

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
January 25, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Slack at 7:00 p.m. and the roll was called:

Present

Ms. Laura Slack, *Vice President*
Ms. Kendall Egan
Mr. Edward Fox
Ms. Katy Keohane Glassberg
Ms. Young Kim

Absent

Mr. Raymond Schmitt- *Excused*

Mr. Joshua Nathan, *President Arrived at 7:16p.m.*

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 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. Nathan, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 8:00 p.m. to reconvene in public.

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

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine advised the public that rather than his reporting of events occurring around the district, this evening he would focus on the Rye High School Digital Arts Program. Mr. Tony Campbell and Ms. Nicole Chiffriller, Rye High School Art teachers, described the Advanced Placement Digital Photography program at the high school. The teachers addressed the Board of Education and gave a Board presentation regarding the evolution, growth and enrollment trends and success of the Digital Photography Art Program.

Two Rye High School seniors, Misako Ono and Jennie Roth, read portions of their college essays discussing their experiences in photography and how the program influenced them as both students and artists.

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 removed from the Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves MySpace change order #1 for \$290.

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board awards Bid #10-11-014 to All County Bus for Transportation for a Special Education Placement at a Cost of \$310 per trip.

This item has been tabled for future consideration.

On a motion by Ms. Kim, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the following items:

General

Consent Agenda General 6.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the January 18, 2011 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 6.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education accepts a gift in the amount of \$15,000. from an anonymous donor. This gift is to be used for Technology in the Rye Middle School.

Consent Agenda General 6.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the 2011-2012 school year calendar (Attachment #I)

Fiscal

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves Credit Change Order #5 for Caladri Development Corp. for (\$10,448.75) (Attachment #II)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.03

Recommended Action:

That Mrs. Kathleen Ryan, Deputy Treasurer, will co-sign all checks of \$50,000 or more that are signed by District Treasurer, Dr. Edward J. Shine.

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the attached SEQRA resolution prepared by counsel, declaring the Board of Education Lead Agency and that the HS/MS Gas Service Improvement project is a Type II action. (Attachment #III)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.06

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education approves a budget transfer #11 in the amount of \$331,925. (Attachment #IV)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.07

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education approves a budget transfer #13 in the amount of \$13,110. (Attachment #V)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.08

Recommended Action:

Approval of Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 2010. (Attachment #VI)

Professional

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Peter Beardsley as a Per Diem School Administrator, for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification as a School District Administrator and New York State Permanent Certification in Special Education, assigned to the Special Education Department, at a rate of \$750.00 per day, not to exceed 44 days, effective January 26, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence of Michele McRedmond, to be effective January 7, 2011 – June 30, 2011. (Michele McRedmond was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence effective on or about her estimated due date of January 14, 2011 – June 30, 2011 at the October 26, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the request by Laura O’Leary for a Child Care Leave of Absence, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective on or about her estimated due date of May 18, 2011 – June 30, 2011.

That the Board approves the request by Sara Charles for a Child Care Leave of Absence, from her position as a Social Studies Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective on or about her estimated due date of April 22, 2011 – June 30, 2011.

That the Board approves the request by Marisa Junta for a Child Care Leave of Absence, from her position as Mathematics Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective on or about her estimated due date of April 21, 2011 – June 30, 2011.

That the Board approves the request by Merrill Bronson for a Child Care Leave of Absence, from her position as a Special Education Teacher, assigned to Milton School, effective on or about her estimated due date of April 29, 2011 – June 30, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Amendment of the Leave Replacement Appointment of Cynthia LeClair Thom as a Special Education Teacher, for which she holds New York State Professional Certification in Students with Disabilities Grades 1-6 and New York State Permanent Certification in Pre K – Grade 6, assigned to Milton School, 1.0 FTE MA Step 7, of the 2010-2011 Teacher Salary Schedule \$76,618, effective September 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

(Cynthia LeClair Thom was previously appointed as a Leave Replacement Teacher for Michele Kovalyk, effective September 1, 2010 – January 28, 2011 at the December 7, 2010 Board of Education Meeting. Cynthia LeClair Thom will be replacing Merrill Bronson who will be out sick effective January 31, 2011 and is requesting a Child Care Leave of Absence effective on or about her estimated due date of April 29, 2011 – June 30, 2011.)

That the Board approves the Amendment of the Appointment of Kate Kirby from a Permanent Substitute Teacher to a Leave Replacement Elementary Teacher, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), assigned to Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2010-2011 Teacher Salary Schedule \$59,758 (pro rated amount \$42,428.18), effective November 29, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

(Kate Kirby was previously approved as a Permanent Substitute Teacher, effective November 1, 2010 at the October 26, 2010 Board of Education Meeting. Kate Kirby is replacing Jessica Avnir who was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence, December 7, 2010- June 30, 2011 at the October 26, 2010 Board of Education Meeting. Kate Kirby has been in the same assignment effective November 29, 2010.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.05**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Kathleen Murphy as a Permanent Substitute Teacher on the Elementary Level, pending New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), assigned to Midland School/Milton School/Osborn School, at the rate of \$107 per day, effective January 31, 2011 – June 24, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.06**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following Appointment for 6th Assignment or Additional Pay Beyond Annual Salary:

	Assignment	Frequency	% of Base Salary	Contract Rate
Jessica Comitino	Mathematics	½ year/spring	5%	\$2,685

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.07**Recommended Action:**

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:
Peter Dobrydnio

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.08**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following Per Diem Substitute Teacher to be used on an as needed basis for the 2010-2011 School Year at a daily rate of \$102.00 per day:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jenai Cayea	January 26, 2011
Chad Charney	January 19, 2011
Krista Johnson	January 19, 2011
Andrew Lask	January 26, 2011

Classified**Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment for Additional Work of Nancy Dunn to update contact e-mail lists at the rate of \$26.35* per hour not to exceed 15 hours for the 2010-2011 School Year. (Nancy Dunn will be paid the hourly rate of Step 1 for a Sr. Office Assistant from the 2009-2010 Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Salary Schedule.

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 #VII)

Items removed from Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01

Recommended Action:

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried (4-2) with Mr. Nathan and Mr. Fox voting No to approve the following item:

That the Board approves MSpace change order #1 for \$290. (Attachment #VIII)

Mr. Nathan explained the process of approving change orders to the public and wanted to ensure that the process by which change orders are approved is adhered to.

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board awards Bid #10-11-014 to All County Bus for Transportation for a Special Education Placement at a Cost of \$310 per trip.

This item has been tabled for future consideration.

Board President Mr. Nathan reported that this evening the Board approved and gratefully accepted a gift to the District from an anonymous donor in the amount of \$15,000 to be used for technology in Rye Middle School.

Board President Mr. Nathan reported on the following highlights from the January 18, 2011 Board of Education Meeting which due to inclement weather was not held at the Rye Middle School. In addition, it was not televised.

- A gift of 10,000 for the Rye Middle School was accepted from an anonymous donor. Mr. Nathan thanked the donor for this generous gift to support \$5,000. for technology and \$5,000, to be spent at the discretion of Dr. Ann Edwards at the middle school.
- The Rye Middle School Parent Organization donated computer equipment valued at \$24,675. He expressed the Board's great appreciation for the community's interest and support of our schools, especially of the middle school, which is the recipient of these particular gifts.
- The Board of Education passed a resolution addressing the Proposed Tax Cap Legislation that has been in discussion. Mr. Fox thanked the Westchester Putnam School Board Association for circulating this resolution. The text of the resolution is available for public view on our school district's website. Mr. Fox asked that members of the community review a draft sample letter he has prepared regarding some financial issues, unfunded mandates and tax cap considerations. Mr. Fox urged residents to communicate directly with Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, Assemblyman George Latimer, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver. The Board underscored the importance of such an effort, expressing the conviction that Albany should hear directly from taxpayers about their concerns.

Mr. Nathan advised the public that the school calendar for the 2011-2012 has been

approved this evening. The calendar will be posted on the school district's website tomorrow.

Presentation/Discussion Items

Dr. Shine stated that the following presentations have been moved forward from previously scheduled Board of Education meetings:

K-5 Reading Approaches Presentation - Dr. Steven Cohen together with Staff Developers (Deb Fishman, Tracey Orzo and Kerri Winderman). To view the video presented at the meeting, it is necessary to open it from the District web site/Curriculum page.

Rye Middle School Mathematics Textbook Recommendation: Grade 6 - Dr. Steven Cohen and Mr. Huynh together with input from Rye Middle School Principal Dr. Ann Edward presented their recommendation of a mathematics textbook for Grade 6.

High School French - 3RH Curriculum

Dr. Cohen and Mrs. Lisa Jenner discussed the High School French - 3RH curriculum.

Senior Project Proposal for Implementation in the 2011-2012 school year - Dr. Steven Cohen and Rye High School Assistant Principal Ms. Patricia Taylor presented details of a Senior Project proposal. The Board provided informal approval to develop the curriculum.

Proposal for new Crime Busters class for 6th grade for 2011-2012 school year - Dr. Steven Cohen together with input from Middle School Principal Dr. Ann Edwards described the Exploratory elective course class geared toward a 6th grade. Dr. Cohen received a positive sense from the Board to go forward with this proposal

Priorities for Space/Facilities Needs

Dr. Shine presented a report on space and facilities needs of the school district.

Karen Belanger of the Midland School PO addressed the Board on behalf of Midland PO regarding the heating and ventilation system at Midland.

Jim Culyer, former Chair of Facilities Committee, and former Board of Education President addressed the Board regarding the renovation of science labs being a critical issue. Mr. Culyer asked that the priorities be brought back to the Facilities Committee and have the committee bring it back to the Board of Education for consideration.

Terry DeBartolo and Megan Keough Co-Presidents of the Rye High School Parent Organization addressed the Board regarding communication and the much needed renovations for the high school. They indicated that the Parent Organization will do its part to assist in communication.

Mr. Robert Zahm addressed the Board of Education regarding a communications gap with the community and clear messages need to be communicated as a case for change and the financial issues surrounding our facilities issues. As a response to the English Language Arts/Reading Presentation, Mr. Zahm suggested the need for some level of standardization similar to math.

The Board discussed several new and revised Board Policies which have been reviewed by the Board's policy committee including:

#1222 - Relations with Booster Organizations- New

#1500P - Public Use of District Facilities – Revised

4526-R1 - Regulations for District Employee Computer Network Acceptable Use and Internet Safety – Revised

#4526-R3 - Regulations for Rye Middle School/Rye High School Student Computer Use and Internet Safety – Revised

#5252 - Student Activities Fund Management – New

#5280 - Interscholastic Athletics – Revised

#5280R - Interscholastic Football Regulation – New and Helmet Waiver Form

#5280.1 - Physical Education Opt Out – Revised and Application for Opting Out of Physical Education

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. Slack seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 11:45 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session for the continuation of discussion during an earlier executive session to review current litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Nathan seconded by Mr. Slack and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 12:05 a.m. to reconvene in public 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.