

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
February 9, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Nathan at 6:32 p.m. and the roll was called:

Present

Mr. Joshua Nathan, *President*

Ms. Laura Slack, *Vice President*

Ms. Kendall Egan

Mr. Edward Fox

Ms. Young Kim

Mr. Ray Schmitt

Mr. Robert Zahm

And

Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Steven Cohen, Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Kathleen Ryan, Business Manager

Ms. Elaine Cuglietto, Director of Personnel

Mr. Nathan welcomed those present and stated that the pledge of allegiance would be recited at the beginning of the second meeting with the City Council.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine reported on the following events happening around the school district.

- The Rye Boys' A team and the Girl's Varsity team each received finalist awards as second place finishers in their divisions of the US High School Squash Championships this past weekend. Caroline Whelan was ranked as the Number 1 player in the division. Our second Boys' group finished in 4th place and the Girls' JV team placed 5th. Congratulations to Caroline and to all members of the Squash teams.
- Jazz Night at the high school and middle school on January 28th featured performances by the high school and middle school Jazz bands. On January 30th members of the high school Jazz Band performed at the Rye Youth Council Gala. In addition, three members of the high school Jazz Band auditioned for and were accepted into the All County Jazz Band.
- The 4th grade Osborn Circus Stars performed for parents and siblings last Friday. There were acrobats, clowns, jugglers, stilt walkers, plate spinners, a unicyclist and more! This event was part of a week-long program in the circus arts for students of all grades.

- Osborn teacher Laura O'Leary's 4th grade class took a field trip to the New Rochelle Humane Society. The trip came at the conclusion of a two-week service project collecting donations for the animal shelter.
- Milton students are jumping rope in their physical education classes this week to raise funds for the American Heart Association's *Jump Rope for Heart*. This is the third year that Milton students have participated in this fund-raiser. Yesterday was the first day of the 2010 event and about \$1,000 was raised by day's end. The final day for donations is this Friday, February 12th.
- Jim Yedowitz, retired high school health teacher and coach of both the middle school Cross Country Team and the High School Varsity Track & Field Team, was one of the honorees at the Rye Youth Council Gala last weekend. Many students who were coached by Mr. Yedowitz stopped by to wish him well.
- Finally, I want to remind everyone that there is no school next week for the Mid-Winter Recess. Classes resume on Monday, February 22nd.
- The Central Office and the main school offices will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, between the hours of 8:30 and 2:30.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

There were no communications from the public on non-agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nathan announced that the following items were pulled from the Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda General Item # 6A – Approval of the Board of Education Minutes of January 26, 2010 minutes as presented

Consent Agenda General Item # 6B – Approval of the Board Policy #5050 on Kindergarten Entrance

Consent Agenda General Item # 6C – Approval of Rye Middle School PO Gift not to exceed \$19,700

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

Fiscal

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Health Services Contract with White Plains Public Schools for \$16,237.41 for the 2009/10 school year. (Attachment # I)

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Contract for Health Services with Bedford Central School District for \$1,914.16 for the 2009/10 school year.
(Attachment # II)

Recommendation: That the Board approves the following budget transfer: Approval of Budget Transfer #13 for \$9,572 transferred from special education summer school 2009 available balances to BOCES Assessment and Intervention for Special Ed Students .
(Attachment # III)

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Contract with Listening Partners, Inc. for \$600.00 (Attachment # IV)

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Consultant services agreement with Lighthouse International for a teacher for the visually impaired for the 2009-2010 school year, at \$200 per hour to a maximum of \$9,000. (Attachment #V)

Personnel-Professional

That the Board approves the request of Laura Finkelson for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as School Psychologist, assigned to Osborn School, effective on or about her estimated due date of April 13, 2010 – June 30, 2010.

That the Board approves the request of Amy Carman for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective on or about her estimated due date of April 28, 2010 – June 30, 2010.

That the Board approves the request of Christine Brennan for a Personal Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Midland School, effective September 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of Alison Harris as a Special Education Teacher for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Literacy (Birth-Grade 6) assigned to the Rye City School District, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$56,306* (pro rated amount of \$10,416.61*, effective February 3, 2010 – March 25, 2010.
(Alison Harris will be replacing Toni Ann Carey who will be on a 6 week FMLA Leave.)

That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of Mark Benson as a Science Teacher for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification in Chemistry & General Science 7-12, and New York State Permanent Certification in Physics 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, MA +60 Step 14, of the 2006-2007

Board Minutes

February 9, 2010

Teacher Salary Schedule, \$106,947* (pro rated amount of \$5,347.35*), effective February 22, 2010 – March 5, 2010.

(Mark Benson will be replacing Amy Leahy for this two week period of time.)

That the Board approves Mark Benson for one transitional day at his daily rate of pay, MA + 60 Step 14, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$534.74*, effective February 9, 2010 – February 9, 2010.

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Extra Pay for Extra Work for the 2009/2010 School Year:

Activity	Name	Index	09/10 Step	09/10 Rate*
Table Tennis	Huynh, Quan (1/2 year)	0.02000	0	506
Peer Coaching (Math)	Junta, Marisa (1/2 year)	0.02000	0	506
+Zephyr – Art	Cathy Telfer	0.04000	6	2,712
Zephyr - Literacy	Cathy Telfer	0.04000	6	2,712

(±Cathy Telfer was previously approved at an index of 0.02750 and a rate of \$1,864 at the October 13, 2009 Board of Education Meeting. A higher index was approved by the Extra Pay for Extra Work Committee.)

That the Board approves the Appointment of Kathleen DeCola for Lunch Duty at the rate of \$29.45* per day on an as needed basis for the 2009-2010 School Year:

(Rates* based upon approved Rates for Teachers in the 2006-2007 Teacher Contract.)

That the Board approves the Appointment of Additional Hours for Anat Mor as a School Psychologist at the curriculum rate of \$40.00* per hour not to exceed sixty-eight and one-half hours, effective December 8, 2009 – February 8, 2010.

(Anat Mor has assumed additional responsibilities due to the resignation of Michaela McCabe, effective December 4, 2009.)

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Per Diem Substitute Teachers to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2009-2010 School Year at a daily rate of \$100.00 per day:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Guillermo Ortega	February 4, 2010
Robert Villanova	February 10, 2010

That the Board approves the Appointment of Lisa Kimmel as a Per Diem Substitute School Psychologist, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification as a School Psychologist, assigned to Rye City School District, at the daily rate of pay of \$291.66* based on MA Step 2, of the 2006-2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, effective February 9, 2010.

CLASSIFIED

That the Board approves the Appointment of Sonia Ferrerosa as a cleaner, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty two weeks, assigned to Rye High School at Step 2, of the 2008-2009 CSEA Rye City School Custodial Unit No. 9231, Westchester Local 860 Salary Schedule \$41,465* (pro rated amount of \$14,831.71*), plus the night differential \$2,073.25* (pro rated amount of \$741.59*), effective February 22, 2010.

(Sonia Ferrerosa will be replacing Rueben Restrepo who resigned, effective at the close of business January 29, 2010 at the January 26, 2010 Board of Education Meeting. Sonia Ferrerosa has been a Per Diem Substitute Cleaner as of January 11, 2007.)

*Pending contract settlement

That the Board approves the Appointment for the following Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aide to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2009-2010 School Year:

Hourly rate of pay as follows:

Teacher Aide - \$12.64 is hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 of Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract for the School Year.

Name	Effective Date
Amber Velez	January 27, 2010

That the Board approves the Appointment of Amber Velez as a Teacher Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty two weeks, assigned to Rye Middle School, at \$12.64 per hour, Step 1 of the 2009/2010 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective February 1, 2010.

(Amber Velez is replacing a terminated employee.)

That the Board approves the Appointment of JoAnn Dinowitz as a Temporary Food Service Worker at a rate of \$12.00 per hour, effective January 27, 2010.

That the Board approves the Appointment of Additional Hours for Steven Sciavillo as a Teacher Aide assigned to Special Education, Step 1, hourly rate of pay of \$17.14, 1 hour per week, not to exceed 8 weeks.

(Steven Sciavillo will be a one to one aide for a child in an After School Club.)

Special Education

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendations as attached.
(Attachment # VI)

Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda General 6A - That the Board approves the January 26, 2010 minutes as presented.

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Ms. Egan and voted 5 – 0 – 2 with both Mr. Zahm and Mr. Schmitt abstaining, the January 26, 2010 minutes are approved as presented.

Consent Agenda General 6C - That the Board of Education approves this gift from the Rye Middle School PO. (Attachment # VII) Mr. Zahm requested that the administration report back to the Board as to where the best place, such as a particular classroom or course of instruction, is for these new technology items be used in the middle school.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox, and voted unanimously (7-0) it was approved to accept this gift from the Rye Middle School PO.

Mr. Nathan expressed thanks to the Rye Middle School Parent Organization for these generous gifts totaling up to \$19,700.

Consent Agenda General 6B – Mr. Nathan announced that the Board would be addressing this policy later in the meeting.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Ms. Joan Townley, School Planning and Research Coordinator from the Office of School Planning and Research at Western Suffolk BOCES, presented a detailed report that provided an in-depth analysis of the District’s demographic trends. The report provided to the Board of Education is entitled “Long Range Planning Study – February 2010.” (Attachment # VII) An extensive discussion followed this presentation including nursery schools, prior Bishop Projections, general housing market sales,

housing sales by elementary school area, turnover rates, home leasing, purchasing of homes after leasing, ex-patriots moving into the district, grade level migration, comparison of similar peer community districts, private school placements, tax rate implications, etc.

Dr. Shine stated that the presentation will be available on the district website.

Mr. Jim Culyer addressed the Board of Education regarding this presentation inquiring about the following issues:

- 1) The district has 3 or 4 studies done on the facilities needs at the middle school and high school. On March 15 the Facilities Committee will be looking at one of the recommendations. When does the board plan on reviewing the Facilities Committee's recommendation?
- 2) In regard to the 16 million dollars spent on Milton for upgrades to a 400 student school, the projection is now going to 462, when will the Board look at what the plans are for the growth at Milton?

Mr. Nathan answered that the plans will be looked at when they are presented to the Board and that they will review the previous projections of Milton.

There were no other communications from the public.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 7:45 p.m. to move into Executive Session for the continuation of discussion of topics discussed during an earlier executive session this evening to review the employment history of current and prospective employees, discuss negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and current litigation.

Mr. Nathan stated that the Board would reconvene at 8:00 p.m. for the meeting of the Rye City School Board and the Rye City Council, and that previously removed Consent General Agenda Item 6B would be discussed at the conclusion of that meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Schmitt and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:01 p.m. to return to Public Session and begin the Joint Council Meeting of the Rye City School District Board of Education and the Rye City Council. A separate set of minutes will be produced for the Board of Education's joint meeting with the City of Rye City Council.

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:45 p.m. to adjourn the joint meeting and to reconvene the public portion of the earlier Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Nathan indicated that there was one more item from the Consent Agenda that needed the Board's attention.

Consent Agenda General Item 6B – Approval of Board Policy #5050 on Kindergarten Entrance (Attachment # VIII)

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Slack and seconded by Mrs. Egan to approve the policy as presented. Mr. Fox offered a friendly amendment to modify the policy to allow admission for children with birthdays between December 2 and December 31 by the superintendent upon parent request, based upon certain criteria. This friendly amendment was seconded by Mr. Nathan. On a vote of 2 -4 -1 with Mrs. Slack, Mrs. Egan, Ms. Kim and Mr. Schmitt voting No and Mr. Zahm abstaining the motion and friendly amendment was not approved.

The original motion to approve policy as presented was moved again by Mrs. Egan and seconded by Mrs. Slack. On a vote of 5 – 2, with Mr. Nathan and Mr. Fox voting No the policy was approved to move the date for kindergarten entrance from December 31 to December 1 in 2012.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Schmitt, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 12:15 a.m. to move into Executive Session for the continuation of discussion of topics discussed during an earlier executive session this evening to review the employment history of current and prospective employees, discuss negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and current litigation.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 12:55 a.m. to reconvene in public and immediately adjourn the meeting.

Elaine Cuglietto
District Clerk

Video of this meeting can be found on the District's website (www.ryeschools.org). Click on District and on Board of Education.