

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
October 11, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:32 p.m. in the Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room subsequent to a Board member tour of Milton School commencing at 6 p.m..

Present

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

Excused

Mr. George Pratt
Mr. Robert Zahm

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

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

Upon reconvening in public at 8:06 p.m., Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and asked Mr. Feeney to present the Board's Extra Mile Awards.

Extra Mile Awards

Mr. Feeney welcomed Midland parents, students, faculty and staff, and principal, Dr. Angela Grille. The Midland students sang the new Midland song, with lyrics and music written by Midland teachers, Ruthann Comstock and Andrew Raynor, respectively. Mr. Feeney said this represented a lasting legacy for Midland School and thanked Ms. Comstock and Mr. Raynor for their many volunteer contributions to the spirit and life of Midland, from the creation of the song to the development of a second grade play to the production of a video yearbook. He noted that Ms. Comstock and Mr. Raynor had undertaken these projects with enthusiasm and commitment, voluntarily, and that the entire school community joined the Board in commending and thanking them.

Ms. Comstock and Mr. Raynor thanked the Board, but added that thanks really went to Dr. Grille and the faculty and staff and PTO for all the support each provided.

Executive Session

Mr. Culyer thanked Mr. Feeney, the Midland families present, Dr. Grille, and Mr. Raynor and Ms. Comstock, and announced that it was necessary for the Board to return to executive session for a few minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Feeney, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (4-0) it was voted at 8:14 p.m. to adjourn into executive session for the discussion of pending litigation.

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried unanimously (4-0) it was voted at 8:27 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Hearing Of The Public on Non-Agenda Items

Speaking on behalf of the Special Education PTA, Laura Slack, President, thanked the Board for their support with last year's fourth grade testing concerns.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer announced that the following items would be removed from the Consent Agenda: Action – General 1, Minutes; 4, Strategic Planning; and 5, Construction Change Directives; and Action – Personnel 4, Consideration of Hearing Officer's Recommendation.

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Ms. Sterling and carried unanimously (4 – 0) it was voted to approve the following items:

Action – General

1. The Gift Request from the Midland PTO in the amount of \$2,800.00 to offset expenses for the Lincoln Center Institute. (Attachment I)
2. The resolution authorizing the superintendent to sign the field trip requests granting permission for trips as outlined on the attached to go forward, provided that each trip is insured in case travel and safety conditions worsen, and cause the trips to be canceled. (Attachment II)

Action - Fiscal

1. The Treasurer's Summary Report for the period ending July 31, 2005. (Attachment III)
2. The Resolution to approve Budget Transfer #2 in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the 2005-2006 Budget for technology to cover the cost of moving a main wiring closet and adding switches, due to the VOIP initiative. The funds are transferred from Technology Equipment to a BOCES' expense budget line. (Attachment IV)

Action – Personnel

1. The resignation of Cynthia Jones, as a Food Service Helper assigned to Rye High School, effective September 1, 2005.
2. The appointment of Susan Weeks Little as a 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 14, 2005.
3. The appointment of Deborah Faranda as a .5 FTE 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 19, 2005.

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4. The provisional appointment of Daniela Vitiello, as a Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems), assigned to Rye High School, 11 month position, 1.0 FTE, Step 4, prorated, as per the 2000-2005 Secretarial Clerical Salary Schedule effective September 26, 2005.
5. The appointments of Food Service Helpers with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, as follows: (Attachment V)

NAME	05/06 HOURLY RATE	HOURS PER DAY	DAYS PER WEEK	POSITION	SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE
Maria Hetzel	\$15.00	6.5	5	Food Service Helper	High School	08/29/05
Stacy Ann Cosenza	\$11.50	6	5	Food Service Helper	High School	08/29/05
Thomas Carlo	\$11.50	6	5	Food Service Helper	High School	08/29/05
Holly Larkin	\$10.00	6	5	Food Service Helper	High School	08/29/05
Mala Harris	\$10.00	6	5	Food Service Helper	High School	08/29/05
Oscar Liborio	\$10.00	6	5	Food Service Helper	High School	08/29/05
Maribel Persota	\$10.00	5.5	5	Food Service Helper	High School	08/29/05
Rosalba Torres	\$9.75	6	5	Food Service Helper	Middle School	08/29/05
Aida DeJesus	\$10.00	4.5	5	Food Service Helper	Middle School	08/29/05
Kathleen Crean	\$9.50	3	5	Food Service Helper	Middle School	08/29/05
Michael Jones	\$10.50	5	5	Food Service Helper	Milton	08/29/05
Mary Ann Alford	\$9.75	5	5	Food Service Helper	High School	08/29/05

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6. The Termination of School Monitor Ghandy Khoury, effective October 11, 2005.
7. The Extra Pay for Extra Work assignments for the 2005-2006 school year, as listed on the attached. (Attachment VI)

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendation of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its preschool annual review meeting of March 7, 2005 for Student ID#426.
2. The recommendation of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of March 7, 2005 for Student ID#426.
3. The recommendation of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its preschool initial referral meeting of August 22, 2005 for Student ID#437.

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Action – Personnel

- On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried unanimously (4-0) it was voted to accept the recommendation of the Impartial Hearing Officer regarding Mr. Macri. (Attachment VII)

Action – General

Construction Change Directives

Dr. Shine reviewed the three considerations for construction change directives: connecting gas at Midland School, connecting water at Osborn School, and rock removal at Milton School. He said that work on all three of these issues was critical to the construction schedule and that Andron, after several weeks of consideration, had provided direction. He said that based on Andron's recommendation, and subject to review by LePatner & Associates, he was recommending that the Board approve these three directives.

Four representatives of Andron and two representatives of Fletcher Thompson were available to discuss each directive.

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (5-0) it was voted to approve a Construction Change Directive for the Midland Gas Connection at a firm price of \$46,179.00, as negotiated by Andron, subject to full reservation of the District's rights to recover the costs associated with this action from any party deemed to be responsible for errors and omissions the Construction Change Directive was meant to alleviate. (Attachment VIII)

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Sterling, and carried unanimously (5-0) it was voted to approve the resolution stating a Construction Change Directive for the changes in the connection to the water main in the Boston Post Road on a time and

material basis as amended with capped cost of \$50,000.00 subject to full reservation of the District's rights to recover the costs associated with this action from any party deemed to be

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responsible for errors and omissions the Construction Change Directive was meant to alleviate and to charge Andron to supervise closely and ensure that it comes in at the lowest price possible. (Attachment IX)

Mr. Feeney moved and Mr. Fox seconded the motion to table the decision on rock removal at Milton School, (information on rock removal was presented that evening by Andron), to the Board of Education meeting of October 25th. The motion failed on a vote of 2-3 with Mr. Culyer, Ms. Sterling and Mr. Nathan voting no.

Mr. Fox moved and Ms. Sterling seconded the motion to approve the Board agenda item as recommended by Dr. Shine. The motion failed on a vote of 2-2-1 with Mr. Feeney and Mr. Fox voting no and Mr. Nathan abstaining.

It was determined that the Milton rock removal would be placed to the agenda of the next meeting of the Board for further Board discussion and action.

A member of the public asked the Board to set aside issues and matters of blame and move forward so that the school could open successfully in the fall, something that would be very much appreciated and deemed necessary by parents, teachers and students at Milton School as well as at the other schools.

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On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Feeney and carried 4-1 with Mr. Nathan abstaining it was voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of September 13, 2005 and of the Board Work Session of September 27, 2005, as written.

Strategic Plan: Missions, Beliefs, Parameters, Objectives

Mr. Feeney suggested and Mr. Culyer concurred that the decision on the Mission, Beliefs Parameters and Objectives of the Strategic Plan and that the Strategic Planning Strategies and Action Plans discussion be moved to the next meeting.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine said it was a pleasure to announce several awards of which the District recently was notified. He said that first, the 2005 Zephyr, the Rye High School Art & Literary magazine, has been awarded the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Medalist Certificate and offered congratulations to the contributors, editors, and advisor, art teacher Cathy Telfer. He said second, Rye High School received the Most Creative Video Clip award from YoDVD, a video yearbook organization, for the 2005 Rye High School Video Yearbook; and last, that the Rye City School District 2005 budget newsletter has received an award of excellence and the 2005-2005 district calendar an award of honor from the New York Schools Public Relations Association.

Dr. Shine said that at the last regular meeting he announced the six National Merit semifinalists at Rye High School, but couldn't mention their names until the release date determined by the National Merit Corporation. He said he was pleased to provide them then: Katherine Farley, Meagan Kelly, Remy Kurs, Daniel Lonergan, Julia Partington, and Peter Shaughnessy. He said he knew the Board joined him in congratulating them on this excellent accomplishment.

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Subsequently, we have been notified that nine more students have been named Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. They are among 34,000 high performers based on last year's PSAT and are Duncan Aronstein, Kyle Goodenough, Mary Howell, Emily Ice, Megan Ice, Trevor Lynch, Kelly O'Callaghan, Natalie Stevens, and Lisbeth Van Wagenen. Congratulations to them all.

Dr. Shine commended the newest and first high school webquest created this summer by Christine Connor and Cindy Young. He said it focuses on Romeo and Juliet and includes excellent background and links on Shakespeare, historical documents of the time, critical analysis, and other research sites.

Dr. Shine reminded those present that the Varsity Field Hockey game scheduled for that evening at 6:00 PM under the stadium lights was canceled because the lights are not working, but that an electrician was working on them and that Mr. Castagna believed they will be back in time for the football game on Friday.

Dr. Shine said that, looking ahead, schools would be closed for Yom Kippur on Thursday and that Saturday would be the Osborn Carnival. He noted that also parent teacher conferences begin at the middle school on Thursday the 20th. He noted, as well, that the National Honor Society induction ceremony is taking place on Thursday night, October 20th, and that all Board members were invited.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Status of Construction

Dr. Shine provided a report on the status of additions and alterations construction at the elementary schools.

The Board requested a brief break at 11:55 p.m. The Board resumed its meeting at 12:04 a.m.

Financial Reporting

Ms. Sterling suggested that this discussion item be held since the two members particularly interested in the topic were not present. After brief discussion, it was agreed to postpone this discussion item to the next meeting of the Board.

Heating Systems

Mr. Culyer asked Mr. Fox to explain his communication on heating systems. He said in his estimation Fletcher Thompson should be replaced as planners/consultants for heating systems and someone other than them should guide the Board.

Mr. Culyer explained the status and process of facilities committee projects, and Mr. Walsh further explained that this process would be competitively bid and that Aramark had

been advising on heating systems. It was agreed that new heating system planning would be reviewed prior to any decisions being made and that Mr. Fox's concerns would be integrated into any future planning.

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COMMUNICATION ITEMS

College Placement

Mr. Nathan said he wished to have a presentation and discussion on college placement. Mr. Culyer asked whether there were other Board members who wished to include this topic at a future meeting. All Board members were willing to have this topic discussed. Dr. Shine said he would put it on a future agenda.

Ben Bedini Tape

Mr. Feeney played a portion of a tape of the recent tribute to former coach, Ben Bedini, where former guidance counselor and coach, Peter Marcon extolled the reputation of the schools.

Central Administration Comment

Mr. Feeney said he had recently been in the Central Administration Building and wanted to comment that he had observed personnel "coming through with flying colors" while working "under the gun" during difficult situations.

RCTV Agreement

Mr. Culyer said that the RCTV intermunicipal agreement would be under discussion and that it was important that decisions be made that were best for our own students. He noted that Mr. Nathan was the Board liaison to the Cable Committee on negotiations and asked Mr. Nathan to please keep in touch with Dr. Shine on this topic.

Closing Item

On a motion by Ms. Sterling, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried 5-0 it was voted at 12:51 a.m.. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk