

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
October 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Nathan at 7: 37 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

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Ms. Egan 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. Kim seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:02 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Nathan welcomed those present and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Acknowledging the importance of the Pledge of Allegiance to Past Board President Ms. Jeanne Sinnott, Mr. Nathan noted that Ms. Sinnott had recently passed away. He removed Consent Action General 5, a resolution recognizing Jeanne Sinnott's service to the Rye City School District and read aloud the resolution honoring her service.

On a motion by Ms. Egan seconded by Mr. Zahm, the Board voted unanimously (7 - 0) to approve the Resolution honoring Jeanne Nolan Sinnott. (Attachment I)

Mr. Nathan expressed congratulations to Rye High School Senior, Samantha Lee, for being recognized as a Con Ed Scholar-Athlete.

Mr. Nathan then invited students present at the Meeting to address the Board.

Mr. David Shaughnessy, Co-Editor-in-Chief of the high school's newspaper, the Garnet

& Black, addressed the Board of Education. He requested the reinstatement of last year's Garnet & Black faculty advisor Ms. Brittany Foster. Following his remarks he provided the Board with a petition in support of her reinstatement.

Ms. Liz Brody, Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Garnet & Black, and Lily Wells, Director of Design for the Garnet & Black, spoke in support of Ms. Foster. Ms. Wells provided the Board with samples of previous editions of the Garnet & Black.

Parents, Barbara Shaughnessy, Lee Woodruff, Andrea Hessekiel then addressed the Board and asked for the reinstatement of Ms. Foster.

Mr. Nathan explained the reasons the Superintendent had not asked the Board, last May, to appoint Ms. Foster as faculty advisor to the Garnett and Black for this school year. He noted that the Board was aware of, and had fully supported, the Superintendent's decision. He further noted the Board's concern and disappointment that the high school administration had not put a new advisor in place. He stated that the Board would consider the remarks and information provided by the students and parents this evening. He further stated that the Board was committed to the students having a school paper and assured that, regardless of the outcome regarding Ms. Foster, there would be the support and resources for a paper in very short order.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Shine reported on recent student achievements and District activities including as follows:

- ❖ The 2009 Rye High School Yearbook won a gold medal with all Columbia honors for concept and design from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and a First Class rating with a mark of distinction in design from the National Scholastic Press Association.
- ❖ The Zephyr, Rye High School's Art and Literary Magazine, which is now in its 50th year and is a gold medalist publication, had 29 individual works nominated for awards.
- ❖ Nineteen RHS students were awarded National Merit awards. Ninety Four of our high school students were inducted into the Rye High School Chapter of the National Honor Society
- ❖ Jo Anne Nardone and FLES teachers Vanessa Franco, Lauren Gobbo and Reina McGoldrich received a Sally G Hahn Memorial Outstanding FLES Program Award from the New York State Association of Foreign Language teachers, and \$1,000 for the District.
- ❖ Rye High School Football Coach Dino Garr received the Frank McGuire Award which includes a \$5,000 grant in support of the Rye High School Athletic Program.
- ❖ The Parsons Street Players will be performing Metamorphoses,
- ❖ Rye High School Girls Soccer Team was ranked #6 in the nation last week by the National Soccer Coaches Association, allowing only one goal in eight games this season.

- ❖ Rye High School had a School Wide Summer Reading Day in September with discussion groups based upon books read over the summer.
- ❖ Rye Middle School 6th grade French class visited the Cloisters recently.
- ❖ Milton school received a grant for a sustainable garden last year.
- ❖ Osborn School kindergarten students went apple picking as part of their science and healthful eating lessons
- ❖ Midland school fifth graders visited Philadelphia in October for a one day trip visiting many of the national sites of interest.
- ❖ The District is continuing to work with the City on safety issues arising with traffic and pedestrians.
- ❖ The District has partnered with the County Department of Health; Milton School participated in the Body Mass Index screening project.
- ❖ The District has implemented two new ways of sharing information with the community: 1) Board notes are sent to an email distribution list; residents can add their name to the distribution list. Short news items are on the home page of the district site. 2) A new RCTV news link; these cable listings are updated every Thursday.
- ❖ The District has been advised that it is now capable of televising live from this room.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

Mrs. Elizabeth Zahm, 7 Ridgewood Drive, Rye, addressed the Board on traffic and safety, specifically at the elementary schools.

Mr. Zahm reminded the Board that Dr. Shine was to speak with Frank Culross, Acting City Manager. Mr. Zahm indicated that he spoke at the last City Council meeting, acknowledging that the problem is bigger than the schools. Mayor Otis indicated to Mr. Zahm that he would be reaching out to Mr. Nathan to set up a meeting. Mr. Zahm encouraged a meeting of the City Council and the Board of Education.

Dr. Shine indicated that he met last week with city officials and all have made a commitment to Safe Routes to School. Dr. Shine reminded everyone that this includes Education, Encouragement, Engineering and Enforcement. Dr. Shine made a commitment that the District would send out an electronic newsletter focusing on education and encouragement about pedestrian safety, traffic safety and remind people of appropriate crossing and modeling appropriate behavior for the children. The City will deal with engineering and enforcement.

Mr. Nathan stated that the minds of the school board and the city council should be able to cooperate and collaborate on a solution and that he will reach out to Mayor Otis to set up a meeting to address these issues.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Action General 1 – Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of September 22, 2009

Action General 2 - Approval of Resolution: Rye City School District Board of Education as Lead Agency for SEQRA and a Negative Declaration for Type II SEQRA.

Action General 5 - Resolution honoring Jeanne Nolan Sinnott – This item was removed earlier in the meeting and was voted upon unanimously (7-0) to approve the resolution.

Action Fiscal 3 - Recommended Award of Request for Proposal for ongoing Architectural & Engineering Services to Fuller and D' Angelo, P.C.

Action Agenda C 1 – 7 – Personnel – Professional – Appointments

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

General

1. Authorization for the Superintendent of Schools to sign Out-of-District Special Education Contracts. (Attachment II)
2. Approval of Gift Requests:
Gift from the Niehaus Family for a previous scholarship recipient in the amount of \$4,000 (Attachment III)

Gifts for Heard in Rye from various organizations in the amount of \$6100.
(Attachment IV)

The Frank McGuire Foundation in the name of Dino Garr in the amount of \$5,000
(Attachment V)

Donor Advised Fund at the Boston Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 to Rye Middle School to support technology. (Attachment VI)

Exxon Mobil Corporation in the amount of \$750. to Midland School for classroom support or extracurricular activities. (Attachment VII)

3. The revised 2009-2010 School Calendar. (Attachment VIII)

Fiscal

1. The Treasurer's Report for the period ending July 31, 2009 (Attachment IX)
2. The Recommended Bid Award for Bid #09-10-007 for High School TV Studio Equipment to HB Communications, Inc. for \$16,708. (Attachment X)
3. The Contract with Staff Development for Educators, Inc. for RTI professional development training on November 3, 2009 in the amount of \$3,800. for 100 faculty members. (Attachment XI)
4. The consultant contract with Tara Gallagher, doing business as Listening Partners, Inc. for speech therapy services for June, 2009. (Attachment XII)

Personnel – Classified

- 1) APPROVE the Appointment for Additional Work of Margaret Donohue for Training of CPR/AED and First Aid courses, at her hourly rate of \$49.21 for the 2009-2010 School Year.
(Margaret Donohue has scheduled 14 classes this year for a total of 46 hours.

Total amount \$2,263.66.)

- 2) APPROVE the Appointments for Additional Work of the following Computer Aides for teaching in-service courses at their hourly rate of pay plus one hour of prep time for every two hours of teaching, not to exceed \$2,500 each:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Bonnie Manheimer	\$30.03
Christine Wolf	\$29.64
Cynthia Young	\$22.12

- 3) APPROVE the Appointments for Additional Work of the following Computer Aides for computer support for teachers and work on professional development days and for other presentations as needed at their hourly rate of pay not to exceed \$1,000 each for the 2009-2010 School Year:

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

- 4) APPROVE the Appointment of the following Per Diem Substitute Nurse 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>
Brenda Pica	September 10, 2009

- 5) APPROVE the Appointment of following Per Diem Substitute Computer Aide to be used on an as needed basis for the 2009-2010 School Year:

Hourly rate of pay as follows:

Computer Aide, - \$19.57 hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 Without Degree 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>
Lauren Miscimarra	October 1, 2009

- 6) APPROVE 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 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 School Year.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Daniel Giorgi	September 10, 2009
Mandy Frohlich	October 7, 2009
Caroline O'Callaghan	September 25, 2009

- 7) APPROVE the Appointment of the following Videographer:

Andrew Dapolite 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.

- 8) APPROVE the Appointment of the following Additional Estimated Security Operating Expenses for School Events (Back to School Night, Harrison Night, Pep Rally, Pre/Post Rye/Harrison Game, Mischief Night, Halloween, Pre Graduation, Graduation Day, Election Day) based on their hourly rate of pay for the 2009/2010 School Year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
James Angelo	\$20.66
Edward DiNunzio	\$25.54
Richard Kelley	\$19.56
Annette Russo	\$18.44

Events may require Overtime of Time and One-Half or Double Time.

Special Education

The recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and Preschool Special Education from its meetings on:

- April 24, 2009 for Student ID #1071
- July 24, 2009 for Student ID #1210
- August 13, 2009 for Student ID #1214
- September 11, 2009 for Students ID #998
- April 1, 2009 for Student ID #1119
- July 13, 2009 for Student ID #444
- July 15, 2009 for Student ID #1174
- July 30, 2009 for Students ID #513
- August 4, 2009 for Student ID #790
- August 13, 2009 for Student ID #1190 and #985
- September 8, 2009 for Student ID #700
- September 16, 2009 for Student ID #911913
- September 18, 2009 for Student ID #883
- October 2, 2009 for Student ID #1202

Mr. Nathan acknowledged all of the gifts granted to the school district. He expressed thanks to all who support the district charitably in particular providers of gifts.

Items Removed from Consent Agenda

Consent General 1 - Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of September 22, 2009.

Three items were missing in the Minutes that Mr. Zahm thought should be included.

After a discussion of the ballroom dancing contract that was approved at the September 22, 2009 Board of Education Meeting, Mr. Zahm inquired as to whether the budgetary amount for this contract was included in the budget for this school year.

Dr. Shine clarified that the contract was approved at the meeting. The budgeting of this item is paid \$5,000 by the Osborn PTO and \$5,500. from Osborn's School budget. The minutes will reflect that the Board approved the contract for \$10,500.

Dr. Shine indicated that he would make a comparison of the three elementary schools relative to their extracurricular activities for the Board.

There was discussion at the last meeting regarding a subsequent report to the Board as to where our students could improve on the Advanced Placement examinations. Dr. Shine reminded the Board that the approved Goal, Education Focus and Priorities included a December 1 target date for reporting on the AP scores, etc. It was included as one of the priorities where data and analysis would be reported to the Board. Mr. Fox noted that he and Mr. Zahm would like to meet with Dr. Cohen to discuss the data and what that report would look like.

The Board made mention of the need for a calendar of the year to see what reports they would be receiving and when they would be receiving them. Dr. Shine indicated that the calendar had already been provided to the Board.

Mr. Nathan indicated that having a “to do” list in the minutes is helpful at the end of the minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Schmitt and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2009 Board of Education meeting as amended.

General Item 2 – Approval of Resolution: Rye City School District Board of Education as Lead Agency for SEQRA and a Negative Declaration for Type II SEQRA.

After discussion regarding environmental impact and natural drainage options, Mr. Zahm expressed concerns about added surfaces and the desirability of paving with materials that do not create runoff. Mrs. Ryan will ask the architect to research what would be most environmentally friendly walkway additions.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm and seconded by Ms. Egan it was voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the Rye City School District Board of Education as Lead Agency for SEQRA and a Negative Declaration for Type II SEQRA (State Environmental Quality Review Act) (Attachment XIII)

Fiscal 3 - Recommended Award of Request for Proposal for ongoing Architectural & Engineering Services to Fuller and D’Angelo, P.C.

After discussion regarding the architectural and engineering work of the portables at the high school, Mr. Zahm expressed concern that the contract was not being given to the Board to review before voting approval. Mrs. Ryan explained that the contract would be written by the district’s construction council prior to being executed by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Ms. Egan and seconded by Ms. Young it was voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the Recommended Award of Request for Proposal for ongoing Architectural & Engineering Services to Fuller and D’Angelo, P.C. (Attachment XIV)

Presentation/Discussion

Report of the Independent Auditor

Susan Barossi and Nora Galleros of the O’Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins, LLP, Bennett Kielson Storch DeSantis Division, independent auditors who audited the Districts financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2009, reported to the Board on the audit.

Ms. Barossi stated that the firm gave the District an unqualified opinion, the best an entity can receive. She and Ms. Galleros then reviewed all the components of the audit, stating that they found prudent practices enabling the District to remain in a healthy position in a difficult economic time.

Mr. Fox moved to accept the audit report, Ms. Egan seconded the motion, moving the audit report to discussion.

Bertrand deFrondeville addressed the Board of Education regarding his desire to serve again on Board of Education committees.

Dr. Shine indicated that applications to join the Board of Education committees have been posted on the website and articles in the newspaper that members of the community can apply. There is a link to an application form on the website to apply for consideration for all committees.

Mr. deFrondeville commented that it is very hard to comment on audits and budget as they were not available to him in advance to be studied.

Mr. Zahm confirmed with Dr. Shine that the actuarial study is posted on the website. Dr. Shine also noted that Mr. deFrondeville received the GASB 45 report last spring when it was received by the District.

Mr. Nathan asked for a vote on the motion.

The Board voted (7 – 0) unanimously to approve the independent auditor’s report.
(Attachment XV)

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Zahm brought the Board’s attention to the Revenue and Expenditure graphs. He indicated that the Board received historical and current information, but that the Board did not receive a forecast as had been requested by previous Boards. Mr. Zahm requested the forecast for comparison purposes as revenues and expenditure changes with each budget cycle.

Mrs. Ryan indicated that in September they will be included; it is not informative in July or August. Mr. Zahm agreed that September would be fine.

On a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:00 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. Mr. Nathan noted that the Board will return to Public Session to vote on the Consent Agenda C 1-7 – Personnel – Professional – Appointments.

Adjournment

At 1:00 a.m. the Board returned to Public Session and on a motion by Mr. Schmitt and seconded by Ms. Egan, the Board voted unanimously (7 -0) to approve the Consent Agenda - Personnel – Professional agenda items. (Attachment XVI)

At 1:03 a.m. on a motion by Ms. Kim and seconded by Ms. Slack, the Board voted unanimously (7-0) to adjourn the meeting.

TO DO

Mr. Fox and Mr. Zahm indicated an interest in meeting with Dr. Cohen regarding AP Scores.

Elaine Cuglietto
District Clerk