

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**May 2, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:08 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. Fox and carried unanimously (5-0), for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees.

**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 8:05 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (5-0) it was voted at 7:58 p.m. to reconvene in public. At 8:00 p.m., Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and announced the Hearing on the 2006-2007 proposed budget, inviting anyone present to come forward and address the Board, asking those who would speak to please try respect the Board's speaking time limit.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2006-2007 BUDGET**

Robert Schubert encouraged acceptance of a contingent budget and criticized the Board's adopted budget, the budget increase, per pupil expenditure and tax rate increase.

Bertrand de Frondeville encouraged acceptance of a contingent budget and commented on actions of the Budget Analysis Committee.

Ray Schmitt said that the comments made about the Budget Analysis Committee were a gross mischaracterization.

Martin Gerson presented a historical tax increase chart and recommended the acceptance of a contingency budget.

Denise Cypher said she was disturbed by these comments because a contingency budget was not feasible if the quality of the schools is to be maintained.

Margot Willoughby cited the District's per pupil expenditure in comparison to  
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those of other districts and said it compared favorably. She thanked the Board, the members of the Budget Analysis Committee and the administration for their work on a budget that produced one of the lowest tax rate increases in Westchester County.

Laura Slack said that the Budget Analysis Committee did not recommend a contingency budget.

Jack Zahringer recommended that the Board work at the special education budget and make sure it was not inflated and said he felt the Osborn tax certiorari reserve was too high.

There being no further comments, Mr. Culyer ended the public hearing at 9:05 p.m. and opened the subject to the Board for comment and discussion.

Mr. Zahm reviewed the work of the Budget Analysis Committee and noted that it did not recommend a contingency budget and that it found that the District was cost-effective compared to peer districts.

Mr. Nathan asked Dr. Shine to describe what a contingency budget would mean to the district. Dr. Shine said that it was the Board who determined what would be eliminated from the operation of the District.

Mr. Zahm listed possibilities of what would have to be eliminated including personnel that could potentially lead to larger class size.

Mr. Fox thanked the Budget Analysis Committee for all the time it spent, reviewed per pupil expenditures and private school tuition costs, and said he recommended that those concerned about State Aid levels lobby the State and that they also lobby to repeal the Wicke's Law.

Ms. Sterling referred to the Newsweek study of Advanced Placement programs that listed Rye High School as 42<sup>nd</sup> in the country and first in Westchester County. She spoke on behalf of the Strategic Planning process, urging the Board to support and continue it.

Mr. Feeney commended Dr. Shine and Mr. Walsh for their responsiveness to community questions and patience in dealing with adversarial questioning. He reviewed the District's statistics in comparison to other districts pointing out the low tax rate increase and District performance.

Mr. Culyer thanked the Budget Analysis Committee, the Superintendent, the administration, and the entire team of those who had worked so hard on the budget, and thanked the Board for adopting the budget. He then called for the Hearing of the Public on non-agenda items.

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

There were no questions or comments from the public.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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**Action – General**

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of April 4, 2006, as written.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of April 18, 2006, as written.
3. The adoption of the following revised and new Board of Education Policies (Attachment I):
  - 4010-Equivalence in Instructional Staff and Materials
  - 5020-Equal Educational Opportunities
  - 6410-Authorized Signatures
  - 6660-Independent/External Audit
  - 6670-Petty Cash/Petty Cash Accounts
  - 6670-R Petty Cash Accounts Regulation
  - 6680-Internal Audit Function
  - 6690-Audit Committee
  - 6710-Purchasing Authority
  - 6740-Purchasing Procedures
  - 6800 Payroll Procedures
  - 6845-Cellular Telephones
  - 6845R-Cellular Telephone Regulations
  - 6900-Disposal of District Property
  - 8330-Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials and Equipment
4. The adoption of Board of Education Policy 6650, Claims Auditor (Attachment II)
5. The gift request of an anonymous donor in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be used at the discretion of the Guidance Department for the Burke Scholarship Fund. (Attachment III)
6. The gift request of the Midland PTO of playground equipment valued at not more than \$110,000.00. (Attachment IV)
7. The appointment of inspectors for the Election to be held May 16, 2006. (Attachment V)

**Action – Personnel**

1. The resignation of Daniel T. McCann as Deputy Superintendent of Schools assigned to the Rye City School District effective June 30, 2006.
2. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Stephanie R. Adler, as a Teacher-at-Large, for which she is applying for New York State Certification in Childhood Education Grades 1-6, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule (prorated) effective May 8, 2006 – June 30, 2006.

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3. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Mary T. Anzalone, as a Teacher-At-Large, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certifications in Nursery-Grade 6 and in Special Education, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 13 of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule (prorated) effective May 18, 2006 – June 30, 2006.
4. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Tanya M. Bobson, as a Teacher-at-Large, for which she holds Initial New York State Certification in Childhood Education Grades 1-6. 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule (prorated) effective May 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006.
5. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Elizabeth B. Loiselle, for which she holds Provisional New York State Certification in English Grades 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE. MA Step 4 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
6. The resignation of Maryann Petix as School Nurse assigned to Midland School effective May 12, 2006.
7. The increase in assignment, from 11 month position to a 12 month position of Karen Clark, Senior Typist assigned to Rye High School Athletics Office effective July 1, 2006.
8. The Probationary Appointment of Cara Barnhardt, as a Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems) with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Rye High School, Special Education Department, 12 month position 1.0 FTE, Step 4, as per the 2000/2005 Secretarial Clerical Salary Schedule effective May 1, 2006.
9. The Probationary Appointment of Laura Schilling, as a Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems) with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Rye High School, Special Education Department, 11 month position 1.0 FTE, Step 4, as per the 2000/2005 Secretarial Clerical Salary Schedule effective May 1, 2006.

**Action – Special Education**

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of November 30, 2005 for Student ID#626; from its meeting of December 8, 2005 for Student ID#400; from its meeting of January 12, 2006 for Student ID#450; from its meeting of February 6, 2006 for Student ID#508; from its meetings of February 16, 2006 for Students ID#582 and 661; from its meeting of March 9, 2006 for Student ID#424; from its meeting of March 16, 2006 for

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Student ID#690; from its meeting of March 23, 2006 for Student ID#652; from its meeting of April 6, 2006 for Student ID#679; and from its meeting of April 20, 2006 for Student ID#705.

2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of April 7, 2006 for Student ID#911913; from its meeting of March 28, 2006 for Student ID#062040; from its meeting of March 24, 2006 for Student ID#911908-A; from its meeting of October 7, 2005 for Student ID#911335; from its meeting of November 15, 2005 for Student ID#644; from its meeting of November 17, 2005 for Student ID#911882; from its meeting of November 22, 2005 for Student ID#133; and from its meeting of March 27, 2006 for Student ID#103.

### **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Shine noted that three middle school faculty members had presented at the Westchester Council of English Educators Spring Symposium; that the Milton science fair would be held May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and that a meeting for all rising 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders interested in athletics and their parents on May 31<sup>st</sup>. He then announced that the current week's issue of Newsweek Magazine had named Rye High School 42<sup>nd</sup> in the country and first in Westchester County in its ranking of schools according to certain Advanced Placement statistics.

### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

#### **Food Service Budget Fund Balance**

After Board discussion, Mr. Feeney said that it was he who had requested that this item be placed on the agenda, but that information received subsequent to his request indicated that there were federal funding matters that had an impact on any decision the topic was moot at this point.

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

Mr. Zahm said he had received information regarding a federal regulation regarding a policy around wellness. Dr. Shine thanked him and said he already had a draft policy for this, which was being reviewed.

Mr. Feeney said that both the Accounting/Credit/Audit and the Borrowing and Investment Committees would meet May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Culyer said the Board was invited to meet with the City Council, and that he and Ms. Sterling and Mr. Feeney had attended the open house at the Rye Recreation Department and were shown a deep-tined aerator that functions at a depth of sixteen inches.

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Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:04 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees. Mr. Culyer announced that the Board would not take any action when the Executive Session was adjourned nor reconvene in public other than to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 11:02 p.m. to reconvene in public. On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to immediately adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari  
District Clerk