

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
March 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Laura Slack at 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday March 10, 2015.

Present:

Ms. Laura Slack, President
 Ms. Katy Keohane Glassberg, Vice President
 Ms. Karen Belanger
 Ms. Nancy Pasquale
 Mr. Christopher Repetto
 Ms. Nicole Weber
 Mr. Blake Jines-Storey
 And
 Dr. Frank Alvarez, Superintendent of Schools
 Dr. Betty Ann Wyks, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
 Ms. Gabriella O'Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Business
 Ms. Elaine Cuglietto, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 Ms. Emily Lucas, Legal Counsel

Excused:

On a motion by Mr. Jines-Storey, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7 -0) it was voted at 7:00 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. Jines-Storey, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7 -0) it was voted at 8:05 p.m. to reconvene in public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Alvarez stated that the School District experienced yet another bomb threat on Monday, March 9 and that it has happened one too many times. He emphasized that the District is taking these threats seriously and continues to work with the Rye Police Department and the Westchester County Police, who are in turn working with the FBI and the Assistant District Attorney Office's High Tech Crime Division. He feels that now students are becoming angry, which is positive because they will start to talk. He stated that if parents or students know anything about the threats, they must let us know as this is a criminal act. They should reach

out to the Rye Police Department who are leading the investigation. He stated that a group of parents have brought forward reward money on an anonymous basis for information regarding the threats. Mrs. Edwards has spoken to her students and Mrs. Taylor will be meeting with her students tomorrow regarding the repercussions of being caught and about the expense associated with these threats that will be passed along to their parents.

He then went on to report that the date of Monday, April 6, 2015 has been taken back as a school day. It had been part of the spring recess. Because the District has had 4 snow days, we have exceeded our allotment of snow days for this school year.

Dr. Alvarez reported that the Rye Middle School Science Olympiad was very successful and the team is headed to States. The team earned 16 medals in 22 events, and earned 4th place out of 29 schools. Mrs. Divi and Mr. Curella also received awards for being outstanding coaches.

The musical "Anything Goes" was put on this past weekend. Over 80 students were involved as both cast and crew. The auditorium was almost totally full for all shows.

The High School a cappella group, Rhythm on Rye, which performed at the last Board of Education meeting, placed third in the Atlantic Division of the A Cappella Semi-Finals.

All of our winter teams received Scholar Athlete awards from the New York State Public Athletic Association (NYSPAA). This means that each of the athletes on the team must have an average of at least 90%. The teams are boy's basketball, girl's basketball, ice hockey, boys swimming/diving, boy's indoor track, girl's indoor track, and wrestling.

The District's literacy consultant, Shelley Klein, will be making an at home reading presentation to parents called "Talking About Texts" on March 26th from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Osborn School. The presentation is for parents of children in grades 3-5.

In two weeks, the Board of Education will be holding an Open Forum on March 24, 2015. During this meeting, members of the Board of Education will sit down at tables with members of the audience, and then will bring what they heard back to the Board and report on it. This is a good meeting for parents or members of the community to attend if they wish to make their voice heard but prefer not to speak at the podium. Senator George Latimer will be coming to the Board of Education meeting on April 14th to report on what is happening in Albany.

Ms. Slack announced that the following items are removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion:

Consent Agenda General 6.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Rye High School Rugby Club teams. The recommendation is made with the understanding that Rugby boosters will raise the funds necessary to cover all costs; the District's physician and/or athletic trainer must be at all games and practices; all Rugby coaches must adhere to the District's personnel hiring protocol, which includes fingerprinting and background checks prior to working with students; and scholarships are to be available to students who require financial assistance.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$6,000 gift from the Rye Rugby Booster Club as an initial payment for the funding of the Rye High School Boys Rugby Club teams.

Consent Agenda Professional 8.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following Appointment for Extra Pay for Extra Work, for the 2014-2015 school year:

EPEW				14/15	14/15
	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>INDEX</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>RATE</u>
Athletic-SPRING					
RUGBY	Varsity Coach	Vivolo, Lara	0.08000	2	4,952
RUGBY	Asst. to Var. Prog.	O'Hara, James	0.05500	1	3,242
RUGBY	Asst. to Var. Prog.	Rinaldi, James	0.05500	1	3,242
RUGBY	Coach	Walsh, Timothy		Volunteer	

Ms. Slack announced that the following item on the Consent Agenda is amended:

Consent Agenda Special Education 10.01**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Committee of Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendations as attached.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Weber and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the following agenda items:

GENERAL**Consent Agenda General 6.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the February 24, 2015 Board of Education Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 6.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the March 6, 2015 Board of Education Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 6.03**Recommended Action:**

That the Board adopts the Resolution as attached.

Resolution to establish May 19, 2015 for Budget Vote and Election Procedures. (Attachment #I)

Consent Agenda General 6.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board adopts the Resolution as attached.

Adoption of Resolution for Establishment of Board of Registration for the 2014-2015 School Year. (Attachment #II)

Consent Agenda General 6.06**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Resolution Regarding Governor Cuomo's 2015 Education Budget Proposals, stated below. (Attachment #III)

FISCAL**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Health Services Agreement with the Bedford Central School District for \$1,008.89 for the 2014/15 school year. (Attachment #IV)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board of Education approves the award of sale of musical instruments to the highest bidder. (Attachment #V)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the contracts with the individuals noted below for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. (Attachment #VI)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.05**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$3,000 gift from the Osborn School PTO to fund the installation of two water coolers with bottle fillers and the increase to the General Fund budget accordingly.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.06**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the gift(s) for the Project Lead the Way Program from Samantha Carter and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Carter.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.07**Recommended Action:**

That the Board accepts the monthly financial reports for November 2014. (Attachment #VII)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.08**Recommended Action:**

That the Board accepts the monthly financial reports for December 2014. (Attachment #VIII)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.09**Recommended Action:**

That the Board accepts the monthly financial reports for January 2015. (Attachment #IX)

PROFESSIONAL

Consent Agenda Professional 8.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Suzanne Short from her position as an English Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective at the close of business June 30, 2015. (Suzanne Short was previously approved for a Personal Leave of Absence as an English Teacher to accept a Three Year Probationary Appointment as Assistant Principal at Rye High School, effective July 1, 2014.)

Consent Agenda Professional 8.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the request by Brittany Rothstein for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an English Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective September 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016.

(Brittany Rothstein was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence, effective September 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 at the March 25, 2014 Board of Education Meeting.)

Consent Agenda Professional 8.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of Emily Kehoe as a Physical Education Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Physical Education, assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2014-2015 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$62,486 (pro rated amount of \$24,681.97), effective March 3, 2015 – June 30, 2015. (Emily Kehoe will be replacing Emily Murphy who is on a Medical Leave.)

Consent Agenda Professional 8.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves Alexandra Soberon, Jose Maria Dominquez, Laura Glicksman, Maria Gabriela Murphy and Fatima Oliviera at the curriculum rate of \$40.00 per hour for 10 hours each of curriculum revisions on Spanish 2, not to exceed 50 hours total or the aggregate total of \$2,000.00.

Consent Agenda Professional 8.06

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following Per Diem Substitute Teachers and Teaching Assistants to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2014-2015 school year at the approved per diem rates:
Per Diem Rate as follows:

Per Diem Substitute Teacher - \$102.00

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

Per Diem Substitute Teaching Assistant - \$102.00

Deanna Andolina

Adam Ballard

Michelle Furgiuele

Consent Agenda Professional 8.07**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following resolution:
 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education for the Rye City School District hereby approves a Settlement Agreement between the Board and Employee #6647, a copy of which has been previously reviewed by the members of the Board of Education; and
 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board

CLASSIFIED**Consent Agenda Classified 9.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Probationary Appointment of Stephen Sullivan as a Teacher Aide, for lunch time duty, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Midland School, at \$13.95* per hour, Step 1 of the 2014-2015 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 2.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective March 2, 2015.

*Salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda Classified 9.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Additional Work of Patricia Gutierrez as a Teacher Aide for Special Education, assigned to Midland School at Step 1 of the 2014-2015 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule \$18.45* per hour, for various after school activities as needed, effective March 13, 2015 - June 26, 2015.

*Salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda Classified 9.03**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 2014-2015 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

Deanna Andolina

Adam Ballard

Michelle Furgiuele

Consent Agenda Classified 9.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Substitute Cleaner to be used on an as needed basis:

Step 1 of Custodial Unit Contract for cleaner

January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015

\$20.45 per hour for days and \$21.47 per hour for nights

Nicolas Colantonio

Consent Agenda Special Education 10.01 AS AMENDED

Recommended Action:

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

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics Mr. Robert Castagna addressed the Board regarding the specifics of the formation and financial arrangements of this new club team.

Ms. Slack stated that this is a Rugby Club that will be fully funded by the parents of the rugby players as a gift to the district.

After discussion and clarification, on a motion by Ms. Keohane-Glassberg seconded by Mr. Repetto and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the following agenda items as amended:

Consent Agenda General 6.05

Recommended Action as amended:

That the Board approves the Rye High School Rugby Club teams. The recommendation is made with the understanding that Rugby boosters will raise the funds necessary to cover all costs; the District's physician and/or athletic trainer must be at all games and practices; all Rugby coaches must adhere to the District's personnel hiring protocol, which includes fingerprinting and background checks prior to working with students; and scholarships are to be available to students who require financial assistance.

Condition: The Rugby Club will be fully funded by the parents of the rugby players as a gift to the district.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.04

Recommended Action as amended:

That the Board approves the \$6,000 gift from the Rye Rugby Booster Club as an initial payment for the funding of the Rye High School Boys Rugby Club teams.

Condition: The Rugby Club will be fully funded by the parents of the rugby players as a gift to the district.

Consent Agenda Professional 8.04

Recommended Action as amended:

That the Board approves the following Appointment for Extra Pay for Extra Work, for the 2014-2015 school year:

EPEW				14/15	14/15
	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>INDEX</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>RATE</u>
Athletic-SPRING					
RUGBY	Varsity Coach	Vivolo, Lara	0.08000	2	4,952
RUGBY	Asst. to Var. Prog.	O'Hara, James	0.05500	1	3,242
RUGBY	Asst. to Var. Prog.	Rinaldi, James	0.05500	1	3,242
RUGBY	Coach	Walsh, Timothy		Volunteer	

Condition: The Rugby Club will be fully funded by the parents of the rugby players as a gift to the district.

Ms. Slack announced that the Board had accepted a gift from the Osborn PTO in the amount of \$3,000. to fund the installation of two water coolers with bottle fillers, thanking them for this generous gift.

Ms. Slack also announced that the Board had accepted a gift from Samantha Carter and Mr. & Mrs. Tom Carter for the Project Lead the Way Program. Samantha (graduate of 2014) built a 3D Printer for us for Project Lead the Way which she is donating back to the school district, as well as a laptop computer being donated to us. She thanked all of the very generous parents in the Rye City School District for all they do for our students and to Samantha Carter for thinking of her former school.

Ms. Slack announced that the Board also approved a Resolution about Governor Cuomo's 2015 Education Budget Proposals indicating that as a Board there are many issues and questions. The Resolution will be publicized and will be sent to the Governor, Senator and Assemblyman. She thanked Karen Belanger for her work on this resolution making it tailored to Rye and its concerns. If parents want to adapt and e mail to the legislators they are invited to do so.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no communication from the public on non-agenda items.

Presentation/Discussion I **Full Day Kindergarten**

Dr. Alvarez opened a discussion with the Board of Education and the school community regarding the possibility of a Full Day Kindergarten program. He explained the current program and discussed the model that we are looking toward. The proposal for full day kindergarten is currently included in his recommended school budget for the 2015-16 school year. A presentation and group discussion was led by Dr. Betty Ann Wyks, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment with input from the following Rye City School District kindergarten teachers: Dina Gelman from Osborn School, Melissa Pellitieri from Midland School and Sarah Bailey from Milton School. The following administrators were present for the discussion as well: Milton School Principal Dr. JoAnne Nardone, Osborn School Principal Ms. Angela Garcia, Osborn School Assistant Principal Mr. Torrance Walley and Midland School Assistant Principal Ms. Joanna Napolitano. (Attachment # XI)

The following individuals addressed the Board of Education and Administration asking questions and voicing their opinions on the implementation of Rye City Schools converting to a Full-Day Kindergarten Program: Alyson Walsh, Tristan Fleming, Bertrand deFrondeville, Jane Anderson, Bridget McGuigan, Kelsey Johnson, Michelle Ring, Kathleen Dragon Nigro. All comments are available on videotape of meeting.

Presentation/Discussion II **Superintendent's Recommended 2015-2016 School District Budget**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Alvarez and Assistant Superintendent for Business

Gabriela O'Connor continued their discussions around the 2015-16 Superintendents' Recommended Budget indicating that this recommended budget will be supporting current programs and includes specific additions to the district's programs. Ms. O'Connor's presentation included various components of the budget and detailed information on expenditures, revenue, 2015/16 Tax Levy Impact on Reserves dependent on the amount of usage, tax levy & rate, and dates for future discussions of the budget. (Attachment #XII & XIII)

A discussion commenced among the Members of the Board of Education who commented on the proposed budget by the administration regarding the limitations of the tax cap, tax cap override, enrollment increase and flaws in the Governor's proposal. Future discussions to be held as follows:

- **March 24: Open Topics Forum/ Budget Hearing I**
- **April 14: Continued Budget Discussion**
- **April 21: Board of Education Budget Adoption**
- **May 5: Budget Hearing II**
- **May 19: Budget Vote/Board Election**

Dr. Alvarez announced that in the event that the override is not achieved in May, there would be some very drastic changes to our schools. Although Dr. Alvarez would not recommend these potential cuts, they may be necessary. He announced that an amount of \$3,500,000. in reductions would be necessary. None of the additions included in his recommended budget would be possible, and in addition there would be many staff cuts and reductions. (Attachment #XIV)

Ms. Slack asked for comments from the Public regarding the presentation of the Superintendent's recommended Budget for the 2015-16 school year. The following community members addressed the Board of Education and Administration regarding the presentation: Jennifer Neren, Alyson Walsh, Joan Anderson, Laura Labriola, David Harris, Bertrand deFrondeville, Jesus Cantalapiedra, Heather Cabot Khemlani, Jennifer Hoogstra, Jim Culyer, Patti Yoon, Mary Emery and Michelle Ring. All comments are available on videotape of meeting.

Presentation/Discussion III **2015-2016 School District Calendar**

Dr. Alvarez stated that a new version of the draft School District Calendar is on the agenda for review and discussion by the Board. This recommendation for the school calendar has been revised from that which was presented on February 24, 2015. Some highlights of the proposed calendar are: Teachers will be returning before Labor Day, Tuesday September 2 and Wednesday September 3, 2014, a long four day weekend for the Labor Day Weekend.

The opening day of school will begin Tuesday September 8, 2015 for students; there are three snow/emergency days built into the school calendar. The final day Superintendent's Conference Day originally scheduled for June 27th 2016 has been omitted. The final day for students will be June 23rd, and a Superintendent's Conference Day for staff will be held on Friday June 24th, 2016. The calendar includes three built in snow days. The calendar will be presented to the Board for approval on the Consent Agenda on March 24,

2015. (Attachment #XV)

Ms. Slack asked for comments from the public on this proposed school district calendar. There were no communications from the public on the school calendar.

Presentation/Discussion IV
Regulation

9610-R Staff Substance Abuse Regulations

There was no further discussion on this revised regulation.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

There were no further communications to or from the Board of Education.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Weber and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:45 p.m. to adjourn the meeting

Elaine Cuglietto
District Clerk

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