

MINUTES
RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Rye Middle School Multipurpose Room
October 7, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Board of Education President Laura Slack at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday October 7, 2014.

Present:

Ms. Laura Slack, President
Ms. Katy Keohane Glassberg, Vice President
Ms. Karen Belanger
Ms. Nancy Pasquale
Mr. Christopher Repetto
Ms. Nicole Weber
Mr. Blake Jines-Storey
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

On a motion by Mr. Repetto, seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7 -0) it was voted at 7:00 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 Ms. Weber, seconded by Ms. Belanger and carried unanimously (7 -0) it was voted at 8:05 p.m. to reconvene in public. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Alvarez began the meeting by honoring a group of extraordinary students. He announced that the Rye Recognition of Excellence Awards have been created to honor those students who have achieved great things in the arenas of academics, arts and athletics. Tonight, we honor 2 Rye High School seniors who have been named National Hispanic Recognized Scholars and 17 seniors who have been named National Merit Scholar Commended Students.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program identifies academically outstanding Hispanic/Latino students based on their PSAT scores – the preliminary SAT – which they took

in the spring of their junior year. Approximately 5,300 students nationwide were named National Hispanic Program Scholars.

The following students were introduced:

John Arenas
Gabe Groenendaal

Each year, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation names National Merit Commended Students on the basis of their high scores on the PSAT. These 17 students place in the top 5% of the more than 1.5 million students who took the 2013 PSAT exam.

Dr. Alvarez extended warmest congratulations to the students. Their success is reflective of a great deal of hard work and dedication, not only by the students themselves, but by their parents, their teachers and the School District community at large. Congratulations also to High School Principal Pat Taylor, who will be the first to tell you that this year's senior class is an exceptionally talented one.

The following students were introduced:

Santiago Buenahora
Michael Chen
Christopher Courtney
Will Durkee
Johnny Emanuel
Gabe Groenendaal
Will Hammer
Tim Hardis
Alexandros Koutsogeorgas
Jing-Wei Lee
Hannah Leverenz
Maggie McDermott
Hayley Orr
Laura Ann Pacos
Jim Palmer
Samantha Schwab
Jack Smith

Dr. Alvarez announced that at the next Board of Education Meeting on October 21, 2014, there will be a presentation of our annual academic achievement report and data that reflects how our students have performed. Dr. Alvarez invited all to attend this important meeting.

The Rye High School's Parsons Street Players will be performing "The Man Who Came to Dinner" opening on Friday October 17, 2014. Dr. Alvarez encouraged everyone to come out and support our artists.

Dr. Alvarez announced that the Board of Education would be meeting on October 8 with the City Council of the City of Rye at 7:00 p.m. in the City Chambers

Dr. Alvarez stated that later in this meeting there would be a proposal being presented to the Board regarding beginning a Rugby Team at Rye High School.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Dr. Alvarez asked Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Betty Ann Wyks to introduce a new elective at Rye Middle School -- American Sign Language that is being offered for the first time this year.

Dr. Wyks explained that a proposal to develop curriculum for American Sign Language as an elective or alternate language choice in the Middle School was brought to the administration by Dr. Ann Edwards in January 2014. American Sign Language is recognized as fulfilling the language requirement at many colleges, offering another choice to students that experience difficulty acquiring a second language. Many students have expressed interest in learning American Sign Language and knowledge of ASL is practical among a number of occupations. The American Sign Language curriculum would align to the New York State Common Core Curriculum Standards by applying knowledge of ASL to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Mr. Peter Gouveia completed the curriculum development and presented it to the Curriculum Council. At the September 17, 2014 meeting, the Curriculum Council approved the American Sign Language curriculum. Mr. Gouveia presented to the Board of Education and Public this evening a detailed outline of the units of course of study currently being offered to middle school students. The presentation concluded with middle school students demonstrating their newly learned sign language techniques by introducing themselves and performing a song for the Board and Public. The Board discussed the possibility of expanding this program in the future to other grade levels. Ms. Pamela Stern from Inside Rye addressed Mr. Gouveia inquiring if the students could perform at some of our school performances. Mr. Gouveia explained that the students are not quite ready for this assignment yet but would be most eager to have them continue to learn more and gain greater confidence.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

The following community member addressed the Board of Education referencing the teacher that has been administratively reassigned and testing irregularity allegations as well as inquiring as to the possibility of a full time kindergarten program:

Ms. Boukje Van den Bosch – Smits

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Slack announced that the following items are removed from the Consent Agenda for presentation by Cullen & Danowski, LLP later in the meeting and further discussion:

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the External Audit for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014.

On a motion by Ms. Belanger, 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 September 23, 2014 Minutes as presented.

FISCAL

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.01

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the attached engagement letter for Cullen & Danowski to perform a Risk Assessment Update for a fixed price of \$9,000. (Attachment # I)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.03

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Final BOCES Contract for 2013/14. (Attachment #II)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.04

Recommended Action:

That the Board of Education approves the budget transfer. (Attachment #III)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the RFP Consulting Services Agreement with Programs For Little Learners for the 2014/2015 school year. (Attachment #IV)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.06

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the RFP Consulting Services Agreement with Blythedale for the 2014/2015 school year. (Attachment #V)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.07

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 #VI)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.08

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the contracts with the individuals noted below for the 2014-2015 school year. (Attachment #VII)

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.09

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the \$3,970 gift from the Parents' Organization of Rye High School to purchase a Smartboard and increase the General Fund Budget accordingly.

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.10**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the \$22,840.69 gift from the Milton School Parent Teacher Organization to purchase a Dell laptop cart and increase the general fund budget accordingly.

PROFESSIONAL**Consent Agenda Professional 9.01****Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the request by Michelle Garofano for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as Special Education Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective February 2, 2015 – June 30, 2015.

(Michelle Garofano was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence effective September 1, 2014 – January 31, 2015.)

Recommendation: That the Board approves the request by April Colarusso for a Child Care Leave of Absence from her position as an English Teacher, assigned to Rye Middle School, effective February 2, 2015 – June 30, 2015.

(April Colarusso was previously approved for a Child Care Leave of Absence effective February 28, 2014 – June 30, 2014 and September 1, 2014 – January 31, 2015.)

Consent Agenda Professional 9.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the following Probationary Period Extension:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board herewith extends Patrizia Guzzo's probationary period in the Elementary Tenure Area, so that it expires on April 7, 2015.

Consent Agenda Professional 9.03**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Increase in Assignment of Marie Smelser from a 0.5 FTE Elementary Teacher to provide Academic Intervention Services, to a 0.7 FTE Elementary Teacher to provide Academic Intervention Services, MA +15 Step 5/6 of the 2014-2015 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$76,527.50 (pro rated amount of \$48,889.23), effective September 29, 2014, to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Consent Agenda Professional 9.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of Lisa Mount as a Teacher of Home Instruction on the Elementary Level for which she holds New York State Permanent Certification in Special Education, 3 hours weekly at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective September 11, 2014 – June 30, 2015.

(Lisa Mount will be supplying Home Instruction to 2 different students, 3 hours per week per student.)

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Nicolle Burke as a Teacher of Home Instruction on the Elementary Level for which she holds New York State Initial Certification in Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6), 3 hours weekly at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective September 29, 2014 – June 30, 2015.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the Appointment of Jessica Zamlowski as a Teacher of Home Instruction on the Elementary Level for which she holds New York State Initial Time Extension Certification in Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6) and New York State Initial Certification in Students With Disabilities – Grades 7-12 – Generalist, 3 hours weekly at the Home Instruction Rate of \$49.89 per hour, effective September 23, 2014 – October 31, 2014.

Consent Agenda Professional 9.05

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment Amendment of Eric Grossmann 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 High School, 1.0 FTE, MA Step 1 of the 2014-2015 Teacher Salary Schedule, \$61,563 (pro rated amount of \$28,011.12), effective September 15, 2014 – January 31, 2015.

Consent Agenda Professional 9.06

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Accompanists for Rye Middle School for the 2014-2015 School Year:

| | | |
|--------------------|--|-------|
| Betty Jane Belcher | Orchestra Accompanist Fee 4 Rehearsals & 3 Concerts | \$560 |
| Barbara Orwick | Chorus Accompanist Fee 4 Rehearsals & 2 Concerts | \$480 |

Consent Agenda Professional 9.07

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the Appointment of Jill Rappaport as a Substitute School Speech Pathologist to be used only on an as needed basis for the 2014-2015 school year at the rate of \$49.89 per hour.

Consent Agenda Professional 9.08

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

Amanda Blasi

Jeffrey Kravitz

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

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following RCSD employees to work as timers, supervisors, ticket takers, chain crew, announcer, etc. at Rye City School District Events on an as needed basis throughout the 2014-2015 school year:

Sharon McSorley
 Julianne May
 Leann Serao
 Glenn Westerink
 David Kantrowitz
 Joseph Carlucci, Jr.

Consent Agenda Classified 10.02**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the salary increase for the following Food Service Worker, effective September 26, 2014:

| EMPLOYEE | | OLD RATE | NEW RATE |
|-----------|--------|----------|----------|
| D'Ottavio | Gloria | \$12.55 | \$13.00 |

Consent Agenda Classified 10.03**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Substitute Clerical Work of Bonnie Manheimer at the rate of \$29.95 not to exceed 15 hours, effective September 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014.

Consent Agenda Classified 10.04**Recommended Action:**

That the Board approves the Appointment of the following Substitute Teacher Aides 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

Amanda Blasi

Jeffrey Kravitz

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 # VIII)

Ms. Slack acknowledged and thanked the Parents' Organization of Rye High School for their gift of \$3,970 to purchase a Smartboard as well as a gift from the Milton School Parent Teacher Organization in the amount of \$22,840.69 to purchase a Dell laptop cart. Ms. Slack thanked all of the parent organizations for their generous gifts to the district.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Dr. Alvarez announced that during the last year he received communication regarding beginning a Rugby Team at Rye High School. There have some on-going discussions with Rye High School Principal Mrs. Patricia Taylor and Mr. Robert Castagna, Director of Health Athletics and Physical Education. Mr. Evan Kamer addressed the Board of Education about the proposal to establish an official Rugby Club at Rye High School in the Spring of 2015. Mr. Rob Castagna discussed student interest and importance of certified coaches and adequate facilities all within a budget. He expressed his concerns regarding safety, adequate staffing of physicians and E.M.T. staff as well as facilities, field space issues and potential of growth of the program. Principal Taylor expressed her concern for students, concussions, re-entry to school quickly after injury and the academic time that might be lost, and her concern for the overall cost of this club. Mr. Kamer discussed the safety of the sport and explained that the program would be self funded. Discussion was held as to the possibility of scholarships for students who would not be able to pay fee to participate and possibility of local booster club support for some students. The Board is looking for a recommendation from the administration for this proposal as well as revisiting those programs that have been cut due to budgetary constraints. Several students expressed their support and desire to have Rugby added as a club at the high school.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

Presentation of the External Audit for the Fiscal Year that ended June 30, 2014

Mr. Jeff Shavers and Mr. Rob Daniele Partner at the O'Connor Davies Accounting Firm provided a detailed Presentation of the External Audit for the Fiscal Year that ended June 30, 2014.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

After clarification of the different aspects of the audit and explanation by the auditors, On a motion by Ms. Belanger seconded by Ms. Weber and carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the following agenda item:

Consent Agenda Fiscal 8.02

Recommended Action:

That the Board approves the External Audit for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014.
(Attachment #IX)

COMMUNICATIONS TO/FROM THE BOARD

There were no communications to or from the Board.

Ms. Slack announced that there would be an upcoming Public Hearing(s) on Veterans' Tax Exemption which hopefully would be held on October 21, 2014. The Board expressed their hope that there would be community engagement on this very important topic.

On a motion by Mr. Repetto seconded by Ms. Pasquale and carried unanimously (7-0) it was voted at 10:24 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. Pasquale and carried unanimously (6-0) it was voted at 11:15 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.