

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 28, 2009**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Christopher Book
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Wayne Cooke
Richard Courcelle
Roberta Dress
Peter Fagan
Peter Forshay
Cindy Kilic-Murray
Rob Towle

Member Absent

Collin Fingon
Nicholas Ouelette

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Peter Amons
Wil Cunningham
John Rice
Ellie McGarry
Bill Olsen
Bob Johnson
Jay Slenker
Paula Albro
Patricia Aigner
Andrea McQuade
Ted Guilmette

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Mello noted the absence of Commissioner Fingon and Student Representative Nicholas Ouelette

Motion by Towle/Kilic-Murray to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2009 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Written Communication - None

Oral Communication - None

Foley Scholarship - Superintendent Moran recommended that the Board accept a new scholarship in the name Lorilee J. Foley who died recently. The theme of the scholarship is Determination and How it Changed Your Life. The scholarship will be administered by the Guidance Department.

Motion by Courcelle/ Fagan to establish and accept the Lorilee J. Foley Scholarship as presented.

Ms. Moran said in the first year the scholarship will be awarded to one RHS or Mount St Joseph student in the amount of \$1,000. In subsequent years, they hope to award two scholarships a year, one to a young man and one to a young woman.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Co-Teaching Update - Ms. McGarry said they are planning and configuring co-teaching in grades K-6 for next year. The proposal is to replace seven paraeducators with two special educators. Both buildings will have at early intervention and prevention in all classrooms. Ms. Moran said this is cost-neutral and possibly a slight

CALL TO
ORDER

ROLL CALL

MOTION:
MINUTES
4/7/09
MEETING

WRITTEN &
ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATION

EDUCATION
REPORT

MOTION:
ACCEPT
FOLEY
SCHOLAR-
SHIP

CO-
TEACHING
UPDATE

cost savings. Rutland is one of two pilot programs in the state and Ms. McGarry said the State Department of Education was here for the past two weeks and will be here next week as well. They are impressed so far with the co-teaching. She said students are making good progress and this provides a better chance for early intervention with all students right away. Ms. McGarry reviewed the class configuration for co-teaching and said the paraeducators being replaced do not necessarily work with students who need direct intervention all day, but rather those who work with several students or in small groups. She explained different co-teaching models the teachers are using and said that two certified teachers in a classroom are better able to provide instruction. There will be one special educator in each primary building.

Ms. McGarry said when recruiting staff, they will need to be prepared to do co-teaching. Ms. Moran said if we cannot find the right people, we might wait a year for this step. Ms. McGarry reviewed the paperwork and said the special educators will still be the case managers. She is looking at the school psychologists to perform evaluations. Commissioner Kilic-Murray asked if there will be paraeducators who will lose their jobs. Ms. McGarry said we do not yet know because assignments have not been made. Paraeducators are on annual contracts. Ms. McGarry said she is just looking at feasibility and the candidates right now. This proposal does not require any Board action.

MOTION: PERSONNEL MEMO #403, SECTION A1

Motion by Fagan/Forshay to approve the Licensed section A1 of the Personnel Memorandum No. 403 dated April 24, 2009, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Ms. Moran thanked the members of the screening process for the two administrative positions. She said it is a very comprehensive process and it works very well. She reviewed the recommendations:

- William Olsen for the RHS Principal.
- James Slenker III for the RIS Principal.

Ms. Moran reviewed the credentials and experience of both candidates.

Mr. Mello asked the Board for any questions about the Superintendent's recommendations. Ms. Moran pointed out a professional article about developing and fostering leadership from within which affirms the Board's philosophy on leadership development.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

MOTION: PERSONNEL MEMO #403, SECTIONS A2-5

Motion by Fagan/Forshay to approve the Licensed section A2-5 of the Personnel Memorandum No. 403 dated April 24, 2009, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The appointments, transfers, family/medical leaves and resignations were reviewed by Superintendent Moran and discussed by Board members. They are attached.

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

Performance Contract Update - Mr. Amons said the contract with Johnson Controls was signed on April 1, 2009. Shortly after that, we approached Efficiency Vermont for the \$25,000 grant funds which they had committed. They told us about a new program they are administering which will pay for 100% of all lighting upgrades in all schools in Rutland County. Mr. Amons said he is now in discussion with Johnson Controls for them to allow us to pull out the amount committed for lighting upgrades and substitute in Longfellow and RMS boiler replacements and some asbestos removal. These substitutions would still bring the total project to a cost of +\$1.5 million. They have verbally agreed to do this.

Mr. Amons said this would result in a total project of \$2.1 million for \$1.5 million in financing over 15 years. Mr. Rice said Efficiency Vermont subcontracts out the work. Commissioner Towle asked if this is part of the stimulus money. Mr. Amons said it is not; it is being paid from funds collected from rate payers and run through Efficiency Vermont. Ms. Moran said they are targeting areas which have been underserved. Mr. Amons said this is a new proposal from the Public Utilities Commission, who has determined that demand must be lowered in this part of the state or they will have to create more energy, which will cost even more money.

Mr. Mello asked if any board members did not think this is a good idea. There were no comments. Commissioner Forshay said he thinks it is a good idea and said he is impressed that Johnson may be willing to stick with the overall project outlines with the substitution of technology. Mr. Mello said there are two parts to this proposal: 1) The district needs to accept the offer of increased work at no charge to us. 2) There needs to be a reallocation from lighting to the boilers. Mr. Amons said he does not think there needs to be Board action right now although Efficiency Vermont may require a vote by the Board at some time.

Announcements

- The cover art for the Student Art Show at Chaffee Art Center was drawn by RHS student Sarah May.
- Tomorrow night there is a student performance concert at the Paramount featuring many of our graduates who are now at Castleton State College. The Chair of the Music Department there is Glen Giles.
- Board members were invited to attend the National Technical Honor Society Induction ceremony on May 7.
- A letter was sent home today about swine flu and recommendations on how to be healthy and safe.
- The Northwest Technology team is participating in "train-the trainers" for SMARTboards this week.
- The Northwest/Northeast second grade picnic at Giorgetti will be held on Friday.
- Teacher and staff appreciation is next week.
- The Volunteer Awards ceremony was held last week at Northwest. Thank you to Volunteer Coordinator Pat Shappy for all her hard work and to the many Foster Grandparents.
- Northwest students participated in Earth Day Green Up
- Northeast kindergarten screening begins next week. There are over 60 children and parents who will visit.
- Congratulations to Foster Grandparent Verma Galarneau of Mrs. Campbell's

second grade for having been selected to receive the Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Community Service. The award is given in recognition for her many years of meritorious service to the Northeast School and Rutland City Public Schools. Mrs. Galarneau has worked in Nancy Campbell's classroom for the past 16 years.

- Congratulations to the following Northeast Students and art teacher Brad Bender for having their art pieces displayed at the Student Art Show at the Chaffe Art Center, May 3rd – 17th: Kindergarten: Justin Hesse; First Grade: Kaylee Kosmalski; Second Grade: Brayden Moore, Marlee Duprey, Brianna Beauchamp, Nathaniel Fogg and William Li
- RIS had a penny drive last month and raised \$695 for the Humane Society. May 6 will be RIS Jump rope for Heart fundraiser. The annual Talent Show will be on May 7. Fourth grade Science NECAPS will be administered on May 12, 13 and 14.
- Dylan Conboy, an 8th grader at RMS, was part of the group of middle schoolers who came to the Board recently about Math Counts. Ms. Moran said he is here tonight to observe the board. RMS finished as Vermont State Champion of the 2009 New England Mathematics League Competition for both 7th and 8th grade. Seventh graders Taylor Ampatiellos, Matthew Abatiell, and Dominic Tadio finished in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th respectively, for the state. The 8th grade was the top team for Vermont and finished tied for 28 out of 144 schools from across New England. Josh Wight was the top student for Vermont and tied for fourth among all the students that participated across New England.
- RMS Coffeehouse is May 6. Students read their original prose and poetry.
- Steve Marro, a paraeducator at the high school, will be recognized as an Unsung Hero by the Vermont Department of Recreation for his many years working with children and as a referee. He will receive the award at a luncheon on May 6 at Mountain Top Inn.

LEGISLA-
TIVE
UPDATE

Legislative Update - Ms. Moran provided an update on current activity in the legislature. She said it is a challenging year and urged board members to contact their legislators. She said one item of significance is the proposal to transfer the teachers retirement from the general fund to the education fund. That will have a direct impact on property taxes. She distributed a summary of where bills are and the proposed use of federal stimulus funds.

Mr. Fagan said some bills are in conference committee now. Once they finish and the language is crafted, legislators will vote either yes or no. There will be no more discussion or questions. He reviewed some of the procedures. Mr. Fagan said he believes that pension benefits promised to individuals cannot be changed.

Search Updates - Ms. Moran said the appointments tonight created two assistant principal vacancies. The Success Director search has been extended and the committee continues its work.

SEARCH
UPDATES

COMM.
REPORTS

Policy Committee - Policy 6440 and 6450 - First Reading and Section 7000 - First Reading

POLICY
COMM.

Motion by Book / Kilic-Murray to approve the following policies for first reading:

6440 - Non-Aligned Employees (changes)

6450 - Workman's Compensation Leave (new policy)

7340 - Graduation Requirements

7470 - Corporal Punishment

7480 - Suspension

7481 - In School Suspension

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:
APPROVE
6000 & 7000
POLICIES
FOR FIRST
READING**

New Business - None

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Old Business - Mr. Cooke asked about the property line at Success. Ms. Moran said it is in process and she will report back at the next meeting.

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Ms. Kilic-Murray said she is excited about the Stafford summer program for middle school students. Ms. Moran said it is open to students in all schools in the county.

**AHEAD OF
THE CURVE
BOOK
DISCUSSION**

Ahead of the Curve - Chapter 3 - Mr. Bliss had asked Board members to find a passage in the chapter and think assessment – How do you know it? How should we think about it? Board members discussed specific passages in the chapter and discussed their implications. Mr. Courcelle said he would be interested in learning more about how school boards and policy making boards approach assessment. He proposed that the Board retreat be dedicated to the topic of assessment and specifically with respect to the Board as a policy making group. Mr. Mello said he thinks it makes sense to have a balanced assessment program. There is a distinction between the “of” and “for” learning. He said he would like to approach the topic further at a board retreat.

Motion by Book/Kilic-Murray at 8:07 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session 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.

**MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:45 pm.

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

Motion by Courcelle/Cavacas that the Board affirm the recommendation of the Superintendent that a five (5) day suspension, without pay, be imposed on Mr. Marc Whitman for unprofessional behavior. Unanimous.

**MOTION:
AFFIRM
RECOM-
MENDA-
TION OF
SUPERIN-
TENDENT**

Motion by Forshay/Cook to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary