

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**September 8, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Katy Keohane Glassberg at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday September 8, 2015.

**Present:**

Ms. Katy Keohane-Glassberg, President  
 Mr. Christopher Repetto, Vice President  
 Ms. Karen Belanger  
 Ms. Nancy Pasquale  
     Mr. Blake Jines-Storey \*\*Arrived at 7:25 p.m.  
     Ms. Kelly Smith Powers\*\*Arrived at 7:10 p.m.

**Excused:**

Ms. Nicole Weber

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  
 Mr. Tom Scapoli, Legal Counsel

On a motion by Ms. Belanger, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (4 -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 (6 -0) it was voted at 7:50 p.m. to reconvene in public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT MOVED TO LATER IN THE MEETING**

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION I**

Dr. Betty Ann Wyks, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction introduced Ms. Shelly Klein to report on the current literacy program being utilized in the Rye City School District. Ms. Klein gave an overview of what was being done on all grade levels kindergarten through grade 5 as well as plans for the upcoming school year. She reported on the many staff development opportunities that have occurred over the last year for the district's elementary teachers. The literacy initiative using the Teachers College Readers Workshop Model and the

integration of the common core standards has been on-going since the Summer of 2014. Ms. Klein was happy to report that she is very appreciative to all of our teachers for the wonderful excitement and enthusiasm that they have presented in their learning. Over this past summer middle school teachers participated in staff development opportunities as well.

### **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Superintendent of School Dr. Frank Alvarez reported that the district had a good opening of school earlier in the day. The kindergarten enrollment currently is 217 and the district's overall enrollment is approximately 3385 students. Dr. Alvarez mentioned that the Board has appointed two interim school administrators; Mr. Rod Mergardt the Interim Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, and Ms. Julia Chung the Interim Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services. In addition, the district has hired 22 new faculty members and approximately 20 other new staff members have also joined the staff. Many new and very interesting people have joined our staff and we are happy to welcome them here to Rye.

Dr. Alvarez stated that in late August, our administrative retreat was held at The Wainwright House where the administrative team gathered together to think about the year ahead, discuss our goals and objectives for the year as well as team building. New teachers were welcomed to the district at our new teacher orientation for two days last week and then professional development was held on two Superintendent's Conference days. We are off to a good start of the 2015-16 school year.

Dr. Alvarez mentioned that at the opening day convocation he announced that this summer, Rosa DiMarzo of our Food Services Dept. had an editorial article written about her in a local newspaper. This was a very inspiring articles indicating just how important every member of the organization is important to the work we do in educating our children. He went on to mention that our own Physical Education teacher and Coach Mary Henwood will be inducted into the Westchester County Sports Hall of Fame this year (the 9<sup>th</sup> garnet to receive that honor). Milton School teacher Dayna Reist was acknowledged as the "Teacher of the Year" at the opening day convocation as well. Dayna gave a very powerful speech to her colleagues which embody the best of what we have in our district.

In regard to technology improvements in our schools, we have new computers in many of the buildings with the beginning of a 5 year replacement cycle for work stations. We now have much improved internet capabilities. In the area of Curriculum – The Literacy Initiative has been discussed. The district is eager to begin its new full day kindergarten program, continuing STEM offerings, 3D Design and Architecture as well as the expansion of Project Lead the Way Program.

The Rye Fund for Education has an impact on much of what we are doing in the district. The Fund is assisting in such projects as the new high school courtyard and changes to the band room in the areas of storage space and lighting. The PO Organization has also helped to support these renovations as well. The Rye Fund also supported professional development for the middle school teachers this summer and contributed to the purchase a number of resource materials for the Teachers College Readers Workshop work for the elementary schools.

**Board President Ms. Keohane-Glassberg announced that at this time, 8:30 p.m., the Board would begin The Public Hearing Regarding Smart Bond Funding.**

Ms. Gabriella O'Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Business presented to the public information regarding Smart Bond Funding that the district is anticipating in the amount of approximately \$286,000. relative to the NYS Smart Schools Bond Act, 2014. (Attachment #I) The revenue received from the sale of NYS bonds are, according to the proposal, used for projects related to the following:

Educational technology equipment and facilities such as interactive whiteboards, computer servers, desktop and laptop computer, etc. constructing and modernizing facilities and installing high-tech security features in school buildings. The district would use the funds to enhance our present security plan. This will afford the district the opportunity to expand and upgrade security monitoring specific to the elementary level and to continue the implementation of the Stone Gate (Security Consultant) recommendations previously received. The district will be completing the two part application process, submitting the application by October 16, 2015.

Ms. Keohane-Glassberg asked for any communications from the public regarding Smart Bond Funding. There were no communications from the public. The Board of Education Members discussed the usage of these monies relative to educational technology, our school budget for this and next school year and the timeframe involved for approval, spending and reimbursement process by the State.

**Ms. Keohane-Glassberg announced that at this time, 9:00 p.m. the Board would close The Public Hearing Regarding Smart Bond Funding.**

#### **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON GENDA ITEMS:**

There were no communications from the public.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Keohane- Glassberg asked for a motion to amend the Consent Agenda by adding:

**Consent Agenda Item – General 8.11 to the agenda.**

**8.11 Appeal of Section I Ruling Regarding Student Athletes**

On a motion by Mr. Repetto, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to add Consent Agenda – General – 8.11 as follows to the agenda:

**Consent Agenda 8.11 Appeal of Section I Ruling Regarding Student Athletes**

That the Board adopts the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the school district's attorney to initiate legal action on its behalf to appeal a denial of athletic eligibility for the 2015-2016 school year of students listed on Confidential Sheet "A".

**Ms. Keohane-Glassberg announced that the following agenda items are being removed from the agenda for brief discussion:**

**Consent Agenda General 8.09**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Strategic Priorities for 2015-2016 as attached.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.02**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approve the creation of the OT (Other: Donations) Fund for the purpose of housing and isolating donation funds to better maintain and monitor these funds district wide.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto, seconded by Mr. Jines-Storey, and carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the following Consent Agenda items as amended:

**GENERAL**

**Consent Agenda General 8.01**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the June 16, 2015 Minutes as presented.

**Consent Agenda General 8.02**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the June 25, 2015 Minutes as presented.

**Consent Agenda General 8.03**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the June 30, 2015 Minutes as presented.

**Consent Agenda General 8.04**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the July 1, 2015 Minutes as presented.

**Consent Agenda General 8.05**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the July 2, 2015 Minutes as presented.

**Consent Agenda General 8.06**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the July 22, 2015 Minutes as presented.

**Consent Agenda General 8.07**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the July 23, 2015 Minutes as presented.

**Consent Agenda General 8.08**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the September 1, 2015 Minutes as presented.

**Consent Agenda General 8.10****Recommended Action:**

That the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to sign contracts and amendments for IEP out-of-district placements during the 2015-2016 school year, as revised and as discussed in Executive Session.

**Consent Agenda General 8.11****Recommended Action:****Consent Agenda 8.11 Appeal of Section I Ruling Regarding Student Athletes**

That the Board adopts the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the school district's attorney to initiate legal action on its behalf to appeal a denial of athletic eligibility for the 2015-2016 school year of students listed on Confidential Sheet "A".

**FISCAL****Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the vendors for the School Lunch program with prices provided for the 2015-16 school year. (Attachment #II)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.03****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the award of the RFP for School Lunch Consulting Services to JAH Associates, formerly the Rochelle Group, LTD., for the 2015-16 school year for \$14,500.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.04****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Consulting Services Agreement with Developmental Steps, LLC for the 2015-16 school year. (Attachment #III)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.05****Recommended Action:**

That the Board of Education approves the contract with Cognitive and Behavioral Consultants, LLP for the 2015-16 school year. (Attachment #IV)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.06****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the amendment to the 2015-16 Consulting Services Agreement with Program for Little Learners, LLC for the 2015-16 school year. (Attachment #V)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.07****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves this budget transfer 2015-16 #1. (Attachment #VI)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.08****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$4,733.87 gift from the Milton School PTO for Scholastic Guided Reading Short Reads for grades K-5.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.09****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$4,500 gift from the RHS PO for Project Lead the Way.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.10****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$29,230 gift from the RHS PO for band room renovations and increases the General Fund budget accordingly.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.11****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves an increase to the General Fund budget by \$1,507.40 for a previously approved gift.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.12****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$9,000 gift from Rye Garnets Ice Hockey, INC. for the JV Ice Hockey team expenses.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.13****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the award of Bid #15-16-001 for the year 2015-2016 for District-Wide Masonry and Related Repair Services to Maple Leaf Associates, Inc. (Attachment #VII)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.14****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the amendment to the 2015-16 Consulting Service Agreement with Marcie L. Klebanoff, M.A. ATP for the 2015-16 school year. (Attachment #VIII)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.15****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Award of the RFP for Public Information Officer to Sarah C. Derman for the 2015/16 for a rate of \$54,990.00. (Attachment #IX)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.16****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Renewal of the RFP for Athletic Training Services to COR Sports for the period from July 1, 2015 to September 7, 2015 for \$5,216.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.17****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Award of the RFP for Athletic Training Services to COR Sports for the period covering September 8, 2015 to June 30, 2016 for \$77,684.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.18****Recommended Action:**

That the Board accepts the monthly Financial reports for May 2015. (Attachment #X)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.19****Recommended Action:**

That the Board accepts the monthly financial reports for June 2015. (Attachment #XI)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.20****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the award of the additional transportation runs as detailed below.

Award of Additional Transportation Contracts: (Attachment #XII)

Isaac Young MS to All County Bus for \$3,600/month.

Pocantico Hills School to Allways East for \$4,500/month with bus attendant.

Summit School to County Coach Corp for \$4,932/month .

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.21****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves Rescinding Recommended Award for Student Transportation Bid for two runs to Allways East for 2015-16, previously awarded July 22, 2015 (Agenda Item 5.04) as noted below.

Due to incorrect selection of lowest bidders, the following previously approved recommended awards should be rescinded:

Cerebral Palsey of Westchester to Allways East for \$5,250/month with wheelchair and bus attendant.

King Street School to Allways East for \$5,250/month with wheelchair and bus attendant.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.22****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the award of the transportation runs as detailed below.

Date of Bid Opening: July 9, 2015. Based on the second lowest submitted prices, the following initial recommended awards for 2015-16 are as follows:

Award of New Transportation Contracts:

Rye Lake Campus (Bus #2) to Allways East at \$5,250/month for regular bus including bus attendant.

Harrison HS to County Coach at \$4,500/month for regular bus.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.23****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves Rescinding Recommended Award for Student Transportation Bid for one run to All County Bus for 2015-16, previously awarded July 22, 2015 (Agenda Item 5.04) as noted below.

Bus company (All County Bus) has requested to withdraw from previously approved recommended award. The following award should be rescinded:

Harrison HS to All County Bus at \$4,050/month with bus attendant

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.24****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves a non-resident student as discussed in Executive Session.

**PROFESSIONAL****Consent Agenda Professional 10.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Resignation of Fatima Oliveira from her position as a Foreign Language Teacher, effective at the close of business July 31, 2015.

**Recommendation:** That the Board approves the Resignation of Isabel Irizarry from her position as a Foreign Language Teacher, effective at the close of business September 8, 2015 per the Superintendent's recommendation.

(Employee's request to be effective August 28, 2015.)

**Consent Agenda Professional 10.02****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Four Year Probationary Appointment of Kristen Cuffe, as a Foreign Language Teacher, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Spanish 7-12 and New York State Permanent Certification in English to Speakers of Other Languages, assigned to Rye High School and Rye Middle School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 6 \* of the 2015-2016 Teacher Salary Schedule \$76,973\* (pro rated amount of \$75,818.39\*), effective September 8, 2015 – August 31, 2019 (a).

\*salary pending contract settlement

(a) This individual must receive three (3) annual APPR composite ratings of Effective or Highly Effective, in at least three (3) of the preceding four (4) years and cannot have an APPR Composite rating of Ineffective in the last year of his or her probationary appointment to be granted or considered for tenure.

**Consent Agenda Professional 10.03****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Increase in Assignment of Kristin Castaldi from a 0.5 FTE Art Teacher to a 0.6 FTE Art Teacher, assigned to Milton School, effective September 1, 2015 to serve at the pleasure of the Board.



**Consent Agenda Professional 10.04****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Maryuly Mendoza as a .9 FTE Teaching Assistant, assigned to 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 September 2, 2015 – June 24, 2016.

\*salary pending contract settlement

**Consent Agenda Professional 10.05****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

Margaret Brown

Jeff Charney, Sr.

**CLASSIFIED****Consent Agenda Classified 11.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Probationary Appointment of Darius Kirkland as a Cleaner, (Nights) with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Rye High School, on Step 1 of the 2015-2016 Custodial Unit Salary Schedule with Night Differential, \$44,905.82 (pro rated amount of \$35,190.71, effective September 18, 2015.

(Darius Kirkland has been a Substitute Cleaner effective August 1, 2014.)

(Darius Kirkland is replacing Frank Rogewitz who resigned effective at the close of business July 24, 2015.)

**Consent Agenda Classified 11.02****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Probationary Appointment of Kelly Pirone as a Computer Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Osborn School, 0.8 FTE, W/O Degree Step 1 of the 2015-2016 Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Salary Schedule, annual salary \$27,136 (pro rated amount of \$21,160.60) effective September 9, 2015.

**Consent Agenda Classified 11.03****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Probationary Appointment of Beatriz Reeves as a Library Clerk, 10 month position, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Rye High School and Rye Middle School, 1.0 FTE Step 1 of the

2015-2016 Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Salary Schedule, \$34,544 (pro rated amount of \$33,953.25), effective September 9, 2015.

NOTE: Beatriz Reeves is being appointed from Eligible List #02-100, Established 04-01-02, Certification #000022048, Issued 07-22-15.

#### **Consent Agenda Classified 11.04**

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

That the Board approves the Additional Work of Sharon McSorley as a Teacher Aide for Special Education, at the Step 1 rate of the 2015-2016 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule \$18.45 per hour, 1.75 hours per day, 5 days per week for approximately 10 weeks, effective September 8, 2015.

(Sharon McSorley will be working 1:1 with a student for After School Athletics.)

#### **Consent Agenda Classified 11.05**

##### **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 – Step 1 of the Secretarial Clerical School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Contract for the 2015-2016 School Year is:

Column A - \$17.03

Column B - \$22.78

Column C - \$23.67

Column D - \$25.88

Column E - \$28.10

Column F - \$31.50

Laura Miles

Rosemarie Hanley

#### **Consent Agenda Classified 11.06**

##### **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

Margaret Brown

Jeff Charney, Sr.

#### **Consent Agenda Special Education 12.01**

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

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

Board of Education President Ms. Keohane-Glassberg acknowledged that on this evening's agenda, the Board of Education accepted the following very generous gifts. A \$4,733.87 gift from the Milton School PTO was accepted for Scholastic Guided Reading Short Reads for Grades K-5. We also received a \$4,500 gift from the RHS PO to help fund "Project Lead the Way" and we also accepted a gift in the amount of \$29,230 gift from the RHS PO for a portion of the band room renovations. Ms. Keohane-Glassberg stated that the renovations to the band room were also made possible by the Rye Fund for Education as Dr. Alvarez previously mentioned, together with the Rye Middle School PO as well as individual parent donors contributed to this group effort. Ms. Keohane-Glassberg also expressed thanks and appreciation to the Rye Garnets Ice Hockey, Inc. for the JV Ice Hockey team expenses for a gift in the amount of \$9,000 to defray the cost of JV Ice Hockey.

### **ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Alvarez explained that each year the Board and The Administration Team meet and agree on list of strategic priorities around the five major goals of the district; Academic achievement, teacher effectiveness, culture of caring, fiscal responsibility and community engagement.

Detailed discussion occurred on what has been done and what efforts the district is looking to achieve in the year ahead. The Board has asked for feedback of specific areas of interest is provided to the Board.

Ms. O'Connor explained the necessity of the creation of additional budget codes for district finances. The creation of this budget code is for donation funds which the district is lucky enough to receive. This will be helpful tool to manage those dollars more efficiently and identifying them from beginning to end including the ability to issue purchase orders for usage of these dollars.

On a motion by Ms. Pasquale, seconded by Ms. Belanger, and carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the following Consent Agenda item:

#### **Consent Agenda General 8.09**

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

That the Board approves the Strategic Priorities for 2015-2016 as attached. (Attachment #XIV)

On a motion by Ms. Pasquale, seconded by Mr. Repetto, and carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the following Consent Agenda item:

#### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 9.02**

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

That the Board approve the creation of the OT (Other: Donations) Fund for the purpose of housing and isolating donation funds to better maintain and monitor these funds district wide.

## **PRESENTATION DISCUSSION II**

Dr. Betty Ann Wyks, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction explained that at future upcoming Board of Education meetings, individual presentations will be made relative to the following curricula that was written and/or revised over the summer.

Kindergarten Art Curriculum

Latin - Grade 6

English 11 and English 11 Honors Curricula

Algebra 1 and Algebra 2 Curricula

The Board has asked for feedback and progress reporting of these classes during the upcoming school year. The Administration indicated that they would be giving periodic updates to the Board and presentations of the individual curricula will be occurring at future meetings.

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

There were no further communications to or from the Board.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 9:35 p.m. to adjourn to Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Jines-Storey seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:15 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.