

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**June 30, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 6:00 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  
Mr. Edward Fox, *Board Member Elect*

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

\* Arrived 6:40 p.m. \*\* Arrived 6:50 p.m. \*\*\* Arrived 6:25 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (4-0) it was voted to adjourn into executive session to review the employment history of current and prospective employees and for the discussion of negotiations.

On a motion by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:30 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer apologized for the delayed start of the meeting and welcomed those present. He reminded those present that this was a business meeting of the Board to which the public was invited. He announced that before the meeting began, the Board would present two Extra Mile awards and called upon Mr. Feeney to make the presentations.

Mr. Feeney described the many contributions of the Rye School of Dance Directors, Daryl Finn, Beth Conley and Kyle Finnegan, to the students of the schools and offered the Board's thanks for these contributions. He then described the contributions of Rye High School social studies chair and teacher, Robert Steel, and offered him the Board's thanks for all the "Extra Mile" efforts he has made on behalf of the students and the schools.

Mr. Culyer thanked Mr. Feeney and called for the hearing of the public on non-agenda items. He noted that Consent Agenda Items Action-General 2, 3 and 4, and Action-Fiscal 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, and 10 (see Agenda) would be removed from the Consent Agenda and therefore open for comments or questions from the public.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

A member of the public spoke on the \$22 million bond, saying that to have bids come  
(continued)

in under estimate in the face of sharply rising costs was remarkable, but that he cautioned the Board about going overboard on returning items to the plans because of this too quickly. He said the management of the projects was far short of sterling, and said that there should be a reasonable contingency set aside for a project of this size. He noted that he personally has credentials of managing projects up to one-half billion dollars and that in his experience, a contingency fund more often than not was needed. He said the Board should be safe on first before trying to steal second in terms of reserving funds. He then questioned why health and safety projects on the facilities plan would not be a priority and said it was incumbent on the Board to act prudently.

Mr. Culyer thanked the resident for his comments and noted that there had been a public meeting of the Board on July 20<sup>th</sup> where this was all discussed and that the Board was well aware of the responsibility of maintaining a contingency budget and had done so.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

#### **Action – General**

1. The minutes of the June 7, 2005 meeting of the Board, as written.
2. The minutes of the June 20, 2005 meeting of the Board, as written.
3. The gift request of the Class of 2005 to give a concrete chess table with matching chess pieces to Rye High School at a cost of \$1,150.00. (Attachment Ia) and the gift request of the Midland School PTO of \$50,000.00 for Playscape equipment and surface to be installed at the south playground of the school; and an additional classroom auditory system with a value of \$2,000.00 (Attachment Ib)
4. The adoption of the JAVA Software Solutions for AP Computer Science, Prentice Hall, for use in grades 9-12 to supplement the computer compilers for the Advanced Placement course. (Attachment II)
5. The Advanced Placement Psychology curriculum, per the attached. (Attachment III)
6. The Rye Middle School Social Studies curriculum, revised, per the attached. (Attachment IV)
7. The Advanced Placement Computer Science curriculum, revised, per the attached. (Attachment V)
8. The Rye Middle School Language Arts curriculum, revised, per the attached. (Attachment VI)
9. The Rye Middle School Exploratory Elective Introduction to Law curriculum, revised, per the attached. (Attachment VII)

(continued)

10. The Global History and Geography 9RH curriculum, revised, per the attached. (Attachment VIII)
11. The 2005-2006 agreement with the Westchester-Putnam Council Inc., Boy Scouts of America, for the use on a month-to-month basis, of Durland Scout Center by the Rye School of Leadership, during the 2005-2006 school year. (Attachment IX)

**Action – Fiscal**

1. Budget Transfers 22, 23 and 24 for the 2004-2005 school year budget to cover, respectively, the cost of the modular lease for Midland School, additional expense for clerical substitutes, and the extended athletic sports programs. (Attachment X)
2. Budget Transfer 25 for the 2004-2005 school year budget, from BOCES service accounts, Psychology Contractual account, and Elementary School Material and Supplies of the Special Education Budget to pay for increased cost of public school tuition, supplementary instruction for special and regular education, and for related services for a special education itinerant teacher for school age pendency cases. (Attachment XI)
3. The Treasurer's Summary Report for the period ending April 30, 2005. (Attachment XII)
4. The removal of receivables deemed uncollectible in the amount of \$64,522.75. (Attachment XIII)
5. The appropriation of Tax Certiorari Reserve in an amount not to exceed \$2,800,000.00 to cover the legal expenses for Osborn Memorial Home litigation. (Attachment XIV)

**Action – Personnel**

1. The resignation of James D. Kenny as Part Time Video Journalism Teacher assigned to Rye High School effective June 30, 2005.
2. The resignation due to retirement of Michael J. Ansbro as a physical education teacher assigned to Midland School effective June 30, 2005.
3. The resignation of Andrea Hecht as a Teaching Assistant assigned to Rye High School Academic Intervention Center effective June 30, 2005.
4. The Administrative Salary and Contract Adjustment for Mr. Robert Walsh per the attached. (Attachment XV)
5. The Two-Year Probationary Appointment of Paul Blank as a Special Education Teacher, for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification in Special Education assigned to the Rye School of Leadership, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 10, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2007.

(continued)

6. The Emergency Conditional Two-Year Probationary Appointment of Geri C. Jones, as a Social Studies Teacher, assigned to the Rye School of Leadership, for which she holds Permanent New York State Certification in Social Studies 7-12 and Permanent New York State Certification in Special Education 1.0 FTE, MA Step 9 of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2007.
7. The Leave Replacement of Rosemary Klein as a First Grade Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education 1-6 assigned to Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, BA Step 1 of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule effective September 1, 2005-June 30, 2006.
8. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Jessica L. Hollander as a Third Grade Teacher, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certificate Pre K-6, assigned to Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 3, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
9. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Melissa Lindsay, as a Teacher-at-Large, for which she has applied for Early Childhood Education N-2 Certification and has applied for Elementary Education K-6 certification, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
10. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Christiana Taus, as a Teacher-at-Large, for which she has applied for Initial New York State Certification PreK-6, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 3, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
11. The 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, 1.0 FTE, MA +60. Step 14, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, plus 30 year Longevity payment, effective September 1, 2005-June 30, 2005.
12. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Anju Arora as a Mathematics Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Mathematics Certification Grades 5-12 and New York State Initial Mathematics Certification Grades 7-12, assigned to Rye Middle School, MA Step 1, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, Pro-Rated, effective September 1, 2005 – January 27, 2006.
13. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Gregory Moraitis as a Fifth Grade Elementary Teacher, for which he has applied for Initial New York State Elementary K-6 Certification, assigned to Midland School, 1.0 FTE, BA + 30 Step 2 of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
14. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Kathleen Hanratty as  
(continued)

- a Special Education Teacher, for which her New York State Certification in Elementary K-6 and her New York State Certification in Special Education are pending, assigned to Rye Middle School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule (pro-rated) effective September 1, 2005 – January 27, 2006. Ms. Hanratty replaces Brenda McMillan who is on Child Care Leave of Absence October 7, 2005 – January 31, 2006.
15. The Appointment of Conrad Power, as a Part-Time Biology Teacher assigned to Rye School of Leadership, for which he holds Permanent New York State Permanent Certification in Biology, General Science 7-12, .3 FTE, MA + 60 Step 15, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule (pro-rated) plus 30 year Longevity payment (pro-rated), effective September 1, 2005 to serve at the pleasure of the Board.
  16. The increase in assignment from 0.7 FTE to 0.8 FTE of Jean Marie Romano, as Elementary Physical Education Teacher, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Physical Education, assigned at Osborn School, MA +30. Step 15, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule (pro-rated) plus 15 year Longevity payment (pro-rated) effective September 1, 2005 to serve at the pleasure of the Board.
  17. The correction of the tenure recommendation of Debra Bobson, in the Special Education Tenure Area, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Nursery, Kindergarten, Grades 1-6 and Special Education effective September 1, 2005.
  18. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Linda M. Morley, as an English Teacher, for which she holds New York State English Language Arts 7-12 Certification, assigned to Rye Middle School, MA Step 1, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, pro-rated, effective September 1, 2005 – January 27, 2006. Ms. Morley will replace Michele Haiken who is on a child care leave of absence September 1, 2005 – January 31, 2006.
  19. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Jaime Saracino, as an Elementary Teacher, for which her New York State Initial Certification in N-2 and Elementary Education PreK-6 is pending, assigned to Midland School, MA Step 1, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
  20. The revised summer school appointment effective July 5, 2005 – July 22, 2005 to remove Debra Fishman appointed at the June 7, 2005 meeting of the Board and appoint Lisa Tennaro in her place. (Attachment XVI)
  21. The revised special education summer school positions appointments of special education summer school teachers, aides, assistants, CSE Evaluators, CSE Attendees, support staff and IEP readers effective July 5, 2005 – August 12, 2005, as revised July 23, 2005 and as listed:

(continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Catherine Sales	CSE Chairperson/IEP Development 90 hours @ \$38.03/hr.	\$3,422.70
Mary Gould	CPSE Chairperson 150 hours @ \$38.03/hr.	\$5,704.50
Deb Coyle	Special Education Teacher (5 weeks)	\$4,107.24
Veronica Loretan	Special Education Teacher (1 week)	\$855.68
Naomi Falco	Special Education Teaching Assistant  87 hours @ \$19.12/hour*	\$1,663.44*
Kristen Marchesani	Special Education Aide 87 hours @ \$13.64/hour*	\$1,186.68*
Kristen Marchesani	Special Education 1:1 Teaching Assistant 45 hours @ \$19.12/hour*	\$860.40*
Ligia Rende	Special Education Aide 87 hours @ \$13.64/hour*	\$1,186.68*
Michele Ahearn	Nurse 42 hours	\$1,645.56**
Meg Dornbusch	Nurse 45 hours	\$1,854.00**
Jennifer Gilbert	Occupational Therapist (12 hours)	\$780.00
Kim Wilson	Physical Therapist (12 hours)	\$960.00

TOTAL: \$24,226.88

CSE Evaluators, CSE Members and IEP Readers

Fran Coleman	Evaluator/CSE Member	\$38.03 per hour
Chrissy Connor	Evaluator/CSE Member	\$38.03 per hour
Marci DeRario	Evaluator/CSE Member	\$38.03 per hour
Laura Finkelson	Evaluator/CSE Member	\$38.03 per hour
Tim Horgan	Evaluator/CSE Member	\$38.03 per hour
Silvana Martone	Evaluator/CSE Member	\$38.03 per hour
Lisa Mount	Evaluator/CSE Member	\$38.03 per hour
Laurie Sandler	Evaluator/CSE Member	\$38.03 per hour
Kristin Madden	Evaluator/CSE Member	\$38.03 per hour
Catherine Sales	IEP Reader	\$200 per month
Laurie Sandler	IEP Reader	\$200 per month
Jen Muller	IEP Reader	\$200 per month
Chrissy Connor	IEP Reader	\$200 per month
Lisa Mount	IEP Reader	\$200 per month

\* Pending contract settlement with the TATA Unit

\*\* Pending contract settlement with the SCNCA Unit

(continued)

22. The resignation of Ana Madeira as a special education teacher aide assigned to Midland School effective June 30, 2005.
23. The resignation of Jeanne Sheridan as a special education teacher aide assigned to Rye High/Middle Schools effective June 30, 2005.
24. The resignation due to retirement of Amelia Coppola as a Senior Stenographer assigned to Rye High School Special Education Office effective July 30, 2005.
25. The resignation due to retirement of Jane Lyons as a Senior Stenographer assigned to Rye High School Guidance Office effective July 30, 2005.
26. The resignation due to retirement of Carol Petrie as a Console Operator assigned to Rye High School effective August 30, 2005.
27. The resignation of Yuri A. Bueno, as a Food Service Helper assigned to Rye High School effective June 21, 2005.
28. The request by Brigid Franklin for an unpaid Leave of Absence from her position as a Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems), assigned to the Offices of Personnel and Curriculum, Managerial and Confidential position, effective June 21, 2005 – June 20, 2006.
29. The Appointment of Maryann Petix as School Nurse, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Midland School, Step 6, of the 2004-2005 Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005.
30. The Appointment of Kimberlee C. Potter as School Nurse, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Osborn School, Step 5, of the 2004-2005 Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005.
31. Managerial/Confidential Salaries July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006 per the attached. (Attachment XVII).
32. Safety & Security Office and School Monitor Salaries July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 per the attached. (Attachment XVIII)
33. The Extra Pay for Extra Work assignments fore the 2005-2006 School Year for Fall Athletic Positions, per the attached. (Attachment XIX)

(continued)

**Action – Special Education**

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of February 28, 2005 for Student ID#631; from its meetings of March 14, 2005 for Students ID#330 and 243; from its meetings of April 4, 2005 for Students ID#431, 298 and 318; and from its meeting of May 6, 2005 for Student ID#251.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of January 24, 2005 for Student ID#507; from its meeting of April 14, 2005 for Student ID#439; from its meeting of May 3, 2005 for Student ID#509; from its meeting of May 9, 2005 for Student ID#490; from its meeting of May 12, 2005 for Student ID#376; from its meeting of June 7, 2005 for Student ID#526; and from its meeting of June 15, 2005 for Student ID#522.
3. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of March 11, 2005 for Student ID#911230; from its meeting of March 22, 2005 for Student ID#911375; from its meeting of March 23, 2005 for Student ID#911704; from its meeting of March 28, 2005 for Student ID#911737; from its meeting of April 5, 2005 for Student ID#062400; from its meetings of April 6, 2005 for Students ID#911532 and 911306; and from its meetings of April 7, 2005 for Student ID#911845, 911804, and 911404.
4. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meetings of April 12, 2007 for Students ID#911882, 172, 062040, and 911712; from its meeting of March 24, 2005 for Student ID#632; and from its meeting of May 12, 2005 for Student ID#519.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA****Kid's S.P.A.C.E. Contract**

Mr. Feeney said that the organization paid a small rent that had only been increased on one occasion in 11 years and he wished it to be recorded that he requested that this be reviewed next year.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the Kids' S.P.A.C.E. contract for the 2005-2006 school year. (Attachment XX)

**Aramark and CCC Contract Renewal**

Mr. Zahm said he was concerned about the District's exposure to child abuse with these contractors and was raising the point with both agenda items. He said if the contract renewals were approved he wished it to be with comment that these concerns be addressed. He said he felt this needed to be addressed with all sub-contractors.

Mr. Zahm then moved to approve these two items with the added comment that the administration address his concern about endangering children with these employees. Ms. Mariani seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0) (Attachments XXI and XXII)

(continued)

Roofing Bid Award

After discussion with Mr. Valentine about the components of the roofing bid process, on a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the low bidder, High Tech Contracting/Leeds Industries Corp. for replacement of roofs at Midland School and Rye High School in the amount of \$560,000.00. (Attachment XXIII)

Elementary Additions and Alterations: Authority to Add Back Items for 2005-2006

Mr. Culyer said that he had removed this item from the Consent Agenda in light of the comments of a member of the public regarding costs and of the Milton gymnasium cost. He said he wanted it made clear that the Board was not approving a gym and not moving forward until they knew the details of other work. Mr. Valentine felt the Board could comfortably commit to a new gym at Milton by the spring of next year when other work was completed and the Board could assess funding status. Mr. Fox said he felt the architect's fees, at \$80,000.00 to draw the gymnasium were too high considering that they had drawn it before, prior to it being removed from the bond project list. Mr. Zahm requested that the administration negotiate with the architect on the fee. Mr. Feeney, Ms. Sterling, Mr. Pratt, and Mr. Nathan all agreed.

The Board asked Mr. Brian Dempsey to discuss his recommendations regarding the driveway alignment at the Post Road at Osborn School. Mr. Dempsey said he advised doing this and explained the benefits of an alignment which he said also allows for more parking spaces on the field side, as well as the continuation of the sidewalk. He said the disadvantage would be that children would have to cross a three-lane or wider space to cross the driveway. The Board made other suggestions for this project.

A member of the public who identified herself as a Milton School co-PTO president said she agreed with the Board's position on the gymnasium and thanked the Board. She asked the Board to keep them in the know.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Mariani and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to provide the authority to add back items for 2005-2006 at Midland, Milton and Osborn Schools per the following overview provided by Dr. Shine:

Dr. Shine said that at the June 20, special Board of Education Meeting, the Board reviewed and discussed the information prepared by the administration in anticipation of funds in the \$22 million bond after the bids had been awarded for all three school projects. He noted that the Board supported all the priority #1 items recommended by the administration and, in addition, the Board supported the Sonn Drive realignment proposal at Osborn School. He said that all of the items supported by the Board via an informal vote had been included on the material the Board was reviewing for this meeting and that other items had been deleted.

Dr. Shine further noted that the Board asked for additional information on two items, artificial turf fields and synthetic play surfaces. He said that the current generation of artificial turf fields, such as the one installed at the High School, all require the removal of existing topsoil and fill to allow the installation of a stone base and drain system. He said this would be required prior to installing a turf field at Midland, noting that the area of the south field excluding the playground, but including the area below the portables is between 40,000 and 50,000 square feet approximately 40 to 50 percent of the size of the field installed at the

(continued)

High school. He said that the Rye Turf Committee spent nearly \$750,000 for this work, doing it privately with no requirements for public bidding or adherence to the Wicks Law. He noted that in the past, when the stadium lights were erected, the private group was able to do the work for about \$170,000. He noted that publicly bid, the numbers came in at \$290,000. Using this information, the assumption was that if the District did the high school field it would have cost in excess of \$1,000,000, so 40% of this would be about \$400,000, plus design and administrative costs.

Regarding synthetic play surfaces, Dr. Shine said that the current range of these surfaces can be used for playground areas, hard surface play areas and for interior gym floors. He said that the cost of the product depends on the thickness required for safe use and that these surfaces must go over a hard surface such as concrete or black top paving. He said that the cost range of these products would be in the range of ten to fifteen dollars per square foot, stating that at the low end this is as expensive as the turf field or, at the high end, can be more expensive. He explained that like the turf field you can design into this product the lines and designs you want for play. The areas at Milton that originally had planned synthetic play surfaces were the two playground areas, using the synthetic surface rather than wood chips. He said that Andron used an estimate of \$12 per square foot. The paved play area at Midland is approximately 2700 square feet, so this could cost between \$27,000 and \$32,400 for that area.

Dr. Shine then reviewed the additions planned for each of the schools, as follows:

Midland:

for construction immediately as they are involved with work to be completed this summer:

- a. Additional sink in one classroom
  - b. Installation of new "Big Toy" in south playground
  - c. Alternate to add DDC controls for Modular Area.
  - d. Restore FFE
2. the funds for the following items and immediate approval for start of design work for these items:
- a. Front site safety work (To be designed and approved by SED and bid for construction in summer of 2006)
  - b. Replace gymnasium floor (To be designed as soon as possible and scheduled for spring break of 2006)
  - c. Provide new clock and bell system (To be designed as soon as possible and scheduled for completion over various vacations of the 2005-2006 school year)

Milton:

immediately for construction as they must be bid by the contractors, included in submittals in a timely fashion to keep the flow of the project as smooth as possible:

- a. Add back the Aluminum framed screens to enhance our ability to take advantage of swing seasons for energy conservation. (No design necessary can be added on shop drawings)
- b. Complete the radiant heat system in kindergarten area by continuing the loop into the toilet area. (No design, can be added on shop drawings)
- c. Include the deleted wall cabinets in the classrooms. (should be included in first shop drawing submittals)

(continued)

2. the design work for the addition of the gymnasium for an immediate start. It will take approximately two months for the design and three months for approvals at SED. Then we should bid the work and be ready for final approval for construction in early spring of 2006. If the project is not using up contingency monies by then it would save money to authorize the work so that it could be done with no increase in Andron general requirements. The telescoping seating needs little or no design and should be included in the bidding for the gym and approved at the same time as the gym.

Osborn:

1. for construction immediately as they are involved with work to be completed this summer:
  - a. Alternate for Osborn Road site safety work
  - b. Alternate for Sonn Drive alignment
  - c. Extend walk along rear drive to meet sidewalk at Post Road including reworking stone wall
  - d. Add one sink in each of four classrooms
  - e. Alternate to add DDC controls for the Modular areas
  - f. Restore FFE

(Attachment XXIV)

#### Food Service Budget

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried 5-1-1 with Mr. Nathan abstaining and Mr. Feeney opposed, it was voted to approve the Food Service Program budget for the school year 2005-2006 in the amount of \$1,367,244.00 pending separate authorization of \$31,000.00 for contractual services for facilities improvement and \$33,000 for staff health benefits. (Attachment XXV)

#### 2005-2006 Hourly Rate Increases for Food Service Employees

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Ms. Mariani and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the Food Service Program hourly wage schedule for the school year 2005-2006, effective July 1, 2005. (Attachment XXVI)

#### Medical Benefits for Food Service Employees

Mr. Feeney reiterated his statement from the previous meeting, he said, that he is against this proposal and does not believe it has been appropriately studied. Mr. Zahm said he felt that the statement that the Food Service Program is self-funded is an illusion and that to look at the program in isolation is a mistake.

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried 6-1 with Mr. Feeney opposed it was voted to approve authorization of \$33,000 within the Food Service budget to fund staff medical benefits for Food Service Employees. (Attachment XXVII)

#### Facilities Improvements, High School Cafeteria

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried 6-1 with Mr. Feeney opposed it was voted to approve authorization of \$31,000.00 within the Food Service Budget to initiate plans for facilities improvements for High School Food Service. (Attachment XXIII)

(continued)

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Shine noted that the preceding week we celebrated the successful conclusion of the school year with a closing day program for faculty and staff. He said that as he was sure the Board would agree, the people who work for the Rye Public Schools are unmatched in their dedication and commitment to the students and entire community, and that he was able to specifically thank just a few of them for their above and beyond contributions this year and to celebrate some important anniversaries.

He noted that among them were seven people who have given 25 years to the District – Angela Kelleher, Mariann Ferretti, Nancy Maika, John Mazza, David Perry, Mary Lou Pullis, and Pat Ryan. He said that since initiating the giving of 25 year pins 14 years ago, he had kept track of a few statistics. The District has given 102 pins, he said, noting that of these 102, 38 continue to teach and work in our schools. He said that that kind of loyalty, and longevity, is uncommon and we appreciate it.

Dr. Shine said that he said goodbye to 20 people who are going on leave, leaving the area, or moving on, including Beth Friedman who has been with the district for 24 years, serving as a middle school teacher, department coordinator, and most recently as our Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Shine said that Ms. Friedman was also a New York State Teacher of the Year finalist and explained that she was leaving to become the Assistant Superintendent of the North Merrick School District and that the District will miss her and all the others who are leaving.

Dr. Shine said that one of the recognitions given was of those who not only teach or work in our schools, but also serve as coaches. He said as many present might recall a few years ago the District was looking hard to find coaches. He said that the response from our own employees was overwhelming and that the District appreciated their sharing their interest, expertise and enthusiasm for sports as well as in the classroom. He noted that the District applauded 36 employees who among them coach or assist with 59 teams throughout the school year.

Dr. Shine said that also recognized for their many contributions to the district were the high school secretary to the assistant principal, Marie Carlucci; Director of Athletics, Health and Physical Education, Rob Castagna; Coordinator of the Kindergarten Duckling project, Nicole Berman; high school science department chair, Pat DeRosa; Midland teacher aide, Lorraine DeMarco; Foreign Language Department Chair, Lisa Jenner; Osborn head custodian, Frank Mangiamele; elementary enrichment coordinator, Steve Bluestone; and middle school teachers Lisa Mount and John Borchert who introduced the district to Smart Boards and who infused the entire campus with enthusiasm for this new technology.

Dr. Shine said that at the closing day program 31 teachers of teachers had also been recognized – those who presented inservice workshops, taught at the Rye Miniversity and Summer Literacy Institute, and who provided many seminars and programs to introduce curriculum and enhance learning. He said it was his privilege, as well, to announce the new teacher of the year, Marshall Toppo, and that then the many contributions of ten retirees, Bob Alexander, Amelia Coppola, Neil Gross, Michael Kolesar, Jane Lyons, Jane Needham, Carol Petrie, Barbara Roggemann, Barbara Tomczak, Marge Wynne, and Anna Ziegler were recognized. He added that they have given a combined 266 years to the Rye Public Schools,

(continued)

and that on behalf of the Board and entire District, he thanked them, and wished them well.

Dr. Shine noted that summer school would begin this coming Tuesday with all classes held at Osborn School. He added that Summer School Principal, Joe DeRuvo, will provide a report on the program after it concludes, as he does every year.

In closing, Dr. Shine said that all schools and offices would be closed Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, after which the District would begin a summer schedule, noting that Milton administrative staff will be housed at Osborn School for the summer while construction begins at Milton. He said extension numbers and more information would be provided once the move is complete.

### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

#### Elementary School Enrollment and Class Size

Dr. Shine reviewed enrollment figures for the elementary schools and requested informal authorization for the addition of 1.0 F.T.E. at Osborn School, 1.0 F.T.E. Nurse/R.N. for Midland and Osborn, and .4 F.T.E. for Midland Academic Intervention Services. He reported that Osborn grade 4 was projected to be 88 students in September 2005, that the current Midland .6 F.T.E. AIS would be hard to fill and that the .4 position would enable him to fully staff the program; that Midland and Osborn needed additional nursing services, and that he was not recommending a reduction in the number of Milton kindergarten sections for the 2005-2006 school year.

#### Grade 4 ELA

Dr. McCann provided a report on performance of the elementary schools on the New York State English Language Arts Test, January, 2005, including the following information:

He said that at 4<sup>th</sup> grade, New York State public school students are administered criterion referenced tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. He noted that over the years, the District has tracked performance with particular attention to comparative performance with school districts in Westchester/Putnam as well as throughout New York State. As a district, he noted, we are expected to perform among the best in Westchester/Putnam Counties. Dr. McCann said that an examination of results reveals that performance has not matched the District's established parameter. And that to be among the best in Westchester/Putnam is to perform in the top ten districts, which the District did not.

He said that a review of results reveals that District performance did not meet District expectations, noting that comparative performance for Average Scale Score (15<sup>th</sup>), % of Students Meeting Standard (21<sup>st</sup>) and % of Students at Mastery Level (15<sup>th</sup>) was not as strong as prior groups of 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Dr. McCann said that interestingly, the District's average score on this assessment, 693.2, was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in District history but that unfortunately, he believed as did many other educators in New York State, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade tests do not provide a consistent criteria-based or norm-based standard (i.e., a bell curve or normal curve of distribution). He said that reliability (accuracy or consistency of measure over time) and validity (measuring what it claims to measure) are constructs of standardized tests that permit measuring for continuous improvement in relation to standards (Levels 1-4). He noted that the constructs in these tests are weak at best and that in this context, the District's comparative performance (how other school districts do on the same New York State test) is a fairer or more appropriate comparative measure.

(continued)

Dr. McCann said that closer examination of the results reveals both Milton and Osborn achieving greater mastery rates than the prior year but that unfortunately, a higher percentage of Rye students than normal did not meet standard (10%) at Level 4.

He said that a review of this cohort's prior performance on standardized testing (CTP 4) reveals:

- the cohorts having a slightly lower percentage of students performing in the above average range (24%) in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade compared to previous cohorts (~28%-36%)
- the cohort having a higher percentage of students performing in the below average range in reading comprehension (16%) compared to previous cohorts (9%-12%)
- the cohort having a higher percentage of students performing in the below average range in verbal reasoning (21%) compared to previous cohorts (16%-12%)
- Midland School having a higher percentage of students performing in the below average range in reading comprehension (25%) compared to district (16%)
- Midland School having a lower percentage of students performing in the above average range in reading comprehension (19 %) and verbal reasoning (15%) compared to the district (24% verbal reasoning and 22% reading comprehension)

Dr. McCann said that the Literacy Teams, the District's primary means of supporting professional development in the area of Language Arts, has focused primarily on more qualitative aspects of the Language Arts program and that less time these last several years has been devoted to analyzing student performance in the interest of making decisions to focus instruction and improve performance. He said that of note as well, in the last three years approximately half of the District's elementary faculty is new to the Rye City Schools.

Dr. McCann then noted that in recent years, the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade N.Y.S. ELA test has placed a greater emphasis on reading comprehension and less emphasis on writing and that the District's focus in Language Arts these last several years, in part a response to direction from our Strategic Plan, has been on creative writing and the integration of the arts (*Picturing Writing* and *Image Making* integrate classroom art experiences and writing).

In discussing next steps, Dr. McCann said that although overall performance on prior standardized testing reveals more students with special needs and fewer high performing students, he believes this does not fully explain or excuse District performance and that having 10% of students not meet the standard is unacceptable. He said that since he had received the results, the principals, faculty, and he had been analyzing performance and planning to improve. He said that the leadership of the principals is essential and directed the Board members to reports from the principals as well as a summary of strategies and approaches to link District efforts in curriculum, instruction, testing, and support services in the elementary schools. He reported that they had taken deliberate steps to reorganize the building-based Literacy Teams to focus on assessment informing instruction. (Attachment XXIV)

#### Middle School / High School Enrollment and Space

Dr. Shine said that in 2002, the Board of Education requested that Fletcher Thompson Architecture/Engineering do an enrollment and space utilization study of the Rye Middle

(continued)

School and Rye High School. He said that Fletcher Thompson completed the study and submitted it in June 2003. He said that utilizing the Bishop 2002 data and the educational program at both schools at the time, Fletcher Thompson concluded that the data did not support the need to build an addition at the existing high school/middle school and that the building has enough capacity to accommodate the peak enrollment as projected through 2013; and that an 85% utilization rate of rooms may require offering certain subjects less often. He said they reported that restructuring course choices may assist scheduling of room availability but may ultimately be reviewed as unacceptable to the district. He said they suggested that in this case an addition to the school would be warranted for more flexibility.

Dr. Shine then reviewed the enrollment projections as of November 2002 and November 2004, as follows:

The enrollment projections as of November 2002 showed:

	2002-2008	2010-2011	2012-2013
Grades 6-8	664	665	670
Grades 9-12	705	790	776
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>1369</b>	<b>1446</b>

For the purposes of the study, 670 students in grades 6-8 and 790 students in grades 9-12 were used. The enrollment projections as of November 2004 show the following:

	<u>2004-2008</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>2012-2013</u>
Grades 6-8	666	696	708
Grades 9-12	<u>774</u>	<u>849</u>	<u>838</u>
	1440	1545	1546

Dr. Shine noted that the 2002 projection indicated that the peak high school/middle school enrollment would occur in 2010-2011 with 1455 students and that the 2004 projections indicated that the peak high school/middle school enrollment would occur in 2014-2015 with 1582 students.

He then said that the 1994, 10-year projection for the middle school and high school in 2004 was 1705. The actual enrollment for grades 6-12 in 2004 was 1338, only 78% of that projection. He noted that it did not seem reasonable to apply the 78% to the 2014-2015 projection of 1582 as that would yield 1234. He stated that 90% accuracy would yield 1424 students.

Dr. Shine reported that the 2004 projection for 2008 was 1474, and for 2009-10, 1508. He noted that Fletcher Thompson's projection of 1446 at 85% capacity is thereby exceeded in 2008-2009.

Dr. Shine then reviewed the Fletcher Thompson report on cafeteria utilization, as follows:

Middle School	152 x 4 waves	=	608 students
High School	*255 x 4 waves	=	1020 students
*Corrected	295 x 4 waves	=	1180 students

(continued)

He said that with each school having 4 lunch periods, there is a cafeteria capacity of 1788, a number that could handle all current projections. He said that in 2005, the middle school plans to have 3 lunch periods and that the resultant number can be handled according to all current projections:

Middle School	152 x 3 waves	=	456
High School	295 x 4 waves	=	<u>1180</u>
TOTAL			1636

Dr. Shine said that there were two other issues left to be answered from the November Board Work Session on Enrollment and Space:

- 1) Does the enrollment study have merit when and if the high school moves to a block schedule?
- 2) Do Lunch schedules fall between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm?

He said that regarding the first question block scheduling does not impact building capacity in room utilization, and that whether students are in 9 periods a day or 5 periods a day does not matter. He noted that utilization refers to the number of students in classes at any one time during a school day, and that as long as the high school is running 4 lunch periods or lunch shifts and the middle school at least 3 lunch periods/shifts, space exists.

Dr. Shine then said that referring to question two, Dr. Edwards had reduced the number of lunch shifts from 4 to 3, moving the first lunch to 11:00 am rather than 10:15 am.

Dr. Shine said that options to consider to increase flexibility as enrollment grows include the following:

- 1) Add back to classroom use some or all of the classrooms identified on page 7 of the Fletcher Thompson Report.
- 2) Add zero period and 10<sup>th</sup> period to daily schedule.
- 3) Offer some night courses for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.
- 4) Stagger the middle school and high school schedules.
- 5) Add portable classrooms
- 6) Add additional space.

He noted that traffic and safety concerns will continue to grow and that a staggered schedule would help with these concerns, and then recommended that the Board revisit all of this information in November 2005, after the next data projection.

#### Tax Warrant

The Board reviewed the tax warrant to be adopted at its July 1 meeting, noting that the tax rate increase, based on anticipated total assessed value, would be 5.15%, a decrease from the previously anticipated 5.54%.

#### Board Policy 6254

The Board reviewed the proposed addition to Policy 6254, Non-Resident Students, that would appear on its July 1 agenda for adoption.

(continued)

Executive Session

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) the Board voted at 11:35 p.m. to adjourn into executive session for the discussion of particular personnel.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) the Board voted at 11:45 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Personnel Addendum

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Ms. Mariani and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the Administrative Contract/Salary Agreement for the Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2005, per the attached. (Attachment XXX)

Communication Items

Mr. Culyer said that before the Board adjourned the June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting to begin its July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, he wanted to take a moment to thank Ms. Mariani who that evening concluded six years of service as a Board member. He said Ms. Mariani had championed many causes and served with conviction, and that the Board appreciated her dedication and respected her decision to step back and focus on some of the many other important facets of her life. He said he knew Ms. Mariani would remain committed to her beliefs about the Rye City School District and will remain involved in the life of the schools in many ways. He then presented Ms. Mariani with a certificate of recognition for her years of service, recognizing her support of public education.

Mr. Zahm said he had surveyed the Board and past Board members regarding a mutually convenient time for a party for Ms. Mariani and that eight people had selected July 6.

Mr. Feeney said that since the next regular meeting of the Board was not until August 30<sup>th</sup> that an update on Osborn litigation be provided. He reviewed the schedule and said that the courts did not believe the valuation session on this matter would occur until the end of August.

Mr. Culyer reminded the Board that their annual planning meeting would be July 16<sup>th</sup>.

Closing Items

There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:51 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari  
District Clerk