

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 24, 2010**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Wayne Cooke
Richard Courcelle
Roberta Dress
Collin Fingon
Peter Forshay
Erin Shimp
Blake Bohlig

Member Absent

Christopher Book
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Peter Fagan
Rob Towle

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Peter Amons
Wil Cunningham
Lyle Jepson
Bob Johnson
Patricia Aigner
Cathy Farman
Ellie McGarry
Pam Reed
Bill Olsen
John Rice

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Written Communication - None

**MOTION:
MINUTES
07/06/10
MEETING**

Oral Communication - None

**WRITTEN &
ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATION**

Welcome New Student Representative - Blake Bohlig, a senior at RHS was introduced by Mr. Olsen. She is the first female student school board representative. Mr. Mello encouraged Blake to ask questions and to bring up new items as she sees fit. Ms. Moran said Blake is elected by the high school students but she represents students in all the schools and will reach out to the administrators and student councils throughout the district.

**WELCOME
NEW
STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVE**

Professional Development Report - Mr. Bliss said Board members received School Improvement information and a memo specifically about professional development and school improvement work executed in the schools since June 2010. He said all work and efforts during the summer are in line with each school's school improvement plan. He reviewed the work in each of the schools. Mr. Bliss reviewed what we intend to target and focus on during the school year. He said some of the best models of school improvement we are using are those embedded in the curriculum such as co-teaching, literacy, or math coaching. Much of the school improvement work at the schools are ongoing from the work that was done during the summer.

**EDUCATION
REPORT**

**PROFES-
SIONAL
DEVELOP-
MENT
REPORT**

Commissioner Courcelle said he likes the format of the report showing the needs, how they are being addressed through professional development, and the desired outcomes.

Challenges for Change Report - Mr. Mello said this was raised at the retreat. Ms. Moran reviewed what we know so far regarding Challenges for Change. It was a legislative action this past year which requires school districts to reduce budgets a total of \$23 million statewide. Budgets were essentially level funded this past year and Ms. Moran said reducing more will be difficult. It is voluntary. She said the target for Rutland City Public Schools is a \$660,000 reduction in the budget from 2011 over 2012. The amount was determined for us based upon our last three budgets. Rutland City is historically a low spending district. Ms. Moran said this number represents a 2.27% cut in our budget and does not factor in inflation. If inflation is 3%, it would mean we would have to cut 5% from our budget – a reduction of \$1.8 million for 2012. She said this a daunting task.

The federal education stimulus relief program is scheduled to bring \$19 million to Vermont and the intent is to restore or preserve school jobs. There is a lot of discussion around the state on how the \$19 million will be used. It is supposed to be for personnel. Ms. Moran said we will moving the budget process up because we have to inform the State Commissioner our ability to meet the targets by December 15. It impacts the Stafford budget planning and the special education service plan. Ms. Moran said she will look to Board members for input. Commissioner Fingon said this goes to the State before it is approved by the voters. Ms. Moran said we will have to tell the Commissioner if we met the cuts or not. The Commissioner will report to the Legislature in January if the districts met the recommended cuts. Voters do not vote until March. Ms. Moran said this will be a topic at the upcoming statewide superintendent’s meeting. It effects every school district in the state.

Motion by Cooke / Fingon to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 429 dated August 20, 2010, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

Contingency Fund - Mr. Rice reviewed work that has been done at the middle school regarding an upgrade to the ventilation system. New controls were added. The original intent was to repair the rooftop units to have them last a few more years but upon closer inspection, they found it was not economical to repair them. The price to replace them is \$11,377.

Motion by Cooke / Fingon to charge the FY11 contingency account \$11,377 for the replacement of three heat recovery / air handling units at Rutland Middle School as recommended by the Director of Buildings and Grounds.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Summer Project Update - Ms. Moran said the maintenance department did a wonderful job this summer on all their projects. The entire staff recognized them during the gathering to celebrate the opening of school earlier this week. Mr. Rice reviewed the projects completed. RMS and Stafford received the majority of the work and Mr. Rice listed many of the major projects. He said there was a lot of cleaning and painting. RMS has a new electronic access system to control the front entrance doors and if this is successful, it will be expanded. He said the Keefe Gym is used frequently and this will monitor who enters and leaves the building during the nights and weekends. He said the STC projects have had a lot of progress and are on schedule

Mr. Rice said the underground fuel oil tanks were replaced at Success and Longfellow leaving only one more in the district (Watkins). He said the staff did a great job in all the buildings and he reviewed some of the projects completed. Blake asked if they are planning on adding more electronic access doors if successful and Mr. Rice said they will in the future. RMS is in testing mode. Ms. Moran said RMS looks exceptional. The teachers and administrators had to pack up everything and move out of their rooms for the summer. Commissioner Forshay said this is a large list and he commended everyone on the team. Mr. Rice said one of the reasons there was so much accomplished is because of the change in the bus driver job description. Commissioner Cooke said in addition, the Stafford project has been huge and Mr. Rice has been orchestrating that.

Announcements

- Ms. Moran commented on the artwork hanging at Longfellow from the Tapestry / Academy students in celebration of their summer achievements. She said there were many students in the buildings this summer and she commended Mr. Rice's staff for working around them and Diana Pfenning for all the happy students. It is a phenomenal program serving our children.
- Pam Reed, the new Associate Principal of support services at RHS was welcomed.
- Ms. Moran said they launched an Alert Now message today reminding everyone about school beginning tomorrow. She reviewed how the system works and said it is used for weather closings, important announcements, and emergencies. More than 4000 phone numbers are programmed to receive calls.
- Tomorrow, Wednesday, is the first day of school for students in grades 1 - 9 and Stafford. Kindergarten families have received letters home explaining their schedule. Students in grades 10-12 start Thursday. Freshman start a day early to get them acclimated.
- West Street is closed (Business Route 4) through mid-September. Ms. Moran said it effects bus routes and traffic and asked the public for help when buses are exiting.
- There are first day of school celebrations in all the schools. Parents, guardians and grandparents are always welcome.

Policy Committee - Mr. Bliss said these policies are ready for a second reading. He reviewed a small adjustment which was made in the Non-aligned Employees policy.

Motion by Forshay / Fingon to approve for second reading the following Policies:
#6440 Non-aligned Employees (revision)
#6470 Casual, Part-time Employees
#6475 No Overtime for Hourly Employees
#6480 Grant Funded Programs.

**MOTION:
APPROVE
6000 LEVEL
POLICIES
FOR
SECOND
READING**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

New Business

Board Calendar 2010-2011 - Board members received the calendar for the school year with suggested topics. Mr. Mello invited Board members to let him know other items they would like to see on the agenda.

**NEW
BUSINESS

BOARD
CALENDAR
2010-2011**

Old Business - None

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Motion by Fingon / Forshay at 7:18 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 7:40 pm.

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

Motion by Forshay / Dress to ratify the RAA Amended Contract as presented. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:
RATIFY RAA
AMENDED
CONTRACT**

Motion by Courcelle / Fingon to adjourn at 7:42 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary