

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
June 17, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:03 p.m. and the roll was called.

Present

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

Excused

Mr. George Cady

And Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Stephen Cohen, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Kathleen Ryan, Business Official
Ms. Young Kim, Board Member-Elect – Ms. Kim joined the Board in open session at 8:02 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Nathan seconded by Mr. Fox 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 Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:02 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and spoke about the Parents' Organization and PTO Presidents who were retiring from office, offering them the thanks of the Board and the community for their tireless efforts on behalf of the students and the schools of the District.

Mr. Culyer then called for the Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Jeanne Sinnot, resident, addressed the Board on her belief that Board members should salute the flag before their meetings.

Jen, Lindsay and Michael Wales, students, said they supported the teachers and everyone who worked in the schools. They expressed their belief that they knew better than anyone else how hard the teachers worked and that they were kind, and deserved a contract.

Laura Imaccaro, stated her belief that the teachers need a contract, that every teacher

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her daughter would have been in the room and she supported them. She said that while prices go up, one thing the community can count on is the teachers and education, and urged the Board to come to a contract agreement.

Kelly Sheridan, teacher, said she had worked in two other districts and knew that what was important was what teachers in Rye had, the ability to give the gift to succeed, a love of children, and respect, to the students.

Jaime Zung, head of the Rye Teachers' Association, listed the many extra things teachers do for the students, including supporting in this year alone 1,178 college applications with letters of recommendation, noting the countless hours teachers give.

William Schrammel, chief negotiator for the Rye Teachers' Association, spoke about additional support that teachers give, also without compensation, and the need for a fair contract settlement.

Mr. Culyer said that the Board had an obligation to the community as well as to the teachers and sought a fair agreement that supported both these commitments.

Ms. Sinnott and Ms. Immacro returned to the podium to discuss tenure.

John Borchert, teacher, explained that it was a common misconception that tenure was a job guarantee. He said it was not a guarantee, but that it does guarantee due process, and that its purpose was to protect teachers from being fired without due process.

Ms. Sinnott returned to the podium to state that she had been on the school board and had to negotiate teacher contracts and that she understood the process of tenure.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer announced that Action – General Item 5, Teacher Aides/Teaching Assistants Unit Memorandum of Agreement; and Action – Fiscal Items 1, 2, 6, 10, 11 and 12 would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

Action – General

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of May 27, 2008, as written.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of June 3, 2008, as written.
3. The minutes of the work session of the Board of June 5, 2008, as written.
4. The gift of the Niehaus Family in the amount of \$36,000.00 for the Niehaus Scholarship, awarded in increments of \$4,000 scholarships for 2006, 2007 and 2008 graduates. (Attachment I)
5. The gift of Christopher and Jeanne Russo in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the Ronald Sassone Scholarship. (Attachment II)
6. The gift of the Osborn PTO of those items listed on the attached, at a total value of \$12,587.34. (Attachment III)

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Action – Fiscal

1. A contract with Kimberly LaRue for the 2007-2008 school year for dance and creative movement/collaborative choreography sessions at Milton School at a total cost of \$2,000.00. (Attachment IV)
2. The Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2008. (Attachment Va)
3. The Budget Transfer Schedule for the month of April, 2008. (Attachment Vb)
4. Tax Warrants #40, 41 and 42 for the month of April, 2008. (Attachment Vc)
5. A contract with John A Coleman School for Home Instruction at \$100.00 per session for a maximum of 6.5 hours/week. (Attachment VI)

Action – Personnel

1. The resignation of Robert Sorensen as a Teaching Assistant, assigned to Rye High School, effective at the close of business June 25, 2008.
2. The request by Nichole Spinella Chiffriller for an unpaid Personal Leave of Absence from her position as an Art Teacher assigned to Rye High School, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
3. The contract extension and salary action for Mr. Steven Cohen, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, per the attached. (Attachment VII)
4. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Sarah K. Misenhimer as a Music Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Music, assigned to Rye High School and Rye Middle School, 1.0 FTE, BA Step 4, of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, salary pending contract settlement, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.
5. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Jennifer A. Creador as an English Teacher, pending New York State Transition C Certification in English, assigned to Rye Middle School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, salary pending contract settlement, (pro rated), effective September 1, 2008 – January 23, 2009.
6. The Three Year Probationary Appointment of Peter Thomas as a Social Studies Teacher for which he holds New York State Initial Certification in Social Studies 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, MA+45 Step 3 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, salary pending contract settlement, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.
7. The Appointment of Carole Andreasen as a Teacher on Special Assignment/Director of Technology, assigned to the Rye City School District, 1.0 FTE, MA +60 Step 15 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, plus Longevity Payment, plus Supervisory Ration (.20 of base salary), pending contract settlement, effective July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
8. The Appointment of Mary Gould as a Teacher on Special Assignment/.CPSE Chairperson, assigned to the Rye City School District, 1.0 FTE, MA +60 Step 15 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, plus Longevity Payment, pending contract settlement, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

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9. The Appointment of Catherine Sales as a Teacher on Special Assignment/0.4 FTE Special Education Teacher and 0.6 FTE CSE Chairperson, assigned to the Rye City School District, Ph.D. Step 15 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, plus Longevity Payment, pending contract settlement, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
10. The Appointment of Iris Praid as a Teacher on Special Assignment (Coordinator of Technology Curriculum and Instruction) assigned to the Rye City School District, 1.0 FTE MA +30 Step 5 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, plus Longevity Payment, pending contract settlement, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
11. The Appointment of Debra Fishman as a Teacher on Special Assignment Elementary Staff Developer, assigned to the Rye City School District, MA +60 Step 15 of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, Plus Longevity Payment, pending contract settlement, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
12. The Appointment of Peggy Gelman as a Teacher on Special Assignment/Elementary Staff Developer Mathematics assigned to the Rye City School District, MA +60 Step 15 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, plus Longevity Payment, pending contract settlement, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
13. The appointment of Kerri Winderman as a Teacher on Special Assignment/Elementary Staff Developer, .2 FTE, assigned to the Rye City School District, MA +15 Step 11 of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, plus Longevity Payment, pending contract settlement, for five months; and MA +15 Step 12 for five months, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
14. The Appointment Amendment for Sara Teimorzadeh, Extra Pay for Extra Work, Rye High School, Model UN, Index 0.07500, Step.
15. The Appointments of Loretta Calandruccio and Stacy Beitler as ELL Summer School Teachers, effective July 7, 2008 – July 25, 2008, at a stipend of \$3,058.83 each, pending contract settlement.
16. The termination of Santiago Sanchez from his position as a Food Service Worker due to job abandonment effective April 28, 2008.
17. The resignation of Ines Merino from her position as Food Service Worker effective May 12, 2008/
18. The resignation of Toni-Marie Gross from her position as Special Education Teacher Aide, assigned to Milton School, effective June 25, 2008.

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of January 10, 2008 for Student ID#954; from its meeting of March 6, 2008 for Student ID#997; from its meeting of March 19, 2008 for Student ID#943; from its meeting of April 3, 2008 for Student ID#1009; and from its meeting of April 10, 2008 for student ID#1015.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of January 24, 2008 for Student ID#950; from its meeting of March 10, 2008

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- for Student ID#989; from its meeting of March 27, 2008 for Student ID#981; from its meeting of May 1, 2008 for Student ID#719; and from its meeting of May 7, 2008 for Student ID#852.
3. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of April 7, 2008 for Student ID#927; from its meeting of April 9, 2008 for Student ID#1007; from its meeting of April 17, 2008 for Student ID#124; from its meeting of May 21, 2008 for Student ID#188; from its meeting of June 4, 2008 for Student ID#1004; and from its meeting of June 9, 2008 for Student ID#799.
 4. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of March 27, 2008 for Student ID#911447; from its meetings of March 28, 2008 for Students ID#615 and 443; from its meetings of March 31, 2008 for Students ID#912030 and 548; from its meeting of April 3, 2008 for Student ID#482; from its meetings of April 7, 2008 for Students ID#818 and 928; from its meetings of April 9, 2008 for Students ID#1007 and 297; from its meetings of April 15, 2008 for Students ID#692 and 794; from its meetings of April 17 for Students #911939 and 911804; from its meeting of April 28, 2008 for Student ID#804; from its meeting of May 1, 2008 for Student ID#911790; from its meetings of May 5, 2008 for Students ID#651, 399, 802, 912053, and 912049; from its meeting of May 7, 2008 for Student ID#764; from its meetings of May 9, 2008 for Students ID#745 and 617; from its meetings of May 14, 2008 for Students ID#961DOL and 960DOL; from its meeting of May 19, 2008 for Student ID#369; from its meeting of May 21, 2008 for Student ID#402; from its meeting of May 30, 2008 for Student ID#970DOL; and from its meeting of June 2, 2008 for Student ID#840.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine reported that Rye High School teacher, Sophie Kent, had been selected by the American Association of Teachers of French as Contest Administrator of the Year, 2008. He noted as well that music teacher, Helen Cannistraci, had been selected by Peter D. Kramer, reviewer for the Journal News, for being the recipient of his Director MVP Award. Dr. Shine also reported that the third annual Rye/Harrison Middle School Spelling Bee had occurred and that Michael Gilbert from Team N, 7th Grade at Rye Middle School, had won first place. He said that it had been the last full day of school for elementary students that day, and that the following day, Thursday, and Friday would be noon dismissal days, as would be Monday, the last day of school. He concluded by noting the celebrations of the successful conclusion of the school year with moving up ceremonies at the elementary and middle schools over the next several days, and the Rye High School Class of 2008 graduation ceremony on Saturday.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

2008-2009 Food Service Program Budget

John Rubbo, School Lunch Manager, presented the 2008-2009 Food Service Program
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Budget and Facilities and Technology Improvement Plan.

Sheri DeGraw, parent, spoke about the positive aspects of garden space at Midland School in support of Mr. Rubbo's plan to continue to find fresh foods for the Food Service program.

Projected Year-End Transfers and Tax Certiorari Reserve

Ms. Ryan reviewed projected year-end balances and transfer activity proposed for June 30, 2008, discussing projected results of operations, tax certiorari settlement refunds actually made for both the current and previous years, and the resulting impact on the General Fund's Fund Balance and the Tax Certiorari Reserve.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Memorandum of Agreement

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) the Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement with the Civil Service Employees Association – Teacher Aides/Teaching Assistant Unit, Local 800 and authorized the Superintendent of Schools to incorporate said memorandum of agreement into a more formal written agreement and further authorized the Superintendent of Schools to execute said formal written agreement. (Attachment VII)

Consulting Services Agreement with CCC Computer Center

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) the Board approved the Consulting Services Agreement with CCC Computer Center for Business Management Systems at an annual cost of \$98,325 for 2008-2009. (Attachment VIII)

Rochelle Group Consulting Contract

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to table this agenda item.

Sale of Bonds for Tax Certioraris

Mr. Fox moved and Ms. Egan seconded the motion to approve the resolution authorizing the sale of bonds for tax certioraris for 2008-20-09 in an amount not to exceed \$600,000.00.

Mr. Zahm moved to table the topic. There was no second to his motion.

The motion to approve passed 5-1 with Mr. Zahm voting no. (Attachment IX)

Budget Transfer #21

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve Budget Transfer #21 in the amount of \$17,300.00 to cover the cost of disconnecting and installing computer equipment from 324 Midland Avenue to 411 Theodore Fremd Avenue. (Attachment X)

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Refuse/Recycling Bid

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve the Refuse/Recycling Bid for the 2008-2009 school year to Suburban Carting Company in the amount of \$46,800.00. (Attachment XI)

Change Order P-001

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to approve Change Order P-001 for Mengler Mechanical, Inc. in the amount of \$4,211.00 for a flexible seismically rated pipe connection on the sprinkler main into the new gymnasium addition at Milton School as mandated by the New York State Education Department in order for a Certificate of Occupancy to be issued, as amended by Mr. Fox to include language to state that the Board intended to reserve all its contractual rights. (Attachment XII)

Communication Items

Mr. Culyer noted that Kendall Egan had earned 40 credits through the New York State School Boards Association.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:38 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 1:43 AM Wednesday, June 18 to reconvene in public and immediately adjourn the meeting.

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk