

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING/BUDGET HEARING I
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
April 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Laura Slack at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday April 14, 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

Excused:

On a motion by Mr. Jines-Storey, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7 -0) it was voted at 7:10 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

Tonight's Rye Recognition of Excellence Awards honors the 11 athletes who competed past the Section One championship playoffs. From Winter Track and Field, we have 7 athletes: The relay team of Ryan Bird, Andrew Willis, Jack Ryan and Jack Smith set a new school record in the distance medley relay and missed the school record in the 4 X 800 relay by .2 of a second. This relay team qualified and competed at the Westchester County meet, which they won, this past February. They also competed in the Eastern States meet and the National Meet, both held at the Armory in New York City in March. They each received All County and All Section recognition. In addition, Jack Ryan had the fastest

time in all of Section One for the 3200 meter run. Ryan Bird set school records in the 800 meter and the 1,000 meter runs, breaking records which stood for over 30 years. Maggie McDermott set school records in the 800, 3,000 and 3,200 meter runs. She presently holds 8 of the best 10 times ever run in the 3,000 meter event by a Rye High School student. She achieved All County this year and competed at the Eastern States Meet.

Kenta Takatsu and Alec Howells ran the 4X 800 meter relay as the alternates this season and still managed to win the Westchester County Championship. They also qualified and competed at the National Meet in March. Both Kenta and Alec were recognized as All County and All Section athletes.

Moving from the track to the pool, we had 2 other State competitors this winter. Michael Ackert is a 9th grader and this was his 3rd year competing at the varsity level. Michael was selected as the high school Athlete of the Week in January and finished the season as one of the top 3 divers in all of Section 1. He qualified and competed at the New York State Championship in Ithaca in March. Michael's hard work and determination earned him a ranking as one of the top 15 divers in the State at mid-season. He finished in the top half of all divers in the State.

Patrick MacAulay has been a member of the Varsity Swim team for the past 4 years.

His outstanding achievements include All League and All Section awards. He was recognized as a Rye High School Athlete of the Week and a Lions Club Athlete of the Month this year. He was a state qualifier in both 2014 and 2015. At the State meet this year, Pat competed in the 200 and 500 freestyle. Patrick received the Sportsmanship Award for all of Section One swimmers for his performance at the State meet. We are happy for Patrick that others have recognized his character and his love for the sport of swimming.

Finally, we move to the ski slopes:

Grant Keith is a junior and a two time All League skier on the varsity team. He finished 26th in the Giant Slalom and 22nd overall in New York State. He received All Section Honors and he has his skis pointed toward Lake Placid for next year as well. Frida Henningsson joined the ski team this year as a senior and had an undefeated season. At the Section One meet she won the gold medal in Giant Slalom, the silver medal in Slalom and the gold medal in the Skimeister, which is the lowest combined time for all four runs. Frida competed at the New York State races at Whiteface Mountain, Lake Placid, at the end of February and placed 15th out of 62 overall on Day 1 in the slalom. She finished 20th out of 62 on Day 2 for the Giant Slalom. She earned All League and All Section Honor this year.

Congratulations to these outstanding athletes, their coaches and their families.

Please come forward to receive your awards and then join us in the corner of the room for photographs: Patrick MacAulay, Michael Ackert, Ryan Bird, Frida Henningsson, Alec Howells, Grant Keith, Maggie McDermott, Jack Ryan, Jack Smith, Kenta Takatsu and Andrew Willis

Dr. Alvarez reported that the Open Topic Forum Responses will be available and posted to the website by late in the day on April 15, 2015. The Scholars Dinner was held on Thursday April 9, 2015 honoring 134 juniors who achieved averages of 90 or above. Dr. Alvarez stated that Book Awards were also handed out at that dinner.

Dr. Alvarez mentioned that the Joint Council Meeting of the Board of Education and City of Rye was held on Saturday April 11, 2015. Dr. Alvarez presented a State of the School's Report, Mayor Sack reported on the State of the City of Rye. A discussion of pedestrian safety initiative: Safe Routes to School Projects was reported by Brian Dempsey, Chair of the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee. Board of Education President Laura Slack reported on enrollment in the school district, revaluation and the impact of tax certiorari cases on the school district

PRESENTATIONS

New York State Senator George Latimer addressed the Members of the Board of Education, Administration and the Public speaking to recent occurrences in Albany. Senator Latimer expressed his desire and hopes that more could be done for the school district.

Students Jerry Patal, Clara Gasso-Soler, Katrina Roth, Sean Fitzgibbons, Griffin Coccari and others addressed the Board on behalf of all students currently participating in Mandarin classes at Rye Middle and High School. They expressed their support for their teacher, for the Mandarin program and asking for the Board to allow the students to have the power of choice to which language they want to pursue.

Presentation/Discussion I **Mathematics Pathways - Beth Naber**

A proposal to revise the existing high school math pathways was presented to the Board by Principal Patricia Taylor and Math Department Chairperson Ms. Beth Naber. A change in graduation requirements, as well as alignment to the New York State Common Core Math Standards, supports this revision. Ms. Beth Naber presented an overview of the proposed revision to the Curriculum Council on February 11, 2015. The Curriculum Council endorses the changes to the existing high school math pathways.

The change in pathways would result in revisions of Algebra I, Algebra/Trigonometry and Geometry curricula. The Math Department feels the changes would increase the opportunity for students to move into Calculus and would afford them greater success in the sciences. The entire Math faculty of the middle and high school were present at the meeting showing their support for these pathway changes. (Attachment #I)

Presentation/Discussion II **Peanut and Nut Aware Discussion**

A detailed discussion regarding peanut, tree nut allergies and nut awareness in our schools was conducted among the Director of Health Services Tracey Barnett; Food Service Director Mr. John Rubbo; Director of Facilities Mr. Sam Carder Board of Education Members and members of the community. The discussion included information regarding what the district is currently doing at each of our schools, some best practices in the county, suggestions clarification and modifications to what the Rye City School District is currently doing and what we can do to improve our existing procedures and protocols. The following individuals addressed the Board of Education regarding food allergies, policy and protocols: Jennifer

Costigan, Kerri Loughton, David Harris, Jill DiMassimo, Leslie Ebers, Colleen Margiloff, Saima Mohamedally, Diantha Redd, Beth Riggert, Kristine Forsyth and Michelle Frost. The district's policy is currently being amended and will be presented to the BOE for review, discussion and approval in the near future.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no communications from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

GENERAL

Consent Agenda General 7.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the March 24, 2015 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 7.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board adopts policy 5151, Homeless Children, and Regulation 5151-R, Homeless Children Regulation, as recommended. (Attachment #III)

FISCAL

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Contract for Health and Welfare Services with the Mamaroneck Union Free School District for \$18,276.66 for the 2014/15 school year. (Attachment # IV)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Amendment to the Consulting Services Agreement with Program for Little Learners, LLC. (Attachment # V)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves Transition Support in the area of technology for Edu Tek, Ltd in the amount of \$47,500 for the period from March 30, 2015 to June 30, 2015.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the budget transfer #6. (Attachment # VI)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the \$4,030 donation from Octagon Sports to support the Rye Rugby

Club and increases the General Fund budget accordingly.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.06

Recommended Action:

That the Board accepts the monthly financial reports for February 2015. (Attachment #VII)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.07

Recommended Action:

That the Board increases the General Fund budget by \$5,000 for a previously approved donation.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.08

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Consulting Services Agreement with Holistic Learning Center, LLC for the 2014-2015 school year. (Attachment #VIII)

PROFESSIONAL

Consent Agenda Professional 9.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Traci Tasso, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective at the close of business June 30, 2015.

Consent Agenda Professional 9.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the request by Michelle Garofano for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Special Education Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective September 1, 2015 to the end of the first Semester.

(Michelle Garofano was previously approved for Child Care Leave of Absences effective September 1, 2014 – January 31, 2015 and February 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015.)

Consent Agenda Professional 9.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence of Emily Murphy to be effective March 16 2015 – June 30, 2015.

(Emily Murphy was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence effective on or about her estimated due date of April 4, 2015 – June 30, 2015 at the January 13, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.)

Consent Agenda Professional 9.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of Brian Crawley as an English Teacher, for which he holds New York State Initial Certification in English Language Arts 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2014-2015 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$62,486 (pro rated amount of \$20,620.38), effective March 23, 2015 – June 30, 2015.

(Brian Crawley will be replacing Kerry Tolan who is on a Child Care Leave of Absence.)

Consent Agenda Professional 9.05**Recommended Action:**

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

EPEW	ACTIVITY	NAME	INDEX	14/15 STEP	14/15 RATE
Athletic-SPRING					
RUGBY	Coach	Fitzpatrick, Ryan		Volunteer	
Middle School - Clubs					
Intramural Middle School Coordinator		Sweeney, Eileen	0.01500	0	842
RMS Club Sports-Session 4	Basketball	Santoro, Ashley	0.00452	0	254
RMS Club Sports-Session 4	Indoor Soccer	Santoro, Ashley	0.00452	0	254
RMS Club Sports-Session 4	Floor Hockey	Santoro, Ashley	0.00452	0	254
RMS Club Sports-Session 4	Wiffleball	Gobbo Lauren	0.00452	0	254

Consent Agenda Professional 9.06**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Alex Lepes as a Teacher of Home Instruction, for which he holds New York State Professional Certification in Mathematics 7-12, at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective April 3, 2015 – June 30, 2015.

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

That the Board approves the Resignation of Denise Zumpano from her position as a 0.5 FTE Secretary to School Principal, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective at the close of business March 27, 2015.

Consent Agenda Classified 10.02**Recommended Action:**

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

Rate of pay is dependent upon the civil service title of the position being substituted for – Hourly rate of pay is as follows:

Step 1 of Secretarial Clerical School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Contract for the 2014-2015 School Year is:

Column A - \$16.61*

Column B - \$22.22*

Column C - \$23.09*

Column D - \$25.25*

Column E - \$27.41*

Column F - \$30.73*

Ellen Slater

*salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda Classified 10.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Substitute Computer Aide to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2014-2015 School Year:

Rate of pay is dependent upon proof of education in accordance with Secretarial Clerical School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Contract for the 2014-2015 School Year

Hourly rate of pay is as follows:

Step 1 without Degree - \$20.36

Step 1 with BS - \$23.76

Step 1 with Masters - \$28.28

Mary Anzalone

Effective: April 7, 2015

*salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda Special Education 11.01

Recommended Action:

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

On behalf of the Board of Education and school district, Ms. Slack thanked Octagon Sports for their generous donation of \$4,000 to support the Rye Rugby Club.

Presentation/Discussion II

Revised Superintendent's Recommended 2015-16 School District Budget **(Attachment #X)**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Alvarez and Assistant Superintendent for Business Gabriela O'Connor continued their detailed discussions of the elements 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. This presentation includes some refinements from what was presented previously. Ms. O'Connor's presentation included various components of the budget and detailed information on expenditures, increase in state funding, revenue, 2015/16 Tax Levy Impact on Reserves dependent on the amount of usage, tax levy & rate, support of class size guidelines, transportation costs, BOCES support services and dates for future discussions of the budget.

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.

Ms. O'Connor further presented a preliminary first look at the budget for the 2016-2017

school year.

Future discussions on the proposed budget to be held as follows:

- **April 21: Board of Education Budget Adoption**
- **May 5: Budget Hearing II**
- **May 19: Budget Vote/Board Election**

The following individuals addressed the Board of Education and administration about the revised superintendent's recommended budget: Alison Walsh, Veronica Iuliano, Kelsey Johnson, Jane Anderson and Mary Emery.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

There were no further communication to/from the Board.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Weber and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 12:10 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). Click on District and on Board of Education.