

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
March 25, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:07 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
Mr. Robert Zahm

Excused

Ms. Laura Slack

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

On a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously, (6-0) 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. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 8:17 PM to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and introduced Dr. Cohen who reviewed the elementary school Spanish language program, noting that it was the first step in meeting one of the District's curriculum goals and that the hope was to add second grade instruction to first and fifth grade instruction, begun this year. Dr. Cohen introduced teachers, Lauren Gobbo and Reina McGoldrick. Ms. Gobbo and Ms. McGoldrick introduced fifth graders from every class in all three elementary schools who performed a skit, in Spanish, for the Board.

Mr. Culyer thanked Ms. Gobbo and Ms. McGoldrick and the students for their demonstration of what they have learned in class this year.

Mr. Culyer introduced The Honorable George Latimer, Assemblyman, 91st District, who reviewed his efforts to reach out to the Governor and find others who also would reach out to request review of announced plans to cut state aid to the Rye City School District. Mr. Culyer thanked Mr. Latimer for his time and his efforts on behalf of the community and the District.

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PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

Dr. Shine reviewed budget development and efforts to reduce the budget to budget increase. He presented the new budget to budget increase, lowered subsequent to the last meeting of the Board, at 5.2%.

Terry deBartolo, parent, spoke on behalf of the need for another guidance counselor in the Rye High School Guidance Department.

Suzanna Keith, PTO President, thanked the Board and administration for working so hard to draft a budget in the midst of a very tough economy, noting that she hoped more parents would get involved and vote on May 20th.

Bertrand De Frondeville, resident, said that manipulating the budget to budget increase would “come home to roost.” He thanked Dr. Shine for bringing to light the difficult economy and matters related to the tax base.

Mr. Zahm responded that he was concerned by an accusation of manipulations, noting that the Board was very open, held all budget discussions openly, and that there was no manipulation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer announced that Action-General Items 2, 3 and 4 and Action-Fiscal Items 1, 2 and 4 would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

Action – General

- The minutes of the meeting of the Board of March 11, 2008, as written.

Action – Fiscal

- The Bid Award for the District-Wide Grounds Maintenance and Fields Maintenance, April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009 to P.A. Ferraro, Brewster, New York, in the amount of \$27,000.00. (Attachment I)

Action – Personnel

1. The Resignation due to Retirement of Michele Garrison from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective July 1, 2008.
2. The request by Andra O’Brien for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
3. The request by Marcie Levine Jacobs for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective
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- September 1, 2008 through the end of the 1st Semester of the 2008/2009 School Year.
4. The Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence for Shannon Gold to be effective March 6, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
 5. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Maite Mero as a French Teacher for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in French 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, BA +15 Step 8, of the 2006/07 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$68,954*, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.
 6. The Amendment of the Leave Replacement Appointment of Robin Shainberg to be effective March 6, 2008 – June 20, 2008.
 7. The Appointment as a per diem substitute teacher to be used only on as needed basis for the 2007-2008 School Year of Nicole Guerra Candia effective March 25,, 2008.
 8. The Salary Adjustment Payment of Jennifer Hartnett from a Per Diem Substitute Teacher rate of \$100.00 per day to a Leave Replacement Special Education Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, who holds a New York State Initial Certification in Students with Disabilities Grades 1-6 and New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education Grades 1-6, MA Step 6, of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary, (pro rated), effective January 28, 2008 - June 30, 2008.
 9. The Salary Adjustment Payment of Adrienne Hecker from a Per Diem Substitute Teacher rate of \$100.00 per day to a Leave Replacement Art Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School, who holds a New York State Conditional Initial Certification in Visual Arts, MA Step 1, of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary (pro rated), effective January 30, 2008 – April 18, 2008 or sooner, depending upon the return of Brenda Schoonmaker.
 10. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Gerald Havlin as an Elementary Teacher for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification in Common Branches, assigned to Milton School, MA +60 Step 11, of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, (pro rated), effective March 11, 2008 - June 30, 2008.
 11. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Nicole Guerra Candia as an Elementary Teacher for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Pre Kindergarten-Grade 6, 1.0 FTE MA Step 5 of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule (prorated), effective April 28, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
 12. The Amendment of the Index of the Appointment of Extra Pay for Extra Work from 0.0550 to 0.0800 of Adrian Ciocoiu as Assistant to the Program, Winter Track.
 13. The Appointment of Extra Pay for Extra Work as Girls Golf Coach of Rich Savage, index 0.08000, Step 0.
 14. The Appointment of Extra Pay for Extra Work as timer, supervisor, ticket taker, chain crew, announcer, etc. at athletic events on an as needed basis throughout the year of Cari Caulway.
 15. The Resignation due to Retirement of Mariann Ferretti from her position as

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- Secretary to School Principal/Steno, assigned to Midland School effective at the close of business on July 11, 2008.
16. The Resignation due to Retirement of Audrey Kovacic from her position as Director of Health Care Services/School Nurse, effective July 1, 2008.
 17. The Appointment of Kevin Connolly as a School Monitor/Traffic Control, assigned to Osborn School, ½ hour per day, 5 days a week, effective March 19, 2008.
 18. The Appointment of Hassan Lachhab, Rye High School Food Service Worker, 6:45 a.m. – 2 p.m. effective March 13, 2008 with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks:

Action – Special Education

- The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of January 31, 2008 for Student ID#835; from its meeting of March 6, 2008 for Student ID# 994; and from its meetings of March 13, 2008 for Students ID#1001 and 992.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine shared Athletic Director, Rob Castagna's announcement that seven winter season teams had been named Scholar-Athlete Teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, as follows: Girls Basketball, Girls Gymnastics, Boys Ice Hockey, Boys Swimming, Boys Indoor Track, Girls Indoor Track, and Boys Wrestling. Dr. Shine noted that a team must maintain a grade point average of 90 to qualify for this designation.

Dr. Shine said that in other athletic news the Girls Winter Track Team was named League Champion, and the Ice Hockey Team was the Section I, Division II Champion Team and was awarded the Section I, Division II Howard Cosell Sportsmanship Award; and that Ice Hockey Coach, Jason Friesen had been named Division II League Coach of the Year. He added that Swim Team member, Ryan Feeley, was the New York State Champion and State record holder in the 500-yard freestyle, an achievement that broke the previous record set in 1994. Dr. Shine noted that Ryan Feely had been named All-American for his achievement in both the 200 yard freestyle and the 500 yard freestyle. Along with other honors achieved by the team, the swimmers took the top team total in Section I and finished 11th in the State.

Dr. Shine reminded those present that the Rye Middle School Musical, *Babes in Arms*, would be performed Friday and Saturday nights at 8 o'clock.

Mr. Culyer announced that the Board had accepted the retirement resignations of teacher, Michele Garrison, Midland secretary, Mariann Ferretti on the consent agenda, and had accepted the retirement resignation of media specialist, Gail Pullman at its last meeting.

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Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Jonathan Kraut, parent, asked the Board to table a vote on the K-5 math curriculum until he and anyone else interested had time to review it.

Dr. Shine clarified that it was the curriculum and standards that were on the agenda, that they had been available for quite some time, and that this was different than the textbook that was slated to be a presentation/discussion item on April 29th, scheduled for adoption May 19th. Dr. Shine said he would endeavor to have the curriculum/standards sent to Mr. Kraut. Mr. Fox further explained about exit criteria at each grade level, and reinforced Dr. Shine's comment that the curriculum and standards had been presented at the last meeting of the Board, subsequent to a year's study by the math committee and other interested parties.

Catherine Pacos, PO President, said she hoped comments about the math curriculum and standards were being received with an open mind and that she believed there had been a "glitch" in the communication of the curriculum and standards and that the community needed the opportunity to have it "more rudimentary."

Mr. Nathan responded that it was a living, breathing document that would change over the years.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDAK-5 Math Curriculum

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to adopt the revised K-5 Elementary Math Curriculum for use in the schools. (Attachment II)

Policy 5280 – Interscholastic Athletics and Physical Education Opt-Out

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve revisions to Policy 5280, Interscholastic Athletics and Physical Education Opt-Out, as further revised to include the addition of two commas, the deletion of one comma, and the insertion of the word "defined" to paragraph 1, line 7, between the words "upon" and "performance." (Attachment III)

Forensic Science Curriculum

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to table a decision on the SUPA Forensic Science Curriculum because of concerns about the cost associated with the course. Mr. Culyer thanked Mr. Fox for highlighting this and suggesting that the Board should consider it further.

Change Order, Vernon Hills Contracting Corporation

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the Change Order in the amount of \$24,000 for waterproofing the

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foundation of the building for the Midland School drainage project, an item not included in the original specifications for the project, with an amendment to add to the resolution and contract the District's standard reservation rights language. (Attachment IV)

Special Education Bus Transportation Bid

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve a special education bus transportation contract bid from TLC Transportation, Yonkers, NY, in the amount of \$3,402.00/month for transportation to the Summit School, Upper Nyack, New York for the 2007-2008 school year.

Contract with Harrison Central School District for Health and Related Services

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve a contract with Harrison Central School District for Student Health and Related Services for the 2007-2008 school year. (Attachment V)

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

Middle School Foreign Language

Dr. Cohen began this discussion by reviewing that in September, 2005 the middle school had introduced foreign language as a core academic subject on a five-day cycle rather than an every-other-day cycle. Dr. Edwards, middle school principal, and Ms. Lisa Jenner, foreign language department chair, reported that results showed that this was a positive direction, although concrete results would not be able to be measured until the same students reached 10th grade. Mr. Culyer thanked Dr. Edwards and Ms. Jenner for participating in this discussion with the Board.

2008-2009 School Year Budget

Ms. Ryan reviewed work that had been done since the last meeting and the reduction of the budget-to-budget increase to 5.2%, based on revenue projections. She noted that this represented an estimated tax rate increase of 5.83%.

Mr. Cady commended Dr. Shine and Ms. Ryan for their work, noting that given the enrollment growth and related costs he was quite impressed with this reduction in the increase.

Mr. Culyer thanked the administration for a great job and also thanked Dr. Shine and Ms. Ryan for retaining the addition of a second grade foreign language teacher within the reduced budget.

Charmian Neary, parent, Bertrand De Frondeville, resident, and Young Kim, parent, thanked the administration and Board for trying hard to reduce the budget.

Board of Education Policies

The Board discussed proposed new and revised policies and suggested some changes

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which Dr. Shine said would be reflected in those policies when they would be brought to the Board for approval at the April 15, 2008 meeting of the Board.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 11:58 PM 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 Ms. Egan, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 12:53 AM to reconvene in public and immediately adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk