

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 8, 2010**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Christopher Book
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Wayne Cooke
Richard Courcelle
Peter Fagan
Collin Fingon
Peter Forshay
Rob Towle (6:42 pm)

Member Absent

Roberta Dress
Erin Shimp
Daniel Wigmore

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Peter Amons
Ellie McGarry

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Mello noted the absence of Commissioners Dress, Shimp, Towle, and Student Representative Wigmore

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Motion by Fagan/Cooke to accept the minutes of the May 25, 2010 regular school board meeting with the following correction: On page 4: The motion by Cooke to award the contract for the RMS refurbishment to Wright Construction was not seconded by Towle but seconded by Dress. Towle had recused himself. Motion to approve the corrected minutes passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:
MINUTES
05/25/10
MEETING**

**WRITTEN &
ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATION**

Written Communication - None

**EDUCATION
REPORT**

Oral Communication - None

**SCHOOL
IMPROVE-
MENT
GRANT
UPDATE**

School Improvement Grant (SIG) Update - Mr. Bliss said this is federal money which flows through the state. We are applying for RHS and three other schools. Mr. Bliss said it is a substantial amount of work and a team of people are working collaboratively using an on-line work space. There are 44 separate substantial tasks to complete of which 19 are completed. Mr. Bliss described some of the tasks. The grant is due June 15. We still need a school improvement coach. We have to have a budget in place for the funds we hope to spend. He reviewed the key ideas to date. He said the work is taking a huge amount of time. Mr. Bliss said we have met with Department of Education officials. The grant can be worth between \$50,000 - \$2 million. However, he said a very good application, rough projection, is realistically worth about \$1 million over three years, district-wide. He said once complete, we may be given provisional approval to start spending some money as of July 1 but the whole process will be a work in progress.

Mr. Bliss said the coach will be paid for using the grant money. The coach will be a contracted person and will be an outsider. Ms. Moran said all the schools in the State that are eligible to apply for the SIG grant are doing so.

Use of Stimulus Funds to Date - Mr. Bliss gave an update on the Title I Part A and Title II Part D funds, which is our ARRA allocation. We have received about \$1 million in Title I Part A and \$60,000 in Title II Part D funds for a total of \$1,064,000. To date, about \$450,000 as been requested and there is \$610,000 remaining. Mr. Bliss said we invested the funds in school-wide approach. He reviewed the investments by strategy. Some strategies are required because we are using ARRA Grant funds. Mr. Bliss described plans for investment of the remaining funds. Funds will be co-mingled with SIG funds to maximize the benefits.

**USE OF
STIMULUS
FUNDS TO
DATE**

Summer Tapestry Program - Mr. Bliss and Diana Pfenning gave an update on the Tapestry program. It is an after-school and summer program for students in grades K-8 in Rutland City Public Schools and Rutland Central Supervisory Union. The summer program includes Summer Academy and Summer Tapestry. Ms. Pfenning said more than 800 students are served through the school year. Mr. Bliss said we won a new 21st Century Community Learning Center grant to develop the MOVE (motivational opportunities with vocational exploration) program. There are six one-week camps. Ms. Pfenning said there is a strong collaboration with Stafford. Mr. Bliss reviewed the current Tapestry enrollment figures. Ms. Pfenning said the Academies are full but the summer programs still have space.

**SUMMER
TAPESTRY
PROGRAM**

Motion by Forshay / Fingon to approve the Licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 426 dated June 4, 2010, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #426**

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

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

Hiring Update - Ms. Moran said there are three positions outstanding: STC Forestry; RMS Science; Library Ave. Nurse.

**HIRING
UPDATE**

Non-Aligned Compensation - Mr. Mello said the Board has discussed this in executive session and reviewed the terms of the proposal.

Motion by Towle / Fagan to approve the compensation proposal for non-aligned employees as presented.

**MOTION:
NON-
ALIGNED
EMPLOYEE
COMPEN-
SATION**

Commissioner Cooke asked if there is a buy-out. Ms. Moran said all employees have the option of a cash buy-out if they have medical insurance coverage from a spouse. The amount varies if the plan is single, couple or family plan. People need to prove they are covered elsewhere. A correction was made to a particular name.

The motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**BUSINESS
REPORT**

Summer Maintenance Plans - Ms. Moran said there are tournament teams all over the state and many upcoming events. The maintenance and bus crew is doing a great job. She distributed a maintenance summary for the year to date. There have been 1630 work orders requested this year so far. 927 were completed and the status of others

**SUMMER
MAINTEN-
ANCE
PLANS**

were summarized. Ms. Moran gave examples of some of the work orders which will be worked on this summer by internal workforce.

**STC
CONSTRUC-
TION
BIDDERS**

Ms. Moran said seven people planning to bid on the STC job came to a bidders meeting this morning and toured the site. Bids are due June 24. Ms. Moran asked Board members to hold July 6 for a short, special meeting to approve the STC bids.

Ms. Moran said the STC student-build home is complete and they did a terrific job. There is an open house this Sunday for prospective buyers. It is an energy star rated house. Many instructors and students contributed to this. The house is now for sale.

**CONTIN-
GENCY
FUND
UPDATE**

Contingency Fund Update - Mr. Amons said there is just about \$197,000 remaining in the contingency fund. Mr. Rice has told him he does not see anything significant upcoming. It will therefore roll into the surplus. Commissioner Fagan said there had been discussion about some of the doors and Ms. Moran said basically, they have been done. She said we gained some fuel savings this year and were able to do more. She gave kudos to Mr. Rice and staff. Commissioner Fingon asked if there were any recommendations for using the funds and Mr. Amons said Mr. Rice has told him there is nothing. Mr. Fagan asked about the fuel tanks and Ms. Moran said the underground tank at Watkins will be removed but replaced with an above ground tank.

**MOON
BROOK
PLANNING
GROUP**

Moon Brook Planning Group - The Mayor's office sent information regarding Moon Brook with a request for a response. Ms. Moran said Moon Brook affects many property owners in the City. All abutters have received a request to let the City know if we would like to continue learning more about Moon Brook or not. Ms. Moran said they are not asking anyone to commit to an action or expenditure of funds. Commissioner Towle said he thinks we should continue to learn about it. It will be a pivotal issue for the financial health of the City. Mr. Mello asked if everyone agreed with responding "yes." Commissioner Forshay said he agreed because we are invested in the community and want to see it developed in a positive way. He said the school district has the talent to stay abreast of the issue – probably better than many property owners. He does not want to commit to financial resources. Mr. Mello said he thinks it sets a good example to say we want to stay involved. Mr. Fagan explained the issue with the TMDL.

**MOTION:
SUBMIT
FORM TO
MAYOR TO
LEARN
MORE
ABOUT
MOON
BROOK**

Motion by Courcelle / Towle to submit the form to the City of Rutland marking "yes", that the school district would like to stay involved with learning more regarding Moon Brook.

Commissioner Courcelle said the school district is an affected property owner because we are an abutter. Ms. Moran said the Success building abuts Moon Brook as does RHS. Mr. Fagan said looking at the wetlands maps, almost all of Rutland City is in the watershed. Mr. Towle asked if the Mayor has indicated what type of further action or course of events there will be. Ms. Moran said there is information on the status of Lake Champlain and about ANR but we do not really know.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Announcements

- At Northwest, congratulations to Pat Shappy who was awarded the "Outstanding Service Award" by the Gamma Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma educator's Honor Society.
- The RIS field day at Giorgetti Park was today and it was spectacular with 750 participants, helpers and spectators.
- The Crowley Road Race is June 13. Northwest's Running Club has 42 student members scheduled to run.
- Congratulations to the Grade 5 Band, Grade 6 Band, the 5/6 Orchestra and 5/6 Chorus who earned a superior rating for their performances at Great Escape last Friday. Also, thank you to Sara Vasseur, Keith Page and Bobbie Higgins for their coordination of the Unified Sports program. Athletes participated in the Bocce Tournament last week in Burlington and came home with a large assortment of medals.
- At the Howe Center Campus on May 27, the Class of 1957 presented a scholarship plaque and announced that \$37,000 was donated to the Scholarship Fund. The class of 1957 adopted the Howe Center Campus at their 50th reunion.
- RHS 2010 Talisman Yearbook was given to Board members. Kudos to staff and advisors. It is dedicated to Bob Field.
- Just today, Sodexo learned they won a \$107,000 grant for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at Northwest, Northeast, RIS and RMS schools.
- Congratulations to Peter Amons for attaining high status as a Registered School Business Administrator.
- Congratulations to the following RHS teachers/ staff for their recognitions this year: Peter Miller - 2010 Green Mountain Music District 5 Teacher of the Year; Jen Kravitz - 2010 VT ASCD Promising Educator Award; John Peterson - 2010 Gilder Lehrman Vermont History Teacher of the Year; Andrea McQuade - 2010 VPA Associate Principal of the Year. In addition, the district recognizes two teachers yearly for the UVM Outstanding Teacher Award. This year's recipients are: From RHS: Jay Wilson - 2010 UVM Outstanding Teacher Award; From Northeast: Sherry Kamyk - 2010 UVM Outstanding Teacher Award. And congratulations to: Deb Rodolfy - 2010 Vermont Chemistry Teacher of the Year by the New England Institute of Chemists; Adam Rosenberg - 2010 Recipient of the Fulbright Spring Seminar for American Teachers to Germany and also to Adam Rosenberg for a 2010 Rowland Fellowship; Tom Geisler - 2010 Vermont Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year; and John Peterson - 2009 Vermont Humanities Council Humanities Teacher of the Year

Year-End Activities: Class night - Wednesday; Graduation - Thursday; End of year district wide celebration - June 15; RIS promotional activity - June 14

Ms. Moran reviewed several laws recently passed which will impact school districts. They should be talked about in the future.

Committee Reports - None

Summer meetings:

- June 22 - 6:30 pm meeting and 7:00 pm grievance hearing
- July 6 - Board meeting for the approval of a STC construction bid
- There will be no other July meetings scheduled. Mr. Mello suggested Aug. 24 for the first regular meeting after the summer break.

NEW
BUSINESS

SUMMER
MEETINGS

School Board Retreat - Mr. Mello suggested August 10 and asked Board members to check their calendars.

SCHOOL
BOARD
RETREAT

Summer Hiring

Motion by Cooke / Book to authorize the Superintendent to notify the Board via e-mail, of potential hires during the summer. If there is no significant objection to the recommended candidate, the position will be hired and filled. The Board will ratify such actions at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

MOTION:
SUMMER
HIRING

Old Business

Motion by Forshay / Book 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 8:30 pm.

Motion by Fingon / Forshay to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Passed.

PUBLIC
SESSION

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary