

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
December 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Culyer at 7:45 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

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Ms. Egan 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. Slack, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:00 PM to reconvene in public.

Mr. Culyer welcomed those present and reviewed the order of the meeting, beginning with a recognition of the New York State Section I Class B Championship varsity field hockey and football teams. Participating in the recognition were Mayor or Rye, the Honorable Steve Otis; New York State Assemblyman, the Honorable George Latimer; and New York State Senator, the Honorable Suzi Oppenheimer. The Board presented the team members and coaches with proclamations recognizing their achievement, presented by Mr. Culyer.

Mr. Culyer suggested a five-minute break at the end of the tribute to the two teams before continuing the meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 8:29 PM. Mr. Culyer asked the Board to accept the Board's resolution in honor of the Field Hockey and Football teams (Attachment I) which they did unanimously (7-0).

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Dr. Jaime Zung, President of the Rye Teachers Association and Association member, Beth Gilberg, addressed the Board on behalf of the Rye Teachers Association.

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Bram Lewis, a parent, also spoke on behalf of Rye teachers, as did Cathy Telfer as both a teacher and a resident of Rye. All four speakers urged the Board to come to a fair and reasonable contract with the Rye Teachers Association. 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 while the Board appreciated the high level of education provided the students of the schools, members also believed in the importance of balancing this with the needs of the community.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer noted that Action-General Items 1, November 13 Minutes; and 3, Spanish Curriculum; and Action Fiscal Items 7, 8 and 9, Change Orders, would be removed from the Consent agenda.

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

Action – General

1. The minutes of the November 27, 2007 meeting of the Board, as written.
2. The four-part Theater Arts curriculum, as presented. (Attachment II)
3. The gifts of \$1,500.00 each from the Osborn and Milton School PTOs for Heard in Rye. (Attachment III)
4. The gift of four or five pole vaults in memory of Ryan Adamson at a value of \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00 from Kian P. Gormley, Rye City School District Class of 2010. (Attachment IV)

Action – Fiscal

1. The resolution authorizing the Rye City School district to participate in the Westchester County Purchasing Program. (Attachment V)
2. The declaration of inventory items 003928 (scanner) and 101215 (heat mount) as surplus and eligible for disposal. (Attachment VI)
3. The declaration of 150 outdated and used geometry textbooks as surplus and eligible for disposal. (Attachment VII)
4. An agreement with the YWCA for the 2007-2008 school year for use of facilities for the Rye/Blind Brook gymnastics team. (Attachment VIII)
5. A contract with Chiyoki Morimoto for Translation Services from November 14, 2007 to June 30, 2008 at the rate of \$50.00/hour on an as-needed basis. (Attachment IX)
6. A contract with C Tech doing business as C Tech School for assistive technology training for the 2007-2008 school year. (Attachment X)

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7. Credit Change Orders for Value Engineering Items at the Milton Gymnasium Addition in the total amount of \$102,080.00. (Attachment XI)
8. The Treasurer's Report for the period ending October 31, 2007. (Attachment XIIa)
9. The Budget Transfer Schedule for the month of October, 2007. (Attachment XIIb)
10. Warrants 17-21 for the month of October, 2007. (Attachment XIIc)

Action – Personnel

1. The Resignation of Hillary Wade as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Milton School, effective at the close of business December 21, 2007.
2. The Resignation due to Retirement of Craig Douglas as a Science Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective June 30, 2008.
3. The request by Shannon Gold for a Child Care Leave of Absence as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Milton School, effective on or about her estimated due date of March 15, 2008 – June 30, 2008.
4. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Stephen Zammit as a Math Teacher for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification in Mathematics 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, PhD Step 11 of the 2006/07 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, effective November 26, 2007 – June 30, 2008, salary pending contract settlement.
5. The Amendment of the Two-Year Probationary Appointment of Charles Manna as a Special Education Teacher, for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification in Nursery, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6 and New York State Permanent Extension Certification in Special Classes of the Mentally Retarded, assigned to Rye Middle School, 1.0 FTE, MA+30 Step 6, of the 2006/07 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective September 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009, salary pending contract settlement.
6. The Appointment of a 6th Assignment for the 2007-2008 School Year for Christine Connor, Science Lab, at 4% of her base salary.
7. The following list of per diem substitute teachers to be used only on as needed basis for the 2007-2008 School Year at the rate of pay of \$100.00/day:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Angie Johnson	September 7, 2007
Natalie Schirone	December 5, 2007
Anne Paglia	December 5, 2007
Alise Andreoli	December 5, 2007
8. The correction for the Appointment for Extra Pay for Extra Work of Mike Bruno, Varsity Baseball Coach, to Step 4 (an incorrect appointment to Step 0 was made at the November 13, 2007 meeting of the Board of Education.

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9. The request by Lauren Schorr for a Personal Leave of Absence as a Special Education Teacher Aide, assigned to Milton School, effective the close of business December 14, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
10. The Decrease in Assignment of Donald Thumim as a Special Education Teacher Aide, assigned to Rye High School, from 6.5 hours per day to 6 hours per day, effective October 23, 2007.
11. The following list of per diem substitute teacher aides to be used only on as needed basis for the 2007-2008 School Year. For Regular and Special Education the rate of pay is Salary Step 1 of Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract.
- | <u>Name</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Alexander Glennon | November 28, 2007 |
| Luisa Ravitch | November 19, 2007 |
| Daniele Chiappetta | November 19, 2007 |

12. The Appointment of the Daniele Chiappetta as a School Monitor/Traffic Control, assigned to Osborn School at \$30.00/hr. 1/2 hour per day, 5 days a week, effective November 19, 2007.

13. The Appointment of the following Food Service Workers with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty two weeks:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School/Hours</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Sonya Alston	Middle 9:15 am-1:30 pm	\$10.00/hr.	11/15/07
Angelina Occhicone	High 7:15 am-1:30 pm	\$10.25/hr	11/19/07
Joan Lopez	Middle 8:30 am-1:45 pm	\$10.25/hr	12/10/07
Santiago Sanchez	High 6:45 am-1:45 pm	\$10.65/hr	12/10/07

14. The Salary Increase and Increase in Hours for the following Food Service Workers, effective December 7, 2007:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Old Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
Dennis German	\$10.76/hr.	\$11.50/hr.
Ann Sylvester	\$10.71/hr.	\$11.25/hr.

Action – Special Education

- The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meetings of October 4, 2007 for Student ID#881; from its meetings of October 25, 2007 for Students ID#873 and 786; from its meeting of October 26, 2007 for Student ID#790; from its meeting of October 31, 2007 for Student ID#634; from its meeting of November 1, 2007 for Student ID#767; from its meetings of November 15, 2007 for Students ID#699 and 809; and from its meeting of November 16 for Student ID#921.
- The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of October 4, 2007 for Student ID#493; from its meeting of October 5, 2007 for

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Student ID#387; from its meeting of October 22, 2007 for Student ID#911663; from its meetings of October 29, 2007 for Students ID#911565 and 911806; from its meeting of October 31, 2007 for Student ID#904; from its meeting of November 1, 2007 for Student ID#475; from its meeting of November 5, 2007 for Student ID#649; from its meetings of November 14, 2007 for Students ID#569, 911907; and 911710; from its meetings of November 16, 2007 for Students ID#905 and 567; from its meeting of November 20, 2007 for Student ID#421; and from its meeting of November 27, 2007 for Student ID#677.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine reported that the Rye High School 2007 yearbook, "Putting It All Together," has been honored by publisher, Herff Jones. It was selected to be featured in their yearly publication, *Ideas That Fly*, that presents about 50 yearbooks from around the country as exemplars in design and theme development. He offered congratulations to advisor Diane Harrington and last year's editors-in-chief, Jenn McHugh and Hilary Nabhan.

Dr. Shine announced that the previous week, Modell's Sporting Goods celebrated the Rye High School Varsity Field Hockey and Varsity Football Team's New York State Class B Championship with a check for \$500 to be shared by the two teams. He said that also recently, thanks to the grant request efforts of Midland head custodian, Billy Mahoney and principal Angela Grille, Joseph Pepe of the Mobil station in Port Chester once again presented a \$500 grant gift to the school.

The following week, Dr. Shine said, ABC-TV would be taping a special news feature on our audio enhancement systems in all first through fourth grade classrooms at Midland School. He noted that Dr. Grille, teacher Michelle Phelan, two students, and Mrs. Slack would all be interviewed for this feature.

Dr. Shine then announced all the musical performances scheduled for the following week and said that particular thanks go to the music faculty for adding preparation and performances to their already busy schedules.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

Grades 6-12 Electives Report

Dr. Cohen introduced Dr. Edwards, Ms. Taylor and Dr. Rooney who were present to participate in a discussion of grades 6-12 electives. Dr. Cohen then reviewed, with the other administrators, the elective program. In response to two members of the Board asking whether it was possible for students to take a second foreign language at the middle school level, resident Catherine Pacos advised the board to celebrate and breathe, saying that the Board needed to recognize that what the community had in its

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schools was “amazing” and that it was their duty not to lose sight of that; and that the recent naming of Rye High School by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top 100 high schools in the country, number 52 out of 18,790 high schools measured by the magazine attested to this.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Culyer listed the gifts approved earlier by the Board and announced each item that had been removed from the Consent Agenda.

Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried 6-0-1 with Mr. Zahm abstaining, it was voted to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting of the Board.

Spanish Curriculum

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the Grade 1 and Grade 5 Spanish Curriculum as presented. (Attachment XIII)

Executive Session

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:09 PM to adjourn into executive session for the discussion of negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law, litigation strategy and a review of the employment history of current and prospective employees.

Mr. Culyer announced that the Board would be reconvening in public subsequent to its executive session to take action on the fiscal items previously removed from the Consent Agenda.

Reconvening in Public

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 1:03 AM to reconvene in public.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously, it was voted to approve the following items:

1. Change Orders for \$22 Million Bond, Under \$10,000.00 each, as follows:
(Attachment XIV)
Number 00025 for Sign Allowance at Milton School (credit)
Number 00051 for Kitchen Modifications at Milton School
Number 00055 for Soffits and Alcoves at Milton School
Number 00060 for Wall Patches at Milton School

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2. Change Orders for \$10 Million Bond, under \$10,000.00 each, as follows:
(Attachment XV)
Osborn E-001 – Power to Fuel Oil Pump
RMS/RHS E-003 for Five Electrical Items
RMS/RHS E-004 for Door Hold-Opens and to relocate speakers
RMS/RHS P-002 for extra rock and structural fill
RHS/RMS H-008 Sprinkler Pipe Credit
RHS/RMS H-006 Four Small Abatement Items

3. Change Order for Middle School/High School H-006 for Extra Boiler Asbestos Abatement (Attachment XVI) with a caveat that there be no further change orders for approval from the contractor, Mengler Construction.

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 1:04 AM to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Ferrari