

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
MAY 12, 2009**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Christopher Book
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Wayne Cooke
Richard Courcelle
Roberta Dress
Peter Fagan
Collin Fingon
Peter Forshay
Cindy Kilic-Murray
Nicholas Ouelette

Member Absent

Rob Towle

Also Present:

Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Peter Amons
John Rice
Patricia Aigner
Jay Slenker
Ellie McGarry
Bill Olsen
Bob Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
Chair Mello noted the absence of Commissioner Towle.

ROLL CALL

Motion by Forshay/Kilic-Murray to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2009 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:
MINUTES
4/28/09
MEETING**

Written Communication - Clerk Courcelle read an invitation from the Rutland Middle School Student Council Advisor to School Board members to attend the school's Memorial Day Assembly.

**WRITTEN
COMMUN-
ICATION**

Oral Communication - Mr. Mello said the Superintendent is ill and not able to be here tonight.

**ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATION**

Project Graduation Donation - Assistant Superintendent Bliss said the School Board has been requested to make a donation to Project Graduation. In the past, the donation has been \$500.

**EDUCATION
REPORT**

Motion by Book/Fagan to donate \$500 from the School Board to Project Graduation.

**MOTION:
PROJECT
GRADUA-
TION
DONATION**

Project Graduation will be held at Pico Resort. Nick Ouelette said there are different events and activities for the students to participate in.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Mathematics Report - Mr. Bliss introduced Dana Johnson, the pre-K - grade 6 Math Coach. Ms. Johnson reviewed the program.

**MATHEMA-
TICS
REPORT**

Current Initiatives:

- Local common assessments through grade 6 are used
- Purchased Everyday Math program for on-site EEE/Head Start district classrooms.

- The response to intervention is to bring direct instruction to students on specific areas.

Future Initiatives:

- Summer school improvement team charge to update the database and portfolio items.
- RIS Restructuring Plan - RIS has set a math goal to increase functions and algebra by 3% to meet the state average and she will be working to help them meet that goal.

Ms. Johnson said that because there are so many classrooms in each grade level, we want everyone to be given the same assessments. The information is housed in a database and the teachers use it to inform future instruction. "Boost" is a term used in primary grades for students who may need extra help on a skill or concept. That is done outside the classroom in small group instruction. Ms. Johnson said some of the questions on the common assessments are NECAP release items and some might be items from the Everyday Math program. She explained a math "item" – one released problem or problem-solver. Mr. Mello said the NECAP release items are samples that NECAP sends from previous tests.

Commissioner Courcelle asked about formative versus summative. Ms. Johnson said for a teacher in a classroom, a formative assessment is very specific about one concept. The student either understands it or does not. With summative assessment, the goal is for students to have had enough instruction, exposure, and practice to support a correct answer. The teacher looks for some type of understanding up to that point. There were further examples of formative versus summative assessments.

Commissioner Cooke asked about the inclusion of EEE / Head Start and the resource kits. Ms. Johnson said that is the beginning of the Everyday Math program. The district ordered the updated versions of 2007 last year when it became available and Ms. Johnson reviewed the components of the kits and other items ordered this year. Nick Ouelette asked about math enrichment in sixth grade and Ms. Johnson explained those opportunities. Mr. Bliss said the new version of Everyday Math does a better job at delivering curriculum to a broad range of students.

Mr. Bliss said there is an ongoing look at mathematics at the middle and high schools.

Current initiatives:

- Professional learning community work
- Using common assessments
- High school continues data analysis with assessments
- Intervention on behalf of students who are not being successful. There is a support room with a tutor. There will be intervention opportunities throughout the day in the future as a referral or assignment for those students in need

Future initiatives:

- Summer work team charge
 - Realign foundations of Math 1 and 2 curriculum with Vermont Ges
 - Embed NECAP released items into curriculum
- RMS and RHS restructuring plan - which are action plans
 - RMS set a goal to improve math NECAP scores on the fall 2010 administration of the assessment.

- RHS set a goal to improve math NECAP assessment by 15 percentage points.
 - support room will be staffed by a math teacher and open each block.
 - increase the number of teachers invested in the Foundations level of instruction.

MATH
REPORT,
cont.

Mr. Mello said he is glad to see that we are requiring students to attend support groups and not inviting them.

Ahead of the Curve - Chapter 5 - Mr. Bliss asked Board members to choose a passage to reflect their own school assessments and how they think assessment should be used in the classroom. Mr. Courcelle said listening to how a teacher uses assessment, such as Ms. Johnson's presentation tonight, was easier for him to understand than the chapter. He said he preferred to hear how the teachers are using assessment in the classrooms. Mr. Forshay said assessment poorly delivered can have a negative impact on learning. Mr. Cavacas said consistency between teachers is important and that requires a lot of professional development. Mr. Cooke said students give formative information for the teacher at times. Mr. Fagan asked if students have to show their work on assessments in mathematics, science or even English, such as sentence diagraming. Mr. Bliss said students are always asked to show their thinking. Mr. Fingon said teachers need to help each student understand at their own pace and method of understanding. Mr. Mello said that requires their leadership. Mr. Bliss said co-teaching is excellent for making that happen. Mr. Mello said he would like to see the board retreat focus on this subject. He asked the Board to think about including a goal regarding a balanced assessment system. Commissioner Kilic-Murray said she would like to include a discussion about report cards at the retreat.

BOOK
DISCUSSION
*AHEAD OF
THE CURVE*
CHAPTER 5

Motion by Kilic-Murray/Fingon to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 404 dated May 8, 2009, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL

MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #404

The appointments, family/medical leave, and resignation were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

BUSINESS
REPORT

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

BIDS

Bids

Replacement of Fuel Storage Bid - Mr. Rice said there were three bids and they were all qualified bidders. Star Construction will begin at the end of June and finish the work in one month.

Motion by Cooke/Fagan to approve the recommendation from the Director of Buildings and Grounds and accept a bid of \$87,398 from Star Construction to replace the 10,000 gallon underground fuel storage tank at the Rutland Middle School and to charge to the Contingency fund up to \$24,000 toward its completion.

MOTION:
BID FOR
REPLACE-
MENT OF
FUEL
STORAGE

Mr. Cooke said this was discussed at the Buildings meeting. He explained that the amount budgeted was not sufficient but due to extenuating circumstances. Mr. Rice said the basis for the budgeted amount of \$75,000 was similar work and replacement at the

intermediate school. However, it was discovered early on that the tank was under the cat walk and that it would have to remain there. He explained the added work and cost in abandoning an existing tank in place. He said it is all being done safety and per the regulations. The tank essentially becomes "a rock in the ground.". Mr. Amons said the \$75,000 was budgeted and is coming out of the 2009 budget. The additional \$24,000 is being charged to the contingency fund. The contingency line has \$250,000 and has not yet been used this year.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

RIS Paving Bid - Mr. Rice said this is for the entranceway between the intermediate and middle schools. Three bids were received and they were all qualified bidders who have done work for us in the past. He broke out the work into five components. The original budget item was to do it all at once but as part of the maintenance reductions, it was decided to do it in two phases but he requested bids on all five components. Mr. Rice recommends Wilk Paving. They can do the work in August after the end of the summer program before school starts. It will be paid for from the 2010 budget.

Motion by Book/Fagan to approve the recommendation from the Director of Buildings and Grounds and accept a bid from Wilk Paving for \$47,000 of services from a total low bid of \$74,575 for paving at Rutland Intermediate School.

Mr. Rice said the second phase will be paid for from the 2011 budget and will be rebid at that time. Mr. Fingon suggested performing the entire job from the current year's contingency fund. He said that asphalt prices will most likely increase. Mr. Mello said it would have to be from the 2010 contingency because the work will be performed in 2010. Mr. Cooke suggested the entire amount could be encumbered from the 2009 contingency fund. Mr. Book said if the project is budgeted for 2010, he thinks it should be done in 2010. Mr. Cooke said if the money is not used in 2009, the remaining \$226,000 from contingency will roll over to the 2010 budget as a carry forward, which comes with other issues. Mr. Amons explained the accounting procedures with splitting the year and using the contingency fund. Mr. Mello said his opinion is to agree with Mr. Cooke and Fingon – if we do not use the contingency fund, it gets rolled into the general fund and creates an artificial budget for the following year. If the money is allocated for contingencies, he would lean towards putting it all in the 2009 budget.

Mr. Courcelle said he does not support using contingency for this. The presentation is for using \$47,000 from the budget. He respects living within our means. If we do not use the contingency, the carry forward will reduce the tax rate for next year. He thinks they are suggesting a prudent approach. He does not support using contingency funds just because we have them. Mr. Mello asked if this is a routine maintenance project versus emergency repairs. Mr. Rice said the three areas proposed for this summer are in the worst shape. The pavement is almost completely gone. The two areas proposed for next year can wait. Commissioner Dress asked if Wilk could do the project in that time period. Mr. Rice said they would get it done if we asked. Mr. Mello reviewed the bid and said it represents three of the five projects.

Motion passed.

Announcements

- All Northeast students recently participated in a Tree Planting Ceremony for Arbor Day. Home Depot donated a flowering pear tree which was planted adjacent to the Peace Pole. Staff Appreciation Week was celebrated with a staff breakfast from the Doll House. The school was presented with a plaque from Dan and Irene Shea from Compassionate Friends for their efforts. The entire school will be visiting the Paramount Theater for a performance of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra later this week. Next week, second graders will be visited by the "Pond Lady", Diane Newton, the Education Director from Hildene, in conjunction with their pond studies and kindergartners will be visiting Boardman Hill Farms
- There will be a flapjack breakfast at Applebee's on May 23 to support Northwest enrichment activities. Author Dom Cioffi will visit K-2 Northwest students tomorrow. Signed copies of "Digby" will be available. On May 20, Kids on the Block puppets will present a drug awareness program to K-2 students.
- Thank you to everyone who helped make Kindergarten screening a success!
- RIS 4th grade Science Necap testing dates are today, May 13 and 14. There will be an informational meeting on May 14 for incoming third grade parents. Concert dates at RIS: May 15: Beginning, Cadet, and Intermediate Orchestra; May 18: Advanced Orchestra, Jazz Band, and 5/6 Chorus; May 21: Grade 3/4 Chorus
- The RHS Key Club recently raised \$153.89 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program. Over the past three years the club has raised over \$300.00 for this cause.
- RMS started groundbreaking on their new garden this past week. It will serve as a source of food for the local women's shelter and other charitable organizations. Students from RMS and Tapestry will work the garden
- The end of the year celebration for faculty is scheduled for June 18.

**SUPERIN-
TENDENT'S
REPORT**

**ANNOUNCE-
MENTS**

Legislative Update - Mr. Bliss said the legislature has adjourned for now and he reviewed several actions taken that will effect education. Mr. Fagan said Rutland City Schools are nowhere near the threshold which triggers a second education funding vote.

**LEGISLA-
TIVE
UPDATE**

Search Updates - Mr. Bliss said they are almost complete. There are new searches due to hiring from within and those are being worked on. He thanked the search team members for their efforts. He said that with the help of School Spring and technology, we have access to a highly qualified pool of international and national candidates. The Success Director search has been reopened and there will be interviews next week.

**SEARCH
UPDATES**

Policy Committee - Policy sections 6440 and 6450 and 7000 - Second Reading

**COMM.
REPORTS**

Motion by Forshay/Cavacas to approve the following policies for second reading:

- 6440 - Non-Aligned Employees
- 6450 - Workman's Compensation Leave
- 7340 - Graduation Requirements
- 7470 - Corporal Punishment
- 7480 - Suspension
- 7481 - In School Suspension (delete)

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION TO
APPROVE
SECTIONS
6000 & 7000
POLICIES
FOR 2ND
READING**

Building Committee - Mr. Cooke said the committee met and discussed a long list of projects, those which took place during year and those scheduled for the summer. Mr. Rice had distributed a list of the projects and Mr. Cooke summarized the large items. He said that there are many old things taking up space in storage and this summer, there will be a yard sale. There is unused furniture and equipment – some items dating back to the 1950s. That will give the department more space. There was an update on Alumni Field, which will be repaired soon and which will be paid for by the contractor. Mr. Cooke said there is a lot going on and he is continuously impressed with Mr. Rice and his department.

**BUILDING
COMM.
REPORT**

Summer Meeting Dates - Upcoming meetings - Regular meetings on May 26, June 9, and June 23. August 11 scheduled for board retreat and brief business meeting if needed. Regular meeting on August 25.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

**SUMMER
MEETING
SCHEDULE**

Old Business - None

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Motion by Kilic-Murray/Fagan to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary