

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**December 12, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:14 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. Robert Zahm

Excused

Mr. Michael White

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

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to adjourn immediately into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees and the discussion of negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 8:23 PM to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and called for the hearing of the public on non-agenda items.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Robert Schubert, noting that he had “pushed hard” for boiler replacement and that he had voted for the bond to cover boiler replacement, said that the costs for this needed to be incorporated into a 2007-2008 budget that did not exceed a 3-4% tax rate increase over the 2006-2007 school year budget.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Culyer announced that the following items would be removed from the Consent Agenda: Action-General Items 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 16, 16, 17, and 18, and Action-Fiscal Item 2.

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

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**Action – General**

1. The minutes of the Board of Education Work Session of November 28, 2006, as written.
2. The State Education Department Transportation Contract between Southern Westchester BOCES and the Rye City School District for the period October 16, 2006 through June 30, 2007 for an anticipated annual cost of \$11,990.00. (Attachment I)
3. The merger of the girls' swimming team with Blind Brook High School for the 2007-2008 school year. (Attachment II)
4. The declaration of the Board of Education as Lead Agency for SEQRA declarations for Milton School concerning the Milton School Gymnasium. Attachment III)
5. The SEQRA Negative Declaration for the Milton School Gymnasium. (Attachment IV)
6. The English 11 Regents/Honors Curriculum for use in the eleventh grade, Rye High School. (Attachment V)
7. The Advanced Print Journalism Curriculum for use at Rye High School. (Attachment VI)

**Action – Fiscal**

1. Budget Transfer #8 in the amount of \$18,400.00 to cover the cost of a replacement heating system fan motor for Osborn School, from the HS/MS Heating Repairs. (Attachment VII)
2. School District Warrants July 1 – October 31, 2006. (Attachment VIII)

**Action – Personnel**

1. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Maria Brown assigned to Milton School, for which she holds a New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education 1-6, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, effective November 13, 2006 to June 30, 2007.
2. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Janet Fletcher as a Special Education Teacher assigned to Rye Middle School, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Student with Disabilities – English Grades 7-12, 1.0 FTE, MA +30 Step 1 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, effective November 27, 2006 to June 30, 2007.

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3. The resignation of Laura Betsch as a Teacher Aide assigned to Midland School effective November 22, 2006.
4. The Appointment of Josephine Confalone, as Managerial and Confidential Secretary, Civil Service Title: Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems), a twelve (12) month position, 1.0 FTE, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Rye City School District, Central Administration Building, Office of Personnel, prorated, effective December 14, 2006.
5. The salary increases noted on the attached for Anne Povella and John Rubbo, effective December 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007. (Attachment AAA)
6. The .8 FTE Appointment of Alaina Cuglietto as a Special Education Shadow Aide, assigned to Osborn School, Step 1 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 5 days/week, effective September 11, 2006.
7. The Appointment of Arlene Moscufo, as a Special Education Teacher Aide, assigned to Midland School, Step 1 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours/day, 5 days/week, effective December 5, 2006.
8. The Extra Pay for Extra Work assignments for the 2006-2007 school year for Reading Group and Weight Lifting and Fitness, Winter, per the attached. (Attachment IX)

**Action – Special Education**

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of October 12, 2006 for Student ID#794; from its meetings of October 27, 2006 for Students ID#771 and 179; from its meeting of November 3, 2006 for Student ID#912049; from its meeting of November 6, 2006 for Student ID#481; from its meeting of November 8, 2006 for Students ID#911888 and 406; from its meetings of November 9, 2006 for Students ID#223, 911695, and 772; from its meeting of November 14, 2006 for Student ID#734; from its meeting of November 15, 2006 for Student ID#774; from its meeting of November 17, 2006 for Student ID#911937; from its meetings of November 20, 2006 for Students ID#911798, 205, 911882, and 706; from its meeting of November 21, 2006 for Students ID #159, 388, 911532, 290, and 911584; and from its meeting of November 28, 2006 for Student ID#427.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of November 2, 2006 for Student ID#683; and from its meetings of November 9, 2006 for Students ID#743, 779, and 742.

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**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Shine reviewed the December Recess schedule, noting that the last of school for students would be December 22, with schools re-opening on January 2.

**SEPARATE ACTION REQUIRED ITEMS**

After discussion by Mr. Zahm, Mr. Fox and Mr. Nathan about the form of the Treasurer's Comprehensive Bank Reconciliation by Fund, Revenue Budget Status Report and Appropriation Status Report, all for the period ending October 31, 2006, on a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to table these items to the next meeting of the Board.

**PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION****Presentation by Dr. Steven Cohen**

Dr. Cohen presented to the Board the results of his interviews with constituents and his philosophy about the future of education. Board members and members of the public thanked Dr. Cohen for his thoughtful presentation. (Attachment X)

**Plan for 2006-2007 Math Instruction**

Dr. Shine reviewed the background of discussion and meetings held regarding this topic. He noted that in response to the Board's request, Dr. Cohen, in consultation with elementary principals and teacher leaders, had put together a report of the math program, per grade level, with a summary of results and additional information received from the state, based on math assessments last year. He noted also that just that week the District had received a communication from the state on the District's performance in math. He said it was his recommendation that at this point, Dr. Cohen and he felt it was not necessary to hold another work session on mathematics. He said since the District now has grade-level assessments either being implemented or developed, coordinated teacher examination of instructional practices, plans for helping students who need support to improve their mastery of basic math facts, and a data system that allows item analysis of specific elements of the mathematics curriculum, he felt it was time to allow the teachers to have time to teach.

Dr. Cohen noted that discussion had been broadened to include the middle school grade levels, joining with the elementary schools for the K-6 span of instruction. He also said that the new data released by the state gave districts the opportunity to rely on tests in ways they couldn't before. He said they were planning ways for teachers to sit down with these materials and examine results.

Dr. Shine said that Dr. Edwards and the middle school math teachers were delighted to receive this information which would serve as a tool for affirming where there are strengths and where focus and concentration were especially needed.

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Mr. Nathan disagreed and said he was concerned about not having a work session or further discussion. Dr. Shine responded and said his concern was that the administrators

had asked Board members to tell them their questions, and that they had done everything they could to respond to verbal requests, but that it was important to recognize that teachers need time to teach, and that if it was necessary to have another discussion or meeting it was important to have teachers present to respond to Board member issues, but in the meantime they were concerned about losing opportunity for working with children.

It was agreed that a meeting would be planned to further discuss the math curriculum, at a time to be chosen by the administration, tentatively March 13<sup>th</sup>, with the Board of Education members.

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

#### Board Minutes of November 14, 2006

It was agreed that this item would be tabled.

#### Contract with Greyhawk North America, LLC

It was agreed that this item would be tabled.

#### Contract for MEP Engineering and Consulting with Damiano Barile Engineering, P.C.

It was agreed that this item would be tabled.

#### Contract with Capital Markets Advisors, LLC

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the contract with Capital Markets Advisors LLC for Banking RFP advisory. (Attachment XI)

#### Rental Agreements with Playland, Rye Country Day School and the White Plains YWCA

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the agreements between the Rye City School District and Playland Ice Casino, Rye Country Day School and the YWCA. (Attachment XII)

#### Awarded Vendors for Cooperative Bids

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve awarded vendors as presented in the attached list. (Attachment XIII)

#### Appointment of Accume as the District Internal Auditors

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the appointment of Accume as the District's Internal Auditor

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effective January 1, 2007 with the requirement that they meet criteria as outlined by the Board. (Attachment XIV)

Special Education Contracted Services

It was agreed that this item would be tabled.

Rye High School and Midland School PTO Gift Requests

It was agreed that these items would be tabled.

Approval of Issuance of Equipment

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the issuance of laptops and cell phones to employees according to Board Policy and Administrative Regulations. (Attachment XV)

Construction Change Directives

It was agreed that this item would be tabled.

Budget Transfer #9

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve Budget Transfer #9 in the amount of \$6,000.00 to cover the cost of buses for all students attending the junior and senior proms in May and June, from the Rye High School Equipment Budget Line. (Attachment XVI)

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:45 PM to adjourn into executive session to conclude topics begun in executive session prior to the beginning of the public meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to reconvene in public at 12:30 AM. There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to adjourn the meeting immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari  
District Clerk