

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**September 22, 2009**

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. Ray Schmitt  
Mr. Robert Zahm

And Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Steven Cohen, Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Kathleen Ryan, Business Official\*\*\*  
Ms. Elaine Cuglietto, Director of Personnel  
Ms. Shirley Klein, Director of Special Education  
Mr. Ralph DeMarco, Legal Counsel  
Ms. Marian Walsh, Legal Counsel

\*Ms. Laura Slack arrived at 7:05 p.m.

\*\*Ms. Young Kim arrived at 7:05 p.m.

\*\*\* Ms. Kathleen Ryan arrived at 8:45 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, and discuss negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and current litigation.

On a motion by Ms. Kim seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:30 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Nathan welcomed those present and apologized to everyone present including Rye High School students in attendance for the delay of the start of the public session of the Board of Education meeting. The Executive Session matters needed to be addressed by the Board of Education took more time than was originally expected.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Nathan announced that due to the late hour of the beginning of Public Session, he would ask that any students present who wanted to address the Board of Education on a non-agenda items would be invited to do so at that time.

Mr. David Shaughnessy, Co-Editor in Chief of the Garnet & Black newspaper addressed the Board of Education regarding concerns about Ms. Brit Foster not continuing in the role as advisor to the newspaper for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Shaughnessy was accompanied at the microphone by other students of the staff of the Garnet & Black.

Mr. Shaughnessy advised that the entire staff is looking forward to the new school year and the distribution of the newspaper. He acknowledged that there were mistakes made in the last April 2009 edition. Apologies were made publicly and privately to those directly offended by the "April Fools" issue. As a staff, they have decided to do away with the long standing tradition of producing the April Fool's issue in the future. The staff has been brainstorming ideas for taking the April issue into a new, creative direction. Ms. Foster was instrumental in making these amends and opening a line of dialogue with the English Department in order to ameliorate the April issue. The staff has agreed that incorporating writing from the school's satire and AP language and composition classes should produce a witty and enjoyable issue. Mr. Shaughnessy stated that everyone has learned from the mistakes of last year. We should all be judged not only by our mistakes. Ms. Foster embraced a bad situation, and turned it into not only a teachable moment to improve the newspaper, but also a chance to learn an important life lesson. We all make mistakes. We hope we are judged not by these mistakes, but how we react to them. We hope we are not judged on our miscues, but rather on our overall performance. Mr. Shaughnessy requested that the Board of Education reconsider the decision made not to have Ms. Foster continue in the role as advisor to the newspaper.

Mr. Nathan thanked Mr. Shaughnessy for his communication to the Board of Education and asked if there were any other students who wanted to address the Board on this issue. Mr. Nathan assured the students on behalf of the Board of Education that the Board supports the Garnet and Black, that there would be a paper for our students, the Board supports their being a Garnet and Black, and it will be supervised.

Dr. Shine read a statement regarding the Garnet & Black newspaper. Dr. Shine reminded everyone including students, parents and other members of the community that he is not at liberty to discuss personnel issues. Dr. Shine stated that the April 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Garnet and Black was inappropriate and hurtful to many students at Rye High School. What happened at that time violated the mission of this school district. No one should come to school and be at risk of humiliation. Since the school district is the publisher of the newspaper, Dr. Shine stated he decided to change the editorial oversight, the faculty advisor. We will find an advisor and there will be a paper this year.

### **Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Shine presented information on events and opening day activities around the school district. Dr. Shine reported that Rye had a successful opening of school on September 10 for students and September 8 for teaching staff. To date, there are 3,104 students enrolled in the

Rye City Schools against a projection enrollment of 3060. Rye has welcomed some new staff members. Most of the new staff members have replaced individuals that have either resigned, retired or are on leave of absence for this school year.

Dr. Shine reported that three high school seniors; Angie Cho, Alexandra Springer and Ryder Tobin have all been named National Merit Semifinalists by The College Board. The AP Scholars were also announced by the College Board. 162 Rye High School students and members of the class of 2009 were named AP Scholars by the College Board. Congratulations were given to all of our outstanding students. Dr. Shine stated that a more detailed report would be given later in the meeting from Dr. Steve Cohen.

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

No communication from the public

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. General Item 5 - Approval of the 2009-2010 Goal, Education Focus, Priorities and Board Committees
- B. Fiscal Items 1, 2, and 3 -Change Orders #1, #2 and #3 for Caladri Development Corp.
- Fiscal Item 6 - Resolution to authorize the Disposal of Surplus Property
- Fiscal Item 7 - Establishment of a Retirement Reserve Fund
- Fiscal Item 8 - Resolution to Clarify the 6/30/09 Resolution increasing the Tax Certiorari Reserve
- Fiscal Item 9 - Repeal of Approval given on June 30, 2009 for a General Fund Appropriation Increase to Cover Tax Certiorari Refunds and Related Legal Costs
- Fiscal Item 11 - Budget Transfer #20 for 2008-2009
- Fiscal Item 13 - Proposal from the American Ballroom Theater Company for Ballroom Dance Lessons at Osborn School

On a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Ms. Kim 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 July 15, 2009.
2. The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education of September 8, 2009.
3. Accept a gift from Margaret and Paul Munding – Ice Hockey Jerseys Valued at \$2,500. (Attachment I)
4. Denial of Parent Appeal of Student #11403, dated August 10, 2009

#### **Fiscal**

1. Agreement with Children's Hearing Institute for audiological consultations at the hourly rate of \$175. (Attachment II)
2. Agreement with White Plains Public Schools for District of Location Services for 2009-2010 school year (Attachment III)
3. Budget transfer #19 for 2008-2009 school year (Attachment IV)
4. Contract with BoardDocs LT software in the amount of \$2700. (Attachment V)

5. Contracts with Translators for 2009-2010 school year at the hourly rate of \$50. (Attachment VI)
6. Contract with Friends of Rye Nature Center at the hourly rate of \$125. (Attachment VII)
7. Approval of the New York State Office of State Comptroller Corrective Action Plan (Attachment VIII)

**Personnel**

- 1) The Board of Education herewith authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute a certain First Amendment to the Employment Agreement between the District and Elaine Cuglietto dated August 6, 2009 – on behalf of the Board of Education.
- 2) Appointment of Michaela McCabe as a School Psychologist, for which she holds New York State Provisional Certification as a School Psychologist, assigned to Midland School, 0.5 FTE, MA +30 Step 8 of the of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$75,884\* (pro rated amount of \$37,942\*), effective September 1, 2009 to serve at the pleasure of the Board.
- 3) Appointment for Additional Work of William Ackerman at the curriculum rate of \$40.00\* per hour for test related assistance on an as needed basis, not to exceed \$1,000, effective July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.

Appointment for Additional Work of Debra Fishman at the curriculum rate of \$40.00\* per hour on an as needed basis, not to exceed \$400, effective August 31, 2009 – September 4, 2009.

- 4) Appointment for Summer Work of Janice Mottarella, as a Teaching Assistant, at her hourly rate of pay of \$22.99, not to exceed 27 ½ hours, effective July 1, 2009 – September 8, 2009.
- 5) Appointment for Special Education Summer Work effective July 1, 2009 – September 8, 2009:

Alyson Caminiti	Special Education Teacher Aide	
@ Step 1 of Special Education Teacher Aide Rate		\$17.14/hr.
Maxine Dreckmann	Substitute Special Education Assistant	
@ Step 1 of Special Education Teaching Assistant Rate		\$23.64/hr.
Anat Mor	Psychologist‡	\$39.39*/hr.
Carol Ranalli	IEP Development‡	\$39.39*/hr.
Ellen Stevens	Clerical	\$31.66/hr.

(Ellen Stevens is an 11 month employee who was requested to work in her non working month of August. Ellen Stevens worked an additional 61 ¼ hours for a total of \$1,939.18.)

- 6) Appointments as IEP Readers on an as needed basis at the rate of \$221.74\* per month per location throughout the 2009/2010 School Year, effective September 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.
  - Christine Connor – Rye High School
  - Michele Tobias – Rye Middle School
  - Cathy Sales – Midland School and District of Location
  - Joanna Truslow – Milton School
  - Carol Ranalli – Osborn School

- 7) The following 6<sup>th</sup> Assignments, effective September 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>% of Base Salary*</u>	<u>Contract Rate</u>
Joel Edminister	English	10%	\$10,487
Jared Small	Social Studies	10%	\$ 7,791
Christine Connor	Science	4%	\$ 4,478

- 8) The following Appointment for Extra Pay for Extra Work, effective September 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Index</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate*</u>
Rob Tolve	HS Web Advisor	0.03500	1	\$1,859
Bonnie Manheimer	MS Web Advisor	0.03500	1	\$1,859
Iris Praid	Midland Web Advisor	0.03500	6	\$2,373
Cindy Young	Milton Web Advisor	0.03500	6	\$2,373
Christine Wolf	Osborn Web Advisor	0.03500	1	\$1,859

The following RCSD employee to work as timer, supervisor, ticket taker, chain crew, announcer, etc. at athletic events on an as needed basis throughout the 2009-2010 School Year:

Zachary Papas\*

\*Salary pending contract settlement

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

- 9) 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:

Elaine Connor  
Alexis Gleason  
Katherine Ice

- 10) The following Per Diem Substitute Special Education Teaching Assistant to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2009-2010 School Year:

Hourly rate of pay as follows:

Teacher Assistant for Special Education – \$23.64 is hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 of Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract for the 2009-2010 School Year.

Maxine Dreckmann.

- 11) The Appointments of the following School Monitors/Traffic Control:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pay per Hour</u>	<u># OF Hours</u>	<u>Days per Week</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Daniel Giorgi	\$30.00/hr.	1	5	School Monitor/Traffic Control	Osborn School	9/10/09

- 12) APPROVE the following Per Diem Substitute School Monitor/Traffic Control on an as needed basis for the 2009-2010 School Year at \$30.00 per hour effective September 10, 2009:

Daniel Giorgi

- 13) The following Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aides 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 2009-2010 School Year.

Teacher Aide for Special Education – \$17.14 is hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 of Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract for the 2009-2010 School Year.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Maxine Dreckmann	September 10, 2009
Michele Cappellano	September 10, 2009
Gianpiero Martone	September 15, 2009

- 14) The following Per Diem Substitute Nurses to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2009-2010 School Year:

Hourly rate of pay as follows:

School Nurse, - \$38.06 hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 of the Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Salary Schedule for the 2009-2010 School Year.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Donna Gaudet	September 10, 2009
Christine Hopkins	September 10, 2009
Penny Kovacic	September 10, 2009
Colleen Powers	September 10, 2009
Margaret Turiano	September 10, 2009

- 15) The following Per Diem Substitute Secretarial Clerical Workers to be used on an as needed basis: Effective 7/1/09 – 6/30/10

Rate of pay is dependent upon the civil service title of the position being substituted for: Hourly rate of pay is as follows:

Step 1 of Secretarial Clerical School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Contract for the 2009-2010 School Year is: Column A - \$15.97, Column B - \$21.35, Column C - \$22.19, Column D - \$24.27 Column E - \$26.35, Column F - \$29.53

Angela Badolato    Wendy Dolce    Margaret Sheehan

- 16) The Appointment of the following SAT/PSAT Proctors:

Rate of pay is dependent upon assignment – Daily rate of pay is as follows:

Extended Time - \$149.00 Hall Proctor - \$80.00 Room Proctor - \$98.00

Marijane Schrammel	Anne Mottola
Diana Schrammel	Heather Camacho
Heather Schrammel	Andrew Dapolite
Monica Moreno	Sally Linehan
Rosa Magnotta	Zachary Papas
Amy Carman	Sally Sciavillo
Louis Di Monaco	Steven Sciavillo
Denise Brada	Nesta D'Addario
Jacquelyne Benfari	Joe Brown
Deborah Sherman	Diane Garris
Enza Visci	

## 17) The Appointment of the following Videographers:

Nicole Levitsky for the Direction of taping of Rye City School District Board of Education Meetings for the 2009-2010 school year at the hourly rate of \$75.00 to a maximum of \$8,000.

Jonathan Capasso as a camera person for the taping of Rye City School District Board of Education Meetings for the 2009-2010 school year at the hourly rate of \$35.00 to a maximum of \$4,000 and as a substitute for the Direction of taping of Rye City School District Board of Education Meetings for the 2009-2010 school year at the hourly rate of \$75.00 on an as needed basis only.

Bill Rodriguez as a substitute for the Direction of taping of Rye City School District Board of Education Meetings for the 2009-2010 school year at the hourly rate of \$75.00 on an as needed basis only; and as a substitute camera person for the taping of Rye City School District Board of Education Meetings for the 2009-2010 school year at the hourly rate of \$35.00 on an as needed basis only.

Miriam Ward (high school student) as substitute camera person for the taping of Rye City School District Board of Education Meetings for the 2009-2010 school year at the hourly rate of \$20.00.

## 18) The following Appointment for Summer Work of Computer Aides on September 8, 2009 not to exceed 8 hours:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Stanley Laber	\$28.27
Bonnie Manheimer	\$30.03
Robert Tolve	\$22.06
Christine Wolf	\$29.64
Cynthia Young	\$22.12

## 19) The Appointment of Summer Work of Donna Betsch as Substitute Placement Coordinator at the rate of \$35.39, for a maximum of 6 hours, effective July 1, 2009 – August 31, 2009.

## 20) The Appointment of the following for Additional Work for Rye High School Graduation and Senior Recognition Night for the 2008/2009 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Lou DiMonaco	HS	Graduation Security & Traffic Control	\$30.00/hr.

Mr. Nathan acknowledged the gift accepted from Margaret and Paul Munding of Ice Hockey Jerseys valued at \$2,500. Mr. Nathan thanked them for their support of the Ice Hockey program in the school district.

**REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

After discussion about any additional change orders that may be forthcoming, on a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the following three items:

Fiscal - Change Order #01 for Caladri Development Corp. for \$7,685, with Reservation

Rights. (Attachment IX)

Fiscal - Change Order #02 for Caladri Development Corp. for \$5,255, with Reservation Rights. (Attachment X)

Fiscal - Change Order #03 for Caladri Development Corp. for \$2,950, with Reservation Rights. (Attachment XI)

After discussion about disposal of school district owned pianos, on a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Mr. Zahm and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to table the following item:

Fiscal - The Resolution to authorize the disposal of surplus property.

After discussion regarding the change from New York State allowing the district to establish a retirement reserve fund, on a motion by Mr. Zahm seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the following item:

Fiscal - The establishment of a Retirement Reserve Fund.(Attachment XII)

After discussion regarding the history of increasing the tax certiorari reserve in the district, on a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the following three items:

Fiscal - The Resolution to clarify the 6/30/09 Resolution increasing the Tax Certiorari Reserve. (Attachment XIII)

Fiscal - The Repeal of the Approval given on June 30, 2009 for a General Fund Appropriation Increase to cover Tax Certiorari Refunds and Related Legal Costs. (Attachment XIV)

Fiscal - Budget Transfer #20 for 2008/09 (Attachment XV)

Mr. Martin Gerson addressed the Board of Education requesting clarification of the two prior items regarding the tax certiorari Reserve and Tax Certiorari Refunds and Related Legal Costs that were previously approved by the Board of Education.

Mr. Bertrand DeFrondeville addressed the Board of Education regarding the Tax Certiorari Reserve Fund.

Mr. Zahm questioned if the funds for the Ballroom Dancing contract were included in the budget for 2009-2010. Mrs. Ryan indicated that the \$10,500. was included in the budget. After discussion regarding the contract and budgetary concerns of this program, on a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Kim and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the following contract item:  
Proposal from the American Ballroom Theater Company for Ballroom Dance Lessons for \$10,500. (Attachment XVI)



**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**

Dr. Steve Cohen, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Instruction & Assessment gave a detailed report on the history of Advanced Placement courses and examination. Dr. Cohen reported on the Advanced Placement Courses and examinations taken by Rye High School Students.

Dr. Cohen reported that 85% of the AP examinations that were taken by our students last year, were scored 3 or higher on a 5 point scale. This statistic placed Rye High School among the top US high schools.

Dr. Cohen also reported that 162 Rye High School students and Class of 2009 graduates were named AP Scholars by the College Board. These students make up more than 50% of the juniors and seniors who took AP exams at Rye High School last year.

- 11 students were named National AP Scholar Award winners
- 51 students were named AP Scholar with Distinction Award Winners
- 39 students were named AP Scholar with Honor Award Winners
- 61 students were named AP Scholar Award Winners

In addition to Rye students pursuing a challenging curriculum, 398 students took 806 Advanced Placement Examinations in 21 AP subjects. Nearly 75% of all juniors and seniors took at least one Advanced Placement course. Rye students challenge themselves and Dr. Cohen applauds the efforts of the high school to expand offerings and to encourage our students to take AP examinations.

Dr. Shine reported that we would be putting out news releases with students names this week. Members of the Board of Education all commented on the importance of getting this great news out to colleges via Rye High School profile, to parents with website updates and communications to colleges.

Adele Centani, a parent of both Rye Middle and High School students inquired if in the future, the data presented can be compared to where students are going to college. There are some Advanced Placement areas where our students do not perform as well and can there be some remediation for this.

A discussion took place among the Board regarding the expectation that the Administration would include opportunities for improvement and ways to address the three subjects in which performance was lower than overall performance.

**ITEM REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

General Item 5 - Approval of the 2009-2010 Goal, Education Focus, Priorities and Board Committees

Dr. Shine reported that the 2009-10 Goal, Education Focus and Priorities is a manifestation of the Board's work in the summer planning session discussing major issues of direction, focus and priorities in areas of need of improvement within the district.

Dr. Shine would like to finalize this plan so that the work can be set in motion. The report includes Board Committees for this school year and members of the Board that will be chairing those committees. The intent would be that each committee chair will develop a draft charge of the committee and seek community input to launch the work of the committees in a timely fashion.

Mr. Nathan asked for discussion of the action item to approve the District's 2009-2010 Goal, Education Focus and Priorities. Board members engaged in a lengthy discussion indicating support for the direction of the document, asking clarifying questions and seeking revisions.

Three revisions were suggested with general agreement:

- I.     A) Revise language so that the middle school second language option would stand on its own.  
  
       B) Information on Mandarin would be provided.  
  
       C) A report on the continuing viability of Latin is expected.  
  
       D) Other options or formats for learning a language { distance learning, online courses, etc } would be explored {e.g. Italian }
- II.    Revise language on Math; i.e., by 2013 all 8<sup>th</sup> graders would take Algebra I
- III.   Revise language to communicate which are major areas to be completed.

On a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Mr. Schmitt and carried (6-1) with Mr. Zahm voting No, it was voted to approve the 2009-2010 Goal, Education Focus and Priorities. Mr. Zahm indicated that after the revisions, he would like to reserve the right to return to the document again.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD**

Ms. Kim asked the Board to review the options submitted last Spring from Carole Andraesen regarding Video on Demand with Live Streaming and the other option for Video on Demand alone. This would provide the public more convenient access to Board of Education meetings.

Ms. Kim noted that at the present time, individuals are only able to see the current school board meeting. With this new plan, the entire year's worth of meetings would be available on the website for anyone to view.

The cost of \$3,000 is a good tool to improve communication with the community. This is the cost of the Video on Demand only option. Mr. Nathan asked administration to develop an implementation plan to commence Video on Demand only for this school year.

Mr. Zahm addressed the Board regarding the dangerous intersection crossing to Osborn School at Sonn Drive. Mr. Zahm is extremely concerned that unless some action is taken that a child may be seriously injured. All other members of the Board of Education expressed agreement that this is an extremely dangerous crossing and something needs to be done in order to avoid a terrible tragedy. Mr. Zahm requests that the Facilities Committee look at this issue as well as contacting the City Council to see what can be done. Perhaps putting something there to impede crossing at that point should be investigated.

Mr. Nathan asked that the school administration contact the City Manager to advise them of the Board's concern and seek the cooperation of the Rye City Council. Perhaps a formal resolution at the next Board of Education meeting might be in order.

Dr. Shine stated that he would contact the Rye City Manager and Traffic and Transportation Committee and ask them to respond to our concerns. If the district receives the same response as in past, then contacting the Rye City Council would be in order.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:20 p.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. At 1:30 a.m. the Board returned to Public Session and on a motion by Mr. Nathan and seconded by Ms. Slack, the Board voted (7 -0) to adjourn the meeting.

Elaine Cuglietto  
District Clerk