the Roslyn Board of Education approves the appointments, resignations, terminations, elimination of positions, transfers, and leaves of absence as detailed in the Personnel Action Reports attached as **(P.1 Professional)(Attachment P.1)**.

**Dr. Salina moved from the floor to add items numbered #1a (1a replaces 1) through #5 to Agenda Item numbered P.2 Classified (ADDENDUM).**

**P.2.** It is the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the following resolution be adopted:

**RESOLVED**, that the Roslyn Board of Education approves the appointments, resignations, terminations, elimination of positions, transfers, and leaves of absence as detailed in the Personnel Action Reports attached as **(P.2 Classified) (Attachment P.2)**.

**P.3. Recommendation** to approve the Adult Education Instructor Salaries for the Spring 2011 session attached as **(Attachment P.3)**.

**Mr. Stern moved, seconded by Ms. Kline and it was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Haber out of the room) to approve Agenda Item numbered P.1 as amended, P.2 as amended and P.3.**

**BUSINESS/FINANCE:**

**ALL ITEMS ON THE BUSINESS/FINANCE PORTION OF THE AGENDA ARE WITHIN THE BUDGET UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED**

**B.1.** Recommendation to approve the following contracts and to authorize the Board of Education President to execute (those contracts marked with an asterisk have been prepared pursuant to a previous award of an RFP.)

- (i) Contractor: Glen Cove City School District  
Services: District of Location Special Education Services for IEP service requirements for 9 students residing in Roslyn attending private school in Glen Cove for the period of 7/1/10 thru 6/30/11  
Fee: \$3,300.00 per student (estimated)  
Total estimated to be \$30,000

- B.2.** Recommendation to approve a budget appropriation transfer request in the amount of \$8,000.00 from 2010-440-03-9000-301 (Curriculum travel conference workshop – prior balance \$15,515.18) to 2010-450-03-9000-301(Curriculum Supplies – prior balance \$2,126.92) [To cover cost of support material from New York Ready Practice to help prepare students for the new ELA and math exams].
- B.3.** Recommendation to approve a budget appropriation transfer request in the amount of \$2,000.00 from 2010-433-03-9000-301 (Curriculum membership dues – prior balance \$2,345.00) to 2110-480-03-9000-301 (New textbook series – prior balance \$35,288.54) [To support reading workshops and purchase leveled libraries for Grades K-6]
- B.4.** Recommendation to approve a budget appropriation transfer request in the amount of \$36,438.00 from 2110-473-03-9000-301 (Tch. Tuition Charter School – prior balance \$36,438.00) to 2110-480-03-9000-301(New textbook series – prior balance \$35,288.54) [To support reading workshops and purchase leveled libraries for grades K-6]
- B.5.** Recommendation to approve Capital Budget appropriation transfer requests as per **Attachment B.5.a, B.5.b and B.5.c.**
- B.6.** Recommendation to approve Capital Budget expenditure transfer requests as per **Attachment B.6.**
- B.7.** Recommendation to approve a payment in the amount of \$20,442.12 to Ingerman Smith LLP for legal services rendered to the district for the period ending 1/31/11.
- B.8.** Recommendation to approve a payment in the amount of \$1,728.00 to Kaeyer, Garment and Davidson Architects for Architectural Services rendered to the district pertaining to the High School Cafeteria Renovation Project. [Funds will be deducted from the 2010-11 Capital Budget Code H2110-245-08-1102]
- B.9.** Recommendation to approve the attendance of Douglas Graham, Head Mechanic, at the Thomas Built Bus Institute – Spring 2011 mechanic training to be held in Jamestown, NC on 5/10/11 thru 5/13/11 at a total cost to the district of \$150.00 [NESCO will pick up expenses, registration fee, hotel and airfare. Roslyn will be responsible for dinner.]
- B.10.** Recommendation that, pursuant to receipt of a gift in the amount of \$919.99 from the East Hills Parent Teacher Association, the board of education hereby, accepts the gift, approves the expenditure of funds for the purpose of purchasing a laminating machine for the EH school, and increases the appropriation in A2110-200-04-9000-401 (Teaching Equipment –

East Hills) by \$919.99 with the understanding that this increase in appropriations is the result of unanticipated revenue and therefore will result in no impact on the tax levy.

- B.11.** Recommendation that, pursuant to receipt of a gift in the amount of \$1,345.00 from Ann Simeone, the board of education hereby accepts the gift. The gift will be deposited into the Fina Fund with the understanding that this is unanticipated revenue and therefore will result in no impact on the tax levy. [Joe Dragone donated a certificate for three credits at C.W. Post. Ann Simeone, substitute teacher aide, accepted the certificate with the understanding that she would donate half the value of the certificate to the Fina Fund.]
- B.12.** Recommendation to approve transportation for one special education student who will be attending the BOCES Alternative Learning Center in Hicksville for the period of 3/1/11 thru 6/24/11 at an additional cost to the district of \$988.27 per month [Total estimated to be \$3,953.08]
- B.13.** Recommendation to accept the following Extraclassroom activity fund reports:  
**Attachment B.13.**  
Middle School: January 2011  
High School: January 2011

**Ms. Kline moved, seconded by Mr. Saffron and it was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Mr. Haber out of the room) to approve Agenda Items numbered B.1, B.2, B.3, B.4, B.5, B.6, B.7, B.8, B.9, B.10, B.11, B.12 and B.13.**

## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**Ms. Brown moved from the floor to add Agenda Items numbered C&I.1 and C&I.2 as follows (ADDENDUM).**

- C&I.1** Recommendation to approve SallyKaye Kaufman and 4 students to attend the DECA National Conference in Orlando, Florida from April 29 through May 3, 2011, at an estimated cost to the district of \$2,112.00. [Total cost of trip is \$7,012.00 – Fundraising 53% = \$3,700.00; Student Contribution 17% = \$1,200.00; School Contribution 30% = \$2,112.00.]
- C&I.2** Recommendation to approve Diana Sabzevari and one student to attend the New York State Bowling Championship in Syracuse, New York from March 4 through March 6, 2011 at an estimated cost to the district of \$1,259.00

**Mr. Saffron moved, seconded by Dr. Valauri and it was carried by a vote of 7-0 to approve the addition of Agenda Items numbered C&I.1 and C&I.2.**

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**BOE.1 BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education will hold its annual reorganizational meeting for the 2011-2012 school on Tuesday, July 12, 2011.

**Mr. Seinfeld moved, seconded by Mr. Stern and it was carried by a vote of 7-0 to approve Agenda Item numbered BOE.1.**

**Mr. Saffron requested an update on the Joint Adult Education Program at a future board meeting.**

**Public Comments #2 – no public comments.**

**Adjournment**

**There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Mr. Saffron moved, seconded by Dr. Valauri and it was carried by a vote of 7-0 to adjourn at 11:55p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

***Cathie L. Britt***

**Cathie L. Britt  
District Clerk**