

**Port Chester – Rye Union Free School District Work Session**  
**Port Chester Middle School – Auditorium**  
**March 8, 2012**

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Present: Blanca P. Lopez, President; Carolee C. Brakewood, Vice President; James Dreves, Trustee; Anne Capeci, Trustee; Robert Johnson, Trustee

Also Present: Dr. Edward A. Kliszus, Superintendent of Schools; Maura McAward, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Frank Fanelli, Assistant Superintendent Grants/Personnel; Coleen Kotzur, District Treasurer; Jennifer M. Bisaccia, District Clerk; Frank Sisca, School Attorney

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Ms. Lopez called a public meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was promptly adjourned to Executive Session to discuss litigation and the negotiations. No action was taken and Executive session was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The Board reconvened to public session at 7:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ms. Lopez called a moment of silence for Amid Capeci son of Board Member Anne Capeci.

Ms. Lopez stated that the Board undertook every effort to educate the community about on the potential impact of the 2% Tax Cap Levy.

**BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Dr. Kliszus presented the 2012-2013 initial school budget.

The Board noted those that have been working hard behind the scenes, thanked George Latimer and Suzi Oppenheimer for their efforts, and urged the community to continue to lobby Albany and the Governor.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jessica Rivera expressed her concerns with closing the Early Learning Center.

Anne Rose Santoro expressed her concerns with regard to the budget cuts.

Debbie Carroll expressed her concerns about the affect of ½ kindergarten on our students.

Ingrid Perez expressed her concern with the budget cuts affecting class size and learning levels.

Terry Taylor explained that the budget cuts will result in a negative effect on the John F. Kennedy Magnet School and ELC.

Wanda Irving, Grace Church Street, implored everyone to show their support and vote because eliminating kindergarten will impact every grade.

Garry Sullivan, Perry Avenue, expressed his concerns about the current and future budget and urged the Board to find a way to prevent cuts.

Nicole Boyette, Weber Drive, expressed her concerns with the budget cuts.

Nidia Alvarez, Willett Avenue, expressed her concern with reducing kindergarten to ½ day.

Juan Jose Chajon referenced an article for the New York Times.

Maria Laird, Haines Boulevard, implored the Board to do everything they can to protect full day kindergarten.

Kim Caie, Haines Boulevard, stated that she was never informed of the ½ day kindergarten cut until this evening.

Carolina Puga, Ellendale Avenue, stated that everyone's help and support is needed.

Bill Villanova, Hawley Avenue, questioned how teachers can education students in a ½ day of school.

A Port Chester resident stated that the cuts are affecting many families in the community.

Pablo Peralta noted that Port Chester has always been a target.

A Port Chester resident, Franklin Street, noted that program cuts do not affect him but that he very interested in the children of Port Chester and urged the Board to rethink cuts and consider salary reductions.

Robert Reis, Munson Street, is unsettled to know what is ahead and asked to please keep the community united.

Claudia Vasquez, Smith Street, does not have any children in the district but noted that not attending kindergarten is detrimental to the rest of a student’s education.

Aimee Farias, Gilbert Place, stated that she is very upset with the cuts and the closing of ELC


Michael Callaway, Munson Street, suggested looking across the board and suggested salary and benefit cuts instead of cutting full day kindergarten.

Ms. Nunez Port Chester resident stated that education levels will decrease if the kindergarten program is cut.

Stephanie Rodriguez, stated that a child cannot learn in a ½ day of school.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Upon motion by Ms. Lopez, seconded by Mrs. Brakewood, and carried the Board approved the Treasurer’s Report for December 2011.

Port Chester - Rye Union Free School District		GENERAL	SPECIAL AID	CAFETERIA	CAPITAL	TRUST	ALL FUNDS
<b>TREASURERS REPORT</b>							
December 31, 2011							
BOOK BALANCE							
BEGINNING OF MONTH		20,543,592.19	1,386,232.20	522,192.60	382,626.42	429,457.86	23,264,101.27
<u>Receipts</u>							
Revenues		1,212,742.59	465,192.10	285,599.09	5.18	12,669.97	
Interfund Transfers		300,000.00	666.10				
Sales Tax Receipts				78.21			
Reimbursement of Expense		456,305.38		25,182.40			
Accounts Receivable						607.34	
Total Receipts		1,969,047.97	465,858.20	310,859.70	5.18	13,277.31	2,759,048.36
<u>Disbursements</u>							
Warrant #13		2,549,772.70	144,457.12	17,818.49	16,760.00	18,181.39	
Warrant #14		561,901.76	95,907.06	579.97		4,266.14	
Warrant #15							
Warrant #16		1,080,908.81	82,271.21	304,469.16		11,745.19	
Warrant #17		218,159.96				7,069.01	
Payroll 12/2/11		1,905,146.64	105,959.33	2,199.94			
Payroll 12/16/11		1,949,280.84	122,127.03	3,524.74			
Debt Service		339,688.75					
Interfund Transfers		666.10			300,000.00		
Total Disbursements		8,605,525.56	550,721.75	328,592.30	316,760.00	41,261.73	9,842,861.34
BOOK BALANCE							
END OF MONTH		13,907,114.60	1,301,368.65	504,460.00	65,871.60	401,473.44	16,180,288.29
<b>CASH - BANK BALANCES</b>		<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>SPECIAL AID</b>	<b>CAFETERIA</b>	<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>TRUST</b>	<b>ALL FUNDS</b>
	Rates						
Bank of America	0.000%			118,154.24			
Chase Bank	0.100%		615,155.20		41,744.34	102,127.58	
TD Bank	0.200%	274,797.39					
Wells Fargo	0.000%	847,860.61					
Hudson Valley Bank	0.048%	2,471.78					
Webster Bank	0.218%	(223,530.97)	46,402.37			1,334.15	
PC Credit Union	0.250%					154,623.90	
MBIA - C.L.A.S.S.	0.000%	1,980,609.37	639,811.08	386,305.76	24,127.26		
Scholarship Invest	various					143,387.81	
Signature Bank	0.500%	11,024,906.42					
TOTAL CASH - BANK BALANCES		13,907,114.60	1,301,368.65	504,460.00	65,871.60	401,473.44	16,180,288.29
						2/16/2012	
Coleen Kotzur, District Treasurer						Date	

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Mrs. Capeci seconded by Mrs. Brakewood and carried the Board approved regular meeting minutes January 25, 2012

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Upon motion by Ms. Lopez, seconded by Mrs. Brakewood and carried, the following resolution was approved.

- A. BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District that mandate relief must be addressed by the New York State Legislature as school districts implement the property tax levy limit.

**WHEREAS**, New York State leads the nation in local property taxes, in large part because New York leads the nation in imposing unfunded state mandates upon our local municipalities and school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to New York's property tax crisis, the Governor and members of the New York State Legislature enacted legislation imposing a limit on the annual growth of the local school tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State school districts are under unprecedented funding shortfalls due to three years of frozen Foundation Aid, last year's \$1.2 billion aid cut, expiration of federal stimulus aid and revenue restrictions under the tax levy limit, which goes into effect for the 2012-13 school year, and

**WHEREAS**, unfunded and underfunded state mandates continually increase the obligations and expenditures of local public school districts, and a property tax levy limit without significant mandate reform will inescapably lead to drastic cuts in essential local school district programs and services, as well as significant layoffs of school district employees, and in some cases outright insolvency, in New York State school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative impact of satisfying unfunded and underfunded mandates diverts local money from our school district's top priority of student learning,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we the members of the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District join fellow school board members in Westchester and Putnam Counties in affirming the obligation of the Governor of the State of New York and the members of the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly, to reform mandates that are unsound, unduly burdensome or costly, and thereby lead to high property taxes in New York.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Article 24, Executive Law §666, which establishes a Mandate Relief Council, the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District asks, by resolution of its governing body, that the Mandate Relief Council review the following mandate to determine whether the specific statute, regulation, rule or order of state government is an unfunded mandate or is otherwise unsound, unduly burdensome or costly so as to require that it be eliminated or reformed: **Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law, Section 209-a(1)(e) of the Civil Service Law.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, and the members of the State Senate and Assembly representing Westchester and Putnam Counties.

Upon motion by Ms. Lopez, seconded by Mrs. Brakewood and carried, the following resolution was approved.

- B. BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District that mandate relief must be addressed by the New York State Legislature as school districts implement the property tax levy limit.

**WHEREAS**, New York State leads the nation in local property taxes, in large part because New York leads the nation in imposing unfunded state mandates upon our local municipalities and school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to New York's property tax crisis, the Governor and members of the New York State Legislature enacted legislation imposing a limit on the annual growth of the local school tax

levy; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State school districts are under unprecedented funding shortfalls due to three years of frozen Foundation Aid, last year's \$1.2 billion aid cut, expiration of federal stimulus aid and revenue restrictions under the tax levy limit, which goes into effect for the 2012-13 school year, and

**WHEREAS**, unfunded and underfunded state mandates continually increase the obligations and expenditures of local public school districts, and a property tax levy limit without significant mandate reform will inescapably lead to drastic cuts in essential local school district programs and services, as well as significant layoffs of school district employees, and in some cases outright insolvency, in New York State school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative impact of satisfying unfunded and underfunded mandates diverts local money from our school district's top priority of student learning,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we the members of the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District join fellow school board members in Westchester and Putnam Counties in affirming the obligation of the Governor of the State of New York and the members of the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly, to reform mandates that are unsound, unduly burdensome or costly, and thereby lead to high property taxes in New York.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Article 24, Executive Law §666, which establishes a Mandate Relief Council, the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District asks, by resolution of its governing body, that the Mandate Relief Council review the following mandate to determine whether the specific statute, regulation, rule or order of state government is an unfunded mandate or is otherwise unsound, unduly burdensome or costly so as to require that it be eliminated or reformed: Allow school districts to establish teachers retirement System Reserve Fund, Education Law §3651.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, and the members of the State Senate and Assembly representing Westchester and Putnam Counties.

Upon motion by Mrs. Capeci, seconded by Mr. Dreves and carried, the following resolution was approved.

- C. **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District that mandate relief must be addressed by the New York State Legislature as school districts implement the property tax levy limit.

**WHEREAS**, New York State leads the nation in local property taxes, in large part because New York leads the nation in imposing unfunded state mandates upon our local municipalities and school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to New York's property tax crisis, the Governor and members of the New York State Legislature enacted legislation imposing a limit on the annual growth of the local school tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State school districts are under unprecedented funding shortfalls due to three years of frozen Foundation Aid, last year's \$1.2 billion aid cut, expiration of federal stimulus aid and revenue restrictions under the tax levy limit, which goes into effect for the 2012-13 school year, and

**WHEREAS**, unfunded and underfunded state mandates continually increase the obligations and expenditures of local public school districts, and a property tax levy limit without significant mandate reform will inescapably lead to drastic cuts in essential local school district programs and services, as well as significant layoffs of school district employees, and in some cases outright insolvency, in New York State school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the cumulative impact of satisfying unfunded and underfunded mandates diverts local money from our school district's top priority of student learning,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we the members of the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye

Union Free School District join fellow school board members in Westchester and Putnam Counties in affirming the obligation of the Governor of the State of New York and the members of the New York State Senate and New York State Assembly, to reform mandates that are unsound, unduly burdensome or costly, and thereby lead to high property taxes in New York.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Article 24, Executive Law §666, which establishes a Mandate Relief Council, the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District asks, by resolution of its governing body, that the Mandate Relief Council review the following mandate to determine whether the specific statute, regulation, rule or order of state government is an unfunded mandate or is otherwise unsound, unduly burdensome or costly so as to require that it be eliminated or reformed: New York State Teachers Retirement System Tiers 3 & 4 Contributions after 10 Years, New York State Retirement & Social Security - Article 19 - Law § 902 b.1., b.2., b.3.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, and the members of the State Senate and Assembly representing Westchester and Putnam Counties.

Upon motion by Mrs. Capeci, seconded by Mrs. Brakewood and carried, the following resolution was approved.

**D. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District authorize the following budget transfers as required by Board of Education Policy #6150, as follows:

TRANSFER TO	TRANSFER FROM	AMOUNT	REASON
A2250 471 10 4523	A2250 471 10 4529	<u>31,840.00</u> 31,840.00	WHITE PLAINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS – TRANSFER OF PLACEMENT
A2250 471 10 4526	A2250 471 10 4529	<u>24,000.00</u> 24,000.00	MAMARONECK PUBLIC SCHOOLS – NEW/UNKNOWN PLACEMENT
A2250 472 10 4520	A2250 471 10 4529	<u>43,733.20</u> 43,733.20	ANDRUS MEMORIAL SCHOOL – NEW/UNKNOWN PLACEMENT
A2250 472 10 4523	A2250 472 10 4521	<u>50,287.00</u> 50,287.00	DEVEREAX FOUNDATION – NEW/UNKNOWN PLACEMENT
A2250 472 10 4529	A2250 471 10 4528 A2250 472 10 4522 A2250 472 10 4525	13,289.00 1,000.00 <u>47,250.00</u> 61,539.00	MT. PLEASANT SCHOOL – NEW/UNKNOWN PLACEMENT
A2250 472 10 4530	A2250 471 10 4500 A2250 471 10 4528 A2250 472 10 4532 A2250 472 10 4539	150,000.00 134.00 28,892.00 <u>36,974.00</u> 216,000.00	NY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF – 4 PLACEMENTS NO LONGER ADJUSTED BY STATE AID
A2250 472 10 4545	A2250 492 11 1022	<u>63,712.80</u> 63,712.80	NEW YORK INSTITUTE – 1 PLACEMENT NO LONGER ADJUSTED BY STATE AID
A2250 492 11 2351	A2250 492 11 2014 A2250 492 11 2034	6,797.00 <u>74,882.00</u> 81,679.00	BOCES TSP/REG REGENTS/LOCAL DIPLOMA – NEW/UNKNOWN PLACEMENT
A2250 492 11 2818	A2250 492 11 1022	<u>61,699.00</u> 61,699.00	BOCES PNW LEARNING CTR OPT 3 – NEW/UNKNOWN PLACEMENT
A9950 990 00 0000	A1621 470 10 0000	\$159,000	Capital Fund / Preventative Maintenance
H5031	A9950 990 00 0000	\$159,000	Interfund Transfer Revenue / Capital Fund
H1620 293 30 0159	H5031	\$159,000	HS Balcony Restoration / Interfund Transfer Revenue

Upon motion by Mrs. Capeci, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried, the following resolution was approved.

- E. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District approve award a transportation contract for the 2011-2012 school year as noted below:

<b>All County Transportation</b>	<b>In an amount not to exceed \$8,000</b>
Transportation of Port Chester – Rye Union Free School District students by All County Transportation, Yonkers, New York as follows: 1 Special Education student to Mamaroneck Elementary School, Mamaroneck, New York.	

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the number of children, buses, vans, monitors, or cost approved in each contract is subject to change in accordance with New York State Education Law and Commissioner’s Regulations.

Upon motion by Mrs. Capeci, seconded by Mr. Dreves and carried, the following resolution was approved.

- F. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District approve the American Red Cross Shelter Agreement and Authorize the President of the Board to execute said agreement.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**Request for Action**

Upon motion by Mr. Dreves, seconded by Mrs. Brakewood and carried, the Superintendent’s Request for Action

1. Mark Silviotti, Pleasantville, New York be approved for an appointment as Educational Technology Specialist Teacher, at 94% of Step 1-Level 6 (pro-rated) of the 2010-2011 Teachers Salary Schedule, effective February 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012. Mr. Silviotti received a B.S. Degree and a M.S. Degree from Pace University. Mr. Silviotti received NYS Fingerprint Clearance for Employment on October 12, 2011. His assignment will be at John F. Kennedy School and will include participation in designated school related organizational activities. This appointment is being funded by a grant from Verizon. Benefits will cease June 30, 2012.
2. A Maternity Leave of Absence be granted to Judy Diaz, Special Education Teacher at John F. Kennedy School, beginning approximately March 12, 2012 through June 1, 2012. Mrs. Diaz will use accumulated sick leave during the time her doctor attests to her inability to perform her duties due to pregnancy, delivery and self care. Mrs. Diaz will use accumulated sick leave during the time her doctor attests to her inability to perform her duties due to pregnancy, delivery and self care. The remainder of her Leave of Absence will be a Family Medical Leave without pay; but benefits will continue to a maximum of 12 weeks.
3. Lourdes Pinto, Yorktown Heights, New York be approved as a Long Term Substitute Teacher to replace Judy Diaz as Special Education Teacher at John F. Kennedy School effective approximately March 12, 2012 through June 1, 2012 at an anticipated daily rate of \$125.
4. The following individuals be appointed to positions for the 2011-2012 school year:

Christine Alessi	21 <sup>st</sup> Century After School Program Teacher – King St.	\$42 per hour
Jane Kowaleski	21 <sup>st</sup> Century After School Program Substitute Teacher – King St.	42 per hour
Paula Ferraro	21 <sup>st</sup> Century After School Program Teacher – King St.	42 per hour
Suzanne Rubenstein	21 <sup>st</sup> Century After School Program Teacher – King St.	42 per hour
Maureen Mott	21 <sup>st</sup> Century After School Program Teacher – King St.	42 per hour
Jenna Broems	Extended Day After School Program Teacher – Middle School	42 per hour
Sari Shuster	Extended Day After School Program Teacher – Middle School	42 per hour
Brett Conetta	Extended Day After School Program Substitute Teacher – MS	42 per hour
Clara Jones	Smart Board Boot Camp Workshop	42 per hour
Peter Bisceglia	Breakfast Program Monitor – Substitute – Middle School	23 per hour

5. The following individual(s) receive in-service credit, as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Semester</u>
Andrew Cicoria	Principles of Fitness and Health	3	U.S. Sports Academy	Spring ‘12

Andrew Cicoria	Games Approach to Teaching Physical Education and Sports	3	U.S. Sports Academy	Spring '12
Jeanine Maiolini	Sports and Fitness Nutrition	3	U.S. Sports Academy	Spring '12
Jeanine Maiolini	Principles of Fitness and Health	3	U.S. Sports Academy	Spring '12
Maria Bottiglieri	AD/HD Student: Know the Facts & Be Prepared	3	New York Center for Teacher Development	Fall '11

6. The following individual(s) be approved to serve as Substitute Teacher(s)/Teacher Assistant(s)/Tutor(s)/Intern(s)/Student Teacher(s)/Volunteer(s) on an as-needed basis for the 2011-2012 school year. They are either Fingerprint Cleared or "Grandfathered" in:

Phil Gambino    Daisy Vasquez     Christine Schettini

7. The following individual be approved as Cleaner, Teacher Aide, or Clerical Substitute at a rate of \$10.50/hour effective March 9, 2012. Said appointee may also serve as a long-term substitute, if and when required, at Step 1 of the Cleaner, Teacher Aide, or Typist CSEA pay scales. He has received NYS Fingerprint Clearance.

John R. Stiene

8. The following individual be appointed as Teacher Aide to the 21st Century After-School Program for the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District at a rate of \$20/hour. She has received NYS Fingerprint Clearance.

Marcela Lucas                                  Edison School                                  Effective 2/1/12

9. Yvette Surita, Thornwood, New York, be approved for a Temporary Position as Typist, Step 1, effective February 27, 2012 to March 16, 2012. Her assignment is JFK – Early Learning Center.
10. The Budget Transfer in the amount of \$120,442.01, Schedule #12 dated March 2, 2012 be approved for the 2011-2012 school year.
11. The following General Fund Payrolls be approved:

February 10, 2012	\$1,711,466.73
February 17, 2012	76,120.50
February 24, 2012	1,714,789.76

12. The following General Fund Bill Schedule, including in-between checks, be approved:

March 8, 2012	\$2,007,722.00
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13. The following Special Aid Fund Bill Schedule, dated March 8, 2012 be approved for payment:

TV Studio High School	\$ 2,176.00
Title I	14,151.04
Extended Day	15,383.40
21 <sup>st</sup> Century	35,168.11
21 <sup>st</sup> Century OASIS	38,394.00
Council for the Arts	6,184.68
Dual Language	2,069.71
F.F.I.O.E.	4,500.00
JFK Olympiad	745.05
Summer Tuition Adjustment	15,462.60

14. The following payroll for the Special Aid Program, be approved:

February 10, 2012	\$125,327.87
February 24, 2012	127,085.04

**BOARD OF EDUCATION ISSUES**

Mr. Dreves stated that the King Street School principal search is well underway and ahead of schedule. Mr. Fanelli gave an update of the process.

Mrs. Lopez explained the contents of a letter that was presented at the NYS Budget Hearing in New Rochelle.

The Board gave updates on all meetings that were attended since the last board meeting.

**ROUNDTABLE**

Each Board member reported on the events attended and future scheduled events. The Board requested an update from the Buildings and Grounds Department. Mrs. Capeci and David Glefarb were offered condolences for their losses.

There being no further business at 10:26 p.m., upon motion by Mrs. Capeci, seconded by Mrs. Brakewood and carried, the Board adjourned the meeting.

  
Jennifer M. Bisaccia, District Clerk