



Board of Education Meeting
September 29, 2015

2015-2016 Board of Education
Katy Keohane Glassberg, President · Chris Repetto, Vice President
Karen Belanger·Blake Jines·Storey·Nancy Pasquale· Kelly Smith Powers·Nicole Weber

A Summary of the 9/29/15 Rye City School District Board of Education Meeting

Welcome to the Public

Board of Education President Katy Keohane Glassberg welcomed members of the public and stated that the District is now four weeks into the school year. This week marks the first full day of school for the District's youngest students – Kindergarteners.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Frank Alvarez reiterated Ms. Glassberg's statement that Kindergarteners have now begun a full-day schedule, and stated that he intends to visit the Kindergarten classrooms on Friday to see how teachers and students are faring after their first full week. He will report in at the next Board Meeting.

Dr. Alvarez reported that since our last Board meeting, there has been much discussion about the District dress code. The District has received a number of communications on the subject from parents in the form of emails, letters and a petition. The District sent home a letter via email about the dress code; it is hoped all parents received it. The Policy Committee has started to review the dress code; in fact it was already on the Committee's "to do" list. The District will be looking at the Code of Conduct and reviewing the policy. The District must have a public hearing when reviewing the Code of Conduct, so there will be opportunity for public comment at that time.

The portion of the SmartBond application that Assistant Superintendent for Business Gabriella O'Connor has completed is up on the website for public review.

The District will be holding an event on Thursday, October 8th at 6:30 p.m. to officially open the Courtyard adjacent to the Science Wing. Dr. Alvarez reported that the Courtyard is shaping up beautifully.

Presentations

Spanish II/IIH Curricula

High School Spanish Teachers Laura Glicksman, Alexandra Koclanes Soberon, Jose Maria Moreno-Dominguez and Gabriela Murphy gave an overview of the new Spanish II/II H curricula. Please link to their presentation [here](#). The curricula for Spanish II/II H had to be revised over the summer because students are coming to Spanish II from the FLES program in the elementary schools with much greater vocabulary and aptitude in Spanish. The Spanish I curriculum was revised last year for the same reason. All the teachers praised the FLES program which has resulted in students coming to High School Spanish with far greater confidence and ability in Spanish.

The teachers reported that we now need a new track to place Level 2 Spanish students to accommodate students coming to the District who either did not receive FLES at the elementary level, are returning to Spanish after taking Mandarin or Latin in Middle School or who are taking Spanish as a second language. High School Principal Pat Taylor reported that a co-hort for such a class exists.

Year-End Budget Transfers

Item 8.02 was removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Assistant Superintendent for Business Gabriella O'Connor reported that these budget transfers are the final reconciliation of the end-of-year budget process. The transfers are a means to reallocate funds within the budget to cover expenses incurred throughout the year. She gave technology expenses as an example. Another area that needed more funding was Special Education, where the District saw an increase in its population. Another area was in transportation -- when BOCES stopped providing transportation, the District's transportation costs increased. Budget transfers are a means of moving funds from budget codes where there were dollars remaining at the end of the year to areas where there were none. Ms. O'Connor stated that this is a result of the District beginning the budget process earlier every year. Often we have to reallocate funds to areas where the actual need is.

Communications to the Board

Katy Keohane Glassberg reported that the Board has received a petition regarding the dress code. She stated that the conversation regarding the dress code had begun in the spring, but the Policy Committee was not able to undertake the review at that time. She noted that the Committee meets only one time per month, and works very hard.

Information

Policy Committee Chair Karen Belanger reported that the Committee will be bringing forward information about a new proposed Immunization Policy. The District has received new regulations from the State, and our policy must follow suit and conform to these regulations. The policy will be up for discussion at the next meeting.

Next Regular Meeting

October 13, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Rye Middle School
Multipurpose Room

Visit our District Website for complete information on Board of Education meetings, minutes, policies and actions: www.ryeschools.org

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