

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
May 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Nathan at 7:00 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. Raymond Schmitt

And

Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools was excused from executive session
Dr. Steven Cohen, Assistant Superintendent was excused from executive session
Ms. Kathleen Ryan, Business Manager was excused from executive session
Ms. Elaine Cuglietto, Director of Personnel was excused from executive session

*Mr. Fox arrived at 8:05 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (5-0) it was voted to move immediately into executive session to review the employment history of current and prospective employees, discuss negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and current litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Schmitt, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (5-0) it was voted at 8:03 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Nathan welcomed those present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Nathan read a statement on the status of Rye Teachers Association contract negotiations to those present at the meeting and to the community.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- Rye High School's Varsity Lacrosse player Emma Tucci was selected by Con Ed as its Athlete of the Week. She was interviewed last week on WFAS radio and by The Journal News. Next year Emma will be playing Lacrosse for Duke University -- one of the

country's top college teams. Congratulations Emma.

- The second graders at Milton arrived at school last week dressed as historical figures. They were celebrating the completion of a unit on biography. The students stayed in character and presented their work to the class. Katy Ridley's second grade students enjoyed a "Biography Tea."
- I am inviting all members of the Rye School Community to submit nominations for the 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year. Our Teachers of the Year have always represented the finest attributes of the teaching profession. For this reason, nominees should be exceptionally skilled, dedicated and respected teachers who inspire students of all backgrounds and competencies. They must be an active teacher who will be teaching in Rye next year. Nominations are due at my office no later than May 28th. The selection committee comprises Dr. Steven Cohen, our 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year Peter Gouveia, our 2008-2009 Teacher of the year Harriet Sessa and RTA President Jaime Zung. I will chair the committee as a non-voting member. As is customary, the Teacher of the Year will be announced at our end-of-the-year celebration.
- Dr. Shine asked Mrs. Patricia Taylor to update the Board and the public on Rye High School's college acceptances for next school year. Among the acceptances were students accepted to Yale University, Harvard University, Colgate University, Dartmouth, Duke University, Cornell University, New York University, M.I.T., as well as many other prestigious colleges and universities. Mr. Nathan stated that a more detailed report will be presented to the Board when all of the statistics are compiled.

Public Hearing on the Superintendent's Recommended Budget

Mr. Nathan introduced the hearing with the following statement: "School Districts are required by law to hold a public hearing on the adopted budget not less than seven days nor more than 14 days before the Budget Vote is taken. The posting for this meeting includes that required public hearing."

Since late February, the district has used the District's Electronic Newsletter to provide information to parents on the 2010-2011 budget. That same information has been included in the local press so that parents and local citizens/taxpayers received the same information. A hard copy of the budget newsletter will be sent to every household next week. Budget information is also available on the school district's website. Copies of the full budget are here for the public tonight. Each school and Rye Free Reading Room and the full budget is available on the district's website.

Bertrand deFrondeville addressed the Board, congratulating them on the discussion of the RTA contract and commended the Board for having held the line against unreasonable expectation and demands. He also expressed concern over the lack of Budget Analysis Committee. He requested that the Board convene the Budget Analysis Committee immediately

after the budget vote if it is defeated. Mr. deFrondeville discussed the following items that in his opinion affect next year's budget including a discussion of central administration salary/benefits, excess margins, reserves, budgeted vs. actual expenditures, GASB 45 and debt service.

Mr. Nathan stated that our district's reserves are not excessive. They are appropriate and have been declared within legal limits by our New York State Office of the State Comptroller's Audit.

Ms. Charmion Neary addressed the Board of Education, parent from Midland Avenue, representing the Friends of the Rye City School District. Ms. Neary urged all of the public to vote Yes on this budget and that in her opinion, the Board and the Administration did an incredible job on the budget process.

Ms. Lucinda McKinnon, a Milton parent expressed full support of this budget and she urged members of the community to vote on May 18 in support of the Superintendent's Recommended School Budget.

Mr. Martin Gerson addressed the Board regarding the recommended budget. Mr. Gerson wanted to applaud the Board and show appreciation for the opening statement about the issues of negotiating the teacher's unit contract and the implication for our school district in the next five years and the significant implications for the community. Mr. Gerson addressed the Board regarding the growth of enrollment vs. the amount of the growth of the school budget, his opinion of the excess imbedded margin at the end of the year as well as legal and accounting fees and cost savings that were presented by Mr. Zahm.

Ms. Kay Baer addressed the Board stating she felt it was very disrespectful for a member of the Board of Education to be laughing while a member of the community was addressing the Board. Ms. Baer stated that she would not vote in favor of this budget.

Ms. Karen Belanger on behalf of a contingency of PTO and PO Presidents and parent organization members addressed the Board wanting to state publicly that they are in full support of the Superintendent's recommended school budget for 2010-2011. She thanked the Board for the budget it had adopted and thanked the Board members for their service.

Ms. Ellen D'Angelo addressed the Board regarding the Board's relationship with the Rye Arts Center. Ms. D'Angelo was concerned that perhaps this budget included upgrades to the air conditioning unit at the Rye Arts Center.

Ms. Mary Emory, 80 Soundview Avenue, a new resident to the City of Rye spoke in support of the school district's budget and the positive aspect it has on the property values. She believes that it is important to invest in the community and the schools. School quality is the highest predictor of increasing your property values.

Mr. Nathan reminded everyone that the full copies of the budget are in all school buildings and also in the Rye Free Reading Room. There are two seats up for election to the

Board. Election date is Tuesday May 18, 2010 Mr. Nathan thanked those who had spoken and announced that the Hearing on the Budget was closed.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Schmitt, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 9:15 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.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 10:00 p.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.