

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
May 1, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:02 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 into executive session for the discussion of litigation strategy, negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law, and to review the employment history of current and prospective employees.

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8 PM to reconvene in public.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and said the Board would first address the Consent Agenda and then hold the hearing on the budget. He noted that Action-General Item 3, Board Policy 5110, and Action-General Item 6, Approval of Bid for Infrastructure Project, \$10 Million Bond, would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Zahm 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 April 17, 2007.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of April 24, 2007.
3. The resolution to appoint election inspectors for the May 15, 2007 budget vote and Board of Education candidate election. (Attachment I)

(continued)

4. The gift request from the Rye Boys' Lacrosse Program of 60 Warrior Lacrosse Jerseys for the Boys' Modified Team valued at \$2,100.00 and of 3 Brine Rebounder Walls for the Boys' Modified, JV and Varsity Teams, valued at \$750.00. (Attachment II)

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendation of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of March 29, 2007 for Student ID#840.
2. The recommendation of the Committee on Preschool Education from its meeting of March 29, 2007 for Student ID#835 and from its meeting of April 18, 2007 for Student ID#847.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2007-2008 BUDGET

Mr. Culyer asked Dr. Shine to review components of the budget. Dr. Shine said that last year, prior to the adoption of the tax warrant, the Board had asked the administration to review assessables and the revenue and consider whether it was possible to lower the tax rate increase. He said that subsequent to that vote on the budget, it was possible to lower the tax rate increase. He said that this year, Mr. Culyer and Mr. Zahm had asked the administration prior to the budget vote to see if there were any options to bring the tax rate increase below 5%. He noted that he and Dr. Chapman and Ms. Povella had reviewed several options and found that there would be \$195,000.00 interest from the \$22 million bond and \$200,000.00 interest earned from the tax certiorari account that could be used to reduce the tax levy to 4.99%. Mr. Culyer asked the Board to indicate who among the members would be in favor of the application of interest from the \$22 million bond. All seven Board members indicated that they would be interested in applying this interest. Mr. Culyer then asked the Board to indicate who among them would be in favor of applying interest earned in the tax certiorari fund. Five out of seven members so indicate. Mr. Culyer so noted that the estimated tax rate increase would therefore be lowered to 4.99% and that this would be communicated to the community.

Mr. Culyer then presented introductory remarks to the budget hearing. He said that each school district is required by law to hold a public hearing on its budget and noted that the scheduled budget vote is from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15.

He reminded those present that the budget adopted by the Board of Education on April 17 is a budget of \$64,949,000.00 and that copies of the budget had been available at the Rye Free Reading Room, City Hall, in all the schools and at the Central Administration building. He noted that copies were also available on the back table prior to the meeting. He said that the budget and related information would be available on the District's web site, including that on enrollment data, a revenue summary, the tax rate and tax levy, appropriations, cost centers and staffing, and several reports required by the State dealing with fiscal accountability, information on students with disabilities and administrative compensation.

Mr. Culyer said that copies of the full budget would continue to be available to all citizens and that a budget newsletter would be sent to each Rye household the following week.

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Mr. Culyer said that with the inclusion of the Milton Gym, there was an 8.54% budget-to-budget increase and a current tax rate increase estimate previously of 5.539% and now of 4.99%

Mr. Culyer noted that the Board held a public hearing prior to the adoption of the budget on March 27th, and that this was a second Public Hearing opportunity, saying that the Board welcomed your commentary and perceptions, and asking those interested in addressing the Board to please come forward, state his or her name and, if possible, keep remarks to three minutes.

Denise Cypher, Robert Schubert, Ray Schmitt, Ellen D'Angelo, Charmien Neary, Jack Zahringer, Martin Gerson, Kim Abate, Josephine Tice and Rick Hein all commented on the budget and Jeanne Sinnott thanked the men on the Board for wearing jackets.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Bid for Infrastructure Project

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to award the General Trades bid to Summit Construction Services for \$1,117,000.00. (Attachment III)

Board Policy 5110

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried 5-2 with Mr. White and Mr. Zahm voting no, it was voted to approve the revisions to Board of Education Policy 5110, School Attendance Areas and Enrollment Options. (Attachment IV)

COMMUNICATION ITEMS

Mr. Culyer reminded those present that the single polling place in the Rye Middle School gymnasium for the May 15, 2007 Board of Education candidate election and the 2007-2008 school year budget would be open 7 AM to 9 PM. He also reminded those present that the next meeting of the Board would also be May 15, beginning at 8 PM in the Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 9:42 p.m. to adjourn into executive session for a continuation of discussion of those items discussed in the previous executive session.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:09 PM to reconvene in public and immediately adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk