

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
May 3, 2011

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* – Arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Mr. Edward Fox

Ms. Katy Keohane Glassberg

Ms. Young Kim

Mr. Raymond Schmitt

Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Steven Cohen, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Kathleen Ryan, Business Manager

Ms. Elaine Cuglietto, Director of Personnel

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Fox 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. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 7:50 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Nathan called the meeting to order 8:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine reported on the following events around the district:

Rye students and staff demonstrate excellence each day, in and outside of the classrooms, in academics, the arts, athletics, and within the community. Thanks to the community's support, we have been able to provide a sound educational program that has led to many accomplishments. Here are just some of the many student achievements that we have seen this past year:

Academic:

- All three elementary schools and Rye Middle School are National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence
- Rye High School was ranked among the top high schools in the country by U.S. News and World Report and Newsweek Magazine
- Two High School seniors were named National Merit Finalists
- 178 High School graduates and students earned 2010 AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the AP Exams
- A High School senior was named an Outstanding Participant by the National Achievement Scholarship Program
- 107 High School students were inducted into the National Honor Society in October
- The Math Counts Club placed 2nd overall in Westchester County in the Regional Competition
- A Middle School student passed the National Geographic Bee State exam, which qualified him to represent the school district in the State Finals

Arts:

- Three High School and Middle School musicians were selected to participate in the Intermediate All-County Orchestra
- The High School's Parsons Street Players have performed The Laramie Project, Urinetown, and Grease this school year, and Middle School students performed Seussical
- Elementary school fifth graders at Midland, Milton, and Osborn presented Annie, Fiddler on the Roof, and Rye 2K, respectively
- Music students performed in the Area All-State Festival concert in November
- All of the schools held holiday concerts for parents and family members featuring performances from various musical ensembles

Athletics:

- All of the High School's varsity fall and winter sports teams qualified for the Scholar Athlete Team Award from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association
- 4 seniors have signed National Letters of Intent to play sports in college

- High School student athletes have received honors including 2010-2011 Gatorade New York Girls Soccer Player of the Year recognition, Con Ed Athlete of the Week Award, and 2010 Golden Dozen Member distinction
- The Girls Varsity Soccer Team is ranked #1 for a time in the United States and finished the season as League, Conference, Section, and Regional Champions
- The Girls Cross Country Team, Football Team, and Girls Tennis Team all finished the season as League Champions. The Girls Swim Team and Girls Field Hockey Team both earned the titles of League and Conference Champions

Community:

- Over 150 people participated in the Deane Flood Memorial Scholarship Run/Walk in November
- All schools have been involved in outreach to help provide relief to those in Japan affected by the earthquake and tsunami
- Students, families, and staff have generously donated food, books, toys, clothing, and other items during the holidays to help those in need
- Dr. Michele Haiken's class at Rye Middle School participated in a competition to create new chocolate bar. A perfect example of getting students involved in the learning process

Hearing of the Public on Non Agenda Items

Ms. Leslie Gallagher and Ms. Gabriella Amaturro spoke on behalf of Ms. Leslie King and asked the Board to reconsider its decision to terminate the employment of Ms. King at the end of this school year.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

General

Consent Agenda General 6.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the April 26, 2011 Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 6.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Avon Capital Corporation's ("ACC") request for a Three (3) month extension. (Attachment #I)

Fiscal

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the SEQRA Resolution for HS/MS Improvement Projects.
(Attachment #II)

Professional

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Alissa Cornelius from her position as a Library Media Specialist, assigned to Osborn School, effective at the close of business June 30, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.02

Recommended Action: That the Board approves the Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence of Nicole Bolnik, to be effective April 22, 2011 - June 30, 2011.

(Nicole Bolnik was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence effective on or about her estimated due date of May 4, 2011 – June 30, 2011 at the January 25, 2011 Board of Education Meeting.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Two-Year Probationary Appointment of Bari Rabine as a Spanish Teacher for which she holds New York State Conditional Initial Certification in Spanish 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 9, of the 2011-2012 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$83,513, effective September 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013.

(Bari Rabine was previously approved as a Leave Replacement Teacher, effective September 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 at the May 18, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Catherine Yusi as a Special Education Teacher for Off Campus Instruction, for which she holds New York State Professional Certification in Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6), 45 minutes, 2 times per week plus one hour of prep time per week, at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective March 1, 2011 -June 30, 2010

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Extra Pay for Extra Work for the 2010-2011 school year:

	ACTIVITY	NAME	INDEX	10/11 STEP	10/11 RATE
Athletic-SPRING					
Sports	Sailing Club	Walsh, Claire		Volunteer	
Sports	Sailing Club	Keen, Steve		Volunteer	

That the Board approves the following to work as supervisors, ticket takers, chain crew, announcer, etc. at athletic events on an as needed basis throughout the 2010-2011 School Year:

Matthew Friedler

Classified

Consent Agenda – Classified 9.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Probationary Appointment of Gabriella O’Connor as an Assistant Business Manager, a twelve month (12) position, 1.0 FTE with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Rye City School District, Central Administration, School Business Office, annual salary \$92,000 (pro rated amount June 1, 2011 – June 30, 2011 of \$7,784.62), effective June 1, 2011.

NOTE: Gabriella O’Connor is being appointed from Eligible List #67-294, Established 8/20/09 Certification #000016816 Issued 4/25/11.

Consent Agenda – Special Education 10.01

Recommended Action:

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

Presentation/Discussion

Mr. Nathan announced that this is the second public hearing on the 2011-2012 school budget.

The Board held the Budget Hearing and accepted comments and questions from the public. Dr. Shine and Kathleen Ryan, the District's Business Official, presented a summary of the adopted budget.

The adopted budget for the 2011-2012 school year is \$71,908,000, a 3.14% increase from the 2010-2011 budget and a 2.52% estimated tax rate increase. The budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 17.

The following individual addressed the Board of Education to discuss various aspects of the school district budget.

Mr. Martin Gerson

Presentation of Proposed Grade 7 Math Textbook

Dr. Steven Cohen, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, introduced Mr. Quan Huynh, Middle School Math Department Coordinator. Mr. Huynh discussed the proposed Grade 7 mathematics textbook, McDougal Littell Pre-Algebra Series, and described the process that went into evaluating and comparing textbooks before selecting this

one. A detailed discussion among Board of Education members, administration and Middle School Principal Dr. Ann Edwards was conducted.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Schmitt seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 9:33 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session to review current litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Nathan seconded by Mr. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:07 p.m. to return to Public Session and immediately adjourn the meeting.

Elaine M. 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.