

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
March 11, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:10 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

* Arrived 7:28 PM

** Arrived 8:40 PM; Departed 10:05 PM

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously, (5-0) the Board adjourned immediately into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law, and litigation strategy.

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 8:08 PM to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and introduced Dr. Cohen who spoke about several curriculum and instruction agenda items and introduced Mr. Patrick DeRosa and Dr. Jaime Zung who provided a presentation on ways that SmartBOARDS are used in science classrooms and described ways that SmartBOARDS enhance instruction, problem-solving, information-gathering, and help students understand concepts.

Mr. Culyer thanked Mr. DeRosa and Dr. Zung and announced that the Board would deviate from the agenda to permit the students present to discuss proposed changes to Board Policy 5280, Interscholastic Athletics, to address the Board at that time.

Stephanie McGowan, Junior Class President, Juliana Kennedy, athlete, and Casey Heil, Junior Class Officer, asked the Board to consider not only approving the suggested changes to the policy to permit juniors as well as seniors to opt out of physical education

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class when they were on a varsity team, but to do so immediately so it would go into effect for the last quarter of this school year.

Mr. Nathan suggested that the Board move the policy up on the agenda to discuss it among Board members while the students were still present. A majority of the Board said they were willing to support Mr. Nathan's suggestion and Board members expressed opinions on the policy.

Dr. Rooney addressed the Board on this topic asking that the Board approve it for a seasonal opt-out, not a quarterly opt-out, and that it be expanded to cover more than one athletic season, for the athletes.

Linda Bonaventura, who said she was speaking on behalf of the Rye High School PTO, said the PTO and Excellence Team were in full support of this request and also would like to see the revised policy in place for the spring athletic season.

Catherine Pacos stated that she was concerned about a statement that physical education was not as important as any other curriculum area.

Dr. Shine said his office would review all suggestions and ensure that the proposed policy was aligned with state requirements and return the policy for Board approval at the meeting of March 25.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Culyer announced that the Board would return to its planned agenda and called for the hearing of the public on non-agenda items.

William Schrammel, technology teacher and Chief Negotiator for the Rye Teachers Association, said that it had been suggested that the negotiating team was not in touch with the membership in stating that the membership would not accept Board contract terms, so he went to the membership and put the positions before them. He then read a number of responses from members of the RTA that supported the negotiating team's position that the membership would not accept Board contract terms.

John Borchert, Rye Middle School science teacher and RTA member, read a letter to the Board from a group of teachers who, he said, have a unique perspective, as Rye teachers who were also educated in the Rye City School District. On behalf of the membership, this group asked the Board to please offer a fair contract.

Mr. Culyer responded to Mr. Schrammel and Mr. Borchert by saying that the Board understood that the RTA had made it a priority to visit with them each month to let the Board know of their continuing concern for a contract agreement. He thanked the members of the RTA for returning to negotiations and said further meetings were scheduled for March 17 and March 19, with a meeting with a fact finder scheduled for March 25. He said the goal of the Board is to slow the growth of the budget and related increases in taxes and that the RTA's help was needed to accomplish that goal.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer announced that Action – General Item 1, Minutes of the Meeting

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of the Board of February 26, 2008 and Action—General Item 3, Adoption of High School Studio Art Curriculum; and Action-Fiscal Items 2, Approval of Rye High School Girls Golf Team; 3, Architectural Fees for a Middle School/High School Feasibility Study to Fuller and D;Angelo, PC; and 9, Budget Transfer #17, would be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Action – General

1. The gift from the Milton PTO of a donation of a mural in memory of Ryan Adamson at a cost of \$750.00. (Attachment I)
2. The gift from an anonymous donor in the amount of \$10,000.00 to the Burke Family Scholarship for the Rye City School District. (Attachment II)
3. The gift of the Rye High School Parents' Organization in the amount of \$2,100.00 to partially cover the cost of the Kaplan SAT prep course. (Attachment III)
4. The gift of the Rye High School Parents' Organization of two African drums and one marching drum to the Music Department, at a value of \$900.00, in memory of Ryan Adamson. (Attachment IVa)
5. The gift of the Rye High School Parents' Organization of one potter's wheel at a value of \$1,200.00.
6. The gift of the Young Men's Christian Association, 21 Locust Avenue, Rye, New York, of an Activate America grant to Midland School in the amount of \$1,000.00 to promote and instill fitness habits in students. (Attachment IVb)
7. The adoption of the Accume Partners Human Resources/Payroll Audit, with a direction to the administration to implement the corrective action plan, attached. (Attachment V)

Action - Fiscal

1. A contract with the Greenburgh Central School District No. 7 for Health and Welfare services for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$693.64.00. (Attachment VI)
2. The Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 31, 2008. (Attachment VII)
3. Budget Transfer Schedules for the month of January 31, 2008. (Attachment VIII)
4. Warrants 29, 30 and 31 for the month of January, 2008. (Attachment IX)
5. Budget Transfer #15 in the amount of \$21,700.00 to cover the cost of tuition for a special education student placed at the Center for Discovery residential program from November 2007 to June 2008, with funds transferred from Public Tuition. (Attachment X)

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6. Budget Transfer #16 in the amount of \$37,000.00 to cover the cost of Midland School stage lighting with funds transferred from Middle School Asbestos Removal, High School/Middle School Fuel Oil, and Milton School Fuel Oil. (Attachment XI)

Action – Personnel

1. The Resignation due to Retirement of Gail Pullman from her position as a Library Media Specialist, assigned to Osborn School, effective June 30, 2008.
2. The Resignation of Stephanie Branciforte from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective June 30, 2008.
3. The Resignation of Michele Irvine from her position as a French Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective June 30, 2008.
4. The request by Kelly Finn for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an English Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective on or about her estimated due date of June 14, 2008 through the end of the 1st Semester of the 2008/2009 School Year.
5. The request by Marianne DiSalvo for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Milton School, effective on or about her estimated due date of June 10, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
6. The request by Stacey Beitler for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
7. The request by Alisha Miller for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
8. The request by Alison Gordon for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
9. The request by Katherine Hoffmann for an unpaid Personal Leave of Absence from position as an ELL Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
10. The request by Sylvia Maffei for an unpaid Personal Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Milton School, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
11. The request by Jessica Burden Roiné for an unpaid Personal Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
12. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Robin Shainberg as a 2nd Grade Teacher,

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- assigned to Milton School, for which she holds an Initial Certification in Childhood Education 1-6, assigned to Milton School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1, (pro rated) of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective March 10, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
13. The Appointment of Elizabeth Antinozzi as a Special Education Teaching Assistant 0.9 FTE, assigned to Rye High School, who holds a New York State Teaching Assistant Level I Certification, Step 1 of the 2007/08 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Schedule, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective February 4, 2008.
 14. The following per diem substitute teachers to be used only on as needed basis for the 2007-2008 School Year at the rate of pay is \$100.00 per day: Barbara Berte, effective March 6, 2008; Kendall Ransey, effective March 6, 2008.
 15. The Appointment of Paul Blank to a 6th period math assignment, one period per day, second semester only, at 5% of base contract salary.
 16. The Appointment of the following Extra Pay for Extra Work: Charles Carman, Rye Middle School, Assistant to Modified Program, Track & Field, Index 0.05500, Step 3.
 17. The Resignation of Narcisa Urgiles from his position as a Food Service Worker, effective at the close of business March 14, 2008.
 18. The Resignation of Norman Cicelsky from his position as Traffic Control Monitor, effective at the close of business February 28, 2008.
 19. The Appointment of Reuben Restrepo as a Cleaner, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty two weeks, assigned to Rye High School at Step 1, pro-rated), plus the night differential (pro-rated) effective March 3, 2008.
 20. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Elisa Groglio 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 Milton School, Step 1 of the 2007/08 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective February 26, 2008 – June 25, 2008.
 21. The Appointment of Joanne Santoro as a Short Term Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aide at \$11.80 per hour, assigned to Midland School, effective March 7, 2008 until the conclusion of her assignment.
 22. Frank Stanley as a per diem substitute teacher aide to be used only on as needed basis for the School Year July 1, 2007 – June 24, 2008, at Salary Step 1 of the Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract for the 2007-2008 school year, regular and special education rates of pay.
 23. Beth La Bella as a per diem substitute secretarial clerical workers to be used only on as needed basis effective School Year July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008; rate of pay dependent upon civil service title of position at Step 1 of the Secretarial Clerical School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Contract.

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- 24, The Appointment of Simon Ross as a Per Diem Substitute Traffic Control Monitor on an as needed basis at the rate of \$30.00/hr., effective March 3, 2008 – June 30, 2008.

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of December 5, 2007 for Student ID#789; from its meeting of December 7, 2008 for Student ID#821; and from its meeting of February 27, 2008 for Student ID#719.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of January 10, 2008 for Student ID#911886; from its meeting of January 24, 2008 for Student ID#713; from its meetings of January 25, 2008 for Students ID#105 and 945; from its meetings of January 29, 2008 for Students ID#911666; 911694 and 946; from its meeting of January 31, 2008 for Student ID#912094; from its meeting of February 4, 2008 for Student ID#911947; from its meeting of February 6, 2008 for Student ID#200; from its meetings of February 13, 2008 for Students ID#738 and 600; and from its meeting of March 4, 2008 for Student ID#911598.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine reported on the installation of the protective tarp at the turf field at John Nugent Stadium in anticipation of potential flooding, expressing thanks to all those who assisted: the varsity and junior varsity football teams, members of both the boys and girls varsity and junior varsity lacrosse teams, Rye High School and Rye Middle School custodians, several members of the boys varsity soccer team, approximately 20 Rye Middle School students, and Rob Castagna, Brian Dooley, Dino Garr, Mike Bruno, Steve Freer, and Scott Dooley.

Dr. Shine reported that the Rye Middle School student who had been hit by a car the day before was being well taken care of and that a full recovery is expected. He noted that Rye Police Commissioner William Connors had sent a letter to the school community that also had been placed on the District web site. He mentioned that pedestrian safety has been a topic in the forefront of discussion in the community, noting that Mr. Zahm and Mr. Mack Cunningham of the Rye City Council had co-chaired the Trailways Committee that was part of an overall study of improving traffic safety conditions.

Dr. Shine announced that the My Soldier Club at Rye High School was sponsoring an assembly featuring Bob and Lee Woodruff who would talk about what life is like for injured service members and their families on March 18th at 9:30 AM. And that fourth and fifth graders at all three elementary schools would be visited by author, Peter Lourie in support of their studies of New York State history and geography.

Dr. Shine reminded those present that schools and offices would be closed on March 21 and 24.

Mr. Culyer listed the gifts that had been accepted by the Board.

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ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried 5-0-1 with Mr. Fox, who was not present at the meeting of February 26, 2008 abstaining (Ms. Egan had left the table at the time of the vote) it was voted to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2008 meeting of the Board of Education.

Studio Art Curriculum

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the Studio Art Curriculum for use at Rye High School. (Attachment XII)

Girls Golf Team

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the recommendation for the addition of Girls Golf to the Rye High School spring 2008 athletic season and authorize \$9,155.00 for this team, with the amount amended from the recommended \$9,655.00. (Attachment XIII)

Budget Transfer #17

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve Budget Transfer #17 in the amount of \$54,000.00 to cover the cost of additional high school textbooks and program funds, to be reallocated to appropriate budget codes, with \$3,100.00 of that amount to go directly to the Guidance Department to compensate for scholarships given for the Kaplan SAT course. (Attachment XIV)

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**K-5 Math Curriculum**

Dr. Cohen introduced Ms. Peggy Gelman who discussed the K-5 math continuum of skills, noting that the document defining the continuum would be available on the District web site.

Ms. Slack said she was pleased to be a member of the math committee and that Ms. Gelman was a great asset.

Mr. Fox thanked all the members of the math committee.

Mr. Cady thanked all the members of the math committee and commended Mr. Fox.

Mr. Nathan thanked Mr. Fox and Mr. Zahm for being relentless in pursuing a study of the math curriculum.

Mr. Zahm thanked Ms. Gelman for all her work.

Sheri DeGraw, Midland PTO Co-President, suggested that the Board communicate what the work of the committee had been and stated that she hoped that the document would be available to parents.

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Technology Plan

Dr. Cohen introduced Ms. Carole Andreasen who reviewed the 2008-2011 Technology and the budget components of the plan.

Mr. Culyer thanked Ms. Andreasen for her report, and the members of the community who had participated as members of the Technology Committee.

Mr. Zahm thanked the committee members, specifically community members Mr. Thomas Chin, Ms. Debbie Porterfield, and Bernie Chen.

Mr. Fox thanked Mr. Zahm for his vision for the technology plan.

Dr. Shine said that he and Ms. Ryan would work on the budget components of the plan as part of the overall 2008-2009 budget.

Catherine Pacos, Rye Middle School PO Co-President, in response to the hesitancy of some Board members to accept a recommendation for additional technology in the classroom, suggested that they visit classrooms so it would be clear to them how technology is integrated in the curriculum and is beneficial to learning.

Bertrand De Frondeville urged Ms. Andreasen to follow the suggestion that other instructional tools could be eliminated from the budget if, indeed, SmartBOARDS could replace those tools.

High School Staffing

Dr. Rooney presented a report on high school staffing as projected for the 2008-2009 school year. Dr. Shine said that he felt Dr. Rooney did an extraordinary job scheduling classes and staffing creatively, and in response to a suggestion that there be a cut-off for class changes, explained that well into the summer, students moved away, and new students enrolled, requiring the kind of flexibility that Dr. Rooney applies to arranging schedules and staffing to meet student need.

Bertrand De Frondeville, resident, said that a report he had showed under-enrolled classes. Dr. Shine responded that he was in possession of a work-in-progress enrollment/scheduling/ staffing report from February.

Mr. Culyer thanked Dr. Rooney for his detailed and very clear report.

Linda Bonaventura, Rye High School PO Board Liaison, expressed thanks to Dr. Rooney and said she and the high school community very much appreciate what Dr. Rooney goes through to create a schedule that meets the needs of all students, and said she hoped that the Board would support the schedule and the teachers, adding that the quality of the staff at Rye High School was wonderful

Mr. Culyer announced that the Report from the Facilities Committee and Board discussion of recommended policies would both be postponed to another meeting.

ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDAArchitectural Fees for Middle School/High School Feasibility Study

Mr. Fox moved, with the stipulation that a subsequent contract be prepared with

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construction counsel, and Mr. Zahm seconded the motion, to approve the recommendation of the Facilities Committee to hire an architect to develop cost estimates for several possible projects, with the recommended firm Fuller and D'Angelo P.C., at a cost of \$12,700.00. The motion carried 6-0.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS

Mr. Zahm invited the Board to Osborn School's fifth grade musical, "Dr. Seuss is on the Loose," noting that it was an excellent production.

Mr. Culyer said that the high school production of Li'l Abner was an excellent production.

Mr. Zahm said he would like to make the point that there needs to be a Board discussion on ways to fund facilities work and that he felt that this discussion should take place as part of the current budget/planning cycle.

Mr. Culyer announced that he would not run for re-election on May 20th. He said he had enjoyed his 12 years on the Board, but with the end of this six-year's service, believing in term limits, he would not run again.

Mr. Fox said that he wanted to offer the first of what he was sure would be many thank-you's to Mr. Culyer for his service, stating that he appreciated everything that Mr. Culyer had done, and that there was no finer person nor a person more concerned about the children of the community than Mr. Culyer. He then announced that he would be a candidate for re-election and reviewed what he felt had been the Board's accomplishments over the past three years and expressed his hope that the voters would give him the opportunity to continue contributing to these initiatives.

Mr. Culyer said that he wanted to remind everyone that the budget vote and Board of Education candidate election would take place May 20, with the polling place, the Rye Middle School gymnasium, open from 7 AM to 9 PM, and that packets of information for candidates were available at the administration. He said he hoped qualified candidates would come forward to run for election to serve on the Board.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 12:36 AM to adjourn into executive session to discuss the employment history of current and prospective employees, negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law, and litigation strategy.

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 1:00 AM to reconvene in public and immediately adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk