

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
January 28, 2014

Present:

Ms. Laura Slack, President
Ms. Katy Keohane Glassberg, Vice President
Ms. Karen Belanger
*Mr. Edward Fox – Arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Ms. Nancy Pasquale
Mr. Christopher Repetto
Ms. Nicole Weber

And

Dr. Frank Alvarez, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Betty Ann Wyks, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Gabriella O'Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Ms. Elaine Cuglietto, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Mr. Gus Mountanos, Legal Counsel

The meeting was called to order by Laura Slack at 7:00 p.m. on January 28, 2014 at Rye Middle School.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (6 -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. Pasquale, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7 -0) it was voted at 8:15 p.m. to reconvene in public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Alvarez provided a report to the Board and to the community, highlighting several topics of importance. He discussed the anticipated increase in State Aid and explained that initially, the District expected to receive an increase of approximately 3%, or \$75,000. The District later received notice that it will lose about \$35,000 in BOCES aid; therefore the projected net increase in State Aid is approximately \$40,000.

Dr. Alvarez also discussed math waivers that the State Education Department submitted to the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in Washington, D.C. He explained that this

would present the District with opportunities to offer just the Algebra Regents, or to offer both the Algebra Regents and the eighth grade test. Right now, the District administers both tests and will likely continue doing so. Unfortunately, the State requires that if any change is to be made, the District's entire Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) plan must be reopened. As the State is not offering an alternative to this process, the District might not be able to benefit from the waiver. More details regarding this matter will be shared at a later date.

Dr. Alvarez additionally mentioned that the meeting agenda included approval of the AP Art History program, which was presented earlier in January, as well as a presentation on the District's Strategic Priorities. Presentations on the Spanish curriculum and a District Management Council (DMC) report were postponed to a future date.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Slack stated that she was informed that several Board of Education Members would like to address the public before opening the Hearing of the Public on Non Agenda Items.

Five Members of the Board of Education shared comments in response to a motion made by Board of Education Member Edward Fox during a Special Board of Education Meeting held on January 27, 2014. Board of Education Vice President Katy Keohane Glassberg and Board Members Karen Belanger, Nancy Pasquale, Chris Repetto, and Nicole Weber each provided remarks. Dr. Alvarez addressed the Board and the public on this topic as well.

The following community members addressed the Board of Education referencing the teachers that have been administratively reassigned and testing irregularity allegations:

Mr. Terry McCartney, Mr. David Schwartzleper, Mr. Ray Schmitt, Ms. Young Kim, Mr. Josh Nathan, Ms. Kim Abate, Ms. Boukje Van den Bosch – Smits. Dr. Alvarez addressed the Board and the public on this topic as well.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

General

Consent Agenda General 7.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the January 14, 2014 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 7.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the January 17, 2014 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 7.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board adopt the AP Art History Curriculum Revision.

Fiscal

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.01

Recommended Action:

That the board approves the amendment to the RFP Consulting Services Agreement with TheraCare Preschool Services, Inc. for the 2013/2014 school year. (Attachment #I)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the amendment to the RFP Consulting Services Agreement with Cheryl Small Jackson, M.S.C.C.C., d/b/a The Center for Small Jewels, Inc. for the 2013/2014 school year. (Attachment # II)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Contract for Health & Welfare Services Agreement with Bedford Central School District for \$2,951.61 for the 2013-14 school year. (Attachment # III)

PROFESSIONAL

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9 .01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Tenure Recommendation of Sheau-Yuann Huang in the Foreign Language Tenure Area, for which she holds New York State Professional Certification in Mandarin 7-12, assigned to Rye High School and Rye Middle School, effective February 1, 2014.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9 .02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment Amendment of Claudine Minella, as a Leave Replacement Elementary Teacher, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Nursery, K and Grades 1-6, assigned to Osborn School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 10 of the 2013-2014 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$86,799 (pro rated amount of \$49,886.40), effective September 3, 2013 – February 14, 2014.

(Claudine Minella was previously approved as a Leave Replacement Elementary Teacher, effective September 3, 2013 – January 31, 2014. Claudine Minella is replacing Patrizia Guzzo who is on an extended medical leave.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9 .03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Leave Replacement Appointment of Gina Rufino as an Elementary Teacher, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Pre K, K and Grades 1-6, assigned to Midland School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 9 of the 2013 – 2014 Teacher Salary Schedule \$85,183 (pro rated amount of \$42,591.50), effective February 3, 2014 – June 30, 2014.

(Gina Rufino will be replacing Melissa Pellettieri who was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence, effective February 3, 2014 – June 30, 2014 at the November 26, 2014 Board

of Education Meeting. Gina Rufino was previously a Leave Replacement Elementary Teacher September 23, 2013 – December 16, 2013.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Amendment of the Probationary Appointment of Jose Maria Moreno Dominguez as a Foreign Language Teacher as follows:

That the Board approves the Two-Year Probationary Appointment of Jose Maria Moreno Dominguez as a Foreign Language Teacher, for which he holds New York State Professional Certification in Spanish 7-12, assigned to Rye High School, effective September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2015.

(Jose Maria Moreno Dominguez was previously approved for a Three-Year Probationary Appointment, effective September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2016 at the September 3, 2013 Board of Education Meeting.)

(Jose Maria Moreno Dominguez was previously approved as a Leave Replacement Foreign Language Teacher, effective September 1, 2012 – January 25, 2013 and January 28, 2013 – June 30, 2013.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following persons to work as timers, supervisors, ticket takers, chain crew, announcers, etc. at Rye City School District events on an as needed basis throughout the 2013-2014 school year:

Michael Bruno
Chris McGlynn
Bart DiNardo

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.06

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Peter Beardsley as a Per Diem Substitute Administrator, for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification as a School District Administrator and New York State Permanent Certification in Special Education, assigned to the Special Education Department, two (2) to three (3) days per week, at a rate of \$750.00 per day, not to exceed the aggregate total of \$9,000, effective February 1, 2014 – February 28, 2014.

(The Hudson Valley Regional Office of Special Education Quality Assurance (SEQA) has scheduled a SPP Indicator 9 Focused Review of the Rye City School District. Peter Beardsley is preparing the report and analysis and will meet with the team for this review

CLASSIFIED**Consent Agenda – Classified 10.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Provisional Appointment of Leann Serao as a Secretary to School Principal, a twelve (12) month position, assigned to Midland School, 0.5 FTE Step 1, \$49,893* (pro rated amount of \$10,991.76*) of the 2013-2014 Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Salary Schedule, effective January 21, 2014 – June 30, 2014. Appointment to be in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

(Leann Serao has met the requirements for this position. Leann Serao will be replacing Donna Accurso who was previously approved as a Sr. Office Assistant (Automated Systems), assigned to Rye City School District for Special Education, effective January 2, 2014.)

*salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda – Classified 10.02**Recommended Action:**

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

Step 1 of Custodial Unit Contract for cleaner

\$20.20* per hour for days and \$21.21* per hour for nights for the 2013-2014 school year:

Stephen Colletti

*Salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda –Special Education 11.01**Recommended Action:**

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

Ms. Slack announced that The Board approved the tenure of Rye High School/Rye Middle School Mandarin Teacher Sheau-Yuann Huang. Board of Education President Laura Slack provided congratulatory remarks, explaining that Ms. Huang joined the District in 2010 and has done outstanding work, helping what was a new program grow and flourish. Ms. Huang, who holds a Master of Arts Degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Empire State College, has been a valuable and dedicated teacher, helping students learn a language that can be challenging to master.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION
Strategic Priorities: Academic Achievement Update

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Dr. Betty Ann Wyks provided an update on Academic Achievement. Dr. Alvarez introduced her presentation, explaining that Academic Achievement is one of the District's five Strategic Priorities goals and that the remaining four -- Teacher Effectiveness, Culture of Caring, Fiscal Responsibility, and Community Engagement -- will be addressed at future Board of Education meetings.

Dr. Wyks first described the manner in which test result data are analyzed. She then spoke about the steps the District has taken to implement English Language Arts (ELA) Common Literacy Practices in grades K-2, as well as the implementation of the Science 21 modules in grades K-5.

As another component to ELA, teachers in grades K-2 throughout the three elementary schools have been working with professional development leader Sharon Taberski.

Science was covered in the second half of Dr. Wyks' report. The Science 21 Curriculum, which was implemented this year, is linked to the NYS Standards for Math, Science & Technology, without gaps or overlaps. As Dr. Wyks described, it is centered on investigations that are student-directed and are relevant to students' lives; presents a hands-on, inquiry-based approach to science; integrates math, language arts and technology; and achieves a balance between process and content. Science 21 provides grade level kits that arrive at the schools, pre-assembled and ready for use.

In discussions following the presentation, Dr. Wyks shared that the District is being provided the opportunity to participate in a program through BOCES that will allow teachers to review the State's recently released 25% of the questions from the grade 3-8 ELA test. Two Rye teachers will be attending this research opportunity, where they will look for implications for instruction and literacy. Additionally, Dr. Alvarez mentioned that the District is considering joining with other school districts for a peer review, which would perform an assessment of particular subject areas. A committee has been formed to further explore this possibility and will eventually provide a recommendation to the Board of Education.

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

There were no further communications to or from the Board other than the comments that were made prior to the Hearing of the Public on Non Agenda Items.

On a motion by Ms. Pasquale, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 9:40 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session to review the employment history of current and prospective employees and litigation.

On a motion by Ms. Weber, seconded by Mr. Repetto and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 9:50 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). Click on District and on Board of Education.