

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
December 6, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Slack at 6:30 p.m. and the roll was called:

Present:

Ms. Laura Slack, President
Mr. Raymond Schmitt, Vice President
Mr. Joshua Nathan
Ms. Kendall Egan
Mr. Edward Fox
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

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 news from throughout the District's schools.

- It is the time of year when our students and staff reach out and help others to spread holiday cheer to those in need. Students at Midland, Milton, Osborn, and Rye Middle School donated their Halloween candy for Operation Gratitude, a program in which the dentists at Rye Smiles contribute \$1 per pound of candy gathered, sending the funds to charity and the candy to troops overseas. Osborn collected an impressive 903 pounds of

candy, resulting in a \$903 donation to St. Jude's Hospital. Midland, Milton, and Osborn also collected nonperishable food items for the Carver Center in Port Chester. Midland collected 1,356 cans of food, and students were invited to sign a "Wall of Giving." The Middle School is also benefitting the Carver Center, collecting jackets, hats, scarves, and gloves, and will throw a party for the children receiving these gifts. In addition to these initiatives, Midland's Elves program will provide gifts to 260 children this year, Milton School collected \$1,735.37 through a UNICEF project, and Osborn students brought in 165 lunches to feed the homeless at the Don Bosco Center in Port Chester.

- Midland students did a wonderful job performing music, dance, and other acts in their annual Talent Show. Also at Midland, author James Preller visited grades 3-5 recently, speaking to students about his writing career. Additionally, Midland students participated in a buddy activity where they collaborated to design and write holiday cards for troops overseas.
- At Milton School, fourth grade students participated in a Native American assembly. Guest presenter Frank San Marco transformed the stage into a campfire like woodland setting and brought the Native American tale, "A Light in the Forest," to life for his young audience.
- Last week, Osborn students harvested the vegetable beds in their outdoor courtyard's edible garden. Each grade gathered six boxes of harvest, including radishes and salad greens, which were distributed to parents and other members of the school community. Students also enjoyed sampling salad from the garden during lunch. Osborn also hosted guest teachers from Japan, through a Japanese Overseas Educational Service Program. The guests visited classrooms, interviewed and observed ELL teachers and had lunch in the cafeteria with the second graders. They mentioned that Osborn is very well known in Tokyo, and that they were quite impressed with the school, teachers and program
- Two authors visited Rye Middle School in recent weeks. Seventh graders heard a presentation by James Deem, award winning author of *Bodies from the Ash*, *Bodies from the Bog*, and *Bodies from the Ice*, who spoke about his books and writing as a career. He also joined some middle school students for lunch. Author Cynthia Lord presented to sixth grade students, who had just finished reading and discussing her Newbery Honor book, *Rules*. Ms. Lord attended lunch with several students and staff members, taking the time to answer many questions. These two events were organized by Media Specialist Mrs. Newgaard, and funded by the Middle School PO.
- Our Middle and High School musical ensembles have several concerts scheduled. All will be held in the Performing Arts Center. They include:
 - Dec. 8, 7:30 PM - MS Vocal Concert
 - Dec. 15, 9:30 AM - Grades 7 / 8 Instrumental Concert
 - Dec. 16, 8 AM - Grade 6 Instrumental Concert
 - Dec. 12, 7:30 PM - HS Vocal/Percussion Concert
 - Dec. 19, 7:30 PM - HS Instrumental Concert

Recently announced sports accomplishments include the following:

Middle School sixth grader Holly Johnson placed 1st overall in the 50 yard Breaststroke at the Winter Goldcoast Championships held in Plantation, Florida. Her time was 34.99 for 11 year olds. Holly swims for the Westchester Aquatics Club, the Wolverines. The Girls Swim Team also had excellent results at States, placing fourth overall in Section One. The team placed 18th in the 200 medley relay and 13th in the 400 free relay. Melissa Fulenwider placed 7th in 100 Freestyle and 4th in 100 Breaststroke, and Charlotte Nixon placed 28th in 100 Backstroke. Additionally, Coco Darelus placed 8th in diving making her the best diver in Section One.

Dr. Shine reminded the audience that a Bond Fair would be held on Wednesday evening, December 7th at 8:00 p.m. in the Rye Middle School Multi Purpose Room.

Board of Education President Laura Slack provided comments in response to the postcard mailed to residents by a local group regarding the bond that is to be considered by voters on December 13. She stated: "I think it's important to remember that transparency and the dissemination of facts are two of the pillars upon which this school district operates. The Board of Education has been extremely open about our five-year budget projections and impacts of the tax cap, and how these baseline projections give our community the ability to understand and value their school investment. We should also remember that they are worst-case scenarios, which is the conservative position from which we always operate. With that in mind, it is disappointing to see how the anonymous authors of this postcard completely distort the facts that were made readily available by the Board. Taxes are not going up 33% in Rye over the next five years, and certainly not because of this bond. In fact, the bond impact will be a one-time 2% increase in taxes. But the impression one is left with is that school taxes are going to increase dramatically. There are other distortions and manipulations. I think the most important thing to do is to remind everyone in our community that facts DO matter, and we should all take the time to fully acquaint ourselves with the facts of the bond, not anonymous manipulations of the truth. Our community deserves better than that."

Mrs. Slack also pointed out that the latest issue of the *Rye Record* included several errors in the information reported about the bond, which were identified and corrected in the online version. She announced that the District prepared a notification with the link to the updated article.

Hearing of the Public on Non Agenda Items

Mr. Jim Amico addressed the Board of Education asking for support in the placing of crossing guards, pedestrian and child safety. He requested that the Board of Education get more involved and support crossing guards in their budget. Dr. Shine clarified that it is the responsibility of the City to provide crossing guards and the school district does not have legal authority. Dr. Shine stated that he would look into this issue with the City of Rye and the Board of Education.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

General

Consent Agenda General 6.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board receives the superintendent search specification development report of School Leadership, LLC and approves the placement of advertisements utilizing the recommended advertising specifications. (Attachment # I)

Fiscal

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education approves the Treasurer's Report for October 2011. (Attachment #II)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board accepts the Internal Audit Report dated April 2011 on Special Education presented to the Board on November 29, 2011 (Attachment #III)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board accepts the Internal Audit Risk Assessment Update for the Fiscal Year 2010/2011 dated October 2011 and approves the Audit Committee's recommendation for a 2011/12 Internal Audit of Purchasing and Accounts Payable. (Attachment #IV)

Professional

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Alison Sheehy as a Reading Teacher on the Secondary Level and a Special Education Resource Room Teacher on the Elementary Level, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6), not to exceed 4.5 hours per week (plus one hour of prep time for every two hours of instruction), at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective November 10, 2011

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.02

Recommended Action:

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

	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>INDEX</u>	<u>11/12 STEP</u>	<u>11/12 RATE</u>
ATHLETICS -WINTER					
BASKETBALL (Boys)	Assistant	O'Connor, Kevin		Volunteer	
WINTER TRACK	Ass't to Varsity	Ciocoiu, Adrian	0.08000	6	5,814
High School Winter Musical					
Plays - Spring	Director	Limone, Michael	0.09500	6	6,904
Plays - Spring	Set Construction	Gwardyak, John	0.02500	6	1,817
Plays - Spring	Lighting with weekend matinees	Gwardyak, John	0.02750	6	1,998
Plays - Spring	Voc. Dir.	Snowden, Thomas	0.04200	0	2,278
Plays - Spring	Orch. / Cond.	Brown, Dan	0.03250	6	2,362
Plays - Spring	Choreog.	Locust, Jimmy	0.03250	5	2,249
Plays - Spring	Accompanist	Cuffari, Thomas	0.01750	6	1,272
Middle School - Clubs					
Clubs	Reach Out Rye	Irvine, Lisa (eff. 11/28)	0.02000	0	776

Recommendation: That the Board approves the following non RCSD employee to work as a timer, supervisor, ticket taker, chain crew, announcer, etc. at athletic events on an as needed basis throughout the 2011-2012 School Year:

Kevin King

Classified

Agenda – Personnel 9.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Mary Kelly from her position as a Teacher Aide, assigned to Osborn School, effective at the close of business December 22, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Donna Accurso as a Teacher Aide, for lunch time duty, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks, assigned to Milton School, at \$13.51 per hour, Step 1 of the 2011-2012 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 2.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective December 12, 2011.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 10.01

Recommended Action:

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

Presentation/Discussion

Dr. Shine shared two enrollment charts illustrating elementary school level and middle school/high school level enrollment growth and future projections. He noted that grade k-5 enrollment has increased by almost 350 students since 1996.

Mr. Fox was excused from the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Rye High School Principal Ms. Patricia Taylor read a prepared statement describing some of the building conditions in the high school's science facilities.

Mr. Armand Quadrini of KSQ Architects provided a presentation detailing the bond project that voters will consider on December 13, 2011. To view additional materials about the bond, please visit the District's website, www.ryeschools.org, and click the "Capital Project Central" link on the homepage. (Attachment # VI)

Kathleen Ryan, the District's Business Official, led a presentation about the debt cost impact. Budget and tax levy projections with and without added debt were shared and reviewed. (Attachment # VII)

Hearing of the Public on Agenda Items

Ms. Mindy Gregg, Mr. Martin Gerson, Ms. Megan Keough, Ms. Sue O'Brien, Ms. Nancy Pasquale and Ms. Mary Emory each addressed the Board voicing their opinions on the upcoming Bond Vote.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. Egan seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 9:55 p.m. to 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.