

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
October 22, 2013

Present:

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

The Board of Education began a Facilities Tour of Midland Elementary School at 7:00 p.m. prior to the meeting at the Rye Middle School.

The meeting was called to order by Laura Slack at 7:35 p.m. on October 22, 2013 at Rye Middle School.

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.

The meeting began with a special presentation of Rye Recognition of Excellence Awards, a tradition initiated by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Alvarez last year. Eighteen Rye High School students were honored for earning various distinctions through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Claudia Hentschel, Olivia Iles, and Elliot Meister were named National Merit Semifinalists, a status that goes to approximately 1% of students in the nation. The National Achievement Scholarship Program was established in 1964 to provide recognition for Black American students. Hannah Billingsley earned this honor. The National Hispanic Recognition Program identifies academically outstanding Hispanic/Latino students. Evan

Miranda, Elizabeth Rodriguez, and Sebastian Saavedra are among approximately 5,000 recipients of this honor out of over 200,000 who were eligible. George Bryant, Samantha Carter, Ryan Costa, James Forster, Grant Janart, Daniel Keller, Phoebe Keller, Luke McGinty, Carolan Moses, Elizabeth Reynolds, and Sarah Schreib were all acknowledged as National Merit Commended Students, an honor given to a little over 2% of students nationwide. All of these distinctions are based on the students' PSAT scores from last year. Dr. Alvarez presented certificates to each of these students and applauded them for their academic achievements.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Alvarez provided a report to the Board and to the community, announcing the recent news that the Garnets Football Team was victorious in the annual Rye-Harrison game held on October 19. He congratulated the team members as well as Coach Dino Garr and his assistants, along with Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics Mr. Robert Castagna and Rye High School Principal Mrs. Patricia Taylor. Rye High School student Connor Murphy was granted the Chris Mello Award during the game. Dr. Alvarez also shared that the National Honor Society inducted 111 students on October 17 and extended praise to these scholars as well. Dr. Alvarez reminded the public that on November 12, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Dr. Betty Ann Wyks will report to the Board on her analysis of the state test results.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

The following community members addressed the Board of Education referencing the teachers that have been administratively reassigned and testing irregularity allegations: Ms. Stefanie Kalkut, Ms. Boukje Van den Bosch – Smits and Mr. David Schwartzleaper.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Consent Agenda General 6.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the 2013-2014 committee charges as attached.

Ms. Slack announced that the following Consent Agenda Item is being recommended as amended:

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8 .04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following Appointment of IEP Readers (as amended)

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

General

Consent Agenda General 6.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the October 8, 2013 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 6.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the October 15, 2013 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 6.03 – Item deleted

Fiscal

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01

Recommended Action:

Approval of Budget Transfer #3 in the amount of \$5,000 to cover additional workshops for teachers at Osborn School. (Attachment # I)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Consulting Services Agreement with Program for Little Learners, LLC, for the 2013/14 school year. (Attachment # II)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03 – Item deleted

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the consulting agreement with Friends of Rye Nature Center for environmental science programs for a total sum not to exceed \$5,000. (Attachment #III)

PROFESSIONAL

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8 .01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Kathryn Thompson as a Leave Replacement Teaching Assistant for Special Education, .9 FTE, assigned to Milton School, Step 3 of the 2013-2014 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, \$27.24* per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days a week, effective October 4, 2013 – June 30, 2014.

(Kathryn Thompson will be replacing Allison Baez who was previously approved for a Leave of Absence, effective September 3, 2013 – June 30, 2014 at the September 3, 2013 Board of Education Meeting.)

*salary pending contract settlement

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Kerrie Neuhaus as a Teaching Assistant for Special Education, .9 FTE, assigned to Rye Middle School, Step 1 of the 2013-

2014 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, \$25.62* per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days a week, effective October 4, 2013 – June 30, 2014.

(Kerrie Neuhaus will be replacing Jaclyn Osinoff who was previously approved for a Leave of Absence, effective September 4, 2013 – June 30, 2014 at the September 10, 2013 Board of Education Meeting.)

*salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8 .02

Recommended Action:

That the Board the approves the Appointment of the following Substitute Teaching Assistant to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2013-2014 School Year:

Hourly rate of pay as follows:

Teaching Assistant - \$21.12* is hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 of Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract for the School Year.

Teaching Assistant for Special Education - \$25.62* is hourly rate of pay, Salary Step 1 of Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Unit Contract for the School Year.

Jaclyn Valentino

October 15, 2013

*salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8 .03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Jaclyn Valentino as Teaching Assistant for Special Education, .9 FTE, assigned to Midland School, Step 1 of the 2013-2014 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule \$25.62* per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective November 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014.

*salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8 .04 AMENDED

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following Appointment as IEP Readers on an as needed basis at the rate of \$221.74 per month per location for the months of September 2013 and October 2013 only.

Carol Ranalli – Midland School

Joanna Diaco – Milton School

Jennifer Johnson – Osborn School

Kristina Anderson – Rye Middle School

Lisa Mount – Rye High School

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8 .05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following RCSD employees 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:

Christine Connor

Craig Dreves
 Lynn Kraut
 Michael Limone
 Mark McWilliams
 Kristie Orlando Bangali
 Ligia Rende
 Leann Serao
 Glenn Westerink

The following are not employees of the RCSD:
 Robert Connor

Consent Agenda – Personnel 8 .06

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following Per Diem Substitute Teachers to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2013-2014 school year at a rate of \$102.00 per day:

Nicole Goodman Dubbs

CLASSIFIED

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation due to Retirement of Susan Cicelsky from her position as a Sr. Office Assistant (Automated Systems), assigned to Special Education Department, effective at the close of business December 12, 2013.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Meagan Kelly from her position as a Teacher Aide for Special Education, assigned to Milton School, effective at the close of business October 25, 2013.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Jennifer Lent as a Teacher Aide for Special Education, for lunch time duty, assigned to Milton School, at \$18.85 per hour, Step 2 of the 2013-2014 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule, 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective October 21, 2013.

(Jennifer Lent has been a lunch time Teacher Aide for regular education, effective September 5, 2012.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Substitute School Monitor/Traffic Control for 2013-2014 School Year:

Brian Scarano \$30.00 per hour

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

That the Board approves the Additional Hours for Donna Betsch at the rate of \$36.82*, for a maximum of 15 hours, effective September 1, 2013 – November 30, 2013.

(Donna Betsch has been entering absence requests for custodial employees and other employees prior to our implementation of the AESOP System.)

*salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9.06**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Fumiko Nishino as a Scribe for a maximum of three and one-half (3 ½) hours per day, at the rate of \$13.95 per hour, on an as needed basis.

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 # IV)

Board President Mrs. Laura Slack expressed gratitude, best wishes and thanks to Mrs. Susan Cicelsky, Senior Office Assistant in the Special Education Department, for her many years of service to the District. The Board accepted Mrs. Cicelsky's retirement effective December 12, 2013 on the agenda. Mrs. Cicelsky was first hired as a teacher aide at Osborn Elementary School 27 years ago, and held various positions as a teacher aide, computer assistant, and receptionist before taking on her most recent role.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

After discussion, on a motion by Ms. Pasquale, seconded by Mr. Repetto and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the following agenda item as amended:

Consent Agenda General 6.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the AMENDED 2013-2014 committee charges as attached. (Attachment #V)

Several of these committees are currently seeking applicants from the community who would like to serve as members.

COMMUNIATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Ed Fox announced that recently he attended Curriculum Council Meeting lead by Dr. Betty Ann Wyks. The issue of grammar was addressed at the council meeting by committee members. Mr. Fox stated that this issue has arisen many times in the past and needs to be addressed. He inquired about the possibility of grammar being added to the district's strategic priorities. Dr. Alvarez and Dr. Wyks indicated that this topic would be included in the common core and would be included in discussions among the administrative council.

Ms. Slack encouraged the public to come out and support the students in the various activities that are occurring throughout the district.

On a motion by Ms. Pasquale, seconded by Mr. Fox and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:53 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session to review the employment history of current and prospective employees and litigation.

On a motion by Mr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:00 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.