

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**February 24, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Slack at 7:04 p.m. and the roll was called:

Present

Mr. Joshua Nathan, *President\**  
Ms. Laura Slack, *Vice President*  
Mr. George Cady  
Ms. Kendall Egan  
Mr. Edward Fox  
Ms. Young Kim  
Mr. Robert Zahm

And Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Steven Cohen, Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Kathleen Ryan, Business Official  
Ms. Elaine Cuglietto, Director of Human Resources

\*Arrived 7:10 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Kim, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted to adjourn immediately into executive session for the review of employment history of current and prospective employees; the discussion of negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law; and a review of current litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:46 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Nathan welcomed those present.

Mr. Nathan asked Dr. Shine to present the report of the superintendent. Dr. Shine presented information about various events and activities in the District.

Mr. Nathan thanked Dr. Shine and called for the Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items.

Hearing of the Public

There were no questions or comments from the public.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Nathan announced that General Item 1, minutes; Fiscal Items 1, 3, 5 and 6, contracts and a bid; and Personnel Item 1, Extra Pay for Extra Work, would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

(continued)

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

**General**

- Budget Vote and Election Procedures Recommendation. (Attachment I)

**Fiscal**

1. A contract with Marienella Nelson for Spanish Translation Consultant Services from February 10, 2009 to June 30, 2009 at the rate of \$50.00/hour on an as-needed basis. (Attachment II)
2. A contract with Creative Tutoring, Inc. for District-wide home instruction and resource room services for the 2008-2009 academic year at a cost of \$14,960.00. (Attachment III)
3. A contract with Bedford Central school District for 2008-2009 health and related services for two Rye City School District students being provided Health/Related Services at private/parochial schools located in Bedford at a cost of \$961.04 per pupil for a contract total of \$1,922.08. (Attachment IV)

**PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

**School District Tax Certiorari**

Ms. Ryan presented a report on tax certiorari, noting that she had developed the presentation with Stephen Feeney. The presentation included an overview of tax certiorari, and details on why the level of taxable assessments is important, the District's estimated tax rate, the factors that impact taxable assessments, tax certiorari proceedings, and District exposure components. She then explained the tax certiorari reserve, the rate of refunds, and future considerations. (Attachment V)

Mr. Nathan thanked Ms. Ryan and extended thanks to Mr. Feeney for the presentation. After Board discussion, Mr. Nathan called for comment from the public.

Martin Gerson expressed criticism of and opined on the topic of a tax certiorari reserve.

**2009-2010 Recommended Budget**

Dr. Shine and Ms. Ryan reviewed previous budget discussion and suggested to the Board that Board members, as soon as possible, provide a list of any other information they wished to receive.

Martin Gerson commented that it was "tough times" in Rye, noted various budget categories and said he hoped the district and its teachers were sensitive to the economy.

**Board Policies**

Mr. Zahm requested further information on 0150, HIV/AIDS; Dr. Shine stated that 0330, Evaluation of Professional Staff required different information on administrator evaluations; and Ms. Kim requested greater clarity on the topic of nebulizers in policy 5420. Therefore, it was agreed that those three policies would be resubmitted, after review, at a future Board

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meeting and that Policies 2230, Appointed Board Officials, and 4770 High School Graduation Requirements, would be moved forward for Board approval at the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **COMMUNICATIONS TO / FROM BOARD**

Mr. Zahm reported that he had attended a city finance committee meeting where the state and local budgets were discussed.

### **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

#### Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2009 meeting of the Board as corrected on page 4, Presentation/Discussion, paragraph 1, line 5 to read -.66%.

#### Contract with Friends of the Rye Nature Center

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve a contract with the Friends of the Rye Nature Center for up to 160 hours of environmental science programs provided for District elementary students during the 2008-2009 school year at the rate of \$125.00/hour for a total sum not to exceed \$20,000.00, as corrected on page 3, Governing Law, to read Westchester County, not Suffolk County. (Attachment VI)

#### Contract with Lighthouse International

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve a contract with Lighthouse International for teacher of the visually impaired services for the 2008-2009 academic year at a cost of \$5,200.00. (Attachment VII)

#### Contract with Lifestyle Integrated Fitness Training

This item was removed again and recommended for discussion in executive session to possibly be voted upon thereafter.

#### HVAC Bid

It was agreed that this item would be tabled to another meeting.

#### Extra Pay for Extra Work

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried 6-1 with Mr. Zahm voting no it was voted to approve the appointments for extra pay for extra work as listed on the attachment. (Attachment VIII)

(continued)

Adjournment

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:19 p.m. to adjourn into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees.

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:28 p.m. to reconvene in public.

**ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

Contract with Lifestyle Integrated Fitness Training

Ms. Slack moved and Ms. Egan seconded the motion to approve a contract with Lifestyle Integrated Fitness Training, LLC to provide athletic training coverage from March 2, 2009 to June 26, 2009 in the amount of \$11,000.00.

Mr. Fox moved and Mr. Cady seconded the motion to include a friendly amendment that there be an assignment of the contract, if possible, so the terms of the contract with the previous provider can be continued. Ms. Slack and Ms. Egan agreed to include the friendly amendment in the original motion. The Board voted 6-1 with Mr. Zahm voting no on the motion. (Attachment IX)

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:30 p.m. to adjourn into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law, and a review of current litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Ms. Kim and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 1:09 a.m. Wednesday, February 25 to reconvene in public and adjourn the meeting.

Lynn Ferrari  
District Clerk