

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
October 11, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Slack at 7:02 p.m. and the roll was called:

Present:

Ms. Laura Slack, President
Mr. Raymond Schmitt, Vice President
Mr. Joshua Nathan * Arrived at 7:05 p.m.
Ms. Kendall Egan
Mr. Edward Fox* Arrived at 7:10 p.m.
Ms. Katy Keohane-Glassberg
Ms. Karen Belanger

Dr. Edward Shine, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mary Anne Evangelist, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Kathleen Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Ms. Elaine Cuglietto, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Mr. Douglas E. Goodfriend – Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (Bond Counsel)
Mr. Gus Mountanos, Ingerman Smith, LLP
Mr. Christan Robbins
Mr. Graham Trelstad

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Schmitt 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 review current litigation.

On a motion by Ms. Slack, seconded by Mr. Schmitt and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:10 p.m. to reconvene in public.

Ms. Slack welcomed those community members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Shine shared information about some of the accomplishments and activities that have taken place throughout the District recently.

The Rye High School Crew Team held its third annual Ergathon fundraiser on September 24, rowing on erg machines in front of Rye Middle School. The team surpassed last year's number of meters rowed, which was 600,000, and this year rowed an impressive 847,908 meters. Over \$12,000. was raised, and an additional \$800. was collected from a bake sale held during the Ergathon. This is a record in funds raised through this event.

Eight High School students were named to Area All-State performing groups, through NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association and WCSMA (Westchester County School Music Association). Cellist Madeline Junkins and Oboist Trevor Hele will be part of the Area All-State Orchestra, while Ariella Reidenberg and Emily Teplar will participate in Area All-State Women's Chorus. David Cirillo, Danny Keller, Rob Keller, and Emily Teplar were selected to the Area All-State Mixed Chorus. All of these students will rehearse with their respective ensembles, comprised of talented students from across Westchester, under the direction of renowned guest conductors. A culminating concert will be held at SUNY Purchase in November.

Rye High School's Parson Street Players will present *Our Town* on Friday, October 21 and Saturday October 22, 2011, both shows at 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

Also coming up is one of our *Heard in Rye* Speaker Series lectures. This event will feature Dr. Wendy Mogel and is titled, "Raising Resilient Teenagers: How to Be an Effective Parent in a Culture of Anxiety and Entitlement." It will be held on October 20 at the Rye Country Day School Performing Arts Center, and this is the first *Heard in Rye* event that will also include a follow-up "Coffee and Conversation" gathering the next morning. All are welcome to attend the October 21, discussion, between 9:30-11 a.m. at Rye Presbyterian Nursery School.

As part of a lesson unit on sea creatures, Milton School second grade classes took a walk to Oakland Beach last week to collect and learn about marine life. Rye Nature Center staff taught the children about fish, starfish, blowfish, and many other creatures. The students and their teachers brought a collection of creatures back to Milton's touch tank aquarium so that they can continue to study and observe them.

Osborn School has unveiled a new Outdoor Classroom and Edible Garden that has been developing since the beginning of the school year, providing children with an assortment of learning opportunities. Students have learned about seeds and weeds, organic gardening, and growing plants and vegetables. Classes have pitched in by helping to clean up the inner courtyard, spreading mulch, planting bulbs, releasing ladybugs into the garden, and more. Harvest games are being planned, as well as a possible after school garden club for the winter months. Every couple of weeks, Osborn plans to highlight a different vegetable and plant.

The Rye-Harrison football game will be held on Saturday, October 15 at Harrison, at 1:30 p.m. Come cheer on the Garnets for this game against our neighbors that has become a community tradition.

Hearing of the Public on Non Agenda Items

Ms. Jennifer Boyle addressed the Board of Education and presented them with a petition she identified as being signed by approximately 200 individuals associated with pre schools in the Rye City School District. The petitions were signed indicating their support for the school district to pursue a full \$27 million dollar bond referendum.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

General

Consent Agenda General 6.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the September 27, 2011 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 6.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education approves the \$1,500. gift from the Osborn School PTO for Heard in Rye.

Consent Agenda General 6.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education approves the \$1,575. gift from the Osborn PTO for a year subscription to BrainPOP for the Osborn School.

Consent Agenda General 6.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education approves the \$1,200. gift from the 2012 Senior Class for the purchase of a 55 inch television in the cafeteria.

Consent Agenda General 6.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education approves the \$2,000. gift from the Niehaus family for scholarship renewal.

Fiscal

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board awards the proposal for Financial Advisory Services to Capital Markets Advisors, LLC for the varying amounts based on the range of services described in their proposal. The Board authorizes the Board President to sign a letter of engagement for these services. (Attachment # I)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board awards the request for proposal for bond legal counsel to Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP for the rates noted in their proposal and authorizes the Board President to execute the letter of engagement for these services. (Attachment # II)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Non-RFP Consultant Services Agreement with Elena Caffentzis d/b/a Speech Journey for the 2011/12 school year. (Attachment # III)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Non-RFP Consultant Services Agreement with Donna Klein & Associates, Inc. for the 2011/12 school year. (Attachment # IV)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the RFP Consultant Services Agreement with Paula Raskin for the 2011/12 school year. (Attachment # V)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.06

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the contract with the six individuals noted below for the 2011-2012 school year. Agreements between Rye City School District and the following individuals for translation consultant services from September 7, 2011 to June 30, 2012, at the rate of \$50.00 per hour on an as needed basis: (Attachment # VI)

Paola Balentine - French, Italian, Portuguese and/or Spanish

Chiyoko Morimoto - Japanese

Fumiko Nishino - Japanese

Michi Tremonte - Japanese

Anna Van Bladeren - Dutch

Akiko Watanabe - Japanese

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.07

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the contract with Akiko Watanabe for the 2011-2012 school year. (Attachment # VII)

Professional

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Stephanie Cohn, from her position as an Art Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective at the close of business January 27, 2012. (Stephanie Cohn was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence, effective September 1, 2011 – January 27, 2012.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the request by Courtney Albaum 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 November 15, 2011 – June 30, 2012.

That the Board approves the request by Rebecca Hurta for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective January 30, 2012 – June 30, 2012. (Rebecca Hurta was previously approved for a Child Care Leaves of Absence, effective January 22, 2011 – June 30, 2011 and September 1, 2011 - January 27, 2012.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following Appointments for Extra Pay for Extra Work for the 2011-2012 school year:

2011/2012 EPEW	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	11/12 <u>STEP</u>
High School - Clubs			
Clubs	Sailing	Fung, Drew	Volunteer
Clubs	Sailing	Papert, Richard	Volunteer

That the Board approves the following RCSD employees to work as supervisors, ticket takers, etc. at Drama/Musical Productions on an as needed basis throughout the 2011-2012 School Year:
Melissa Mamangakis

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following Per Diem Substitute Teacher to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2011-2012 School Year at a daily rate of \$102.00 per day:

Name	Effective Date
Peggy Gelman	October 12, 2011

Classified

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Jarryd Williams from his position as a Food Service Worker, assigned to Milton School, effective August 26, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Salary Adjustments for the following Food Service Workers, effective October 7, 2011:

Name	Present Rate	Adjustment Rate
Rose Inguanti	\$10.75	\$11.75
Pablo Sanchez	\$11.00	\$11.75
Caesar Fabian Cruz	\$11.00	\$11.40

(The above staff members have been assigned a greater degree of responsibility.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.03**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aides to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2011-2012 School Year:

Hourly rate of pay as follows:

Teacher Aide - \$13.51 is hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 of Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract for the School Year.

Teacher Aide for Special Education – \$18.01 is hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 of Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract for the School Year:

Leslie Flamio Effective: October 12, 2011

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Substitute Cleaners to be used on an as needed basis:

Effective 7/1/11 – 6/30/12

Step 1 of Custodial Unit Contract for cleaner

\$19.80 per hour for days and \$20.79 per hour for nights for the 2011-2012 school year

Jonathan Capasso

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.05**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Substitute Nurses to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2011-2012 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 2011-2012 School Year:

Lila Smith

Melissa Shields

*Salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.06

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Per Diem Substitute Secretarial Clerical Worker to be used on an as needed basis:

Effective 7/1/11 – 6/30/12

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 2011-2012 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*

Peggy Gelman

*Salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.07

Recommended Action:

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Education Law §913, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the staff member discussed in executive session is directed to report for a psychiatric examination, which examination will include Psychiatric Evaluation in order to determine the mental/physical capacity of such person to perform his/her duties as an employee of the Rye City School District, the said medical examination to be before Alan Reichman, M.D., at his office located at 190 Willis Avenue, Room 114, Mineola, New York, on October 20, 2011 at 11:00am.; and

IT IS HEREBY FUTHER RESOLVED, that said staff member is directed to produce at said medical examination any and all medical records related to the present state of his/her health for the past three (3) years.

Consent Agenda – Special Education 10.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the appointment for the Committee on Special Education/Committee on Preschool Special Education parent members for the 2011-2012 school year as attached.

(Attachment # VIII)

Ms. Slack acknowledged that The Board accepted two gifts from the Osborn PTO; one for \$1,500 to support Heard in Rye, the other in the amount of \$1,575 for a year subscription to BrainPOP, a program used for SMARTBoards. Ms. Slack expressed gratitude for the work the PTOs do to make the District a better place. A \$1,200 gift was accepted from the 2012 Senior Class for the purchase of a television, and a \$2,000 gift was approved from the Niehaus family for scholarship renewal. Ms. Slack noted that the Niehaus family's generous donations to the District are greatly appreciated.

Ms. Slack announced that the following Action Agenda Items were being removed from the agenda.

Action Item 13.01 Resolution for SEQRA

Action Item 13.02 Resolution of Necessity

Action Item 13.03 Bond Resolution

Action Item 13.04 Resolution to establish December 6, 2011 as Election Day.

Ms. Slack presented the following statement:

"As the community is aware, the Board has carefully planned a proposed bond referendum for the construction of an addition to the Rye High School/Middle School Campus to address the District's increased enrollment and the fact that we are currently at 104% of functional capacity in this building. In connection with the proposed bond referendum the Board prepared and published an Enhanced Environmental Assessment Form in connection with its obligations under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act. Unfortunately, on Thursday, the City of Rye wrote a letter to the School District raising traffic concerns regarding the proposed addition. It is unfortunate that the city chose this course of action instead of speaking to us directly especially since it was just three days after the Mayor, City Manager, President of this School Board and the Superintendent of Schools met face to face to discuss issues. The City did not ask for an additional meeting or call the District or give any sort of notice of their issues in advance of sending their letter. Nonetheless the Board of Education has forwarded this correspondence to its environmental consultants for review and comment. Unfortunately, in light of the City's actions, the Board of Education is not able to proceed tonight with its intended action authorizing a vote on the proposed bond referendum. We therefore must table the action items related to the proposed HS/MS capital improvement and bond items 1301, 1302, 1303, and 1304. This delay is regrettable because we are concerned about jeopardizing the completion of the necessary addition in time for the September 2014 opening of school."

[A meeting has been planned between the City and District officials for the week of October 17, 2011 in the hope of resolving issues and moving forward with the project.]

Community member Mr. Robert Zahm requested that the Board post updated about detail cost estimates of what was to be considered by the Board this evening. Ms. Vicki Edmonds, Ms. Jennifer Boyle, Mr. Billy Drady, Mr. Edward Boyle and Ms. Emily Keenan all addressed the Board regarding the Bond and the statements that were made by Ms. Slack.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation of Independent Audit of the Fiscal year Ended 6/30/11 by
O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins

Partners Susan Barrosi and Chris Kopf together with Audit Manager Margaret Modugno reported to the Board of Education on the results of their audit for financial year ended June 30, 2011. The independent auditors announced that the District received an "unqualified opinion," which is the best review a school district can receive. The independent auditors have also provided a letter and report on communication of internal control matters identified in the audit, as well as financial statements and supplementary information with the independent auditors' report.

A discussion and a question / answer period among the Board Members, administration and the representatives of O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins followed the presentation of the audit.

ACTION ITEMS

On a motion by Mr. Nathan seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried (7-0) to approve the following action item:

Action Item 13.05**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Independent Financial Audit prepared by O'Connor Davies Munns & Dobbins for June 30, 2011 and Management Letter with the Corrective Action Plan.
(Attachment IX)

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Nathan seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 9:20 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session to review current negotiations.

During Executive Session, a discussion was held regarding confidential potential tax certiorari proceedings. At 10:15 p.m. Mr. Raymond Schmitt was excused from the meeting. Mr. Schmitt did not participate in the tax certiorari discussion.

On a motion by Ms. Slack seconded by Ms. Keohane-Glassberg and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:25 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.