

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 27, 2010**

**School Board Members Present:**

Peter Mello  
Christopher Book  
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Wayne Cooke  
Richard Courcelle  
Roberta Dress  
Peter Fagan (6:55 pm)  
Collin Fingon  
Peter Forshay  
Erin Shimp  
Rob Towle  
Daniel Wigmore

**Also Present:**

Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss  
Peter Amons  
Patricia Aigner  
Wil Cunningham  
Lyle Jepson  
Ellie McGarry  
Bill Olsen  
Jay Slenker  
Jessica Henderson  
Bob Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Mello noted the absence of Commissioner Fagan.,

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Motion by Towle/Forshay to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2010 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
MINUTES  
04/06/10  
MEETING**

Written Communication - None

**WRITTEN &  
ORAL  
COMMUN-  
ICATION**

Oral Communication - None

**EDUCATION  
REPORT**

STC Adult Education Report - Mr. Jepson and Mr. Lucci updated the Board on STC's adult and continuing education programs. Mr. Jepson said adults are served during the day and in the evenings. He described some of the new areas STC is getting into. They are doing a lot of customized training for local businesses and industry. Stafford does not offer classes for college credit and students do not get a degree but they can get a license, certification or further their training for a job. STC has many partners, sometimes co-locating off-site with many on-site.

**STC ADULT  
EDUCATION  
REPORT**

Mr. Lucci gave a broad overview of courses offered this semester. Many are for people upgrading skills or changing careers and are relevant to the current economy. STC has on-line classes through ed2go and Mr. Lucci reviewed other programs. He said STC was approved as one of only three test sites in Vermont qualified to administer a range of certification and professional licensure exams. A number of programs have been designed per specific request and Mr. Lucci reviewed several programs beginning this summer.

Mr. Lucci has put together a Curriculum Development Committee consisting of community and business people and they will meet four times a year. These industry leaders will tell him what they want to see for training. Commissioner Fingon suggested STC become a test site for GREs, GMATs, etc. Mr. Lucci said regarding course development, he talks with potential instructors and people from the industry and determines what types of skills are important and what might be achievable and

then he writes the curriculum. Mr. Mello said the success of the offerings is due to good instructors. He asked how they are found and evaluated. Mr. Lucci said finding the instructors is not difficult because he has a wide network. He said student evaluations are pivotal.

Instructional Technology Report - Ms. Aigner gave an update of technology in the schools. She said that research indicates how positive the impact of educational technology is on student achievement. She reviewed the technology upgrades and additions at the different grade levels. Many teachers are learning more about technology through professional development and they are finding new ways to deliver education. She reviewed the equipment additions in classrooms and said they have been working to remove time and location as elements that limit student learning to a building or school day structure.

Ms. Aigner said the district's IT core infrastructure goals are looking at reliability, security, functionality, and accessibility. Administrators are expanding their knowledge of technology for communication, data-driven decision-making, productivity, teacher support, growth and evaluation. She gave an overview of the results desired for principals, teachers and students.

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- With Infinite Campus, is it mandatory to upload grades? Ms. Aigner said teachers are required to use it to upload attendance and grades. That is how report cards are generated. Mr. Bliss said parents can go on line and get the information.
- Technology can provide good information teachers can share with each other. Beyond the educational component, teachers should be encouraged to use it.
- Can we move away from paper and books and do more with electronic books? Perhaps saving money by not buying multiple copies of big textbooks which only part might be used. Can we load Everyday Math workbooks onto a pad? Is it cost-effective? Will it improve student performance and prepare them for the 21<sup>st</sup> century world? Ms. Aigner said some vendors are designing web-based interactive content which is service-based. Others are reproducing books.
- Can we create podcasts? Record teaching to have it available for students who might have missed class or need review for studying for a test? Can we provide AP course instruction to smaller schools which do not have as many offerings?. It would be nice to see different options to deliver course curriculum.
- Regarding blogs, do we provide guidelines and content restriction? Ms. Aigner said we have a written guideline for teachers to use. It is a procedure on how to work with students on writing wikis or blogs and it directs what students should be doing. Teachers are asked to review student work before it is published.
- If students use portable drives at home and then bring them into school, how do we prevent someone bringing in a virus? Ms. Aigner reviewed the protections and security in place to prevent intrusion. She said using Google Docs is a great way to transport data and avoid these types of problems.
- In the private sector, technology training is very expensive and difficult to find. Is there a link between the work of the technology department and the adult education program? Are opportunities being planned for the future? Small businesses and organizations could benefit from this type of training but it is very

expensive. Mr. Bliss said Ms. Aigner's service is in great demand and her participation on committees is limited. Ms. Aigner said her energy and interest is in supporting school administrators and teachers. It may be possible to do work with Stafford. There are smart and certified trainers in the district who might be interested. Mr. Courcelle asked how the school district can support doing this: Providing expanded technology support to adults in the community? Mr. Bliss said we have trained trainers and Stafford is always looking for opportunities.

- Board members should think about: access, support, expectations and cost. Do all our students have the access they should have? Do teachers have the support they need and get the training they need? Building administrators need to encourage and support teachers to use technology tools as best they could. The Board needs to think about the costs.
- Rutland was selected to be the state test for Smart Metering which involves CVPS running fiber optic to all the buildings in the city over two years. The school district should find out how to get involved and use this to our advantage.

Watkins & Dana Building Use Update - Mr. Amons said we have been looking at a replacement facility on Porter Place. He is awaiting for more information from the building owners.

Motion by Forshay / Cavacas to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 423 dated April 23, 2010, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The appointments, retirements, and resignations were reviewed by Assistant Superintendent Bliss. They are attached.

Motion passed unanimously.

Purchase of Special Education Van using IDEA ARRA Funds  
Motion by Forshay / Book to purchase the van and award the bid for the special education van to John C Steward & Son in the amount of \$21,755 to be paid for from IDEA ARRA funds.

Ms. McGarry said the van can only be used for students on IEPs. It will generally be used by students in the Success school.

Amendment to the motion by Forshay / Courcelle to authorize expenditure for the special education-equipped van in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to be paid for from ARRA funds.

Ms. McGarry said the grant was approved by the state for up to \$25,000 and if it is not all spent, the money remains in the grant. Ms. McGarry said this is not a replacement vehicle but something new for the program. There are many occasions where the students need to be transported and it is sometimes done by staff in their own vehicles. She said there are no other requirements.

Amended motion to authorize up to \$25,000 for the special education van passed unanimously.

## Announcements

- Mr. Bliss said RCPS will be hosting the annual Vermont All State Music Festival beginning with a parade downtown at 6 pm on May 5 and many more events through May 8. This involves 450 students from the state.
- At Northeast School, 35 students are participating in Kids Run The Nation Program. It is sponsored by the Crowley Road Race. The Arbor Day festival is April 30 and the students will be planting trees. Students will be participating in the annual spring National Walk to School Day on May 13. There will be kindergarten screening from May 3-7.
- Last week there was a presentation on internet safety for students and parents, grades 4-8. Lessons included prevention and reaction to people using the internet in bad ways, including internet bullying.
- RIS grade 6 celebrated their Ancient Cultures unit today.
- The New England Institute of Chemists honored RHS teacher Debbie Rodolfy as the 2010 Secondary Chemistry Teacher of the Year from VT.
- STATE Science Fair 2010: The following students received special awards at the 2010 Vermont State Science Fair: Liam Fagan – Silver Medal; Meridith Messier – I Sweep Achievement Award; James Collins – Top Senior Project; Twyla Marr – Silver Medal, Animal Ethics Award; Mike Napolitano – Silver Medal; Garrit Anderson – Silver Medal; Sara Lovett – Gold Medal Superior Award; American Physiological Society Award. Norwich University NGS Top 5 Juniors Award: A 20,000.00 dollar scholarship offer if she decides to attend Norwich University. Allison Resnick – Outstanding Project in the Field of Physics and Engineering (\$100) and Society of Women Engineers (\$50). Also receiving participation pins and certificates were: Kelsey Soto; Julia Stacom; Kayliegh McDonnell; Blake Bohlig; Alix Cohen; Danny Biebuyck; Brendan Bucksbaum; Mike Divis; Darrell Sarnowski; Curtis Bourque; Kilian Dundus.
- Thanks from Community Cupboard for ongoing support from the school district.

**SUPERIN-  
TENDENT'S  
REPORT**  
  
**ANNOUNCE-  
MENTS**

Legislative Report - Mr. Bliss said Vermont is not applying for Race To The Top grant funding. Mr. Fagan said the House bill regarding voluntary redistricting of schools which will provide incentives for districts to redistrict has resurfaced. There will be more news later this week.

**LEGISLA-  
TIVE  
REPORT**

Committee Reports - None

**COMM.  
REPORTS**

Student Report - Dan Wigmore said there are five teachers from the WISER School in Africa who are shadowing RHS teachers and classrooms. Mr. Olsen said they are doing professional development for the week.

**STUDENT  
REPORT**

Old Business - Mr. Towle asked about accounting reporting and Mr. Amons said he will bring a suggestion to an upcoming meeting.

**OLD  
BUSINESS**

**COMM.  
ASSIGN-  
MENTS**

Committee Assignments - in packets.

**ADJOURN**

Being no further business, Motion by Cooke/Forshay to adjourn at 7:57 pm. Passed.

Respectfully submitted

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Janet Mondlak  
Recording Secretary