

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
April 12, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:06 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

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and announced that the meeting was a business meeting of the Board to which the public was invited. He announced that the meeting would begin with the Hearing on the 2005-2006 school year budget, followed by the Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2005-2006 BUDGET

Eleven people spoke on the topics of the importance of not over-budgeting, the ice hockey team, the swimming and diving teams, the gymnastics team, the importance of not having the budget be comprised of smoke and mirrors, the positive aspect of having reduced the budget, appreciation for the Board's retaining reserves regarding litigation with the Osborn Home, and the "questionable and surely unnecessary" orienteering for sixth graders.

Mr. Culyer thanked those who spoke and opened the Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items. He listed items on the presentation and discussion portion of the agenda and noted that the sixth grade foreign language program and electives, and a financial transaction, would be pulled from the consent agenda.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

There were no questions or comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

(continued)

Action – General

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of March 22, 2005, as written.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of March 29, 2005, as written.
3. The recommendation that the Board approve a new starting time for Milton School for the 2005-2006 school year, with Milton students attending school from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. and the work day for Milton teachers, grades 2-5 and other support staff being 8:10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; with the assignment of Milton kindergarten students to Midland School and Milton first grade students to Osborn School, with the new school day for both of 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and the work day for teachers and support staff working with these students 7:55 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.; the approval and budgeting for a new afternoon shuttle bus for Milton grade 1 students to facilitate a safe dismissal and transfer of students back to Milton School; and that the administration implement all other aspects of these procedures and advise the Board and all others concerned of any modifications that are needed as planning proceeds. (Attachment I)
4. The appointment of Mrs. Lorraine Levinson (Milton) and Mrs. Cyndi Schaffler (Rye Middle School) as members of the District-Wide Health and Safety Committee with terms through June 30, 2006. (Attachment II)
5. A gift from The Baseball Booster Association of 24 Varsity Baseball Uniforms at a cost of \$2,400.00. (Attachment III)
6. The resolution that the Board of Education should establish itself as lead Agency for SEQRA Declarations concerning the roofing work at the Rye High School to be done in 2005-2006. (Attachment IV)
7. The resolution that the Board of Education should establish itself as lead agency for SEQRA Declarations concerning the roofing work at the Midland Elementary School to be done in 2005-2006. (Attachment V)
8. The resolution that the Board of Education as lead agency for SEQRA Declarations approves the SEQRA Negative Declaration for the roofing and asbestos abatement work to be performed at Midland Elementary School during the summer of 2005. (Attachment VI)
9. The resolution that the Board of Education as lead agency for SEQRA Declarations approves the SEQRA Negative Declaration for Rye High School concerning the roofing and asbestos abatement work to be performed at the high school during the summer of 2005. (Attachment VII)

Action – Fiscal

- The recommendation to reject the award for the District-Wide Grounds Maintenance

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and Field Maintenance contract for 2005 in order that the bid requirements can be expanded to include specific performance requirements, evaluation criteria and process to void, on a timely basis, the contract for non-performance and to expand the bid to a three-year contract with the District's annual option for renewal to hopefully generate lower costs over a longer period. (Attachment VIII)

Action - Personnel

1. The resignation of Laura Karetzos as Special Education Teacher assigned to Rye Middle School effective June 30, 2005.
2. The resignation of Esther Lee as a part-time (0.8 FTE) Science Teacher assigned to the Rye School of Leadership effective June 30, 2005.
3. The resignation of Heidi Mitchell as First Grade Teacher assigned to Midland School effective June 30, 2005.
4. The resignation of Erin Trapasso as First Grade Teacher assigned to Osborn School effective June 30, 2005.
5. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Elizabeth Lops as a Physical Education Teacher, for which she has applied for New York State Initial Certification in Physical Education assigned to Rye Middle School, BA + 30, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Salary Schedule, (pro-rated) effective May 2, 2005 – June 24, 2005.
6. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Jerry Havlin as a Fourth Grade Teacher, for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification in Common Branches assigned to Milton School, MA + 60, Step 15, of the 2004-2005 Teacher Salary Schedule (pro-rated) effective April 26, 2005 – June 30, 2005.
7. The request by Amy Leahy for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Science Teacher assigned to Rye High School, effective July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
8. The request by Lisa Lonnegren for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Fifth Grade Teacher assigned to Midland School, effective July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
9. The request by Carin Mehler for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Elementary Teacher assigned to Midland School, effective July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
10. The request by Kelly Sheridan for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Second Grade Teacher assigned to Milton School, effective July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.

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11. The request by Allison McKinnon for an unpaid Personal Leave of Absence from her position as Kindergarten Teacher assigned to Milton School effective July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
12. The resignation of Victoria Healy as a School Nurse assigned to Midland School, effective June 30, 2005.
13. The Extra Pay for Extra Work positions for the 2004-2005 school year per the attached. (Attachment IX)

Action – Special Education

- The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meetings of February 16, 2005 for Students ID#499 and 481; from its meetings of March 3, 2005 for Students ID#530, 541, 511, and 514; from its meeting of March 9, 2005 for Student ID#523; from its meeting of March 16, 2005 for Student ID#911373; and from its meeting of March 21, 2005 for Student ID#568.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Sixth Grade Foreign Language Program and New Grade Six Electives

Mr. Zahm asked for a review of the budget for the proposed sixth grade foreign language and electives program. Dr. McCann reviewed the budget sources.

A member of the public requested a reassessment of orienteering and introduction to law saying this was unnecessary for sixth graders and that the District should focus on basics, not exploratory electives.

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried 6-1 with Mr. Feeney voting no it was voted to approve the Sixth Grade Foreign Language Program, the Sixth Grade Foreign Language Curricula and the Sixth grade Electives as outlined on the attached. (Attachment X)

Budget Transfers #18 and #19

Mr. Zahm questioned the categories for these budget transfers. Ms. Povella, District Treasurer, explained that these transfers were not for new positions but rather were for lane changes and related salary increases.

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve Budget Transfer #18 in the amount of \$33,825.00 for a special education settlement approved by the Board of Education from the capital unused welfare budget line; and Budget Transfer #19 in the amount of \$347,400.00 to reallocate funds to the appropriate budget codes that conform to the expenditure codes according to New York State Form ST-3 format. (Attachment XI)

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine said he was pleased to announce that the Rye City School District was ranked as the top “Outperforming School District in New York” over two consecutive years by Standard & Poor’s. He noted that Standard & Poors is renowned as the world's foremost provider of independent credit ratings, indices, risk evaluation, investment research, data, and valuations. Dr. Shine said that the School Matters division of Standard & Poors uses three fundamental criteria to identify outperforming school districts: They must achieve higher levels of student proficiency than peer districts; they must perform at a level that significantly exceeds statistical expectation; and they must outperform consistently. He further explained that the current analysis specifies reading and math proficiency (RaMP) scores. Dr. Shine said that among the 47 school districts identified by Standard & Poor’s as the outperforming school districts in the state, the Rye City School District ranked at the top with a RaMP score of 95%.

Dr. Shine noted recent Rye Middle School assemblies organized by guidance counselors, Judith Halpern and Vanessa Caine as learning opportunities for students during parent-teacher conferences, most recently providing members of the middle school jazz band the opportunity to join professional musicians and interactively participate with them, starting with a few easy chords, then moving on to more complicated material. Dr. Shine said that this experience also provided a strong message to the entire seventh and eighth grades about the importance of working together, collaborating and creating.

Dr. Shine said he was pleased to announce that the building permits for Midland and Osborn work have been received, and that the District is officially out to bid for Milton projects, and that the Midland and Osborn bid process will be right behind.

In addition to moving forward with all construction projects, Dr. Shine noted, the district again received the Aaa rating from Moody’s Investor Services, mentioning that this top rating occurred just prior to the sale of our \$22 million bonds. He said that this closing is projected to take place the first week of May.

A report was issued, Dr. Shine said, by the music department, stating that the Rye High School vocal ensemble and handbell choir trip to North Carolina last week was excellent, that students’ behavior was exemplary, and that they were true ambassadors of not only the high school but also the community.

Dr. Shine noted that all schools would be closed April 18 through the 25th for spring break and that school offices would be open through the 21st, and all buildings closed the 22nd and 25th. He reminded those present that schools reopen, and a Board meeting takes place, on the 26th and that the Board meeting includes the adoption of the 2005-2006 budget.

Mr. Feeney said he wanted to clarify and reiterate information on the bond sale and Moody’s and did so.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Report from the Lights Advisory Committee – Revision to Policy 7900

Mr. Pratt reviewed the work of the committee and the development of revisions to Policy 7900.

Mr. Culyer noted that the Board had received over 20 letters, both pro and con, on the

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subject and thanked those who had written, noting that the Board had received and read them and was listening.

Mr. Castagna, Director of Athletics, Health and Physical Education, and Mr. Joyce, committee member, presented information on the work and results of committee study.

Twelve people addressed the board both in favor of and against increase use of lights.

Mr. Culyer thanked them for their comments and moved to the next agenda item.

Review of Proposed Policy Changes a

There were no comments or questions on recommended changes to Board of Education policies 0100, 0100.A, 0200, 0330, or 1000.

Rye School of Leadership

Mr. Gross, Coordinator of the Rye School of Leadership program, discussed the program and concerns about relocation of the program because of the sale of the Durland Scout Center where it currently is housed.

Board members discussed their feelings about the program and possibilities for relocating it, and its impact on the budget.

Review of Capital Reserve: Five-Year Facilities Plan

Mr. Valentine reviewed the Facilities Plan with the Board.

2005 – 2006 Budget Review

Dr. Shine reviewed the proposed budget with the Board, discussing specific line items and responding to Board member line-by-line items in the budget. He said he would factor in additional reductions to present to the Board for its consideration for the adoption of the Budget on April 26th.

BOCES 2005-2006 Budget and Election

Dr. Shine reminded the Board that the Board would be asked to vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget and for two candidates for the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services at its meeting of April 26th.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Culyer announced that he would be seeking re-election by the voters to serve on the Board for three more years.

Ms. Mariani announced that she would not run for office again.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk