

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
NOV. 12, 2008**

**School Board Members Present:**

Peter Mello  
Christopher Book  
Richard Courcelle  
Roberta Dress  
Peter Fagan  
Peter Forshay  
Gina Fucci  
Karen Gartner  
Nicholas Ouelette  
**Member Absent**  
Wayne Cooke  
Collin Fingon  
Cindy Kilic-Murray

**Also Present:**

Superintendent Mary Moran  
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss  
Peter Folaros  
Peter Amons  
John Rice  
Bob Johnson  
Paula Albro  
Bill Olsen  
Lyle Jepson  
Robin Browne  
Patricia Aigner  
Glenn Olson  
Wil Cunningham

Motion by Gartner/Fagan to convene to executive session at 6:15 pm for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, the premature release of information regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Unanimously passed by those in attendance.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

**PUBLIC  
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 6:50 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Mello noted the absence of Commissioners Fingon, Cooke and Kilic-Murray.

**MOTION:  
MINUTES  
10/28/08  
MEETING**

Motion by Book/Forshay to accept the minutes of the Oct. 28, 2008 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**WRITTEN  
COMMUN-  
ICATION**

Written Communication - None

**ORAL  
COMMUN-  
ICATION**

Oral Communication - None

UVM Teachers of the Year Recognition - Chair Mello recognized Donna Caggige, Elementary Teacher at Northwest Primary School and Jamie Holt, Teacher at RHS, Howe Center Campus, both UVM Teachers of the Year from Rutland City. Mr. Bliss introduced Ms. Caggige and Mr. Folaros introduced Ms. Holt. Both teachers were praised for their contributions.

**UVM  
TEACHERS  
OF THE  
YEAR  
RECOGN-  
TION**

Activities and Athletic Report - Mr. Olson reviewed the Activities Council members and their agenda areas. One of their challenges is to find ways to get more students involved. He said new clubs are established as pilots for one year before they become permanent. Even as a pilot, it has to be approved by the Activities Council to start up. Mr. Olson reviewed the participation numbers of all the activities at RHS, RMS and RIS. Some activities do not have an advisor and some do not have enough interested students. Commissioner Forshay asked for the steps taken to find an advisor. Mr. Olson said they ask the students and staff for recommendations. They

**EDUCATION  
REPORT**

**ACTIVITIES  
&  
ATHLETIC  
REPORT**

are now thinking about asking outside of school for some of the activities. There were questions and explanations about some of the activities. Commissioner Dress said she noticed some high stipends for some of the activities which did not have many students participating. Mr. Olson said there is a formula for establishing stipends depending on number of students, frequency and hours they meet, public exposure and other criteria. Ms. Moran asked Mr. Olson to get board members a copy of the stipend matrix.

Mr. Olson presented the overall RHS activity participation chart showing the number of students participating in one sport or activity, two sports or activities, etc. He said the Council is looking into participation rates and talking about how to get more students involved. High school students have said their greatest obstacle to participating is that they have to work. Another obstacle reported is not having enough time. 55% of RHS students participated in at least one sport or activity in 2007 - 2008. Mr. Norman said the participation percent did not really change from the previous year. He is seeing more and more students playing just one school sport during the year. Some students are involved with year-long sports outside of school, such as hockey programs. The Tri-Scholar award is given at the high school and middle school levels. There is an Academic Achievement Award given at the high school.

Mr. Norman reviewed the Athletic Council members and their agenda areas. He presented the numbers of students involved with each sport at RHS and RMS. He also discussed the number of coaches involved, an athletic participation count report broken down by girls and boys and by each grade, and a break-down of coaches. Mr. Norman said there has not been any addition in coaching in the past few years and no proposals for any at this time. He also presented data on the athletic training services provided to RHS by Vermont Orthopaedic Clinic. This is a huge asset to the athletic program. Ms. Moran said there is an allocated amount for this service in the budget and it is drawn down throughout the year. We use the Clinic for rehab, strength and conditioning, and prevention. Commissioner Gartner asked about the total budget for athletics. Ms. Moran said those numbers will be part of the overall budget discussion. Mr. Norman said he believes all winter athletic coaching positions will be able to be filled.

RHS Program of Studies - Ms. Moran said this is a follow-up to the presentation from the last meeting. There were no additional questions from the Board.

Enrollment Analysis and Staffing Plan - Superintendent Moran presented an enrollment analysis K-12, starting in 1995-96. She said projections made approximately eight to nine years ago are proving to be true. She reviewed the data consulted to make projections and reviewed some of the bubbles and dips at the different age levels through the years. The high school enrollment appears to be leveling at approximately 1000 students. The numbers represent actual attending children. Ms. Moran reviewed how the numbers translate into class sizes and how the projections are used for planning. She said we are looking to see if there are any areas which could be cut and any recommendations will be proposed during the budget discussion. Expected numbers for tuition students come from actual data from those towns. Ms. Moran also presented the total enrollment by classroom, grade, tuitioned, school choice, or program. She said district-wide, administrators are looking into where savings can be realized. She will bring back recommendations for the Board to consider.

Capital Maintenance Plan - Mr. Rice said when preparing the budget, he tried not to recommend anything that could be an overlap to the energy performance contract that is being considered. There are two major reductions in the budget: we will not be spending the money reserved for Alumni Field; there is a reduction in the number of school buses we are purchasing since last year we bought four. Mr. Rice reviewed some of the major items in the proposal.

- Purchase a used aerial platform lift which will be useful, safe, and will save on renting costs.
- Take care of drainage problem at RIS and repave.
- Replace the oil tank at Stafford.
- The RIS front doors are old and need replacing.
- The RIS elevator is in need of an expensive repair. It is a high-usage elevator.
- Commissioner Fagan said he would like to see the RIS rear security fence addressed this year because it is important and should be done sooner. Ms. Gartner recommended it be done this year and paid for out of contingency.
- At Northeast, Northwest and Success, Mr. Rice is proposing to replace the worst windows first to target problems because we cannot do them all at this time.
- At the high school, there is general resurfacing needed for the parking lot.
- The gym floor needs to be sanded and refinished and the front doors need to be replaced.
- The RMS front doors also need replacing.

Mr. Mello asked board members to review this and either email questions or bring them to the next meeting.

Motion by Gartner/Book to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 393 dated Nov. 7, 2008, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:  
PERSONNEL  
MEM #393**

Ms. Moran and the Board offered all the best to Robin Browne, who is moving out of the area and leaving Success. There is a recommendation to appoint Susanne Engels as the Interim Director at Success. The memo also has a family/medical leave and winter coaching appointments and re-appointments. It is attached.

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

**BUSINESS  
REPORT**

Bid - Dump Truck Bid Ratification - Mr. Rice reviewed the process for soliciting truck bids.

**MOTION:  
APPROVE  
DUMP  
TRUCK BID**

Motion by Book/Fagan to approve the purchase of a dump truck from John C. Stewart and Son at a cost of \$39,330. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**SUPERIN-  
TENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Announcements

- Ms. Moran highlighted art from Northwest Primary students with art teacher Brad Bender, which is hanging at Longfellow.
- Northeast Kindergarten students visited Hannaford's this week. They are taking local field trips to learn about occupations and community members. First graders went to Billings Farm. Their annual Thanksgiving feasts is Nov. 18. The annual Thanksgiving feast is Nov. 18. The Harvest Dance is Nov. 21. Northeast's first venture with Peg TV is scheduled for Nov. 13. Representatives from the School Student Activities Committee, the Volunteer Coordinator, PTC Vice-President, and school principal will be joining Program Host Andrea McQuade to discuss the coordination of PTC and Student

**ANNOUNCE-  
MENTS**

- Activities previously held and currently planned for this school year.
- Congratulations to RHS students Emily Patch and Robert Knox who will have their writing published in the first Anthology of the Vermont Young Writers Project. Additionally, one of Emily's creative writing pieces will be featured in a Flynn Center performance with the VT Symphony Orchestra on Dec. 5
- Ms. Moran distributed a tentative Rutland City Schools schedule for the Peg-TV Schools program. This is part of a board goal to communicate more with the community about what is going on in the schools. They are available in streaming videos on the internet.

**COMM.  
REPORTS**

Information Task Force - Commissioner Fucci said the task force is going to be having a meeting next week to come up with strategies. People have been invited to the meeting. Most of the activity will take place starting in January.

**INFORMA-  
TION TASK  
FORCE**

New Business - None

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

Nicholas Ouelette said he worked with students at RIS teaching Spanish. He said he was impressed that the classrooms have a Smart Boards. High School students are rewriting the Constitution, the last time it was done was 1994. The students are also looking into a proposal for reinstating international trips for next year.

**STUDENT  
REPORT**

Old Business - Mr. Fagan announced a concert at the Paramount on Dec. 16.

**OLD  
BUSINESS**

**CONCERT**

Happy Birthday to Gina Fucci!

**ADJOURN**

Motion by Fagan/Gartner to adjourn at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted

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Janet Mondlak  
Recording Secretary