

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting – November 22, 2005
Riverhead High School Auditorium

PRESENT: President, Mrs. Lori H. Montefusco; Vice President, Mrs. Nancy G. Gassert; Mrs. Kathleen Berezny; Mr. Timothy Griffing; Mrs. Mary Ellen Harkin; and, Mr. W. Brian Stark.

ABSENT: Mrs. Christine Prete.

LATE: Mrs. Mary Ellen Harkin.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Paul R. Doyle, Mr. Joseph Singleton, Mr. Joseph Ogeka, Jr., Ms. Nancy Carney and Christopher Venator, Esq.

President, Mrs. Montefusco, opened the meeting at 6:08 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

A motion was made by Mr. Stark, seconded by Mrs. Berezny, to recess to executive session to discuss negotiations (RCFA) and personnel (RAA grievance/Level 4 and RCFA grievance/Level 3).

Yes 5 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 6:09 p.m.

Mrs. Harkin arrived at 6:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Mrs. Gassert, to return to open session.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:53 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 8:03 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recess to
Executive Session

Return to
Open Session

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There were about 45 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara O’Kula.

The commencement of the meeting and first order of business was to act upon the resolutions recognizing students performing in the NYSSMA All-State Festival and NYSCAME All-County Concert immediately followed by the award of Certificates of Commendation to the individual students.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gassert, seconded by Mrs. Berezny, to approve the following resolution:
WHEREAS, Riverhead High School musicians, Alice Falcone (soprano) and Peter Falango (trumpet), have been selected to perform in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All –State Festival at the Rochester Convention Center on December 1-4, 2005, and
WHEREAS, to be accepted into an All-State performing group requires a performance level 6 solo, score of a perfect 100, be the top performer at the site at which they performed their solo and rank among the top musicians in New York State, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools extend congratulations to Alice Falcone and Peter Falango and Music Department Head, David Loddengaard, for their outstanding music abilities and credit they bring to themselves, their parents and the Riverhead Central School District.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gassert, seconded by Mr. Stark, to approve the following resolution:

*Recognition of
Students
Performing in
NYSSMA All-State
Festival and NYSCAME
All-County Concert
-Resolutions in
Recognition thereof
Approved*

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WHEREAS, Riverhead High School musicians, Devon Cholodenko (viola), Kirsten Krussel (cello), Dane Buenten (bass), David Ashby (tenor), Alice Falcone (soprano) and Peter Falango (trumpet), have been selected to perform in the New York State School Council of Administrators of Music Education (NYSCAME) and the Suffolk County Music Educators' Association (SCMEA) All-Suffolk County Festival, and,

WHEREAS, the best musicians of the county combine to form a Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band and a Mixed Chorus to perform at the Hauppauge High School on November 18, 2005, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools extend congratulations to the students and Music Department Head, David Loddengaard, for their outstanding music abilities and for the credit they bring to themselves, their parents and the Riverhead Central School District.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gassert, seconded by Mrs. Harkin, to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

Regular Meeting – June 21, 2005
Special Meeting – June 28, 2005

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gassert, seconded by Mr. Griffing, to amend the agenda to include the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that supplemental hereto and as an additional perquisite to public office and employment, the Board of Education hereby further extends the right to be defended and indemnified as provided in Public

Officers Law §18 to board members, school

Approval of Minutes

-Approved

Amend Agenda

-Add Public Officers
Law

-Approved

officers, agents, interim appointments and employees, who are requested or are called to testify as a witness or to answer

questions concerning their acts or omissions within the scope of their office, agency or employment before a grand jury, the Office of the District Attorney or other law enforcement official. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize or require defense or indemnification to a board member, school officer, agent, interim appointment or employee who has been identified as a defendant in a pending criminal prosecution or where such individual, or the school district, has reason to believe that such individual is a target in a criminal investigation or prosecution by the Office of the District Attorney or other law enforcement entity.

Yes 6 No 0

Motion to Amend Agenda Carried.

Mrs. Montefusco announced that the representative from the auditing firm was unable to make tonight's presentation due to a babysitting conflict. However, the independent auditors reports will be made available in The Riverhead Free Library as soon as next week for the public to read and review the findings therein.

Mr. Doyle reported that the Audit Committee met with the independent auditors yesterday where areas were identified in terms of future adjustment. Overall, the report speaks well for the District and the Board of Education should be proud of the financial performance of the District as a whole in the wake of all the allegations and investigations of Long Island school districts.

Mrs. Montefusco announced that the Board meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, December 6 **has been changed to Wednesday, December 7, 2005.**

Mrs. Berezny reported on her attendance, along with Mrs. Prete, to the auditors' meeting yesterday where Jill Fichter CPA gave an informative, detailed report of the audit. She, also, reported on their attendance to a beneficial seminar on Building High School Communities that Inspire "small community schools within the high

Independent
Auditors'
Report

Opportunity for
Superintendent

Opportunity for
Board Members

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school” and roles of teachers, counselors and the environment. Additionally, she announced the 10TH Grade Parent Night on November 29 at the High School geared to facilitate students entering their junior year; and, she read a letter from a teacher complimenting the creation of cohesiveness and attention to environmental needs to educate our students and progress being made to conform to the demands of excellence in the high school. She commended Mr. McCaffrey for the progress and excellent work he has done.

Comments from the community included:

- the presence of any extra dollars in the fund balance (Mr.Singleton stated that, as previously reported, the fund balance is slightly less than 2% - just as estimated)
- request to display the auditors' report on the district's website in sections

- cost of Global Investigations contract (Mr. Doyle stated that the fees vary depending on the type of service being performed and read from the itemized list provided by Global)
- a question as to the need to engage Global Investigations when the work was previously done by an employee (Mr. Griffing stated that the services are on an “as needed basis” and will save the district money versus hiring a full time employee)
- request that the Board increase interest in children out of school as well as those in school
- will the district hire more people (*i.e.*, Purchasing Agent) as a result of the auditors’ findings (this will be discussed during the budget process)

A motion was made by Mrs. Gassert, seconded by Mr. Griffing, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District accepts the Annual Audit Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005 as performed and prepared by Coughlin, Foundotos, Cullen & Danowski LLP.

Community
Comments

Annual Audit Report
For the Fiscal Year
Ending June 30, 2005
-Approved

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Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Harkin, seconded by Mr. Stark, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the establishment of a contract between the Riverhead Central School District and Global Investigations, Inc. for the purpose of tenancy investigations; and, authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign such contract pursuant to review by the District's legal counsel.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gassert, seconded by Mrs. Harkin, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the second reading of *revised* Board Policy #5280 – *Interscholastic Athletics*.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Harkin, seconded by Mrs. Gassert, to approve the following resolution

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District accepts the first reading of Board Policy #5251 – *Student Fundraising Activities*.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Griffing, seconded by Mrs. Harkin, to approve the following resolution:

Global Investigations
Contract
-Approved

Second Reading of
Revised Board Policy
-#5280/Interscholastic
Athletics
-Approved

First Reading of
Board Policy
-#5251/Student
Fundraising Activities
-Approved

Adoption of Revised
Use of Facilities
Application
-Approved

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RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves and hereby adopts the *revised* Application for Use of School Facilities. (effective immediately)

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Mrs. Gassert, to approve the following resolution
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District gratefully accepts the donation of six (6) evergreen shrubs in the planters at the Riverhead High School from Mr. and Mrs. David Staib.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Mrs. Gassert, to approve the following resolution:
RESOLVED, that on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Professional Personnel recommendations be approved per Supplemental File Personnel Report and are subject to Board Policy #9310:

Extension of Emergency 20-day Conditional Appointments

Jillian Davey
Claudette Garley
Danielle Goncalves
Julie Hirschey
Amy Hovind
Cara Koenig
Kelly Lester
Tara Malanga
Genia Merkel
Deborah Mitchell
Nancy Poserina
Elizabeth Scimeca

Donation
-Approved

Professional
Personnel
Recommendations
-Approved

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Extension of Temporary Appointment

Georgette Keller – Teacher for Family and Consumer Sciences,
effective 11/14/05-12/6/05.

Amendment to Paid Leave of Absence

Kevin Woods – NJROTC Instructor, From: 10/12/05-11/22/05,
To: 10/12/05-11/10/05.

Resignation

Haley Burns – Junior Varsity Head Cheerleading Coach, effective
11/6/05.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gassert, seconded by Mr. Griffing, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Civil Service Personnel recommendations be approved per Supplemental File Personnel Report and are subject to Board Policy #9310:

Change in Status/Fingerprint Clearance

Andrea Woods

-

Extension of Emergency 20-day Conditional Appointment

Maureen Andrychawski

Denise Boden

Carlas Clairborne

Leah Gregg

Marianne Lynn

James Smith

Emergency 20-day Conditional Appointment

Debra Trent – Substitute Guard, effective 11/28/05.

Doris Taylor – Substitute Guard, effective 11/28/05.

Chris Desni – Substitute Guard, effective 11/28/05.

Civil Service

Personnel

Recommendations

-Approved

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Change in Status

Jerome Gilliam – To: Part-time Custodial Worker I, From: Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 11/28/05.

Lance Sciarratta – To: Part-time Custodial Worker I, From: Substitute Custodial Worker I, effective 11/28/05.

Amendment to Change in Status

Sharon Zorovich – To: Hourly Food Service Worker, From: Hourly Food Service Worker, effective 11/23/05.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gassert, seconded by Mrs. Harkin, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that supplemental hereto and as an additional perquisite to public office and employment, the Board of Education hereby further extends the right to be defended and indemnified as provided in Public Officers Law §18 to board members, school officers, agents, interim appointments and employees, who are requested or are called to testify as a witness or to answer questions concerning their acts or omissions within the scope of their office, agency or employment before a grand jury, the Office of the District Attorney or other law enforcement official. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize or require defense or indemnification to a board member, school officer, agent, interim appointment or employee who has been identified as a defendant in a pending criminal prosecution or where such individual, or the school district, has reason to believe that such individual is a target in a criminal investigation or prosecution by the Office of the District Attorney or other law enforcement entity.

Public Officers
Law
-Approved

As explained by Mr. Singleton, in case of a claim or call before a grand jury, a board member, school officer, agent, interim appointment or employee can receive legal counsel immediately and indemnifies them – without it – there is risk of financial jeopardy and would inhibit the rules and regulations of any school district.

Additional community comments included:

- process to hire Lou Rancucci as a consultant (Per Mr. Doyle, the service is provided by BOCES for districts on Long Island to mentor new administrators and Mr. Rancucci was available to accommodate the need)
- author of gang-like apparel policy and potential for “guilt by association” (written by the district’s legal counsel and as stated by Mr. Stark, it contains good language and is in the best interests to promulgate for students, staff and administration)
- request that the Board include the public in future discussions when establishing a new policy (Mrs. Montefusco stated that it is always open to the public for comment and discussion)
- no mention of heat or electricity in the new revised Use of Facilities form (Mr. Doyle stated that there are no additional costs as each building is open as referred to in Class 3 in the Group Classification and Fee Schedule)

A motion was made by Mrs. Gassert, seconded by Mrs. Harkin, to adjourn the meeting.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara O’Kula
District Clerk

Community
Comments

Adjournment

