

Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District  
Board of Education – Regular Meeting  
March 1, 2016 – Port Chester High School

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Present: Robert Johnson, President; James Dreves, Vice President; and Trustees Anne Capeci, Carolee C. Brakewood, and Christopher Wolff, Trustee

Also Present: Dr. Edward A. Kliszus, Superintendent of Schools; Maura J. McAward, Assistant Superintendent for Business; Joseph Durney, Assistant Superintendent for Grants and Personnel, Cathy A. Maggi, District Clerk; Coleen Kotzur, District Treasurer

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### Call to Order

Mr. Johnson called a public meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### President's Opening Remarks

Mr. Johnson summarized the meeting agenda. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Wolff attended WPSBA Conference in Albany to lobby for fair funding allocations for our District. He was cautiously optimistic that we might get additional aid. Many residents received the property tax rebate check.

### Port Chester High School Report

Dr. Mitchell Combs, Principal of Port Chester High School gave his state of the school presentation. Board members and Dr. Kliszus congratulated Dr. Combs on the presentation and on the fine work going on at Port Chester High School.

### Report From Superintendent

Request for Action

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

The Superintendent recommends action on the following matters. Resolved that

1. A Maternity Leave of Absence be granted to Sandra Savel, Greenwich, Connecticut, as ESL Teacher at the High School, beginning approximately February 22, 2016 through June 30, 2016. Mrs. Savel 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.
2. Ornix Batista, Port Chester, New York be approved as a Long Term Substitute Teacher to replace Sandra Savel as ESL Teacher at the High School, beginning approximately February 22, 2016 through June 30, 2016 at an anticipated daily rate of \$150.
3. Jamie Florindi, Port Chester, New York be approved as a Long Term Substitute Teacher to replace Jeanine Maiolini as Physical Education Teacher at the John F. Kennedy School, beginning approximately February 29, 2016 through April 11, 2016 at an anticipated daily rate of \$125.
4. The resignation of Jeanine Maiolini as Varsity Softball Head Coach be accepted effective February 22, 2016.
5. The resignation of DeAnne Ostrowski as Varsity Assistant Softball Coach be accepted effective February 22, 2016.
6. The following individuals be appointed to positions for the 2015-2016 school year:

Kathy Federici	After School Pioneer League Supervision - District	\$42 per hour
Sharla Kaufman	After School Pioneer League Supervision - District	42 per hour
David Sheridan	After School Pioneer League Supervision - District	42 per hour
Christopher Wagner	After School Pioneer League Supervision - District	42 per hour
Tamarla Crumpler	Westchester Community College Transitions Program Math Representative – High School	42 per hour
Nelson Diaz	Westchester Community College Transitions Program ELA Representative – High School	42 per hour
Mary Durney	AIS/Prep for Success Teacher – Edison School	42 per hour
Clara Barreto	AIS/Prep for Success Teacher – John F. Kennedy School	42 per hour
Aaron Warren	AIS/Prep for Success Teacher – Middle School	42 per hour
Paul Santavicca	AIS/Prep for Success Teacher – Middle School	42 per hour
Brenda Burke	6-8 Grade ELA Module Adaption Team Leader – Middle School	42 per hour
Nicolle Burke	6-8 Grade ELA Module Adaption Team Leader – Middle School	42 per hour

Alison Hembury	6-8 Grade ELA Module Adaption Team Leader – Middle School	42 per hour
Lauren Martinez	6-8 Grade ELA Module Adaption Team Leader – Middle School	42 per hour
Linda O'Connor	6-8 Grade ELA Module Adaption Team Leader – Middle School	42 per hour
Jeannette Sanderson	6-8 Grade ELA Module Adaption Team Leader – Middle School	42 per hour
Roberto Velez	Substitute Breakfast Program Monitor – Middle School	23 per hour
Melissa Piccola	Substitute Breakfast Program Monitor – Middle School	23 per hour
DeAnne Ostrowski	Varsity Softball Head Coach	5,000
Eddie Martinez	Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach	2,473
Joseph Rinello	Varsity Assistant Softball Coach	2,473
Robert Thalheimer	Boys Baseball Assistant Coach	2,473
Joseph DeProssino	6 <sup>th</sup> Period – Special Education Teacher – High School – February 8 – June 10 – prorated	3,059
Robin Bivona-Rocco	Mentor – Edison School	1,000
Carrie Poulos	Mentor – Edison School	1,000

7. The following individuals be transferred on the Salary Schedule effective February 1, 2016:

Marcia Manzueta	Step 14-Level 10 (MA+60) \$116,226	Step 14-Level 11 (MA+90) \$123,487
Renee Marino	Step 8-Level 8 (MA+30) \$85,421	Step 8-Level 10 (MA+60) \$91,303
Erin Rumore	Step 9-Level 10 (MA+60) \$94,540	Step 9-Level 11 (MA+90) \$100,943
Carmen Vera-McStay	Step 13-Level 10 (MA+60) \$107,467	Step 13-Level 11 (MA+90) \$114,257

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Semester</u>
Marcia Manzueta	Content Area Literacy: Nonfiction Books in K-3 Classroom	3	Professional Development Institute	Winter '16

9. The following individuals be approved to serve as Substitute Teachers/Teacher Assistants/Tutors/Interns/Student Teachers/Volunteers on an as-needed basis for the 2015-2016 school year. They are either Fingerprint Cleared, "Grandfathered" in or on a twenty day emergency basis:

Joseph Rinello	Jeffrey Tascio	Matthew Paz	Lesia Kmetyk
Jenny Marchesani	Clara Salazar	Krystle Tawil	Leah Pisaniello
Jennifer Kleinjopf	Jonathan Rekedal		

10. The following individuals be approved as Teacher Aide, Breakfast Monitor, Lunch Monitor, Hall Monitor or Clerical Substitutes at a rate of \$10.50/hour effective March 2, 2016 – June 30, 2016 unless otherwise noted. Said appointees may also serve as long-term substitutes, if and when required, at Step 1 of the Teacher Aide or Typist CSEA pay scales. All have received NYS Fingerprint Clearance or are grandfathered.

Dawn Baxter at \$19.53/hour from February 29, 2016 – March 14, 2016  
Janet Bellantoni at \$19.53/hour from February 24, 2016 – March 18, 2016  
Iman Sabbahi

11. The following individual(s) be approved as Cleaner Substitute(s) at a rate of \$10.50/hour effective March 2, 2016 – June 30, 2016 unless otherwise noted. Said appointees may also serve as long-term substitutes, if and when required, at Step 1 of the Cleaner pay scales. All have received NYS Fingerprint Clearance or are grandfathered.

Carlos Gomez

12. Carson C. Womack, Port Chester, New York, be approved as a part-time/hourly Student Helper effective February 16, 2016 – June 30, 2016 at a rate of \$9.00/hour. Her assignment is the Business Office. If Ms. Womack is renewed for employment on July 1, 2016, the hourly rate will be increased to \$9.25.

13. Shaileen I. Bello, Port Chester, New York, be approved as a part-time/hourly Student Helper effective February 16, 2016 - June 30, 2016 at a rate of \$9.00/hour. Her assignment is the Business Office. If Ms. Bello is renewed for employment on July 1, 2016, the hourly rate will be increased to \$9.25.

14. The Budget Transfer in the amount of \$54,582.66, Schedule #9, dated February 25, 2016, be approved for the 2015-2016 school.

15. Warrants #24 and #25, including in-between checks, dated March 1, 2016, be approved:

General Fund

\$750,637.51

Federal Fund	17,073.77
Cafeteria Fund	149,646.65
Trust & Agency Fund	1,635,391.24

16. The following payrolls be approved:

General Fund – February 12, 2016	\$ 1,960,861.31
General Fund – February 22, 2016	86,916.50
General Fund – February 26, 2016	1,959,815.50
Federal Fund – February 12, 2016	87,945.13
Federal Fund – February 22, 2016	7,000.00
Federal Fund – February 26, 2016	87,270.51

**Public Comment**

Jim Carriere, 7 Cottage Street, discussed the board’s interactions with each other.

There being no further persons wishing to address the Board, Mr. Johnson closed the public comment period.

**2016-2017 Preliminary School Budget Presentation**

Dr. Klizus presented the preliminary school budget for the 2016-2017 school year. Dr. Klizus stated that an update would be provided on March 15, 2016 with the Line-by-Line Review on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Acceptance of Donation**

Upon motion by Mrs. Brakewood and seconded by Mrs. Capeci and carried, the \$2,500 donation by the Port Chester Middle School Band Association to purchase new band equipment was accepted unanimously.

**Action Items**

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

**A. WHEREAS**, MK LCP RYE LLC has challenged the tax assessments for the property known as the “Westchester Hilton” located at 699 Westchester Avenue for tax years 2011 through 2015 for taxing jurisdictions that include the Town of Rye, the Village of Rye Brook, and the Port Chester School District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Rye intends to hire a professional appraiser with hotel appraisal experience to perform appraisal services relating to the filing of these tax challenges made by the owners of the “Westchester Hilton” property; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Rye has requested that the Village of Rye Brook and the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District consider joining them by equally sharing the cost of hiring a professional appraiser to perform these services and protect the collective interests of all three (3) taxing agencies.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District hereby agrees to provide up to \$10,000 to equally share with the Town of Rye and the Village of Rye Brook the total cost for hiring an experienced professional appraiser for services relating to the tax assessment challenges of the “Westchester Hilton” property for tax years 2011 through 2015.

There was a discussion amongst the board members regarding tax certiorari and challenges of prior certioraris and pilot agreements.

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

**B. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District authorizes the Purchasing Agent to participate in the Cooperative Bid for Classroom and Office Furniture conducted by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (Nassau BOCES) as authorized by and in accordance with the Education Law and General Municipal Law, Section 119-o.

There were comments made that we have done cooperative bids in the past, primarily with S. W. BOCES and we are now expanding to Nassau BOCES. We can expect Eastern Suffolk BOCES can be expected at some point as well.

Upon motion by Mr. Dreves, seconded by Mr. Wolff and carried, the resolution was approved:

**C. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District approve the following changes to the base proportion calculations based on the 2015 Assessment Roll, set by the Town of Rye Assessor and reviewed and confirmed by the New York State Office of Real Property Services.

Homestead: 53.647278%  
Non- Homestead: 46.352722%

There was some discussion around these calculations having to do with whether or not property values went up or down. Homestead went down slightly with non-Homestead or commercial up slightly. Overall, assessments went up about 7% on both Homestead and non-Homestead properties.

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

**D. RESOLVED**, that the Annual School District Meeting and Election of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District, Port Chester, New York be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. in the Main Gymnasium of the Port Chester Middle School, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the vote on the Annual Budget shall take place at the same time and at the same place as the Annual School District Election, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Annual Hearing shall take place on May 3, 2016 during the meeting of the Board of Education, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that registration for the 2016 Annual School District Meeting and Election will be held on Monday, May 9, 2016 in the office of the District Clerk between the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that absentee ballots for the election of members of the Board of Education and the adoption of the Annual Budget will be provided in accordance with Section 2018.a of the Education Law, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District Clerk shall give notice, as prescribed by law, of the time and place of holding the Annual School District Meeting, Election and the vote on the Annual Budget.

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

**E. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District accept a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to obtain the model and curriculum license to Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) valued at \$75,000.

The application process was very competitive, and this was the first time it was offered in New York. The CEO/President and Vice President visited our District and we were awarded the grant. There was mention made to have Maria Flores to come back after she had been trained to give a report.

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

**F. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District establish a Bond Planning Committee made up of parents of school age children, parents of pre-school children, senior citizens, alumni and School District residents with no children to engage in a thoughtful examination of future enrollment trends, interior and exterior infrastructure needs, external deliberation regarding the historical and architectural integrity of the High School building, financing costs, and community expectations.

That, members of the school administration will, upon request, make themselves available to the Committee and/or provide any and all data, reports, analysis, opinions, and recommendations pertaining to matters under study by the Committee. With appropriate notification and approval, the Committee or a Sub-Committee may inspect, walk through, and/or review various parts of the physical plant, meet with school personnel and/or architectural professionals as needed. That, the Committee will report progress to the Board on a regular basis - issue written updates bi-weekly. The Committee shall be composed of a minimum of 15 to a maximum of 25 members. To insure diversity of opinion and viewpoint, each Board member may recommend 3 to 5 Committee members. That in their capacity as residents of the School District, Board members may attend any and all meetings of the Committee.

That the Report of the Committee shall be advisory.

Mrs. Capeci read a statement before Resolution F was read. After the resolution was read, there was a discussion among the board members regarding the above resolution. Mr. Dreves offered a new resolution. Further discussion took place regarding the above resolution and then a simpler resolution was read.

There was a motion to table resolution 9F made by Mr. Wolff, seconded by Mrs. Brakewood, this resolution was passed by a 4-1 vote. Mrs. Capeci dissented.

There was also a discussion about the Superintendent being able to meet with community members or not.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Mrs. Capeci, seconded by Mr. Wolff and carried, the items A-E of the consent agenda were approved:

- A. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District authorize the following budget transfer:

	To	Amount	From	Amount	Reason
1	A 2110 482 10 0000	\$23,350.00	A 9060 860 10 0000	\$25,354.36	Science Kit
2	A 1060 492 10 0601	\$10,508.00	A 2330 502 10 0000	\$19,003.64	Suffolk BOCES
3	A 1910 445 10 0000	\$10,500.00			Cyber Liability

- B. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District approve attendance at the following conferences as noted below:

	Name	Conference	Date	Amount	Funded
1	Maria Flores	Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)	4/10/16 – 4/15/16	\$2,722.00 + applicable tips and taxes	Grant Fund
2	Olvin Caba	2016 IB Diploma Program Teacher Training	3/2/16 - 3/5/16	\$2,044.70 + applicable tips and taxes	General Fund
3	Patrick Swift	Statewide Network of Middle-Level Liaisons	3/17/16-3/18/16	\$646.56 + applicable tips and taxes	General Fund

- C. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District approve the agreement between the School District and the County of Westchester for the use of electronic voting machines, including other equipment and services which may be required, for the May 17, 2016 Annual Meeting, and, if necessary, the budget revote to be held on June 21, 2016; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board President is authorized to execute such agreement, a copy of which is incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

- D. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District, at its discretion and in the best interest of the District, elects to forgo the written quote and bid requirements for the following professional service procurements in keeping with Policy 6700R – Purchasing Regulation.

	Name	Program	Rate	Funded
1	Asbestos Corporation of America	Emergency Asbestos Abatement	\$28,650	General Fund

- E. RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District authorize the District Treasurer to complete budgetary transfers and pay bill schedules and payrolls for all funds. Said transactions will be approved by the Board of Education at the first available Board meeting.

**Board of Education Roundtable / Discussion**

Mrs. Brakewood mentioned the Valentine’s Day Cabaret at the High School and how fabulous it was, as well as the District Concerts. She also talked about the Middle School Band and Chorus performing at the Bridgeport Sound Tigers Hockey Game on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be going to Spain this coming week and then the students from Spain will come here in May as part of an exchange program.

Mr. Wolff mentioned college referrals for seniors and other students from coaches, band directors and guidance and encouraging everyone to make an easier pathway. He would like the students to feel comfortable asking for these recommendations.

Mrs. Capeci went to the Wrestling Dinner along with Mr. Dreves, Mr. Wolff and Mr. Johnson. She also attended the Budget Forum with Senator Latimer and Assemblyman Otis. She told them that she agreed with everything was already said by the Superintendent and the Board President. She was at the Rotary Meeting where Mr. Steers spoke about the development in the village and what is going on.

Mr. Dreves attended the Wrestling Dinner and commented on the great program with Mr. Josephson and his son.

Along with Mr. Wolff Mr. Johnson attended the Budget Forum and the Legislative Forum for Westchester Putnam School Boards. He and Mr. Wolff went up to Albany just the other day. They all know who we are so we have made an impact on our region. One other item is that the legislative liaison wants our teachers, the translation ambassadors, who have written the modules that went up to the State that there be an On Board article on this work.

Dr. Klizus mentioned the on line petition he is collecting for more aid from the state.

The next board meeting is March 15, 2016 to be held at the Middle School.

There being no further business at 10:13 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Dreves, seconded by Mrs. Capeci and carried, the Board adjourned the meeting.