

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
January 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Laura Slack at 7:00 p.m. on January 22, 2013.

Present:

Ms. Laura Slack, President
 Ms. Katy Keohane Glassberg, Vice President
 Ms. Kendall Egan
 Mr. Edward Fox
 Ms. Karen Belanger
 Ms. Nancy Pasquale
 Mr. Christopher Repetto

And

Dr. Frank Alvarez, 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. Glassberg, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7 -0) it was voted at 8:25 p.m. to reconvene in public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Board of Education President Laura Slack and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alvarez began the meeting by extending sympathies on behalf of the district to the families, staff members and residents of Newtown, Connecticut, following the terrible tragedy that took place in December. Dr. Alvarez acknowledged that this is a difficult time for the entire country and school districts have been prompted to carefully review their security and emergency management measures. He explained that RCSD has a plan in place, which was developed in 2008 and is revisited periodically. Schools practice emergency drills on a regular basis and staff members are knowledgeable in this area. Since the Newtown incident and the news in Mamaroneck earlier this month, Dr. Alvarez has met with staff and Board members, police officials, and others in the community to determine the best actions to take. An internal audit has been conducted to look at building security including locks, public address systems, security personnel and other safety aspects.

Dr. Alvarez noted that the district has already taken some measures and provided three specific recommendations to the Board:

- Creating advocacy through support of the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents' Call for Action. The Board approved a resolution requesting legislation

reform with regard to a ban on assault weapons and increasing access to mental health care services for schools.

- Increasing security at the elementary school level. The Board approved a contract amendment increase with NJB Security Services, Inc. Security guards are already placed at the MS/HS and will now be added at the elementary level.
- Hiring a consulting firm to work with the district in re-examining the current plan to see what can/should be done differently and to evaluate drills and work with staff. The Board approved a proposal for emergency management planning consulting services from Stonegate Associates.

Hearing of the Public on Non Agenda Items

Mr. Jim Amico addressed the Board of Education thanking Dr. Alvarez and the Board for their assistance with the City of Rye in acquiring two additional crossing guards. Mr. Amico applauded all for the great job they are doing. Mr. Fox acknowledged that all should thank Mr. Amico for his advocacy in pursuing the additional two crossing guards with the City Council. Ms. Slack announced that the City Council for this year has included two additional crossing guards into their budget. The school district is allowed to place guards in the street, but this may be done by the City.

Ms. Jennifer Costigan (Midland School parent) addressed the Board asking who is in charge of the school building in the event that the principal is not in the building. Dr. Alvarez responded there is always a teacher in charge or someone that will take on the lead role in the event of an emergency. The individual must call the central administration building and seek assistance from central office administration if there is any type of emergency. Every school has someone in charge when the principal is out of the building. Ms. Costigan also inquired about communication within the building. Is there only one way to get word out regarding an emergency? Is there communication throughout the building? Kathleen Ryan advised that we are currently looking at opportunities to expand the PA systems in some of our buildings and will be reviewed through our audit. We are researching those options now.

Mr. Paul Lejuez, 4 Dalphin, Rye inquired about the how much time has been spent looking at Best Practices at different schools throughout the country and to what extent is the security firm being hired to figure out what are those best practices? Where do we draw the line on the amount of money that might be spent to put Best Practices into place? Dr. Alvarez indicated that he has used this firm previously. They will be able to recommend a Best Practice Plan but also tailor it to each school and/or community. Mr. Lejuez asked about particulars of the new security guards that will be put into place in the near future. Dr. Alvarez indicated that they will be in place very shortly, working approximately 8 – 3:30 or 4:00 their primary function at front door, building checks and to create a presence. Dr. Alvarez referenced the resolution being sent to state legislators to enact stricter gun control legislation and provide adequate funding and access to mental health services for children and families.

Osborn parent Ms. Vickie Edmond addressed the Board of Education expressing concern over incidents that may occur in other districts and how the Rye City School District would react. Dr. Alvarez indicated that the district would consult with our security personnel but we

would rely on both the police department and district level decision. Guidelines and procedures will be discussed and plans will be updated and shared.

Mr. Jim Amico encouraged all community members to get involved and communicate with the local police department with their concerns, constructive criticism and positive comments.

Osborn parent Ms. Betsy Grassick, addressed the Board of Education asking when the public may expect the security firms report and safety recommendations. Dr. Alvarez indicated that the firm will be in our schools in the next couple of weeks and the actual plans, what we need to do differently etc. will be available in approximately six weeks. The presentation will be conducted in public, with opportunity for public dialog.

Midland parent Ms. Nicole Regan addressed the Board of Education inquiring about the security guards at the elementary schools. Mr. Slack announced that in order to preserve everyone's security, as little as possible is to be said publicly. The new guards are the same as those at the secondary level.

Dr. Alvarez reminded the public that the district also has an e mail address, feedback@ryeschools.org where any concerns may be sent. Mrs. Slack advised the public that, additionally, the public may contact the Board of Education via e mail at board@ryeschools.org or contact them directly. Board Member contact information is available in all school directories.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Slack announced that the following items were pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion:

Consent Agenda General 6.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board supports the call for action proposed by the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents as attached responding to Sandy Hook requesting that our state and federal legislators immediately enact stricter gun control legislation and provide adequate funding and access to mental health services for children and families.

Consent Agenda General 6.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board adopts the resolution proposed by Westchester Putnam School Boards Association on High-Stakes Testing as attached.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education approves Budget Transfer #5 in the amount of \$10,000.00, to cover consultant for K-1 literacy initiative

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.07**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the proposal for emergency management planning, security evaluation and consulting services from Stone Gate Associates, LLC during 2012/13 for \$19,900.

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

General**Consent Agenda General 6.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board of Education approves the \$10,000.00 anonymous gift for the Burke Scholarship Fund.

Fiscal**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02****Recommended Action:**

That the Board of Education approves the Treasurer's Report for November 2012. (Attachment #I)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03**Recommended Action:**

That the Board of Education approves the increase in the General Fund budget by \$450.00 for a gift.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board of Education approves Budget Transfer #4 in the amount of \$20,000.00, for general education home instruction. (Attachment #II)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.06**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves a Contract Amendment increase in the amount of \$85,000.00 with NJB Security Services, Inc. for the purpose of increasing district wide security services for the remainder of the 2012/13 school year.

Professional**Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Resignation of Marisa Gioia from her position as a Teaching Assistant for Special Education, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective at the close of business December 21, 2012.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence of Megan Milano to be effective November 28, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

(Megan Milano was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence effective on or about her estimated due date of December 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 at the October 23, 2012 Board of Education Meeting.)

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Amendment of the Child Care Leave of Absence of Jennifer Giaquinto to be effective December 18, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

(Jennifer Giaquinto was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence effective on or about her estimated due date of December 24, 2012 – June 30, 2013 at the October 2, 2012 Board of Education Meeting.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of Jose Maria Moreno Dominguez as a Spanish Teacher, for which he holds New York State Professional Certification in Spanish 7-12, assigned to Milton School, 1.0 FTE, MA +30 Step 6 of the 2012-2013 Salary Schedule, \$79,374, (pro rated amount of \$39,687) effective January 28, 2013 – June 30, 2013.

(Jose Maria Moreno Dominguez was previously appointed as Leave Replacement Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective September 1, 2012 – January 25, 2013. Jose Maria Moreno Dominguez will be replacing Reina McGoldrick who will be on leave, effective January 28, 2013 – June 30, 2013.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Patrizia Guzzo as a Teacher of Home Instruction on the Elementary Level, for which she holds New York State Professional Certification in Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2) and Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), 1 hour daily at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective December 11, 2012 – December 21, 2012.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Tara Newell as a Permanent Substitute Teacher on the Secondary Level, assigned to Rye High School/Rye Middle School, at the rate of \$107 per day, effective December 17, 2012 – June 25, 2013.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.06

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following non RCSD employee to work as supervisors, ticket takers, security, etc. on an as needed basis throughout the 2012-2013 School Year:

Keith Fagan

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.07

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following Per Diem Substitute Teachers to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2012-2013 School Year at a daily rate of \$102.00 per day:

Andrea Costa	January 2, 2013
Kathy Siekierski	January 2, 2013

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

That the Board approves the Probationary Appointment of Noel Gallicano as a Teacher Aide for Special Education, with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty-two weeks assigned to Osborn School at \$18.45 per hour, Step 1 of the 2012-2013 Teacher Aides/Teaching Assistants Salary Schedule, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective 1/2/13.

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

That the Board approves the Provisional Appointment of Roberta Billington as a Secretary to School Principal, assigned to Osborn School, a twelve month (12) position, 0.5 FTE, Step 1 of the 2012-2013 Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Salary Schedule, annual salary \$49,893 (\$24,946.50) (pro rated amount of \$12,281.35), effective January 2, 2013.

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

That the Board approves the Additional Work of Laura Schilling at the rate of \$52.83 per hour for a total of 6 hours of work on the Elementary Schools Power School Course/Set-up and enrollment for New York State, not to exceed \$316.98 total, effective July 1, 2012 – August 31, 2012.

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

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Substitute Nurse to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2012-2013 School Year:

Hourly rate of pay as follows:

School Nurse, - \$39.60 hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 of the Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Salary Schedule for the 2012-2013 School Year:

Rebecca Davis Tenney

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

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Substitute Teacher Aide to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2012-2013 School Year pending New York State Education Department fingerprint clearance:

Hourly rate of pay as follows:

Teacher Aide - \$13.95 is hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 of Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract for the School Year.

Teacher Aide for Special Education – \$18.45 is hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 of Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract for the School Year:

Sandra Rock

Consent Agenda – Special Education 10.01

Recommended Action:

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

Ms. Slack acknowledged that the Board approved a \$10,000 anonymous gift for the Burke Scholarship Fund. The Board is thrilled and most appreciative to accept this gift.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda General 6.02

Mr. Bob Zahm addressed the Board regarding the resolution for the support of call for action proposed by the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents Responding to Sandy Hook. Mr. Zahm recommends that the Board of Education not support the Superintendent's proposal as, in his belief, it will not solve the problem and secondly, the fear of mandates that may result from this.

After extensive discussion with input from Ms. Kendall Egan indicating that the resolution is intended to ask for funding of another unfunded mandate, on a motion by Ms. Pasquale, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the following item:

Consent Agenda General 6.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board supports the call for action proposed by the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents as attached responding to Sandy Hook requesting that our state and federal legislators immediately enact stricter gun control legislation and provide adequate funding and access to mental health services for children and families. (Attachment #IV)

Consent Agenda General 6.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board adopts the resolution proposed by Westchester Putnam School Boards Association on High-Stakes Testing as attached.

After discussion regarding this resolution, Ms. Slack announced that this resolution is tabled to a future Board of Education Meeting in order to make some revisions based upon feedback and will bring the resolution back to the Board in a modified way to support what West / Put is attempting to accomplish.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.05

After discussion by Board of Education Members together with Dr. Mary Anne Evangelist, Osborn Parent Ms. Vicki Edmonds, as well as an explanation of the necessity for this budget transfer, on a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Ms. Glassberg and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the following item:

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education approves Budget Transfer #5 in the amount of \$10,000.00, to cover consultant for K-1 literacy initiative. (Attachment #V)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.07

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Egan, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the following item:

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.07

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the proposal for emergency management planning, security evaluation and consulting services from Stone Gate Associates, LLC during 2012/13 for \$19,900. subject to contract being acceptable to counsel and administration. (Attachment #VI)

Presentation/Discussion Items

Mrs. Kathleen Ryan introduced the architects in order to update the Board and community regarding the High School Construction Projection Cost Update and Site Logistics Plan. KSQ Architects and Triton Construction provided an update on the Middle School / High School construction project, in which they discussed site safety and logistics, an update on budget, and an update on interior design.

Mr. Bob Zahm addressed the Board with comments regarding the change in strategy on portables, particular walkways at Rye Middle School, shuttle transportation to and from the high school complex from Rye Playland and nurseries, pedestrian crossings, drop off zones, safety and cost savings.

Mrs. Megan Kehoe addressed the Board regarding Phase 5 of the Construction Project and the \$1.7 million dollar pledge for a field house at the high school complex. Mrs. Kehoe is encouraging the Board to continue to solicit funds from the public for this project.

Policy Discussion:

The Board discussed policy #5110, School Attendance Areas and Policy #5312 Prohibited Conduct in Students and will be approving changes at the next meeting.

Communications To/From Board

Laura Labriola and another parent addressed the Board of Education inquiring how the Consent Agenda – Special Education 10.01 on the agenda is handled by the Board of Education. Ms. Slack explained the IEP Process, the recommendation process of the Committee on Special Education and its subsequent recommendations to the Board of Education. Concern was expressed regarding the District Management Council report, the district's special education program and SEPTA (Special Education Parent Teacher Association).

Mrs. Slack announced that the Board of Education and Dr. Alvarez concur that the

planned discussion of : In Pursuit of Excellence: Strategic Priorities, Presentation / Discussion Agenda Item # 12.03 intended to be discussed this evening will be postponed, due to late hour of this meeting, until the next regular Board of Education meeting scheduled for January 22, 2013.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Ms. Glassberg seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 12:15 a.m. to adjourn into Executive Session to continue to review the employment history of current and prospective employees.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 12:45 a.m. to 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.