

Rockaway Borough Board of Education
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
POST REFERENDUM RESIDENT FEEDBACK MEETING

Thomas Jefferson Gymnasium
95 East Main Street, Rockaway, NJ 07866

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

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ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOLS' MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Rockaway Borough School District, a caring and diverse community, is to propel the success of each student by creating an environment that fosters self-confidence and encourages creativity through quality instruction and educational opportunities aligned with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Mrs. Christa Smith, Board President, by reading the following announcement to those present:

"In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, The Rockaway Borough Board of Education has provided adequate notice of this meeting to the public by having the time, date and place thereof advertised in the Daily Record newspaper, posted our district website and other public places."

"The sole purpose of this meeting to conduct a "Post Referendum Resident Feedback Meeting", in which residents can voice their opinions and ask questions concerning the October 2, 2018 Referendum Vote, which was defeated. No Formal Action will be taken."

2. Roll Call

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Four (4): Mrs. Sarah Concannon, Mr. Jeff Tobias, Mrs. Linda McGovern, and Mrs. Christa Smith, Board President.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: One (1): Mrs. Colleen Grow

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Mrs. Phyllis Alpaugh, Superintendent of Schools,
Mr. William Stepka, SBA/Secretary of the Board,

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Greg Somjen, Architect, Mr. Josh Thompson, Architect and
Ms. Carly Brady, representing Laura Bishop Communications, LLC

PUBLIC PRESENT: 45 Members of the public and 1 member of the press

The Pledge of Allegiance was then held . . .

3. Opening Statement

Mr. Stepka provided a brief overview of the 3 questions proposed to the public, and the outcome of the vote.

4. Architect's Presentation: Mr. Greg Somjen, Principal Partner

The Board's Architect of Record, Parett Somjen Architects of Rockaway, NJ, provided a brief video of the current state of items which need to be addressed in the district's two school buildings and laid out some options for the Board to consider.

5. Residents’ Feedback, Comments & Questions

The Board’s then opened the floor for comments and questions from the public. The following residents shared various comments, questions, and concerns:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Chris Zusi, Baker Street	Cost of ESIP Projects
Jim Hurley, Hillside Ave.	A/C cost in each project, enrollment projection, past plans
Joyce Flanningan, East Flag St.	Fire escape, toilets, Board issues, 5 year plan
Mr. Gebbia, Andrea Drive	20 year costs, other items, supporter of initial ref q1.
Sheila Zeman, Halsey St.	Too much information misunderstood
Jim Hurley, Hillside Ave.	Ad Hoc Committee
Al Morena, Andrea Drive	Communications, do a mass mailing
Ms. Hake, Lafayette Ave	\$ too much, gym extravagant, Q2 & 3 unnecessary, led lite
Mr. Piombino	stop kicking can down road
Mrs. Piombino	Mayor should show interest
Mrs. Dorey, Liberty Place	Mayor & council should support
Ed Graft	Supports question 2
Jen Callie, Hillside Ave	Supports question 2
Susan Gardello	where did additional state aid \$ go
Mark McKenny	What’s the next ref timeline
Mr. Piombino	State aid (40%) is it still available

Mr. Tobias agreed to chair a committee named the “Referendum Ad-hoc Advisory Committee” and solicited names from the audience who wanted to participate. He will schedule their first meeting with them sometime in December.

6. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting: 8:58 PM

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Moved By: Mrs. Concannon Seconded By: Mr. Tobias Voice Vote: All Ayes

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. William Stepka, RSBA
Secretary of the Board of Education/
School District Business Administrator