

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
January 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:06 PM and the roll was called.

Present

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

And Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Stephen Cohen, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Kathleen Ryan, Business Official

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously, (7-0) the Board adjourned immediately into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:08 PM to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and called for the hearing of the public.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Dr. Jaime Zung, President of the Rye Teachers Association and Association member, Gail Pullman, addressed the Board on behalf of the Rye Teachers Association and the commitment and dedication of Rye teachers who, they said, shared the responsibility for the excellent rankings of the schools, most recently the study conducted by *U.S. News & World Report* ranking Rye High School 52nd out of 18,790 schools across the country.

Peter Vanamee, a parent, who said his job was evaluating contracts, requested documentation from the Board so that he could evaluate the RTA contract. Mr. Culyer responded that while documentation referring to prior contracts and the present contract was available through a Freedom of Information request to the District, current documentation regarding current negotiations was not available for public review.

Mr. Culyer responded to Dr. Zung and Ms. Pullman by saying that RTA negotiations had been ongoing for quite some time, but that the RTA had requested that after six months of negotiating the process return to standard negotiations and the had requested that impasse be filed. He said the members of the Board were willing and eager to return to the table.

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Bertrand deFrondeville said he wanted to see the purpose and amount of each contract change order.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Action – General

1. The minutes of the December 11, 2007 meeting of the Board.
2. The gift request of several donors to establish a scholarship with donations totaling \$10,350.00 for a graduating senior in memory of Ronald Sassone, a past graduate of Rye High School. (Attachment I)
3. The gift request of Mr. Michael W. Klemens, Founding Director of the Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, Wildlife Conservation Society, of five digital cameras to the Rye High School Photography Club, valued at \$250.00 each. (Attachment II)

Action – Fiscal

1. A contract between David Sear and the Rye City School District for a full day program consisting of two musical assemblies on January 28, 2008, at the rate of \$900.00, including all expenses. (Attachment III)
2. A contract between Mary Anne Johnson and the Rye City School District for two evening parent presentations addressing strategies for dealing with issues that arise for 8th and 9th grade students, at the rate of \$450.00/day, on January 9, 2008 and January 14, 2008. (Attachment IV)
3. A contract between Martha O'Connell and the Rye City School District for an evening parent presentation on January 10, 2008 addressing finding the right college, at the rate of \$500.00/day plus lodging. (Attachment V)
4. A contract with the John A. Coleman School – CRC for the 2007-2008 school year for special education services to pre-school and/or school-aged special education students. (Attachment VI)
5. An agreement with Lifestyle Integrated Fitness Training, LLC for Athletic Trainer Services for the balance of the 2007-2008 season. (Attachment VII)
6. A professional services contract with Warren and Panzer Engineers, P.C. for the performance of field investigations and testing to identify specific locations where asbestos abatement may be required as related to a series of projects scheduled for summer, 2008, at the various rates and fees listed on the attached. (Attachment VIII)
7. The closeout of the Summit Contract, Change Order #00045, representing the final settlement with Summit Construction, closing out all disputed items regarding scope of work performed for the \$22M bond project. (Attachment IX)
8. The closeout of the NRB Modular Building Systems Contract, Change Order #00009, representing the final settlement with NRB, closing out all financial

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9. disputed items regarding scope of work performed for the \$22M bond project. (Attachment X)
10. The recommendation to award a one-year contract for electrical services to Mecca Electric of Rye, Inc. (Attachment XI)
11. The Treasurer's Report for the period ending November 30, 2007. (Attachment XIIa)
12. Budget Transfer Schedules 5 & 6 for the month of November, 2007 (Attachment XIIb)
13. Warrants #22, 23, 24, and 25 for the month of November, 2008. (Attachment XIIc)
14. Budget Transfer #10 in the amount of \$7,100.00 to cover the cost of the middle and high school capacity and use analysis, transferred from the District Wide Clerical Substitute code. (Attachment XIII)

Action – Personnel

1. The tenure recommendation of Courtney Albaum as an Elementary Teacher for which she holds New York State Professional Certification in Childhood Education 1-6, effective February 29, 2008.
2. The Appointment of Conrad Power as a Leave Replacement Science Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School for which he holds Permanent New York Certification in Biology, General Science 7-12, 1.0 FTE, MA +60 Step 15, of the 2007-2008 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement, pro-rated, plus 30-year Longevity payment, pro-rated, effective January 3, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
3. The request of Rita Pisano for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as a Music Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective February 15, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
4. The Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence of Mary Georgiadis from her position as a Math Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective December 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
5. The correction of the Appointment for Extra Pay for Extra Work of Pat DeRosa to Index Code 0.05500.
6. The Appointments for the following Extra Pay for Extra Work:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Index</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Andrew Raynor/ Stephen Yankou	Midland	Spec. Perf.-Dir.	0.02750	0	\$ 1,391*
Andrew Raynor	Midland	Spec. Perf/Set Const.	0.00880	0	\$ 445*
Stephen Yankou	Midland	Spec. Perf.-Lighting	0.00880	0	\$ 445*
Andrew Raynor	Midland	Spec. Perf.-Choreog.	0.01750	0	\$ 885*
Stephen Yankou	Midland	Spec. Perf.-Accomp.	0.01750	0	\$ 885*

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7. The Appointment of Extra Pay for Extra Work, effective January 2, 2008 – June 30, 2008 of Michael Carey, Middle School Ecology Club, Index 0.03000, Step 0, \$910.80 pending contract settlement.
8. Appointments for GLIT Facilitators (Grade Level Instructional Facilitators) effective January 2, 2008 – June 30, 2008:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Christiana Tauss	Milton	1	\$400
Allison Pray	Milton	4	\$400

Action – Special Education

1. The Appointment to the Committee on Special Education of the following Parent Representatives:

Mimi Bateman 22 Byrd Street Rye, NY 10580	Karyn Hirsch-Dash 17 Rockridge Road Rye, NY 10580	Judy Jackson 114 Grace Church St. Rye, NY 10580
Cathy Little 56 Manursing Way Rye, NY 10580	Julia McCartney 450 Park Avenue Rye, NY 10580	Carol Meyers 14 Preston Street Rye, NY 10580
Sandy Meyers- Roberts 1 Ralston Street Rye, NY 10580	Rhonda Papert 4 Ellis Court Rye, NY 10580	Gayle Regan 50 Cowles Avenue Rye, NY 10580
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of October 1, 2007 for Student ID#902; from its meeting of October 26, 2007 for Student ID#789; from its meetings of December 6, 2007 for Students ID#873 and 788; from its meeting of December 20 for Student ID#719.
3. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of November 2, 2007 for Student ID#911366; from its meeting of November 18, 2007 for Student ID#671; from its meeting of November 19, 2007 for Student ID#820; from its meeting of November 21, 2007 for Student ID#908; from its meeting of November 26, 2007 for Student ID#911863; from its meetings of December 3, 2007, for Students ID#802 and 970DOL; from its meetings of December 5, 2007 for Students ID#885 and 912063; from its meetings of December 7, 2007 for Students ID#911670 and 911804; from its meeting of December 14, 2007 for Student ID#402; and from its meetings of December 18, 2007 for Students ID#139, 162 and 493.

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine thanked the PTO's and school families for arranging, housing, and enabling the performance of the Kotuku Choir from New Zealand. He noted that the choir performed songs and dances from Samoan, English and Maori cultures, and noted that the choir would perform for middle school students in the high school Performing Arts Center, at 8:44 and again at 10:12 the following day if Board members had time to attend..

Dr. Shine announced that the District had several students selected for the All-County elementary and intermediate band and orchestra and that they would perform March 15 at SUNY Purchase. He said that the students who will be representing Rye are Alex Raynor, Leo Neuringer; Meredith Tibbals, Amelia Kaufteil, Kousuke Makita, and Emily Toppo. He said that students for the intermediate band had not yet been selected.

County legislator, Judy Meyers, will be sworn in for her next term of office at Milton School, Dr.Shine reported.He said that the swearing-in ceremony would be Thursday, Jan. 17 at 11:00 am., that Rye Judge Peter Lane would officiate, and that fourth and fifth graders, who are studying government, would attend. He noted that Ms. Meyers would then participate in a question and answer session with the students.

Dr. Shine then offered a reminder that the Rye High School Musical Revue would be performed January 18th and 19th and said that he hoped the Board members would have the opportunity to participate.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Communications Committee Report

Ms. Egan reported on the work of the Communications Committee after reviewing the charge to the committee. She reported that the Committee had completed a brief review of all print materials from the District, that each piece was viewed as important, and that the Committee did not feel this was an area to try new things. She reported on other venues used for communications from the District, including the newspapers and public access channel on television, and said that the recommendation from the Committee was one that concentrated on the District web site as a 21st century tool for communication. Ms. Egan shared the recommendation to sign a contract with Schoolfusion, a comprehensive web design and host solution.

Members of the Board expressed support for going forward with this plan. Individual Board members requested certain steps, including the production of an implementation plan and basic protections for the District in the contract.

Mr. Culyer called a break at 9:12 PM to enable preparation for the next Presentation/Discussion item.

2008-2017 Enrollment Projections

At 9:20 PM Dr. Shine presented an overview of enrollment projections and actual
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Enrollment from 1998 to the current school year, (Attachment XIV), noting that their accuracy provided a confidence base for projections looking forward that showed that the greatest increase, through 2017-2018, was forecast to be in the middle and high schools.

Dr. Shine said that the goal was to accommodate that increase within the existing footprint of the schools, and said one possibility to enable achieving this would be to return the sixth grade to the elementary schools in the future.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS

Mr. Zahm said he had read two interesting articles, one about the audit in White Plains, and one on Governor Spitzer's proposal to cap property taxes. He said he had written a letter opposing this and suggested that others also reach out to government representatives if they believe that good education has a cost.

Mr. Fox said that it was the start of the budget season in Albany and determinations about state aid, noting that Westchester County receives little state aid, with Rye receiving roughly 5% of its budget in state aid, the lowest percentage of any county in the state. He suggested that now was the time to call the Governor, Assemblyman, State Senator, and others, and provided information for contacting those people.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 9:50 PM to adjourn into executive session to discuss negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and litigation strategy.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:25 PM to reconvene in public and immediately adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari