

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
October 10, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:02 P.M. and the roll was called.

Present

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

Excused

Mr. Michael White

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

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to adjourn immediately into Executive Session for the discussion of legal strategy, contract negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law, and the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 8:15 P.M. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and called for the Hearing of the Public on items not on the agenda.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

There were no questions or comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer announced that Action-General item 1, Board of Education minutes of September 12, 2006, Action-General item 6, Approval of the 2005-2006 School District Financial Audit, Action-General item 8, Approval of Additional Services from General Counsel for Construction, LePatner & Associates, Separate Action Required Financial Reports Item, and Action-Fiscal item 3, Approval of Boiler Rental, would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the following items:

Action – General

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of September 12, 2006, as written.
2. The proposed New York State School Boards Association resolutions and authorization

for the voting delegate, Mr. Zahm, to cast votes of approval to support for the NYSSBA Area 10 Director. (Attachment I)

3. The recommendation that the Board of Education adopt the textbook, Life Science – New York Edition, Glencoe/McGraw Hill 2006, for the Grade 7 Life Science course. (Attachment II)
4. Board Policy 6254, Non-Resident Students, as revised. (Attachment III)
5. The recommendation to appoint 16 election inspectors and two voting machine custodians for the election to be held October 17, 2006 and that the District Clerk be authorized to hire any other inspectors as needed should any of those listed be unable to serve. (Attachment IV)
6. The contract with Capital Markets Advisors, LLC, at a cost of \$1,800.00, to act as the District's dissemination agent in connection with its continuing disclosure obligations in accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12, as an issuer of tax exempt bonds with over \$10 million in such debt outstanding. (Attachment VI)
7. Gifts to the District from the organizations listed on the attached in the amounts listed for Heard in Rye. (Attachment VII)
8. The gift of 36 customized folding chairs, dolly and cover from the players, alumni, parents and supporters of the Rye City School District Volleyball, Wrestling and Basketball teams for the teams, valued at approximately \$4,000.00. (Attachment VIII)
9. The revision of appointments for the 2006-2007 school year as necessary of the Purchasing Agent, Collector of School Taxes, Record Access Officer, Records Management Officer, Signatory for Access to the District's safe deposit box, and Disperser of Petty Cash in accordance with Policy 6670 to appoint Dr. Karen Chapman to these positions with Dr. Edward J. Shine to act in her absence as Purchasing Agent. (Attachment IX)

Action – Fiscal

1. The recommendation to reject current bids for #2 Fuel Oil and to rebid. (Attachment X)
2. Budget Transfer #3 in the amount of \$9,000.00 for the 2006-2007 school year to cover the cost of new science textbooks for the seventh grade class, from Middle School English Textbooks, Math Workbooks and Student Course Offerings to Middle School Textbooks (Attachment XI)
3. The recommendation to approve the resolution authorizing petty cash to Rob Castagna in the amount of \$1,000.00 for athletic events and \$2,000.00 when the Rye Harrison

game is scheduled and to John Rubbo in the amount of \$1,050.00 (\$50 for each of 13 registers and \$400 for emergencies). (Attachment XII)

Action – Personnel

1. The request by Brenda McMillan for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Special Education teacher assigned to Rye Middle School, effective on or about December 11, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
2. The Leave Replacement Appointment of John Stisowain as a Physical Education Teacher assigned to Rye Middle School, for which he holds New York State Provisional Certifications in Physical Education and in Health, 1.0 FTE, BA Step 3, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, effective September 19, 2006 – January 31, 2007.
3. The increase in assignment from 0.4 FTE to 0.5 FTE, of Annette Keslinger, as Speech/Language Pathologist, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Speech and Hearing Handicapped, assigned to the Rye City School District, on MA +30, Step 11/12, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, effective October 16, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
4. The Three-Year Probationary Appointment of Doreen Klein, as Speech/Language Pathologist, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Speech and Hearing Handicapped, assigned to Midland and Milton Schools, 1.0 FTE, MA, Step 15, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, effective October 16, 2006 – October 15, 2009. Ms. Klein is currently a 0.7 Speech and Language Pathologist effective November 16, 2004.
5. The Appointment of Cami Lyn Tallerico as a Special Education Teacher Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Rye Middle School, Step 1 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective September 25, 2006.
6. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Robert Tolve as a Computer Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Rye High School, Step 1, Bachelor's Level, Pro-Rated Amount, of the 2004-2005 Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Salary Schedule, effective October 3, 2006.
7. The Extra Pay for Extra Work payments listed on the attached. (Attachment XIII)

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of September 5, 2006 for Student ID#770; from its meeting of September 18, 2005 for Student ID#912005; from its meeting of September 26, 2006 for Student ID#199; and from its meeting of September 28, 2006 for Student ID#709.

(continued)

Board Minutes

- 4 -

October 10, 2006

2. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of June 7, 2006 for Student ID#719; from its meeting of September 28, 2006 for Student ID#700; from its meeting of September 21, 2006 for Student ID#626; from its meetings of September 8, 2006 for Students ID#743, 744 and 742; from its meetings of September 14, 2006 for Students ID#669 and 748; from its meeting of September 21, 2006 for Student ID#721; from its meeting of September 28, 2006 for Student ID#602; from its meeting of October 6, 2005 for Student ID#614; from its meeting of December 8, 2005 for Student ID#553; from its meeting of December 12, 2005 for Student ID#451; from its meeting of January 12, 2006 for Student ID#586; from its meeting of February 16, 2006 for Student ID#634; from its meetings of March 16, 2006 for Students ID#412, 509, and 585; from its meetings of March 23, 2006 for Students ID#618 and 652; from its meetings of March 30, 2006 for Students ID#544 and 418; from its meeting of April 6, 2006 for Student ID#392; from its meeting of April 7, 2006 for Student ID#000555; and from its meeting of May 4, 2006 for Student ID#445.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Board Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried 5-0-1 with Mr. Zahm abstaining because he was not at the meeting, the Board approved the minutes of its September 12, 2006 meeting.

Additional Services from General Counsel

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve an engagement letter with LePatner and Associates dated September 8, 2006; authorize the Superintendent to sign the agreement letter with LePatner & Associates; and appropriate an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 to cover expenses incurred. (Attachment XIV)

Boiler Rental

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve temporary boiler rental for the upcoming heating season from Bay Boiler Rentals, Inc. for the total amount of \$40,750.00 for the period December 1, 2006 through May 1, 2007. (Attachment XV)

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine said he knew that the Board joined him in congratulating two Rye High School students, Alex Morrison and Frank Cirillo, who have received Achievement Awards in Writing from the National Council of Teachers of English. He reported that over 2,080 juniors were nominated to participate in this program across 50 states and that Alex's and Frank's work was selected along with that of 40 other New York State honorees.

Dr. Shine noted that Rye High School Assistant Principal and Director of Guidance, Patricia Taylor, has been invited by Northwestern University to serve on their Advisory Board. He explained that the committee works under the Vice President for Enrollment, with the Dean of Admissions and

(continued)

Board Minutes

- 5 -

October 10, 2006

Dean of Financial Aid. He said that fifteen people from across the country have been invited to serve on this board and that potential topics the board will review include SAT testing, AP courses, the application process, and Northwestern's place in the college hierarchy. This is a very nice recognition for Ms. Taylor and also for the District.

Dr. Shine announced that three Rye High School students have been named SemiFinalists in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 1.4 million high school juniors took the qualifying PSAT exam, he noted, with 16,000 students this year named semifinalists, 900 of them from New York. Dr., Shine said that semifinalists will complete an application to compete for finalist status and merit scholarships. He said that semifinalists are Katherine Barton, Hayley Tobin, and Christopher Welhoelter. Eleven of their classmates were named Commended Students in the National Merit Program: Melanie Chow, Frank Cirillo, Courtney Clark, Lily Colahan, Gregory Dempsey, Norah Kennedy, Molly Lyons, Grace Philipp, Hannah Simonson, Lindy Smalt and Stefan Trienekens.

Dr. Shine added that it has been a big few days of good news, and that he was also happy to report that our students performed in outstanding fashion on the Advanced Placement exams this past June. We just received the report from the College Board. He then provided the statistics, as follows:

- 113 of our students qualified for AP scholar awards, with 51 receiving the AP Scholar With Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
- 8 of these students also qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a 5-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on 8 or more of these exams.
- 27 students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all exams taken and 3 or higher on 4 or more of these exams, and
- 35 students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more exams with grades of 3 or higher.

In conclusion, Dr. Shine reminded everyone that upcoming weekend was the celebration of Rye's traditional football match with the Harrison Huskies. He reminded those present that Rye would be hosting the game this year, and that there would be several events during the remainder of the week, culminating in the pep rally on Friday, in the high school gym, followed by the traditional game bonfire. He noted that the game would begin at 2 in John Nugent Stadium on Saturday, the 14th. Dr. Shine also reminded everyone that the Osborn Carnival, would take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on October 14 at Osborn School.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

District Financial Audit

Mr. Les Storch of Bennett Kielson Storch DeSantis, The Government Services Division of O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP, presented an overview of the District's Financial Report, Year Ended June 30, 2006, stating an unqualified opinion noting that this is the highest form of assurance an auditor can provide. He noted highlights including that the District was over 98.%% accurate in its projections, that the District had a prudent amount of savings,

neither over nor too tight, and that it evidenced long-term fiscal stability. He stated that the District was in the best financial condition it was allowed to be in.

Mr. Culyer noted that the District maintained its permitted-by-law 2% fund balance, that additional interest had been received on investments which provided an unexpected

(continued)

Board Minutes

- 6 -

October 10, 2006

revenue, and that an excellent job had been done with expenditures to again provide some savings.

Mr. Cady asked if there were any negatives from the audit. Mr. Storch said there were not. He said there was a financial buffer for needs and that the finances had been managed prudently.

Mr. Martin Gerson made a statement from the floor that residents were overtaxed, considering the money that was left in the budget. Mr. Storch said that was not his belief and that as had been explained, a combination of unexpected interest and careful expenditures had given a higher year-end balance than anticipated, but that this in no way reflected overtaxing.

Mr. Bertrand de Frondeville commented from the floor that residents were overtaxed during the audited school year. Mr. Culyer said he believed that comment had already been addressed and expressed thanks to Mr. Storch for his presentation, and for providing the audit report in advance of its due date deadline.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to adopt the final Audit Report for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, as submitted. (Attachment XVI)

\$10 Million Bond Overview

Dr. Shine narrated a slide presentation of the work proposed in the \$10 million bond to be voted upon on October 17th. Mr. Culyer explained the process used in identifying the need for the work included in the bond. Representatives of Greyhawk and Barille described in detail the projects planned in the bond.

COMMUNICATIONS TO / FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Zahm asked Board members to look at the NYSSBA materials and let him know if there were points they wanted him to cover or points of view they wanted him to represent and noted that he would cast a no vote on both candidates running for District 10.

Mr. Culyer reminded those present that the bond vote would take place on October 17th and that the Board would hold a work session on the elementary math curriculum on October 24th.

Mr. Culyer also noted that Education Week was coming up and encouraged residents to visit the schools on November 14th during school open houses.

Mr. Zahm said there would be a meeting of the Enrollment Balance Committee on October 17th and said the committee was seeking additional points of view.

Mr. Fox said he had asked for a discussion item on school security and safety. Mr. Culyer said that materials would be sent to Mr. Fox for review. Mr. Fox then noted that the back door to the multipurpose room was not locked at a time he visited.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:55:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk