

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
May 17, 2005

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

Present

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

Excused

Mr. Joshua Nathan

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 said that before beginning the agenda, he would like Dr. McCann to explain the exhibit on the floor. Dr. McCann described the Picturing Writing program and thanked coordinator, Debra Fishman and teachers, Shannon Gold, Megan Donovan, Erika Katz and Andrea Bellinger for their presence and the display of student work, and thanked the parents in attendance for supporting the children and their work.

Mr. Culyer thanked Dr. McCann, Ms. Fishman and the elementary teachers for their hard work and for the exhibit. He then called for 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 Item 1, Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting of May 3, 2005, and Action-General Item 4, Approval of Board of Education Policies, and Action-Fiscal Item 2, Budget Transfer #20, would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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 Regular Board of Education Meeting of April 26, 2005, as written.
2. The minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Rye City School District and the Rye City Council Meeting of April 30, 2005, as written.
3. The resolution to accept a gift in the amount of \$10,000.00 from an anonymous
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donor to be used at the discretion of the guidance department, Rye High School, for the Burke Scholarship Fund with a committee composed of the principal and the guidance staff to award scholarships to seniors in the graduation class. (Attachment I)

4. The resolution to accept a gift from the David E. Retik and Christopher D. Mello Charitable Foundation, Inc. in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the 2005 Christopher D. Mello Scholarship. (Attachment II)
5. The resolution to accept a gift from the Rye Youth Soccer Club, Inc. in the amount of \$4,000.00 to be used for the maintenance of the artificial turf field. (Attachment III)
6. The appointment of Election Inspectors and Machine Custodians for the May 17, 2005 election. (Attachment IV)

Action – Fiscal

1. The Treasurer's Summary Report for the period ending February 28, 2005. (Attachment V)
2. The Treasurer's Summary Report for the period ending May 17, 2005. (Attachment VI)
3. Budget Transfer #21 in the amount of \$48,900.00 to transfer funds to BOCES transportation for special education students from Welfare Fund (Capital). (Attachment VII)
4. The recommendation to authorize the administration to reimburse the \$500.00 insurance deductible to Ms. Denise Lucadamo for a car she was using parked on school property and damaged by a fallen tree limb. (Attachment VIII)

Action – Personnel

1. The termination of the probationary assignment of Renee Borio-Roman as a Spanish teacher assigned to Rye High School, effective June 30, 2005.
2. The resignation of Thomas Gaffney as an English teacher assigned to Rye Middle School, effective June 30, 2005.
3. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Kimberly Mooney, as a Spanish Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, for which she has applied for New York State Initial Certification in Spanish 5-12. 1.0 FTE, BA Step 1, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2008.
4. The Emergency Conditional Three Year Probationary Appointment of John O'Donnell, as an English Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School, for which he holds Provisional New York City Certification in Teacher of English for High Schools and Junior High Schools, 1.0 FTE, BA+30, Step 6, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2008.

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5. The Emergency Conditional Three Year Probationary Appointment of Kim Tamalonis, as an Art Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle and Rye High Schools, for which she holds Provisional New York State Certification in Art, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 7, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2008.
6. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Pamela Trapasso King, as an English Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Elementary N-6 and Latin N-9, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 4, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – on or about January 31, 2006.
7. The request by Leslie Webb for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an English teacher assigned to Rye Middle School, effective September 1, 2005 – on or about January 31, 2006.
8. The request by Jennifer Fall for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as English teacher assigned to the Rye School of Leadership, effective September 1, 2005 – on or about January 31, 2006.
9. The request by Michele Haiken for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an English teacher assigned to Rye Middle School, effective September 1, 2005 – on or about January 31, 2006.
10. The request by Andrea Murphy for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Elementary teacher assigned to Milton School, effective July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
11. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Traci Jeffers, as an Elementary Teacher for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Elementary K-6, assigned to Osborn School, MA+15, Step 10, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006. Ms. Jeffers was previously appointed in error at MA, Step 10, at the April 26, 2005 Board of Education Meeting.
12. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Heather Castellani, as an Elementary Teacher for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Special Education and Elementary PreK-6, assigned to Midland School, 1.0 FTE, on MA Step 2/3, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006. Ms. Castellani was previously appointed in error at MA, Step 3/4, at the April 26, 2005 Board of Education Meeting.
13. The Leave of Absence request by Nesta d'Addario from 3.5 hours of her 6.5 hour per day Teacher Aide position, assigned to Osborn School.
14. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Nesta d'Addario as a Part Time Special Education Teacher Aide, assigned to Osborn School, Step 5 of the 2004-2005 Teacher

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Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 3.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective April 18, 2005 – June 30, 2005.

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of January 10, 2005 for Student ID#491.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of March 31, 2005 for Student ID#335 and from its meeting of April 11, 2005 for Student ID#526.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of May 3, 2005 Meeting of the Board of Education

Mr. Culyer reported that Mr. Zahm had wished to have a statement added to the minutes that Board of Education Policy 7990 would be brought back to the Board for approval. Dr. Shine said that this was stated by Mr. Culyer, that the revisions to the Policy were approved by the Board and that the Policy would then be developed based on these terms. but that, nonetheless, a paragraph so stating had been added to the minutes for Board approval. Mr. Culyer asked Mr. Zahm if the paragraph drafted in response to his request met with his satisfaction. Mr. Zahm said that it did.

Mr. Zahm then moved to approve the minutes, as amended. Ms. Mariani seconded the motion which did not carry, on a vote of 2-3-1 with Ms. Mariani abstaining.

It was agreed that this matter would be further discussed and the minutes returned to the Board for approval at its June 7th meeting.

Board of Education Policies

Mr. Culyer called upon Ms. Mariani to discuss her request to remove this category from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Mariani said that Policy 5110 did not state that families with children currently enrolled in schools outside their elementary attendance area would be grandfathered to remain where they currently are placed.

Dr. Shine noted that this clause was included in the recommendation to approve the policy.

Ms. Mariani said she requested that the clause be added to the policy.

Mr. Pratt moved that Policies 4770 and 5281 be approved by the Board and that Policy 5110 be withdrawn from approval and brought back to the Board separately. Ms. Mariani seconded the motion which carried 5-1-0 with Ms. Sterling opposed. (Attachment IX)

Budget Transfer #20

Mr. Pratt moved that Budget Transfer #20 in the amount of \$19,562.00 to transfer funds from reimbursed unused personal days to BOCES charges for the Power School contract be tabled to the next meeting. Mr. Zahm seconded the motion which carried 5-1 with Mr. Feeney opposed.

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine said that although it had been reported to parents and the media, it was important to repeat that the recent Newsweek Magazine listing of the best high schools in the country, based on their measure of Advanced Placement courses offered and their availability to all students and the number of exams given incorrectly listed Rye High School's standing. He said that Rye High School remained in the top 100 high schools in the country, according to this criteria, and that the author of the article was writing a letter to clarify this and would correct the information on the electronic version of the article.

Dr. Shine said that three of the District's elementary students would represent the District at the Math Game 24 competition in New York City on June 3rd. He credited Steven Bluestone, the elementary enrichment teacher, for his work with the students throughout their participation in the competition.

Dr. Shine said he knew the Board joined him in extending congratulations to the Girls Varsity Softball Team for winning their sixth game of the season, guaranteeing them a playoff spot in the Section One Tournament. He noted that this was the first time since 1999 that the softball team had qualified for post-season play.

In closing, Dr. Shine reminded those present that the Rye High School Parents' Organization house tour would take place on Friday, and that throughout the rest of the week there would be several concerts and art exhibits open to the public, noting that the schedule was on the District calendar.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Rye School of Leadership

Dr. Shine reviewed the location history of the Rye School of Leadership. He said that since the beginning of the school in the late 1980s the District has leased space from the Boy Scouts of America at the Durland Scout Center. He explained that more than a year ago the Board and Administration were notified that the Boy Scouts, as part of their Strategic Plan, were considering selling the property, and that the property is now on the market with a pending sale. He said space options had been considered over a year ago, with initial searches commercial space in Rye, then outside of Rye. He noted other locations considered, and then listed the options for the school, in the short term. He said these options include remaining at Durland as long as a lease is offered and using the third floor of the high school. He said if the Board wished to authorize the administration to seek to purchase space the Board needed to be aware that there would be a three-step process required. Including identifying a piece of property, obtaining State Education Department approval of any additions and alterations, compliance with the SEQRA process, and a proposition voted by the electorate to purchase property either by bonding or through a general fund appropriation.

Replacement Telephones

Mr. Walsh reviewed the items to be discussed regarding telephone system replacement. He said that since the March 4 memorandum proposing replacement of the telephone system with Verizon's proposed method, follow-up consideration was given to a pure voice over

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internet protocol (VOIP) system. Although the Verizon approach eliminated the copper wiring between buildings by utilizing the District's proprietary fiber-optic line, it still would have operated over the existing copper lines with the buildings.

Mr. Walsh said that the VOIP system's major advantage over Verizon's system is that of flexibility with regard to "moves/adds/changes". The system would utilize the computer lines within all the buildings. There are very few locations which do have phones without computers. These locations would require CAT-5 lines drawn from the building server location to the desired telephone location.

He explained that the proposed VOIP system has been coordinated by BOCES Lower Hudson Regional Information Center (LHRIC) utilizing CISCO equipment and Annese and Associates as construction managers for installation. CISCO's finance company, Key Government Finance has proposed a lease which does not require the District to demonstrate non-qualified status for the calendar year as a result of our recent borrowing exceeding \$10M. In addition, the essential non-appropriations of fund clause will be included in lease terms. Also, a 3.72% per year interest rate will be set for the 60-month term.

Mr. Walsh noted that the CISCO pricing for equipment and the services provided by Annese are based upon New York State contract pricing. The attached updated spreadsheet shows that the VOIP system is priced slightly less than the proposed new system from Verizon. The net monthly savings over the current system, which includes annual maintenance and service, is \$3,544 per month. As a result of this advanced technological system being made available to the District at a most competitive price, the Technology Committee should have no difficulty in recommending that the Board approve a pure VOIP system provided by CISCO and Annese and Associates, utilizing a lease from Key Government Finance.

Representative from BOCES LHRIC, CISCO, and Annese then addressed the Board and answered questions regarding the proposal.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Dr. Shine reported on the results of the Board of Education Election and Budget vote subsequent to the closing of the polls at 9 p.m., as follows: (Attachment X)

With 2,110 people voting, there were 1,219 yes votes cast for the budget; 735 no votes. Candidate votes received were as follows:

Mr. Edward Fox:	1,103
Mr. John Johnston:	1,088
Mr. Jim Culyer:	1,112

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to certify these results.

Mr. Culyer thanked everyone in the community who supported the budget.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Culyer referred to a communication received from a resident who requested that the Board consider methods of teaching and administrative staff –specific accountability to bring
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academic results to levels which more closely reflect current expenditures on personnel in today's realistic competitive environment, in response to reading an article in the Rye Record about the District's rankings, according to that newspaper.

Dr. Shine referred the Board to his response to the newspaper's article correcting some misinformation in its statistical listings.

Ms. Mariani noted the receipt of a letter regarding the number of failures at Rye Middle School and asked when parents are apprised of their children's failure to complete their homework. She said she did not support a grade going below a C. Dr. Shine said he would share these sentiments with Dr. Edwards.

Mr. Feeney read a statement expressing his belief that the District should go on an aggressive public relations campaign. He said it was time for the press to wake up and appreciate the District rather than trying to run the District's reputation into the ground, and for citizens who were publicly critical and then wrote supportive letters to be equally as public in their praise, and then listed all the achievements and national rankings of the District.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Ms. Mariani and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:03 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk