

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
March 7, 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 Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (4-0), for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, pending litigation, and negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law. Drs. Grille, Nardone, and Edwards and Ms. Zeppie met with the Board.

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 the start of Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 8:10 p.m. to reconvene in public. Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and, noting items removed from the Consent Agenda, called for the Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

A member of the public said she was troubled about how the elementary schools were perceived in the Special Education Program Review presented at the previous meeting. She said that Midland School had four times as many classified students as Osborn; that there were clusters of special education students at Midland that had the school bearing the bigger burden and she therefore didn't feel the elementary schools were similar at all, as indicated in the report.

Mr. Nathan asked what the plan was for further discussion on this topic. Dr. Shine said that he had asked Director, Shirley Klein, to meet with the special education teachers and with administration and develop a plan to be discussed with the Board before the end of the school year.

(continued)

CONSENT AGENDA

As previously announced by Mr. Culyer, Action-General 1, Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of February 7, 2006; and Separate Action Required Action Item 4, Budget Transfer #11, were removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

Action – Personnel

1. The request by Alison Gordon for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as 4th Grade Teacher assigned to Osborn School, effective July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
2. The request by Noreen Kennedy for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as English Teacher assigned to Rye High School, effective July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
3. The request by Jennifer Muller for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as School Psychologist assigned to Milton School, effective September 1, 2006 – on or about January 26, 2007.
4. The resignation of Elissa Cavataro as a teacher aide assigned to Osborn School effective February 16, 2006.
5. The resolution to approve Extra Pay for Extra Work Spring Coaching positions and payment for the 2005-2006 school year. (Attachment I)

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meetings of January 10, 2006 for Students ID#605 and 061820; from its meeting of January 17, 2006 for Student ID#911937; from its meeting of January 18, 2006 for Student ID#580; from its meetings of January 25, 2006 for Student ID#431 and an initial referral; from its meeting of January 26, 2006 for Student ID#431; from its meeting of February 1, 2006 for Student ID#249; and from its meeting of February 14, 2006 for Student ID#687.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of December 22, 2005 for Student ID#567; from its meeting of January 23, 2006 for Student ID#489; and from its meeting of January 25, 2006 for Student ID#681.

(continued)

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. Subsequent to discussion on District telephone bills that Mr. Walsh said were being reviewed over several years, on a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Culyer and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the Treasurer's Comprehensive Bank Reconciliation by Fund for the period ending January 31, 2006. (Attachment II)
2. On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the Revenue Budget Status Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2006. (Attachment III)
3. Subsequent to a question by Mr. Fox as to whether everything that should be encumbered had been encumbered through the end of the year, with the answer that salaries had been encumbered but not necessarily every other anticipated expenditure, on a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the Appropriation Status Report for the Period Ending January 31, 2006. (Attachment IV)

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**Budget Transfers**

Mr. Zahm asked why the Board was seeing budget transfers for a second time. It was explained by Dr. Shine that this was because at a previous meeting the transfers had been approved without a source for funding with the assurance that they would be returned to the Board for approval, that the source had been identified, and therefore the Transfers were presented for review and approval at this time.

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Culyer and carried 5-0-1 with Ms. Sterling abstaining, it was voted to approve the following items:

1. Budget Transfer #11 in the amount of \$172,918.00 to cover transportation contracts for special education students, both private and BOCES services, from unencumbered salaries. (Attachment Va)
2. Budget Transfer #12 in the amount of \$25,500.00 to cover the cost of post season football expense, from unencumbered salaries. (Attachment Vb)
3. Budget Transfer #16 in the amount of \$175,000.00 to cover the cost of litigation for construction and Xavier. Funds are being transferred from the unencumbered new staff budget. (Attachment Vc)

(continued)

Board Minutes

Mr. Fox suggested that specific reservation of rights language be reviewed on page four, Milton Parking Lot. Mr. Culyer asked that this be reviewed on the tape of the meeting and suggested that the minutes be tabled to the next meeting for approval. On a vote of 6-0 the Board agreed to this suggestion.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine extended congratulations to Ms. Zeppie on the receipt of an award from The Food Allergy Initiative in recognition of her leadership in educating her school community about food allergies; commended Ms. Kraut for a highly successful orchestra festival; shared information on the full use of emergency closing days this school year, and commended the middle school physical education staff on their communications about good health and exercise as part of their Jump Rope for Heart initiative. He reminded those present that the Rye High School Spring Musical, The Wiz, would be performed Friday and Saturday.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMSAnnual Testing Assessment Update

Dr. McCann presented the 2004-2005 school year Academic Report, providing performance highlights, academic priorities in the interest of continuous improvement, and the goal to maintain excellence.

Milton Construction

Dr. Shine noted that after the delay associated with rock removal at Milton, Andron, the construction management company, had indicated that March 1 would be a good target date to look at efforts to accelerate construction through the winter, and the critical pathways for the remainder of the project, specifically erecting steel and concrete slab on decks. He noted that both these phases of the project were nearing completion. He said that new estimates for completion of work indicated that a completion date of September 20, 2006 for renovation work and September 28, 2006 for new construction was now anticipated, rather than the summer completion schedule previously indicated. Dr. Shine said that Andron had introduced a proposal for initiating work this spring that was previously not scheduled to begin until June 23rd, noting that this had been presented to the Milton Health and Safety Committee, and the Milton faculty and that it would be presented to the Milton PTO and parents. Mr. Augenbraun of Andron was present to answer questions on the specifics of the time line and the new proposal for accelerating work. Mr. Zahm asked Mr. Augenbraun if there would be incremental costs from the resequencing of work that was proposed. Mr. Augenbraun said that there might be some minor costs associated with the added partitions to isolate any construction in the existing building from non-construction personnel.

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2006-2007 Budget

Dr. Shine presented requested budget additions to the standstill budget and requested feedback from the Board, including a target budget increase. The Board, after discussion, requested that the administration resubmit the budget showing incremental increases, prioritizing items for addition or deletion with each increment, from the proposed 9% to 7% or lower, to be discussed at the March 21st meeting of the Board.

Proposed Exception to Policy 5280

Dr. Shine presented a communication prepared and submitted by Dr. Rooney requesting a pilot exception to Policy 5280 to allow senior members of athletic teams to opt out of physical education class for up to two quarters and juniors for the spring quarter. The Board discussed this communication and did not express support for it but agreed that it should be reviewed by the Policy Committee before being returned to the Board for a decision.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Feeney reviewed his communication recommending an immediate review of the Rye High School Ice Hockey team in the context of the budget and in the context of behavior at games consistently in violation of the Code of Conduct and not aligned with the mission of the District. He suggested that the Board must decide whether the continued provision of ice hockey is consistent with the District's values and is justified in the context of the cost. Subsequent to discussion, a majority of the Board agreed that the administration should initiate an ice hockey program review, not to include an assessment of individual players, for future review and discussion by the Board.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 11:45 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees.

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 1:40 a.m. to reconvene in public.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 1:40 a.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk