

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
April 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Laura Slack at 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday April 21, 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 7:05 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 8:00 p.m. to reconvene in public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Alvarez began his report with a statement regarding some good news about Mr. Curella and Middle School Olympiad Team. Dr. Alvarez indicated that the team made it to the State Finals in Syracuse. 14 students participated and earned a state ranking of 26 out of 222 teams.

Dr. Alvarez reported that our Sailing Team qualified in the league qualifiers last weekend and heading to Norfolk Virginia this weekend. We wish them good luck.

Our Rugby Team had their first game on April 17. Large crowds, students and alumni were present. Unfortunately the team lost by just one point.

Dr. Alvarez announced that Mr. Rob Castagna, Director of Health, Physical; Education and Athletics will be leaving the district at the end of June accepting a job in Byram Hills, closer to his home. A search is underway for his replacement. The process will remain open until May 4, focus groups with booster parents and staff will be held in the district over the next few weeks. Dr. Alvarez intends on have a recommendation to the Board of Education in June.

5.01

Presentation/Discussion

Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Presentation -- Highlights of Challenging, Innovative Curricula at Rye High School

Ms. Taylor and the high school Robotics Teacher Mr. Sal Curella together with many students gave a very informative and chronological review of the new program at the high school. Many students indicated their passion and desire for engineering and technology as a result of this program at Rye High School.

Ms. Taylor stated that at the beginning of this school year over 100 students were interested in the Project Lead the Way course at Rye High School. Pathway to Engineering includes the key concepts that colleges are looking for from students entering engineering programs. Students gave detailed descriptions of all aspects of the course work. They all showed extreme passion and desire to continue in this field.

9th grade Students also presented a project “Viola” under the direction of Teacher Ms. Mascia, their advisor. They created a mobile app regarding Alzheimer’s disease and participated in a competition at Pace University. This app is intended to increase the ease and communication of Alzheimer’s patients and their care givers.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON GENDA ITEMS:

There were no communications from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board adopts a 2015-16 General Fund budget of \$82,884,603.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves Budget Transfer 2014-15, #7 for \$69,866.68 for reallocation of funds to cover D/W maintenance.

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

GENERAL

Consent Agenda General 7.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the 2015-16 Estimated Administrative Budget for the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services in the amount of \$10,114,022. (Attachment #I)

Consent Agenda General 7.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board casts two votes, one for James E. Miller and one for John V. Filiberti to serve as Trustees on the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the time period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. (Attachment #II)

Consent Agenda General 7.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the revision to the High School Mathematics Pathways, effective for students entering the Algebra I class in 2015-2016 school year. (Attachment #III)

Consent Agenda General 7.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Election Inspectors for May 19, 2015. (Attachment #IV)

FISCAL

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.02

Recommended Action:

That the board approves the revised Consulting Services Agreement with Westchester Therapy Solutions for the 2014-2015 school year. (Attachment #V)

PROFESSIONAL

Consent Agenda Professional 9.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation due to Retirement of David Perry, from his position as a Foreign Language Teacher, assigned to Rye High School and Rye Middle School, effective June 30, 2015.

Consent Agenda Professional 9.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Robert Castagna from his position as Director of Health, PE and Athletics, assigned to Rye City School District, effective at the close of business June 30, 2015.

Consent Agenda Professional 9.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Cameron Virrill from his position as a Leave

Replacement English Teacher assigned to Rye Middle School, effective at the close of business April 17, 2015.

Consent Agenda Professional 9.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of Raymond Zirkel as a School Psychologist, for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification as a School Psychologist, assigned to Rye Middle School, 1.0 FTE, PhD Step 8 of the 2014-2015 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$97,071 (pro rated amount of \$16,502.04), effective April 14, 2015 – May 28, 2015. (Raymond Zirkel will be replacing Talia Hindin who is on a Child Care Leave of Absence.)

Consent Agenda Professional 9.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Child Care Leave of Absence Amendment for Kerry Tolan, from her position as an English Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective April 14, 2015 – June 30, 2015.

(Kerry Tolan was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence, effective April 4, 2015 – June 30, 2015 at the January 13, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.)

Consent Agenda Professional 9.06

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

Marsha Hager
James Oates
Andrew O'Neill
Kristen Salov

Consent Agenda Professional 9.07

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Education Law §913, that the employee discussed in executive session is directed to report for a medical examination in order to determine the mental/physical capacity of such person to perform his/her duties as an employee of the Rye City School District. Said medical examination shall be before Dr. Allen Reichman, at his office located at 25 Lorraine Court, Roslyn, NY 11576, on April 30, 2015 at 11:30 a.m., and/or any subsequent days Dr. Reichman may require to complete said exam; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that the employee is directed to produce at said medical examination any and all medical records related to the present state of his/her health for the past three (3) years.

CLASSIFIED

Consent Agenda Classified 10.01

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

Marsha Hager

James Oates

Andrew O'Neill

Kristen Salov

Consent Agenda Classified 10.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Testing Proctor at the rate of \$102.00 per day for the 2014-2015 School Year:

Lucille Yalcin

Consent Agenda Special Education 11.01

Recommended Action:

Consent Agenda Classified 11.01

Recommended Action:

Consent Agenda – Special Education

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

Ms. Slack commented on the excellent presentation performed by the Rye High School/Middle School Math Department under the direction of Ms. Beth Naber at our last Board of Education Meeting. This presentation was intended to inform the Board of Education and the Public of the changes that will be implemented in the Math Pathways Program in our schools. This presentation has resulted in the approval of Consent Agenda- General 7.04 this evening.

Ms. Slack announced that the Board had approved the budget presented by the Southern Westchester BOCES. The district has more students participating in these BOCES programs and our costs have gone up substantially as well.

Ms. Slack announced that the Board accepted the resignation due to retirement of David Perry from his position as a Foreign Language Teacher in the Rye City School District after teaching here for 35 years. Mr. Perry taught both French and Latin for the district and has held the office of Department Chair for many years. Ms. Slack noted that Dave has also contributed

to writing many Latin textbooks currently in use. Ms. Slack thanked Mr. Perry for all of years of service to the students of the Rye City and wishes him the best in his retirement.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

After detailed discussion by Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Gabriella O'Connor, On a motion by Ms. Glassberg, seconded by Mr. Repetto, and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the following agenda item:

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves Budget Transfer 2014-15, #7 for \$69,866.68 for reallocation of funds to cover D/W maintenance. (Attachment # VII)

Presentation/Discussion I

Superintendent's Recommended 2015-16 School District Budget (Attachment #VIII)

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 very recent 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, ramification and savings of some district employee retirements, 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. 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 budget presentation: Community Member Mark Doran; Veronica Iuliano of the Rye Middle School PTO; Colleen Margiloff representing the midland PTO and all of the other school PTO organizations; Community Member, parent and Co Chairman of the Rye Fund for Learning Jenn Boyle; Community Member Mindy Grigg; and Co Chairman of the Rye Fund for Learning Mary Emery.

All comments are available on videotape of meeting.

After detailed discussions by Assistant Superintendent for Business Ms. Gabriella O'Connor, Board of Education Members together with community member input, On a motion by Ms. Keohane Glassberg seconded by Mr. Repetto, and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the following agenda item:

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.01**Recommended Action:**

That the Board adopts a 2015-16 General Fund budget of \$82,884,603.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

Ms. Slack reminded everyone that there would be a public budget hearing II on Tuesday May 5, 2015 and that Election Day is Tuesday May 19, 2015.

There were no further communications to/from the Board Members.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:40 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.