

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**April 18, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 6:07 p.m. in the Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room and the Board adjourned immediately into Executive Session on a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried unanimously (6-0), for the review of litigation strategy.

**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

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 7:55 p.m. to reconvene in public. At 8:02 p.m., Mr. Culyer welcomed those present.

Mr. Culyer called for a moment of silence for the fifth grade Midland student who was involved in an accident and passed away. He expressed sadness on behalf of the entire district and extended sympathy to the Amico family on the death of Jarrid Amico.

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

There were no questions or comments from the public.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Culyer announced that Action-General Item 1, Approval of the 2006-2007 Facilities Plan would be removed from the Consent Agenda and called for a motion on the Consent Agenda.

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

**Action – Personnel**

1. The resignation due to retirement of Margaret Flanagan as a Math Teacher assigned to Rye High School effective June 30, 2006.

(continued)

2. The resignation due to retirement of John Zegras as a Math Teacher assigned to Rye High School effective June 30, 2006.
3. The resignation of Veronica Loretan as a Special Education Teacher assigned to Midland School effective June 30, 2006.
4. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Michelle Ring McCumber, as an Elementary Teacher, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary Education K-6 and Special Education K-12, assigned to Midland School, 1.0 FTE, on MA Step 5 of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1 2004-June 30, 2007.
5. The Two Year Probationary Appointment of Deborah Sherman, as an Elementary Teacher, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary PreK-6, assigned to Milton School, 1.0 FTE, on MA Step 6 of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2007.
6. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Heather Castellani, as an Elementary Teacher, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification in Elementary Education PreK-6 and Special Education, assigned to Midland School, 1.0 FTE, on MA Step 2/3, \$57,305, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2005 – June 30, 2008.
7. The Emergency Conditional Three Year Appointment of Steven M. Finston, as a Mathematics Teacher, for which he is applying for New York State Certification in Mathematics assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, on BA+30, Step 1, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2009.
8. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Rosemary Klein as an Elementary Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education 1-6, assigned to Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, BA, Step 2, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
9. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Jessica Hollander as an Elementary Teacher, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification PreK-6, assigned to Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, MA+15, Step 4, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
10. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Christiana Tauss as an Elementary Teacher, for which she holds Initial New York State Certification PreK-6,

(continued)

assigned to Milton School, 1.0 FTE, MA, Step 4, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.

11. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Gregory Moraitis as an Elementary Teacher, for which he has applied for Initial New York State Certification K-6, assigned to Midland School, 1.0 FTE, MA, Step 3, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
12. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Jaime Saracino as an Elementary Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Early Childhood Education Birth – Grade 2 and New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education Grades 1-6, assigned to Midland School, 1.0 FTE, MA, Step 2, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
13. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Dana Emond as an Elementary Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Early Childhood Education Birth – Grade 2 and New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education Grades 1-6 assigned to Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, MA, Step 2, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
14. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Ellen Litt as an Elementary Teacher, for which she holds Permanent New York State Certification N-6 assigned to Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, MA, Step 6, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
15. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Catherine Rose as an English Teacher, for which she has applied for New York State Initial Certification in English assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, MA, Step 8, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
16. The resolution to approve Extra Pay for Extra Work payment for the 2005-2006 school year. (Attachment I)

**Action – Special Education**

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of January 31, 2006 for Student ID#330; from its meeting of February 16, 2006 for Student ID#179; from its meetings of March 7, 2006 for Students ID#665 and 435; from its meeting of March 20, 2006, for Student ID#911598; from its

(continued)

meeting of March 29, 2006 for Student ID#912049; from its meeting of April 4, 2006, for Student ID#911409; and from its meeting of April 5, 2006 for Student ID#713.

### **BUDGET ADOPTION**

Mr. Culyer asked for a motion to place this item on the agenda prior to discussion. Mr. Fox moved that the Board adopt the budget using Dr. Shine's option 3 with the \$25,000 designated for textbooks, supplies and equipment instead used for the .5 Osborn nurse position. Mr. Zahm seconded the motion.

After Board discussion, Mr. Culyer called for a vote on the motion to adopt a budget, Option 3 with a modification, providing a tax rate increase to the community of 6.79% and a total budget of \$59,865,000 reflecting, based on the motion, returning \$25,000 to the textbook, materials and supplies to the budget, and allocating \$25,000 for a half time nurse at Osborn, \$20,000 to an engineering study at Midland for the field and \$19,000 for the high school guidance department. Following further discussion, the motion did not pass, on a vote of 3-2-1 with Mr. Culyer and Mr. Feeney voting no and Ms. Sterling abstaining.

After discussion as to how to proceed, the Board decided that through a process of a straw poll process they would try to find consensus on the following items:

1. High School Guidance Support
2. Midland Engineering Study
3. An add-back of \$50,000 to textbooks, supplies and equipment

Mr. Culyer first reviewed the options presented by Dr. Shine so that others present and those reviewing the meeting on television would have an understanding of further discussion. (Attachment 2)

Mr. Culyer suggested that the Board give opportunity to the public to comment on the budget.

Mary Beth Lubeck, Osborn PTO Co-President, thanked the Board for its deliberations and care and asked that they please consider retaining the .5 nurse position at Osborn School.

Bertrand deFrondeville referred to his emails to the Board regarding the budget, stating that the Board was underbudgeting revenue and should decrease the appropriations budget.

Denise Cypher asked Mr. Zahm if he felt the technology budget should be reduced. Mr. Zahm said yes and Mrs. Cypher said she agreed with him, believing the technology coordinator should be considered a tool to help the Board determine what the technology budget should be. She said the money suggested for guidance should be

(continued)

added. She said she also believed that the Board should support the Midland engineering study.

Kim Abate, Midland PTO Co-President, requested that the Board fund the Midland engineering study and said the Board's willingness to participate in the project sent a positive message.

Margot Willoughby, Midland PTO Co-President, said the next day the PTO would meet and she hoped they would vote to gift \$110,000 in equipment and surfacing for the Midland playground. She said an engineering study providing long-term solutions would make a huge amount of sense and said they appreciated the timeliness of the Board in responding.

Kim Potter, Osborn nurse, said she continued to request that the Board support the .5 nurse position at Osborn School and explained her request.

Martin Gerson said he would like to reiterate what Mr. deFrondeville said and stated that he felt there had been \$12 to \$13 million in excess taxation of the community in excess reserve and overestimating costs and underestimating revenue.

Mr. deFrondeville thanked the PTO's and assured them that there was nothing in his proposal that took monies away from the schools. He said he would like to work with Mr. Walsh on clearing discrepancies on estimated and actual expenses.

Mrs. Cypher said she wanted to thank Mr. Feeney for an excellent presentation on the tax certiorari presentation at a previous meeting.

Mr. Zahm suggested moving Option 2 with a prior review of individual add-back items on an item-by-item basis. Mr. Feeney asked if that would provide an opportunity to add other items. Mr. Culyer said yes and called for a show of hands on each item proposed including the repair of walls in the Performing Arts Center suggested by Mr. Feeney and technology items discussed by Ms. Sterling. Board members further discussed those items they were interested in retaining or adding.

Mr. Culyer moved that the Board adopt a budget in the amount \$59,865,000. Mr. Zahm seconded the motion. He then reworded the motion that the Board adopt Option 3, a 2006-2007 budget in the amount of \$59,865,000. Mr. Zahm removed his motion and Ms. Sterling seconded the motion. Mr. Zahm called the question. The motion did not pass on a vote of 3-3 with Mr. Fox, Mr. Nathan and Mr. Zahm voting no.

Mr. Zahm moved and Mr. Feeney seconded the motion to adopt Option 2. Mr. Feeney offered an amendment that the budget amount be amended to \$59,796,000 to include the \$20,000 for the Midland engineering study. The amendment did not pass, on a vote of 3-3 with Mr. Fox, Mr. Nathan and Mr. Zahm voting no.

Mr. Culyer called the vote on the motion to adopt Option 2. The motion did not pass on a vote of 3-3 with Mr. Culyer, Mr. Fox and Mr. Nathan voting no.

(continued)

Mr. Feeney moved that the Board adopt a 2006-2007 school year budget of \$59,776,000 plus \$20,000 Midland engineering, plus \$19,000 guidance support, plus \$25,000 for a nurse to be deployed across the District with a study to be conducted, with a mandatory sunset of a one-year term and the position is justified or not as the case may be. Mr. Zahm seconded the motion to adopt a total budget of \$59,840,000. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). (Attachment III)

Mr. Culyer thanked the administration, Board and community and offered the reminder that there would be a budget hearing on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Culyer announced that on the Consent Agenda was the acceptance of the retirement resignations of Margaret Flanagan and John Zegras. He commended their careers in the District and thanked them for their service.

### **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Shine noted further science awards for student, Melanie Chow, and offered a reminder that voter registration would take place on April 26<sup>th</sup> in the Central Administration Building.

### **BOARD POLICIES**

Mr. Nathan said the Policy Committee had meet twice and recommended the policies before the Board. He asked if anyone had questions on the policies proposed. After discussion, it was agreed that the policies would be brought to the Board for adoption at its meeting of May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mr. Zahm moved and Mr. Nathan seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's Summary Report for March, 2006.

After discussion, Mr. Zahm moved to table the acceptance of the Treasurer's Summary Report for March, 2006.

Mr. Zahm moved and Mr. Fox seconded the motion to approve The Revenue Budget Status Report as of March, 2006. After discussion, Mr. Zahm moved and Mr. Nathan seconded the motion to table the acceptance of The Revenue Budget Status Report for March, 2006.

Mr. Fox moved and Mr. Zahm seconded the motion to approve The Appropriations Status Report. Mr. Fox moved and Mr. Zahm seconded the motion to

(continued)

table the acceptance of the Appropriations Status Report as of March, 2006. The motion carried unanimously, (6-0).

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve Budget Transfer #20 in the amount of \$7,000.00 from Outdoor Education to cover the cost of ELL translators. (Attachment IV)

Mr. Culyer said there were unanimous votes on all tabling motions.

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

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the 2006-2007 Facilities Plan authorizing the expenditure of \$837,002 to complete the Annual Capital Projects identified in the Plan. (Attachment V)

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO / FROM THE BOARD**

Mr. Feeney said he had three communications for the Board stating first that there was some confusion at the last meeting comparing our labor costs to those in Bronxville, noting that in the newspaper was coverage of this. He read the article that explained both salary and step increases according to the district's salary scale.

He second asked how bad news results in good news and said it was very nice of Mrs. Cypher to comment on the tax certiorari presentation. He said that however some of the District's spread sheets captured the wrong cells and had to be revised, but that the good news was that with the correct number, the numbers were \$664,000, down from \$920,000, reported at that meeting, and that the aggregate certiorari number was \$6.5 million rather than \$11+ million presented two weeks ago.

He said that it was traditional to announce candidacy for election to the Board of Education long before the last meeting in April, and announced his candidacy.

Ms. Sterling said that she was not certain that she would run for re-election and reviewed accomplishments over the past ten years that she has served on the Board.

Mr. Culyer reminded those present that petitions were due April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Nathan said he had not made a decision as to whether he would run.

### **Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:37 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari  
District Clerk