

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 22, 2009**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Richard Courcelle
Roberta Dress
Collin Fingon
Peter Forshay
Cindy Kilic-Murray

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Lyle Jepson
Ellie McGarry
Cathy Farman
Bob Johnson
Jay Slenker
John Rice
Peter Amons
Wil Cunningham
Bill Olsen

Members Absent

Christopher Book
Wayne Cooke
Peter Fagan
Rob Towle
Daniel Wigmore

Motion by Fingon/Forshay to convene to executive session at 6:30 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 Fagan, Cooke, Book, Towle and Student Representative Wigmore.

MOTION:
MINUTES
9/8/09
MEETING

Motion by Kilic-Murray / Cavacas to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2009 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

EDUCATION
REPORT

Revised Board Calendar for 2009-2010 - Ms. Moran said changes were made to the Board Meeting Schedule and she reviewed them. Items were added to reflect things the Board had discussed at their retreat.

REVISED
BOARD
CALENDAR
FOR 2009-10

AYP Status Report - Assistant Superintendent Bliss gave an update on the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Status. The status is determined primarily on the NECAP tests. He reviewed the status of each school and the required actions needed to attempt to improve. As a district, we have to supply students in schools that have not met adequate yearly progress with additional services and our Title I funds must be used to pay for those services. He explained the required actions and what the schools are

AYP STATUS
REPORT

doing to meet the requirements. Mr. Bliss said parents of students at Northwest have to be given the choice to attend Northeast but no parents have asked for their child to be switched. He said there are about 70% of students at Northwest who qualify for free and reduced lunch and about 50% at Northeast School. These numbers are above average but not the highest in the state. Mr. Bliss said the district works together on professional development between all the grades. Commissioner Kilic-Murray asked what would happen if many parents requested their child switch elementary schools. Ms. Moran said we would have to honor those requests as per federal law, without regard to space or staffing.

Ms. Moran said many activities which fall under required actions are things we have been doing anyway. Commissioner Courcelle asked about the evaluation of the cohorts – if we are tracking the students who i.e., went to Northwest who qualified for free and reduced lunch and who are now at RIS. Mr. Bliss said the state provides year to year data and we also get student by student data. RMS has done a great job of tracking the cohort group as far back as 3rd grade. This October will be the fifth year using the NECAP assessment. Commissioner Forshay asked about potential changes on the federal level. Ms. Moran said in terms of high stakes testing, she does not see the government moving away from that. She also said she does not see a reauthorization of federal legislation for at least 18-24 months.

Board / Administration Workshop - A Board-only retreat date was set for January 19, 2010. At that time, the Board will discuss and schedule a joint board / administration meeting, perhaps to be held in March.

**BOARD /
ADMINI-
STRATION
WORKSHOP**

PERSONNEL

Motion by Dress/Forshay to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 410 dated September 18, 2009, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #410**

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

Motion passed unanimously

**NON-
ALIGNED
COMPEN-
SATION**

Non-Aligned Compensation - Tabled until the next meeting.

Ratification of the AFSCME Contract

Motion by Cavacas / Fingon to ratify the AFSCME contract as presented.

**MOTION:
RATIFICA-
TION OF
THE
AFSCME
CONTRACT**

Mr. Forshay said the Board negotiated long and well with AFSCME. The negotiations lasted approximately one year and were held in a cordial fashion. It was an excellent group to work with. The union covers maintenance workers, custodians, and bus drivers. This is a four-year contract with an option to end it after two years depending on certain conditions. The salary increase is 3.5% on an annual basis, for four years. There were some effective changes to the work structure. Bus drivers, except for grandfathered ones, were brought to full time employment position, now working eight hours a day. Commissioner Fingon and Ms. Moran complimented the board and AFSCME negotiating teams. Ms. Moran said there is an increase in the allowable employee contribution to the pension system.

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

Sodexo Inc., Food Service Contract - Mr. Amons said the food service program needs to be annually renewed. Next spring is the fifth year and we will be required to rebid for the contract starting July 1, 2010. The renewals are standard. He explained a change in federal law regarding accounting for food discounts or rebates. It is tax neutral to the food service program. Mr. Amons said Sodexo guarantees us an annual surplus of \$22,000 and we use that money to buy equipment for the food service program. The Board is being asked to approve the renewal of the contract. Ms. Moran said there is no increase to the cost of meals to the children and there has not been a price increase to students since fall 2007.

**BUSINESS
REPORT**

**SODEXHO
INC., FOOD
SERVICE**

Mr. Irion, director of the food service program, said the reduced price meals for breakfast is because the state is covering the additional cost. Ms. Kilic-Murray asked about the community garden. Mr. Irion said the garden turned out nice but they did not use the food. He said Sodexo is interested in school gardens and as a part of a fresh fruit and vegetable grant program just received for Northeast and Northwest Schools. They hope to start in early October. Ms. Moran said the students are learning a lot from the community garden and are about to learn how to put the garden to bed.

**MOTION:
APPROVE
CONTRACT
WITH
SODEXHO,
INC.**

Motion by Forshay / Cavacas that Rutland Public Schools negotiate with and enter into a contract for renewal of food service operations with Sodexo Inc., for fiscal year 2010, as noted with no direct impact to students, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Bid Award - Pick-up Truck Replacement 2010 - Mr. Rice said in the 2010 budget, there is \$40,000 budgeted to replace a pick-up truck. The old truck is a 2000 and has been used for ground maintenance and snow removal. It has had transmission problems and is under repair quite a bit. The bid request was sent to three suppliers and all bids met specifications and included snow plow attachments. The recommendation is for the lowest bidder. It is a new truck.

**BID: PICK-
UP TRUCK
REPLACE-
MENT**

Motion by Fingon / Kilic-Murray to award the replacement of the pick-up truck bid with snow plow package to John C. Stewart & Son for \$26,945.00 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:
AWARD BID
FOR PICK-
UP TRUCK**

Announcements

- Ms. Moran thanked John Rice and his crew for the summer project work. New windows were installed at Northeast and are 50% complete at Success. The first floor windows were begun at Northwest this week. They are awaiting receipt of emergency escape windows to complete both Success and Northwest. RMS is complete. The asbestos removal is complete at the RMS boiler room. They will be beginning old equipment (boilers, piping, valves, etc) removal this week and then install new equipment. The repair and refinishing of the Keefe gym floor was completed. The STC Agriculture building is on schedule for re-opening in October.
- Northeast parents and friends enjoyed "Music and Magic" last week coordinated by two second grade teachers, Summer King and Nicole Joyce. Families enjoyed the music of James Mee and the magic of Tom Joyce. Students are

**SUPERIN-
TENDENT'S
REPORT**

**ANNOUNCE-
MENTS**

going to local orchards and the Shelburne Museum. There was a wonderful turnout for the annual Open School night. School pictures are scheduled for October 7-8.

- The Northwest Evacuation Drill to Giorgetti yesterday went well. All EEE-2nd grade students evacuated quickly and safely. Pictures days are coming up. The PTC meeting is on October 5 and Walk To School Day is October 7.
- RIS will have their Evacuation Drill on September 24. The first annual Fall Harvest Field Day is scheduled for September 30. NECAP testing will start October 6th.
- The following RHS students were inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society, Chapter 2033, on September 20: Kalinen Barrows, Dan Booth, Cassie Harnett, Kilian Dundas, Samantha Hart, Rachel Griffin, Jamie Peterson and Yulia Smith. GMTI is sending two students to help plan and facilitate the Governors Youth Leadership Conference scheduled for November 23 in Burlington. GMTI will also send a group of students to participate in the Conference, thanks to a grant made available by Joan Ferris. NECAP testing at Rutland High begins Oct. 6.
- Last night at RHS, Rutland High graduate Andy Cunningham presented on his recent work in Kenya with the WISER organization. Andy has spent the last three years establishing and building a secondary school for girls in an impoverished region of the country. The RHS Key Club, led by Karen McGurl and Ann Bannister, wish to thank the community for \$1,500 raised to help WISER continue its work.
- The STC Open House on Sept 3 was a huge success with over 300 people in attendance.

COMM.
REPORTS

Policy Committee - Mr. Bliss presented the 8000 series policies for first reading.

POLICY

Motion by Forshay / Kilic-Murray to approve the following policies for first reading from the 8000 Series - Instructional:

MOTION TO
APPROVE
8000 SERIES
FOR FIRST
READING

- 8110 - Curriculum Development
- 8120 - Course of Study
- 8212 - Bomb Threat
- 8240 - Effective Schools
- 8241 - Integration of Information Technology and Instruction
- 8310 - Purpose of Instructional Material
- 8320 - Objection to Instructional and Library Material / Curriculum
- 8340 - Objection to Library Material
- 8350 - Adoption of Textbooks
- 8361 - Research Policy
- 8460 - International Student Participation
- 8530 - Evaluation and Planning Team
- 8561 - Parent Involvement in Chapter I
- 8562 - Educational Surrogate Parents
- 8590 - Provision of Special Education Services to Private School Students
- 8610 - Technical Education
- 8611 - Vocational Center Evaluation
- 8612 - Student Eligibility and Tuition Fees for Vocational Center

Motion passed unanimously.

New Business - Ms. Kilic-Murray said she will be asking for support on Budget Buddies. There will be an organizational meeting in October.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

**BUDGET
BUDDIES**

Commissioner Dress said she heard in the community that the Success School was being marketed for sale. Ms. Moran said the Success School is not being actively marketed for sale. There has been a committee formed to review the future of the Success program – what are the beliefs, what works, and what would we like to see in the future. There are rumors in the community that the building is for sale but that is not true. It is just an internal program review.

**SUCCESS
SCHOOL
RUMORS**

Old Business - Ms. Moran said since the Board's last meeting, we have received word that we cannot use ARRA funds to purchase the Stratton Road house. We will be pursuing other uses for the ARRA funds. Ms. Moran said to answer questions from the last Board meeting, the Stratton Road property was last assessed in 2006 for \$109,000, prior to approximately \$150,000 in renovations. There is the ability to possibly extend the use or building on site but we would have to go through the zoning and permitting process.

**OLD
BUSINESS**

**STRATTON
ROAD
HOUSE**

Motion by Kilic-Murray / Fingon at 7:51 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and contractual 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 8:50 pm.

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

Motion by Forshay / Courcelle to adjourn at 8:56 pm.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary