

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
November 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Nathan at 7: 07 p.m. and the roll was called:

Present

Mr. Joshua Nathan, *President*
Ms. Laura Slack, *Vice President**
Ms. Kendall Egan
Mr. Edward Fox
Ms. Young Kim
Mr. Ray Schmitt
Mr. Robert Zahm

And

Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Steven Cohen, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Elaine Cuglietto, Director of Personnel
Mr. Gus Mountanos, Legal Counsel

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to move immediately into executive session to review the employment history of current and prospective employees, discuss negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and current litigation.

On a motion by Ms. Kim seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:09 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Nathan welcomed those present and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Nathan invited any students present who intended to address the Board to do so at this time.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Rye High School Junior Mason Curtis, representing members of the Natural Environment Club, addressed the Board to discuss a proposal to create a National Wildlife Federation Certified Habitat in a grassy island in the Rye Middle School driveway, near the entrance to Nugent Stadium. The details of the proposal including the national Wildlife Federation Certified Habitat Requirements Description were presented to the Board. Mr. Curtis stated that the funds for the establishment of this project are provided from the National Wildlife Federation. Future costs may be maintained by the Natural Environment Club through fund raising.

Mr. Nathan thanked Mr. Curtis and the Natural Environment Club for their presentation and for this worthwhile endeavor. Dr. Shine will review the proposal for consideration and if in his authority to go forward with the proposal, he would do so. Dr. Shine will inform the students of any next steps required.

Mr. Nathan reported that a meeting between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association occurred on November 3, 2009. An official statement of the parties was released: "...Positive steps have been taken toward the settlement of a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. All participants agreed that the details of the discussion will remain confidential at this time. Another meeting has been scheduled in the next few weeks to continue the progress that was begun." The meeting participants were: Mary Lou Pullis, James Baker, Karen Kozaan, Edward Shine, Josh Nathan and Laura Slack.

Mr. Nathan also commented that a recent item in the November edition of Westchester Magazine was very critical of the RTA. The Board finds the treatment of our teachers in the Westchester Magazine absolutely repugnant. Mr. Nathan indicated that we do not condone this or any sensationalistic coverage of our contract negotiations and the Board looks forward to working on the progress that we have begun to make.

Report of the Superintendent

- ❖ Dr. Shine focused on our high school sports program and our successful teams including the Tennis, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Girls Swimming, Girls Cross Country and the Boys Cross Country Team.
- ❖ Rye Middle School "Rock, Write & Listen" students took a field trip to Bethel New York to visit the Bethel Center for the Arts Museum to learn about the Woodstock Concert and its influence on history.
- ❖ Rye Middle School "Beyond RMS" class travelled to New York City to meet with small business owners of "The Doughnut Plant" and "Classickicks."
- ❖ Milton School held its Circus Arts Week, culminating in a Circus Arts performance on October 23.
- ❖ Midland School held its monthly Spirit Assembly – The theme for November is Respect.
- ❖ Dr. Shine reminded everyone that a new video on demand feature for the viewing of Board of Education Meetings is now available. Interested individuals can find the link on the school district website: www.ryeschools.org. Under District, Board of Education – Video on Demand.
- ❖ Dr. Shine reminded everyone that the most recent Board Meeting will still be broadcast on the RCTV cable stations—Fios Channel 40 and Cablevision Channel 77.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

There were no communications from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Zahm seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the following items:

General

- I. Consent Agenda
 - A. General
 - 1. Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of October 13, 2009.
 - 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of October 27, 2009.

Personnel-Professional

- 1) The Resignation of Linda Cohen from her position as a Library Media Specialist assigned to Osborn School, effective at the close of business November 25, 2009.
- 2) The Appointment of the following Extra Pay for Extra Work for the 2009-2010 School Year:

	ACTIVITY	NAME	INDEX	09/10 STEP	09/10 RATE*
ATHLETICS					
SWIMMING (Boys)	Assist. to Prog.	Dewey, Christopher	0.05500	3	3,221
SWIMMING (Diving)	Varsity	Lopez, Johan	0.03000	3	1,757
WEB ADVISOR	Athletic Department	Young, Cynthia (pro rated Nov. - June)	0.03500	6	1,898
HIGH SCHOOL					
CLUB	International Club	Considine, Marion (Shared)	.03000	3	879
MUSIC	Jazz Band Asst.	Beaney, Todd	0.03500	6	2,373
OSBORN SCHOOL					
CLUB	Literary Magazine	Benfari, Jacquelyn	0.04000	3	2,343

(Marion Considine was previously approved for the International Club at Step 1 at the October 13, 2009 Board of Education Meeting. Proof has been submitted that Marion

Considine has been co-advisor for this club for 3 prior years. This amendment will bring her to the correct Step)

(Todd Beaney was previously approved for Jazz Band Asst. at Step 0 at the October 13, 2009 Board of Education Meeting. Todd Beaney has previous experience in this position. This amendment will bring him to the correct Step)

(Deborah Dioguardi was approved at the October 13, 2009 Board of Education Meeting for the Literary Magazine. She will not be participating this year in this club)

*Salary pending contract settlement

The following Per Diem Substitute Teachers to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2009-2010 School Year at a daily rate of \$100.00 per day:

	<u>Effective Date</u>
Dayna Reist	November 2, 2009
Marc Sorondo	November 6, 2009
±Erin Trapasso	November 9, 2009

±Emergency Conditional Appointment

Personnel - Classified

- 1) The Resignation due to Retirement of Louis Roccuzzo from his position as Head Custodian, assigned to Milton School, effective at the close of business January 1, 2010.

Special Education

The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and Preschool Special Education from its meetings on:

- October 2, 2009 for Student ID #1235
- October 7, 2009 for Student ID #277
- October 7, 2009 for Student ID #1234
- October 8, 2009 for Student ID #946
- October 20, 2009 for Students ID #911582
- October 22, 2009 for Student ID #1164DOL

Presentation/Discussion

Dr. Robert Monson, Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) District Superintendent, Ms. Georgia Riedel, Southern Westchester BOCES Board President and Liaison to the Rye City School District Board together with Sandra Simpson, Deputy Superintendent of Southern Westchester BOCES presented background information on BOCES, the benefits to Rye as a component district, the services BOCES offers, and the fiscal challenges it is facing and its budget process.

The Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Education Services Goals for 2009-2010 were distributed to the Board as well as a listing of some facts relating to the services provided by Southern Westchester BOCES.

The Rye City School District Board of Education encouraged more communication going forward between itself and the BOCES Board. Dr. Monson has asked that he come back to visit the Rye City School District Board and listen to the Board regarding the services that BOCES is offering and how the Board feels that BOCES is addressing our district's needs. Mr. Nathan asked Dr. Monson to send some questions that he would want answers to and the Board could either respond in writing or invite the representatives back to a future Board meeting.

Dr. Steven Cohen, Asst Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, reported on the program evaluation and assessments the Board can expect to receive based on priorities established for Mathematics and Foreign Language in the District's Priorities for 2009-2010. The discussion built upon his previous presentation to the Board of Education on October 23, 2009 on the four methods of assessing student performance. After discussion, clarification was made on certain items and the expected dates of completion in various areas of Mathematics and Foreign Language.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Zahm reported on progress being made regarding the over grown shrubbery on the Osborn property at the exit to Osborn School that was brought to the Board's attention by both Mrs. Zahm and Mr. Zahm at previous Board of Education meetings. Mr. Zahm stated that he was at the school earlier this week and the shrubbery had been cut back. Mr. Zahm thanked the City for their work.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Schmitt and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 9:40 p.m. to adjourn briefly into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, for the discussion of negotiations

pursuant to the Taylor Law, and for a review of current litigation. Mr. Nathan noted that the Board would not return to Public Session.

At 9:50 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Kim and seconded by Ms. Slack, the Board voted unanimously (7-0) to adjourn the meeting.

TO DO

Dr. Shine will be following up with Dr. Rooney on the various data collection and analysis concerns raised by Board members.

Dr. Cohen will be amending some projected completion and review dates in the various areas of mathematics and Foreign Language in the District's Priorities for 2009-2010.

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.**