

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
February 24, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Laura Slack at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday February 24, 2015.

Present:

Ms. Laura Slack, President

**Ms. Katy Keohane Glassberg, Vice President –Arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Karen Belanger

Ms. Nancy Pasquale

Mr. Christopher Repetto

Mr. Blake Jines-Storey

And

Dr. Frank Alvarez, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Betty Ann Wyks, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Ms. Gabriella O'Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Ms. Elaine Cuglietto, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Excused:

Ms. Nicole Weber

On a motion by Mr. Jines-Storey, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (5 -0) it was voted at 7:15 p.m. 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 Mr. Jines-Storey, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (6 -0) it was voted at 8:00 p.m. to reconvene in public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Alvarez stated that Rhythm on Rye would be performing a few numbers for the Board and the audience. Rhythm on Rye is an 18 member, self- directed student a cappella group, advised by Mr. Tom Snowden. The group is competing this Saturday in a national a cappella contest in Wilton, CT. We wish them the very best of luck on Saturday.

Dr. Alvarez made the following statement regarding a recent article in the Journal News:

"Given significant inaccuracies contained in a recent article in the Journal News, it is important that we clarify the record for the public and provide the community with accurate information regarding this important matter.

The article contains an erroneous representation of facts by Arthur Schwartz, the attorney representing Carin Mehler.

In the article, Arthur Schwartz, attributes statements to the Executive Director of the State Education Department's Test Security and Educator Integrity Unit, Tina Sciocchetti, which Ms. Sciocchetti has advised the District, in writing, were never made by her, to anyone, at any time.

The District continues to work towards an appropriate resolution of this matter and will do so irrespective of the actions of Ms. Mehler's representatives."

Dr. Alvarez announced that he is proud to announce that the Rye City School District has fourteen finalists National Merit Scholarship Competition. We are very proud of these students.

Dr. Alvarez stated that Literacy Consultant Shelley Klein was in district working with all elementary and middle school administrators.

Dr. Alvarez advised the public that on the agenda for Board of Education approval among many things are Spanish 8 curriculum revisions that were presented at a prior Board of Education Meeting.

Dr. Alvarez proudly announced that the Rye Girls' Basketball Team will compete in Section 1 semi finals on Thursday of this week and we have two Swim Team members going to the States on the upcoming weekend.

Dr. Alvarez reminded everyone that on March 6th and 7th, 2015, the High School Performance of "Anything Goes" will take place. These performances have approximately 80 students involved in various roles, stage, crew, pit, administration and production, etc.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no communications from the public on non-agenda items.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Keohane-Glassberg, seconded by Mr. Repetto and carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the following agenda items:

GENERAL

Consent Agenda General 6.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the February 3, 2015 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 6.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the February 10, 2015 Minutes as presented.

Consent Agenda General 6.03**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves Policy 6700, Purchasing, presented as recommended. (Attachment #I)

Consent Agenda General 6.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board adopts the Spanish 1B Curriculum Revisions. (Attachment #II)

FISCAL**Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Contract for Health and Related Services with the Harrison Central School District for \$16,311.90 for the 2014/15 school year. (Attachment #III)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the contract with the individual noted below (Alessandra Tamerin) for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. (Attachment #IV)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.03**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves Participation in Cooperative Bidding Program through National IPA. (Attachment #V)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the JNS Heating Services Change Order as listed and described below for the necessary work to be completed in connection with the HS/MS science Addition Project. (Attachment #VI)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 7.05**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Consulting Services Agreement with Elena A. Caffentzis, M.S., CCC-SLP for the 2014-2015 school year. (Attachment #VII)

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

That the Board approves the Appointment of James Fatigate as a Driving and Traffic Safety Education Instructor at \$39.39 per hour, 40 hours per session, not to exceed 2 sessions for the spring of the 2014-2015 school year. This rate includes preparation time and is dependent upon enrollment.

Consent Agenda Professional 8.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following Appointment for Extra Pay for Extra Work, for the 2014-2015 school year:

EPEW				14/15	14/15
	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>INDEX</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>RATE</u>
Athletic-SPRING					
ATHLETIC	Assistant to Program	Mercado, Albert	0.09000	6	6,771
BASEBALL	Varsity Baseball Coach	Bruno, Michael	0.09500	6	7,148
BASEBALL	JV Coach	Charney, Jeff	0.07500	6	5,643
BASEBALL	Asst. to Program	Charney, Chad	0.05500	6	4,138
GOLF Boys	Varsity Coach	Romano, Pat	0.08000	6	6,019
GOLF Girls	Varsity Coach	Savage, Rich	0.08000	6	6,019
LACROSSE (Boys)	Varsity Coach	Dooley, Brian	0.09500	6	7,148
LACROSSE (Boys)	JV Coach	Johnson, Michael	0.07500	6	5,643
LACROSSE (Boys)	Asst. to Var. Prog.	Dooley, Scott	0.05500	6	4,138
LACROSSE (Boys)	Asst. to JV Prog.	Lorono, Frank	0.05500	Volunteer	
LACROSSE (Girls)	Varsity Coach	Hurlie, Dennis	0.09500	6	7,148
LACROSSE (Girls)	JV Coach	Sweeney, Eileen	0.07500	6	5,643
LACROSSE (Girls)	Asst. to the Program	Morrison, Kerri	0.05500	5	3,941
SOFTBALL	Varsity Coach	Tejera, Alex	0.09500	6	7,148
SOFTBALL	JV Coach	Nixon, Kim	0.07500	6	5,643
SOFTBALL	Asst. to Var/JV Prog	Dosso, Victoria	0.05500	1	3,242
TENNIS (Boys)	Varsity Coach	Dickson, Susan	0.08000	6	6,019
TENNIS (Boys)	JV Coach	Campbell, Anthony	0.06500	6	4,890
TRACK	Varsity (Boys) Coach	Yedowitz, James	0.09500	6	7,148
TRACK	Varsity (Girls) Coach	McGee, John	0.09500	6	7,148
TRACK	Asst. to Var. Prog. (Girls)	Jenson, Joel	0.07500	1	4,421
TRACK	Asst. to Var. Prog. (Boys)	Ciociou, Adrian	0.07500	6	5,643
CREW	Varsity (Girls)	Labine, Catherine	0.08000	6	6,019
CREW	Varsity (Boys)	Nelson, Stan	0.08000	6	6,019
Middle School – Spring					
BASEBALL	Modified 7/8 Coach (Black)	Plaice, Josh	0.06500	6	4,890
BASEBALL	Asst. to the Program	Dempsey, Jeff	0.05500	Volunteer	
LACROSSE(Boys)	Modified 7/8 Coach	Berk, Simon	0.06500	6	4,890
LACROSSE (Boys)	Asst. to the Program	McReddie, Adam	0.05500	6	4,138
LACROSSE (Girls)	Modified 7/8 Coach	Henwood, Mary	0.06500	6	4,890
LACROSSE (Girls)	Asst. to the Program	Voelkel, Amy	0.05500	3	3,575
TRACK (Co-Ed)	Modified 7/8 Coach	Carman, Charles	0.06500	6	4,890
TRACK (Co-Ed)	Modified 7/8 Coach	Dowling, Connor	0.06500	6	4,890
TRACK (Co-Ed)	Assist. To Mod. Program	Griffin, John	0.05500	6	4,138
TRACK (Co-Ed)	Assist. To Mod. Program	Mooney, Kim	0.05500	6	4,138
High School – Clubs					
Clubs	Sailing	Jakobson, Tracey		Volunteer	
Midland School – Clubs					
Clubs	Science advisor 3-5	Brennan, Marie (shared)*	0.03000	1	878
Clubs	Science advisor 3-5	Vinci, Julie (shared)*	0.03000	0	836

*Marie Brennan was previously approved as Midland's Science Advisor 3-5. Marie Brennan will now be a Co-Advisor with Julie Vinci.

Consent Agenda Professional 8.03**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves Peter Gouveia at the curriculum rate of \$40 per hour for a total of 40 hours of curriculum development work on American Sign Language 2, not to exceed the aggregate total of \$1,600 to be completed by June 30, 2015.

Consent Agenda Professional 8.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board extends the assignments of the following mentors from half year assignments (\$750 stipend) to full year assignments (\$1,500 stipend):

Carrie Burke

James Baker

That the Board extends the assignment of Peter Thomas as a mentor from a half year assignment (\$750 stipend) to March 20, 2015 (pro rated amount of \$975).

Consent Agenda Professional 8.05**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Lisa-Marie DiRusso as a Teacher of Home Instruction, for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6) and New York State Initial Certification in Students With Disabilities 7-12 Generalist, three (3) hours weekly at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective February 23, 2015 – June 30, 2015.

Consent Agenda Professional 8.06**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Danielle Robinson as a .9 FTE Teaching Assistant for Special Education, assigned to Rye Middle School, Step 1 of the 2014-2015 Teacher Aide/Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule \$25.62* per hour, 6.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, effective February 23, 2015 - June 26, 2015.

*salary pending contract settlement

Consent Agenda Professional 8.07**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following resolution:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Board Policy No. 9610 and its implementing Regulation, the Board of Education herewith appoints Tracey Barnett and Dr. Bruno DiCosmo as its certified agents designated to administer the appropriate test(s) in accordance with the Policy.

Consent Agenda Professional 8.08**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following Per Diem Substitute Teachers and Teaching Assistants to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2014-2015 school year at the approved per diem rates:

Per Diem Rate as follows:

Per Diem Substitute Teacher - \$102.00

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

Per Diem Substitute Teaching Assistant - \$102.00

Lauren Kohn

Danielle Robinson

CLASSIFIED

Consent Agenda Classified 9.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Substitute Teacher Aide to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2014-2015 school year at the approved rates: Rates as follows:

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

Substitute Teacher Aide \$13.95 per hour

Lauren Kohn

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 #VIII)

Ms. Slack noted that on this evening's agenda the Board of Education authorized a resolution for cooperative bidding. This is one of the ways our district uses to save money by piggy backing with other government entities that purchase things that we also need, in New York State as well as out of the State. Ms. Slack thanked Ms. O'Connor for being vigilant in ways to save money.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

2015-2016 School District Calendar

Dr. Alvarez stated that the draft calendar is on the agenda for review and discussion by the Board. Some highlights of the proposed calendar are: At this point in time, the opening day of school will begin on Wednesday September 9, 2015 for students; Winter Recess begins on December 24, returning on January 4, 2016; Spring recess will fall the week of Good Friday March 21 – March 25, 2016; the district will close in observance of Passover on Friday April 22, 2016. There were no questions or comments about the district calendar from either the Board or from the Public. The calendar will be presented to the Board for approval on March 10, 2015 for approval. Everyone was cautioned that this calendar is in **draft form** and does not become effective until Board of Education approval. (Attachment #IX)

Superintendent's Recommended 2015-2016 School Budget

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Alvarez and Assistant Superintendent for Business Gabriela O'Connor presented the 2015-16 Superintendents' Recommended Budget in the amount of \$83,410,923. (Attachment #X) This is the first of several budget conversations that will take place over the next few months. Dr. Alvarez explained that his process actually begins in August and proceeds through the school year.

Members of the Board of Education commented on the proposed budget by the administration regarding the limitations of the tax cap, tax cap override, increase of retirement costs of both the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) , the Employees' Retirement System (ERS), utility tax, state aid, anticipated staffing, class size guidelines, district wide efficiencies, software efficiencies, consideration of a full day kindergarten program, overall enrollment growth, Growth Elimination Adjustment (GEA), revenue, and the use of cash reserves.

Ms. Slack asked for comments from the Public regarding the presentation of the Superintendent's recommended Budget for the 2015-16 school year.

The following community members addressed the Board of Education and Administration regarding the presentation:

Jamie Jensen, Kelsey Johnson, Jim Culyer, Jane Anderson, Mary Emery, Alison Walsh, Jennifer Neren, Patti Yoon and Courtney Harwood.

The following is a list of dates that are relevant to the continued discussion and the adoption of the budget:

- **March 10: Continued Discussion of Budget**
- **March 24: Open Topics Forum/ Budget Hearing I**
- **April 21: Board of Education Budget Adoption**
- **May 5: Budget Hearing II**
- **May 19: Budget Vote/Board Election**

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

There were no further communications to or from the Board of Education.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:42 p.m. to adjourn into Executive Session to review the employment history of current and prospective employees.

On a motion by Mr. Jines-Storey seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 11:00 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.