

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
November 13, 2007

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

* Departed 7:54 PM

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously, (7-0) the Board adjourned immediately into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees.

On a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 8:00 PM to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and called for the hearing of the public on non-agenda items.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Dr. Jaime Zung, President of the Rye Teachers Association and Association members, Ruthann Olsen, and Michelle McCumber, addressed the Board on behalf of the Rye Teachers Association, and Stephanie Gardiner, a parent, also spoke on behalf of Rye teachers. All four speakers talked about the difference Rye teachers make in the lives of their students and expressed their disappointment in the lack of the settlement of a fair and reasonable contract. Mr. Culyer responded that the Board had an obligation to do its best to serve both the taxpayers of Rye and the employees of the District and would continue to work toward achieving this goal, noting that the Board appreciated the high level of education provided the students of the schools, but also noting the Board's belief in the importance of balancing the needs of the community. Bertrand de Frondeville said he was speaking from the taxpayers point of view on the importance of holding costs down.

(continued)

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Action – General

1. The minutes of the October 9, 2007 meeting of the Board, as written.
2. The minutes of the October 23, 2007 meeting of the Board, as written.
3. The resolution to accept the gifts to Heard in Rye of \$2,000.00 from the Rye Middle School Parents Organization; of \$3,000.00 from the Rye High School Parents' Organization; and of \$2,000.00 from the Blind Brook Ridge Street PTA-18-318. (Attachment I)
4. The resolution to accept gifts from the Japanese Parents' Group of \$600.00 to Rye High School; \$600.00 to Rye Middle School; \$600.00 to the English Language Learner program; and \$400.00 to the Rye Middle School and Rye High School Media Center. (Attachment II)
5. The resolution to accept the gift from the Midland School PTO of \$4,840.00 to cover the cost of the Lincoln Center Institute. (Attachment III)
6. The Nominating Resolution nominating Kathleen A. Ryan, Business Official, for the position of board member for the NYCLASS cooperative investment program. (Attachment IV)
7. The application for the merger of the Girls Swimming Program with the Blind Brook-Rye UFSD. (Attachment V)

Action – Fiscal

1. A supplemental agreement with the New York Power Authority regarding certain supplemental terms and conditions governing the supply of electricity to the Rye City School District by the New York Power Authority under the Application for Service between the New York Power Authority and the Rye City School district dated August 26, 1994; effective as of the date that the supplemental agreement is fully executed by both parties, superceding and replacing all previous supplemental agreements between the Rye City School District and the New York Power Authority. (Attachment VI)
2. The Engineering and Consulting Agreement with Eberlin & Eberlin P.C. dated November 2007 for Phase I Midland Drainage Work. (Attachment VII)
3. A contract with Blythedale Children's Hospital for speech and language therapy, physical therapy and occupational therapy for the 2007-2008 school year commencing October 15, 2007 and terminating June 28, 2008. (Attachment VIII)
4. The Rye City School District Budget Development Calendar 2008-2009. (Attachment IX)
5. A contract with Thearacare School for occupational therapy services, physical

(continued)

- therapy services and special education teacher services for the 2007-2008 school year. (Attachment X)
6. A contract with Michael Limone for writing four drama curricula and presenting them to the Curriculum Council at their meeting on November 8, 2007, at the rate of \$6,500.00 including all expenses. (Attachment XI)
 7. A contract between Marienella Nelson and the Rye City School District for translation services from October 2, 2007 to June 30, 2008, to facilitate two different Cross-Cultural Conversation Groups for Parents at Midland School, at the rate of \$50/hour for a maximum of 90 hours (45 for each of the two groups) which includes prep time, for a total cost not to exceed \$4,500.00. (Attachment XII)
 8. A contract with Akiko Watanabe for translation services from October 25, 2007 to June 30, 2008 to provide above and beyond academic support to District Limited English Proficiency students in grades 3-12, at the rate of \$50/hour for a maximum of 400 hours, which includes prep time, for a total cost not to exceed \$20,000.00. (Attachment XIII)
 9. The Independent Auditor's Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007, as submitted. (Attachment XIV)
 10. The Treasurer's Report for the period ending September 30, 2007. (Attachment XVa)
 11. The Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31, 2007 (Attachment XVb)
 12. The Treasurer's Report for the period ending July 31, 2007. (Attachment XVc)
 13. Budget Transfers #5 – 9 for the 2007-2008 school year. (Attachment XVd)
 14. The Budget Transfer Schedule for the month of September, 2007. (Attachment XVe)
 15. Warrants #12 – 16. (Attachment XVf)

Action – Personnel

1. The resignation of Patrick Beckley as a Teaching Assistant, assigned to Rye High School, effective the close of business on October 19, 2007.
2. The request by Marcie H. Levine-Jacobs, for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, Effective January 28, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
3. The request by Andra O'Brien for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective January 28, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
4. The request by Yun Shim Kim for an unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as a Music Teacher, assigned to Midland, Milton and Osborn Schools, effective January 28, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
5. The request by Mary Georgiadis for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as a Math Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, on or about her

(continued)

- estimated due date of December 6, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
6. The request by Leslie Webb 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 January 2, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
 7. The request by Therese McDonough for a Child Care Leave of Absence as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Milton School, effective on or about her estimated due date of January 17, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
 8. The Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence for Kristen Madden-Crudden to be effective September 4, 2007 – November 27, 2007.
 9. The Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence for Tara Taddeo to be effective May 2, 2007 – January 14, 2008.
 10. The Salary Adjustment Payment of Stephen Yankou from a Per Diem Substitute Teacher rate of \$100.00 per day to a Leave Replacement Music Teacher, assigned to Midland School, who holds New York State Initial Certification in Music, BA Step 1, of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary, (prorated amount), effective September 4, 2007 – February 14, 2008.
 11. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Rita Senior, as a Music Teacher for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Music, New York State Permanent Certification in Childhood Education N-6, New York State Permanent Certification in School Administrator/Supervisor and New York State Permanent Certification in School District Administrator, assigned to Rye City School District, 1.0 FTE, MA +60 Step 11, of the 2006/07 Teacher Salary Schedule (prorated) effective January 28, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
 12. The 0.9 FTE Appointment of Robert Sorensen as a Teaching Assistant, assigned to Rye High School, at \$17.87 per hour, Step 1 of the 2007/08 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective November 5, 2007.
 13. The Appointment of Peter Vavasour as a Per diem Substitute Teacher to be used on an as needed basis at \$100.00 for a full day and/or \$15.00 per hour for a partial day, effective November 7, 2007.
 14. The correction for the Appointments for 6th Assignment or Additional Pay Beyond Annual Salary per the attached. (Attachment XVI)
 15. The Appointments for Extra Pay for Extra Work per the attached. (Attachment XVII)
 16. The Winter Sports Coaching Recommendations per the attached. (Attachment XVIII)
 17. The Resignation of Virginia Cury as a Food Service Worker, effective at the close of business on October 19, 2007.
 18. The Resignation of Frank Peduto as a Teacher Aide, assigned to Midland School, effective at the close of business on October 26, 2007.
 19. The Resignation of Frank Peduto as a School Monitor/Traffic Control, assigned to Midland School, effective at the close of business on October 26, 2007.

(continued)

20. The Decrease of Assignment of Lori Cardino as a Teacher Aide, assigned to Osborn School, effective November 5, 2007 to a maximum of 16.25 hours per week.
21. The Appointment of Mary Jane Anderson to Milton School Food Service, 9:45 AM – 1:30 PM, \$10.50/hour, effective September 5, 2007.
22. The Appointment of Lovely Gonzalvo to Rye Middle School Food Service, 8:30 AM – 1:45 PM, \$10/hour, effective October 24, 2007.
23. The Appointment of Donna Brigante to Rye Middle School Food Service, 8:30 AM – 1:45 PM, \$10.25/hour, effective October 24, 2007.
24. The Appointment of Peter Vavasour as a Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aide to be used on an as needed basis Step 1 of the 2007/08 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit, effective November 7, 2007.
25. The Appointment of Helaina Winnicki as a Per Diem Substitute Special Education Teacher Aide, to be used on an as needed basis, Step 1 of the 2007/08 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, effective October 22, 2007.
26. The Appointment of Peter Hauck as a Per Diem Substitute Special Education Teacher Aide, to be used on an as needed basis, Step 1 of the 2007/08 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, effective October 25, 2007.
27. The Appointment of Domingo Gonzalez as a Per Diem Substitute Special Education Teacher Aide, to be used on an as needed basis, Step 1 of the 2007/08 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, effective November 7, 2007.
28. The Appointment of Peter Vavasour as a Substitute School Montior/Traffic Control, at \$30.00/hr. 2 hours a day, effective November 7, 2007
29. The Appointment of Kate Tiedeman as a Per Diem Substitute Nurse to be used on an as need basis, at \$35.64 per hour, Step 1 of the 2007/08 Secretarial Clerical School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Contract, effective for School Year September 4, 2007 – June 24, 2008.
30. The Appointment of Mary White as a Per Diem Substitute Nurse to be used on an as need basis, at \$35.64 per hour, Step 1 of the 2007/08 Secretarial Clerical School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Contract, effective for School Year October 23, 2007 – June 24, 2008.
31. The Appointment of Anthony Rende as a Teacher Aide, assigned to Milton School, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty two weeks at Step 1 of the 2007/08Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 2.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective October 23, 2007.
32. The Appointment of Pasqualina D’Onofrio as a Teacher Aide, assigned to Osborn School, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty two weeks, Step 1 of the 2007/08Teacher Aide/Teaching

(continued)

Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.25 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective October 23, 2007.

33. The Appointment of Peter Vavasour as a Teacher Aide, assigned to Midland School, at Step 1 of the 2007/08 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 2.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective November 13, 2007.
34. The Appointment of Jane Fitzpatrick as a Teacher Aide, assigned to Osborn School, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty two weeks at Step 1 of the 2007/2008 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule not to exceed 16.25 hours per week, effective November 7, 2007.
35. The Appointment of the Peter Vavasour as a School Monitor/Traffic Control, assigned to Midland School at \$30.00/hr. 2 hours a day, 5 days a week, effective November 13, 2007.
36. Payment to Edward DiNunzio, as a Safety & Security Officer, for 41 hours worked at a rate of \$23.84 per hour, total of \$977.44, for work performed during Summer 2007.
37. The Resignation of, with Stipulation Agreement, Employee #55.

Action – Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meetings of September 10, 2007 for Students ID#870, 871, and 874; from its meeting of September 20, 2007 for Student ID#893; from its meeting of October 12, 2007 for Student ID#852; and from its meeting of October 26, 2007 for Student ID#903.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of September 19, 2007 for Student ID#335; from its meeting of September 21, 2007 for Student ID#911335; from its meetings of October 3, 2007 for Students ID#840 and 911378; from its meetings of October 10, 2007 for Students ID#764 and 911714; from its meeting of October 12, 2007 for Student ID#923; from its meeting of October 15, 2007 for Student ID#922; and from its meeting of October 19, 2007 for Student ID#503714.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Report of the Independent Auditor

Ms. Ryan introduced Susan Barossi and Margaret Modugno of Bennett Kielson Storch DeSantis, the Government Services Division of O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP, who reviewed the Independent Auditors' Report inclusive of financial performance and activities for the year ended June 30, 2006. They described their process and noted that the Rye City School District is among the top school districts

(continued)

in managing its budget. They answered Board and community questions. Mr. Culyer thanked them for joining the Board for this discussion and for their work.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine reported that seven high school students had performed at the SUNY Purchases Area All-State band and orchestra concerts the previous week; that Dr. Cohen had sent a notice regarding the oddity in the scoring of the English Language Arts exams by the state that would likely show the district did not meet the participation rate in students taking the exam because a number of students in the Asian or Native Hawaiian category were not present for the exam but were, rather, in their native country at the time. He noted that scores of all the students who did take the exam exceeded all state standards in English Language Arts and in math.

Dr. Shine noted Rye High School's participation in a program that has students helping immigrant day workers at the Don Bosco Center with English language skills. He said that the parent presence during Community Education Day open houses in the schools was positive; noted the induction of 82 Rye High School seniors into the National Honor Society; shared information on what the District had done to increase awareness of Methicillin Resistant Staph; noted that the varsity football team had achieved the regional championship and would advance to the varsity sectional competition the following weekend; and noted that schools would be closed for Thanksgiving recess November 22 and 23 and that the November 27th meeting of the Board was scheduled as a work session on middle and high school enrollment and space availability.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

2008 – 2009 Budget Assumptions

Ms. Ryan reviewed the budget assumptions that would guide the development of the 2008-2009 school year budget, noting that they included some new items, including further program for the teaching of Spanish at the elementary level, additional guidance department support, and the development of a drama curriculum.

Facilities Committee Report

Mr. Cady reviewed the discussions of the Facilities Committee and work to date, noting that the list of items needing to be addressed was in two parts, with the first part ready to go out for approval and bids, in preparation of summer, 2008 work, and the second part not yet ready for that step. Mr. Cady also reviewed a capital projects list for 2008-2009 with the Board.

Dr. Shine added that the Board had already approved the plan to prepare the specs and go to the State Education Department to bid on the first part of the list, so that the

(continued)

Board could have an idea of how many projects might be covered by the anticipated \$2.8 million anticipated to be available for these projects.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM BOARD

Ms. Slack presented her communication to the Board suggesting that the District pursue an examination of the kindergarten start date, suggesting that a committee be formed for this purpose. A majority of Board members present agreed that this matter be examined.

Closing Items

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:15 PM to adjourn into executive session for the discussions of negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 11:14 PM to reconvene in public and adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk