

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
December 7, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Slack at 7:30 p.m. and the roll was called:

Present:

Ms. Laura Slack, *Vice President*
Ms. Katy Keohane Glassberg
Ms. Young Kim
Mr. Raymond Schmitt

Ms. Kendall Egan – Arrived at 7:41 p.m.
Mr. Edward Fox – Arrived at 7:48 p.m.
Mr. Joshua Nathan, *President* – Arrived at 8:01 p.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
Mr. Gus Mountanos, Legal Counsel

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Ms. Kim and carried (4-0) 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 Ms. Slack, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried (6-0) it was voted at 8:00 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Mr. Nathan arrived at the meeting and welcomed those present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine reported that given the Board's full schedule tonight, he would highlight a few of the events in our schools.

- Congratulations to our student athletes, their teachers and coaches. This week, Rob

Castagna announced that nine Fall Rye Garnet teams have qualified for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Scholar/Athlete Team Award. The teams are: Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Swimming/Diving, Girls Tennis and Volleyball

- Congratulations to all of our students who have gotten into the holiday spirit by giving so much to others. Our students have brought in books, toys and clothing to donate. They have given their spare change and raised money to help children in Africa and children with cancer.
- Our students also celebrate the season with many holiday concerts. All of our instrumental and vocal performers have been working very hard to prepare for these upcoming events so that family members and residents can enjoy them.
 On Wednesday December 15th, Osborn Grade 4-5 will perform in the morning.
 The high school Vocal and Percussion Concert will be held at 7:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center.
 On Thursday, December 16th, we can enjoy Midland’s Grade 4-5 as well as the Middle School 7th and 8th Grade concerts.
 The next day, the 6th Grade will perform in concert and as will Midland’s Grades 1, 2 3.
 The following week, the High School Band and Orchestra will perform in the Performing Arts Center at 7:30 pm on Monday the 20th. On December 21st starting at 9:00 a.m. is the Milton School Holiday Concert.

More information to follow on some of these events at our next Board meeting on December 21st, which is the last day of school for students before the December Recess. Residents may check the district’s website for further information regarding all of our holiday celebrations.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

General

Consent Agenda General 7.01

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the November 23, 2010 Minutes as presented.

Fiscal

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.01

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the Resolution confirming no objection to ACC/Avon Products, Inc.'s application for a six-month extension of its PILOT which expires December 31, 2010.

(Attachment #I)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 8.02

Recommended Action

That the Board approves this Budget Transfer:

Budget Transfer #6 to cover BOCES services for District placed special education student per IEP. Funds are being transferred from Multiple Disabled Boces Services. (Attachment #II)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 8.03

Recommended Action

That the Board of Education approves this Budget Transfer.

Budget Transfer #7 for \$16,900 to cover the cost of a Consultant for the High School Principal search. (Attachment #III)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 8.04

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the contract with Kathryn Stack for the 2010-2011 school year. (Attachment #IV)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 8.05

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the Contract for Health & Welfare Services for \$3,901.25 for the 2010/11 school year. (Attachment #V)

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 8.06

Recommended Action

That the Board approves the designation of \$2,858. from the HS Commercial Fund to fund the purchase of a library monitor and display cases.

Consent Agenda – Fiscal 8.07

Recommended Action

That the Board approves contract award of Bid# 10-11-013 for Carpentry Services to AF Contracting LLC at \$75/hour regular rate, \$79/hour overtime and 8% mark-up on materials.

Professional

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.01

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Resignation due to Retirement of AnnMarie Cornacchia from her position as an ELL Teacher, assigned to Rye High School and Rye Middle School, effective at the close of business June 30, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.02

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request by Shannon Gold to Rescind her Child Care Leave of Absence, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, effective January 31, 2011 - June 30, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.03

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence for Shannon Gold, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, to be effective September 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010. (Shannon Gold was previously approved for a Child Care Leave effective September 1, 2010 – January 28, 2011.)

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Shannon Gold as a Per Diem Substitute Teacher at the daily rate of \$102.00 per day, effective December 15, 2010 to the close of business December 21, 2010. (Shannon Gold will be assigned to Osborn School, effective January 3, 2011, in anticipation of Rebecca Hurta’s Child Care Leave of Absence.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.04

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Salary Amendment of Lisa Kiers from a Permanent Substitute Teacher at the rate of \$107 per day to a Leave Replacement Teacher, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2010-2011 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$59,758 (pro rated amount of \$50,197), for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), assigned to Osborn School, effective October 20, 2010 – June 30, 2011. (Lisa Kiers has been substituting in the same assignment at Osborn School for Ronald Kraus who resigned.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.05

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Amendment of the Leave Replacement Appointment of Cynthia LeClair Thom as an Elementary Teacher (Academic Intervention Services), 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 Midland School, 1.0 FTE MA Step 7, of the 2010-2011 Teacher Salary Schedule \$76,618 (pro rated amount of \$38,309), effective September 1, 2010 – January 28, 2011. (Cynthia LeClair Thom was previously appointed as a Leave Replacement Teacher for Michele Kovalyk, effective September 1, 2010 – January 5, 2011 at the November 23, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.06

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Paul Blank as a Teacher, for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification in Special Education, for Home Instruction – Regents Biology, 20 hours plus ten hours of prep time (one hour per every two hours of instruction), at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective November 29, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.07

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

EPEW				10/11	10/11
	ACTIVITY	NAME	INDEX	STEP	STEP
ATHLETICS – HIGH SCHOOL - WINTER					
Swimming (Boys)	Assist. To Varsity Program	Robben, Paul	0.05500	1	3,101
Basketball (Girls)	Assist. To Program	Beyrer, Maria	0.05500	0	2,953
ATHLETICS – MIDDLE SCHOOL - WINTER					
Winter Track 7/8	Assist. To Modified Program	King, Leslie	0.05500	4	3,589
HIGH SCHOOL – CLUBS					
Social	Improv Club	O'Donnell, John	0.03000	2	1,776
Sports	Weight Lifting & Fitness (Winter)	Garr, Dino	0.01000	6	720
OSBORN SCHOOL					
Web Advisor	Building Level	Appleton, Noah*	0.03500	0	1,381

(John O'Donnell will be replacing Judd Rothstein who was previously approved at the September 21, 2010 Board of Education Meeting. Judd Rothstein has not met with the club and has not been paid. John O'Donnell has been meeting with the club.)

*Effective November 22, 2010

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.08

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Nicholas Stavrides as a Permanent Substitute Teacher on the Elementary Level, for which he holds New York State Provisional Certification in Pre K, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6, assigned to Midland School/Milton School/Osborn School, at the rate of \$107 per day, effective December 6, 2010 – June 24, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.09

Recommendation: 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, effective December 6, 2010:

Marina Arcara
 Christianne Roidis Cuddy
 Abigail Dunlap
 Noel Gallicano
 Christina Griffin
 Brittanie O'Neill
 Joanne Santoro
 Kathryn Stack

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.10

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Termination of Employee #0009, effective December 7, 2010.

Classified

Consent Agenda – Personnel 10.01

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Probationary Appointment of Noah Appleton as a Computer Aide, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Osborn School, Step 1 without Degree Level \$25,440* (pro rated \$18,062.40*) of the 2009-2010 Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Salary Schedule, effective November 22, 2010. (Noah Appleton is replacing Christine Wolf who resigned effective November 5, 2010.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 10.02

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Per Diem Substitute Nurses to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 School Year.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Mary White	December 8, 2010

Consent Agenda – Special Education 11.01

Recommended Action

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

Presentation/Discussion Items

After introduction by Dr. Edward Shine, Dr. Charles Fowler of School Leadership, LLC, the consultant hired by the Rye City School District to conduct the search for a new Rye High School Principal, presented the methodology and timeline for the search process. (Attachment #VII)

Rye City School District’s Business Official, Mrs. Kathleen Ryan presented a report on the Fiscal Constraints & Challenges for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 including additional retirement system mandated employer costs for ERS and TRS contributions, state aid, enrollment figure considerations, unfunded mandates, support for Race to the Top, district facilities considerations and energy savings measures, non tax revenue outlook and taxable assessments (Attachment #VIII)

Mr. Fox thanked Mrs. Ryan for this useful information for the Board and for the community. Mr. Fox encouraged the public to reach out to our elected officials in Albany, to the

Governor, to George Latimer our State Assemblyman and to Suzi Oppenheimer our State Senator regarding unfunded mandates, state aid, property taxes and a proposed tax cap. Mr. Fox asked the Administration to provide contact names and telephone numbers on our district's website. Mr. Fox indicated that it is critical that people in the community reach out to the elected representatives now to express their concern as parents, PTO officials and tax payers.

Mr. Bob Zahm addressed the Board referencing Suzi Oppenheimer's support of the tax cap as well as discussion of her support of unfunded mandates.

Mr. Zahm also addressed the Board regarding the school district budget. He asked for the dollar amounts due to the recent RTA contract settlement. Mr. Zahm stated that he is reviewing budget line items from last year and is questioning why there are close to 50 budget line items that have either been underused or over budgeted. He questioned the use of special education litigation costs, crossing guards being over budget, false alarms and additional budget drivers.

Ms. Vicki Edmunds, Osborn PO questioned the Board regarding enrollment numbers in the district presented in the earlier budget presentation. Dr. Shine and Mrs. Ryan addressed Ms. Edmunds concerns also explaining the Bishop projections and the weighted factor involved in the birth to actual kindergarten enrollment.

Mr. Martin Gerson addressed the Board regarding budget expenditures, budgetary margins, actual expenditures, tax certiorari fund concerns and the budget process.

OPEN TOPIC FORUM

Board Members met with small groups until 9:50 p.m. The Board Members then reported on topics of discussion in their groups. The following is a list of those items discussed:

- Class Size
 - Concern with number of sections of elementary schools due to enrollment
 - Middle School – issues around increased enrollment, lockers, class, cuts in modified school sports, affect every aspect of the school
 - At the middle and high school, how do teachers reach all students as class size increases
 - MS classrooms too crowded. Could use different furniture layout (i.e. tables).
 - Class size relative to anything else: elementary parents will “fight to death” to maintain class size above anything else
 - Osborn enrollment projection accuracy
- Facilities
 - Midland
 - Overheating (teachers running air conditioning and heating at same time)
 - Auditorium too small to accommodate entire school for assemblies
 - Osborn

- With growing size of school, what's hitting capacity: Cafeteria? Playground (need more equipment)? Library? Media center?
- Lighting and sound system in auditorium are antiquated.
- Middle School
 - Overheating
 - Overcrowded classrooms
 - Phys ed: Are there enough gym lockers; gym capacity
 - Question about replacing carpet with linoleum
 - Electrical capacity
 - Solar energy at RMS? Can there be a solar project at the school?
- Floating a bond to deal with fact that in last year's lower amounts of money to technology bond for technology and facilities and infrastructure, electricity and ventilation
- Technology
 - Laptop carts don't have enough laptops for crowded classrooms in Middle School
 - MS computer lab occupied all the time
 - MS: x period now have 3 teachers to help students but only one computer. Teachers don't have enough access to computers (power School)
 - Questions about the computer network
 - Questions about policy on filtering
 - YouTube?
 - Clocks?
 - Is there a technology plan?
 - Why are there computers in classrooms;
 - Technology curriculum
 - Poor elementary instruction on computers (including typing)
 - Shouldn't children learn spreadsheets in elementary school?
- Curriculum
 - Given class size numbers at middle school and high school, how can we tend to all students needs through differentiated instruction?
 - Text Books
 - New algebra texts are liked. Where are new text books for 6th & 7th grade?
 - Osborn still short of texts/workbooks
 - French -- have we looked at our methodologies in how we teach French? Concern that we don't compare favorably to other high performing districts
 - Full day kindergarten – K's lose a month of schooling compared to their counterparts at other districts and catch up in first grade is difficult
 - Libraries
 - Elementary school libraries, loss of library clerks, request to reinstate

- Do we have a library program/plan especially given number of changes in elementary libraries
- MS change technology program (“shop”)
- Mandarin doesn’t really have a software program
- Misc
 - Working parents – have evening parent teacher conferences
 - Recycling
 - Are we recycling properly? Do we have the necessary containers?
 - Ms recycling: students concerned that recycled materials are being thrown out
 - Playgrounds – can we have recycling bins?
 - How many teachers in the high school are doing extra assignments?
- District Operations & Budgets
 - Bargaining unit negotiations – secretarial clerical school nurse and computer aide unit
 - Unfunded mandates list so that residents may communicate with their elected officials

Mr. Nathan thanked everyone who participated and indicated that the concerns raised would be given to Dr. Shine and the administration. Feedback on some of the items by the district will be addressed at the next Board meeting and the next few Board meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM BOARD

Mr. Fox addressed the issue of the capacity of auditoriums at our elementary schools and suggested that the Administration consider using the Performing Arts Center at Rye High School. He suggested that the elementary schools use the high school facility for more of the elementary events to accommodate more people and, if possible, in the evening to allow more parents to attend.

Mr. Fox addressed the issue of the Rye Little League cost for each participant being tripled by the City of Rye for field use cost. We have a shared services agreement to use our field space and do we do not get any of the money they receive but they are using our fields and we are not getting any money from them for the usage of our fields. He recommends that the district consider going back to the City to review the shared services agreement and asking what is happening with the funds and should they be remitted back to the schools to help maintain our fields.

Adjournment:

Board Minutes

December 7, 2010

On a motion by Ms. Slack seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:15 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session for the continuation of discussion of topics discussed during an earlier 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 11:20 p.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.