

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**November 14, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 8:02 PM and the roll was called.

Present

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

Excused

Mr. Joshua Nathan, *Vice President*

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

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and noted that the Board had toured Osborn School before the meeting.

Mr. Culyer then asked resident, Warren Ross, to come forward. He presented Mr. Ross with the Board's Extra Mile Award for his longtime and consistent support of the schools and the students, Mr. Ross thanked Mr. Culyer, and also Dr. Shine whom he said he suspected of nominating him for this recognition.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Susan Van Dolsen shared her views that the math program required improvement, stating that this was evident when students reached middle school, and suggested that the Board hold its second work session on the math curriculum in a user-friendly way allowing comment by members of the public and that focus be turned to the middle school math curriculum.

PTO Co-presidents from all three elementary schools, Kim Abate, Mary Beth Lubeck and Jo Tice, presented a shared statement reflecting their support of the present elementary math program, saying that parents they had surveyed were supportive of the present elementary math program, and were pleased with math test scores. They encouraged the Board to move on with other business and to support Dr. Cohen and the attention he was giving to the math program. They advised that no further work sessions were necessary.

Sheri DeGraw read a statement from Margot Willoughby in support of the present elementary math program that provided the illustration of her three children's different approaches to math and the excellent preparation she believed each had received through the present elementary math program.

Katherine Pacos said she was in support of the statements of the PTO Co-presidents and asked the Board to respect the professional educators who stood behind the math program.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Culyer announced that Action-General Items 1-3, Minutes of the Board of Education meetings of September 29, October 10 and October 17, were removed from the

Consent Agenda so that those not present at those meetings could abstain from accepting them and that Action-General Items 6, 7 and 9 and Action-Fiscal Item 1 would be removed from the Consent Agenda and addressed after the Consent Agenda..

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

**Action – General**

1. The minutes of the October 24, 2006 meeting of the Board, as written.
2. The resolution to accept gifts to Heard in Rye in the amount of \$1,500 from the Milton School PTO; in the amount of \$1,500 from the Midland School PTO; in the amount of \$2,000 from the Rye Middle School PO; in the amount of \$1,000 from the Resurrection Parent Teachers Organization; and in the amount of \$500 from the Blind Brook Union Free School District. (Attachment I)
3. The resolution to accept a gift from the Japanese Parents' Group in the high school and middle school in the amount of \$2,400 to be used as delineated for ELL programs, the schools, and the media center. (Attachment II)
4. The resolution to accept the Rye YMCA Activate America School Wellness Grant in the amount of \$1,000 for Midland School. (Attachment III)
5. The resolution to accept gifts from various donors totaling \$3,615 to be used for The Jarrid L. Amico Memorial Award to fund an annual award in the amount of \$500, based on available funds, to a Rye High School senior who has demonstrated school support and good sportsmanship while participating in football, wrestling or baseball with the intention that contributions will be made in future years to finance the award through the graduating class of 2013 which would have been Jarrid Amico's graduation year. (Attachment IV)
6. A technical service support agreement with Medtronic in the amount of \$3,750 in response to the American Heart Association/emergency Cardiovascular Care required changes regarding the use of CPR and Automatic Electronic Defibrillators to cover the upgrading/reprogramming cost of \$250 per unit for 15 District-owned units. (Attachment V)

**Action – Fiscal**

1. The successful bid for inventory of old furniture from the Rye High School cafeteria, including 207 cafeteria chairs, seven round tables, and four large rectangle folding chairs from Woody Anderson. (Attachment VI)
2. Budget Transfer #4 for the 2006-2007 school year to cover the cost of a new lease agreement with the Durland Scout Center in the total amount of \$58,750, to be transferred from the unencumbered Worker's Compensation (Admin) budget line. (Attachment VII)

3. Budget Transfer #5 for the 2006-2007 school year to cover the cost of BOCES Project AIM Program for special education students in the amount of \$60119), to be transferred from unused BOCES budget codes for multiply disabled and summer costs. (Attachment VIII)
4. Budget Transfer #6 for the 2006-2007 school year to cover the cost of post season football coaching, transportation and contractual expenses in the amount of \$26,275 and Budget Transfer #7 to cover the cost of post season field hockey coaching, transportation and contractual expenses in the amount of \$11,000. (Attachment IX)
5. Acceptance of the adjusted bid for a 1998 Ford truck F150 Long Bed erroneously listed as having mileage of 59,568 which should have been shown as 69,568 in order to award the bid correctly to the highest bidder, Kevin Nelson. (Attachment X)

**Action – Personnel**

1. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Michael Carey, as a Social Studies Teacher, for which he has applied for New York State Initial Certifications in Social Studies 5-9 and in Social Studies 7-12 assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, on MA, Step 1 (prorated) of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective November 2, 2006 – November 1, 2009.
2. The .9 FTE Appointment of Patrick Beckley as a Teacher Assistant, assigned to Rye High School, Step 1 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective November 8, 2006.
3. The appointment of Jennifer Magner as Secondary Permanent Substitute Teacher, 1.0 FTE, effective November 20, 2006 – June 22, 2007.
4. The request by Elizabeth Loisselle for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Leave Replacement English Teacher assigned to Rye High School, effective on or about January 16, 2007 – June 30, 2007.
5. The request by Sylvia Maffei for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Fourth Grade Teacher assigned to Milton School, effective on or about January 18, 2007 – on or about April 27, 2007.
6. The request by Jennifer Blumenfeld for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Kindergarten Teacher assigned to Milton School, effective on or about February 16, 2007 – on or about May 28, 2007.
7. The appointments of nine Food Service Helpers: Angel Lusk, Michael McSherry, Boyd Henne, Virginia Cury, Teressa Massey, Sylvia Parodi, Dinisher Smith, Diane Garris, and James Fox, effective September 1, 2006, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks according to the terms listed on the attached. (Attachment XI)

8. The resignation of Dianne Garris as a Food Service worker effective October 27, 2006.

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9. The resignation of Eileen DeLalla as a Special Education Teacher Aide effective November 14, 2006.
10. The Appointment of Diane Garris as a 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 October 30, 2006.
11. The Appointment of Lidio Solano as a Cleaner (9 days) with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Rye High School, on Step 1 of the 2006-2007 Custodial Unit Salary Schedule, prorated, effective October 23, 2006.
12. The Probationary Appointment of Susan Cicelsky as a Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems) with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks as a reclassification of her previous position of Senior Typist, per Eligible List No. 78-461, established 04/04/06 Cert. No. 00000 6399 Issued September 26, 2006.
13. The Probationary Appointment of Ellen Stevens, as a Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems) with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Rye High School, Special Education/Psychology Department, 11 month position, 1.0 FTE, Step 4, pro-rated, as per the 2000-2005 Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit, from Eligible List #02-416, Established 10/16/06, Cert. No. 000006613, Issued October 26, 2006.
14. The Extra Pay for Extra Work payments for the 2006-2007 school year for the Winter Athletic Program as listed on the attached. (Attachment XII)

#### **Action – Special Education**

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of September 8, 2006 for Student ID#698; from its meeting of September 21, 2006 for Student ID#758; from its meeting of October 5, 2006 for Student ID#490; from its meeting of October 12, 2006 for Student ID#643; from its meeting of October 19, 2006 for Student ID#669; from its meeting of October 24, 2006 for Student ID#764; and from its meeting of October 30, 2006 for Student ID#719.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of September 19, 2006 for Student ID#113; from its meeting of September 21, 2006 for Student ID#911335; from its meeting of September 28, 2006 for Student ID#608; from its meeting of October 10, 2006 for Student ID#755; from its meeting of October 11, 2006 for Student ID#911863; from its meetings of October 12, 2006 for Students

ID#911714, 794, and 443; from its meeting of October 13, 2006 for Student ID#522; from its meeting of October 24, 2006 for Student ID# 197; from its meeting of October 25, 2006 for Student ID#761; from its meeting of October 26, 2006 for Student ID#770;  
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from its meeting of October 27, 2006 for Student ID#911317; from its meeting of October 30, 2006 for Student ID#911550; and from its meeting of November 8, 2006 for Student ID#713.

### **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

#### Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried 4-0-2 with Mr. Zahm and Mr. White abstaining, it was voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of September 29, 2006 as written.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried 5-0-1 with Mr. White abstaining it was voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of October 10, 2006 as written.

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. White and carried 4-0-2 with Mr. Zahm and Ms. Slack abstaining it was voted to approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of October 17, 2006 as written.

#### Contracts / Agreements

Mr. Fox moved and Mr. Zahm seconded the motion to table the recommendation to approve the contract for the Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Engineering and Construction Administrative Services Agreement with Damiano Barile Engineers, P.C. in the amount of \$250,000.00. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Mr. Fox moved and Mr. Zahm seconded the motion to table the recommendation to approve the contract for Comprehensive Program Management Services and Building Commissioning Services with Greyhawk North America, LLC for the Infrastructure Improvements at the Rye City School District. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the consultant agreement between Funding Connection, Inc. and the Rye City School District for assistance in obtaining grants for the District, with the agreement that Dr. Shine would keep the Board informed of the work of the organization with Drs. Cohen and Dituri. (Attachment XIII)

#### Fuel Oil Bid

After discussion with Dr. Chapman about the timing involved in accepting the fuel bid, on a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried 4-2 with Mr. Culyer and Mr. White voting no, it was voted to approve the resolution to award the current bid of \$1.929/gallon to Robison Oil for the 2006-2007 school year with the contract beginning November 1, 2006 through October 30, 2007, as amended to show that it be based on Dr.

Chapman's judgment of need after checking both to see that oil was in fact needed at this time and checking the market price for fuel oil contracts. (Attachment XIV)

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### **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Shine noted that two members of the girls swim team would be traveling to Erie Community College in Buffalo later in the week to compete in the State Meet; and that the varsity football team would play Albany Academy in Kingston on Saturday in the state semi-finals.

He said that the first quarter had ended and that teachers were busy with report cards and parent teacher conferences at the same time as they were moving briskly into the second half of the semester. He noted a number of events taking place during the week and into the next week, including the Milton second grade multicultural luncheon, the Midland talent show,

the Midland Kindergarten Pow-Wow, the Milton Thanksgiving Concert, and the Class Reunion sponsored by the high school guidance department to give graduates a chance to see old friends and also tell the District how they feel about their preparation for college.

Dr. Shine reported on the Milton ribbon-cutting ceremony and expressed appreciation for the attendance of the Board members and New York State Senator, Suzi Oppenheimer, New York State Assemblyman, George Latimer, and Westchester County Legislator, Judy Myers.

Dr. Shine reminded those present that all schools and offices would be closed on Thanksgiving day and the following day, Friday, with schools reopening for everyone on Monday, the 27<sup>th</sup>, with a Board meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **SEPARATE ACTION REQUIRED ITEMS**

Mr. Zahm said he felt the financial reports were misleading regarding tax collection because they reflected all tax revenue as having been realized in August before they could have been collected. Dr. Chapman acknowledged the issue and said that corrections were made and that revised reporting was being prepared for future use.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the School District's Monthly Financial Reports for the period ending August 31, 2006. (Attachment XV)

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the School District's Monthly Financial Reports for the period ending September 30, 2006. (Attachment XVI)

### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

Strategic Plan

Dr. Shine reviewed the work of the Strategic Planning Team, noting that pursuant to the Board's interest in the topic the schedule had been rearranged in order to give Board members a greater opportunity to be involved. He noted that Lucy Rollins and Chase Daniel, student representatives to the Team, and Warren Ross, long-time member, were all present for any discussion subsequent to the presentation. Dr. Shine said that the District had used the process and discipline of Strategic Planning as its model for continuous improvement since 1996, with

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the Strategic Planning Team meeting each year to review progress and to identify critical issues for the District. He reported that the Team met for two and one-half days the first week of October, and with the help of a facilitator, reviewed the current plan, while also completing an internal and external analysis to see if there were new critical issues, and while reviewing action plans for two new strategies that had been drafted in the spring of 2005.

He noted that the Team affirmed the Values as written, and believed that the Mission, as written, continued as the District's loftiest aspiration. He said the Team did rearrange the parameters, agreeing that an Action Team should be formed and charged with the responsibility to develop performance standards for critical thinking and creative expression. He said the Team affirmed the two Objectives approved previously and recommended adding a third

objective dealing with the Mission Statement: A life-long learner who can thrive in a global environment."

Dr. Shine then reviewed specific Strategies and progress and plans related to them.

Mr. Ross said it was gratifying, as a Team member, to receive feedback from the Board, noting that the Team simply made recommendations but that it was up to the Board to pursue them or not. He said the more dialogue there is, the better the decisions are, noting that one of the most satisfying parts of participation were the breakout groups because they represented a true microcosm of the community, reinforcing how well Strategic Planning works as a process.

Bertrand de Frondeville wanted to know what efforts were made to involve the greater community at large. Dr. Shine explained the outreach that occurred annually to involve the community at large. Mr. Culyer added that the Team represented a true cross section of the community, from students to residents without children in the schools to faculty and administrators, and confirmed with Dr. Shine that there were approximately 26 members of the Strategic Planning Team.

Naomi Norman said she had been a member of the Strategic Planning Team for four or five years and that she strongly believed in the process.

#### Milton Construction

David Augenbraun of Andron presented an overview of progress in completing work at Milton School.

Daniel Valentine presented a review of the Change Orders involved in the completion of work at Milton, explaining that the amounts had exceeded his approval authority and requesting that the Board authorize payments for those amounts. The Board asked that specific dates and a time line of the requests for change orders be provided, and suggested that in the future Mr. Valentine maintain a notebook of items as they are presented in order to better

monitor expenditures so that they would not again go over the amount he was authorized to expend.

### **ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEM**

#### **Textbook Adoption**

Robert Castagna, Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health, addressed the Board about the recommended text, Harcourt Health Fitness, with one complete set for each grade level requested. He explained why the committee had selected this text and reviewed the materials for each grade level, K-5, that would use the text, noting that the material meets the

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needs of varying abilities and achievement levels including those for ELL students, and that it also provided opportunities to reinforce reading and writing skills. He said the purchase price was in the budget and said, in response to Board questions, that the book would support the character development programs at each school.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to adopt the Harcourt Health Fitness text book, Harcourt 2007, for use in the elementary schools. (Attachment VII)

### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

#### **Utility Tax Presentation**

Stephen Feeney presented background and information on the ability for small city school districts to levy a utility tax as a revenue stream that possibly could offset a portion of property tax increases.

In response to a Board request for next steps, Dr. Shine suggested that the next step would be to schedule a public hearing on January 9 on the topic of the imposition of a utility tax. The Board asked that Mr. Feeney or the administration attempt to obtain information from utility providers as to the estimated number of utility users and the provision of more specific numbers as to what revenue may be generated.

Mr. de Frondeville expressed his approval of this concept and thanked Mr. Feeney for his presentation. Mr. Culyer thanked Mr. Feeney for his presentation.

### **ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEM**

#### **Milton Construction; Construction Change Directives**

Mr. Culyer said that based on previous discussion his assumption was that the action item requesting Board approval of additional construction directives would be tabled. Mr. Zahm so moved and the item was tabled.

### **COMMUNICATION ITEM**

Mr. Zahm reported that he and a number of other Board members had attended the New York State School Boards Association and that he attended the voting, and that all four of the items around retirement options were approved by the voting body, and that he would encourage someone else to take on the voting responsibility next year. Mr. Culyer thanked the Board members who had attended the NYSSBA conference.

#### **Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:40 p.m. to adjourn into executive session for the discussion of negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and strategy for pending litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to reconvene in public at 11:42 p.m. There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. White and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to adjourn the meeting immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari  
District Clerk