

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
January 11, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 5:20 p.m. and the roll was called.

Present

Mr. James Culyer, *President*
Mr. Stephen Feeney, *Vice President**
Ms. Sarah Mariani
Mr. Joshua Nathan**
Mr. George Pratt
Ms. Victoria Sterling
Mr. Robert Zahm

And Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Daniel McCann, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Robert Walsh, Assistant Superintendent

* Arrived 5:30 p.m.

**Arrived 5:45 p.m.; Departed 9:55 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Ms. Mariani and carried unanimously (5-0) it was voted to adjourn into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, and the discussion of pending litigation and negotiations.

Upon reconvening in public at 8:03 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried unanimously (7-0), Mr. Culyer welcomed those present.

Mr. Culyer announced the Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

There were no questions or comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer announced that Action-General Items 2, Approval of the Health and Safety Committee; 3, Approval of Curriculum Proposals for Digital Music II and III, and 5, Authorization of 2005-2006 Capital Reserve Projects, would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

Action – General

1. The minutes of the December 21, 2004 meeting of the Board, as written.

(continued)

2. The 2004 Rye City School District Annual Inspection Reports from Midland, Milton, and Osborn Schools, Rye Middle School, The Rye High School, and the District's Central Administration Building, as presented. (Attachment I)
3. The gift, in the amount of \$1,000.00, from the Rye Free Reading Room Auxiliary Board, for Heard in Rye. (Attachment II)

Action - Fiscal

1. Budget Transfer #9 for the 2004-2005 school year in the amount of \$23,000.00 to cover the cost for a heating system engineering study of the heating systems at the high school, Midland and Osborn Schools, in accordance of New York State Form ST-3. (Attachment III)

Action – Personnel

1. The Emergency Conditional Three Year Probationary Appointment of Timothy Horgan as a Special Education Teacher, for which he has applied for New York State Initial Certification in Special Education 5-12 and Social Studies 5-12, assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, prorated, of the 2004-2005 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective January 3, 2005 to January 2, 2008.
2. The Emergency Conditional part-time appointment of Silvana Martone, as School Psychologist, for which she holds New York Provisional Certification in School Psychology, assigned to Midland/Rye Middle Schools, 0.5 FTE, on MA Step 2 contract salary (prorated) of the 2004-2005 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective January 3, 2005 to serve at the pleasure of the Board.
3. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Mark Benson as a Chemistry Teacher, for which he holds Permanent New York State Certification in Chemistry 7-12, Physics 7-12 and General Science 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, MA+60, Step 14 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, effective February 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005.
4. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Cindy Samperi as an Elementary Teacher, for which she holds Permanent New York State Certification PreK-6, assigned to Milton School, Fourth Grade, MA +60, Step 15, of the 2004-2005 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, effective January 3, 2005 – March 15, 2005.
5. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Teacher at large Appointment of Stephanie Zaccario, for which she has New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary Pre K-6, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 3 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Salary Schedule (prorated) effective January 24, 2005 to June 30, 2005.
6. The request by Suzanne Abramson for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence
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From her position as Science Teacher assigned to Rye High School, effective on or about her approximate anticipated due date of April 15, 2005 to June 30, 2005.

7. The termination of Melissa Bongiorno as a Food Service Helper assigned to Osborn School, effective December 23, 20054.
8. The appointment of Patricia Cacsire as a Food Service Helper with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks 5 hours/day, 5 days/week, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective November 30, 2004.
9. The Appointment of Elizabeth Fitzmaurice as a Teacher Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Milton School, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective December 9, 2004.

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of September 3, 2004 for Student ID#385; from its meetings of October 13, 2004 for Students ID#450 and 324; from its meeting of November 3, 2004 for Student ID#451; from its meeting of November 10, 2004 for Student ID#243; from its meeting of November 12, 2004 for Student ID#429; from its meetings of November 22, 2004 for Students ID#431 and 483; and from its meetings of December 1, 2004 for Students ID#291 and 298.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of November 23, 2004 for Student ID#130; from its meeting of November 30, 2004 for Student ID#911397; from its meeting of December 2, 2004 for Student ID#000502; from its meeting of December 9, 2004 for Students ID#911695 and 482; from its meeting of December 14, 2004 for Student ID#159; from its meeting of December 17, 2004 for Student ID#911335; and from its meeting of December 22, 2004 for Student ID#911897.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Health and Safety Committee

Dr. Shine reviewed this agenda item, noting that since the authorization of Part 155 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the Rye City School District has been using its Facilities Committee, made up of District officials, parents, community members and a representative of the RTA bargaining unit as its Health and Safety Committee. As the District heads into an extended period of construction and issues of health and safety arise, a call has been made for the Board to establish a separate Health and Safety Committee.

He said that Commissioner's Regulation 155.4 (d) indicates that Boards of Education "...shall establish a process to monitor the condition of occupied public school buildings in order to assure that they are safe and maintained in a state of good repair." CR 155.4 (d) (1)

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indicates that Boards of Education, "...shall establish a health and safety committee comprised of representation from district officials, staff, bargaining units and parents." Dr. Shine noted that after the December 21 Board Meeting, Mr. Culyer and he had a different perspective on what occurred. He said that both of them viewed the videotape and that. Before Mr. Culyer asked for the "straw vote" for the Board's preference, he indicated that there needed to be a Health and Safety Committee and that he saw the options as follows: a Health and Safety Committee including the Facilities Committee or a Health and Safety Committee without the Facilities Committee. He said that however, when Mr. Culyer presented the issue to the Board, he indicated the options as follows: a Health and Safety Committee as a sub-committee of the Facilities Committee or separate committee. Given those options, a Board majority preferred the former: a sub-committee. Dr. Shine said he consulted again with the School District's attorney, Ms. Margo May, Esq., and she indicated that the Health and Safety Committee, by regulation, is to be an advisory committee directly to the Board. As a sub-committee to the Facilities Committee they would not be able to do that. Dr. Shine said that he still believes it is in the best interest of the District to include members of the Facilities Committee on the Health and Safety Committee and said that Ms. May indicated that, as long as the basic membership is in place, the Board can add members to the Health and Safety Committee.

Dr. Shine said that with construction but a few months away, there is an additional need to establish sub-committees of the Health and Safety Committee at each school with a sub-set of the larger committee membership. He stated that the school principal, the head custodian, the construction manager and the architect shall be included as members of each school's sub-committee.

Dr. Shine said that Commissioner's Regulations indicate that the Health and Safety Committee shall perform the following regulatory functions:

1. Provide a member for the annual visual inspection;
2. Provide consultation for the building safety rating;
3. Be involved in the disposition of complaints related to health and safety;
4. Address complaints of excessive noise;
5. Participate in post construction inspection to confirm that the area is ready to be open for use.

Dr. Shine said that, upon authorization of the Board of Education, the committee will be called together with the following members and meet at least three times a year [September, February and May] or whenever necessary to fulfill its responsibility. The chair of the committee shall be a Board of Education member appointed by the president. Other members shall be:

1. From each school: a member of the RTA bargaining group and one other bargaining group representative; a parent representative.
2. District officials [including the District's Owner's Representative] and staff.
3. Members of the Facilities Committee.

Subsequent to Board discussion, Mr. Pratt moved and Mr. Nathan seconded the motion that the Board of Education establish a District-Wide Health and Safety Committee as an advisory committee to the Board of Education, with representation by District

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Officials, the Facilities Committee, Staff, Bargaining Units and Parents, for the purpose of periodically meeting to review health and safety issues in accordance with Part 155 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education; and that the Board establish Sub-Committees of the Health and Safety for individual school capital projects as advisory committees to the Board of Education, composed of a sub-set of the full Health and Safety Committee for each school including the school principal, the head custodian, the Construction Manager and the Architect, to review construction progress and associated health and safety issues in accordance with Part 155 of the Commissioner's Regulations. The motion carried unanimously (7-0). (Attachment IV)

Mr. Culyer asked any Board members interested in chairing this committee to send him an e-mail indicating their interest.

Curriculum Proposals for Digital Music II and Digital Music III

Mr. Zahm, who requested that this item be pulled from the agenda, asked what the cost of the curriculum is, and whether the administration does an outside budgeting process, and if not, why.

Dr. McCann replied that at this time there were two sections of this class, and that this curriculum would reflect an incremental increase in loading in these rather than other music classes. He said he could not affirm additional loading, but that there would be no additional costs for materials and supplies and that staffing could be a matter of no charge.

Dr. Shine said that usually for high school programs, the high school needs to list classes in the Program of Studies by early spring of the year before so that students can best plan their schedules. He said that it is too late to wait for the budget process to approve courses for the next school year.

Mr. Zahm asked if this curriculum would then represent more cost. Dr. Shine said the Board could approve the curricula with the proviso that it the courses would be offered at no cost, to modify the approval. Mr. Pratt said he agreed but didn't want to bind the Board and that he would be willing to go forward with the understanding that the Board was not authorizing another music position. Ms. Sterling and Mr. Nathan suggested that with the understanding that it was not binding it was appropriate to deal with the budget during budget discussion.

Mr. Nathan moved to approve the recommendation to approve the curricula for use in the schools.

Further discussion ensued and Ms. Mariani seconded the motion. The motion passed to approve the Digital Music II and Digital Music II curricula as two one-semester electives. The motion passed 5-1-1 with Mr. Pratt voting no and Mr. Zahm abstaining. (Attachment V)

Capital Reserve Projects

Mr. Zahm said he had requested that this item be pulled from the agenda because he needed clarity on funding.

Mr. Walsh replied that this agenda item was not seeking funding but was rather for authorization of the Board's intent that if funding is available, this would be the work that would be done. He said this allowed the District to submit plans to the State Education Department so that the work would be aidable.

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Mr. Zahm moved to authorize the Administration to proceed with the planning work for the 2005-2006 Capital Reserve Projects that will be filed with the New York State Education Department, per the attached. Ms. Mariani seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0). (Attachment VI)

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine reported that the day before the District hosted a significant meeting with a number of Rye organizations attending, including the police department, nursery schools, the YMCA, the Recreation Department, clergy representatives of houses of worship, the Rye Neck Schools, Rye Country Day School, and District school psychologists, administrators, teachers, and counselors. He said that a representative of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, with the support of the state attorney general's office, addressed the group about keeping our children and students safe, particularly in light of recent possible attempted abductions in the area. Dr. Shine noted that those present then met in breakout groups to determine recommendations for next steps in the areas of both student and parent education. He said he was in the process of compiling the notes and recommendations with the goal of forming a task force to pursue the best ways to disseminate information about safety for the young people of Rye.

Dr. Shine said that as would be expected, the school community has joined forces to provide support and aid to tsunami survivors. He reported that the several service organizations of the high school are collaborating on one shared project, and middle school students raised over \$200 through an all-school bake sale effort. He noted that an article in the Journal News this weekend highlighted a Public Policy class at the high school where students were combining geological and geographical learning with further support efforts.

Dr. Shine said that in closing, he would like to remind everyone that the Rye High School Musical Revue would be performed over the weekend, beginning at 8 p.m. both Friday and Saturday nights. He said that this is an impressive student effort and a nice way to start a long weekend. He noted that all schools and offices will be closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Mr. Culyer began this portion of the agenda noting that discussion of the Rye High School Writing Plan had been removed from the original agenda and that discussion would be moved to the agenda of another Board of Education meeting.

Five-Year Facilities Plan

Dr. Shine said that at the last meeting of the Board there had been a question raised as to whether if more money were available for capital projects more work could be done. He noted that Mr. Culyer had asked Board members to respond with questions and suggestions for their opinions about capital projects. He said he did receive some communications and that Mr. Valentine would enumerate and explain. Mr. Valentine then reviewed a summary of the District's Five-Year Plan, by building.

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After considerable discussion, it was decided that this topic should be discussed in a Work Session of the Board. Dr. Shine said he would determine a date for a Work Session on the Five Year Facilities Plan and coordinate a meeting date with Board members. Mr. Valentine said he would speak with the State Education Department to obtain written definitions of health and safety issues prior to that meeting.

Rye Middle School Foreign Language Curriculum Proposal and Electives

Dr. McCann and Ms. Friedman reviewed the proposal to change the offering of sixth grade foreign language to an every day schedule rather than an every other day schedule. Dr. Edwards also was present to answer questions about the impact of adding an additional instructional period to the sixth grade day. Extensive Board discussion ensued including discussion on the cost of this program and the change in the school day. Dr. McCann reviewed the anticipated budgetary impact and Mr. Culyer asked for audience comment. A parent who said she represented other parents present said that their concern was that there already was enough pressure, homework, and coursework for sixth graders.

Communications to/from the Board

Mr. Feeney said that the Borrowing and Investment Committee and the Budget Analysis Committee would meet on January 18th.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:38 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Culyer announced that the next meeting would be a Work Session of the Board on Milton School additions and alterations logistics and phasing plans.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk