

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
December 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Nathan at 7:40 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

On a motion by Ms. Slack, 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, discuss negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and current litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Schmitt seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:25 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Nathan welcomed those present and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mr. Nathan apologized for the meeting beginning late. He explained that the Board was touring the high school/middle school campus.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Shine presented information on the following happenings around the school district:

- The Rye High School/ Middle School campus lost a number of large trees in the last few years. Last week, landscapers planted 9 large trees in front of the High School and Middle School. Dr. Shine thanked the Wainwright organization, the Environmental Advocates Group of Rye, Steve Feeney and Ashley Craig, as well as the Friends and Alumni of Rye High School for coordinating this project. Thanks were also given to Barry Hedge and Annie Gaillard of Breath of Spring Landscaping who created the planting design.

- At the High School Fall Awards ceremony, students were given departmental awards and recognized for work in various school clubs.
- This past weekend, the high school Drama Club presented the first annual production of “Senior Scenes.” Nine upperclassmen directed freshmen and sophomores in 10-minute scenes from published plays.
- The middle school honored this year’s Students of the First Quarter at an awards ceremony held late last month. The students were nominated by their teachers for academic progress, outstanding effort or the quality of their school work.
- The 7th grade social on Friday night gave students the opportunity to have fun with their classmates.
- The entire student body rallied to collect more than 5 ½ tons of non-perishable food for local food pantries. They are competing in a contest sponsored by a New York City radio station.
- It was “Little Chefs Day” at Milton School last week. Second graders participated in a nutrition and vegetable soup cooking demonstration. Following a talk by dietitians from the Greenwich Hospital Center for Healthy Living, the children enjoyed vegetable soup prepared by Mr. Pritchard.
- Milton students entertained parents in a Thanksgiving concert featuring choral and recorder performances. They also raised over \$7,000 for St. Jude’s Hospital through their Math-a-thon fundraiser
- Parents and students at Midland had an outdoors Thanksgiving Feast. The students dressed in the hats they made in class and then enjoyed eating their food outdoors.
- The Midland fifth grade weather science unit began with a lesson in the outdoor classroom. Students built weather instruments and used them to observe air temperature, air moisture, air movement, and air pressure.
- Osborn 5th graders showed off their ballroom dance skills at an exhibition for their parents. There was a reception following the performance. On Thursday 12 students who were selected by judges to represent Osborn in a dance competition will travel to the quarter finals in Queens. This is a program that was brought to Osborn by Mrs. Zeppie, who finds dance instruction beneficial to student confidence and social comfort.

Mr. Nathan expressed his gratitude that the tree planting initiative is underway and expressed thanks to all of those in the community that helped to get this started. Mr. Nathan thanked Dr. Shine for bringing these informational updates to the Board.

Hearing of the Public on Non-Agenda Items

There were no communications from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Action General A2 - Approval of 8th grade Elective Curriculum Proposal: Sustainability

Action General A4 - Gift Requests:

Approval of gift from Rye High School PO for the purchase and installation of 10 SmartBoards

Approval of gift from the Osborn PO for the purchase and installation of 7 SmartBoards

Action Fiscal - B1 The following item is being tabled to a future meeting.

Approval of Consulting Services Agreement with Theracare for Full Year Physical Therapy Services for \$120 per hour and \$90 per hour for Summer Special Education Consultant Teacher Services.

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

General

1. The Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of November 24, 2009
2. Varsity Girls Swimming Merger with Blind Brook U.F.S.D. for fall 2010 (Attachment # I)
3. Stipulation of Settlement in connection with proceedings involving Student ID #10090 (Attachment # II)
4. Stipulation of Settlement in connection with proceedings involving Student ID #506343 (Attachment # III)

Fiscal

1. Extension of the Aramark Contract for 1/1/10-6/30/10 per RFP#08-09-017 for \$170,618. (Attachment # IV)

- 2. Equipment Declared Surplus for Disposal Purposes. (Attachment # V)
- 3. Contract for Translation Services for Taeko Okamoto at a rate of \$50.00 per hour, on an as-needed basis. (Attachment # VI)

Personnel-Professional

The request of Tara Taddeo for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Milton School, on or about her estimated due date of February 22, 2010 – June 30, 2010.

The request of Vanessa Lawson for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an English Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, on or about her estimated due date of March 4, 2010 – June 30, 2010.

The request of Christen Klewicki for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an English Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, on or about her estimated due date of March 19, 2010 – June 30, 2010.

The Emergency Conditional Leave Replacement Appointment of Diana DeGiglio as a Library Media Specialist, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification as a Library Media Specialist, assigned to Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, MA +15 Step 1 of the 2006/2007 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$57,521.* (pro rated amount of \$34,225*), effective January 4, 2010 – June 30, 2010.

The Appointment of the following Extra Pay for Extra Work for the 2009/10 Year:

Activity	Name
Wrestling	Giacomo DelVecchio

(Giacomo DelVecchio is being paid by Rye Neck through our merger.)

The following RCSD employees to work as timers, supervisors, ticket takers, chain crew, announcers, etc. at athletic events on an as needed basis throughout the 2009-2010 School Year:

Richard Pappalardo

The following are not employees of the RCSD:

Patrick Beckley

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

The Appointment of the following Accompanists for Rye Middle School for the 2009/2010 School Year:

<u>Name</u>		<u>Rate</u>
Betty Jane Belcher	Orchestra Accompanist Fee – 3 Rehearsals & 3 Concerts	\$600.00
Barbara Orwick	Chorus Accompanist for 6 th Grade Chorus Rehearsal & 2 Concerts	\$300.00

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:

Vanessa Asencio-Trezza
Krystle John
Lauren Monteiro
Dana Paolino
Noel Ponce
Alyse Rosen
Michael Shockley
Marisa Tolve

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education herewith denies RTA grievances number 1 and 2 in all respects.

Personnel – Classified

The Appointment of William Salisbury as a Head Custodian, Civil Service Title: Head Custodian Worker, (12) month position, 1.0 FTE with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Milton School, 1.0 FTE, Step 1, of the 2008/2009 Custodial Unit Salary Schedule. NOTE: William Salisbury is being appointed from the Promotional Eligible List #78-821, Established 06/30/06, Certification #999914366, Issued 11/9/09.

The Appointment of Gianpiero Martone as a Teacher Aide for Special Education, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Milton School, at \$17.14 per hour, Step 1 of the 2009/2010 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective November 24, 2009.

The following Per Diem Substitute Secretarial Clerical Worker 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

Caroline O’Callaghan

Special Education

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

October 15, 2009 for Student ID #1196
November 4, 2009 for Student ID #1213
November 10, 2009 for Student ID #1178
November 18, 2009 for Student ID #1204
October 27, 2009 for Student ID #1248DOL and Student #770
October 28, 2009 for Student ID #1169
October 29, 2009 for Student ID #1269
November 2, 2009 for Student ID # 700
November 12, 2009 for Student ID # 1223DOL
November 13, 2009 for Student ID # 1260
November 18, 2009 for Student ID # 1225
November 30, 2009 for Student ID # 1234
December 2, 2009 for Student ID # 567 and Student #911888 and
Student #911582

Mr. Nathan acknowledged the promotional appointment of Mr. William (Bill) Salisbury as Head Custodian at Milton School replacing Mr. Lou Rocuzzo who is retiring at the beginning of January. Mr. Salisbury has dedicated eighteen years of service to the Rye City School District since 1991 beginning at the high school and later moving to Milton School in 2004. Mr. Nathan congratulated Bill on his promotion to head custodian and thanked him for his service to the Rye City School District.

Mr. William Salisbury addressed the Board of Education. He thanked the Board of Education for their support of his appointment as well as expressing his thanks to the building principal Dr. Joanne Nardone and all the faculty, staff and parents of the Milton School community. Mr. Salisbury indicated that he would continue to do his very best to be sure that everything runs smoothly at Milton School.

Items removed from Consent Agenda:

Mr. Nathan indicated that in the consent agenda there are two gifts being presented to the Board for approval. Mr. Nathan thanked those organizations for their support of the district's activities.

Action General A4 - Gift Requests:

Approval of gift from Rye High School PO for the purchase and installation of
10 SmartBoards
Approval of gift from the Osborn PO for the purchase and installation of
7 SmartBoards

Mr. Ray Schmitt thanked the parent organizations for these wonderful gifts. The issue of deployment of SmartBoards was one of the items discussed at the Open Topics Forum last

meeting. Mr. Schmitt reported that members of the community wanted to stress the importance of SmartBoards in the classroom and that the district should have an appropriate strategy for their deployment, developed by the administration, in order that the district maximize their usage for as many students as possible. Parents expressed their concerns as to which classrooms receive them and that the deployment be consistently applied across grades, classes and subjects. Mr. Schmitt requested that the administration report back to the Board with a plan for the appropriate deployment of the gifted SmartBoards.

Mr. Zahm requested that administration investigate to see if there are other devices that may be less expensive than SmartBoards. The cost of their upkeep is very expensive, with the cost of replacement light bulbs at approximately \$450 usually replacing one bulb for each SmartBoard per year. Mr. Zahm is supportive of the gift and is asking administration to report back to the Board if we have contacted any competing providers and if we have any information about lower run costs.

After discussion regarding the acceptance of these gifts from Rye High School PO for the purchase and installation of 10 SmartBoards and the acceptance of a gift from the Osborn PO for the purchase and installation of 7 SmartBoards, on a motion by Mr. Fox seconded by Mr. Schmitt and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to accept the two gifts of SmartBoards. (Attachment # VII)

Mr. Nathan thanked both the High School Parent Organization and the Osborn Parent Teacher Organizations for their generous gifts of SmartBoards to the Rye City School District.

Action General A2 - Approval of 8th grade Elective Curriculum Proposal: Sustainability

Mr. Fox asked for clarification of the time line for implementation of the curriculum writing and when the course would begin. Dr. Steve Cohen reported that if the Board approves this 8th grade elective curriculum proposal for Sustainability, the course would be offered in the spring course catalog, curriculum will be written immediately and the course would be offered in the fall. A discussion followed among Board members as to how the course fits together with other initiatives and other areas of the curriculum as well as dependencies on other district resources.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Slack, seconded by Ms. Egan, with Mr. Fox voting No, it was voted (6-1) to approve authorization to write the 8th grade Elective Curriculum Proposal: Sustainability (Attachment #VIII)

Presentation/Discussion

Report of the Internal Auditor

Dave Moran of Accume Partners, LLP presented a report on his firm’s Risk Assessment Update based on the Internal Audit Report on Revenue, Accounts Receivables and Cash.

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the following additional action item:

- 1. Approve the 2008-09 Internal Audit Report prepared by Accume Partners, LLP on Revenue/Accounts Receivables/Cash (Attachment # IX)
-

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Schmitt and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the following additional action item:

- 2. Approve the Recommended Audit Plan for 2009-2010, internal audit area of Student Services (Attachment # X)
-

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Zahm, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to approve the following additional action item:

- 3. Approval of Accume Partner’s LLP Work Order #1 for an Audit Report Issues Tracking Matrix for \$125 per hour up to \$3,750 (Attachment # XI)
-

Review of Board Policy

The Board discussed the Rye City School District’s Board policy that currently contains December 31 as the cut-off date for entrance into kindergarten. The discussion involved the possibility of moving the Kindergarten Cut-off Date to December 1. During the 2007-2008 school year, parent leaders asked for a discussion of the cut -off date. A committee was established including the Superintendent of Schools, nursery school directors, kindergarten teachers, Board of Education representative Laura Slack and all of the elementary school principals. State laws on the topic were discussed. New York State law does not allow for a date earlier than December 1. The Board gave direction to the Policy Committee to begin to prepare a policy that changes the kindergarten cut-off date to December 1.

Open Topics Forum

Dr. Shine reported on the issue of recess guidelines. The parent handbooks for elementary schools contain guidelines. Dr Shine has asked the elementary principals to communicate with parents about these guidelines as we enter the winter season. The principals

are trying to be consistent in the application of these guidelines. Dr. Shine indicated that part of the problem is that while we may agree that children should go out as much as possible, there are parents who do not want their children to go out. The schools then may have a problem in that proper supervision may not be possible both indoors and outdoors. The principals must make some common sense decisions, the most appropriate and safest option.

Dr. Shine will highlight the issues discussed at the Open Topic Forum issues at the next Board of Education Meeting on December 22, 2009 and will follow up with written responses to all individuals attending the meeting and then post the written responses on the website.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Zahm requested a clarification in the minutes of the November 24, 2009 Board of Education meeting. At the last meeting, Mr. Zahm questioned whether the district was running behind on property tax revenue from last year. The previous meeting's minutes indicated that Mrs. Ryan stated that we will be better able to access the status of cash receipts after November 30 relative to property tax revenue. As a follow up to her comment of November 24th, Mrs. Ryan responded that we had collected 97% of our tax revenues on time as of November 30th, which is similar to our collection level from last year.

Mr. Zahm thanked Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Povella for the October warrants and transfers. Mr. Zahm has had a chance to ask questions which were answered by Mrs. Povella and Mrs. Ryan.

Mr. Zahm expressed concern over the cost of Federal Ex packages sent by the district. He asked that the administration please remind individuals that they try to use less expensive ways to send things unless absolutely necessary.

Mr. Zahm questioned two expenditures to Obvia Corporation – RDA Service of October 9, 2009 for approximately \$3,000 in total service and maintenance. Mr. Zahm would like to know if this was a maintenance expense or what is behind this expense.

Mr. Zahm questioned the November 9 Claims Auditor's report. Mr. Zahm would like to review the next report in greater detail. Mr. Zahm indicated that certain members of the Audit Committee want to schedule a session for next week with the claims auditor and Mrs. Ryan. Ms. Kim also volunteered to be present at this meeting. Mrs. Ryan stated that the Claims Auditor would continue to prepare the reports in the same way as she has until she is directed to provide an alternate report or to change the format.

Mr. Zahm discussed two issues regarding the budget calendar; one being the extensions to the calendar, and the other, the timing of communications to the public and the messages to be shared with the public. Mr. Zahm stated that in his opinion there should be no more than a 2% plus enrollment increase in taxes. Dr. Shine stated that in his opinion the communication to the

public would model the schedule that was done last year. Dr. Shine stated that he would like the opportunity to present a budget to the Board with what the needs are while being cognizant of what the pressures are. He requested that any member of the Board communicate their individual thoughts on the budget. The Board discussed their support of the approach laid out by Dr. Shine.

Mr. Zahm reported that he spoke to the City Council last week regarding pedestrian safety. Mr. Zahm indicated that he was more than surprised to hear from the Mayor that the school board had asked to postpone the meeting of the City Council and the School Board until the new administration was in place.

Mr. Nathan reported that the communication of a meeting set for January made sense and was consistent with the Open Topic Forum, with members of the Board and with Dr. Shine. Mr. Nathan did advise Steve Otis that he wanted to speak with Mayor Elect Doug French to discuss how the two entities could work together. Mr. French shared his commitment that all would meet in January. It was Mr. Nathan's opinion that the City is absolutely willing to work with the school board, and working with the new City administration is something he is looking forward to in January.

Ms. Egan requested that Board Members be able to opt out of receiving the warrants and transfers in paper copy and would prefer to view them in electronic format. Mrs. Ryan indicated that this could be done.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:45 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session. Mr. Nathan indicated that the Board would not be returning to public session.

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.