

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
June 3, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:00 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 7:56 PM

On a motion by Mr. Fox, 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. Cady, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:12 PM to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and called for the hearing of the public on items not on the agenda.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Frank Ferrara said he was a parent who tuitioned his two children in the schools and protested the 25% tuition increase. He said he and his wife paid more tuition every year than most taxpayers, that he felt the Board had handled the increase arrogantly, and that it was a capricious decision. He said he had two requests: First, that the Board reconsider and scale back, and second, that non-resident tuition families be given a roadmap as to tuition costs in the future.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer said that Action-Fiscal Items 1, 4, 5 and 6 would be removed from the
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Consent Agenda.

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

Action – General

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of May 20, 2008, as written.
2. The gift of used athletic equipment at a value of \$29,675 by Altheus Health and Sport. (Attachment I)
3. The gift of the Midland PTO in the amount of \$10,000 to offset the cost of the electrical lighting in the Midland School auditorium. (Attachment II)
4. The gift of \$6,000 for the Rye City School District Christopher D. Mello Scholarship Fund by The David E. Retik and Christopher D. Mello Charitable Foundation, Inc. with the donors of the gift Doug and Ellen Mello, Rye, New York. (Attachment III)
5. The gift of \$2,000 for the Rye City School District Jarrid Amico Scholarship Fund from Miscellaneous donors. (Attachment IV)

Action – Fiscal

1. A contract with the Katonah-Lewisboro Union Free School District for 2007-2008 Health Services. (Attachment V)
2. An agreement with Management Advisory Group of N.Y. Inc. for a fee of 15% of state aid monies reimbursed by New York State to the Rye City School District. (Attachment VI)

Action – Personnel

1. The request by Michele Haiken for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an English Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective on or about her estimated due date of October 20, 2008 – January 23, 2009.
2. The Appointment of Kerri Winderman as a Testing Coordinator, at the Curriculum Rate of \$40.00 per hour, pending contract settlement, effective June 4, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
3. The Appointment of Kerri Winderman as a Testing Coordinator at the Curriculum Rate of \$40.00 per hour, pending contract settlement, not to exceed 175 hours, effective July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
4. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Emily Fitzgerald as a Physical Education Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Physical Education, assigned to Rye City School District, 1.0 FTE, BA +15 Step 3 of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract settlement, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.
5. The Appointment of Leslie King as a Part Time Physical Education Teacher, pending New York State Certification in Physical Education, assigned to Rye Middle School, 0.6 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, pending contract

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settlement, (pro rated), effective September 1, 2008 to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

6. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Glorimar Pakiakakis as an Elementary Teacher-At-Large, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education Grades 106, assigned to Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, MA +30 Step 5 of the 2006/2007 Teacher salary Schedule, pending contract settlement, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
7. The Extra Pay for Extra Work assignment of Fred Illium as Midland Science Advisor, Index 0.03000, Step 0.
8. The appointment as a Summer School Teacher of Heather Castellani Dooley. effective July 7, 2008 – July 25, 2009.
9. The attached appointments for Special Education Summer School Positions, effective July 7, 2008 – August 15, 2008. (Attachment VII)
10. The Appointment of Hirantha Dissanayake as a per diem substitute teacher aide to be used only on as needed basis effective May 21, 2008 – June 24, 2008 at Special Education Salary Step 1 of the Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant.
11. The Appointment of Extra Pay for Extra Work for the 2008 Fall Season of Emily Fitzgerald, Rye High School Field Hockey, Index 0.1050, Step 2.

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of December 21, 2007 for Student ID#915; and from its meeting of March 18, 2008 for Student ID#835.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of March 12, 2008 for Student ID#984; from its meeting of April 1, 2008 for Student ID#955; from its meeting of April 3, 2008 for Student ID#400, from its meeting of April 8, 2008 for Student ID#983DOL; from its meeting of April 18, 2008 for Student ID#986; from its meeting of April 29, 2008 for Student ID#1008; and from its meeting of May 14, 2008 for Student ID#911790.
3. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meetings of March 17, 2008 for Students ID#911839 and 105; from its meeting of April 2, 2008 for Student ID#677; from its meeting of April 7, 2008 for Student ID#911888; and from its meeting of April 28, 2008 for Student ID#706.

Mr. Culyer noted that at the last meeting the Board had accepted the retirement resignation of Sandy Weissberg, and that they wished her well in her retirement.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine reported that Rye High School junior, Ryan Feeley, had qualified for Olympic Trials in the 1500 meter freestyle the previous week at the Berkeley Aquatic Club

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Memorial Day meet at Rutgers University with a time of 14:45:42, and that the qualifying time was 15:53:59. Dr. Shine said Ryan Feeley would go to Omaha, Nebraska for the Olympic Trails later in the month or early in July.

Dr. Shine noted that the Food Service Department was having a special celebration for grill cook, Rosa DeMarzo, who had been with the department for 20 years.

Rye High School head custodian, Angelo Morganti, would receive the Rye Rotary Club 2008 Vocational Service Award on Friday in recognition of Mr. Morganti's obvious dedication to his work and the Rye High School community.

In closing, Dr. Shine reminded Board members that the combined elementary band and orchestra concert would be held in the Rye High School Performing Arts Center the following evening at 7:30 PM.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

2008 College Placement

Patricia Taylor, Rye High School Assistant Principal, Guidance, presented a report on 2008 college placement results.

Following Board questions and answers, Mr. Bertrand De Frondeville asked what the non-U.S. colleges students were attending were. Ms. Taylor said colleges in Japan, and one in Dublin. Mr. De Frondeville said Advanced Placement Exams were losing credibility with colleges and that the International Baccalaureate Degree brings more credibility. Ms. Taylor responded that colleges appreciated the rigorous program required for the IB Degree.

Board Docs

Dr. Shine provided background on this topic that had been discussed previously by the Technology Committee. He said that as part of its charge, the Committee had reviewed relatively new programs which allow school districts to provide an electronic agenda via the internet with back-up exhibits. The Board discussed the feasibility of receiving all the documents they must review only electronically.

Typical Year-End Financial Transactions

Ms. Ryan said that there are various transfers recommended to the Board each year to address, including expenses in excess of available appropriations for tax certiorari refunds made for prior years; supportable increases to the Reserve for Tax Certioraris; and expenses in excess of available appropriations for legal payments related to lawsuits. She said that each year the administration projects the impact of the current year's operations on the General Fund's fund balance. She noted that based on conservative budget estimates, the result is usually a favorable increase to the fund balance, and that the fund balance estimate is also used when the Board considers approving the following year's tax levy. She provided a summary of the typical year-end transactions that take place in late June.

Update on Milton Gymnasium Construction Costs

Ms. Ryan said that in August 2007 the Board of Education awarded bids for the

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Milton Gym construction project. Based on available revenue projections and some value engineering anticipated, the project was thought to be approximately \$127,557 over budget. To address this projected shortfall, the District would shift some of the project soft costs (like insurance and testing) to the 2007-2008 General Fund. She then referenced an estimate that showed the amount of the potential shortfall to be closer to \$108,239 and said fortunately the project was proceeding smoothly and the building will be completed in July, a few weeks later than anticipated.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Non-Resident Tuition-Paying Students for 2008-2009

Dr. Shine said he was seeking approval for the admission of 10 non-resident students for the 2008-2009 school year, noting that there had been fourteen new applicants. He said of these, four were for the high school, five for the middle school, and five for the elementary grades. He said that with the exception of the middle school, principals indicated that there was space for the high school and elementary students.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried 6-1 with Mr. Fox voting no, the ten non-resident student admissions were approved for the 2008-2009 school year. (Attachment VIII)

Musical Instrument Rental Fees

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the non-refundable musical instrument rental fee for the 2008-2009 school year and thereafter of \$70 per instrument for each school year. (Attachment IX)

Network Service Agreement and Consulting Services Agreement with CCC Computer Center

These two items were tabled.

Communication Items

Mr. Culyer said that according to the Board's Bylaws, Board members interested in running for President and Vice President of the Board needed to declare their interest at this meeting.

Mr. Nathan said he would run for President. Mrs. Slack said she would run for Vice President. Ms. Egan said she would run for President. Mr. Fox said he would endorse Mr. Nathan and Ms. Slack but if either chose not to run he would accept a nomination for President or Vice President. Mr. Zahm said he would support Mr. Fox.

Mr. Zahm asked what the disposition of the subject of the Board pledging allegiance to the flag was. Mr. Culyer said the topic had been deferred to the Board's summer planning session.

Mr. Culyer said that the preceding week he was with Dr. Shine as he chaired the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents Scholastic Dinner. He noted that Dr. Shine had chaired the event and was the Council's outgoing president, noting that it was a great evening.

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Mr. Culyer said he had also represented the Board and attended, with Dr. Shine, the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association dinner that honored outgoing Executive Director, Janet Walker. He noted that Dr. Shine had spoken at this dinner and did a terrific job.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:37 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 Ms. Egan, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 1:40 AM Wednesday, June 4 to reconvene in public and immediately adjourn the meeting.

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk