

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
November 18, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Laura Slack at 7:08 p.m. on Tuesday November 18, 2014.

Present:

Ms. Laura Slack, President

Ms. Katy Keohane Glassberg, Vice President – Arrived at 7:16 p.m.

Ms. Karen Belanger

Ms. Nancy Pasquale

Mr. Christopher Repetto

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

Absent:

Ms. Nicole Weber

On a motion by Mr. Repetto, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (5 -0) it was voted at 7:08 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 8:12 p.m. to reconvene in public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Alvarez announced that The Smart Schools Bond was approved by voters on November 4, 2014. Our school district is eligible to receive approximately \$286,000 in technology-related funds. The District must apply for the money based on our needs. It may be that the entirety of the monies goes towards technology infrastructure. We must spend the money before we can be reimbursed by the State. Some discussion followed, with Board of Education President Laura Slack expressing her dislike of the reimbursement policy. Discussion also followed that at a recent Technology Summit for Westchester/Putnam County schools, the program said that the dollars from the Bond had to be spent between February 1, 2015 and

February 1, 2016, further complicating matters. Discussion followed that the next step will be for the District to form a committee to evaluate the District's technology and make recommendations regarding the District's technology "wish list." The Direction received from BOCES is for the District to begin writing a report as to what technology we have and what we want and that more direction will follow.

Dr. Alvarez announced that the School District has launched an online tax payment system available on the District's web site.

Superintendent's Conference Day was held on Monday, November 10th. In addition to mandated workshops, the faculty was able to do a great deal of benchmarking around Common Core curriculum and Best Practices. At lunch, the Great Meatball Challenge was held at Osborn School. Stonegate, our security consultants, presented to 85 staff members from around the district at Osborn School.

The Schools held Open House Day on Tuesday. The school principals reported the largest turnout of parents ever seen.

The State Education Department has just released a report regarding College Persistence Rates entitled "Where are they Now?" Our belief is that the rates are probably wrong, not only for Rye, but across the board. The source is a National Student Clearinghouse, and the report looks at the 2008 High School Graduating class. In essence, it examines which students go to college and stay on to graduate. According to our figures, the rate for 2008 was 96%, whereas the study reported the rate as 81%. We are working with other Districts and Superintendents to correct the report and will report back to the Board.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no communications from the Public on Non Agenda Items.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Glassberg, seconded by Mr. Repetto and carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the following agenda items:

GENERAL

Consent Agenda General 6.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the November 4, 2014 Minutes as presented.

FISCAL

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01

Recommended Action:

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

Award of a New Contract:

Irvington HS (BOCES CATS) to All County Bus for \$3,600.00/month.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Consulting Services Agreement with Yonatan Sokal, M.D. for the 2014-2015 school year. (Attachment # I)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the contract with the Dorothy Hamill Ice Rink for games during the 2014-15 season. (Attachment # II)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board of Education approves this budget transfer #4. (Attachment # III)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.05**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves this proposal by Larry Kaiser to Compile Menu Allergen Data for the School District. (Attachment # IV)

PROFESSIONAL**Consent Agenda Professional 8.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Amendment of the Two Year Probationary Appointment of Jennifer Nielsen as a School Psychologist, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification as a School Psychologist, assigned to Osborn School, effective November 3, 2014 – November 2, 2016.

(Jennifer Nielsen was previously approved for a Two Year Probationary Appointment at the incorrect date range of November 3, 2014 – August 31, 2016 at the October 21, 2014 Board of Education Meeting.)

Consent Agenda Professional 8.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of April Browne as an Art Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Visual Arts, assigned to Milton School, 0.5 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2014-2015 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$62,486 (pro rated amount of \$15,621.50), effective February 2, 2015 – June 30, 2015.

(April Browne will be replacing Kristen Castaldi who was previously approved for Child Care Leaves of Absence, effective September 2, 2014 – January 31, 2015 and February 2, 2015 – June 30, 2015. April Browne was previously approved as Leave Replacement Art Teacher, effective September 2, 2014 – January 31, 2015.)

Consent Agenda Professional 8.03**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Lisa-Marie DiRusso as a Teacher of Home Instruction on the Elementary Level for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in

Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), 5 hours weekly at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective October 9, 2014, – June 30, 2015.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Andrew Lask as a Teacher of Home Instruction for Special Education for which he holds New York State Initial Certification in Biology 7-12, New York State Initial Certification in Chemistry 7-12 and New York State Supplementary Certification in Students With Disabilities Grades 7-12 – Generalist, 4 hours weekly at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective November 17, 2014 – June 30, 2015.

Consent Agenda Professional 8.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following Building Level DASA Coordinators for the 2014-2015 school year:

Milton School	JoAnne Nardone, Principal Joanna Diaco, School Psychologist
Osborn School	Angela Garcia, Principal Torrance Walley, Assistant Principal Jennifer Nielsen, School Psychologist
Midland School	James Boylan, Principal Joanna Napolitano, Assistant Principal Anat Mor, School Psychologist
Rye Middle School	Ann Edwards, Principal Peter Green, Social Worker
Rye High School	Patricia Taylor, Principal Robert Zegarelli, Assistant Principal

CLASSIFIED

Consent Agenda Classified 9.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Nancy Dunn from her position as Claims Auditor, assigned to Rye City School District, effective at the close of business November 30, 2014.

Consent Agenda Classified 9.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Amanda Grokowski from her position as a Teacher Aide, assigned to Milton School, effective at the close of business June 30, 2014.

Consent Agenda Classified 9.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Vincent Baione as a Videographer for the 2014-2015 school year at the following rates not to exceed \$10,000:

\$42.00 hourly rate – Monday to Thursday hourly rate

\$54.00 hourly rate – Friday to Sunday hourly rate

Consent Agenda Classified 9.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Lynn Ferguson-Mastalli as a Substitute Clerical Worker at the rate of \$38.97 per hour not to exceed 20 hours, effective September 1, 2014 – November 30, 2014.

Consent Agenda Classified 9.05**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Substitute Food Service Worker to be used on an as needed basis for the 2014-2015 school year:

	Rate	Effective Date
Kenisha Johnhope	\$12.00/hr.	11/17/1

Consent Agenda Special Education 10.01**Recommended Action:**

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

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**ST Math: An Overview**

Dr. Alvarez introduced Dr. Betty Ann Wyks, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment who presented to the Board and the Public an overview of the ST Math Program. Dr. Wyks explained that this tool has been introduced to our teachers on Superintendent's Conference Day, and it is designed to boost comprehension and proficiency through visual learning. It is a research based, spatial-temporal (ST) Program with modules at K-6, middle school and high school level. It is at the core of innovative thinking and sophisticated problem solving including the following:

- Focus on conceptual understanding
- Language independent
- Can assign specific objectives
- Supports Common Core

At this point in time, the program will be used for:

- ELL students K-5 (Funded through Title III Grant)
- AIS Math Students 2- 5 (Funded through Title I Grant)
- 125 student licenses for 2014-2015
- Licenses for all grade 2-5 teachers and support teachers

Dr. Wyks went on to demonstrate this interactive program by using visual examples with the program's main character JiJi at various grade levels Kindergarten – Grade 5. (Attachment # VI)

District Policies

Ms. Belanger described the changes that were made to the following policies that have been reviewed by the Board's Policy Committee.

- 1530 Smoking and Other Tobacco Use on School Premises
This revised policy also replaces policies 5312.3 Student Use of Tobacco and 9330 Tobacco Use on School Premises by Staff, copies of which are attached for reference.
- 4327 Homebound Instruction
- 5300.45 Alternative Instruction in the Case of a Disciplinary Matter
- 6150 Budget Transfers

The Board of Education discussed and decided that Policy #5300.45 Alternative Instruction in the Case of a Disciplinary Matter will be brought back for approval at the next Board of Education Meeting. This policy needs further research and work by the Policy Committee before completion.

After Board of Education discussion of these policies, Ms. Slack asked if there were any questions or comments from the public in regard to any of these policies. There were no communications from the public on these policies.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

Dr. Betty Ann Wyks announced that there will be a meeting of the Curriculum Council on Wednesday November 19, 2014 at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Rye High School. Dr. Wyks asked that if anyone from the public is interested in joining the meeting they may do so.

Ms. Slack announced that the Board is looking for community members to join one of the various Board of Education Committees.

Ms. Belanger announced that at an earlier meeting, Ms. Jennifer Costigan discussed the possibility of a food allergy policy. Ms. Belanger stated that the issue is seriously being considered and a project that the Policy Committee is seriously undertaking.

Mr. Repetto discussed that he has been asked by parents in the community to continually review the new attendance policy implemented this year. Some parents feel that they are happy with the implementation of the policy but that it might be too harsh. Mr. Repetto is asking for it to be continually reviewed.

Ms. Slack congratulated the Rye Football Team for winning the Class A Football Championship this Fall. Many of our student athletes will be present at a future Board of Education Meeting for recognition.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 9:20 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.