

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
January 25, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Sterling at 7:26 p.m. and the roll was called.

Present

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

Excused

Mr. James Culyer, *President*

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

* Arrived 7:40 p.m.

** Arrived 7:45 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried unanimously (4-0) it was voted to adjourn into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, and the discussion of negotiations. On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Mariani and carried unanimously (6-0) the Board recessed at 7:50 p.m. prior to reconvening in public.

Upon reconvening in public at 8:04 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried unanimously (6-0), Mr. Feeney welcomed those present and announced the Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

A member of the public read a letter he had written to the Board that he announced was about the financial plight of Rye residents in terms of the School District budget. He said that the District was trying to run the public school system with all the frills of a private school and exhorted the Board to cut the frills. Mr. Feeney responded that it was important to remember that private and parochial schools had no obligation to serve students with special educational needs, as public schools do. The speaker said he would be sending his letter to the media.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Feeney announced that Action-General Items 3, Reconsideration of Action on Girls' Soccer; and Action-Fiscal 2, a resolution authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds pursuant to Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

(continued)

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the following items:

Action – General

1. The minutes of the January 11, 2005 meeting of the Board, as written.
2. The approval of the Girls' Swimming Program Merger with Blind Brook for the 2005-2006 school year with costs to be shared on a per-athlete basis. (Attachment I)

Action - Fiscal

1. The Treasurer's Summary Report for the period ending November 30, 2004. (Attachment II)
2. The resolution to approve Budget Transfer 10 to meet the commitments under the new Rye Teacher Association contract in the curriculum and professional development account codes, transferred from unencumbered salaries in the amount of \$39,000.00 and Budget Transfer 11 to fund a release and settlement agreement for tuition for a special education student approved at the November 23, 2004 meeting of the Board, in the amount of \$18,350.00 transferred from unencumbered salaries. (Attachment III)
3. The resolution to approve Budget Transfer 12 to cover the increased cost of electric and oil and the cost of tree damage due to weather transferred from unencumbered salaries in the amount of \$81,100.00; Budget Transfer 13 to cover additional unanticipated expenses from flood damage, middle school limestone removal, asbestos inspections and marking of parking spaces in the amount of \$38,816.00, transferred from unencumbered salaries; and Budget Transfer 14 to cover repairs to the area under the high school stage and water damage to the wood area surrounding sinks in the high school art room 169 and 170 in the amount of \$18,054.00, transferred from unencumbered salaries. (Attachment IV)
4. The resolution to approve Budget Transfer 15 to cover costs for a student in a BOCES Multiply Disabled Program in the amount of \$50,000.00 transferred Reallocation of Special Education Funds; and Budget Transfer 16 for a special education contract for additional program expenses in the amount of \$11,000.00, transferred from reallocation of special education funds (private tuition). (Attachment V)

Action – Personnel

1. The Emergency Conditional Three Year Probationary Appointment of Heather Castellani as a Special Education Teacher, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Special Education and Elementary Pre-K-6, assigned to Midland School, 1.0 FTE, on MA, Step 3, prorated, of the 2004-2005 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective January 27, 2005 to January 26, 2008.

(continued)

2. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of James Elardi as an Earth Science/Biology Teacher, for which he holds Permanent New York State Certification in Biology and General Science 7-12, and Earth Science 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, MA +60 Step 14 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, effective April 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005.
3. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Teacher At Large appointment of Tara Tobias, for which she has New York State Permanent Certification in Elementary Pre K-6 and Special Education, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 6, of the 2004-2005 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, effective February 28, 2005 to June 30, 2005.
4. The Emergency Conditional Appointment of Kristen Marchesani, as .9 FTE Special Education Teaching Assistant, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule 5 days/week, 6.5 hours/day, effective January 24, 2005.
5. The Tenure Recommendation of Kelly Beatty, in the General Elementary Tenure Area, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Elementary Pre K-6, effective January 31, 2005.
6. The increase in assignment of Donald Thumin, as Special Education Teacher Aide, Step 2 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 5 days/week, 6.5 hours/day, effective January 24, 2005.

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of November 12, 2004 for Student ID#911251; from its meetings of November 23, 2004 for Students ID#130 and 912052; and from its meetings of December 14, 2004 for Students ID#159 and 911927.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of December 16, 2004 for Student ID#223; from its meetings of December 22, 2004 for Students ID#357 and 911897; from its meetings of January 5, 2005 for Students ID#516 and 911547; from its meeting of January 6, 2005 for Student ID#398; and from its meeting of January 13, 2005 for Student ID#911407.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Reconsideration of Action on Girls' Soccer

Mr. Feeney said that this item was before the Board because subsequent to the Board's action to approve a recommendation to move Girls' Soccer from the spring season to the fall season in compliance with a federal court decision based on a Title IX complaint, students had requested moving the sport back to the spring for the 2006 season.

Members of the soccer team addressed the Board on this matter.

(continued)

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was moved to approve the request to move Girls' Soccer back to the spring of 2006 for the 2005 - 2006 season. (Attachment VI)

Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bonds Pursuant to Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law

Mr. Feeney discussed the purpose of this agenda item which was to consider taking advantage of current low interest rates and "flat" yield curve to produce \$400,000.00 in debt service savings over the 2005-2019 period. He said that this consideration was based on substituting new bonds at an estimated 3.500% interest cost for existing old bonds carrying a blended interest cost of 5.395%.

Mr. Feeney then charted the information related to District bonds and the Board discussed components of this recommendation with consensus in response to the presentation and Mr. Pratt's statement that he strongly recommended that the Board approve this measure. A member of the public said the proposal looked reasonably attractive but criticized Mr. Feeney's graphed presentation.

Mr. Feeney said that approval of the resolution required a 2/3rds vote and called for a roll call vote on the resolution. Mr. Nathan moved and Mr. Pratt seconded the motion to authorize the issuance of refunding bonds pursuant to Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law which passed unanimously as indicated:

Mr. Feeney	-	yes
Ms. Mariani	-	yes
Mr. Nathan	-	yes
Mr. Pratt	-	yes
Ms. Sterling	-	yes
Mr. Zahm	-	yes

Mr. Feeney thanked the Board for its willingness to consider this on short notice. (Attachment VII)

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine noted that it was hard to believe that the second quarter of the school year ended the following Friday. He said that a tremendous amount has been accomplished, and that it is important to take time every now and then to thank all those who work in the schools for their individual expertise and commitment to District students.

Dr. Shine said that he had reported at the last meeting on the ongoing generosity exhibited by our school families and employees in response to the need of support for tsunami survivors. He noted that this continues, and that it was nice to report that Midland second graders last week held a bake sale that earned \$518 for this effort.

Dr. Shine noted that to help administrators, faculty and staff with the national issue of bullying, the District is working with Dr. Joel Haber, known as The Bully Doctor. Dr. Shine noted that as part of Dr. Haber's program, he will be presenting an evening seminar in March for parents and anyone in the community and surrounding communities interested in the statistics, the problems, and the solutions. Dr. Shine said that the PTOs and Parents Organizations are jointly sponsoring this presentation.

continued)

Dr. Shine said that also in support of parents, Dr. Ron Taffel would be the Heard in Rye speaker on February 3rd, on the topic of “The New Anxiety, Helping Fearful Children and Teens.” Dr. Shine noted that the presentation would begin at 7:30 in the Performing Arts Center at Rye High School.

Dr. shine said that in closing, the District finally received the 2004 Advanced Placement Awards report and that it was, as always, laudatory. He said:

- We had 20 AP Scholars, students who received grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams;
- 20 Scholar with Honor Awards, granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams;
- 19 Scholar with Distinction Awards, granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on 5 or more;
- and 3 National Scholar Awards, granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Rye Writing Project

Dr. Rooney and Ms. Kristen Warner and Mr. Joel Edminster presented a report on the Rye High School Writing Project. Dr. Shine reminded the Board that their approval of this program involves the approval of 3.6 additional high school teachers and therefore it was important for the Board to hear periodic updates and reports on the program which accordingly required Board support.

State Testing in Grades 3-8 in Mathematics and ELA

Dr. McCann presented an overview of the implications in the District of No Child Left Behind legislation that specifies that statewide tests must address the depth and breadth of the state content standards, be valid, reliable and of high technical quality, and be designed to provide a coherent system across grades and subjects in English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3-8. He noted that currently all students in grades 4 and 8 are tested by the state and then discussed what new tests would look like and how the District was planning for the change.

Communications to/from the Board

Mr. Zahm reviewed his communication to the Board suggestion that consideration should be given to changing District policy to extend the confirmation of residency to currently enrolled students. His request and Mr. Walsh’s response regarding residency verification were discussed by the Board.

Mr. Feeney stated that the Budget Analysis Committee would be attending a New York State School Board’s seminar on district 2005-2006 budgets.

Mr. Pratt noted that the Lights Committee would provide a report to the Board for its meeting of February 8th.

(continued)

Ms. Sterling noted that the Policy Committee would be meeting the following week and noted the plans of the Technology Committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:50 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk