

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
NOV. 25, 2008**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Wayne Cooke
Richard Courcelle
Roberta Dress
Peter Fagan
Collin Fingon
Peter Forshay
Gina Fucci
Cindy Kilic-Murray
Nicholas Ouelette

Member Absent

Christopher Book
Karen Gartner

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Patricia Aigner
Peter Amons
Ellie McGarry
Kristin Francoeur
Wil Cunningham
Bill Olsen
Lyle Jepson
Kristen Hubert
Robin Brown

Motion by Fucci/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 6:45 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 Book and Gartner.

**MOTION:
MINUTES
11/12/08
MEETING**

Motion by Forshay/Fagan to accept the minutes of the Nov. 12, 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

Technology Plan Presentation - Ms. Moran said Ms. Aigner will present the Technology Plan and will use technology to teach the Board about the plan. Ms. Aigner reviewed the changes in the student information management system and highlighted the advantages of the new system. She said the system makes instruction visible to students and parents and accessible for teachers to look at how practices impact students. She said this puts data in the hands of teachers and administrators and they can look at students individually and as cohorts.

**EDUCATION
REPORT**

**TECHNO-
LOGY PLAN
PRESENT-
ATION**

A new web page will be up soon. It will provide opportunities for both students and teachers. There will be tremendous opportunities for parents such as being able to sign forms digitally and being provided with things like newsletters, lunches, events, sports, image gallery, and special education, technology, curriculum and assessment resources on line. Ms. Aigner said the community likes to look at the school's web site and there will be alumni information as well.

Ms. Aigner said they are looking at ways for Northeast and Northwest schools to add fiber in order to connect to the campus area network. The district's current network has lasted more than eight years and it is time for a redesign. Teachers are relying on more and more resources via the web and delivery such as podcasts, blogs and science probes. She said other tools being explored include smaller, less expensive laptops, Open Source, Smartboards, and document cameras.

More teacher professional development is needed. Teachers can take courses on-line, traditional courses, and use video resources. She will be doing a Teacher in Residence program in the schools. There are some very talented technology teachers in the district who help others. The Technology Committee will be used as a resource and will be looking at procedures. Ms. Aigner said the change is being created with a level-funded budget. She described some of the changes which will cut costs such as HelpDesk software and remote access. There is strong technology instruction at RHS, RMS and RIS. The district employees two dedicated technicians but most districts this size have five technicians. Our ratio of computers is 500:1 employee plus service; the number of students we serve is 2700 and 500 employees. Ms. Aigner said our computer replacement cycle is now over five years.

Ms. Aigner reviewed the 21st century skills for our students and what we want them to know. We need to prepare pre-K students for the workplace and college experience, even if we do not now know what they will be like. Ms. Aigner showed the Board some teaching tools, such as Smartboards. She thanked the teachers who have been working with her and using new and exciting resources. Ms. Aigner described some of the technology being used in classrooms. RIS and RMS are using Smartboards heavily and RHS wants more. We are trying to get them into K-2. Smartboards are a good way to give all students a chance to use technology without putting a computer in each child's hand. She would like to see more Smartboards but we need to develop the infrastructure. There is a big need for hardware, software, and network improvements. Mr. Mello said the packet gives more information such as infrastructure and staffing. Ms. Aigner reviewed the current level of teacher use of the student data on-line such as grades, attendance, and homework. There is a lot being done and more is needed. Ms. Moran said professional development is pivotal.

Nicholas Ouellette said he used Vernier science probes in physics and it was an excellent experience. Mr. Mello said this is informative and timely. The district must file a Technology Plan with the State Department of Education. Ms. Aigner said the new plan is due to the state by June 30. Ms. Moran said a good part of what is in the update will be in the plan which does not need board approval but will be brought to the Board.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Fingon/Fagan to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 394 dated Nov. 21, 2008, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #394

The appointments, retirement, family/medical leave, and resignation were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached. Motion passed by all those in attendance.

The start date for Tracie Moore will be changed to reflect the actual. Ms. Moran said she had first been hired as a substitute before being hired permanently as a paraeducator for a new student.

Business Report - New 403(b) Plan - Mr. Amons said the new 403(b) Plan needs to be in place by January 1, 2009. There will be three options for employees. This is an optional plan and all the monies come from the employee. There are 110 employees enrolled. Any employee with funds currently going into a fund other than the three chosen funds will have to cease putting new money into those funds although they can leave past dollars there.

**BUSINESS
REPORT**

Motion by Fagan/Forshay to adopt the following Resolution as presented: "RESOLVED, that, effective January 1, 2009, the Board adopt the Rutland City Schools 403(b) Plan ("Plan") for the exclusive benefit of its employees, in compliance with Final IRC Section 403(b) Regulations.

**MOTION:
ADOPT
RESOLU-
TION FOR
NEW 403(b)
PLAN**

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mary Moran, Superintendent and Peter Amons, CFO are authorized to execute said Plan on Behalf of the Board and to take such further action as is necessary to implement said Plan and to communicate the Plan to all employees." Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**SUPERIN-
TENDENT'S
REPORT**

Announcements

- Ms. Moran thanked and recognized all city school employees for their contributions to the Rutland City United Way fund. The employees raised \$8550, which is \$700 more than last year. Each building had a key person helping with the fundraising and they were thanked.
- Ms. Moran highlighted the art hanging at Longfellow, which was done by the RHS Advanced Placement Studio Art class. It is a black and white sequence. The teacher is Fred Lower.
- The Northeast PTC annual Harvest Celebration was held last week and it was great fun. There were more than 200 people. Dec. 5 is the Holiday Craft Day and the next PTC meeting is Dec. 1.
- Northwest and Northeast schools both held traditional Thanksgiving feasts last week with friends, foster grandparents, board members, and office and maintenance. Students performed the turkey trot and the second grade PEG-TV video called Northwest School Gives Back was shown. First graders traveled to Castleton State College to see Hiawatha, a native American musical.
- At RIS, the PTC family craft night will be held on Dec. 2
- Rutland Middle School recently held its first of five Awards Assemblies in which students were recognized for honor roll achievement. Each teacher also recognizes a "Student of the Quarter." The school has also developed a new recognition based on a year-long community emphasis of the school's four principles: Responsibility, Excellence, Acceptance, and Leadership (REAL). Four students and four staff members received special acknowledgment from about 400 nominations by RMS community members.
- The RHS Key Club students have been collecting warm coats for kids and food for the Community Cupboard. There was a school wide food drive competition. They continue to collect used cell phones and accessories and used DVDs for disabled veterans. The club continues to work at the Open Door Mission every Sunday, helping to prepare and serve meals. Their December projects include helping with the Gift of Life Marathon at the Paramount Theatre, breakfast with Santa at the Grace Congregational church and a holiday dinner at the Bardwell House.
- Board members received their scheduled reading assignments and due dates.

**ANNOUNCE-
MENTS**

Information Task Force - Ms. Fucci said the first meeting of Budget Buddies was well attended. The people who came are very willing to help. People have offered to host a website, help with a voter registration drive, and with marketing and public relations. People came from every ward in the city and it was a great community meeting. She said there will not be much happening until after the first of the year. Mr. Mello thanked Commissioners Dress, Fucci and Kilic-Murray for their leadership. He has heard a lot of positive comments and the article on the front page of the newspaper was well done.

**COMM.
REPORTS**

**INFORMA-
TION TASK
FORCE**

Commissioner Courcelle said as a parent of a third grader, he is thankful for the dictionary project from the Rutland South Rotary Club. All third graders received a dictionary and it was a generous gift. Ms. Moran will make sure a letter of thanks is sent.

**ROTARY
CLUB
DICTIO-
NARY
DONATION**

Mr. Mello acknowledged student representative Nicholas Ouellette for being named to the MVL soccer All-Star team

**MVL
SOCCER
ALL-STAR
TEAM**

Commissioner Fagan reminded everyone of the free concert on Tuesday Dec. 16 at the Paramount.

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Retreat Debrief - Mr. Mello said the consensus was that the retreat was positive. The primary critique was that more time was needed and that it should be held two or three times a year. Mr. Mello thanked the leadership team and board members for participating. Mr. Fingon said Sodexo did a great job with the meal, which was food off the menu.

**PARA-
MOUNT
CONCERT**

**RETREAT
DEBRIEF**

Nick Ouellette said the Key Club has just finished a food drive and collected thousands of items for the Community Cupboard. Ms. Moran said Stafford students helped stage the organization and distribution of Stuff-a-Bus.

KEY CLUB

Mr. Mello reminded everyone of the legislative breakfast scheduled for Monday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 am.

**LEGISLA-
TIVE
BREAKFAST**

Motion by Fagan/Forshay to adjourn at 7:56 pm.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary