

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**January 26, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Katy Keohane-Glassberg at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday January 26, 2016.

**Present:**

Ms. Katy Keohane-Glassberg, President  
 Mr. Christopher Repetto, Vice President  
 Ms. Karen Belanger  
 Ms. Nancy Pasquale  
 Ms. Nicole Weber  
 Ms. Kelly Smith Powers

And

Dr. Frank Alvarez, Superintendent of Schools  
 Dr. Betty Ann Wyks, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
 Ms. Gabriella O'Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
 Ms. Elaine Cuglietto, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
 Ms. Emily Lucas, Legal Counsel  
 Mr. Joseph Madsen, Legal Counsel  
 Mr. Sam carder, Director of Facilities

**Excused:**

Mr. Blake Jines-Storey

On a motion by Ms. Belanger, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 7:08 p.m. to move immediately into executive session to review the employment history of current and prospective employees, discuss negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and review current litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Weber, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (6 -0) it was voted at 7:50 p.m. to reconvene in public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board of Education President Katy Keohane Glassberg welcomed members of the public.

Board of Education President Katy Keohane Glassberg welcomed members of the public and announced that tonight the Board and Administration would award students with Rye Recognition of Excellence Awards. These are often a highlight of our meetings, and she is pleased that there are so many students to be honored.

## **Special Acknowledgements - Rye Recognition of Excellence Awards**

Superintendent of Schools Frank Alvarez stated that in 2012 we introduced our student recognition program, the Rye Recognition of Excellence Awards. Tonight's award recipients are 88 Rye High School student/athletes - and one Middle School student/athlete - who earned outstanding athletic accomplishments in the Fall of this school year.

Before presenting awards, Dr. Alvarez announced that all of last years' athletic teams earned the Scholar/Athlete team designation awarded by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. To win this honor, each team must have a number of students whose combined grade point average is 90 or higher. In the case of Rye High School, every fall, winter and spring interscholastic team for the 2014-15 school year qualified. As a result, Rye High School was named a School of Distinction. The school received a beautiful trophy which currently resides in Mrs. Taylor's office. Rye was the only school in Section One to earn the School of Distinction recognition last year. The winning streak continues this school year, with all of our fall interscholastic teams being named Scholar Athlete Teams.

The Girls Swimming and Diving Team had a successful season, and one of our divers competed at the State Tournament held in Ithaca on November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> under the coaching of Melanie Dilascio.

Tonight we are honoring Katie Laverty (Grade 8) who participated in the New York State Public High School Championship meet, which consisted of a total of 46 divers who had to perform 11 different dives. Katie, who finished in 13<sup>th</sup> place, was one of only two eighth graders at the competition. Congratulations to Katie and Coach Dilascio.

We are also recognizing the 2015 RHS Varsity Field Hockey team which ended their season as Section One Tournament Finalists. Among the individual awards, the team received 7 All League, 3 All Section, 3 All State, and 4 All Elite Awards. Congratulations to Coach Emily Townsend Prince on her first season with the Garnets. Congratulations also to Fusine Govaert, a junior on the team, who was named an All American Athlete this year. Congratulations also to Senior Ellie O'Callaghan, who was just named January's Athlete of the Month by the Rye Lions Club.

Finally, tonight we are honoring our 2015 RHS Garnets Varsity Football team, who also were Section One Tournament Finalists. The team has 10 all-league players, 4 All Conference, and 4 Section One honorees. Two members of the team, Patrick Hull and Chase Pratt, have been named to the prestigious Westchester County "Golden Dozen." Congratulations to the entire team and their coaches. Here tonight are Dino Garr, Simon Berk, Jim Rinaldi and Luke Walsh.

Dr. Alvarez stated to our Rye Recognition of Excellence Award recipients: Your hard work and the effort you put forward last fall continues to reap rewards. You serve as excellent role models for our younger students, and you make us all proud. The following students were all invited to the podium:

I hope everyone will join me in applauding our honorees as I call them up to the podium to receive certificates of acknowledgment.

Dive Team:

Katie Lavert

Varsity Field Hockey:

Abigail Abate

Elena Agosta

Evangelia Alexopoulos

Caroline Baldwin

Christina Cardino

Maggie Devlin

Fusine Govaert

Kathryn Holzer

Ali Howard

Madeline Johnson

Katherine Langer

Mallory Lynch

Laura Martinelli

Alexandra Meyer

Ellie O'Callaghan

Kelly Ott

Anna Rogaar

Lotje Rogaar

Emma Stearns

Avery Stern

Sophie Sundaram

Taylor Volpe

Amber Zion

Football Team:

Andy Bach

Griffin Basso

Chase Bekkerus

Jonathan Berte

Joe Biga

Jack Breitenbach

Mat Bruno

Billy Chabot

Jamie Chabot

Peter Chabot

Jamie Clark  
Dylan Concavage  
Shane Concavage  
Michael Davitt  
Aarsh Desai  
Paul Devlin  
Andrew Ebratt  
Brendan Egan  
Brett Egan  
Dylan Fisher  
Brendan Fox  
Ian George  
Miles Giordano  
Will Gladstone  
Alex Goldstein  
Jack Goldstein  
Dom Guarnieri  
Sean Hale  
Tim Hale  
Owen Hull  
Patrick Hull  
Will Hynson  
Jack Iuliano  
James Jardine  
Cameron Kamer  
Giorgi Kapanadze  
Gavin Kenny  
Mac Killian  
Chris Kovacs  
Aidan Lavelle  
TJ Lavelle  
Santi Mascolo  
Finn McSweeney  
Jack McSweeney  
Joe Melfi  
Grant Meyerson  
Jesse Minor  
Dusty Mion  
Alec Miranda  
Stewart Moore  
Lachlan Nelson  
Bert Oberlander  
Robert Pecora  
Chris Petersen  
Jackson Pollard  
Chase Pratt

James Pugliatti  
Tyler Reno  
Jahill Ricketts  
Will Steel  
Will Tepedino  
Andrew Thompson  
Drake Turcotte  
Dominic Vitiello  
Tyler Webb  
Michael Weinstein

### **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Superintendent Dr. Frank Alvarez announced that the District had heard from many parents asking for the RCSD calendar for next year – particularly for the Regents Exams without which we cannot establish the final day of the school year. The District is waiting for the State Department of Education to give us the testing dates for next year.

Dr. Alvarez reported that the District has advertised for a new Director of Physical Education, Health, and Athletics and has 49 applicants. The District is currently engaged in paper screening the candidates. Interviews will begin in mid-February and the Administration will have a recommendation to the Board in late March or early April.

The Administration will have a presentation of the Superintendent's Recommended Budget ready for the meeting on February 9th, which is earlier than in years past.

Rye High School was featured in a recent piece on ABC's "Nightline" program about the changing college admission applications. The show profiled two students: senior Chris Karpovich and junior Sorcha McCrohan. He noted some nice things were said about Rye High School and Principal Pat Taylor appeared with some solid advice about college admissions; he wished she could have been on longer. He provided the website address to view the program: <http://abc.go.com/shows/nightline/listing/2016-01/21-012116-college-admission-standards-changing-to-emphasize-community-service>.

Dr. Alvarez noted that the District was spared by Winter Storm Jonas taking place over the weekend, and thanked the buildings and grounds crew and custodians for getting the buildings and their environs ready for school on the Monday after the storm.

## **PRESENTATION I**

### **5.01 Early Decision College Acceptances** (Attachment # I)

Rye High School Principal Patricia Taylor and Director of Guidance James O'Hara presented a report entitled "The Early Picture" regarding our Rye High School Class of 2016 college acceptances. They shared a number of relevant statistics and facts specifically mentioning that over 1800 college applications to 318 different colleges have been processed to date for the 227 seniors at Rye High School. (Attachment # I)

Mrs. Taylor described how the college application process has gotten more competitive over the years. She described how the Common Application is making it easier for students to apply to a larger number of applications, which causes acceptance rates to go down. She stated that RHS does not dissuade students from applying from any school based on other students' choices. She also described how a report "Making Caring Common," which recently came out of Harvard Business School, and which has gained acceptance by a number of colleges and universities, may result in a new emphasis on service and on life-enrichment while maintaining academic rigor.

Jim O'Hara reported that 78% of the class of 2016 had applied either Early Decision or Early Action, meaning their college applications had to be in by mid-November. He described this class as "prepared." 41% applied Early Decision, which is a binding commitment, and 68% applied for Early Action, which is non-binding. 79 students applied for Early Decision I, and 52% were accepted. He noted the acceptance figure is up a little from last year and provided some examples of the more competitive schools accepting students thus far, noting that there will be many more coming in the next few weeks.

### **5.02 Special Education New Middle School Program - Chung/Edwards** (Attachment #II)

Rye Middle School Principal Ann Edwards, Director of Special Education Julia Chung and Special Education Teacher Lisa-Marie DiRusso came before the Board to present on the new Student Transitional Educational Program (STEP). Dr. Edwards said the program has been discussed internally for a long time.

Julia Chung thanked the Board to look at the opportunity to look at the program and to offer it. The conversation began based on looking at the numbers. Currently we have 15% of students are placed outside the District in a different school or in a different program. 80% of that 15% are of secondary age. This tells us there is a gap in the continuum of our special education programs. The elementary schools have a secondary level of support and programs, but the Middle School does not. There is a population of students whose disabilities range from multiple disabilities to students who need a therapeutic support program. Dr. Edwards and she looked at the population to see if they could be served, and if there were students in the elementary schools who could benefit.

Ms. Chung said the goal is to provide functional academics and life skills in the students as they transition into adulthood. They envision three phases, middle school students getting the academics, in the second phase the students are learning to navigate the world and going out into the community, and the third phase, in the 19-21 age range would be learning how to go out and get an internship or a job with supervision, so that when they are leaving us at 21 they can be independent. They are looking to begin the pilot program during the second semester.

### **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no communications from the public.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Ms. Nancy Pasquale seconded by Ms. Belanger, and carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

#### **GENERAL**

##### **Consent Agenda General 7.01**

###### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board adopts all policies presented as recommended.

The policies listed below have been provided to the Board for Information at the December 15, 2015 Board Meeting and presented for Discussion at the January 12, 2016 Board Meeting. They are ready for Board adoption, effective immediately. (Attachment #III)

- 5150 Student Admissions
- 5152.1 Admission of International Exchange Students
- 5300.50 Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- 5330 Student Searches and Interrogations

#### **FISCAL**

##### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.01**

###### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$20,340. anonymous gift to refurbish the basketball courts located on the north playground at Midland School.

##### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.02**

###### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$10,000 gift from the Burke Family for two scholarships to be awarded.

##### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.03**

###### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$3,974.08 gift from the Midland School PTO to purchase Chromebooks.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.04****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$7,964.80 gift from the Osborn School PTO to purchase a SMART TV, warranty and installation.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.05****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$3,000.00 gift from Rye Country Day School for Heard in Rye.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.06****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Contract for Health Services with the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District for \$4,137.80 for the 2015/16 school year. (Attachment #IV)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.07****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Contract for Health Services with the Irvington Union Free School District for \$1,324.22 for the 2015/16 school year. (Attachment #V)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.08****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the REVISED contract with New Directions for Excellence for consultation services for summer literacy workshops, K-8 English Language Arts training and curriculum development and school based work to support the same, not to exceed the revised sum of \$97,500. (Attachment #VI)

**PROFESSIONAL****Consent Agenda Professional 9.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the request by Bruna Mascia for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as a Science Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective November 20, 2015 – June 30, 2016.

**Consent Agenda Professional 9.02****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Two and One-Half Year Probationary Appointment of Lisa-Marie DiRusso as a Special Education Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification Students With Disabilities 7-12 – Generalist and New York State Initial Certification Students With Disabilities – Grades 1-6, assigned to Rye Middle School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 2 of the 2015-2016 Teacher Salary Schedule \$64,734\* (pro rated amount of \$32,367\*), effective February 1, 2016 – August 31, 2018 (unless extended in accordance with the law) (a) (c).



(Lisa-Marie DiRusso was previously approved as a Leave Replacement Teacher, effective, September 1, 2014 – February 1, 2015, February 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015, September 1, 2015 – January 31, 2016.)

(a) This individual must receive three (3) annual APPR composite ratings of Effective or Highly Effective, in at least three (3) of the preceding four (4) years and cannot have an APPR Composite rating of Ineffective in the last year of his or her probationary appointment to be granted or considered for tenure.

(c) The Education Transformation Act amended Section 3012 of the Education Law classroom teachers appointed on or after July 1, 2015 who have earned Jarema credit may be eligible for a reduced probationary term provided the teacher was subject to the district's APPR Plan.

### **Consent Agenda Professional 9.03**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of Katerina Dillulio as an ELL Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in English To Speakers Of Other Languages, assigned to Milton School and Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2015-2016 Teacher Salary Schedule \$62,486\* (pro rated amount of \$32,243\*), effective February 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016.

(Katerina Dillulio will be replacing Marisa Galvin who was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence, at the November 24, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.)

\*salary pending contract settlement

### **Consent Agenda Professional 9.04**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Lauren Cope as a .9 FTE Teaching Assistant for Special Education, assigned to Milton School, Step 1 of the 2015-2016 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, \$25.62\* per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days a week, effective February 4, 2016 – June 24, 2016.

(Lauren Cope will be replacing Ashley Bruno whose resignation was previously approved effective at the close of business January 29, 2016.)

\*salary pending contract settlement

**Recommendation:** That the Board approves the Appointment of Courtney Miloslau as a .9 FTE Teaching Assistant for Special Education, assigned to Osborn School, Step 1 of the 2015-2016 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, \$25.62\* per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days a week, effective January 26, 2016 – June 24, 2016.

\*salary pending contract settlement

**Recommendation:** That the Board approves the Appointment of Mary McCarthy as a .9 FTE Teaching Assistant for Special Education, assigned to Midland School, Step 1 of

the 2015-2016 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, \$25.62\* per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days a week, effective January 22, 2016 – June 24, 2016.

\*salary pending contract settlement

### **Consent Agenda Professional 9.05**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of Sarah Heckman as a .9 FTE Teaching Assistant for Special Education, assigned to Milton School, Step 1 of the 2015-2016 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, \$25.62\* per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days a week, effective January 6, 2016 – April 12, 2016.

\*salary pending contract settlement

### **Consent Agenda Professional 9.06**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following for 6th Assignment or Additional Pay Beyond Annual Salary:

These additional assignments have been recommended in accordance with the current collective bargaining agreement. They include the Middle School Elective Program, science labs above the 25 limit, and additional class assignments.

Name	Assignment	Frequency	% of BaseSalary	Contract Rate
Tim Tolve (eff. 2/1/16)	Adaptive Physical Education	½ year/spring	5%	\$ 6,212.

### **Consent Agenda Professional 9.07**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following Appointments for Extra Pay for Extra Work, for the 2015-2016 school year:

2015/2016

EPEW

	ACTIVITY	INDEX	STEP	RATE	
Middle School (Fall)					
Volleyball (Girls)	7/8 Modified Coach Lozado, Gail	0.06500	6	4,890.	
ATHLETICS -WINTER					
BASKETBALL (Girls)	Varsity	Hurlie, Dennis	0.11500	6	8,652.

**Consent Agenda Professional 9.08****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves Erin Trapasso, who applied for and has been selected, to mentor the new Osborn School 1st grade elementary teacher, in accordance with the District Mentorship Plan. A pro-rated stipend of \$750 for the remainder of the school year will be provided through the Curriculum Budget.

**Recommendation:** That the Board approves Stacy Coyne, who applied for and has been selected, to mentor the new Milton School/Osborn School ELL teacher, in accordance with the District Mentorship Plan. A pro-rated stipend of \$750 for the remainder of the school year will be provided through the Curriculum Budget.

**Consent Agenda Professional 9.09****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the appointment of Beth Naber, Danielle DeCristoforo and Alexa DeVito at the Curriculum rate of \$40.00 per hour for a total of 50 hours of Geometry/Trigonometry curriculum development work, not to exceed the aggregate total of \$2,000, effective January 26, 2016 - June 30, 2016.

**Consent Agenda Professional 9.10****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of James Fatigate as a Driving and Traffic Safety Education Instructor at \$39.39 per hour, 40 hours per session, not to exceed 2 sessions for the spring of the 2015-2016 school year. This rate includes preparation time and is dependent upon enrollment.

**Consent Agenda Professional 9.11****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following Per Diem Substitute Teachers to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2015-2016 school year at the approved per diem rates:

Per Diem Rate as follows:

Per Diem Substitute Teacher - \$102.00

Jeanine O'Reilly-Sestito

Alice Capozzi

Roberta Billington

**Consent Agenda Professional 9.12****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following Per Diem Substitute Teaching Assistants to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2015-2016 school year at the approved per diem rates:

Per Diem Rate as follows:

Per Diem Substitute Teaching Assistant for Special Education - \$102.00

Per Diem Substitute Teaching Assistant - \$102.00

Alice Capozzi

Roberta Billington

**CLASSIFIED****Consent Agenda Classified 10.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the approves the Appointment of the following School Monitor/Traffic Control for 2015-2016 School Year:

NAME	Pay Per Hour	Position	Effective Date
Valerie Quinn	\$30.00/hr.	School Monitor/Traffic Control	1/19/16

**Consent Agenda Classified 10.02****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Additional Work of Kimberlee Potter as a School Nurse, for Before and After School Activities on the Elementary Level, not to exceed 6 hours per week, effective January 4, 2016.

**Consent Agenda Classified 10.03****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following to work as timers, supervisors, ticket takers, chain crew, announcer, etc. at Rye City School District Events on an as needed basis throughout the 2015-2016 school year:

Roberta Billington  
Wendy Dolce

**Consent Agenda Classified 10.04****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Substitute Teacher Aides to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2015-2016 school year at the approved rates:

Rates as follows:

Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aide for Special Education - \$102.00

Substitute Teacher Aide \$13.95 per hour

Alice Capozzi  
Roberta Billington

**Consent Agenda Special Education 11.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendations as attached. (Attachment #VII)

Board President Ms. Glassberg noted that the consent agenda passed the adoption of a number of revised policies, including student admissions, admissions of international exchange students, discipline of students with disabilities and student searches and interrogations.

The consent agenda included substantial amount of gifting. The Board approved a \$20,340 anonymous gift to refurbish the basketball courts located on the north playground at Midland School; a \$10,000 gift from the Burke family for two scholarships to be awarded, a gift of \$3,974.08 from the Midland PTO to purchase Chromebooks; a gift of \$7,694.80 from the Osborn School PTO to purchase a SMART TV, warranty and installation. The Board also accepted with gratitude \$3,000 from Rye Country Day School to support the Heard in Rye program which is a speakers bureau.

Ms. Glassberg thanked everyone for their never ending generosity to the schools and students of the Rye City School District.

## **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION II**

### Continuance of Discussion on Class Sizes

Ms. Glassberg noted that since the first conversation on class size, we have received some emails and some letters. She had a chance to meet with the PTO presidents. Some common themes and questions have come up. She said she would like to take a minute to discuss why we are having this conversation now – because this is a question that has come up. Partly it is to fulfill the fiduciary responsibility of the Board. It is part of the Board's obligation in oversight and governance to look at what the District is doing, and as we prepare for budget season, we are looking at how the school district will operate. Class size came up this year because we heard comments and questions from parents in the middle school about class sizes in the 8th grade. Additionally, this year's BEDs numbers – the official report to the state on enrollment – showed that we have several sections at the elementary school are running below our guidelines, so that raises questions about our guidelines. It is the Board's obligation to promulgate policy. Certainly we would be having this discussion if we had as many sections above our guidelines, but it's important to have it if we are below guidelines because that is just not fiscally sustainable.

Together with extensive dialog from the members of the Board of Education, the following audience members addressed the Board of Education related to the topic of Class Size Guidelines: Laura Becton (Parent), Chrissy Rupp (Parent), Monica Brenner (Parent), Mary Partington (Rye City School District Teacher), Heather Milboer (Rye City School District Teacher), Michelle Ring (Rye City School District Teacher) Jane Anderson (Parent) and Beth Sydell (Parent).

## **COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD**

Ms. Weber asked the Board and administration to take a look at the class size numbers from a safety concern standpoint and the number of students that will remain safe in the event of an intruder or emergency in the building. The safety concern must be a major part of the discussion.

Nancy Pasquale stated that the Facilities Committee had its meeting the prior week. During the meeting a conference call was conducted regarding the potential and feasibility for solar power in our schools. The issue of the building condition survey was also reviewed. A piece of the document has been sent to the Board. The remainder of the document will be shared with the Committee and the Board shortly.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:50 p.m. to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session II. Ms. Glassberg stated that the Board did not intend on coming back to Public Session.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Weber and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 12:05 a.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Elaine Cuglietto  
District Clerk

Video of this meeting can be found on the District's website ([www.ryeschools.org](http://www.ryeschools.org)). Click on District and on Board of Education.