

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 24, 2012**

School Board Members Present:

Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Richard Courcelle
Douglas Gage
Peter Fagan
Collin Fingon
Jamie Pemrick
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas
Rob Towle

Member Absent

Peter Mello
Wayne Cooke
Caroline Corsones

Also Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Acting Chair Courcelle noted the absence of Commissioners Mello, Cooke, and Student Representative Corsones.

Motion by Towle / Fagan to accept the minutes of the April 10, 2012 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Written & Oral Communication - None

Swearing in of Doug Gage - The following Board member took the oath of office: Doug Gage for a term to expire March 2013.

Recognition of Diana Pfenning, Director of Tapestry Program and Introduction of Deb Hathaway, new Director of Tapestry Program - Commissioner Shimp read a Resolution passed by the Vermont House on the accomplishments and achievements of Diana Pfenning as the Tapestry Program Director. Mr. Bliss and Ms. Moran both spoke some words about Ms. Pfenning's work over the years as she built the Tapestry Program. Ms. Moran introduced Deb Hathaway, the new Tapestry Program Director. Ms. Moran and Mr. Bliss spoke about the search process and Ms. Hathaway's experience and skills.

Allen Street Campus Update - Susanne Engels and Gina Fucci spoke about the Allen Street Campus programs. Ms. Engels spoke about Positive Behaviors Intervention (PBIS) and said Allen Street is in its third year with the initiative. The goal is to improve overall culture and climate of the student population in order to improve student learning. She explained the program, which uses a series of steps and activities which involves everyone in the school. There are student expectations, interventions, and in the third year, they are targeting intensive individual support. She said it has been very successful and she explained the staffing at Allen Street. Ms. Fucci is a counselor working with small groups, whole building, individual counseling, family services, and

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MOTION:
MINUTES
04/10/12
MEETING

WRITTEN &
ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATION

SWEARING
IN OF DOUG
GAGE

RECOGN-
ITION OF
RETIRING
TAPESTRY
PROGRAM
DIRECTOR
AND
INTRODUC-
TION OF
NEW
DIRECTOR

EDUCATION
REPORT

ALLEN
STREET
CAMPUS
UPDATE

crisis work. She explained the Rutland City Community Gardens, collaborated with Rutland Recreation & Parks Department. She showed a video of an event held last year which was held in collaboration with a few organizations and the hospital. Ms. Fucci said some student's families are interested in planting there and part of the curriculum involves planning meals and nutrition. Mr. Courcelle said the model has changed at Allen Street as younger students are now being serviced in home schools. He asked how that has been working out. Ms. Engels said it has been a two year process and students in grades K-6 have all been moved into the other buildings. It has been very beneficial for the students to be closer in distance to their peers and there is much more fluidity between their class and a partner class. The model provides more motivation and resources. She said it has been an adjustment but it has paid off for the students.

ALLEN
STREET
CAMPUS
UPDATE,
cont.

Summer Work Projects - Mr. Rice highlighted a detailed list of summer work projects broken out by location and maintenance worker. There are many small projects rather than larger ones. Many are being done with staff although some items are being performed by contractors, such as life safety inspections and the cleaning of major facility air ducts. He reviewed some of the specific projects as well as the major cleaning in every part of every building. Mr. Rice discussed rekeying of some exterior door keys and said access will be via a card system. Commissioner Gage asked about hiring students to help with summer work and Ms. Moran said with contracts and the union, it is not possible. Commissioner Pemrick asked about the frequency of mowing to reduce ticks at playgrounds and Mr. Rice said they are aware of this. The new mower is already making a difference. Ms. Pemrick also asked about LED lighting and Mr. Rice said the majority of emergency and exterior lighting has been changed over with the help of Efficiency Vermont. Interior florescent lights have been replaced throughout the district through Efficiency Vermont and Johnson Controls. Ms. Moran said the subsets of this work have been assigned to people which is helpful. She complimented Mr. Rice on the work plan.

SUMMER
WORK
PROJECTS

Motion by Courcelle / Fingon to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 462 dated April 23, 2012, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL

MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #462

The appointment and retirement were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached. She said we will no longer be contracting out physical therapy services; it will all be done by staff.

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

Hiring Update - Ms. Moran said we are in the process of completing high school staffing. Special educators at the primaries have been filled. Other positions are in process. She said of the openings of which we are aware, we are in good condition with new hires.

HIRING
UPDATES

Business Report - None

BUSINESS
REPORT

Announcements

SUPERIN-
PENDENT'S
REPORT

- Honor Society inductions are April 27. The National Technical Honor Society Induction is May 10.
- Ms. Moran said a letter has been received from Dr. Chen, Commissioner of

ANNOUNCE-
MENTS

Public Health, congratulating Northeast School for receiving a gold medal Fit and Healthy award for their wellness activities.. They will receive a banner and a \$3,000 grant.

- At Northwest School, the STAR student trip is this Friday at Spartan Arena. The Volunteer Reception is this Thursday recognizing and thanking our many local community members, parents, and foster grandparents. Running Club training begins this Thursday and Friday!
- Northeast School Northeast began piloting the Zero-Sort Recycling Program this week. It is coordinated by three of our teachers (Jennifer Pew, Stephanie Cassineri and Marie Marallo). Tomorrow is the Spring Northeast Walk to School Day beginning at the Godnick Center coordinated by Volunteer Coordinator, Lexi Moore. Thursday is annual spring photographs. Friday is a dual celebration: the monthly PBIS morning assembly and an afternoon Arbor Day Ceremony coordinated by Kindergarten teachers. Kindergarten screenings start next week.
- The Chaffee Art Center Annual Student Show opens on April 28. This year’s promotional poster includes two colorful painted fish created by RIS third grade students, Maeve Sheehe and Maddox Traynor. RIS will host Show Your Work Night tomorrow.
- RIS sixth grader, Austin Pearo, has won the honor of having his original music composition, *Change of Intent*, performed at the prestigious Opus 24 concert in Ludlow, VT on May 2nd. Austin composed *Change of Intent* for string trio (two violins and cello) with the hope of having his piece performed live by professional musicians in the Opus concert sponsored by the Vermont MIDI Project, a non-profit organization that promotes teaching music composition with the aid of technology. For 12 years the Opus concerts have been a powerful motivation for student composers who get to hear their music come to life before their ears. Austin began his interest in composing at the beginning of this school year while taking an enrichment class at RIS that uses a cloud-based music notation software to learn how to create and write music. Rutland Intermediate School is in its second year as a member of the Vermont MIDI Project which provides support for students and teachers with a variety of resources.
- Ms. Moran read Caroline Corsones report. The RHS Chamber Singers will travel to Burlington on April 25 to visit the UVM Music Department, observe a Catamount Chorus rehearsal, and receive valuable coaching on their own performance. The annual RHS “Evening of the Arts!” will be on May 16. Encore Theatre’s Spring Talent Show is April 26.

LEGISLA-
TIVE
UPDATE

Legislative Report - Mr. Fagan reported on the progress and votes of some of this session’s legislation. He also commented on how some of the bills might affect the school district. The bills he highlighted include the change to Agency of Education and Secretary of Education; S137 which involves both Agency Fee and 12 month payment of wages; Dual Enrollment; Education Property Tax Rate; and S113 which involves how school districts spend money and equalized spending. Ms. Moran commented on her concerns with bills S113 and S137.

COMM.
REPORT

DANA
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD
MEETINGS

Reminder: Dana Neighborhood Meetings, May 1 and 15 at 6:00 pm, Longfellow Blvd

New Business - None

NEW
BUSINESS

Old Business

Telephone System - Ms. Moran said this has been a huge amount of work to come up with the RFPs for the new phone system. Mr. Amons said the recommendation is to replace the district's entire phone system. He reviewed the bid process and how they determined the recommendation. Some network upgrades and telephone switching will also be needed and so there is a separate bid for that work. The recommendation is to pay for half the total amount from the FY12 contingency fund line item and the other from the FY13 contingency fund line item. There was discussion and questions from board members about programming, ease of use and training. Commissioner Cavacas read a letter from Commissioner Cooke saying the building committee has been involved with this process and they are in full agreement with the recommendation for the bid and to split the cost between the two years contingency funds.

**OLD
BUSINESS**

**TELEPHONE
SYSTEM**

Motion by Cavacas / Towle that the Rutland City Board of School Commissioners approves the purchase of a NEC telephone system from Black Box Network Services for a price not to exceed \$140,000 to be charged to contingency equally between FY12 and FY13 and to approve the purchase of up to \$40,000 of network telephone switching gear and network UPS backup equipment required to support a new telephone system to be charged to contingency equally between FY12 and FY13. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:
APPROVE
PURCHASE
OF
TELEPHONE
SYSTEM
AND
RELATED
WORK**

Ms. Moran reminded Board members of important end-of-year dates.

Motion by Towle / Thomas at 7:38 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing legal and contractual matters, the premature release of information regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage..

**MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:55 pm.

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

Motion by Cavacas / Towle to deny the two REA Grievances presented at Level 3 (Board Level). Unanimously passed by those in attendance.

**MOTION:
ACTION ON
REA GRIEV-
ANCES**

Motion by Cavacas / Towle to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary