

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
August 31, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:00 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

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

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to adjourn into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, the discussion of pending litigation and the discussion of negotiations.

Upon reconvening in public at 8:08 P.M., on a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0), Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and called for the hearing of the public after explaining the intent of the Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items. He then called upon those who had signed up to speak at this point in the meeting

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

A member of the public criticized the organization of the meeting and the imposition of "position slips" for residents to speak. Mr. Culyer thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Douglas Carey spoke in the character of Charles Warden to invite the Board and others present to attend the field day planned for the weekend and observe others in character representing 1904.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer said that Action-General item 1, the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of August 2, 2004; Action-General item 5, approval of 9th grade field hockey program; Action-General item 6, approval of additional staffing; Action-Fiscal item 1, Lunch Fund and Special Education Tuition and Related Services Budget Transfers, and

(continued)

Action-Fiscal item 6, Special Education Bus Transportation Bids, would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

Action – General

1. Approval of two new provisions of the Rye Administrators' Association Collective Bargaining Agreement; Criteria for Withholding Salary Adjustments and 360-Degree Focus Groups, as described in the attached. (Attachment I)
2. The gift request in the amount of \$2,500.00 from the Rye High School Lighting Committee to cover a portion of the costs for Nugent Field lighting. (Attachment II)
3. The gift request in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the Rye Football Association to cover a portion of the costs for Nugent Field lighting. (Attachment III)
4. Approval of Board of Education Priorities, 2004-2005:
 1. Governance – Providing leadership and making decisions in a timely, effective manner.
 2. The 2005-2006 Budget – Funding schools of excellence while remaining cognizant of community concerns and limitations.
 3. Negotiations – The contract for the Rye Teachers' Association needs to be concluded; three other contracts expire in June 2005 and require careful deliberation and communication.
 4. Facilities – The \$22 million bond for additions and alterations for our elementary schools needs to be launched and other initiatives begun to preserve and protect our buildings.
 5. The Osborn Home Litigation – This is a critical legal issue that has an impact on the community. A trial is scheduled for January, 2005.
 6. Communications – There is always a need to communicate effectively. The Board plans to provide written communications directly to the community on critical District issues. Communication, however, is a two-way process and, therefore, the Board requests that citizens communicate with the Board as well. (Attachment IV)

Action – Fiscal

1. Special education bus transportation contracts for the 2004-2005 school year to County Coach Bus for 12 students in-district and 7 students out-of-district. (Attachment V)

Action - Personnel

1. The resignation of Brooke Cmiel as Special Education Teaching Assistant, effective September 3, 2004.
2. The appointment of Naomi Falco as .9 FTE Special Education Teaching Assistant, Step 3 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 5

(continued)

days/week, 6.5 hours/day, effective September 3, 2004.

3. The appointment of Peter Thomas, as Teaching Assistant/Academic Intervention Intern, assigned to Rye High School, Base Salary plus Stipend, of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 1.0 FTE, 7 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 3, 2004.
4. The Leave Replacement appointment of Diana Staropoli, as Teaching Assistant, assigned to Rye High School Academic Intervention Center, Step 5 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 3, 2004.
5. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Megan McDonagh, as First Grade Teacher, assigned to Midland School, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary N-6, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 3 / 4 of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective January 13, 2003 – January 12, 2006.
6. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Loretta Mascia as Second Grade Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary N-6 and Reading, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 3 / 4 of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective March 3, 2003 – March 2, 2006.
7. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Alison Denmark, as Fourth Grade Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary N-6, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 3 of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective September 1, 2003 – June 30, 2006.
8. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Jennifer Blumenfeld, as Kindergarten Teacher, assigned to Milton School, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary Pre-K-6, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 6 of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective September 1, 2003 – June 30, 2006.
9. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Anne Swenson as Fifth Grade Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary Pre-K-6, 1.0 FTE, BA Step 9 of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective September 1, 2003 – June 30, 2006.

(continued)

10. The Two Year Probationary Appointment of Lisa Tennaro, as Third Grade Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary Pre-K-6, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 6 of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective September 1, 2003 – June 30, 2005.
11. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Tara Lyn Taddeo, as Second Grade Teacher, assigned to Milton School, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary Pre-K-6, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 4 / 5 of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective January 26, 2004 – January 25, 2007.
12. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Therese Ferrara, as Third Grade Teacher, assigned to Milton School, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary Pre-K-6 and Special Education K-12, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 3 of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective September 1, 2004 – June 30, 2007.
13. The Emergency Conditional Three Year Probationary Appointment of Katherine Hoffmann as English Language Learner Teacher assigned to Osborn School, for which she has applied for New York State Initial Certification in Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages, 1.0 FTE, MA +30, Step 1, of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective September 1, 2004 – June 30, 2007.
14. The Emergency Conditional Three Year Probationary Appointment of Veronica Loretan as Special Education Teacher assigned to Midland School, for which she has New York State Permanent Certification in Special Education K-12, 1.0 FTE, MA, Step 5, of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective September 1, 2004 – June 30, 2007.
15. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Michelle Ring, as Kindergarten Teacher assigned to Midland School, for which she has New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary Education K-6 and Special Education K-12, 1.0 FTE, BA +15, Step 4, of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective September 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005.
16. The Emergency Conditional Three Year Probationary Appointment of Jennifer DosSantos, as School Psychologist, assigned to Midland School, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in School Psychology, 0.5 FTE, MA

(continued)

Step 9 (prorated), of the 2003-2004 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye Teachers Association, effective September 1, 2004, to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

17. The appointment as Summer School Teacher of Suzanne Kelly, College Writing Essay Workshop, and Kelly Finn, College Writing Essay Workshop, effective July 1- September, 2004. (Attachment VI)
18. The resignation of Maya Bess as a Part Time Special Education Teacher Aide assigned to Milton School, effective September 3, 2004.
19. The resignation of Naomi Falco as Special Education Teacher Aide assigned to Midland School, effective September 3, 2004.
20. The request by Diana Staropoli for an unpaid Leave of Absence from her position as Special Education Teacher Aide assigned to Midland School, effective September 3, 2004 – June 30, 2005.
21. The Extra Pay for Extra Work assignments for the 2004-2005 school year as listed on the attached. (Attachment VII)

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendation of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of June 7, 2004 for Student ID#412.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of March 3, 2004 for Student ID#912044; from its meeting of March 8, 2004 for Student ID#912049; from its meeting of March 15, 2004 for Student ID#175; and from its meeting of May 7, 2004 for Student ID#188.
3. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of March 3, 2004 for Student ID#150; from its meeting of March 22, 2004 for Student ID#912053; from its meetings of March 24, 2004 for Students ID#151 and 912094; from its meeting of March 31, 2004 for Student ID#293; from its meeting of May 5, 2004 for Student ID#338; from its meeting of June 9, 2004 for Student ID#395; and from its meeting of June 22, 2004 for Student ID#410.
4. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of March 3, 2004 for Student ID#912044; from its meeting of March 8, 2004 for Student ID#252; from its meetings of March 15, 2004 for Students ID#249 and 124; from its meeting of March 17, 2004 for Student ID#251; from its meeting of March 22 for Student ID#243; from its meeting of March 24, 2004 for Student ID#291; from its meeting of March 25, 2004 for Student ID#253; from its meetings of March 31, 2004 for Students ID#334 and 248; from its meeting of April 29, 2004

(continued)

for Student ID#392; from its meeting of May 5, 2004 for Student#323; from its meeting of May 10, 2004 for Student ID#377; from its meeting of May 24, 2004 for Student ID#400; from its meeting of June 9, 2004 for Student ID#401; from its meeting of June 16, 2004 for Student ID#396; from its meeting of July 7, 2004 for Student ID#386; from its meetings of July 9, 2004 for Students ID#418 and 241; and from its meeting of July 28, 2004 for Student ID#425.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education of August 2, 2004 as amended to include the following statement "while completion of the cost estimate for Milton School is pending," page 10, last paragraph, following "September, 2005."

Ninth Grade Field Hockey Program

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Ms. Mariani and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the funding of a ninth grade field hockey team by directing the superintendent to re-set priorities within the 2004-2005 budget. (Attachment VIII)

Lunch Fund Budget Transfers/Special Education Budget Transfer

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried 6-0-1 with Mr. Zahm abstaining, it was voted to approve Budget Transfer #36 for the 2003-2004 Budget in the amount of \$22,000.00 to reallocate budget to cover additional expense for food supplies. (Attachment IX)

And

To approve Budget Transfer #1 for the 2004-2005 school year in the amount of \$150,000.00 for payment for tuition and related services for rye resident special education students in out-of-district placements to conform to the expenditure budget codes according to New York State Form ST-3. (Attachment X)

Special Education Bus Transportation Contract Bid

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Mariani and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the Special Education Bus Transportation Contract Bid for one student going to Giant Step to TLC Transportation Corporation of Westchester for the 2004-2005 school year in the amount of \$4,698.00 per month. (Attachment XI)

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve Special Education Transportation Contract Bids for the 2004-2005 school year to Ardsley Bus Corporation for the 2004-2005 school year in the amount of \$123,700.00. (Attachment XII)

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine provided a report on staffing and enrollment projections, noting that
(continued)

enrollment numbers would continue to fluctuate with late registrants between the meeting and the opening days of school.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Status Report – Capital Reserve Projects: Summer 2004

Mr. Valentine reviewed capital reserve projects underway or completed and the costs of each project. Mr. Culyer noted that one of those projects was roof replacement work at Midland School and offered thanks to neighboring residents for their patience since the work required hours spent during the evening and weekends in order to be completed for the opening of school. (Attachment XIII)

Status Report – Technology and Implementation of New Student Information

Ms. Andreasen reviewed technology initiatives successfully implemented over the summer. (Attachment XIV)

Status Report, K-12 Enrollment for the 2004 – 2005 School Year

Dr. Shine reviewed individual elementary school reports and summary data for the middle and high schools, reminding the Board that it was preliminary data. Mr. Feeney requested a reconciliation on why Milton attendance is down by 8%. A member of the public requested a class size study and another said the suggestion to add teacher aides to elementary classrooms at or beyond guidelines ruins the Board's credibility with the community. (Attachment XV)

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Additional Staffing

On a motion by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried 6-1 with Mr. Zahm voting no, it was voted to authorize the superintendent to select and place Teaching Assistants in elementary school classrooms if the enrollment exceeds 23, with a maximum enrollment of 25 in any individual classroom. (Attachment XVII)

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEM

Status Report on Staff Development and In-Service Programs for Teachers

Dr. McCann provided background and summary information on summer, 2004 professional development course offerings and summer curriculum and professional development grants. (Attachment XVI)

COMMUNICATIONS TO / FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Culyer explained this agenda item and its structure.

Mr. Zahm outlined his communication regarding the form of presentation of
(continued)

personnel items to the Board. After discussion, only three Board members were interested in pursuing a change in form of presentation so the item was not moved forward for further review.

Mr. Feeney requested a profit and loss statement for the Rye School of Leadership, both for the last school year and projected into the future. At least four Board members were interested in pursuing this topic. Mr. Culyer directed Dr. Shine to initiate work and report back to the Board.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:42 P.M. to adjourn into executive session to discuss negotiations and pending litigation, with no expectation of reconvening in public for further discussion or action.

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:22 P.M., to reconvene in public.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:22 P.M. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk