

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
Special Meeting
July 19, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 6:00 p.m. in the Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room.

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
Mr. Robert G. Walsh, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Schools

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to adjourn into Executive Session to review the employment history of current and prospective employees.

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:00 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and advised that the meeting would not be televised. He then called for the Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items.

Rhonda Papert, SEPTA President, addressed the Board about comments from the previous Board meeting regarding special education services. She quoted from the Executive Summary a review of the special education program, stating that there are 178 students in Rye who have been classified by the community in special education and that this number represents 6.2% of the District's student population. She said that these numbers are extraordinarily low when compared to all New York State districts and that, in fact, the average for the entire state is 11.9%. She urged the Board to mandate the school administration to implement the recommendations contained within the report.

There being no further comment, Mr. Culyer announced that every item had been removed from the Consent Agenda and that he would prioritize each section for Board action.

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CONSENT AGENDA**Action – General****Authorization to Fletcher Thompson to Proceed with Construction Documents, State Education Department Approved and the Formal Bidding Process**

Dr. Shine said he would like to amend the recommendation provided to the Board indicating that the amount authorized for Fletcher Thompson is not to exceed \$54,000.00 for the next phase of the gymnasium construction documents, and that if shop drawings are not developed by Fletcher Thompson, there would be a reduction of \$5,000.00 on that total of \$54,000.00. He said it was his recommendation that Fletcher Thompson continue with phase II of the project to complete the gymnasium at a cost not to exceed \$54,000.00. Dr. Shine asked Mr. Valentine to explain shop drawings.

Mr. Valentine referred to an updated spreadsheet on Milton construction expenditures. He said that there is still a \$200,000.00 contingency for Milton and about \$4.3 to \$4.4 million dollars worth of work left to be done. He noted that the Board previously decided to carry a 3% contingency which would be less, but that because the project is nearing completion he had added \$50,000.00 to the 3% number to make sure there were funds available for overtime. He noted that there are still some funds in contingencies for Midland and Osborn because not all the contracts have been closed out.

Mr. Culyer noted that the Board has received an estimate from Andron that the gymnasium at Milton will cost approximately \$1,922,000.00. He said that at the last Board meeting, the Board had asked for a second estimate independent of the cost of construction. The second estimate for construction of the Milton gym is \$2,076,000.00. He summarized that what the Board was discussing was the approval to Fletcher Thompson to proceed and put together the construction documents so that the project could be moved along and sent to Albany for approval and the formal bidding process could proceed.

Dr. Nardone, Milton Principal, John Antonecchia, Milton Physical Education teacher, Young Kim, former Milton PTO President, and Jo Tice, PTO Co-President, addressed the Board about the need for a new gymnasium at Milton School. Bertrand de Frondeville said he felt boiler bond issues were more important than spending \$54,000.00 on a gym.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to authorize Fletcher Thompson to proceed with construction documents at a total cost of \$54,000.00, with the reduction of \$5,000.00 if shop drawings were not developed. (Attachment I)

Approval of Elementary School Staffing and Grade Level Capping

Dr. Shine referred to his Communication to the Board based on the background information that he had presented at the June 29th meeting and recommended to the Board that the budgeted Grade 1 position be returned to Osborn School staffing, noting Ms. Zeppie's information that the enrollment numbers are over those provided in early June. He said that there were 30 teaching positions at Osborn during the 2005-2006 school year, and that the approved 2006-2007 budget provided for the same number of teaching positions in 2006-2007.

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He noted that there had been five sections of Grade 5 during the 2005-2006 school year, and that the approved plan was to reduce that and add one section for Grade 1.

Dr. Shine then recommended the authorization of five sections of Grade 1 at Midland School; that the Board cap the Midland Kindergarten at 92 students which would be four sections of 23, with the rationale that Kindergarten students have a full-time teacher and full-time teacher aide; and that the Board cap Grade 2 at Milton school at 66 students.

In response to the question of whether additional staff would have to be hired, Dr. Shine said that in the second semester, the District anticipates that six teachers will return from maternity leave and that this number is in the budget, and that two teachers at large are already in the budget. Hiring substitute teachers instead of using teachers-at-large (2) will cost \$16,740 per semester.

On a motion by Mr. Culyer, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve six Osborn Grade 1 sections, and add one section to Midland 1st Grade, and authorize Dr. Shine to monitor staffing at other grade levels depending on enrollment growth over the summer. (Attachment IIa)

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Culyer and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the addition of one Midland Kindergarten section. (Attachment IIb)

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Report on Osborn Grade 2 Achievement

Dr. Shine reported on steps to be taken to improve the math skills of rising second graders at Osborn and address test score concerns and Ms. Zeppie, Osborn Principal, answered Board member questions. Dr. shine made a notation to review the testing schedule for the CTP IVs with the principals.

K-5 Math Curriculum Timeline and Plan

Dr. Shine provided a step-by-step explanation of the K-5 math plan and time line. The seven point plan was developed in response to Board member concerns expressed prior to voting on the K-5 math curriculum. Several Board members indicated that they were pleased with the quick response the plan provided and they were eager to see the plan put into action.

Durland Scout Center

Dr. Shine reported that he had received notification from Jack Sears of the Boy Scouts of America that Durland Scout Center was back on the market. He added that previously, members of the community had expressed interest in attempting to organize to save Durland as a community resource. Mr. Fox and Mr. Zahm indicated that they hope that the city would take the lead on this project.

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CONSENT AGENDA**Action – General****Approval of CCD to Shawn's Lawns for Additional Work to Remove a Foundation**

Mr. Valentine stated that last summer, as Shawn's Lawn began to dig into the site, they discovered an existing, buried foundation on the property at Milton and that the foundation had to be broken with a hydraulic hammer. He said that there was construction debris within the foundation. He said that other site excess had been taken to a fill site in Port Chester, but because the nature of this debris, that was not possible and the material had to be hauled to a transfer station that accepts construction debris. He said this site was twice the distance causing fewer loads per day per truck, and that there were tipping fees based on weight for disposing of materials at the transfer site. He said the fees for the transfer site for this Construction Change Directive are \$52,700.00, noting that the remainder of the amount in the CCD was for breaking the foundation and partial cost of loading and hauling the materials.

Dr. Shine reported that there had been extensive conversations with Shawn's Lawn to review all the information and negotiations that had reduced the original request. He said that it had reached the point where he needed to bring this matter to the Board and request approval of the Construction Change Directive in the amount of \$69,104.00.

After discussion, Mr. Culyer said no action could be taken until the Board met in Executive Session.

Approval of CCD to Mellwood for Leveling of Floors

Mr. Valentine explained that there was an unforeseen condition discovered at Milton School with the completion of the demolition and layout and construction of the new walls in the existing portion of the school. He said that the floor levels between old rooms did not match and there were problems that could not be dealt with in the fashion originally called for on construction documents (installation of plywood). He said that some areas could be dealt with by changing the plywood sub-floor from ¼ inch to ½ inch thickness, but that for other areas, the only practical solution was to use a self-leveling, cement-based under-layment, such as gyp-crete.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the Construction Change Directive for leveling of floors in the existing building of Milton School to Melwood Contracting in the amount of \$39,978.00. (Attachment III)

Board Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Culyer and carried unanimously (7-0) the minutes of the July 1, 2006 meeting of the Board were approved as amended to show Mr. Nathan, not Mr. Fox, reciting the Oath of Office as Vice President, page 1, last line.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried 4-0-3 with Ms. Slack, Mr. White and Mr. Cady abstaining because they were not voting Board members at this meeting, it was voted to approve the June 29, 2006 meeting of the Board as written.

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Approval of Consulting Services Agreement With CCC Computer Center

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve Monthly Consulting Services with CCC Computer Center for Business Management Systems at a cost of \$95,000 for the 2006-2007 school year with the condition that Mr. Fox will provide recommendations for contract language changes with the contract to return to the Board for approval. (Attachment IV)

Action – FiscalHigh School Track Rehabilitation

Mr. Zahm raised several questions regarding specifications and future usability when renovations were needed on the track. Mr. Valentine responded to the questions.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the recommendation to award the contract for track rehabilitation at Rye High School/Rye Middle School to Track surfaces Company, St. Charles, Illinois, in the amount of \$65,200.00. (Attachment V)

Budget Transfer #27

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve Budget Transfer #27 for the 2005-2006 school year in the amount of \$504,656.00 to cover the cost of new staff salaries and benefits, transferred from the new staff budget code and unexpended Social Security. (Attachment VI)

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMBoiler Replacement

Mr. Valentine reported to the Board on the results of the request for proposals for a design team and a program manager for the middle and high school heating system replacement. It was reported that a best effort time line for this project would be that schematics would be completed by September 30, 2006 with a construction estimate to follow by October 30, 2006.

CONSENT AGENDA**Action – Personnel**

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

1. The resignation due to retirement of Angela Kelleher as a Foreign Language Teacher assigned to Rye High School effective July 1, 2006.
2. The resignation of Stephanie Bell as a Kindergarten Teacher assigned to Midland School effective July 1, 2006.

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3. The resignation of Marci Litt as Teaching Assistant assigned to Rye High School, Academic Intervention Center effective June 30, 2006.
4. The request by Amy Andrews for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as School Media Specialist (Library) assigned to Midland School, effective on or about November 6, 2006, to on or about February 2, 2007.
5. The request by Kelly Duffy for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Physical Education teacher assigned to Rye Middle School, effective on or about October 27, 2006, to on or about January 26, 2007.
6. The Emergency Conditional Three Year Probationary Appointment of Shelley R. Bookstein, as a Teacher on Special Assignment (Coordinator of Technology Curriculum and Instruction), for which she holds New York State Internship Certification as Educational Technology Specialist, PreK-12 and New York State Permanent Certification PreK-6, assigned to Rye City School District 1.0 FTE, MA+15, Step 9, of the 2006/07 Teacher Salary Schedule effective September 1, 2006 –June 30, 2009.
7. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Michaela Fettig McCabe as a School Psychologist, for which she holds Connecticut Provisional Educator Certificate, School Psychologist and has applied for New York State Certification, assigned to Milton School, 0.6 FTE, MA+30, Step 6, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – on or about January 26, 2007, prorated.
8. The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Gerald M. Chishold, Jr. as an English Teacher, for which he holds New York State Internship Certification in English Language Arts 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, BA+30, Step 2, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
9. Payments for the Extra Pay for Extra Work Coaching Assignments for the 2006-2007 school year as listed on the attached. (Attachment VII)

Adjournment

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 12:04 a.m. to adjourn into Executive Session for the discussion of litigation strategy and the discussion of the proposed acquisition of real property, and continuing discussion from Executive Session I. Mr. Culyer noted that it was possible that the Board would reconvene in public to address personnel issues discussed in Executive Session.

On a motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 1:38 a.m. to reconvene in public.

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The Board agreed to table a decision on the CCD for Shawn's Lawns for additional work and on a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 1:40 a.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Culyer stated that the next regular meeting of the Board would be August 29th, but that the Board would hold its annual retreat and planning meeting on July 22 at the Rye Town Hilton.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk