

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 26, 2013**

**School Board Members Present:**

Peter Mello  
Daniel Alcorn  
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Wayne Cooke  
Peter Fagan  
Rob Kurchena  
Erin Shimp  
Kate Thomas (6:45 pm)  
Rob Towle  
Lena Cohen

**Members Absent**

Richard Courcelle  
Jamie Pemrick

**Also Present:**

Superintendent Mary Moran  
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss  
Ellie McGarry  
Wil Cunningham  
Bill Olsen  
Patricia Aigner  
Pam Reed  
Nicole Carter  
Kristen Hubert  
Jessica Henderson

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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 Courcelle, Pemrick, and Thomas.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Motion by Towle / Fagan to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2013 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
MINUTES  
03/12/13  
MEETING**

Written Communications - Mr. Mello read an official letter from the State House of Representatives, a concurrent House Resolution, congratulating the 2013 RHS Division I Cheerleading Team.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATION**

Oral Communications - None

**RESOLUTION  
CONGRATULATING  
RHS CHEERLEADING  
TEAM**

Reorganization - Swearing in Elected Member - The following Board members all took the oath of office for three year terms: Daniel Alcorn, Hurley Cavacas, Jr., Robert Kurchena, and Erin Shimp.

**ORAL COMMUNICATION**

Election of Board Clerk - Motion by Cooke / Fagan to nominate Dick Courcelle for the position of Board Clerk for one year. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**BOARD REORGANIZATION**

Election of Board President - Motion by Towle / Fagan to nominate Peter Mello for the position of Board President for one year. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
BOARD CLERK**

Mr. Mello asked any Board members who would like to change their committee assignment to let him know. Dan Alcorn will serve on the Building and Pension Committees.

**MOTION:  
BOARD PRESIDENT**

Professional Development Report - Assistant Superintendent Bliss reviewed the professional development work done on March 15. All the work was based on on-going initiatives and identified needs. He explained the sessions and trainings that were held and thanked the people and groups for special efforts. Mr. Bliss further explained some of the topics of the sessions. Ms. Moran said Mr. Bliss and his assistant Ms. Welch were pivotal in pulling it all together.

K-12 Health / PE Report - Mr. Beerworth introduced the K-12 Health and PE faculty members. He said they have had terrific direction in the past few years with goal setting, following the lead at RHS. They have brought in Common Assessments and are looking at using Global Classroom in the future. Faculty members described the initiatives of the department in each of the schools.

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- It sounds like we have come a long way from dodge ball!
- How is technology being integrated in a PE environment? Mr. Bellomo said it is a cloud-based program. Heart rate monitors are used. There is a lot more we can be doing.
- Does the faculty utilize technology to keep track of student data? Mr. Bellomo explained how the teachers look at the data and make revisions to lessons based on what they see with the results.
- How is this impacting participation rates? There is a change in the perception of what physical education is. Mr. Cassarino gave an example of technology -- students will watch a highlight video from YouTube on, i.e., ultimate frisbee, and that helps to motivate them. He said looking at student quizzes which were taken on-line, he thinks there is more thought on the answers, rather than students quickly taking quizzes before they can start doing their activity. Student Representative Lena Cohen said she has seen the change and likes taking the quizzes on line, doing it on her own time, and leaving class time for the activities.
- Middle school students do not have PE year-round? Mr. Beerworth said they do not and he explained the scheduling.
- Does RIS include healthy choices as part of the curriculum? Yes, for example, in 5th grade Health, students are doing Jump Rope For Heart right now and trying to raise money for the American Heart Association. They are also learning about fat content in different foods and what they are putting in their body. They are increasing the integration between physical activity and health.

Mr. Beerworth said the Health Living curriculum has improved a lot in the last couple of years. Faculty members explained the objectives and outcomes of the courses. There are a number of Healthy Living Units at RHS and 9th grade students all take the class. There is increasing use of technology in Healthy Living. All 7th and 5th grade students take health education classes and the curriculum was reviewed. Mr. Beerworth said he is very happy with the direction of the department. Mr. Mello complemented the staff on the presentation and that the entire department was present tonight. Commissioner Cooke complemented the department members for all the improvements and said his hope is for Middle School students to have PE the entire school year. Ms. Moran said Mr. Beerworth will be retiring after this school year.

Allen Street Campus Report - Ms. McGarry gave an overview of the Allen Street program. The students are primarily IEP students in middle or high school, often with emotional or behavioral needs. She explained the staffing and services offered. Ms. Carter said the PBIS focus of Allen Street is: Be Here, Be Safe, Be Respectful and the staff works on practicing healthy ways to cope with difficult feelings and these were explained as were long term goals for the program.

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- How are you coordinating with local and state support services? Ms. Carter said the bedrock of the coordination is pulling in all the agencies to talk. An IEP requires a transition plan and that helps.
- Do some students move to Stafford? Ms. McGarry said that is a mainstream school and it is an option. Ms. Carter said about half the students coming to Allen Street have a goal of going to Stafford. They work on what it would take to get there.
- Is there a component of YES Plan? Ms. Carter said students do a YES Plan. Ms. Moran said these are RHS students and sometimes they take classes at the main campus. Ms. McGarry said some students take part in a club or after school activity on main campus.
- How are students divided? Ms. Carter said there are complex decisions for classroom grouping.
- Is there data on how long students are in the program? Ms. McGarry said there are some students who transition back successfully. Many feel comfortable staying at Allen Street.
- Are there tuition students? Right now there are two tuition students.
- Ms. Carter said there are about five students who are slated to graduate this year. Ms. Moran said they can graduate with mainstream students but they also celebrate at Allen Street.
- Commissioner Thomas said she appreciates the presentation and is proud that this type of opportunity is part of the school system. She said it is a positive and caring part of the community.

PERSONNEL

Personnel - Motion by Towle / Shimp to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 479 dated March 22, 2013 and Addendum dated March 26, 2013, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION:  
PERSONNEL  
MEMO &  
ADDENDUM  
#479

The appointments, transfers and reduction-in-force were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

BUSINESS  
REPORT

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Sale of STC Tractor - Trailer - Ms. Moran reviewed the piece of equipment and said they would like to apply the proceeds to the ultimate purchase of a second dump truck for use in the CDL program. The highest offer received so far is just over \$10,000. None of the parties who are interested are affiliated with the district or school employees to the best of our knowledge.

SALE OF  
STC  
TRACTOR -  
TRAILER

Motion by Towle / Fagan for the Board of School Commissioners to authorize the Rutland City Public Schools to sell to the highest bidder a tractor-trailer combination used by STC as part of its commercial driver's license program with proceeds expected to exceed \$5,000. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

MOTION:  
SALE OF  
STC  
TRACTOR -  
TRAILER

#### Announcements

- Student Representative Lena Cohen said she and Ms. Moran attended a conference last week in Montpelier for student school board representatives and superintendents. She reviewed the highlights of the meetings and sessions and said the main focus is to get student representation on all school boards in the state. Lena said today was the first day of the last term at RHS. Today was also the blood drive. There was a competition between RHS and Fair Haven. Congratulations to Fair Haven. Tri-M inductions were recently held. Spring sports try-outs are being held this week.
- Ms. Moran said on April 2, John Halligan will be presenting an adult session on bullying and cyber-bullying.
- At Northeast School, Positive Paws spring sports celebration will take place at Spartan Arena this week.
- At Northwest School, the VT Ignited Educator recognition day was Monday, honoring Cathy O'Rourke for her innovative work with the iPad initiative and technology. The Star student trip is going to the Spartan arena on Friday with the help of many RHS girls soccer players. Next week there will be a PBIS assembly and the hero for the month is Dr. Wheeler and medical professionals.
- Last Thursday all RIS students walked to the Paramount Theatre for a 3Rs event. The school watched "The Buttercreme Gang", a film about making good choices and friendships. The use of the Paramount Theatre was donated by an RIS teacher. We are very grateful to this staff member for their generosity.
- Reminder to all sixth grade RIS parents that the RMS Spring Orientation Meeting will take place tomorrow. This is a great way to learn about the school and ways we will help sixth graders make this transition. Congratulations to members of the RMS Rock Climbing Team for their outstanding accomplishments this season. The team achieved a second place finish in the Western League and fourth place out of 15 teams at the State Competition: Team members included Artur Smiechowski, Caleb Garland, Jack Walker, Logan Moore, Emerson Palmer, Molly Trevino and Jonathan Urbani.
- RHS students Dave Anderson and Will Peterson were named "Outstanding Musicians" at last week's Flynn Jazz Festival in Burlington.
- The Winter Wrap up is: Boys Ice Hockey, Girls Ice Hockey and Girls Basketball all ended their seasons at the quarter finals. Boys Basketball ended their season at the semi finals. Individual results: Nordic Ski Team: Junior, Isaac Wright was individual state champion in the Classic Race and was second in the freestyle event. Freshman, Chloe Levins was second in the Classic event and fourth in the freestyle. Alpine: Freshman Andy Kenosh took first in the Giant Slalom.
- Stafford will be hosting the NEASC Five Year Focused Visit Evaluation Team today through Thursday.
- Thanks to the team of volunteers who have started digitizing RHS yearbooks. The first ten yearbooks have been done and they are linked from the website. The volunteers include: From the Library: Randal Smathers, Doris Farenkopf, From the community: Kitty Furman, Barbara Duprey, Donna Herrick, Nancy Smith, Karlene

SUPERIN-  
PENDENT'S  
REPORT

ANNOUNCE-  
MENTS

Marro, Susan Crowthers. A committee on Preserving Our Heritage from the Rutland Free Library consisting of Pat Hunter, Paula Baker, Don Wickman, Doris Farenkopf as well as members of the Rutland Historical Society: Carolynn Ranftie, Cliff Giffin, Jim Davidson. They have been meeting jointly for several months to make this project and others to come possible. The next step will be to expand the project to other schools and other local history documents.

ANNOUNCE-  
MENTS, cont.

- Thanks to all staff members for taking part in parent-teacher conferences and also to parents. Northeast had the highest participation at 93%.
- Thanks to everyone involved in the Sustainable Rutland efforts at reducing or eliminating idling. Bumper stickers were distributed.
- School Choice - For next year, in addition to the ten students already enrolled, RHS will have 15 additional inbound students, bringing the total to 25. There will be three students outbound. There will be a full report when all information is complete.

LEGISLA-  
TIVE  
REPORT

Legislative Report - Reports have been circulated.

COMM.  
REPORTS

Building Committee - Commissioner Cooke reported on the Dana School:

BUILDING  
COMM.

- The realtor listing expires April 30, 2013.
- There are two offers on the property. The second offer has not met our contingencies. The realtor is getting clarifying information. Contingencies are that we are selling property "as is."
- There was a small turnout last night at the Dana School neighborhood meeting. The consensus is that we want the best for the neighborhood and the city. Mr. Cooke reviewed some of the questions and answers that were raised at the meeting.

Mr. Cooke reported on the Building Committee activities :

- The facilities department has been working on the floor plan project as part of safety upgrades for all schools.
- Security and signage work continues for all schools.
- There have been meetings with the Rutland City PD on coordinating safety efforts.
- They are looking at finding designated visitor parking at some of the schools.
- They are looking into phone usage and providers.

NEW & OLD  
BUSINESS

New & Old Business - None

MOTION:  
ADJOURN

Motion by Cooke / Towle to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Passed.

Respectfully submitted

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Janet Mondlak  
Recording Secretary