

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**November 23, 2004**

After touring Osborn School beginning at 6:15, the Board convened in the middle school multipurpose room for its regular meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:10 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

\* Arrived 7:40 p.m.

\*\* Arrived 7:25 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Ms. Mariani and carried unanimously (5-0) it was voted to adjourn into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, and the discussion of negotiations.

Upon reconvening in public at 8:09 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried unanimously (7-0), Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and asked Mr. Feeney to present the Board's extra mile award.

Mr. Feeney said that it was his pleasure, on behalf of the Board, to present the Extra Mile award to Mr. William Ackerman. He said he was an outstanding teacher and listed his achievements, but said the award was presented for his work as the District's Test Coordinator, not only supervising the testing program, but also working with faculty, clarifying test objectives, and analyzing results. He said the District was fortunate to have Mr. Ackerman serving in this position, and that his dedication and commitment were very much appreciated.

Mr. Culyer then announced the Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items and explained this portion of the meeting, requesting that members of the public make comments and not ask questions or attempt to engage in dialogue, reminding them that questions should be directed to the Superintendent's office to be answered.

**Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items**

A member of the public said he had concerns about the District's management of

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health and safety issues and said he had documentation explaining the legal requirements of maintaining a health and safety committee at every school. He said that the lack of such committees put the district in jeopardy of non-approval of projects, and said he felt there were not appropriate checks and balances in place regarding this subject.

A member of the public said he endorsed these comments and encouraged the Board to allocate funds to fix the high school auditorium.

Mr. Culyer thanked those who spoke and called for a motion on the consent agenda, noting that Action-Fiscal Item 1, budget transfers, would be pulled from the consent agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

#### **Action – General**

1. The minutes of the November 9, 2004 meeting of the Board, as written.
2. The recommendation to move Girls' Soccer to the fall season in 2005 and to direct the administration to complete all the required planning and to communicate with parents and students/athletes in a timely manner. (Attachment I)
3. The gift from the Resurrection School PTO in the amount of \$1,000 for the Heard in Rye speaker series. (Attachment II)
4. The gift of one Knabe baby grand piano from Mrs. Jeanette Cummins. (Attachment III)
5. Approval of the Terms of the Release and Settlement Involving Student ID#273 and authorization of the Superintendent to execute the same. (Attachment IV)

#### **Action – Fiscal**

1. The Treasurer's Summary Report for the period ending September 30, 2004. (Attachment V)

#### **Action – Personnel**

1. The resignation of Jennifer DosSantos as part-time school psychologist assigned to Midland School effective December 8, 2004.
2. The appointment of Natasha Groom as Permanent Substitute Teacher, secondary level, 1.0 FTE effective November 22, 2004 through June 30, 2005.
3. The amended appointment from Three Year Probationary of Therese Ferrara to a Two Year Probationary Appointment as third grade teacher, assigned to Milton School, effective September 1, 2004 – June 30, 2006 based on submission of proof of tenure.

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4. The request by Carin Mehler for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Elementary Teacher At Large, effective December 3, 2004 – June 30, 2005.
5. The increase in assignment from 0.5 FTE to 0.7 FTE of Doreen Klein as Speech/Language Pathologist, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Speech and Hearing, assigned to Midland and Milton Schools on MA, Step 15 (prorated) of the 2004-2005 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective November 16, 2004, to serve at the pleasure of the Board.
6. The resignation of Natasha Groom as a Teacher Aide assigned to Milton School, effective November 19, 2004.
7. The termination of Wendell Randolph as a Food Service Helper assigned to Rye High School, effective November 5, 2004 due to his failure to supply the Office of Personnel with a letter of resignation.
8. The appointment of Yuri Bueno as Food Service helper with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, assigned to Rye High School effective October 28, 2004.
9. The Extra Pay for Extra work assignments for the 2004-2005 school year per the attached. (Attachment VI)

#### **Action – Special Education**

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meetings of October 15, 2004 for Students ID#162 and 911407; from its meeting of October 19 for Student ID#357; from its meeting of November 5, 2004 for Student ID#398; and from its meetings of November 8, 2004 for Students ID#316 and 911294.

#### **ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

#### Budget Transfers

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Mariani and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve budget transfers 6, 7 and 8 in the amounts of \$9,800.00, \$50,000.00, and \$46,586.00 respectively to reallocate funds to the appropriate budget code that conform to the expenditure budget codes according to New York State Form ST-3 to cover unanticipated contractual cost needed for a special education student, BOCES services for special education, and BOCES library automation costs. (Attachment VII)

#### **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Shine extended congratulations to the girls' field hockey team and their coaches, and to the varsity football team, and their coaches, for their excellent seasons that took both teams to state championship matches.

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Dr. Shine said he wanted to encourage members of the Board and those present and watching the meeting on television to attend the December 8<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Human Rights taking place in the performing arts center at Rye High School. He noted that a high school student would be one of two recipients of the award, and that the Rye High School 10<sup>th</sup>

Grade Class was participating and would have kiosks of their work on display in addition to essays written by class members on human rights topics. Dr. Shine thanked the English Department, particularly George Krajca, for encouraging the students to participate.

Dr. Shine noted that the District would conduct a census in January and will ask every resident's cooperation in responding to it. He noted that it is the District's obligation and wish to survey every household in Rye in order to obtain an accurate accounting of school-aged children and children in need of special educational services.

Dr. Shine said that at the last meeting a question had been asked by a member of the public about the cost of the new contract with the Rye Teachers Association. He reviewed those costs, noting that in the 2004-2005 school year with an increase of 3.4% plus step increases and Extra Pay for Extra Work, welfare fund, and curriculum stipends, the budgetary impact would be \$1,035,568 and that it would be \$1,267,558 in 2005-2006 and \$1,549,524 in 2006-2007.

Dr. Shine then noted that all schools and offices will be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving Recess, and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. He said that as we are often reminded, we have much to be thankful for as members of this caring school community.

### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

Mr. Culyer reminded those present the purpose of this section of the agenda and the process for receiving information, discussing and then acting on information at Board of Education meetings.

#### **Piano Replacement**

Dr. Shine said that information was shared with the Board on its October 19 agenda packet on the schedule of piano replacement that the District pursued since June 2003. He noted that fifteen pianos have been replaced and that as referenced in the Action Agenda, a local citizen had made a gift request to provide a baby grand piano which the music department wished to place at Midland School. He said the music department has recommended a Steinway piano for Rye High School for the Performing Arts Center. He asked Dr. Amdur and Mrs. Kraut to address the Board on this subject and answer any questions.

#### **Technology Plan**

Ms. Carol Andreasen reviewed the 2005-2008 Technology Capital Asset Preservation Plan that had been provided to the Board in written form.

The Board members discussed the information presented by Ms. Andreasen. Mr. Zahm questioned the District's plan as pertains to single point of failure recovery and back up systems within the District's technology network.

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Annual Testing and Assessment Update

Dr. McCann presented Districtwide test information and the assessment of that information both categorically and in the context of the District's Strategic Plan. (Attachment IX)

The Board members and members of the public discussed the information presented by Dr. McCann with a focus on particular test scores. Dr. McCann explained the communication and follow-up provided to parents regarding specific scores.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS

Mr. Culyer asked Mr. Nathan if he wished to present his communication to the Board regarding secondary lunch periods or if the response provided in the packet were sufficient. Mr. Nathan said that Dr. Shine's written comments were sufficient.

Ms. Mariani mentioned minutes on the work session and the revision she had requested regarding looking at school capacity. She then asked what the usual capacity at which a school operates is. Dr. Shine said about 75%. He said he had requested feedback on the minutes and had requested Board feedback, and would appreciate hearing from any other Board members regarding the minutes.

Mr. Nathan and Dr. Shine further discussed what specific guidelines would be for "extremely early or late lunch." Mr. Pratt suggested using matrixes of the block scheduling model in the review of available scheduling for lunch periods.

Committee Reports

Mr. Feeney announced that the District renewed a bond anticipation note during the week in the amount of \$990,000.00 to cover some of the advances made on expenses on the \$22 million bond issue, and that the maturity is dovetailing with other bond anticipation notes that are maturing in early July 2005. He said it was competitively bid, and that the financing rollover is at an interest rate of 1.90% for the next seven plus months. He said no Board was required because it is a rollover.

Mr. Feeney said the Budget Advisory Subcommittee has been asked to attend the Board's December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to participate in the auditor's report, and the Finance and Investment subcommittee will also have its first meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> where the topic will be the beginning of forward planning for the sale of bonds for the \$22 million additions and alterations project.

Mr. Culyer noted that a preliminary report of the Facilities Committee was in the Board's packet but that he would summarize this. He said the summary spreadsheets show a total capital reserve requirement of \$14,790,068.00, currently in three categories, including those items in facilities that are part of the \$22 million bond initiative, those items that are identified as future bondable items, and those shown as annual facility funding projects. He said the unique aspect of the report is that annual funding of 2% of the budget indicates that

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funding will enable work to be concluded within the five-year plan. He said that special emphasis is made on health and safety items, identified in the report.. He noted that the Committee had been charged to provide this information with the detail that is there and that the next steps will be to prepare separate reports both from capital reserve as well as bondable items and then put in priority order those items for the annual facilities budget meetings. He said going forward they would look for direction from the Board.

Mr. Zahm asked if there would be a report from the Curriculum Council. Ms. Mariani objected saying that the recommendations from the Curriculum Council included comment from the meeting and a Board liaison report would be redundant.

Mr. Culyer then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

#### Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Mariani, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried (6-1) it with Mr. Zahm voting no it was voted at. 10:50 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari  
District Clerk