

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**OPEN TOPICS FORUM**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**March 29, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Katy Keohane-Glassberg at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 29, 2016.

**Present:**

Ms. Katy Keohane-Glassberg, President  
Mr. Christopher Repetto, Vice President  
Ms. Karen Belanger  
Ms. Nancy Pasquale  
Ms. Nicole Weber  
Mr. Blake Jines-Storey  
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. Patricia Taylor, Rye High School Principal  
Mr. Michael Arias,

**Excused:**

On a motion by Ms. Belanger, 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 Ms. Weber, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7 -0) it was voted at 7:30 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 President Katy Keohane-Glassberg announced that the Board of Education would vote on the following Board Consent Agenda item at this point in the meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Pasquale seconded by Ms. Belanger, and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the following Consent Agenda item:

**Consent Agenda Professional 9.01**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Four Year Probationary Appointment of Michael Arias as the Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics, for which he holds New York State Professional Certification as a School District Leader, New York State Professional Certification in Physical Education and New York State Professional Certification in Health Education, assigned to Rye City School District, at an annual salary of \$170,000, effective July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2020.

The meeting now turned over to Dr. Frank Alvarez for the Report of the Superintendent.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Superintendent Dr. Frank Alvarez announced that the Board of Education appointed Mr. Michael Arias to the probationary position of Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics. Mr. Arias was chosen from a pool of 49 applicants. The District is very happy to welcome Mr. Arias to the Rye community.

Mr. Arias addressed the Board of Education and the public thanking everyone for the support that is being shown to him. He looks forward to upholding our traditions and to make the programs better for all of our students. Mr. Arias is very excited for this opportunity and for becoming a Garnet.

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

Board President Katy Keohane-Glassberg announced that this evening 25 Rye Recognition of Excellence Awards will be given to All County and All State Music students, and 3 Rye Recognition of Excellence Awards will be given to Scholastic Writing Award winners.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Alvarez announced the following award winners:

Tonight's academic award recipients are 3 10th graders from Roni Sarig's Honors English class who were awarded prizes in the regional Scholastic Writing Awards for the Hudson-to-Housatonic Writing Region

Sara Brizio – Sara received a "Silver Key" award for her story, "Unbound." Silver Keys were awarded to distinguished works in the region.

Caroline O – Caroline received a "Gold Key" award for her work, "Fears and Ghosts." She is also one of only 5 out of 1,880 regional entrants to be named an "American Voices Nominee" and thus qualify as a contender for the National Voices Medal.

Esther Yu – Esther received "honorable mention" for her story, "Orange Fire."

Tonight's music award recipients are students from every school in the District, from elementary to high school. They are all music students who have been recognized for their achievement with their instruments or their voices.

Our first honorees were selected for the Area All-State Symphony Orchestra. Their teacher is Lynn Kraut:

Su-Lynn Kok - Grade 12 -Violin

Aidan Pasquale - Grade 10 - String Bass

Our next honoree was selected for the Area All-State String Orchestra. Her teacher is also Lynn Kraut:

Esther Yu - Grade 10 – Cello

Our next honoree was selected for the Area All-State Band. His teacher is Dan Brown:

Anders Jensen - Grade 10 – Trumpet

The following honorees were selected for the All County Jazz Band. Their teacher is Dan Brown:

Nicholas Creus - Grade 11 –Guitar

Alex Mayo-Smith – Grade 10 –Trombone

Keaton Mueller- Grade 11 –Alto Saxophone

Jared Olbrys – Grade 10 - Trombone

Max Olmos van Velden – Grade 10 (alternate) –Trumpet

Our next honorees were selected for the Intermediate All-County Orchestra. Their teacher is Lynn Kraut:

Jonathan Lloyd - Grade 9 – Cello

Claire Thomure – Grade 8 –Violin

Mai Miyake - Grade 8 –Violin

Hikaru Sekiguchi – Grade 8 –Violin

Our next honoree was selected for the Intermediate All-County Band. His teacher is Dan Brown:

Ben Kuster – Grade 9 –Baritone

The following honorees have been selected for the Junior All-County Orchestra. Their teacher is Lynn Kraut:

Hannah Lloyd - Grade 7 –Cello

Airi Matsushita - Grade 7 –Violin

Yurika Hamano – Grade 7 –Violin

Geoffrey Lien – Grade 7-Viola

Sean Yu – Grade 6 –Cello

Christopher Park - Grade 6 –Cello

Emily Moloney – Grade 6 –Viola

Our next honoree was selected for the Elementary All-County Band. Her teacher is Don Josuweit

Maggie Graseck – Grade 6 –Clarinet

Finally, the following students have been selected to play in the Elementary All-County Orchestra:

Patrick Moran – Grade 5 at Milton School - 9 –Viola – His teacher is Shawn Amdur

Ami Matsushita - Grade 5 at Midland School – Cello- Her teacher is Andrew Raynor

Zoe Lien - Grade 5 at Osborn School –Violin – Her teacher is Yunshim Kim

Congratulations to you all of the students on their outstanding achievements in music this year.

### PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION I Full Day Kindergarten (Attachment # I)

An in-depth detailed presentation was shown to the Board of Education and the public relative to the Rye City School District's recent implementation update of the full day kindergarten program.

The following individuals were in attendance and available for consultation throughout the presentation. Milton School Principal Dr. JoAnne Nardone, Midland School Principal Mr. James Boylan, Osborn School Principal Ms. Angela Garcia, Midland School Assistant Principal Ms. Joanna Napolitano and Osborn School Assistant Principal Mr. Torrance Walley and Midland Kindergarten Teacher Ms. Melissa Pellitieri.

The presentation included the many aspects of the full day program including insight into what a day looks like in the life of a kindergarten student. These students play, learn and grow together. Portions of their days include Math, Literacy, Purposeful Play, Individualized Instruction, Interdisciplinary Activities, Celebrations and Socialization. The presentation included slides of actual classroom lessons, teacher feedback, student feedback, budget implications and the related expense increases.

Mr. Bertrand deFrondeville had one clarifying question regarding the extra

expenses incurred as a result of this implementation and the change from teacher aides to teaching assistants in the kindergarten classrooms.

New York State Senator George Latimer made an unexpected appearance at the Board of Education meeting. Senator Latimer addressed the Board of Education and the Public regarding the work that is going on in Albany this week. The Senator announced that we are two days away from the budget deadline which falls on Midnight Thursday night.

Senator Latimer discussed aspects of the budget including a hopeful full restoration of the GEA amounts owed to school districts, some additional foundation aid, education budget funding, delinking of the APPR with the funding, indication is that there will be no changes in the tax cap this year and bullet aid.

Board President Katy Keohane-Glassberg thanked Senator Latimer for attending our meeting and for all of his efforts in helping to restore funding to the school district.

## Presentation/Discussion II 2016-2017 Superintendent's Recommended Budget (Attachment # II)

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Alvarez and Assistant Superintendent for Business Gabriela O'Connor discussed highlights of the 2016-17 Superintendents' Recommended Budget in the amount of \$85,064,873. A discussion was held among the Board of Education members relative to the Gap Elimination Aid, foundation aide, unfunded mandates, CPI, tax levy increase, communication with the public and legislature, and the usage of reserves.

The following is a list of dates that are relevant to the continued discussion and the adoption of the 2016-17 Superintendent's recommended school budget:

- April 12: Board of Education Budget Adoption
- April 26: Continued Discussion
- May 10 Budget Hearing II
- May 17: Budget Vote/Board Member Election

There were no further communications from the public regarding the 2016-2017 Superintendent's Recommended Budget

### **OPEN TOPICS FORUM**

The Open Topics Forum was held as an opportunity for the public to share their concerns, questions, and feedback regarding the recommended 2016-17 school budget as well as any other concerns they wanted addressed or gather information about. This forum enables Board Members to join members of the audience at their tables for these discussions. Members of the Board then return back to the Board table and reported the

key topics that were addressed in their conversations. The Open Topics Forum began at 9:25 p.m.

The Board of Education reconvened their meeting after open topic discussions were held with community members at 10:35 p.m. A summary of the topics, as well as responses prepared by Dr. Alvarez, will be sent out and posted on the District's website, [www.ryeschools.org](http://www.ryeschools.org), hopefully by the next BOE Meeting.

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

There were no further communications from the public.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Pasquale, and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

#### **GENERAL**

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

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

That the Board approves the revised Board of Education Meeting Calendar for the 2015/16 school year. (Attachment # III)

##### **Consent Agenda General 7.02**

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

That the Board approves the 2016-17 school calendar as presented. (Attachment # IV)

#### **FISCAL**

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

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

That the Board approves the Contract for Health Services with the Yonkers Public Schools for \$687.88 for the 2014/15 school year. (Attachment # V)

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

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

That the Board approves the Contract for Health Services with the Mamaroneck School District for \$10,978.33 for the 2015/16 school year. (Attachment # VI)

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

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

That the Board accepts the 2015/16 Risk Assessment Update Report by Cullen & Danowski, LLP dated December 8, 2015. (Attachment # VII)

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

That the Board accepts the 2014/15 Agreed-Upon Procedures Audit Report, Area: Payroll and the Financial System Application (including security access) by Cullen & Danowski, LLP dated December 8, 2015. (Attachment # VIII)

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

That the Board approves the \$3,728 gift from the Parents' Organization of RHS to purchase 17 chromebooks and licenses.

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

That the Board of Education approves the following for Elaine Cuglietto, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources:

Elaine Cuglietto

Contract Extension: Five Year Contract Extension to June 30, 2021

**Consent Agenda Professional 9.03****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Resignation of Talia Hindin from her position as a School Psychologist, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective at the close of business June 30, 2016.

**Consent Agenda Professional 9.04****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Resignation of Mark Silviotti from his position as a Teaching Assistant, assigned to a Kindergarten Class at Osborn School, effective at the close of business March 18, 2016.

**Consent Agenda Professional 9.05****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Personal Leave of Absence of Debra Fishman from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Milton School, effective July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

**Consent Agenda Professional 9.06****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the request by Emily Johnson for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as a Physical Education Teacher, assigned to Midland School and Osborn School, effective July 1, 2016 to the end of the first semester.

(Emily Johnson was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absences, effective on or about her estimated due date of October 20, 2016 – January 29, 2016 and February 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016.)

**Recommendation:** That the Board approves the Request by Marisa Galvin for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an ELL Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective July 1, 2016 to the end of the first semester.

(Marisa Galvin was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence, on or about her estimated due date of February 6, 2016 – June 30, 2016.)

### **Consent Agenda Professional 9.07**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Amendment of the Leave Replacement Appointment of Melissa Hlubik Garcia as a Special Education Teacher, for which she holds New York State Professional Certification in Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6) assigned to Milton School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 9 of the 2015-2016 Teacher Salary Schedule \$ 86,461\* (pro rated amount of \$41,068.95\*), effective February 8, 2016 – June 30, 2016.

(Melissa Hlubik Garcia was previously approved as a Leave Replacement Teacher, effective February 8, 2016 – March 31, 2016 at the February 23, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.)

\*salary pending contract settlement

### **Consent Agenda Professional 9.08**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Jane Fitzpatrick as a 0.9 FTE Teaching Assistant, assigned to a Kindergarten Class at Osborn School, Step 1 of the 2015-2016 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, \$21.12\* per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective April 5, 2016 – June 24, 2016.

(Jane Fitzpatrick will be replacing Mark Silviotti who resigned effective at the close of business March 18, 2016.)

\*salary pending contract settlement

### **Consent Agenda Professional 9.09**

#### **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
Athletic-SPRING					
LACROSSE (Girls)	Asst. to the Program	Halstead, Chris	0.05500	0	3,088



CREW	Varsity	Gryskiewicz, Diana	0.09500	Volunteer	
Middle School - Spring TRACK (Co-Ed)	Asst. To Mod. Program	Tuttle, John	0.05500	1	3,242
High School - Clubs					
Administrative	Comptroller, Treasurer	Viggiano, Kathy	0.04500	1	2,653
Administrative	Comptroller, Asst.	Maureen Ragone*	0.08000	5	5,732

\*Maureen Ragone was previously approved at an index of 0.04500. The Extra Pay for Extra Work Committee has approved changing the index to 0.08000 effective September 1, 2015.

\*salary pending contract settlement

### **Consent Agenda Professional 9.10**

#### **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 2015-2016 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

Athena Gregory

Alina Macarie

Vinh Cam

Katelynn Serena

### **CLASSIFIED**

### **Consent Agenda Classified 10.01**

#### **Recommended Action:**

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

Chris Halstead

### **Consent Agenda Classified 10.02**

**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

Athena Gregory  
Alina Macarie  
Vinh Cam  
Katelynn Serena

### **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 # IX)

Board President Ms. Katy Keohane-Glassberg acknowledged and thanked the Parents' Organization of RHS for their very generous gift in the amount of \$3,728 to purchase 17 chromebooks and licenses.

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

Ms. Keohane-Glassberg announced that this is the time when current Board of Education Members announce their intention to seek re-election as a member of the Rye City School District Board of Education. There are two terms that will be expiring this year on June 30, 2016; one being her own's seat and the other being the seat held by Ms. Nicole Weber.

Board of Education Member Ms. Nicole Weber announced that she would not be seeking re-election as her term ends this year on June 30, 2016 after serving on the Board of Education for the last three years.

Board of Education Member and President Ms. Katy Keohane-Glassberg announced that she would be seeking re-election to a seat on the Board of Education as her term ends this year on June 30, 2016.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:49 p.m. to adjourn to Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Jines-Storey seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:55 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](http://www.ryeschools.org)). Click on District and on Board of Education.