

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
December 10, 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 meeting was called to order by Laura Slack at 7:05 p.m. on December 10, 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.

This Board of Education Meeting was held as an abbreviated meeting due to the weather conditions. Awards and presentations originally included on the agenda are postponed until January.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez provided a report to the Board and to the community, discussing several initiatives taking place within the District. He announced that kindergarten and first grade teachers recently participated in professional development initiatives focusing on literacy. They have been working with professional development leaders Sharon Taberski and Sheila Bertoni on balanced literacy approaches and best practices.

Dr. Alvarez also explained that the District has been observing and analyzing the effectiveness of its Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Plan, which was implemented over the past year. The APPR Committee will reconvene to explore ways the Plan can be reshaped moving forward. Dr. Alvarez additionally mentioned that the Aesop and WINCAP programs, which were introduced in the District this year, are now fully operational and will provide automated payroll a greater oversight. The District is also discussing opportunities to partner with the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center on technology initiatives, which can provide additional resources and possibly cost savings.

Dr. Alvarez concluded his report by sharing the exciting news that the Rye Garnets Head Coach Dino Garr was selected as the “Conference III Coach of the Year.”

Board of Education President Laura Slack was proud to announce that Dr. Alvarez was recently recognized on the “Educators Wall of Honor” at Montclair State University, his undergraduate alma mater, for his contributions to the field of education. Mrs. Slack extended congratulations to the Superintendent.

Mrs. Slack announced that the following items were being removed from the agenda.

The following item has been rescheduled for January 14:

Consent Agenda General 7.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board adopts the Middle School and High School Math curricula revisions.

Public Session

3.02. Special Acknowledgement Rye Recognition of Excellence Awards – This has been rescheduled for January 14, 2014

Presentation / Discussion I

5.01. AP Art History Curriculum Revision – This has been rescheduled for January 14, 2014

Presentation / Discussion II

13.01. 2014-2015 Budget Constraints - This has been rescheduled for January 14, 2014

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Bob Zahm addressed the Board regarding Accelerated Mathematics/Honors Mathematics for 8th graders. Mr. Zahm encouraged the Board to ask for all portfolio packets for review of materials to understand how packets are providing a way to inform a decision for students to be recommended for advanced mathematics instruction.

Mr. Zahm also addressed the issue of test results on elementary ELA and math assessments. He has asked administration to determine why certain schools have statistically significant and historically consistent stronger performance on examinations.

In response to Mr. Zahm's inquiries, Mrs. Slack asked Dr. Wyks to provide the portfolios to the Board.

Mr. Fox requested that any information regarding reasons and practices for greater success be incorporated in the presentation to find what is working in each school and translate it throughout the district. Ms. Pasquale indicated that in discussion with teachers she has been told there are numerous opportunities to provide our teachers with the ability to work with teachers from other buildings, and to learn from one another as to what is working, what is not and to incorporate their ideas.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

General

Consent Agenda General 7.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the November 20, 2013 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 7.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the November 26, 2013 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 7.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education hereby approves a settlement agreement and release in connection with impartial hearing # 79492, a copy of which has been provided to and reviewed by the members of the Board of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board.

Fiscal

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the increase of the General Fund budget by \$750.00 for a gift.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the contracts with the two individuals noted below for the 2013-2014 school year.

Taeko Okamoto - (Attachment #I)

Susan Skaf - (Attachment #II)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the contract with Akiko Watanabe for the 2013-2014 school year. (Attachment #III)

PROFESSIONAL

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9 .01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the request by Bruna Mascia for a Child Care Leave of Absence, from her position as a Science Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective on or about her estimated due date of March 27, 2014 – June 30, 2014.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9 .02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Part Time Appointment of Marie Smelser as an Elementary Teacher to provide Academic Intervention Services, for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Pre-K, K and Grades 1-6, assigned to Osborn School, 0.5 FTE, at the daily rate of \$371.43, based upon MA +15 Step 5 of the 2013-2014 Teacher Salary Schedule \$74,286 (pending proof of level of education), effective December 2, 2013 to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9 .03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment Amendment of Richard Diefenbach from a Per Diem Substitute Teacher to a Leave Replacement Social Studies Teacher, for which he holds New York State Initial Certification in Social Studies 7-12, assigned to Rye Middle, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2013-2014 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$61,563.00 (pro rated amount of \$13,236.05), effective October 15, 2014 – December 20, 2013.

(Richard Diefenbach is replacing Stephanie Zannotta who is on a Child Care Leave of Absence.)

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9 .04

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Kristina Anderson as a Teacher of Home Instruction on the Elementary Level for which she holds New York State Professional Certification in Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6), 3 hours weekly at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective September 23, 2013 – June 30, 2014.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Paul Blank as a Teacher of Home Instruction on the Secondary Level for which he holds New York State Permanent Certification in Special Education, 3 hours weekly at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective December 2, 2013 - June 30, 2014.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9 .05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Amended Substitute Teacher Aide Rate from a Per Diem Rate of \$90.00 to an hourly rate of \$13.95 per hour effective 12/10/13.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9 .06

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following Substitute Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Teacher Aides to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2013-2014 school year at the approved rates, effective December 11, 2013.

Per Diem Substitute Teacher - \$102.00

Per Diem Substitute Teaching Assistant \$102.00

Per Diem Substitute Teaching Assistant for Special Education - \$102.00

Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aide for Special Education - \$102.00

Substitute Teacher Aide - \$13.95 per hour

Cheryl Barnhill
 Alice Capozzi
 Ashley Cortes
 Emil Moussa
 Daniel Oppenheim
 Keith Reinhardt
 Cindy Reyes
 Scott Stampfl
 Cameron Virrill

Consent Agenda – Personnel 9 .07

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the following Probationary Appointment with Extension:

WHEREAS, Patrizia Guzzo was previously appointed to a one and one-half year probationary appointment within the Elementary tenure area effective September 1, 2012 – January 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Patrizia Guzzo’s probationary position was thereafter abolished resulting in Ms. Guzzo being excessed from said probationary position and being placed on a Preferred Eligibility List (“PEL”) effective at the close of business June 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Patrizia Guzzo was thereafter offered and accepted appointment to a Leave Replacement position in the Elementary tenure area, based upon her status on the PEL for the period September 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, on or about September 3, 2013 the Board created two (2) full-time probationary positions within the Elementary tenure area effective September 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Patrizia Guzzo, based upon her status on the PEL, was entitled to an appointment to one (1) of the above-referenced probationary positions effective September 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Patrizia Guzzo, has been on a leave of absence from her teaching position and has been unable to report for work since September 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the District anticipates said absence continuing until February 28, 2014, which effectively tolls the probationary period by operation of law;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board herewith rescinds the leave replacement appointment of Patrizia Guzzo, as an Elementary Teacher, retroactive to September 1, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board herewith reinstates Patrizia Guzzo from the PEL to her probationary position as an Elementary Teacher, retroactive to September 1, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board herewith extends Patricia Guzzo's probationary period so that it expires on November 30, 2014.

CLASSIFIED

Consent Agenda – Personnel 10.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Resignation of Kristi-Leigh Linnin from her position as a Teacher Aide, assigned to Midland School, effective at the close of business January 31, 2014.

Consent Agenda – Personnel 10.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Probationary Appointment of Elaine Mancuso as a Sr. Office Assistant (Automated Systems), with a probationary period of a minimum of twelve weeks to a maximum of fifty two weeks, assigned to Rye City School District for Special Education, 1.0 FTE Step 4, \$56,194* (pro rated amount of \$30,474.44*) of the 2013-2014 Secretarial/Clerical/School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Salary Schedule, effective December 16, 2013.

(Elaine Mancuso will be replacing Susan Cicelsky who is retiring effective at the close of business December 12, 2013. Elaine Mancuso presently holds the Permanent title of Sr. Office Assistant (Automated Systems).

*salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda – Personnel 10.03

Recommended Action:

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

Rate of pay is dependent upon the civil service title of the position being substituted for - Hourly rate of pay is as follows:

Step 1 of Secretarial Clerical School Nurse and Computer Aide Unit Contract for the 2013-2014 School Year is:

Column A - \$16.61*

Column B - \$22.22*

Column C - \$23.09*

Column D - \$25.25*

Column E - \$27.41*

Column F - \$30.73*

Ellen Stevens

Effective: January 13, 2014

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)

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION

AP Art History Curriculum Revision - Scheduled presentation will be postponed until our next meeting on January 14, 2014.

2014-2015 Budget Constraints - Scheduled presentation will be postponed until our next meeting on January 14, 2014.

COMMUNIATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

Ms. Belanger the Chair of the Instructional Technology Committee announced that she met with Dr. Betty Ann Wyks and Ms. Carole Andreason. They have arranged to have two meetings in the new year to determine and plan to look at how technology is currently being used in the classroom and how to support the program.

On a motion by Ms. Pasquale, seconded by Mr. Repetto and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 8:35 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 8:45 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.