

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
May 17, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Katy Keohane-Glassberg at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 17, 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/District Clerk
Arrived at 9:50 p.m. due to oversight and conduction of Budget Vote and Candidate Election at Rye Middle School

Excused:

On a motion by Ms. Belanger, 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 Ms. Weber, 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. Board of Education President Katy Keohane Glassberg welcomed members of the public.

Board President Katy Keohane Glassberg stated that Board Vice President Chris Repetto would present two Extra mile Awards this evening to two outstanding individuals.

Mr. Repetto began by stating that we are pleased to begin tonight's meeting by presenting two Extra Mile Awards. The Board of Education presents Extra Mile Awards to individuals who have gone above and beyond in their contributions to the Rye City School District. Tonight's awards go to two exceptionally dedicated and supportive individuals. Karen Clark and Bertha Zevallos have displayed extraordinary levels of commitment and have made lasting contributions to the school district.

Karen Clark has been with the RCSD for 28 years – she joined the District in 1988 as a senior typist in the Special Education Department and moved to the Athletic Department in 1992. She is the senior office assistant in the Rye High School Athletics office, and also serves as the web advisor for the Department. Those of you who have spent any time in the Athletic Office know that she is both the face and the heart of Rye Athletics. She is a font of information and has been invaluable over the course of the past year during Rod Mergardt's time as Interim Athletic Director. We know she will continue be invaluable next year when Michael Arias steps into the role, so we'd like to thank her in advance.

When he learned Karen was to receive the award, Rod Mergardt said, "This recognition is so well-deserved. Karen does so many "Extra Miles" for us, our coaches and our students that she has actually earned over 1,000,000 frequent flyer miles. All of us who cherish Karen appreciate this gesture."

High School Physical Education teacher Al Mercado, who unfortunately couldn't be with us tonight due to family commitments, said, "she is one of the hardest working professionals I have worked with and definitely goes the extra mile for Rye Athletes."

Bertha Zevallos has been with the RCSD for 14 years. She joined the District as a cashier and clerical worker in the Food Service Department in 2002. She became an account clerk and transportation clerk in 2005 and then became the District's employee benefits clerk in 2013. Bertha is also the transportation coordinator for special education students in the RCSD.

Gabriella O'Connor, the Assistant Superintendent for Business, said of Bertha, "She has taken us to new heights in the administration of health care benefits and is superb at managing and balancing our accounts." She related how Bertha is often up and worrying about her students' transportation at 4:30 a.m. on snowy days.

Julia Chung, Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services, on learning of Bertha's award, said, "Bertha has affected the lives of countless students and their families by coordinating safe and reliable transportation for our students with special needs. She is there to help when complicated situations arise, or when a student needs a bus at the 11th hour - and always with a positive attitude! Bertha makes herself available and follows through on tasks well beyond office hours - evenings, weekends, and on occasion, while on vacation! Working with Bertha is always a pleasure and her dedication to our students is exceptional."

Both Karen Clark and Bertha Zevallos thanked the Board of Education and the administration for these wonderful awards and are most appreciative of the acknowledgement they have received.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Dr. Frank Alvarez announced that on behalf of the Rye City School District, he wanted to congratulate the Boy's Junior Varsity Lacrosse team who had their first undefeated season in 12 years this year. Congratulations to the team and to Coach Michael Johnson and Assistant Coach Adam McReddie.

At the Varsity level, Dr. Alvarez announced we have 3 teams that have advanced past the sectionals: Boys Lacrosse, Boys Baseball and Girls Lacrosse

Dr. Alvarez went on to mention that Girls Softball has qualified for sectionals for the first time in a number of years and that in crew, the Varsity 4 and boys' light-weight Varsity 8 will compete in Ohio over the Memorial Day weekend at SRAA regatta.

Dr. Alvarez announced that he wanted to remind viewers that there are two important events coming up next week:

On Tuesday, May 24th from 7:00-9:00 p.m., there is the Rye-ACT Drug and Alcohol Coalition town hall meeting at Resurrection Church Auditorium – the former Methodist Church Building. The Coalition will present the results from the November 2014 Rye High and Middle School student survey about the use of and attitudes about alcohol drugs and tobacco, followed by a panel discussion. Dr. Alvarez stated that he will be one of the panelists, along with Commissioner Michael Corcoran from the Rye Police Department, and representatives from the Rye Youth Council and the Rye YMCA, among others.

On Wednesday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m., the High School is hosting an educational forum for High School students and their parents at the Performing Arts Center. The forum is a continuation of the substance abuse programming the High School has provided to students over the last few years. These assemblies are usually held during school hours, but Mrs. Taylor thought it was important that parents and students be able to attend this event together. The forum is called "Changing Lives-Saving Lives: A Call to Action," and it will be led by a community action organization called Drug Crisis in our Backyard. It will consist of three speakers: representatives from Drug Crisis in our Backyard, Lillian Newman, an alcoholism and substance abuse counselor from St. Vincent's Hospital, followed by Rye Police Commissioner Michael Corcoran. After the presentations, there will be ample time for questions and answers and public discussion.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

Rye High School alumnus Ms. Claire Cecil addressed the Board regarding the upcoming Rye Act Coalition and the current issues and tragedies confronting the school district at this time. She addressed the issue of mental illness and student resources. Ms. Cecil expressed her opinions related to student leadership, our ability to take credit

for our achievements and to recognize where we may fall short. We must make clear to our students what resources we have for our students when they feel they cannot face their challenges alone. Ms. Cecil encouraged all to act now. This is our time to act in light of the tragedies of the past few years.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

The following three policies were introduced by Chair of the Board's Policy Committee Karen Belanger for discussion including the incorporation of policy #5280.

5280 Interscholastic Athletics (this revised policy now incorporates Policy 5281, Selection/Classification)

5301 Students and the Law

5420 Student Health Services

5281 Selection/Classification

This policy will be eliminated when revised policy 5280, Interscholastic Athletics, is adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

GENERAL

Consent Agenda General 9.01

Recommended Action: That the Board approves the WPSBA 2016-17 slate of officers and members of the Board of Directors. (Attachment # I)

FISCAL

Consent Agenda Fiscal 10.01

Recommended Action: That the Board approves the agreement with Kaplan Test Prep for all courses related to the SAT and ACT for Rye students at the HS for the 2016-17 school year, with no payment by the District. (Attachment # II)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 10.02

Recommended Action: That the Board Approves award Bid #15-16-015 for D/W Refuse Removal and Recycling Services for the year 2016-2017 to Suburban Carting. (Attachment # III)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 10.03

Recommended Action: That the Board Approves Award of Bid #15-16-008 for District-Wide Asphalt, Concrete and Excavation Services for the Year 2016-2017 to Westchester Grounds & Gardens, Inc. (Attachment # IV)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 10.04

Recommended Action: That the Board Approves Award of Bid #15-16-009 for D/W Carpentry Services for the Year 2016-2017 to Mohegan Park Contractors Inc. (Attachment # V)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 10.05

Recommended Action: That the Board Approves Award of Bid #15-16-010 for Electrical Services for the Year 2016-2017 to Acorn Electrical Contractors LLC. (Attachment # VI)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 10.06

Recommended Action: That the Board Approves Award Bid #15-16-011 for Elevator Inspection and Repair Services for the Year 2016-2017 to Automated Elevator Systems, LLC. (Attachment # VII)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 10.07

Recommended Action: That the Board Approves Award Bid #15-116-012 for D/W Grounds and Landscaping Services for the Year 2016-2017 to Mid-Westchester Lawn Service Inc. (Attachment # VIII)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 10.08

Recommended Action: That the Board Approves Award Bid #15-16-013 for D/W Integrated Pest Management Services for the Year 2016-2017 to J. C. Erlich Co., Inc. (Attachment # IX)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 10.09

Recommended Action: That the Board Approves Award Bid #15-16-014 for D/W Plumbing Services for the Year 2016-2017 to Joe Lombardo Plumbing & Heating of Rockland, Inc. (Attachment # X)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 10.10

Recommended Action: That the Board Approves Award Bid #15-16-017 for D/W Tree Pruning and Maintenance Services for the Year 2016-2017 to ManTree Inc. (Attachment # XI)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 10.11

Recommended Action: That the Board Approves Award Bid#15-16-016 for D/W Roof Services for the Year 2016-2017 to Armor-Tite Construction Corp. (Attachment # XII)

PROFESSIONAL**Consent Agenda Professional 11.01**

Recommended Action: That the Board approves the following Per Diem Substitute Teacher and Teaching Assistant 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

Zachary Stearns

Lorraine Curtis

Sharmeen Dossani

Olga Bravo

Lisa Kelly

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Debra Aronson as a Per Diem Substitute Teacher to work as a 0.8 FTE American Sign Language Teacher at the Per Diem Substitute Rate of \$102.00 per day, effective September 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016.

(Debra Aronson is completing an American Sign Language Program at the University of Northern Colorado. She is expected to graduate in December 2016. At that time she will be appointed as a Part Time Teacher)

Consent Agenda Professional 11.02

Recommended Action: That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of Avery Anderson as a .9 FTE Teaching Assistant for Special Education, assigned to Rye Middle 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 April 21, 2016 - June 24, 2016.

(Avery Anderson was previously appointed as a substitute teaching assistant at the rate of \$102.00 per day at the April 12, 2016 Board of Education meeting.)

(Avery Anderson is replacing Trisha Jennings who is a per diem substitute teacher replacing Leanne Janos.)

*salary pending contract settlement

CLASSIFIED

Consent Agenda Classified 12.01

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 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

Zachary Stearns

Lorraine Curtis

Sharmeen Dossani

Olga Bravo

Lisa Kelly

Consent Agenda Special Education 13.01

Recommended Action:

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

Board President Katy Keohane Glassberg announced that at last week's Board of Education Meeting the Board accepted the resignations due to retirement of the following two employees from our District:

Bernadette O'Neill is retiring from the RCSD after 11 years as a School Nurse. Prior to joining the District, Ms. O'Neill worked as a pediatric staff nurse at the Pediatric Associates office in Rye Brook from 1998 to 2005. She began her career as a nurse at the former United Hospital in Port Chester where she worked as a staff nurse in the Critical Care Stepdown Department and later the Ambulatory Surgery Department. We wish Bernadette all the very best in her retirement.

Sharon Ofsevit is retiring from the District after 17 years as a teacher in the Special Education Department. Ms. Ofsevit joined the District in 1999 and earned tenure in 2001. From 1999-2014, Ms. Ofsevit worked at all three of the elementary schools and at Rye Middle School as a remedial reading and resource room teacher. Since 2014, Ms. Ofsevit has worked exclusively at the Osborn School in the Gateway Program. In her retirement letter, she said, "I am proud of the contributions I have made to the Special Education Department during my tenure. I am very grateful to the support of the Special Education directors and their staff, the school principals, the many colleagues with whom I have worked over the years. I wish you, and the district as a whole, many years of continued success." We wish Sharon all the very best in her retirement.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

There were no communications to/from the Board.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Pasquale at 8:40 p.m. and carried unanimously (7-0) to adjourn the meeting for a short recess to the Rye Middle School gymnasium for tally of the election results.

MEETING RECONVENED AT 9:40

On a motion by Ms. Pasquale seconded by Mr. Jines-Storey at 9:40 p.m. and carried unanimously (7-0) to reconvene the meeting for election results.

Board President Katy Keohane Glassberg called the meeting to order at 9:40 p.m.

Board President Katy Keohane Glassberg announced the results of today's elections. There were 1485 total voters for this election.

School Board Member Candidate Katy Keohane Glassberg received 1206 votes.

School Board Member Candidate Jennifer Boyle received 1270 votes.

The Superintendent's Recommended School Budget for 2016-17 passed with 1165 Yes Votes and 365 No Votes.

The Osborn Furnace Bond Referendum question passed with 1224 Yes Votes and 300 No Votes.

Board President Katy Keohane Glassberg announced that as per the Rye City School's District Clerk Elaine Cuglietto, these results are unofficial until confirmation is received from the County.

She announced that there were also 39 write-in votes.

Complete details and all election results will be certified at the next Board of Education Meeting on June 7, 2016.

Ms. Glassberg extended her congratulations to Ms. Jennifer Boyle on her election to the Rye City School District Board of Education and expressed her thanks and appreciation to the community for the passage of this budget and the Osborn Bond Referendum.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 9:52 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.