

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
MAY 25, 2010  
AMENDED MINUTES**

**School Board Members Present:**

Peter Mello  
Christopher Book  
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Wayne Cooke  
Richard Courcelle  
Roberta Dress  
Peter Fagan (7:00 pm)  
Peter Forshay  
Erin Shimp  
Rob Towle  
Daniel Wigmore  
**Member Absent**  
Collin Fingon

**Also Present:**

Superintendent Mary Moran  
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss  
Peter Amons  
Wil Cunningham  
Jessica Henderson  
Ellie McGarry  
Bill Olsen  
Bob Johnson  
Jay Slenker  
John Rice  
Lyle Jepson  
Susanne Engels  
Patricia Aigner

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Motion by Towle / Dress to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2010 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
MINUTES  
05/11/10  
MEETING**

Written Communication - None

**WRITTEN &  
ORAL  
COMMUN-  
ICATION**

Oral Communication - None

AYP Report - Assistant Superintendent Bliss said the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is the measure the state uses to see how we are doing, based upon assessments. The presentation is based upon AYP index numbers given to the district by the Vermont Department of Education. The index is created by a numerical representation given to each student based upon their New England Comprehensive Assessment Program (NECAP) performance.

**EDUCATION  
REPORT**

**AYP  
REPORT**

Mr. Bliss reviewed the subgroups which are measured and reported. Students are looked at as individuals, not as a group. The AYP index only counts if there are more than 40 students in the subgroup. The subgroups we count are: 1) all students, 2) students who receive free and reduced lunch, and 3) students with disabilities. Mr. Bliss explained the AYP summary for each school. He said all our schools make AYP in the "all students" category. There has been an upward trend in reading and math for "all students" in the past three years and reviewed the other trends. He said we should be evaluated on a growth model because we are seeing growth across the district. In some places it is significant. We are working with an evolving population and we have seen a growth by percentage of students who receive free and reduced lunch.

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- Have we looked at demographics at Northeast? Has that affected our numbers? Ms. Moran said we are seeing more and more of our families challenged economically. We have been asked, “why are you labeling our kids?” She said we are reporting as required. Many of the students from families who are challenged economically are doing well academically. Mr. Bliss said knowing our students’ background helps us know their needs.
- Have we noticed more students moving into the district; transient populations? Mr. Johnson said there is an increased mobility of students. More students are coming in and staying for an abbreviated length of time.
- Some schools have the same Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) and others are different, such as the high school and the district. Why? Mr. Bliss said when the state created the AMO, schools were given a baseline. The goal is that by 2014, all students will achieve the standards. When they started, there were different baselines but by 2014, they will all be the same.
- Do you look at comparative data to other Vermont schools that have similar demographics? Mr. Bliss said the AYP index is not available across the state but we can look at other school’s NECAP data and make comparisons.
- It is good to see the graphic and trends but it would be nice to show “where we should be” in relative to those trends.
- Do you have the other information such as retention, behavior, graduation rates, etc.? Mr. Bliss said it is mandatory we report the AYP data but there are a number of other data points. He thinks the best data we have are the results of teacher-created local assessments.
- The assessment has to look at individual students from one testing period to another. They are based upon a totally different group of students. It is not a 100% evaluation of the program. I would like to see the results showing the same group of students who took the 8<sup>th</sup> grade test and then the 11<sup>th</sup> grade test. Ms. Moran said that format was shared with the Board and there is much more data mining being done.

Mr. Mello asked Board members if the information is in keeping with the Board’s intent initiated at the winter retreat? Commissioner Cooke said it would be nice to see more local data. Commissioner Towle said this is one piece and while we are judged on it at the state level, it is not as telling as other factors and our graduation rate.

SCHOOL  
CHOICE  
REPORT

School Choice Report - Ms. Moran reviewed the 2010-2011 School Choice report which details the students participating in school choice as of May 12, 2010. She said each school has set their own parameters. Each year, Rutland High School and Mill River hold a lottery. The report shows an historical trend and current enrollment.

MOTION:  
PERSONNEL  
MEMO #425

Motion by Dress / Forshay to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 425 dated May 21, 2010, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The appointment and resignation were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

MOTION:  
PERSONNEL  
ADDENDUM  
MEMO #425

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

Motion by Dress / Forshay to approve the Licensed section of the Personnel

Addendum Memorandum No. 425 dated May 25, 2010, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The appointment was reviewed by Superintendent Moran. It is attached.

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

Ms. Moran said the hiring teams have been doing great work. Positions are being filled and we are close to finishing. The quality of the applicants is excellent.

Business Report - None

Announcements

- Last Friday was the second annual Second Grade Get-together at Giorgetti Park with friends from Northeast and Northwest. Jointly organized by teacher Marcy Gillam and Volunteer Coordinator Lexi Moore with physical education teacher Jim Lehman, it was an opportunity for students to develop relationships with their second grade classmates they will join at RIS next year. Also at Northeast, a naturalist from Hildene (“The Pond Lady”) visited our second grades last week and had them join her on a tour of our pond and nature trail. The annual “Spruce Up Day” was held on May 16th with a dozen or more parents and teachers joining together to paint, plant and clean up the grounds. The annual “Picnic with a Book” is scheduled for May 28th with dozens of guest readers.
- Northwest kindergartens are finishing their field trips to Milky Way Farm, culminating their farm and dairy unit. On June 4, the Puppet People will visit to present “The Elephant Man”.
- RIS grade 4 students finished Science NECAP testing last week. VINS was in for a presentation for Grade 6 students. The annual RIS Field Day at Giorgetti Park is scheduled for June 8. Board members were invited to the grade 6 promotional activity on June 14.
- The annual RMS Memorial Day ceremony will be held on May 28, sponsored by the RMS Student Council. It is one of the most special and moving events of the year in our schools.
- Final Exams at RHS begin tomorrow and continue through the end of this week. Yes Plan then starts.
- The STC Forestry & Natural Resource Program’s annual plant sale in Stafford Greenhouse will be held from May 24-27.
- The RHS art and literary journal, Raiders of the Arts, was distributed.

Legislative Report - Board members received the end of the year Legislative Report.

Building Committee Report - Commissioner Cooke said the committee met and discussed several items:

- Administrators are looking at Watkins and Dana for ways to improve our position with those two properties. Watkins serves as our maintenance area but it is not appropriate. We are not using Dana; Rutland Rec is the only tenant.
- John Rice shared plans for the summer for all buildings. There is a lot of work planned for all the buildings.
- Stafford Technical Center is going well. There is a schedule and we are complying with

**HIRING  
UPDATE**

**BUSINESS  
REPORT**

**SUPERIN-  
TENDENT’S  
REPORT**

**ANNOUNCE-  
MENTS**

**LEGISLA-  
TIVE  
REPORT**

**COMM.  
REPORTS**

**BUILDING  
COMM.  
REPORT**

it. He reviewed new requirements and plans for a paint booth and welding. Bids will come in at the end of June and they hope to start work in July. Ms. Moran said usually the Board does not meet in July but she is expecting there might have to be a meeting on July 6 or another day that week to approve a STC construction contract.

**BUILDING  
COMM.  
REPORT,  
cont.**

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

Project Graduation Donation - Ms. Moran said Project Graduation is a long standing tradition for students to gather on graduation night for activities, games etc. Annually the Board gives them a donation of \$500 however they have asked for more this year. She said the Board's account has the funds.

**MOTION:  
PROJECT  
GRADUA-  
TION  
DONATION**

Motion by Fagan / Towle for the School Board to donate \$750 to Project Graduation this year. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**BIDS**

#### Bids

Mr. Rice said the RMS Ventilation and Mechanical Refurbishment project was budgeted for \$115,000 in the 2011 budget. He reviewed the scope of the project. Five bids were received however they came in higher than anticipated and he recommends taking the difference from the contingency fund.

**MOTION:  
RMS  
VENTILA-  
TION &  
MECHAN-  
ICAL  
REFURBISH-  
MENT**

Motion by Cooke / Dress to award the contract for the RMS refurbishment to Wright Construction in an amount not to exceed \$139,721 utilizing contingency to fund the shortfall from the \$115,000 budget.

Mr. Towle recused himself from the vote.

There is \$250,000 in the current year contingency fund. Mr. Amons said we have not used any yet this year. Ms. Moran said there will be a contingency fund update at the next meeting.

Motion passed.

Underground Fuel Oil Tanks - Mr. Rice said we have decided to move forward with replacing the last underground fuel oil tanks which are at Success and Longfellow. The only other remaining one will be at Watkins and he expects to remove that one in the future but not replace it. Two bids were received. He said the bid is higher than the budgeted amount and recommends taking the difference from the contingency fund..

**MOTION:  
UNDER-  
GROUND  
FUEL OIL  
TANKS**

Motion by Cavacas / Forshay to award the bid to Star Construction for the replacement of the underground fuel oil storage tanks at Longfellow and Success as presented in the amount of \$88,343 to be paid for from the FY2011 budget and with \$28,343 to come from the contingency fund.

Mr. Towle recused himself from the vote.

Motion passed.

**STUDENT  
REPORT**

Student Report - Dan Wigmore said the cardboard boat race yesterday was a great event for RHS and a great way for students to think outside the classroom. Finals start tomorrow and then there is YES plan.

Motion by Towle / Forshay at 7:38 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing 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 (no second needed as he is committee chair) to approve the REA contract as presented, through June 30, 2010. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
APPROVE  
THE REA  
CONTRACT**

Motion by Cavacas / Towle to adjourn at 8:55 pm. Passed.

**ADJOURN**

Respectfully submitted

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Janet Mondlak  
Recording Secretary