

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**March 31, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Nathan at 7:05 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. Kim, seconded by Ms. Slack 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. Fox, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:10 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Nathan welcomed those present and explained the open forum that would take place immediately. The Board then joined the public and met in small groups for 45 minutes to discuss matters of interest to the public. At 9:15 p.m. the Board members returned to their seats and each member provided a summary of what was discussed at each table.

Mr. Nathan thanked everyone who had participated in the forum and explained that responses would be prepared and sent to participants.

**HEARING ON THE BUDGET**

Mr. Nathan invited anyone interested in addressing the Board to come forward and comment on the budget.

Rye High School student, Jonathan Slack, a member of the track team, along with four other track team members, asked the Board to reconsider eliminating the position of a track coach.

Residents and former District librarians, Gail Pullman and Neva Winter, asked the Board to reconsider eliminating library clerk positions.

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Livia Biow and Motoko Okubo, Osborn parents who serve as volunteers in the Osborn library, asked the Board to reconsider eliminating library clerk positions.

Resident, Bertrand De Frondeville, stated that it was disturbing not to have a line item budget to review. He suggested that as a replacement for summer school, parents should be given a list of workbooks for use with their children over the summer, as is practice in France. He then questioned whether the District needed IEP services over the summer.

Mr. Nathan and Dr. Shine thanked those who had spoken.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Nathan announced that Fiscal Items 1 and 2, contracts for health and related services; 3, a contract for reconciliation of Medicaid claims, and 4, admission of non-resident tuition students, 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 March 17, 2009.
2. The gift of ceiling fans from the Rye Middle School parents Organization to Rye Middle School at a value of \$6,000.00 for purchase and installation. (Attachment I)
3. The gift of \$1,500.00 from Future Stars AAU N.Y. Basketball Club to the Rye City School District to be used by the athletic program. (Attachment II)
4. The gift of \$1,000.00 from Mr. James and Ms. Loiw Lavelle to the Ronald Sassone Scholarship. (Attachment III)
5. The resolution to establish a Board of Registration for the Board of Education election and budget vote for the 2008-2009 school year. (Attachment IV)

#### **Fiscal**

- The bid award recommendation for Southeast Mechanical Corporation in the base bid amount of \$238,000.00 for work as delineated on the attached. (Attachment V)

#### **Personnel**

1. The request by Jennifer Muller for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as a .6 FTE Psychologist, assigned to Milton School, effective September 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.
2. The request by Andra O'Brien for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective September 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
3. The request by Alison Gordon for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an

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Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective September 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.

4. The recommendation not to approve the request by Marcie Levine Jacobs for a one-year, unpaid Personal Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective September 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.
5. The Salary Adjustment Payment of Rachel Therres from a Permanent Substitute Teacher rate of \$105.00 per day to a Leave Replacement, assigned to Rye Middle School, who holds a New York State Conditional Initial Certification in Visual Arts, MA Step 1, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, prorated, salary pending contract settlement, effective February 1, 2009 – April 17, 2009.
6. Claudia Keeler, Marci Litt and Kimberly Morganti as 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.
7. Brian Piechowicz as a student teacher to be used only on an as-needed basis as a per diem substitute teacher for the 2008-2009 school year at a daily rate of \$100.00 per day.
8. The Probationary Appointment of Maria Novak, as a Junior Accountant, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to the Rye City School District Central Administration Building Business Office, effective April 2, 2009, 12-month position, 1.0 FTE.
9. The Appointment of Jeffrey Patterson as a Food Service Worker, Monday through Thursday, not to exceed 24 hours per week, assigned to Rye High School, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, effective March 23, 2009.

#### **Special Education**

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of January 8, 2009 for Student ID#1114; from its meeting of January 22, 2009 for Student ID#1125; from its meetings of March 9, 2009 for Students ID#1004 and 1072; from its meeting of March 12, 2009 for Student ID#1077; from its meeting of January 22, 2009 for Student ID#1131; and from its meeting of February 25, 2009 for Student ID#1094.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of February 12, 2009 for Student ID#1128; from its meeting of February 24, 2009 for Student ID#842; from its meeting of February 27, 2009 for Student ID#1129; from its meeting of March 11, 2009 for Student ID#529; from its meeting of March 13, 2009 for Student ID#700; and from its meeting of March 24, 2009 for Student ID#771.

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

#### Health and Related Services Contracts

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0)

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it was voted to approve a contract with the Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns for 2008-2009 Health and Related Services for five Rye students being provided Health/Related Services at private/parochial schools located in Tarrytown at a cost of \$721.00 per pupil for a contract total of \$3,605.00. (Attachment VI)

and

to approve a contract with the Harrison Central School District for 2008-2009 Health and Related Services for 19 Rye students being provided Health/Related Services at private/parochial schools located in Harrison at a cost of \$957.83 per pupil for a contract total of \$18,198.77. (Attachment VII)

#### Management Advisory Group Business Operations, Inc. Contract

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve a contract with management Advisory Group Business Operations, Inc. (MAGBO) for the 2008-2009 school year for Medicaid claim filings at a rate of \$300.00 per month with the agreement that when a signed (corrected) contract is received, the Board authorizes Dr. Shine to execute the contract on the District's behalf. (Attachment VIII)

Ms. Ryan noted that the initial work the Board approved for Management Advisory Group to review past special education STAC filings to maximize aid resulted in \$220,804 in additional state aid, \$61,207 which has been received, \$126,943 approved for payment for 2008-2009 and \$32,834 to be received in the future.

#### Admission of Non-Resident Students

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

### **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION**

#### 2009 – 2010 School District Budget

Dr. Shine said that the budget planning for the 2009-2010 budget was coming to a close with the Board asked to adopt the budget at its April 14, 2009 meeting. He said the public would vote on the entire budget on May 19, and asked Ms. Ryan to explain the reserve and changes to the proposed budget.

Ms. Ryan reviewed the revised Superintendent's Recommended Budget for 2009-2010. (Attachment IX)

Board members provided their comments on various components of the budget. Dr. Shine asked Mr. Castagna and Drs. Rooney and Edwards to provide explanations in response to Board member comments.

The Board requested that Dr. Shine provide a revised budget to accommodate Board member wishes.

#### Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 12:45 a.m. to adjourn into executive session for the review of the employment history of

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current and prospective employees, negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law, and litigation strategy.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Ms. Kim and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 1:00 a.m. to reconvene in public and immediately adjourn the meeting.

Lynn Ferrari  
District Clerk