

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**November 27, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by Laura Slack at 7:00 p.m. on November 27, 2012.

**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

On a motion by Mr. Repetto, seconded by Ms. Egan and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted to move immediately into executive session to review the employment history of current and prospective employees.

On a motion by Ms. Glassberg, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:13 p.m. to reconvene in public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On a motion by Ms. Glassberg, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7-0) Kathleen Ryan was voted Acting District Clerk for the evening in order to take minutes of the meeting.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Alvarez reported to the Board of Education that there would be confirmation of the school calendar by the December 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting. Any changes would be communicated to the parents prior to the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The District will be hosting a parent workshop for the county on the Common Core and its implications on APPR. Due to a backlog from Hurricane Sandy the meeting has been rescheduled to January 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Osborn School.

Dr. Alvarez mentioned that he has been visiting each of the schools and having informal

discussions with staff. He remarked that the teachers have been forthcoming about what they would like to see for the District, their concern over lost instructional time due to the hurricane, along with their willingness to help and their commitment to the education of the children.

Plans are being made for parent coffees to be held with Dr. Alvarez at each of the schools in early January.

### **OPEN TOPICS FORUM**

Ms. Slack outlined the format of the Open Topics Forum. Board members were divided among four tables to hear issues, concerns and suggestions from the public. Board members took notes and brought issues to the Administration. Responses to the issues and concerns will be handled via email and posted on the district website. Issues/concerns presented during the Open Topics Forum included:

- Time frame/plan for previously discussed goals and objectives of the District
- District communication, especially with regards to Hurricane Sandy
- Confusion over Common Core, Acuity testing, new report cards
- DASA
- Public participation on committees
- 1.7 billion dollar pledge/fundraising
- Timeline and approach for hiring of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum
- Midland crosswalk situation
- Inconsistent heating at Midland School
- Elementary Parent/Teacher conferences
- Enrollment numbers
- Tracking teacher absences
- Senior internships and spring athletes
- Communication in school with regards to children that are out for long periods of time
- Outside services/outside tutors
- Emergency Notification System
- Use of e-boards by teachers
- Student Assemblies regarding hazing
- Testing concerns and professional development requirements

Suggestions/comments included:

- A possible *Frequently Asked Questions* section on the District website
- Live streaming of the Board of Education meetings
- Extend school in June to make up for any missed days
- Tying community service requirements to a reflection paper or report within a class
- Conferences as needed within the Elementary Schools
- PO/Principal meetings regarding Common Core at the Elementary Schools
- Practical business skills added to curriculum
- Presentation by Rob Castagna on athletics and field constraints

- More parent volunteers within schools

In response to the above, Ms. Slack noted that a Parent Handbook would be going home before the report cards in the Elementary Schools to help with the changes to the report cards. She also mentioned that a few of the committees with public participation have begun to meet, with others due to meet in the near future. Regarding other concerns, the Administration will respond to those present and will also post with a link to find responses. Ms. Slack also noted a new email address for the District so that suggestions and feedback regarding Hurricane Sandy can be communicated. It is [hurricanesandy@ryeschools.org](mailto:hurricanesandy@ryeschools.org).

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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 approves the October 23, 2012 Minutes as presented.  
(Attachment # I)

#### **Consent Agenda General 6.02**

##### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Boys' Swimming/Diving Team Merger application with Blind Brook and Bronxville.  
(Attachment # II)

### **Fiscal**

#### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01**

##### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the contract with Anna Al-Hafid for the 2012-2013 school year.  
(Attachment # III)

#### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02**

##### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board of Education approves the increase in the General Fund budget by \$1,549.50 for gifts.

## Professional

### **Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.01**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the request by Mary Georgiadis for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an Mathematics Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective on or about her estimated due date of February 19, 2013 - June 30, 2013.

### **Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.02**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Alison Sheehy as a .9 FTE Teaching Assistant for Special Education, assigned to Osborn School, Step 3 of the 2012-2013 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule \$27.24 per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days a week, effective September 4, 2012 – June 21, 2013.

(Alison Sheehy has been a Teacher Aide for Special Education effective September 2, 2010.)

### **Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.03**

#### **Recommended Action:**

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

<b>2012/2013</b>					
<b>EPEW</b>					
	<b><u>ACTIVITY</u></b>	<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>INDEX</u></b>	<b><u>12/13</u></b>	<b><u>12/13</u></b>
				<b><u>STEP</u></b>	<b><u>RATE</u></b>
<b>Middle School - Winter</b>					
BASKETBALL (boys)	M.S. (8th)	Rinaldi, James	0.06500	<b>6</b>	<b>4,818</b>
WINTER TRACK (7/8)	Modified Coach	Dowling, Connor	0.06500	<b>3</b>	<b>4,162</b>
WINTER TRACK (7/8)	Assist. To Mod. Program	Hatcher, Cassandra	0.05500	<b>2</b>	<b>3,354</b>
<b>High School - Clubs</b>					
Sports	Weight Lifting & Fitness (Winter)	Plaice, Josh	0.01500	<b>4</b>	<b>1,009</b>

\*Connor Dowling was previously approved as Assistant to Mod Program for Winter Track at the November 13, 2012 Board of Education Meeting. Connor was moved to Modified Coach.

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Accompanists for Rye Middle School for the 2012-2013 School Year:

<u>Name</u>		<u>Rate</u>
Betty Jane Belcher	Orchestra Accompanist Fee 4 Rehearsals & 3 Concerts	\$560
Barbara Orwick	Chorus Accompanist Fee 4 Rehearsals & 2 Concerts	\$480

**Consent Agenda – Personnel 8.04**

**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:

Ariel Sanzo

**Classified**

**Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.01**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Nicole Haviland 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 Midland School at the rate of \$18.45 per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days a week, effective September 5, 2012 – June 21, 2013.

(Nicole Haviland was previously approved as a Substitute Teacher Aide for Special Education effective September 5, 2012.)

**Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.02**

**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Additional Assignment of Denise Lucadamo as a Special Education Teacher Aide for an After School Program, 5 Fridays at the rate of \$18.45 per hour not to exceed 7.5 hours.

**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 # IV)

## **Presentation/Discussion Items**

### **12.01 Middle School Grade 6 Exploratory: Biz Wiz**

Dr. Evangelist introduced Dr. Michele Haiken and explained the curriculum adoption process, beginning with Curriculum Council, to the Board of Education. Dr. Haiken presented information about the new 6<sup>th</sup> grade exploratory course Biz Wiz, stating it is a precursor to the Beyond Rye Middle School course offered for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Biz Wiz is aligned with the new Common Core standards.

Following the presentation Dr. Evangelist noted that the course includes non-fiction literature aligned with the Common Core. Mr. Fox suggested pointing out different types of organizations should a business experience failure. Ms. Pasquale noted that the idea for the course was refined after Curriculum Council feedback, and spoke about the new Rubicon Atlas software used to ensure that requirements and objectives are met within the curriculum. Ms. Egan also noted that articles, websites and texts, not biographies, would be used during the course. Dr. Evangelist spoke about Rubicon, stating it was a living document that could be changed and enhanced as the curriculum is updated and refined. It is not static. Ms. Belanger mentioned that as part of the process of the Curriculum Council costs and resources for courses are identified. Ms. Glassberg thanked Dr. Evangelist for adding rigor to the curriculum development process. Dr. Alvarez thanked both Dr. Haiken and Dr. Evangelist for the development and presentation of Biz Wiz.

## **Communications To/From the Board**

There were no communications to/from the Board.

## **Information Items**

The next Board of Education meeting will be held on December 11, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

## **Adjournment:**

On a motion by Ms. Pasquale seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:10 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

Karen Jost  
Substitute 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.