

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
April 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Nathan at 6:40 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 Mr. Cady, seconded by Mr. Zahm 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 Ms. Egan, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:06 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 commended resident, Georgetta Morque, for her years of volunteerism on behalf of the children of the school district and the community, from her establishment of a tennis team through Rye Golf Club to the chairing of Heard in Rye to the establishment of a squash team at Rye High School, with many other contributions as well, noting that she had consistently gone the extra mile for young people, the schools and the community.

Mr. Nathan thanked Ms. Slack and called for the Hearing of the Public on non-agenda items.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Midland PTO Co-President, Stacy Koenig and parents, residents and educators Lisa Bainbridge, Mary Fitzgibbons, Steven Tuch, Susan Hendler, Sheilah Cutner, Cheryl Flood, Tara Kaplan, Christine Brennan, Mary Gould, and Karri Bowen-Poole spoke on behalf of teacher,

(continued)

Jaime Saracino, asking the Board to reverse its decision to terminate Ms. Saracino and grant her tenure.

Residents, staff and faculty members, Mike Levine, Iris Praid, Jane deSeife Needham, Sandy Samberg, and Pat DeRosa spoke on behalf of Director of Technology, Carole Andreasen, asking the Board to reverse its decision not to appoint Ms. Andreasen as Director of Technology.

Teacher and RTA President, Jaime Zung, expressed his belief that the Board had acted inappropriately in the matters of Ms. Saracino and Ms. Andreasen as well as in other matters related to personnel.

Teacher, Kristen Warner, said she was speaking on behalf of the rank and file members of the RTA who wanted to clarify a misperception that the members did not support the RTA leadership and negotiators, stating that they did support this leadership.

Subsequently, parent, Colins Coyne spoke on behalf of Ms. Saracino; faculty member, Susan Dickson, addressed the Board on the tenor of the district and diminished morale; and parent, Kassandra Souply also spoke on behalf of Ms. Saracino.

Mr. Nathan thanked those who spoke, explaining that the Board would not respond because dialogue about personnel matters was not possible.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nathan announced that Consent Agenda General item 2, minutes of March 31 meeting of the Board, and Fiscal items 2, Budget Transfer schedules, 3, Warrants, and 5 and 6 related to contracts would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

General

- The minutes of the special meeting of the Board of March 26, 2009.

Fiscal

1. The Treasurer's Report for the period ending March 31, 2009. (Attachment I)
2. A contract with the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District for the continuing implementation of an IEP contract for instructional and related services for the 2008-2009 academic year at a pro-rated cost of \$5,340.00. (Attachment II)

Personnel

1. The resignation of Marcie Levine Jacobs from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective June 30, 2009.
2. The Resignation of Giovanna Bellantoni from her position as a Teacher Aide, assigned to Osborn School, effective June 30, 2009.

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3. The resolution that the part-time position of Senior Typist in the Office of Personnel is herewith abolished effective June 30, 2009, and that a full-time Senior Office Assistant (Automated Systems) position is herewith created in the Office of Personnel, effective July 1, 2009.

Special Education

1. The recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from its meeting of March 12, 2009 for Student ID#1146 and from its meeting of March 26, 2009 for Student ID#821.
2. The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from its meeting of February 9, 2009 for Student ID#1154.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

March 31, 2009 Board Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2009 meeting of the Board as amended to include the following paragraph on page 4, Management Advisory Group Business Operations, Inc. Contract: 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.

Budget Transfer Schedules and Warrants, Month of March, 2009

It was agreed that these two items would be tabled to another meeting.

Contracts With Empowered Mastery Consultants, LLC and With High 5 Adventure Learning Center for Technical Skills

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve a contract with Empowered Mastery Consultants, LLC, for Transformation Doctrine workshops on June 29, 2009 in the amount of \$2,500.00; and

To approve a contract with High 5 Adventure Learning Center for Technical Skills training on June 23, 24 and 25, 2009 in the amount of \$1,225.00. (Attachments III and IV)

2009 – 2010 BUDGET ADOPTION

Ms. Egan moved and Ms. Slack seconded the motion to adopt the 2009-2010 School District Budget.

Mr. Nathan called for Board discussion and subsequently community discussion on the budget.

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Subsequent to discussion, Mr. Zahm moved and Mr. Cady seconded the motion to amend the original motion to include the statement that should the Metropolitan Transit Authority tax come into effect, \$130,000.00 would be made available to increase the budget to cover this tax. The motion to amend carried 6-1 with Mr. Fox voting no.

Mr. Cady moved and Mr. Fox seconded the motion to amend to original motion to free the amounts of \$30,000.00, \$20,000.00 and \$5,000.00 from the proposed budget that they had identified as being available to help cover the cost of restoring the Library Clerk positions. The motion to amend carried unanimously (7-0).

Ms. Egan moved and Ms. Slack seconded the motion to use the \$130,000.00 previously budgeted for the possible MTA tax and the \$55,000.00 identified from other budget lines, for a total of \$185,000.00 to restore the four clerk positions at the levels of .8 for Osborn, Midland and Rye Middle School and .5 for Milton School. The motion to amend carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Nathan called the question on the original motion as amended by the above which passed unanimously (7-0) to adopt the 2009-2010 school year budget at \$68,823,000.00 with the original motion amended as stated in the three amendments above. (Attachment V)

Mr. Nathan expressed thanks for the development of the budget in a very difficult year.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM BOARD

Mr. Zahm thanked the Policy Committee for its work on revising the fund balance policy. Dr. Shine reminded the Board that at its April 28th meeting the Board would be obligated to vote on the BOCES budget and on candidates for the BOCES Board.

Mr. Martin Gerson, speaking from the audience, thanked the Board for showing restraint in the amount of the budget and for paying attention to the taxpayers of Rye.

Dr. Shine reminded the Board that there would be a joint meeting with the Rye City Council on Saturday at 9:15 a.m. followed by the invitation for Board members to participate in the Little League Parade.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Cady and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:27 p.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. Egan, seconded by Ms. Kim and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 12:42 a.m. to reconvene in public and immediately adjourn the meeting.

Lynn Ferrari
District Clerk