

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
October 26, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Nathan at 7:05 p.m. and the roll was called:

Present

Mr. Joshua Nathan, *President*
Ms. Laura Slack, *Vice President*
Ms. Kendall Egan
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
Mr. Gus Mountanos, District Counsel

On a motion by Mr. Nathan, seconded by Ms. Slack 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 9:15 p.m. to reconvene in public.

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

Mr. Nathan made a statement to the Public regarding the status of the Osborn Litigation. Estimates of payments and refunds resulting from the recent Appeals Court decision on The Osborn's tax status and assessments were presented and discussed.

While there are additional tax certiorari claims by The Osborn pending with the City, the Court's decision to hold The Osborn 100% taxable and to uphold the Osborn's valuation of its

property should net the District a one-time payment in excess of \$2 million. Going forward, The Osborn will be paying approximately \$1 million in annual property taxes under the terms of the decision.

Board President Nathan thanked prior Boards of Education and Board Members for their commitment to pursue the case in the name of tax fairness and said now that this case is over he is looking forward to a positive and stable relationship with The Osborn.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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

- 107 Rye High School seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society on October 13, 2010. The National Honor Society is an organization that serves to promote the development of scholarship, character, service, and leadership in young people and to recognize students who have excelled in those four areas.
- This past weekend, Rye High School's Parsons Street Players presented an extraordinary performance of "The Laramie Project." It was a powerful experience for everyone who attended. Congratulations to the cast and crew, to director Mike Limone and to the students whose photographs were featured in the set and during intermission.
- We are now in our third week of a month-long "Dignity for All Students" Campaign. Students have made "Peace and Justice Pledges" and information about the effects of bullying is on display outside the cafeteria. Last Monday, the school hosted Dr. King Mott of Seton Hall University. He spoke about tolerance, acceptance and homophobia. Yesterday, social studies teachers lead the students in a discussion of the lessons imparted in "The Laramie Project." Finally, next Friday, the high school will host Ted Bunch, an expert on sexism and relationship violence. This will be a day focused on bullying, dating, and the culture at the school.
- The first of four quarterly Art Exhibits is now on display in halls of the high school. The artwork will be displayed until Thanksgiving. Artwork from students taking Studio Art/Advanced and AP Studio Art, digital photography, and painting and drawing are showcased. There will also be a middle school art show. It will begin November 8th in the middle school building.
- It has become one of the highlights of autumn for our elementary students to learn circus skills by working with members of the National Circus Project. This program is part of our district-wide Physical Education curriculum, and these are physically challenging skills that are learned by students of all grades. Thanks to the PTOs for bringing this entertaining and worthy program to our schools.
- With the help and support of our PTOs, we are able to enrich the academic curriculum with visitors to our schools. Milton 3rd grade students saw an exciting demonstration on

birds of prey brought to the school by wildlife expert Bill Robinson. Author James Preller of the Jigsaw Jones Mysteries, made reading and writing fun and engaging for Osborn's students this week. Osborn parents – ask your child about hiding a stalk of broccoli in a glass of milk.

- Class trips serve to give hands-on opportunities for students of all ages to supplement and extend the classroom curriculum. Midland's 3rd grade went to the Bronx Zoo. 2nd grade students learned about science and searched for crabs and seaweed in the sand at Oakland Beach. Some Middle School students went to the Paley Center and NBC in New York City to learn about the history of television and radio.
- This year's Rye-Harrison game was probably the most exciting in memory, with its last-minute win by the Garnets.
- Also exciting is the fact that our varsity girls' soccer team continues to be the number-one ranked team in the country. Our other teams are also doing well. The swim team took 1st place at the divisional meet this weekend and is looking to make a strong showing at the New York State meet. The girls' field hockey team is undefeated and is focused on winning a divisional championship. The girls' cross country team is league champion. The tennis playoffs have begun and our team is doing very well. All of our fall sports continue to challenge our student athletes at every level of play.
- The middle school students will be performing "Seussical" on November 5th and 6th. Tickets will be sold at the door.
- I want to remind everyone that on Thursday night, the District is bringing a provocative documentary to the community called "Race to Nowhere." It examines the pressures faced by our children to compete and succeed and their effects on our children's mental and physical health. It will be screened in our High School Auditorium.

Hearing of the Public on Non Agenda Items

There were no communications from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda:

Consent Agenda General 6.02

Consent Agenda General 6.04

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.13

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.19

Consent Agenda General 8.01

(Mr. Nathan mistakenly referenced Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.12 instead of Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.13. Item removed and discussed later in meeting was Consent Agenda Fiscal Item 7.13.)

(Mr. Nathan mistakenly referenced Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.18 instead of Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.19. Item removed and discussed later in meeting was Consent Agenda Fiscal Item 7.19.)

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

General

Consent Agenda General 6.01

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the October 8, 2010 Minutes as presented.

The Minutes of the October 8, 2010 Board of Education Meeting have been corrected to show the meeting was called to order by Ms. Slack at 8:00 a.m. and the roll was called.

Consent Agenda General 6.03

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the October 19, 2010 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 6.05

Approval of Gift of a Mounted TV & DVD Player from the Rye High School PO and the Rye Middle School PO valued at \$1,758

Recommended Action

That the Board of Education accepts this gift.

Fiscal

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.01

Recommended Action

That the Board awards the RFP for Environmental Consulting for the Rye HS/MS campus to AKRF, Inc. for up to six phases for an amount not to exceed \$38,500. (Attachment #I)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.02

Recommended Action

That the Board approves contract award of District-Wide Fuel Oil Bid #10-11-010 to Castle Oil at \$2.52/gallon for an estimated 125,000 gallons = \$315,000 for the year. This is within the 2010/11 operating budget for fuel oil.

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.04

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the contract with Dr. Peter Garrity for eighth grade teacher modeling lessons not to exceed the sum of \$4,500. (Attachment #II)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.05

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the consultant agreement for Mr. Ted Bunch to give a presentation on November 6, 2010 on respect and anti-bullying for \$500. (Attachment #III)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.06

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the Contract for Rye High School to use the Rye Country Day School Ice Rink for games during the 2010-11 season for \$8662.50. (Attachment #IV)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.07

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the agreement with Westchester County for ice time at Playland Ice Casino at \$365/hr to \$420/hr for the 2010-11 season. (Attachment #V)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.08

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the consulting agreement with Friends of Rye Nature Center for environmental science programs for a total sum not to exceed \$10,000. (Attachment #VI)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.09

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the attached resolution for the nomination of Ms. Kathleen Ryan to the NYCLASS Board of Governors. (Attachment #VII)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.10

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the contract with Akiko Watanabe for the 2010-2011 school year. (Attachment #VIII)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.11

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the transfer of the remaining balance of \$15,439.98 in the Section 125 Plan administered by AFLAC for Dependent Care and Unreimbursed Medical Deductions into the General Fund.

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.12

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the contract with each individual noted below for the 2010-2011 school year.

Marienella Nelson – Spanish (Attachment #IX)

Akiko Watanabe – Japanese (Attachment #X)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.14

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the contract with each individual noted below for the 2010-2011 school year.

Anna Al-Hafid – Swedish (Attachment #XI)

Paola Balentine - French, Italian, Portuguese and/or Spanish (Attachment #XII)

Renate Boston - German, Swiss-German (Attachment #XIII)

Elsje Bufi – Dutch (Attachment #XIV)

Claudia Teich Lepore – Dutch (Attachment #XV)

Ana Maria Pontes – Portuguese (Attachment #XVI)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.15

Recommended Action

That the Board of Education approves the closing of two completed capital fund projects and the transfer of the un-appropriated funds to the Debt Service Fund, for a total of \$32,383.

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.16

Approval of Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31, 2010

Recommended Action

That the Board of Education approves this report. (Attachment #XVII)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.17

Approval of Treasurer's Report for the period ending September 30, 2010

Recommended Action

That the Board of Education approves this report. (Attachment #XVIII)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.18

Approval of Budget Transfer #3 for \$18,000 to cover the cost of Special Education expenses under Chapter 378- District of Location Program.

Recommended Action

That the Board of Education approves this transfer in the amount of \$18,000.
(Attachment #XVIX)

Professional

Consent Agenda – Professional 8.02

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request of Jessica Avnir 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 December 7, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request of Rebecca Hurta 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 January 17, 2011 – June 30, 2011.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request of Michele McRedmond for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as a Science Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective on or about her estimated due date of January 14, 2011 – June 30, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Professional 8.03

Recommendation:

That the Board approves the Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence for Beth Naber to be effective October 7, 2010 – January 28, 2011.

(Beth Naber was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence effective on or about her estimated due date of October 4, 2010 to the end of the First Semester at the June 15, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.)

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence for Monica Goldstein to be effective October 9, 2010 – January 28, 2011.

(Monica Goldstein was previously approved for a Child Leave of Absence effective on or about her estimated due date of October 1, 2010 to the end of the First Semester at the June 29, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.)

Consent Agenda – Professional 8.04

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of John Griffin as a Science Teacher for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification in Biology and General Science 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 13 (Finance Manager Step 15) of the 2010-2011 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$96,108 (pro rated amount of \$48,054), effective January 31, 2011 – June 30, 2011.

(John Griffin will be replacing Jennifer Giaquinto who was previously approved for Child Care Leave of Absences, effective September 1, 2010 – January 28, 2011 and January 31, 2011 – June 30, 2011. John Griffin was previously approved as a Leave Replacement for Jennifer Giaquinto, effective September 1, 2010 – January 28, 2011 at the August 17, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.)

Consent Agenda – Professional 8.05

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

John Griffin	Science	1 extra class/spring semester	2%	\$ 1,922.
--------------	---------	-------------------------------	----	-----------

Consent Agenda – Professional 8.06

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of the attached Extra Pay for Extra Work for the 2010-2011 School Year:

(Bari Rabine will be replacing Cindy Weichert as Jr. Class Advisor, effective October 14, 2010.) (Attachment # XX)

Recommendation: That the Board approves 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 2010-2011 School Year:

- Angela Badolato
- Debra Davis-Galliard
- Elizabeth DelliColli
- John Griffin
- Linda Ritacco
- Erica Williams

Consent Agenda – Professional 8.07

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Lisa Kiers as a Permanent Substitute Teacher on the Elementary Level, for which she holds 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 October 20, 2010 – June 24, 2011.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Kate Kirby as a Permanent Substitute Teacher on the Elementary Level, for which she holds 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 November 1, 2010 – June 24, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Special Education 10.1

Recommended Action

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

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda General 6.02

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the October 12, 2010 Minutes as presented.

Mr. Fox requested that item #6.01 referencing Board of Education meeting on September 17, 2010 and item #6.03 referencing Board of Education meeting of September 24, 2010 reflect the corrections that were made to those minutes.

The Board of Education Meeting minutes of October 12, 2010 will be re-submitted to the Board of Education for approval at the next Board of Education meeting on November 9, 2010.

Consent Agenda General 6.04

Recommended Action

That the Board adopts the Grade 4 Spanish curriculum and the Mandarin curriculum and approves their use in the schools.

Some discussion occurred among Board of Education members together with communication from parent Mr. Howard Sullivan, who addressed the Board of Education thanking them for introducing Mandarin to our school system and encouraging the district to use the simplified character approach. Continued attention to this concern was advised by the Board of Education members.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Ms. Kim and carried unanimously (7-0) to adopt the Grade 4 Spanish curriculum and the Mandarin curriculum and approve their use in the schools.

Consent Agenda 7.03

Recommended Action

That the Board approves Change Order #1 for \$290 and Change Order #2 for \$2,500 to M Space Construction.

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve Change Order #2 for \$2,500. to M. Space Construction (Attachment # XXII)

After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) the Board tabled Change Order #1 to consideration at a future Board of Education meeting.

Consent Agenda 7.13

Recommended Action

That the Board of Education approves the closing of these receivable accounts for Summer Special Education Program Reimbursements as recommended by the district's financial auditors. After discussion, on a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7 -0) the Board tabled this item to consideration at a future Board of Education meeting.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Nathan acknowledged the gifts that the Board of Education accepted this evening. A Gift of a Mounted TV & DVD Player was approved and gratefully accepted from the Rye High School PO and the Rye Middle School PO valued at \$1,758.

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 7.19

Recommended Action:

Award of RFP for High School Principal Search Consultant to School Leadership, LLC. Headed by Dr. Charles Fowler

On a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Mr. Schmitt and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve School Leadership, LLC. as the High School Principal search consultant.

Consent Agenda – Professional 8.01

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Dr. John J. Smith as an Interim High School Principal at the Per Diem Rate of \$777.00, effective November 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

On a motion by Mr. Schmitt, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried (6-1) with Mr. Fox voting No, to appoint Dr. John J. Smith as an Interim High School Principal at the Per Diem Rate of \$777.00, effective November 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

Presentation/Discussion Items

Dr. Edward Shine together with input and discussion from Assistant Superintendent Dr. Steve Cohen, Staff Developer Mrs. Peggy Gelman, the elementary principals, the middle school principal, and Director of Technology Mrs. Carole Andreasen presented the results of a detailed analysis of student assessments in elementary and middle school grades and reviewed how teachers are using the assessments to improve their instruction through staff and professional development. The entire report of the analysis of student assessments is available on the school district's website.

Mr. Nathan asked members of the Board of Education as well as members of the public to refer their questions regarding the data and analysis to the administration to capture all aspects of this analysis. Members of the Board of Education asked for additional feedback from administration at the next Board of Education Meeting on November 9, 2010.

Mr. Robert Zahm addressed the Board of Education regarding this student assessment presentation. He thanked everyone for the data that was provided this evening and brought to the

attention of administrators some calculation errors in the formulas presented.

In Mr. Zahm's opinion, there is a systematic problem with the math instruction at the elementary school and asks the administration to explain why our students have not achieved the results that were expected.

Ms. Vicki Edmonds of the Executive Board of the Osborn PO addressed the Board bringing attention to two points:

1. Ms. Edmonds expressed her concern of the disconnect between our local Math Expression testing results and the New York State testing results and why does that disconnect exist.
2. Ms. Edmonds stated that there is currently an expectation that elementary students have the ability to read at the end of 1st grade. She asked for clarification of the allotment and resources of teacher aides throughout the district specifically regarding teacher aides assigned to certain 1st grades in our elementary school to assist with children learning to read.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Slack and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:48 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session for the continuation of discussion of topics discussed during an earlier executive session; i.e., to review the employment history of current and prospective employees, discuss negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law and current litigation.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Nathan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 12:40 a.m. to reconvene in public and immediately adjourn the meeting.

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.