

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
March 27, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:09 PM and the roll was called.

Present

Mr. James Culyer, *President*
Mr. Joshua Nathan, *Vice President*
Mr. George Cady
Mr. Edward Fox
Ms. Laura Slack
Mr. Michael White
Mr. Robert Zahm

And Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Steven Cohen, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Karen Chapman, Assistant Superintendent

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to adjourn immediately into Executive Session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, the discussion of negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law, and the discussion of the proposed acquisition of real property.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:21 PM to reconvene in public.

COMMUNITY FORUM ON THE BUDGET

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and called upon Dr. Shine to provide an overview of the budget. Dr. Shine reviewed the components of the budget, noting that as it stood, it represented a 6.95% budget-to-budget increase and a 5.53% tax rate increase.

Mr. Culyer called for public comment on the budget. Ms. Judy Keller and Rye High School student, Jackie Breckinridge, spoke on behalf of the development of a theater arts curriculum. Mr. Jack Zahringer spoke on behalf of theater arts and reviewed what he believed were the qualities people looked for when moving to a new community. He noted that the quality of the schools also depends on the quality of the people in a community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer noted that Action-General Item 3, Board Policy 5110, and Action-Fiscal Items 1 and 2, contracts with Redniss & Mead and with Fuller D'Angelo, would be
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removed from the consent agenda.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the following items:

Action – General

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of March 13, 2007.
2. The resolution to establish a Board of Registration for the 2006-2007 school year. (Attachment I)

Action – Fiscal

1. The recommendation to award the contract in the amount of \$7,375.00 for the installation of a girls' softball field fence at Milton School to Globe Fenced Railings, Inc. (Attachment II)
2. The recommendation to award the contract in the amount of \$7,900.00 for the re-inspection of asbestos-containing building materials in school buildings, work to be completed by July 9, 2007, to The Warren and Panzer Group. (Attachment III)
3. The recommendation to award the contract in the amount of \$3,195.00 for the renovation of the girls' modified softball and hockey fields at Milton School to P.A. Ferraro Landscaping. (Attachment IV)

Action – Personnel

1. That the Superintendent and Board President are authorized to sign an Agreement extending the probationary term of Timothy Horgan, a Special Education tenure area probationary employee, for a six-month period, (or less) through June 30, 2008 as recommended by the Superintendent.
2. The request by Kerri Winderman, for an unpaid Personal Leave of Absence from her position as a 2nd Grade Teacher assigned to Osborn School, effective September 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
3. The request by Stacey Beitler, for an unpaid Personal Leave of Absence from her position as a 1st Grade Teacher assigned to Midland School, effective September 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
4. The request by Alisha Miller for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as 2nd Grade Teacher assigned to Osborn School, effective September 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.

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5. 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 September 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
6. The request by Catherine McNamara for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as a 1st Grade Teacher assigned to Osborn, effective September 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
7. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Robin Shainberg as a 1st Grade Teacher, for which she holds an Initial Certification in Childhood Education 1-6, assigned to Midland School, 1.0 F.T.E., MA, Step 1, for the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective March 21, 2007 - June 30, 2007.
8. The appointments attached for 6th Assignment or Additional Pay Beyond Annual Salary in accordance with the current collective bargaining agreement. They include the Middle School Elective Program, science labs above the 25 class limit, and additional class assignments at the high school above the five class assignment limit of the contract. (Attachment V)
9. The resignation of Mallory Larkin as a Special Education Teacher Aide effective March 23, 2007.
10. The appointment of the following Food Service Workers:
Ana Ibanez – Rye High School, Effective February 26, 2007
Janet Kramer – Milton School, Effective February 26, 2007
Ann Sylvester – Milton School, Effective February 26, 2007
Joanne Dinowitz – Rye Middle School, Effective February 26, 2007
Narcisa Urgiles – Osborn School/Rye High School, Effective February 26, 2007
Andre Jaudon – Rye High School, Effective March 8, 2007
11. Payments for Extra Pay for Extra Work coaching positions for the 2006-2007 school year. (Attachment VI)

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of March 7, 2007 for Student ID#842.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of March 8, 2007 for Student ID#799.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine provided an overview of recent District events, noting that nine Rye Middle School 7th and 8th graders had recently competed in MathCounts, finishing in

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second place qualifying them to go on to the state competition in Troy, New York. He said that Milton students had participated in a Nothing But Net Basketball Shot tournament to raise funds to buy mosquito netting for African families to help prevent malaria; that Osborn students were participating in Jump Rope for Heart to raise funds for the American Heart Association to help fight heart disease and stroke; and that the funds raised during Hoops for Heart at Rye Middle School had totaled \$4,316.00. He noted that Midland students were planning active participation in Turn Off the TV Week in April, that Rye High School junior, Sam Malin, had been selected for the Westchester All-County Jazz Band on drumset, and that Rye High School students had responded to a call from the Rye Nature and cleared at least two tons of trash from the banks of the brook caused by recent flooding. He reminded those present that the last Heard in Rye presentation for the school year was taking place the following evening, and that schools would be closed for spring recess the following week.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Culyer called for any comment from the public on items not on the agenda. There were no questions or comments from the public.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

High School Guidance and Counseling: College Placement

Patricia Taylor, Rye High School Assistant Principal and Director of Guidance, presented a report on the work of the guidance department with a focus on the college admissions process.

Mr. Culyer thanked Ms. Taylor for her thorough presentation. Dr. Rooney noted that it should be said that Ms. Taylor was a national figure in the area of college placement, serving on several national and college boards, and was regarded in the industry as an authority on the subject.

Elementary School Foreign Language Program

Dr. Cohen presented recommendations and options for the foreign language program, recommending that the Board authorize staffing for two FTE positions not currently in the budget to begin a foreign language program in the elementary schools. After discussion, the Board decided to move the topic into a discussion of the overall budget because the disposition of the program would depend on the availability of funding.

Kim Abate spoke from the audience on her recommendation that the program be funded for fifth grade, because of budgetary concerns. Catherine Pacos spoke from the audience on behalf of choosing Spanish as the language to introduce at the elementary level.

2007-2008 Budget Discussion

Dr. Shine reviewed in detail proposals included in the suggested 6.951% increase.

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Ms. Klein, Dr. Rooney, Mr. Valentine and Ms. Andreasen were present to answer questions specific to their budgets.

Young Kim addressed the Board about the importance of a theater arts program in the high school and of additional SmartBoards. She suggested a one-year inclusion of foreign language in the elementary schools, but called for patience in incorporating it in a more prudent fashion.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Board Policy 5110

It was decided to move further discussion of this policy to the Board meeting of April 12, on a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried 6-1 with Mr. Zahm voting no.

Contract with Redness & Mead, Inc.

On a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Ms. Slack and approved unanimously (7-0) it was decided to table this item and ask the administration to return the proposed contract to the firm to have Board concerns addressed and to request that the firm tie pricing to the scope of the work and provide description and pricing for analysis and design.

Contract with Fuller & D'Angelo, P.C.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried 6-1 with Mr. Fox voting no it was agreed to approve the contract with Fuller & D'Angelo, P.C. for summer 2007 capital projects with a fee of \$45,400.00 subject to review by counsel. (Attachment VII)

COMMUNICATIONS TO / FROM THE BOARD

The Board commented on the March 27th update to the Board from the math committee. Mr. Zahm said that Dr. Cohen had made an interesting presentation that he hoped could be distributed to the Board at the Edu 101 Forum at the Rye Free Reading Room the previous weekend.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 2:01 a.m. to adjourn into executive session to continue discussion begun in executive session I.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 2:30 a.m. to reconvene in public and to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk