

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 26, 2009**

**School Board Members Present:**

Peter Mello  
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Roberta Dress  
Peter Fagan  
Collin Fingon  
Peter Forshay  
Cindy Kilic-Murray  
Rob Towle

**Members Absent**

Christopher Book  
Wayne Cooke  
Richard Courcelle  
Nicholas Ouelette

**Also Present:**

Superintendent Mary Moran  
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss  
Ellie McGarry  
Peter Amons  
Kristin Francoeur  
Patricia Aigner  
John Rice  
Lyle Jepson  
Wil Cunningham  
Kristen Hubert

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Mello noted the absence of Commissioners Cooke, Book, Courcelle and Student Representative Ouelette.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Motion by Forshay/Towle to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2009 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
MINUTES  
5/12/09  
MEETING**

Written Communication - None

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

Oral Communication - Terry Currier, a first grade teacher at Northwest, read a letter from the Northwest School teachers. The letter expressed concerns for the reduction of a first grade teacher for next year. The letter expressed that next year's first grades at Northwest will have the largest number of students, the largest number on plans, with the smallest number of teachers. The letter asked that a fifth teacher in grade one be added back in, while keeping the sixth teacher in Kindergarten.

**ORAL COMMUNICATION**

Chair Mello thanked Ms. Currier for representing the teachers and for thinking of the students. He said that making class assignments is the responsibility of the administration. He said that if the administration has taken this into consideration and stands by the staffing pattern, he stands by the decision. Ms. Moran said the staffing patterns were discussed and analyzed. If any staff is to be added anywhere, it would have to come out of contingency. She said that regarding class size, the aim in the Primary grades is 18-20 students. It is not a Board policy. This year, the numbers at Northwest were lower in Kindergarten and grade 2. Next year, the numbers are projected to be 20 in grade one, 20 in grade 2 and 15 in Kindergarten. There was an increase in a teacher in Kindergarten because of the anticipated increase. At Northeast, the numbers are 19 in grade two, 19 in grade one, and 18 in Kindergarten. At RIS, the goal is for 18-23 students per class. Commissioner Forshay asked if the statistic noted is accurate, that 42% of the students will be on plans, if that has affected the staffing for

**NORTHWEST TEACHERS EXPRESSING CONCERNS**

co-teaching or special education. Ms. Moran said that is part of the rationale of co-teaching. Ms. Hubert said that is part of why co-teaching works and why the State of Vermont is pushing the model. There will be a special educator in each classroom approximately 50% of the time. There will be one teacher for two classrooms.

**PRIMARY  
STUDENT  
SINGING  
PRESENTA-  
TION**

NE/NW/Pierpoint Student Presentation - Six students from the three schools sang a song with Jen Hart. Ms. Hart said she works with the students all year and they give up some of their recess time each week to sing.

**EDUCATION  
REPORT**

Technology Report - Ms. Aigner gave an update on the status of the technology in the district.

**TECHNO-  
LOGY  
REPORT**

- Web page - New design was completely deployed.
- Student Information System
- Instructional tools have moved forward such as SMART boards K-2, Netbooks, Vernier probes, document cameras, and student response systems.
- Professional Development
- Fiber Deployment
- Tech Plan - Student Centered Learning - Increase the number of classrooms providing 21<sup>st</sup> century learning opportunities.
- Tech Plan - Leadership
- Tech Plan - Flexible Learning Environments
- Tech Plan - Engaged Community Partners
- Context for Work - Increasing efficiency, hardware and sophistication. Netbooks and SMARTboards can reduce the need for other materials. Can we look at stimulus funds as a short-term solution to adding more staff?
- Results we want - for administration, teachers, and students.

Mr. Mello said there are two technology opportunities we are pursuing. One is a state-wide opportunity for laptops and one is for technology stimulus funds. They will be discussed further at the upcoming curriculum meeting. Ms. Moran said this presentation is a prelude to the upcoming request for Board approval of the Technology Plan.

There was further discussion about Ms. Aigner's presentation. She said the middle school has already started standards based reporting for the Unified Arts. Mr. Bliss said he hopes to use the technology to do a standard based report card for K-12. He said that grading is one of the things discussed at the high school and it is an ongoing discussion. Commissioner Cavacas recommended exploring using the ITouch in place of regular graphing calculators. Commissioner Forshay said he is concerned with "24/7" availability of the system. He is supportive of the convenience but does not want students to feel they are expected to be responsible for doing their work extended periods of the day without an appropriate amount of time for rest. Ms. Aigner said teachers look at giving an appropriate amount of homework – this would be an opportunity for students who want to extend their learning and knowledge base. Mr. Forshay said he is also concerned with the use of cell phones since it is not available to 100% of our students. He also believes that cell phone technology can be disruptive to the learning environment. Ms. Aigner said those concerns will be balanced with the benefits. Commissioner Fagan said this school district is leading the way in many ways especially with pushing technology forward. He said there are some constraints with

technology and he wants to make sure we are mindful of them as we move forward. Commissioner Kilic-Murray thanked Ms. Aigner for reminding the Board about the technician job which was cut out of the budget. She hopes it can be added in for next year. She asked about the number of unique visitors to the website. Ms. Aigner will get her the number. Mr. Fagan asked for a link from the school district website to the City site and from the City back to the schools. Ms. Aigner will add the link to the City's site.

Ahead of the Curve - Chapter 6 - Mr. Mello postponed the discussion because there were four board members absent.

Motion by Forshay/Fagan to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 405 dated May 22, 2009, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The appointments and one resignation were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached. Ms. Moran reviewed the role of the department chairs and team leaders. Ms. Moran said there is some confusion with the Team 7 leader appointment and she will get the information.

Motion to approve the Memorandum as presented passed by all those in attendance.

Bids - Mr. Amons said all these items will need some funding from the contingency fund because they were either not budgeted or the bids came in higher than budgeted.

**New High Jump Pit at RHS**

Motion by Kilic-Murray/Fagan to accept the recommendation from the Chief Financial Officer to expend up to \$6,000 from the FY09 contingency fund to purchase a high jump pit at Rutland High School as presented. Motion passed with one no vote (Dress)

Roof Replacements of Northwest Kitchen and Library Roof and RMS/RIS Cafeteria Roof - Mr. Rice said there were three bidders for each. The RMS catwalk was not in the 2009-2010 budget and he considers it an emergency item. The 2009 budget contains \$41,000 for the Northwest kitchen and Library. The lowest bid at Northwest was \$64,000 and so \$22,500 will need to come from contingency. Mr. Rice said the bids were analyzed to determine why they were higher than projected:

- Economy of scale - they are not bidding one large roof but three small roofs at three work sites
- The Northwest roofs need slope correction and they have to use tapered insulation, which has an increased cost
- There are structural repairs needed.

**Northwest Kitchen and Library Roof**

Motion by Fagan/Cavacas to accept the recommendation from the Chief Financial Officer to accept a bid for \$64,000 from Naylor & Breen Builders for the replacement of kitchen and library roofs at Northwest School of which \$22,500 will come from the contingency fund.

There was discussion about the roofs' conditions. Mr. Rice said the roofs are +20 years old. These were not replaced during the big building project. He said in the library, there are two roof drains and we will slope it so that water can get to the drains. In the kitchen, there is a roof drain that is fine but for the other half, there is no roof drain so we need to slope it and put in a roof drain. He said he believes there will be just one remaining roof section at Northwest which is older. It is on the back extension and he does not know its age but predicts it is between 10-15 years.

Mr. Rice said next year, he will start an inspection project for flat roofs, starting with Northeast. He does not know all the roof histories. He said that for the Northwest roofs, there have not been interior wall damages; mostly ceiling leaks. There will be insulation replacement. Mr. Forshay said district-wide, there has been aggressive work on the roofs over the past five years. There have been many roofs replaced or rebuilt and an inventory would be useful. He said it is a small minority of the roofs that are in need of treatment.

**VOTE ON  
MOTION**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

RMS/RIS Cafeteria Roof - Mr. Rice said the roof is beginning to fail. During heavy rain, there are leaks and buckets and mops are needed. This is a high traffic area. The gypsum decking is beginning to fail.

**MOTION:  
RMS/RIS  
CAFETERIA  
ROOF**

Motion by Kilic-Murray/Cavacas to accept the recommendation from the Chief Financial Officer to accept a bid for \$16,000 from Naylor & Breen Builders for the replacement of the catwalk roof between RMS and RIS and to charge the FY09 contingency fund for that purpose.

Mr. Rice said this is a total roof removal down to the decking so it will take care of any mold issue. He said the roof on the other catwalk is not leaking but there is significant ponding. Mr. Forshay asked why this was not budgeted. Mr. Rice said last year, the leaking was not significant and it was thought it could be repaired through maintenance. The leaks expanded during the year and he believes it has seam failure. He said the replacement roof life expectancy is 20-30 years.

**SUPERIN-  
TENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**ANNOUNCE-  
MENTS**

#### Announcements

- At Northeast, the "New Kids on the Block" visited today with the message of how to keep children safe and healthy and to appreciate each other's physical and cultural differences. Through participation in the National Walk-at-Lunch Day on April 29, Northeast received a stipend award of \$325 which will be use to support music for the annual Harvest Dance next Nov. and to culminate the weekly Walking Club's goal of "walking" the Appalachian Trail (students have amassed 1600 miles so far) with a lunchtime celebration. There will be a PTC meeting on June 1 to plan activities for next year. The annual "Picnic with a Book" is scheduled for June 5.
- At Northwest and Pierpoint, there was a wildlife presentation today for all Kindergarten students. On June 1, the second graders go to Castleton State College to see a "Junie B Jones" performance. The schools practiced their

evacuation procedures last week. All students and staff walked to Giorgetti Arena. The Kids on the Block puppets presented "Alcohol and Tobacco awareness" skits to all K-2 students last week.

- Grades 4 -6 bands will be performing this Thursday at 10:50 and 11:35 at RIS. Next Tuesday the entire school will be walking to Giorgetti Park for the first school-wide field Day and picnic.
- RMS is pleased to announce this year's recipients of the New England League of Middle School's Scholar-Leader awards. This award goes to one seventh and one eighth grade student who best personify qualities of teamwork, positive interactions, respect, productivity and service to others. This year's recipients as voted on by the faculty are Liam Clark and Christina Lovett. These students and their families will be honored at the 12th annual Scholar Leader Awards Banquet on June 3 in Norwich, VT. The RMS Enriched Studies Program (ESP) starts on June 8.

**SEARCH  
UPDATES**

Search Updates - Ms. Moran updated on the searches for RIS and RMS Assistant Principals, Director of Success and several other positions.

**RHS  
PUBLICA-  
TIONS**

The RHS Literary and Art magazine, Raider of the Arts, and the RHS Yearbook were distributed to board members. Ms. Moran praised both publications.

**LEGISLA-  
TIVE  
UPDATE**

Legislative Update - Ms. Moran reviewed the potential impact on education finance of the budget proposed by the Governor. It would result in a change in the property tax system.

**COMM.  
REPORTS**

Policy Committee - Policy 3241 and 7000 Section - First Reading - Mr. Bliss reviewed the changes.

**POLICY  
COMM.**

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

- 3241 - Parent Involvement
- 7491 - Bomb Threats
- 7510 - Co-curricular Activities
- 7512 - Management of Funds
- 7514 - Nonresident Athletic Participation
- 7520 - Student Government
- 7530 - Student Athletics and Activities
- 7531 - Student Athletic Injuries
- 7532 - Athletic Selection Process
- 7540 - Student Contests and Fundraising

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
APPROVE  
POLICIES  
3241 & 7000  
SECTION  
FOR FIRST  
READING**

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

New Business

Summer Meeting Dates - June 9, June 23, Aug. 11 (board retreat), Aug. 25.

**SUMMER  
MEETING  
DATES**

Mr. Forshay, Chair of the Staff Relations Committee, alerted the Board that at an upcoming meeting, there will be a proposal that the Board endorse the actions of the Environmental Health Team. This is something discussed in negotiations with REA.

**UPCOMING  
BOARD  
ACTION  
ITEM**

Old Business

There was a review of the Pension Committee assignments. Mr. Forshay said there needs to be full school board representation at the next pension committee meeting. The representatives are Commissioners Towle, Fingon, Forshay, Mello and Fagan. The meeting is scheduled for June 10.

**OLD  
BUSINESS**

**PENSION  
COMM.  
ASSIGN-  
MENTS**

**ADJOURN**

Motion by Fagan/Forshay to adjourn at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted

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Janet Mondlak  
Recording Secretary