

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
January 10, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:09 p.m. in the Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room and the Board adjourned immediately into Executive Session on a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (5-0), for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, pending litigation, and negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law.

Present

Mr. James Culyer, *President*
Mr. Stephen Feeney, *Vice President*
Mr. Edward Fox
Mr. Joshua Nathan
Ms. Victoria Sterling*
Mr. Robert Zahm*

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

**arrived subsequent to start of Executive Session*

On a motion by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 8:00 p.m. to reconvene in public. Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and called upon Mr. Feeney to present the Board's Extra Mile Award.

EXTRA MILE AWARD

Mr. Feeney presented the Board's Extra Mile Award to The Honorable Steven Otis, Mayor of the City of Rye, for all he does on both a governmental level and a personal level to support the schools and their students, and education in the City of Rye.

Mayor Otis thanked the Board for this recognition and reiterated his belief in the importance of the school district and the city working closely together on behalf of the children of the community, noting that the Rye City School District is one of the best school districts in New York State because of the Board's leadership.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

There were no questions or comments from the public.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer noted that Action-General Items 1-3 (Board Minutes) and Action-Fiscal Items 3 and 4 (Budget Transfers 10 and 11) would be removed from the Consent Agenda).

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the following recommendations and items:

Action – General

1. That the Board recognizes the value of team participation and endorses a letter of intent to merge a small number of Blind Brook High School swimmers in the Rye Girls' Swim Team with costs shared on a per-athlete basis. (Attachment I)
2. That the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute a Release and Settlement Agreement regarding Student Number 10409. (Attachment II)
3. The curriculum, Participation in Government Elective, Rye's Senior Independent Project, per the attached. (Attachment III)
4. The gift, in the amount of \$1,000.00, for the Coach of the Week in honor of Dino Garr, from the Giants Foundation, Inc. Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ, to be used to offset the cost of the Coaches' conference that he will attend in February 2006. (Attachment IV)

Action – Fiscal

1. Budget Transfer #9 in the amount of \$8,085.00 from BOCES Risk Management to cover the costs of BOCES' Reading Recovery program for six teachers and six guide books not budgeted. (Attachment V)
2. Budget Transfer #10 in the amount of \$13,000.00 to cover the cost of a consultant to complete a special education assessment project, from unused non-teacher retirement costs. (Attachment VI)

Action – Personnel

1. The resignation of Todd Wagner, as a Permanent Substitute Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School/Rye High School effective January 17, 2006.
2. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Noelle Mongello as an Elementary Teacher at Large, for which she holds Initial New York State Certification Early childhood Education Birth – Grade 2 and Childhood Education Grades 1-6, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule (pro-rated) effective January 3, 2006 – June 30, 2006.

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3. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Laura M. Pisano as an Elementary Teacher-at-Large, for which she holds Pennsylvania Professional Certificate in Elementary Education Grades K-6 and is applying for New York State Certification in Childhood Education Grades K-6 1.0 FTE, BA+15 Step 1 of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule (pro-rated) effective January 17, 2006 – June 30, 2006.
4. The request by Catherine McNamara for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as 1st Grade Teacher assigned to Osborn School, effective on or about her approximate anticipated due date of May 2, 2006 – June 30, 2006.
5. The Provisional Appointment of Linda M. Panzer, as a Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems), assigned to Rye High School, 12 month position 1.0 FTE, Step 4 (pro-rated) as per the 2000-2005 Secretarial Clerical Salary Schedule, (pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye City School District's Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit) effective December 7, 2005.
6. The Appointment of Janice Morgan as a Teacher Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Midland School, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule (pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye City School District Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistants Unit), 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective December 12, 2005.
7. The Appointment of Elissa Cavataro as a Teazcher Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Osborn School, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule (pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye City School District Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistants Unit), 3.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective January 4, 2006.
8. The Appointment of James Angelo as a Security Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Rye Middle and Rye High Schools, 8 hours/day, 5 days/week, (pro-rated) effective January 3, 2006.
9. The Appointment of Hans Berger as a School Monitor, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Milton School, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective December 8, 2005.
10. The .7 FTE Probationary Appointment of Lynne Morris, as a Library Clerk, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two
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weeks, assigned to Milton School, 10 month position, Step 4 (pro-rated) for the period January 9, 2006 – June 30, 2006, as per the 2000-2005 Secretarial Clerical Salary Schedule, (pending contract settlement between the Board of Education and the Rye City School District's Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit), effective January 9, 2006.

11. The Extra Pay for Extra Work assignments for the 2005-2006 school year per the attached. (Attachment VII)

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of October 25, 2005 for Student #330; from its meeting of November 2, 2005 for Student #061330; from its meeting of November 7, 2005 for Student ID#369; from its meeting of November 9, 2005 for Student ID#676; from its meeting of November 10, 2005 for Student ID#911317; from its meetings of November 15, 2005 for Students ID#911441, 644, , 911697, and 911704; from its meetings of November 16, 2005 for Students ID#187 and 568; from its meetings of November 17, 2005 for Students ID#911882 and 179; from its meeting of November 22, 2005 for Student ID#133; from its meeting of November 29, 2005 for Student ID#911461; from its meetings of December 2, 2005 for Students ID#640, 600 and 627; from its meeting of December 19, 2005 for Student ID#062090; and from its meeting of December 20, 2005 for Student ID#645.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of October 12, 2005 for Student ID#595; from its meeting of October 20, 2005 for Student ID#442; from its meeting of October 27, 2005 for Student ID#553; from its meeting of December 1, 2005 for Student ID#552; from its meeting of December 12, 2005 for Student ID#652; and from its meeting of December 14, 2005 for Student ID#661.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine reported on a visiting a cappella group from Tufts University, reminded the Board of the high school Musical Revue on the weekend, announced that Midland psychologist, Anat Mor, had earned her doctorate degree, commended Osborn student, Cameron Dogan for earning a perfect score in the difficult Blue Division of the Wordmaster Challenge, and noted the January 17th annual symposium of the Human Rights Commission that would feature high school student work, and announced that two members of the varsity football team, Jack Donnelly and Peter Niehaus, had been elected to the Westchester Chapter of the National Football Foundation 2005 Golden Dozen Scholar-Athlete Team.

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SEPARATE ACTION ITEMS**Treasurer's Summary Report**

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the Treasurer's Summary Report for the Period Ending November 30, 2005. (Attachment VIII)

The administration agreed to provide further information to the Board with respect to the administration's practice regarding encumbering funds.

Revenue Budget Status Report

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the Revenue Budget Status Report for the Period Ending November 30, 2005. (Attachment IX)

Appropriation Status Report

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the Appropriation Status Report for the Period Ending November 30, 2005. (Attachment X)

PRESENTATION – DISCUSSION**Milton School Construction: Gymnasium and Parking Lot Options**

The Board discussed the options presented for adding a gymnasium and re-doing the parking lot at Milton School (Attachment XI) and expressed basic approval for continuing to consider the smaller 57 SPACE parking lot option and the addition of the gymnasium.

A PTO co-president expressed that she was pleased at the Board's considerations. A Milton parent said it would be a lack of respect for the professionalism of the faculty not to increase the parking lot.

Facilities Report on Boiler and Heating System Planning

Mr. Culyer, Chair of the Facilities Committee, and representatives of Aramark who had conducted surveys of boiler and heating systems in the District, reported on their surveys and their recommendations for the work needed on boilers and heating systems. It was agreed that the Finance Committee be given the report and recommendations for consideration for ways that, were this work to be done, it could best be funded.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**Minutes of the October 11, 2005 Meeting of the Board**

On a motion by Mr. Fox, and seconded by Ms. Sterling, it was voted to approve the minutes as amended to change the wording on page 4, Action-General, paragraph 1 of
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Construction Change Directives, from “and the recommendation of LePatner & Associates” to “and subject to review by LePatner & Associates. The motion failed on a vote of 3-2-1 with Mr. Feeney and Ms. Sterling voting no and Mr. Zahm abstaining.

After discussion, the motion was proposed again by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Nathan. It carried on a vote of 4-1-1 with Mr. Feeney voting no and Mr. Zahm abstaining.

Minutes of the December 6, 2005 Meeting of the Board

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the December 6, 2005 minutes as amended to change the wording on page 4 under Recommendation to Award Heating Oil Contract, paragraph 1, from “as amended to include the total gallons included in the bid” to “as amended to include the range of gallons included in the bid.”

Minutes of the December 20, 2005 Work Session of the Board

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously, (6-0) it was voted to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2005 Work Session of the Board, as written.

Budget Transfer #11

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve Budget Transfer #11 in the amount of \$172,918.00 to cover additional Special Education Transportation expenses for both BOCES and private school students for the 2005-2006 school year, with funds to be transferred at the close of the school year from unencumbered available budgets and/or appropriated fund balance, as needed. (Attachment XII)

Budget Transfer #12

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried 5-1 with Mr. Feeney voting no, it was voted to approve Budget Transfer #12 in the amount of \$25,500.00 to cover the cost of post season football expense, with funds to be transferred at the close of the school year from unencumbered available budgets and/or appropriated fund balance. (Attachment XIII)

In regard to Budget Transfers 11 and 12, the administration made a commitment to provide the Board with the sources of funding for the approved transfers before the end of the fiscal year.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Culyer asked Mr. Feeney to review his six communications to the Board, as follows:

1. That there be a mandatory termination time for Board of Education meetings.

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- Subsequent to Mr. Feeney's presentation and Board discussion, Mr. Culyer said it was clear that there were not four Board members in agreement with this recommendation.
2. That the agenda for regular Board meetings be re-structured to move the Consent Agenda to a location immediately prior to the adjournment of the meeting. Subsequent to Mr. Feeney's presentation and Board discussion, Mr. Culyer said that since this practice would be acceptable to a majority of the Board it could be implemented, but be left to the president's discretion to determine at each meeting.
 3. That the non-Board meeting weekly packets be eliminated with the understanding that notice of events, concerns, developments and items of a more immediate nature be provided by the Superintendent/administration to Board members by email. Subsequent to Board member discussion, including Mr. Fox and Mr. Culyer noting that they did not wish to receive information solely by email, Mr. Zahm requesting that if there would be special deliveries Board members be notified in advance, and Ms. Sterling requesting that Curriculum background and notebooks be delivered separately, Mr. Culyer said that since at least four Board members agreed with this communication it should be initiated.
 4. That the Administration develop, in a format acceptable to the Board, a centralized reporting mechanism to provide litigation, legal and personnel issues information for the Board on either a bi-monthly or quarterly basis. Subsequent to Mr. Feeney's presentation and Board discussion, Mr. Culyer said that it was apparent that the Board was supportive of the provision of a quarterly update to the Board on litigation, legal and personnel issues.
 5. That four issues regarding the Food Service Fund Balance previously discussed in last year's budget discussions be discussed prior to the annual budget cycle. When asked for his recommendation, Dr. Shine said that he felt these were policy issues and that the Board should not be asking the administration for a recommendation. Subsequent to Mr. Feeney's presentation and Board discussion, Mr. Culyer said that there was consensus to move forward and look at these issues.
 6. That the amount Kids' S.P.A.C.E. pays the District for use of District facilities be evaluated and increased and that the Board instruct the Superintendent or his designee to open discussions with the director of the program concerning the fee paid to the District prior to the creation of a new contract for the 2006-2007 school year. Subsequent to Mr. Feeney's presentation and Board discussion, Mr. Culyer said there were not four or more Board members willing to consider this recommendation.

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Mr. Feeney said that the next packet would include a communication from him proposing a joint work session with the City Council on tax certioraris.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 11:40 p.m. to adjourn into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, pending litigation and negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law.

Mr. Culyer announced that the Board would adjourn immediately upon reconvening in public and would not take any action on any items.

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 11:53 p.m. to reconvene in public.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 11:53 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk