

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
May 6, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:05 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

Excused

Mr. Robert Zahm

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

* Arrived 7:22 P.M.

** Arrived 7:47 P.M.

On a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Mr. Cady 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 Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:10 PM to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and called for the hearing of the public on the 2008-2009 budget.

Hearing of Public on 2008-2009 Adopted Budget

Diane DeBease, RHS PO Co-President, accompanied by Suzanne Davies, RHO PO Co-President, commended the Board on adopting a “no-frills, bare bones” budget. She thanked the community for its continued support of the schools.

Tena Schlingmann, Osborn PTO Co-President, accompanied by the other PTO Co-Presidents, said she was speaking for all the presidents in thanking the Board for its hard work and dedication to the community. She said they were in support of the budget and felt it was fiscally responsible and fair while also maintaining an excellent education. She said it was transparent and clear and thanked the Board for making sure that state aid to the District was not lost.

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Sheryl Appleyard, resident, thanked the Board for its commitment to the Spanish program at the elementary level.

Martin Gerson, resident, said the Board could cut the budget by \$2 million with “no sweat or problem at all.”

Charmian Neary, resident, said she appreciated that the revenues and expenditures were estimates and that she didn’t want a budget that was too tight. She thanked the Board for doing a great job in budget development.

Bertrand De Frondeville, resident, said the budget had taken a quantum degradation and that he wanted estimated revenue through the end of the year.

Enisa Sabovic said that she had moved to Rye because of the schools and she had no doubt in her mind that Rye was a better place for her child. She said the community was so fortunate to have the schools.

Bertrand De Frondeville said the cost per student in Connecticut and Massachusetts had little gain beyond a \$14,000 base line and that it would be fine for the District to use an “essential budget” or contingency budget to operate for the next year.

Sheri De Graw, Midland PTO Co-President, said she disagreed with Mr. De Frondeville, noting that the only difference between the adopted budget and a contingency budget was about \$700,000, less than 1% of the tax rate increase, and that it was important that the District determine how the budget is allocated and not positive to have the state do it as would be the case with a contingency budget.

Martin Gerson said he had made a recommendation and had made it focused and simple for the Board to understand.

Mr. Nathan said that Mr. Gerson and Mr. De Frondeville had so far used the word “margin” 24 times and the word “millions” as many times to suggest that the Board had huge margins, that it was irresponsible and that it was not a good budget. He said the facts were that it was in incredibly tight budget. He suggested that Mr. Gerson and Mr. De Frondeville had been given accurate information over and over again and yet chose to distort and misrepresent fact and make the same accusations of the Board year after year.

Gail Willis, resident, thanked the Board for all its hard work and for listening to parents and keeping class size small.

Terry DiBartolo thanked the Board for such a responsible budget and for listening to the community.

Mr. Culyer thanked everyone who spoke for their comments.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Jeffrey Feldman spoke regarding Kevin Kelly as field hockey coach saying that Mr. Kelly had waived his rights to privacy so the terms of his not being hired as field hockey coach could be discussed, since he had applied for the position. Mr. Feldman said it seemed Mr. Kelly should be considered for the position and that it would be beneficial to have a more open conversation. Mr. Culyer responded that since Mr. Kelly had filed a notice of claim on the district the Board was not at liberty to discuss the matter.

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CONSENT AGENDA

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

Action – General

1. The adoption of the Houghton-Mifflin K-5 Math Expressions teachers' guide and related student and classroom support materials. (Attachment I)
2. The appointment of those residents listed on the attached as election inspectors and machine custodians for the May 20, 2008 Board of Education election and budget vote. (Attachment II)

Action – Fiscal

1. Milton Change Order GC-005 for \$5,075.00. (Attachment III)
2. A contract with East Ramapo Central School District for 2007-2008 health and related services. (Attachment IV)
3. A contract with Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District for 2007-2008 health and related services. (Attachment V)

Action – Personnel

1. The retirement resignation of Helen Cannistraci from her position as a Muxic Teacher, assigned to Rye High School and Rye Middle School, effective July 1, 2008.
2. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Meredith Adams as Library Media Specialist, pending New York State Initial Certification in Library Media Specialist K-12, assigned to Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1, of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule (salary pending contract settlement) effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.
3. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Kevin Bergmann as an Elementary Teacher for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification in Pre K, K & Grades 1-6, assigned to Midland School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 9, of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, (salary pending contract settlement) effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
4. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Jennifer Skrilow as an Elementary Teacher for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education Grades 1-6, assigned to Milton School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 6, of the 2006/07 Teacher Salary Schedule, (salary pending contract settlement) effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
5. The Appointment of Kevin Brettauer as a per diem substitute teacher (secondary level) to be used only on as needed basis effective May 7, 2008 – June 23, 2008.
6. The Appointment of the Extra Pay for Extra Work assignment of Dino Garr, Rye High School, for weight lifting (fitness club) at Index 0.01000, Step 4, \$615.00.

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- 7. The Appointment of Anne Mottola as a per diem substitute teacher aide to be used only on as needed basis effective May 6, 2008 to June 24, 2008, Step 1 of Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract.

Action – Special Education

- 1. The recommendation of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of April 3, 2008 for Student ID#969.
- 2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of June 20, 2007 for Student ID#887; from its meeting of January 24, 2008 for Student ID#513; from its meeting of February 4, 2008 for Student ID#936DOL; from its meeting of February 28, 2008 for Student ID#978; from its meeting of March 11, 2008 for Student ID#974; from its meeting of March 26, 2008 for Student ID#976; from its meeting of April 4, 2008 for Student ID#999; from its meeting of april 7, 2008 for Student ID#927; and from its meeting of April 30, 2008 for Student ID#911550.
- 3. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of December 14, 2007 for Student ID#402; from its meeting of December 18, 2007 for Student ID#139; and from its meeting of March 26, 2008 for Student ID#911948.
- 4. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of April 10, 2007 for Student ID#801; from its meeting of May 1, 2007 for Student ID#427; from its meeting of May 11, 2007 for Student ID#912050; from its meeting of March 17, 2008 for Student ID#545; from its meeting of March 18, 2008 for Student ID#911584; from its meeting of March 20, 2008 for Student ID#569; from its meeting of March 27, 2008 for Student ID#774; from its meeting of March 31, 2008 for Student ID#162; and from its meeting of April 3, 2008 for Student ID#911710.

Mr. Culyer read the following resolution which would be sent to Mrs. Barbara Anderson and her family:

It is hereby resolved
 that the Rye City School District
 Board of Education
 regrets the recent passing of
 Mr. Allan Anderson
 Further, the Board recognizes Mr. Anderson’s
 long association with the Rye Public Schools,
 as a student at Milton and Rye High Schools,
 and expresses its appreciation for his
 professional dedication as architect
 to the Rye City School District
 Finally, the Board conveys its sincere sympathy
 to the Anderson family
 on behalf of the entire
 Rye City School District
 May 6, 2008
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Mr. Culyer announced that on the consent agenda was the retirement resignation of Helen Cannistraci, music teacher at Rye Middle and High Schools. He expressed thanks to Ms. Cannistraci for her years of service and wished her well in her retirement.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Summer Planning Session

Dr. Shine asked the Board members to work together to provide guidance as to the dates for their summer planning session. He noted that he had previously sent two communications to the Board and needed direction from the Board. After discussion it was suggested that two dates be selected with one held in reserve in case a third day was needed. Dr. Shine said he would check the calendar to confirm possibly Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, the last week of July, from 6 to 10 P.M. for the Board's planning session.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 9:20 PM to adjourn into executive session for a review of the employment history of current and prospective employees; discussion of negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law, and litigation strategy.

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:27 P.M. to adjourn the meeting.

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk