

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
April 12, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 8:00 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

Excused

Mr. Robert Zahm

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

* Arrived 9:02 p.m.

Hearing of the Public

Five high school and middle school students spoke in favor of the establishment of a theater arts program at Rye High School.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously (5-0) it was voted to approve the gift request from the Midland School PTO to donate funds for the purchase and installation of three Smart Boards for three fifth grade classrooms in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00. (Attachment I)

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine said that the turf field was repaired and operational after the damage caused by flooding and thanked Mr. Freer for his diligence in expediting the repairs and the return of the field in time for the spring season. He noted that the Osborn School fifth grade ballroom dance team would be performing for the Rye Senior Citizens on the 18th at 1:30 and thanked Ms. Zeppie for coordinating this effort. Dr. Shine reported on the conclusion of the Heard in Rye season, noting the many participants in the program and thanking the committee for its efforts and noted that the Rye Middle School drama would be presented on April 20 and 21 and promised to be an enjoyable show. He also reported that Milton School was working with Dock Deli and Cornerstone Catering to provide decorated paper bags to remind customers of Earth Day and spread “green” messages.

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PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Dr. Shine reviewed the status of the budget development process, noting that the Board had requested this special meeting in order to have final discussions on the 2007-2008 budget prior to the April 17 budget adoption date. He reviewed the parameters requested by the Board for this discussion: to complete a final review off staffing; to complete a final review of the issues/constraints associated with adding the Milton gym to the budget; and to keep in mind that the Board expects a tax rate increase in the 5.5% range. He reviewed what was included in the budget and what had not been included. The Board discussed budget components with a focus on the elementary math program suggestions from the math committee.

Three Rye High School students spoke in favor of the establishment of a theater arts program at Rye High School. Dr. Shine said that in meetings with Dr. Rooney and Dr. Cohen, it had been determined that the coming year would be used to develop a curriculum for this program and that the request for staffing for the program would be moved forward to the 2008-2009 school year budget.

Ms. Jo Tice, Milton PTO Co-President, thanked the Board for efforts to include the Milton gymnasium in the budget and reviewed the history of the gymnasium since the inception of work on the \$22 million bond that was originally to fund it. She offered support for the budget.

Dr. Nardone told the Board that she definitely needed her aides returned to the budget because the school needs 10 aides, and that she had compressed the positions last year to create staffing for traffic and security assistance.

Mary Beth Lubeck, Osborn School PTO Co-President, offered support for the Milton gymnasium and said that Osborn School supported the budget.

Mr. Culyer noted that the Board would make final decisions at its meeting of April 17th when the budget would be adopted.

Adjournment

Mr. Culyer reminded those present that there would be a joint meeting of the Rye City Council and the Board of Education to discuss matters of mutual interest on Saturday, April 14 beginning at 9 a.m. He said the two entities would adjourn to participate in the Rye Little League/Rye Girls Sports parade, and that the Board had also been invited to participate in the Midland School Fair parade on April 21.

Mr. Culyer noted that the next meeting of the Board would be Tuesday, April 17th when it was on the agenda for the Board to adopt the 2007-2008 school year budget.

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:15 PM to adjourn into executive session to discuss negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and student right to privacy issues.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:32 p.m. to reconvene in public.

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The Board further discussed the 2007-2008 budget until 11:08 p.m. when the meeting was adjourned, there being no further business, on a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk