

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**May 7, 2013**

The Board of Education began a Facilities Tour of Osborn Elementary School at 6:45 p.m. prior to the meeting at the Rye Middle School.

The meeting was called to order by Laura Slack at 7:30 p.m. on May 7, 2013 at Rye Middle School.

**Present:**

Ms. Laura Slack, President

Ms. Katy Keohane Glassberg, Vice President

Ms. Kendall Egan

Ms. Karen Belanger

Ms. Nancy Pasquale

Mr. Christopher Repetto

Mr. Edward Fox

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 Mr. Repetto, seconded by Ms. Pasquale 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. Glassberg, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7 -0) it was voted at 8:10 p.m. to reconvene in public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alvarez acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week and thanked all the teachers who are dedicated to educating Rye students. He also shared recent District news, announcing that 112 High School juniors with averages of 90 or above were honored at the annual Scholars' Dinner. Thirty-seven of these students were presented with Book Awards. Dr. Alvarez also discussed the Dignity For All Expo held at the Middle School on May 3, which included a showing of CNN's "The Bully Effect" and a recorded message from Anderson Cooper, a performance portraying the theme, an exposition featuring various booths and activities, special classroom lessons and much more. Additionally, Dr. Alvarez noted that the

District has retained its excellent Aaa Bond Rating from Moody's Investors Services, which will keep borrowing rates low and save taxpayer dollars.

Dr. Alvarez presented Rye Recognition of Excellence Awards to two Middle School students who earned perfect scores at the highest level of performance in the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Festival. Miteki Ochi and Esther Yu both achieved scores of 100 at Level 6, an outstanding and impressive accomplishment. Miteki has played the violin since she was just five years old and now studies at Hoff-Barthelson Music School in Scarsdale, while Esther has been playing the cello since she was seven years old and is in her second year studying at the Julliard pre-college division. Dr. Alvarez and members of the Board, Central Administration and audience congratulated and applauded Miteki and Esther.

### **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no communications from the public.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Slack announced that the following item was removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion:

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 6.02**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Resolution on Mandated Testing.

On a motion by Ms. Glassberg, 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 approves the April 16, 2013 Minutes as presented.

**Consent Agenda General 6.03**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Girls' Swimming/Diving Team merger application with Blind Brook for 2013-14. (Attachment # I)

#### **Fiscal**

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Contract for Health Services with Scarsdale Public Schools for \$1,872.06 for the 2012/13 school year. (Attachment #II)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Treasurer's Report for March 2013. (Attachment #III)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the SEDCAR-1 Agreement with Programs for Little Learners, LLC for the 2012/13 school year. (Attachment #IV)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.04****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the SEDCAR-1 Agreement with HTA of New York for the 2012/13 school year. (Attachment #V)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.05****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the increase in the General Fund budget by \$3,051.00 for gifts.

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

That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment and Salary Amendment of Zachary Papas from a Per Diem Substitute Teacher to a Leave Replacement Elementary Teacher, for which he holds New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), assigned to Midland School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2012-2013 Salary Schedule, \$61,563 (pro rated amount of \$10,773.53, effective April 8, 2013 – May 31, 2013).

(Zachary Papas has been replacing Sabrina Costa who has been on a Child Care Leave of Absence, effective April 6, 2013.

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

That the Board approves the Appointment of Kirsten Vasko as a .9 Teaching Assistant for Special Education, assigned to Milton School, Step 1 of the 2012-2013 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, \$25.62 per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective April 1, 2013 – June 27, 2013.

**Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.03****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Extra Pay for Extra Work for the 2012-2013 school year:

EPEW	ACTIVITY	NAME	INDEX	12/13 STEP
<b>Athletic-SPRING</b>				
LACROSSE (Boys)	Asst. to Var. Prog.	Marchesani, Daniel	0.05500	Volunteer
CREW	Asst. to the Prog.	Ruggeberg, Paul		Volunteer

**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 2012-2013 school year at a daily rate of \$102.00 per day:

Jerome Stern

Effective: May 8, 2013

**Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.05**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Maxine Dreckmann as a Substitute Teaching Assistant for Special Education, at the hourly rate of \$29.86, Salary Step 6 of the 2012-2013 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract, effective April 25, 2013.

**CLASSIFIED**

**Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.01**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the request by Nicole Haviland for a Personal Leave of Absence from her position as a Teacher Aide for Special Education, assigned to Midland School, effective September 3, 2013 to the end of the first semester.

**Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.02**

**Recommended Action:**

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

Rate of pay is dependent upon proof of education in accordance with Secretarial Clerical School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Contract for the 2012-2013 School Year

Hourly rate of pay is as follows:

Step 1 without Degree - \$20.36

Step 1 with BS - \$23.76

Step 1 with Masters - \$28.28

Kaitlyn Sassone

**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 # VI)

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

After discussion regarding the resolution on mandated testing, including the costs of mandated testing and mandated relief, On a motion by Ms. Belanger, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried (6 -0-1) with Mr. Fox abstaining, to approve the following item:

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 6.02**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Resolution on Mandated Testing.

**Rye City School District**

**RESOLUTION ON MANDATED TESTING**

WHEREAS, our nation's and New York State's future well-being relies on a high-quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship and lifelong learning, and strengthens the nation's social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, the overreliance on mandated, standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity in U.S. public schools by hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote the innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject-matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in a democracy and an increasingly global society and economy; and

WHEREAS, our nation's school systems have been spending increasing amounts of time, money and energy, while increasing student and teacher stress, on mandated standardized tests, including in high-performing districts who gain little information about their students' progress and frequently prefer to evaluate their students with testing programs that more accurately benchmark high-performing students; and

WHEREAS, statewide mandated testing provides little prompt, actionable data on individual student performance to guide teaching in high-performing school districts and requires substantial classroom time, monetary costs and diverts resources that could be better deployed in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the culture and structure of the systems in which students learn should be anchored in learning standards that draw on best practices, international models and research and focused on providing engaging school experiences that promote joy in learning, depth of thought and breadth of knowledge for students; and

WHEREAS, educator accountability systems that assist teachers in improving learning for students are in the interests of everyone in New York State and our nation, the costs of such systems should not be the sole responsibility of individual school districts that have no choice in whether or how to implement mandated testing and the resulting portion of educator evaluations; and

WHEREAS, New York State has chosen to further add to the financial and infrastructure burden of local school districts by mandating capability for online testing by 2014; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Rye City School District calls on Governor Cuomo, Commissioner King, the State legislature, the Board of Regents and the Mandate Relief Council to permit high-performing districts to choose benchmarks and assessments appropriate to their school population to better assist educators and students in continuing to improve student performance. We call for exemptions from mandated standardized tests for districts that have provided evidence of high performance by their students; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED that the Rye City School District calls on the U.S. Congress and Administration to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (currently known as the “No Child Left Behind Act”), reduce the testing mandates, and promote rigorous multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school quality in student, educator and school accountability; and therefore be it further

RESOLVED that the Rye City School District calls on Governor Cuomo, the State legislature, and the Mandate Relief Council to ensure that the mandated costs of standardized state tests, infrastructure costs for online testing, and the educator evaluations required for the Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) be borne by the State government that requires implementation.

### **Public Budget Hearing**

A budget hearing was held during this meeting. The budget vote and Board of Education election will be held on Tuesday, May 21, from 7:00 am-9:00 pm.

Milton School PTO Co-President Mindy Grigg speaking on behalf of all of the elementary school POs thanking the Administration and Board for the incredibly hard job in putting together the tax cap compliant budget with all of the constraints acknowledging that they support the recommended budget.

Ms. Nicole Weber addressed the Board announced that she supported the budget and thanked the Board and administration for the hard work on this budget.

Ms. Mary Emory spoke on behalf of the Friends of Rye City School District, encouraging everyone to get out and vote on May 21 and congratulated the Board and the city school district on its Moody’s Aaa Rating as well as the importance of what strong schools do for the property values in the Rye Community.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Dr. Mary Anne Evangelist discussed the growth of Mandarin and also shared information in detail about Science 21 Curriculum Maps.

High School Principal Patricia Taylor and teacher Amy Leahy provided a presentation on Project Lead the Way, explaining the importance of teaching students about engineering concepts.

On a motion by Ms. Pasquale seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 9:50 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session 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 11:15 p.m. to adjourn the meeting

Elaine Cuglietto  
District Clerk

Video of this meeting can be found on the District's website ([www.ryeschools.org](http://www.ryeschools.org)). Click on District and on Board of Education.