

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**March 17, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Nathan at 6:35 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

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to move immediately into executive session to review the employment history of current and prospective employees, and discuss negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and current litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Cady, seconded by Ms. Kim and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:09 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Nathan welcomed those present and asked Ms. Slack to present the Board's Extra Mile Award.

Ms. Slack presented the award to Ms. Tina VanWagenen, volunteer coordinator of the Rye High School Guidance Department College and Career Room in recognition of her dedicated and professional work on behalf of the students and in support of college representatives and the Guidance Department.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Shine presented information on events and activities around the District.

Dr. Cohen reviewed a statement issued a year ago on Rye Middle School ELA scores and a State Education Department status of "School in Need of Improvement" explaining that that status was based on the number of students not tested, because they were out of the country, not on test scores.

(continued)

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

#### Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Suzanna Keith, Midland School PTO Co-President, thanked Dr. Shine and Ms. Ferrari for the Report of the Superintendent presentations at the beginning of Board of Education meetings, for the budget newsletters and for providing transparency on the budget. She applauded the Board and Dr. Shine and the administrative team for putting forward a 2.78% estimated tax rate budget increase. She also indicated that she understood that it was difficult to do and to make extremely tough choices but that she had to ask if there was any way to avoid position cuts and if there could be another way to reduce the budget.

Mr. Fox encouraged everyone to call Senator Suzi Oppenheimer and protest the proposed MTA tax and ask her not to impose this tax on school districts.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Nathan announced that Fiscal Items 4, Student Activities Account; 6, Budget Transfer Schedules; 13, summer capital project bid awards; and 14, non-resident tuition rates, 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:

#### **General**

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education of February 24, 2009.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education of March 3, 2009.
3. Revised Board of Education Policy 2230, Appointed Board Officials (Attachment I)
4. Revised Board of Education Policy 4770, High School Graduation Requirements (Attachment II)
5. The gift from the Milton School PTO to Milton School of five SmartBOARDS with installation at a value of \$22,965.00. (Attachment III)
6. The gift of the Midland School PTO of \$4,400.00 to cover the cost of Midland's share of the Lincoln Center Institute program. (Attachment IV)
7. The gift from an anonymous donor of \$10,000.00 to the Burke Family Scholarship for the Rye City School District. (Attachment V)
8. The proposed wrestling team merger for the 2009-2010 school year with the Rye Neck School District with the cost of the program to be shared equally by both districts at an estimated cost of \$8,912.00 per school. (Attachment VI)
9. The proposed continuation of a swim team merger for the 2009-2010 school year with the Rye Neck and Blind Brook school districts with the cost of the program to be shared equally by the three districts at an estimated cost of \$8,000.00 per school. (Attachment VII)

(continued)

Fiscal

1. The Treasurer's Report for the period ending January 31, 2009. (Attachment VIIIA)
2. The Budget Transfer Schedules for the month of January, 2009. (Attachment VIIIB)
3. Warrants #35, #37, #38, #39, and #40 for the month of January, 2009. (Attachment VIIC)
4. The Treasurer's Report for the period ending February 28, 2009. (Attachment IXA)
5. Warrants #41, #42, #43, and #44 for the month of February, 2009. (Attachment IXB)
6. A contract with the John A. Coleman School for 2008-2009 Educational Services for the continuing implementation of IEPs for instructional services and related services for summer 2008 and the 2008-2009 school year, at a cost of \$129,208.1 (Attachment X)
7. A contract with Kwi Hyang Ha for translation services – language Korean, from March 3, 2009 to June 30, 2009, at the rate of \$50.00/hour on an as-needed basis. (Attachment XI)
8. A contract with Susanne Koehler for translation services – language German, from March 3, 2009 to June 30, 2009 at the rate of \$50.00/hour on an as-needed basis. (Attachment XII)
9. A contract with Claudia Teich Lepore for translation services -- language Dutch, from March 9, 2009 to June 30, 2009, at the rate of \$50.00/hour on an as-needed basis. (Attachment XIII)
10. A contract with Lindsay Bates for the preparation, administration, and compilation of the results of the annual Senior Survey for the fee of \$2,600.00 with results to be delivered by June 30, 2009. (Attachment XIV)

Personnel

1. The Resignation of Katherine Hoffman as an ELL Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective at the end of business June 30, 2009.
2. The resignation of Sylvia Maffei as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Milton School, effective at the end of business June 30, 2009.
3. The resignation of Jessica Burden Roine as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective at the end of business June 30, 2009.
4. The request by Catherine Eshoo for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an English Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective January 26, 2009 – March 27, 2009.
5. The request by Stacey Beitler for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective September 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.
6. The request by Shannon Gold for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Milton School effective for the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester of the 2009/2010 School Year.
7. The request by Alisha Miller for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School effective September 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.

(continued)

8. The request by Traci Tasso for a Personal Leave of Absence from position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective September 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.
9. The Leave Replacement Appointment of Edward Massena as a Social Studies Teacher for which he holds New York State Provisional Certification in Social Studies 7-12, assigned to Rye School of Leadership, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule effective April 13, 2009 – June 30, 2009.
10. The Amendment to the Leave Replacement Appointment of Lisa Policano Pearson as an Elementary Teacher for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Nursery, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6, assigned to Milton School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 10 of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule effective January 5, 2009 – April 1, 2009.
11. The Amendment to the Leave Replacement Appointment of Brendan Buschman-Kelly for which he holds New York State Certification in English Language Arts 7-12, assigned to Rye High School 1.0 FTE, MA Step 2 of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule effective September 1, 2008 – March 27, 2009.
12. The Appointment of Linda Coyle as Level Leader, Grade 2, Midland School, 1% salary, effective March 23, 2009 – June 30, 2009.
13. The Appointment for 6<sup>th</sup> Assignments or Additional Pay Beyond Annual Salary of Brenda Schoonmaker, Art, 1 section/half year, 5% salary.
14. The following Appointments for Extra Pay for Extra Work:

	ACTIVITY	NAME	INDEX	08/09 STEP
Baseball	Mod. Asst. To Program	Kirsch, Jason	0.05500	0
Girls Lacrosse	Asst. to Var. Program	Spinner, Michael	0.05500	6
Track & Field	Asst. to Var. Girls Program	King, Leslie	0.07500	2

15. The Appointment of Clarita Zeppie as S.A.T. Examination Supervisor at a stipend of 2 days salary at her current rate of pay, for a total of \$1,325.30.
16. The following Per Diem Substitute Teachers to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2008-2009 School Year at a daily rate of \$100.00 per day:
  - Annikki Bloomquist
  - Brett Moeller
  - Robin Smalt
  - Brandi Solomon
  - Peter Mastalli
  - Philip Cicchiello
  - Nicole Remenyi

(continued)

17. The following RCSD employees to work as IEP Readers on an as needed basis at the rate of \$221.74 (salary pending contract settlement) per month per location throughout the 2008-2009 School Year:  
Carol Ranalli – Osborn School  
Cathy Sales – Midland School  
Jennifer Muller – Milton School  
Michele Tobias – Rye Middle School  
Christine Connor – Rye High School
18. The following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Rye City School District herewith authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools to execute a Settlement Agreement and General Release between the Board discussed in Executive Session; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board herewith accepts the irrevocable resignation of said tenured staff member effective June 30, 2009.
19. The following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Rye City School District herewith authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools to execute a Settlement Agreement and General Release between the Board discussed in Executive Session; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board herewith accepts the irrevocable resignation of said probationary civil service employee effective February 28, 2009.

#### **Special Education**

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of December 18, 2008 for Student ID#1108; from its meeting of January 22, 2009 for Student ID#989; from its meeting of January 20, 2009 for Student ID#912; from its meetings of February 5, 2009 for Students ID#950 and #1073; from its meetings of February 25, 2009 for Students ID#789 and 790; from its meetings of February 26, 2009 for Students ID#1113, #1134, and #1048; and from its meeting of February 27, 2009 for Student ID#1097.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of March 19, 2008 for Student ID#615.
3. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of December 2, 2008 for Student ID#1135; from its meeting of December 17, 2008 for Student ID#1076; from its meetings of January 14, 2009 for Students ID#911881 and #911765; from its meeting of January 15, 2009 for Student ID#451; from its meeting of January 20, 2009 for Student ID#426; from its meeting of January 30, 2009 for Student ID#773; from its meetings of February 4, 2009 for Students ID#777 and 1100; from its meetings of February 9, 2009 for Students ID#840 and 331; from its meeting of February 12, 2009 for Student ID#464; from its meeting of February 13, 2009 for Student ID#1104; from its meeting of January 26, 2009 for Student ID#677; and from its meeting of February 25, 2009 for Student ID#774.

(continued)

4. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of March 4, 2009 for Student ID#911366.

### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

#### 2009-2010 Budget

Dr. Shine noted that several weeks previously he had indicated that if Board members had questions on the budget they should submit them. He said that the preceding week he had sent a packet of information responding to those issues, and that he had invited all District administrators to be present in case Board members had follow-up questions on these issues so that they could ask them directly.

Board members expressed opinions and asked questions on the topics of enrollment and class size, with concentration on Rye High School. Dr. Rooney responded and provided projected enrollment/class size information. (Attachment XV)

Mr. Zahm requested tallies of course selection and line items electronically.

Board members expressed opinions and asked questions about the recommended reductions in the Athletic Department budget. Mr. Castagna responded and provided information on reductions to program and assistant coach positions. (Attachment XVI)

Board members expressed opinions and asked questions on extra-curricular programs and recommended budget recommendations, elementary through high School. Dr. Rooney, Dr. Edwards, and Dr. Grille responded and information for all grade levels was provided. (Attachment XVII)

Mr. Nathan called for public comment on the budget. The following persons addressed the Board: Linda Ritacco, Business Office, on the elimination of the receptionist position in the central administration office; Diane Harrington and Jo Alyce Newgaard, Rye High and Rye Middle Schools Media Specialists, on the elimination of the library clerk position at the middle and high schools; Patricia Ryan, secondary Spanish teacher, on the elimination of the position of switchboard operator; Amy Andrews with Carol Seltzer and Meredith Adams, Media Specialists at Midland, Milton and Osborn Schools on the elimination of the library clerk positions at the elementary schools; Tracey Barnett, Rye High School nurse and Director of Health Care Services with other school nurses on the elimination of the clerical support position at the high school; Sue Melfi, Milton PTO Co-President against the elimination of two sections at Milton School; Peter Gouveia, Rye Middle School teacher and English Language Arts Department Coordinator on the elimination of the position of the Technology Staff Developer; and Martin Gerson, resident, questioning the coach and assistant coach stipends and requesting to know how much the budget would increase if a standstill budget were moved forward.

Mr. Nathan thanked those who spoke and noted that it was difficult to cut staff, and that the issues they raised were important. He said no one should feel that his or her job was not appreciated.

(continued)

Mary Lyons, Rye High School PTO Co-President, said that the library was important because there were fewer places to study in the high school.

The Board requested information on the Technology budget. Carole Andreasen, Director of Technology responded and provided information.

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

#### **Student Activities Account**

Ms. Kim questioned the balance of the accounts, why two people were involved in the reporting process, why the report was not issued monthly, and why the accounts didn't reflect interest earned. Ms. Ryan responded that it was required by the state that each activity have a treasurer, that there was not a requirement for a monthly report, and that they were active, not investment accounts.

On a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried 6-1 with Ms. Kim voting no, it was voted to approve Student Activities Account balances as of December 31, 2008 as prepared by Pat DeRosa. (Attachment XVIII)

#### **Budget Transfer Schedules Month of February 2009**

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve Budget Transfer Schedules for the month of February, 2009. (Attachment XIX)

#### **Bid Award, Summer 2009 Capital Projects**

It was agreed that this item would be tabled to executive session.

#### **Non-Resident Tuition Rates**

It was agreed that this item would be tabled to the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting or beyond.

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

Ms. Slack announced that it was her intention to seek re-election to the Board.

Mr. Cady announced that it was his intention not to seek re-election to the Board.

Mr. Nathan said the Board would miss Mr. Cady's wisdom and announced that it was his intention to seek re-election to the Board.

Mr. Zahm said that now was the time for residents to file tax certiorari's and that he encouraged everyone to do so.

(continued)

Mr. Zahm said the Board was going to be asked to vote on the BOCES administrative budget and suggested that a letter be drafted to BOCES with copies to other districts to ask BOCES to review and tighten their proposed budget. Dr. Shine responded that he would write a letter on the Board's behalf.

Ms. Egan said that on Saturday she had attended the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association breakfast and participated on a panel on building relationships for advocacy.

Mr. Zahm asked when he would see year-end encumbrances versus funds spent. He also announced that in January there was custodial overtime and a library clerk over budget.

#### Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 12:04 a.m. to adjourn into executive session for the review of the employment history of current and prospective employees, for the discussion of negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law, and for a review of current litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 1:30 a.m. March 18<sup>th</sup> to reconvene in public and to adjourn the meeting.

Lynn Ferrari  
District Clerk