

**MINUTES**  
**RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room**  
**May 20, 2014**

Present:

Ms. Laura Slack, President

Ms. Katy Keohane Glassberg, Vice President

Ms. Karen Belanger

Mr. Edward Fox

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

The meeting was called to order by Laura Slack at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday May 20, 2014 at Rye Middle School.

On a motion by Ms. Glassberg, 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.

On a motion by Ms. Glassberg, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7 -0) it was voted at 8:00 p.m. to reconvene in public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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Board of Education President Ms. Laura Slack announced that the meeting would begin with the Presentation of the Board of Education's Extra Mile Awards. On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration, Board Vice President Katy Keohane-Glassberg presented Extra Mile Awards to five dedicated and supportive individuals who have gone to great lengths to advocate for Rye's schools and public education in general.

Parents Jennifer Boyle and Mindy Grigg, along with teachers Jennifer Fall, Dayna Reist, and Suzanne Short, went above and beyond in helping many of Rye's residents and educators' voices be heard with regard to important educational matters.

Mrs. Boyle and Mrs. Grigg drafted letters and engaged the community in a letter-writing campaign stressing to elected and appointed officials the issues brought on by the tax cap, Common Core roll-out, and student data privacy. Over 1,000 letters were mailed thanks to their efforts. Mrs. Boyle and Mrs. Grigg also collaborated with District officials in coordinating a

forum held at Rye High School in February, titled, "The High Cost of Reform: How New York State Public Education Reform Affects Rye's Students, Parents and District Educationally and Financially." The forum drew over 100 attendees, and Senator George Latimer, Assemblyman Steve Otis, Board of Education Members, Administrators, and staff members discussed various concerns with the educational reforms.

Ms. Fall, Ms. Reist, and Ms. Short comprised a panel of teachers that addressed the major issues with the Common Core curriculum roll-out demands, the Annual Profession Performance Review (APPR) teacher evaluations, and inBloom, the company that had been selected to house student data. Ms. Fall also testified before the State Commissioner during another forum held earlier in the 2013-14 school year, sharing similar points.

Mrs. Glassberg was pleased to report that, since the advocacy efforts began, there has been some movement by the State. She noted that the State ended its contract with inBloom and also adopted changes to the roll-out of the Common Core, pushing back the timeline of the first graduating class required to pass English and Mathematics Regents Exams of college- and career-ready levels. This is an indication that the State is beginning to listen to those who have spoken out about their concerns.

Mrs. Glassberg expressed sincere appreciation to all five Extra Mile Award recipients, acknowledging each with a certificate and small token of gratitude.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Alvarez provided a report to the Board of Education and community highlighting a number of excellent accomplishments earned by both students and staff members. He announced that four Rye Middle School students received perfect scores of 100 on the National Latin Exam. Only 1% of students across the country who took this test earned this level of achievement. He congratulated Sara Brizio, Isabelle Oktay, Nicole Papert, and Francesca Murdoch, along with Latin teacher David Perry.

Dr. Alvarez commended students John Arenas, Ross DeMarco, Tess Greenhaw, and Evan Miranda for being nominated to receive Metropolitan High School Theater Awards, also acknowledging their teacher, Thomas Snowden. A round of applause was also given for High School seniors Olivia Iles and Samantha Carter, who were recognized as Valedictorian and Salutatorian at a dinner hosted by the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents.

Dr. Alvarez shared the exciting news that music teacher Dr. Shawn Amdur was presented with a Golden Baton Award from the Westchester Philharmonic Orchestra honoring him for 25 years of service. In concluding his report, Dr. Alvarez informed the Board and audience that newly-appointed Midland School Principal Mr. James Boylan visited Midland recently, touring the building and getting to know students and staff members before his role becomes official on July 1, 2014.

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

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

Ms. Dina Gelman  
 Ms. Amy Reitzig  
 Ms. Laura O’Leary  
 Ms. Nora Webber  
 Ms. Carol Ranalli  
 Ms. Hillary Krane  
 Mr. John Borchert  
 Ms. Jeannie Romano  
 Ms. Amy Carman  
 Ms. Suzanne Abramson  
 Mr. James Sandler  
 Ms. Rita Pisano  
 Ms. Stephanie Calcott  
 Ms. Cassie Yusi  
 Ms. Mimi Bateman  
 Ms. Chrissy Connor  
 Mr. Michael Winderman  
 Ms. Kerri Winderman  
 Ms. Tracey Orzo  
 Dr. Iris Arest  
 Ms. Mary Gould  
 Mr. Jaime Zung

Ms. Slack thanked all speakers for attending the meeting. She announced that the Board would now recess to the Rye Middle School gymnasium for election and budget vote results.

The Board will reconvene once the budget vote and candidate election results are announced.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7 -0) to recess the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Laura Slack at 9:26 p.m. on Tuesday May 20, 2014

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

Ms. Katie Ridley  
 Dr. Jeanette Hughes  
 Ms. Allison Bily  
 Mr. Tom Bailey  
 Ms. Becky Ward  
 Ms. Reina McGoldrick  
 Ms. Meghan Donovan  
 Ms. Andrea Murphy  
 Ms. Tara Taddeo  
 Ms. Dayna Reist  
 Ms. Carolyn Whaling  
 Mr. Marshall Toppo

## CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Slack announced that the following item was being removed from the agenda for further discussion:

### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves Budget Transfer #11 in the amount of \$188,700.23 to balance BOCES expenses for the 2013/14 school year.

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 6.01**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the April 22, 2014 Minutes as presented.

### **Consent Agenda General 6.02**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Informal Minutes of the Joint Meeting with the City council of April 5, 2014 as presented.

### Fiscal

### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the contract with Miki Kanno for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year. (Attachment #I)

### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves Budget Transfer #12 for \$18,000 to cover additional costs for food purchases. (Attachment #II)

### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.04**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the agreement with K12 Learning Services for all courses related the PSAT, SAT and ACT for the 2014-15 school year, for discounted services provided exclusively to Rye High School students at Rye HS with no payment by the District. (Attachment #III)

### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.05**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the 2013-2014 SEDCAR-1 Agreement with Theracare.(Attachment #IV)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.06****Recommended Action:**

Based on the lowest verbal quote, that the Board awards a transportation route to TLC Transportation for the last few months of the 2013-2014 school year as noted below.  
(Attachment #V)

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.07****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves an eighth grade student who is moving out of the district as a non-resident, tuition-paying student.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.08****Recommended Action:**

That the Board increases the General Fund budget by \$5,575 for gifts.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.09****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves a gift of \$5,000 from the Rye High School Class of 1964 for a one time scholarship to be awarded to a 2014 Senior in honor of their 50th reunion.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.10****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the gift of \$19,000 from the Rye Police Association, Inc. for the refurbishment of the Rye Middle School gym floor.

**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.11****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves a gift of \$8,000 from the Rye Middle School Parents Organization for the refurbishment of the Rye Middle School gym floor.

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

That the Board approves the request by Sara Charles for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as a Social Studies Teacher, assigned to Rye High School, effective on or about her estimated due date of September 23, 2014 to the end of the first semester.

**Consent Agenda Professional 8.02****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the request by Andrea Mondella for a Personal Leave of Absence from her position as an Elementary Teacher, assigned to Osborn School, effective September 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015.

**Consent Agenda Professional 8.03****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following Probationary Period Extension:

WHEREAS, Harold Brosowsky was previously appointed to a Three Year Probationary Appointment within the Mathematics tenure area and the Science tenure area effective September 1, 2011 – June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Harold Brosowsky has only served two years in the Science tenure area, which effectively tolls the probationary period by operation of law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Harold Brosowsky's probationary period in the Science tenure area shall be extended through June 30, 2015.

**Consent Agenda Professional 8.04****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following Appointments for Extra Pay for Extra Work, for the 2013-2014 school year:

2013/2014

EPEW	ACTIVITY	NAME	INDEX	13/14 STEP	13/14 RATE
<b>Middle School - Spring</b>					
BASEBALL	Asst. to the Program	Dempsey, Jeffrey	0.05500	Volunteer	
<b>Middle School - Clubs</b>					
Club Sports-Session 4	Mixed Games	Rinaldi, James	0.00910	0	503
Club Sports-Session 4	Mixed Games	Powers, Brian	0.00910	0	503

**Consent Agenda Professional 8.05****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following appointment for Rye Middle School Summer Literacy Program, effective July 7, 2014 - August 1, 2014 pending sufficient enrollment:

Name	Stipend	Total*
Vanessa Kravitz	\$39.39/hr.	\$3,860.22

\*For every two hours of class time – teacher will be paid an additional hour at the same rate of pay for preparation time. Total stipend includes 8 hours for field trips.

Program funded through the Immigrant Grant.

**Recommendation:** That the Board approves the Appointment of Loretta Calandrucchio as a Substitute Teacher for the Elementary Reading and Writing Summer School Program, Rye Middle School Literacy Program for Immigrant Students and ELL Summer Program, at the rate of \$39.39 per hour for a total of 60 hours not to exceed the aggregate total of \$2,363.40\*, effective July 7, 2014 – August 1, 2014.

\*The funding will come from either the LEP Grant or the Immigrant Grant, depending on the program for which she is the substitute.

**Recommendation:** That the Board approves the Appointment of Deanna DelBorgo as a Substitute Teacher for the Elementary Reading and Writing Summer School Program and the ELL Summer Program, at the rate of \$39.39 per hour for a total of 60 hours not to exceed the aggregate total of \$2,363.40\*, effective July 7, 2014 – August 1, 2014.

\*The funding will come from either the LEP Grant or the Immigrant Grant, depending on the program for which she is a substitute.

### **Consent Agenda Professional 8.06**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment Amendment of Wendy Thomas from a Substitute Teacher to a Teacher for the Elementary Reading and Writing Summer School Program, at the rate of \$39.39 per hour for the aggregate total of \$3,545.10\*, effective July 7, 2014 through August 1, 2014.

For every two hours of class time – teacher will be paid an additional hour at the same rate of pay for preparation time.

\*Program funded through the Immigrant Grant.

(Wendy Thomas was previously approved as a Substitute Teacher at the April 8, 2014 Board of Education Meeting.)

### **Consent Agenda Professional 8.07**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following for New Entrant Screening on the elementary level, effective July 1, 2014 – August 31, 2014:

SCHOOL	NAME	RATE*
Midland	Michelle Kovalyk	\$40.00/hour
Midland	Jennifer Keegan	\$40.00/hour
Midland	Kim Colacioppo	\$40.00/hour
Midland	Stephanie Lauro	\$40.00/hour
Midland	Debora Rosado	\$40.00/hour
Milton	Thomas Bailey	\$40.00/hour
Milton	Kathryn Ridley	\$40.00/hour
Milton	Karen Kozan	\$40.00/hour
Osborn	Amy Carman	\$40.00/hour
Osborn	Dana Emond	\$40.00/hour

\*Not to exceed a total of 30 hours per school or an aggregate total of \$3,600.

**Consent Agenda Professional 8.08****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following for ELA K-2 Curriculum Development, not to exceed 30 hours per person, with schedule of hours to be approved by the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, effective July 1, 2014 – August 31, 2014:

NAME	SCHOOL	CURRENT GRADE	RATE*
Emond, Dana	Osborn	Kindergarten	\$40.00/hour
Shiboski, Sarah	Milton	Kindergarten	\$40.00/hour
Kozan, Karen	Milton	1st Grade	\$40.00/hour
Ring, Michelle	Midland	1st Grade	\$40.00/hour
Trapasso, Erin	Osborn	1st Grade	\$40.00/hour
Ridley, Katy	Milton	2nd Grade	\$40.00/hour
Short, Elly	Osborn	2nd Grade	\$40.00/hour

**Classified****Consent Agenda Classified 9.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Resignation due to Retirement of Melissa Mamangakis from her position as a Library Clerk, assigned to Rye High School and Rye Middle School, effective at the close of business June 30, 2014.

**Consent Agenda Classified 9.02****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Resignation of Janet Kramer from her position as a Food Service Worker, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective at the close of business May 22, 2014.

**Consent Agenda Classified 9.03****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Additional Work of Ann Mackey as a Teacher Aide, assigned to Osborn School, for up to four (4) hours per week, effective May 19, 2014 – June 20, 2014.

**Consent Agenda Special Education 10.01****Recommended Action:**

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



Ms. Slack announced that The Board of Education approved several gifts. The Rye High School Class of 1964 provided \$5,000 for a one-time scholarship to be awarded to a 2014 senior. These funds were raised during a 50th reunion celebration.

With sadness and well-wishes, Ms. Slack announced that the Board approved the retirement of Middle School/High School Library Clerk Melissa Mamangakis. Mrs. Mamangakis was appointed to this role in 2001, and has accomplished a great deal in 13 years. She completed numerous jobs and assisted other librarians with responsibilities, initiated and developed the student volunteer program, and helped the library staff adjust to changes in technology. Mrs. Mamangakis has been described by many of her colleagues as being willing to go the extra mile. She has also worked the drama/musical productions and athletic events. Mrs. Slack thanked Ms. Mamangakis for her contributions to the Middle School and High School students and, on behalf of the Board, wished her a happy and healthy retirement

The Rye Police Benevolent Association (PBA) generously contributed \$19,000 for the refurbishment of the Rye Middle School gym floor, and the Rye Middle School PO donated \$8,000 for the refurbishment of the Middle School gym floor. The District extends special thanks to Officer Michael Kenny of the Rye Police and Jamie Jensen and Lucy Cassidy of the Middle School PO for their collaboration on this much-appreciated gift which will benefit students for years to come. The gym floor has not been refinished in decades and an area that sustained water damage years ago which will be replaced as part of the restoration. The work is scheduled to take place over the summer and is expected to be completed by the start of school in September. Lucy Cassidy thanked all individuals who contributed to this new floor in the Fall.

### **Budget Results/Board Election**

Ms. Cuglietto announced the proposed 2014-2015 Rye City School District Budget \$79,365,200. passed with **1265 “Yes” votes and 535 “No” votes.** Karen L. Belanger was re-elected to the Board of Education and Blake Jines-Storey was elected to the Board of Education, each to serve three year terms beginning on July 1, 2014.

#### Candidate Election Results:

Ms. Karen L. Belanger - 1311 votes  
 Mr. Blake Jines-Storey - 1129 votes  
 Mr. Jason L. Mehler - 593 Votes  
 Mr. James (Jim) Culyer - 1 Write in Vote  
 Ms. Laura Slack - 1 Write in Vote

On a motion by Mr. Repetto, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7-0) to certify the election results. (Attachment #VII)

Board President Ms. Slack congratulated Karen Belanger and Blake Jines-Story for their election to the Board of Education. Karen will begin her second term on July 1, at which time Blake will be sworn in as a new Board of Education member.

## ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

Assistant Superintendent for Business Gabriella O'Connor explained this budget transfer to reallocate funds for BOCES Services. This transfer is to align budget codes to reallocation budget codes with our new financial system. This does not change the original amount budgeted.

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

### **Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02**

#### **Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves Budget Transfer #11 in the amount of \$188,700.23 to balance BOCES expenses for the 2013/14 school year. (Attachment # )

## PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

### **Gateway Program Proposal 2014-2015 – Shirley Klein**

Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services Shirley Klein led a presentation on the Gateway Program, which has been successful at the Middle School level as a special education program designed to provide instruction in both the self-contained and mainstream classrooms. After realizing similar needs exist at the elementary grade level, the District is planning to expand the Gateway Program to grades K-9.

The Gateway Program was initiated at the Middle School three years ago as a way to provide highly supportive and individualized instruction in modified, self-contained classes for part of the day. Students who are recommended by the Committee on Special Education spend three periods each school day with their special education teacher and teaching assistant in a self-contained classroom for direct instruction in English Language Arts (ELA), Reading, and Special Class Learning Center. If needed, they spend one period in a self-contained math class, and for the remainder of the day they are in mainstream social studies and science classes with support from the special education teacher and teaching assistant. Mrs. Klein noted that the instructional program is Common Core-aligned and students in the Gateway Program are Regents-bound.

Mrs. Klein described the profile of students in the Gateway Program as follows:

- \* Cognitive profiles range from low average to high average abilities.
- \* Students may require the following related services: speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and counseling.
- \* Provides the opportunity for students to remain in their District schools in the least restrictive environment and address their academic, linguistic, and social/emotional needs.

Mrs. Klein explained that the expansion of the Gateway Program K-9, which will commence in September 2014, will be accommodated with existing staffing and the minimal classroom re-configuration at Milton Elementary School, which will be completed over the summer through funds that exist within the current school year's budget. Mr. Sam Carder Director of Facilities answered Board Member questions relative to the usage of existing

classroom space taking handicap and ADA accessibility into consideration.

Middle School Principal Dr. Ann Edwards shared her positive feedback with regard to the Gateway Program and the success she has observed in students over the years. Students in the Gateway Program were described as proud learners who made great achievements in their reading and writing through the opportunities and support provided by the program.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:40 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.