

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
September 13, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:04 p.m. and the roll was called.

Present

Mr. James Culyer, *President*
Mr. Stephen Feeney, *Vice President*
Mr. Edward Fox
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 subsequent to the beginning of the meeting.*

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (4-0) it was voted to adjourn into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, negotiations under the Taylor Law provisions and pending litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:02 p.m. to reconvene in public. All Board members were present when the Board reconvened in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and 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

Mr. Culyer announced that Action-General items 1 (Board minutes) and 2 (One-year student placement under Policy 5110) and Action-Fiscal item 3, (Fuel Oil Bid) would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (7-0) the following items were approved:

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Action – Fiscal

1. Budget Transfer #27 for the 2004-2005 school year in the amount of \$627,410.00 to cover the accrual of Teachers' Retirement and Employees' Retirement costs and for additional costs for mentoring salaries and the accrual of unused personal days from available employee benefit budgets and unexpended equipment budgets. (Attachment I)
2. The resolution to increase the Tax Certiorari Reserve to \$7,000,485.37 as of June 30, 2005, as recommended by District Auditors and according to New York State Law, to present the District's financial position in its most favorable light to maintain its Aaa bond rating and minimize Board borrowing costs. (Attachment II)

Action – Personnel

1. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of John T. Spinale, as a Social Studies Teacher for which his New York State Initial Certification in Social Studies is pending, assigned to Rye Middle School, MA, Step 12, of the 2005-2006 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2004 to June 30, 2007.
2. The request by Amy LoCascio for an unpaid Leave of Absence from her position as Teacher Aide assigned to Midland School, effective September 2, 2005 – June 30, 2006.
3. The .9 FTE appointment of Amy LoCascio, as a Special Education Teaching Assistant, assigned to Midland School, Step 6 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 2, 2005.
4. The resignation of Diana Staropoli as a Special Education Teacher Aide assigned to Midland School effective August 31, 2005.
5. The resignation of Lolita Zaphiropoulos as a Teacher Aide assigned to Osborn School effective August 31, 2005.
6. The request by Josephine Vicinanza for an unpaid Leave of Absence from her position as a Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems), assigned to the Special Education and Psychology offices, effective September 12, 2005 – September 11, 2006.
7. The appointment of Josephine Vicinanza, as Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems) Managerial and Confidential Position, assigned to the Rye City School District Central Administration Building, Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Schools, prorated, effective September 12, 2005.
8. The probationary appointment of Karen Scoli, as an Office Assistant (Automated Systems) with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to the Rye City School District Nurses' Offices, 12 month

position, 1.0 FTE, Step 4, prorated, as per the 2000-2005 Secretarial Clerical Salary Schedule effective September 12, 2005.

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9. The appointment of Priscilla Brinson, as a Teacher 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, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 2, 2005.
10. The appointment of Suzanne S. Mechem as a Teacher Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifth-two weeks, assigned to Midland School, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 2, 2005.
11. The appointment of Eva M. Spelman, as a Special Education Teacher Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Milton School, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 3.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 6, 2005.
12. The appointment of Eileen DeLalla as a special Education Teacher Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Milton School, Step 1 of the 2004-2005 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 2, 2005.
13. The appointment of German Garcia as Night Custodian with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Milton school, on Step 1 of the 2005-2006 Custodial Unit Salary Schedule, including night differential, pro-rated, for the 2005-2006 school year, effective September 6, 2005.

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendation of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of August 9, 2005 for Student ID#585.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of April 14, 2005 for Student ID#337 and from its meeting of June 6, 2005 for Student ID#520.
3. The recommendation of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of March 7, 2005 for Student ID#429 and from its meeting of May 2, 2005 for Student ID#483.
4. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of March 7, 2005 for Student ID#429; from its meeting of April 14, 2005 for Student ID#334; from its meeting of May 3 for Student ID#396; and from its meeting of May 12, 2005 for Student ID#401.
5. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Education from its meeting of April 15, 2005 for Student ID#494 and from its meeting of August 9, 2005, for student ID#567.

6. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of

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March 7, 2005 for Student ID#458 and from its meeting of March 17, 2005 for Student ID#247.

7. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of March 17, 2005 for Student ID#247 and from its meeting of May 2, 2005 for Student ID#483.
8. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meetings of August 22, 2005 for Students ID#587, 591, 6507, 243, and 615.
9. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its Annual Review meeting of March 7, 2005 for Student ID#458; from its meeting of March 8, 2005 for Student ID#248; from its meetings of April 14, 2005 for Students ID#337, 440, and 468; from its meeting of May 6, 2005 for Student ID#359; from its meetings of May 12, 2005 for Students ID#323 and 404; and from its meeting of June 6, 2005 for Student ID#520.
10. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meetings of March 7, 2005 for Students ID#371 and 423; from its meeting of March 8, 2005 for Student ID#248; from its meetings of March 14, 2005 for Students ID#324 and 423; from its meeting of April 11, 2005 for Student ID#241; and from its meeting of May 6, 2005 for Student ID#251.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

July 1, 2005 Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Pratt and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2005 meeting of the Board, as written.

August 16, 2005 Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried 5-0-2 with Mr. Feeney and Mr. Zahm abstaining, it was voted to approve the minutes of August 16, 2005 meeting of the Board as amended to strike "previously unknown" on page 2, line 1 under "Rock Removal at Milton School Site."

August 30, 2005 Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried 5-0-2 with Mr. Nathan and Mr. Fox abstaining, it was voted to approve the August 30, 2005 meeting of the Board.

Approval of One-Year Student Placement Under Policy 5110

Mr. Culyer asked Dr. Shine to review the details of this matter and why it should be an exception to overall policy guidelines. Dr. Shine did so, noting that there were special circumstances leading him to recommend a one-year variance to the policy. Mr. Feeney said that he requested that part of the acceptance and adoption of this resolution by the Board would
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Be to obtain clearer details and ensure understanding from and by the family to be included as part of their permanent record. Mr. Culyer said that the administration would send a letter to the family for clarity and ask the family to sign and return it.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve a one-year conditional student placement under Policy 5110 for a student to attend Osborn School. (Attachment III)

Recommendation To Reject Bids For Fuel Heating Contract

On a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to reject the bids received on September 8, 2005 for the fixed fee fuel oil heating contract for the 2005-2006 school year. (Attachment IV)

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine expressed gratitude to the custodians who had worked so very hard to ready the schools for opening day, working over the Labor Day weekend, and to the teachers who also worked through the Labor Day weekend to prepare their classrooms, to which they had not had prior access. He especially thanked the fifth grade teachers at Osborn School, and Ms. Zeppie, for the efforts undertaken by parents, administrators, teachers and custodians.

Dr. Shine then said that since schools opened last week, there have been a number of welcome back events held at each school for students and parents and next week we begin with back-to-school nights to give parents the opportunity to meet their children's teachers and learn about the year's course of study. He said that the principals, PTOs and Parents Organizations work hard to remind parents of these evenings.

Dr. Shine noted that the first Health and Safety Committee meeting of the fall was held with an excellent cross-representation of the various units of district employees, parents, community residents, and administrators, board members, and some members of the Facilities Committee. He said he would report back to the board periodically on the work and progress of the committee throughout the year.

Dr. Shine also noted that building condition reports are now posted on the District's web site, within the current news scroll, and that these will be updated monthly, after each building meeting takes place.

Afternoon kindergarten begins on the 26th of September, Dr. Shine noted, explaining that the first few weeks of school are used for further student evaluation to give teachers time to determine the best groupings for afternoon, small group instruction.

The generosity of our school families and employees continues to be evidenced as everyone responds to the serious needs of the victims of Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Shine reported. He noted that the The Rye Teachers Association is donating \$1,000 from its treasury to the David Toms Foundation, an organization that provides assistance to children in need, and have voted to solicit additional contributions from members and that the Rye High School My

Soldier organization would be holding a car wash the following Sunday and donating all proceeds; the middle school is holding Friday bake sales and passing collection containers at lunch time, and the Parents' Organizations and elementary school families are working quickly to provide filled backpacks for all the displaced children starting a new school. These efforts

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will continue through the long months ahead for those who have lost everything and are finding ways to start over.

Dr. Shine invited any Board members who were free the next morning to stop by Milton School to be a part of their awareness and appreciation of the Constitution program.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Status Report on Construction and Change Orders for the Elementary School Additions and Alterations Projects

Dr. Shine called upon David Augenbraun of Andron to review the status of elementary construction projects. He provided a timeline for the remainder of the modular work at Midland and Osborn, and then discussed with the Board the schedule at Milton to enable moving forward. Mr. Valentine and Ms. Kim of Fletcher Thompson were also present to answer Board member questions. The discussion of the volume of rock at Milton and rock removal was extensive. Members of the Board requested a report on who was accountable for a number of situations including the delay of the delivery of the modular units and asked what the plan was for assessing penalties. Dr. Shine said that he would be pursuing all these matters with counsel and would be bringing forward assessing accountability and dealing with each issue.

A member of the public who identified herself as a Milton PTO co-president asked a series of questions that Dr. Shine said he would hope to be able to answer later in the week. The were: When can we expect an answer and total cost estimate on the rock? Are we delayed? We need a timeline as to where we are, where we should be and whether we are on track. Where does the funding come from for the construction specialist attorney? She then said she was incredibly angry about the rock situation and found the initial estimates egregious.

Milton Rock Removal

Although this topic was covered, in part, under the preceding agenda item, Mr. Valentine, Mr. Augenbraun and Ms. Kim reviewed it again and responded to Board questions.

COMMUNICATIONS TO / FROM THE BOARD

Board Committees

Mr. Culyer reminded the Board that they had requested the publishing of their committee meeting dates but that they needed to provide those dates. He said the next Facilities Committee meeting of the season would take place September 26. Ms. Sterling noted that the Technology committee would meet September 15 at 3:30 p.m. in the Central Administration Building.

Communication Re. Financial Reporting

Mr. Culyer asked Mr. Nathan to review his communication to the Board about wishing financial reporting in a different format. After full Board discussion, Mr. Culyer asked the administration to follow up and respond. Mr. Walsh said that he would provide information by the next Board meeting as to what could and could not be done with current staffing and software.

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Mr. Feeney said he wished to comment on process involving committee charges and how committees are charged with tasks for the year. He said that individual Board members had suggested remanding certain topics to committees, with no discussion on the goals of that committee or the workload it was already carrying. He suggested that there was a step missing and that this independent suggestion not continue to occur, stating that he didn't feel individual Board members should charge a committee without the entire Board buying into it..

He then commented on the process for Communications to and from the Board, supporting a statement earlier by Ms. Sterling that there was a process for submitting communications, and that this process had been carefully developed for a reason, to give Board members time to reflect on a suggestion before being presented with it at a Board meeting or just hours before. Mr. Feeney said the Board needed to respect this process and submit communications in a timely and orderly way which would ultimately benefit everyone.

Dr. Shine said that if chairs of committees needed staff support they should let him know.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Pratt, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:58 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk