

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 9, 2013**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Daniel Alcorn
Hurley Cavacas, Jr. (6:36 pm)
Wayne Cooke
Richard Courcelle
Peter Fagan
Rob Kurchena (6:56 pm)
Jamie Pemrick
Lena Cohen

Members Absent

Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas
Rob Towle

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Peter Amons
Wil Cunningham
Ellie McGarry
Bill Olsen
Steve Sampson
Susanne Engels
Patricia Aigner
Ted Guilmette
Jay Slenker

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

Written and Oral Communications - None

Howe Center Campus Report - Jen Holt presented an update on the Howe Center Campus, which provides an alternate path for students. She described some of the professional development that teachers are doing and said they are sharing with other teachers. Mr. Moran said students make strong relationships with community partners and there are opportunities for students to work on career goals. Ms. McLemore explained how the campus prepares students to meet the goals set out by the district mission. She said they recently surveyed graduated students which helped identify strengths and weaknesses. Ms. McLemore introduced a graduate of the class of 1999. He described his school experience before the program and after and how it brought him school success. A parent of a student who graduated in 2012 spoke about how the program helped her son be successful and Ms. McLemore read a letter from that student, who is now serving in the military. She also read a letter from a parent of another student who has met with a lot of success and how much the school prepared him for the future.

Mr. Mello asked about conducting an analysis of the students. Ms. Holt explained how they did the analysis and chose to "close the gap" on language. She said it is so important to communicate effectively and thought it was a great target for all students. Commissioner Cooke complimented the work the faculty is doing and asked how students learn about the program. Ms. Holt said they have just developed a pamphlet. The administration, teachers, and guidance refer students. There are 36 students in the program. Nine graduated in January. The teachers described student activities of the day and week. Commissioner Courcelle said this program resonates with him; he feels proud to support the district and he likes hearing presentations like this. Commissioner Pemrick said she thinks the Howe faculty is doing a fantastic job.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

WRITTEN & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

EDUCATION REPORT

HOWE CENTER CAMPUS REPORT

K-6 Literacy Report - Mr. Bliss presented the K-6 Literacy Report. One major resource teachers use is Houghton Mifflin Reading. He reviewed instructional methods, assessments, data, and interventions for students in grades K-2 and Ms. Bargmann Metz reviewed the same for grades 3 - 6. Mr. Bliss said the Common Core provides new standards for literacy, math, and other subjects and which will be used in almost all the states. Ms. Bargmann Metz addressed Common Core shifts in the near future.

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- How are the common local assessments set up? Ms. Bargmann Metz said they were set up like the NECAP assessments.
- How far into the lower grades will departmentalization go? Mr. Bliss said grade 6 already departmentalizes and next year it will go into grade 4. He said there are discussions for primary but he is not in favor of it. Ms. Moran said many people are comfortable with it staying at grade 4.
- How are we approaching the coordination of the Common Core curriculum with what we have? Ms. Bargmann Metz explained the alignment process and the model being followed. Mr. Bliss said teachers are asking, "What are the new standards we need to address and what is our plan to address them?" Teachers have done a great job with this entirely different approach.
- Do we have materials and resources to reach the depths? Ms. Bargmann Metz said a lot of resources are in the public domain and we are adding as needed.
- By Vermont standards, Rutland's schools are large with multiple sections in each grade. How do we achieve consistency and accountability across the grades? Mr. Bliss said as we started moving to the Common Core, teachers were asked to come up with curriculum and units in a way that can be shared. They worked together in teams. The accountability comes through in the common local assessment. Ms. Bargmann Metz said it is a working document and is constantly being reviewed and changed as needed.

MINUTES

Motion by Fagan / Cooke to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2013 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

MOTION:
MINUTES
3/26/13

Motion by Fagan / Courcelle to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 480 dated April 5, 2013 and Addendum dated April 9, 2013 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL

MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO &
ADDENDUM
#480

The appointments, retirement, resignation and family medical leaves were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached. There was discussion about the certification and accreditation needed in order to teach at Technical Schools. Ms. Moran said there are separate licensing and training requirements. STC faculty are part of the teacher contract and are compensated as part of that bargaining unit.

Motion passed with one no vote (Pemrick)

Contract Extensions - Mr. Mello said the Superintendent is required to notify the Board of her intent by requesting a contract extension. This request is for two years out. The practice protects both the Board and the Superintendent. If she was going to give us notice, it would give us one year notification to find a replacement and vice versa. Ms. Moran has notified for an extension, as has the Assistant Superintendent. This is the

CONTRACT
EXTEN-
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same process used for the other two administrators but they are on the opposite year's schedule.

**MOTION:
APPROVE
CONTRACT
EXTEN-
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Motion by Courcelle / Fagan to approve the Contract Extensions for the term 6-30-14 through 6-30-15 for Superintendent Mary Moran and Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**BUSINESS
REPORT**

FY12 Audit Report - Mr. Amons said the Board has received the audit reports. He described the large audit and said there is a clean opinion and read through it. The final surplus is \$530,000. It was factored into the FY14 budget and Mr. Amons explained its effect on the tax rate, which it lowers. The smaller audit is relevant for government entities which receive federal funds in excess of \$500,000. We also received a clean opinion in that audit but two findings were cited; these are areas for improvement or change, neither of which interfere with the clean opinion or come with consequences.

**FY12 AUDIT
REPORT**

There was further discussion about some of the details of the audit, bond rates and the pension fund. Mr. Courcelle said there are important notes in the audit showing improvements in the Pension Fund and this shows the hard work we have done. This is an important finding. Mr. Mello extended thanks and appreciations to the Business Office staff for maintaining the accuracy of our financial records.

**SUPERIN-
PENDENT'S
REPORT**

Announcements

**ANNOUNCE-
MENTS**

- Lena Cohen said the Spanish National Honor Society visited with their counterparts at Woodstock High School. Students in civics and economics classes went to Castleton State College for interactive workshops with Vermont lawyers. This past weekend Key Club members went to a New England Key Club event in Springfield MA where they participated in workshops about leadership and improving scholarships. Tomorrow the Club is doing a fundraiser for the Vermont Food Bank. Last week there was a high school student officer meeting in which about 25 student officers from all different clubs met. They will be presenting to the School Board in May. Lena said there is already a process in place for selecting her replacement as representative to the Board. Interested juniors are filling out applications and submitting to Mr. Olsen.
- Ms. Moran distributed Autism Awareness pins to Board members and noted Tory Tobin, who does a lot of work on autism awareness.
- It was just announced that the Tapestry Program has once again won a 21st Century Grant. The grant was rated 96 points out of 100. Congratulations to Deb Hathaway and her team.
- Congratulations to district "Future Chef" Reese Shattuck who has made it to the semi-finals.
- Northwest kindergartners are heading to the Paramount Theatre Thursday to see the play "The Little Engine that Could". School-wide PBIS celebration this Friday.
- At RIS, this Friday is "Wear Blue" Day in celebration of ending child abuse nationwide. The RIS Community Service Club is celebrating another successful year of giving back to the community with their annual ice cream social. One in three RIS students participate in the Community Service Club.
- The fourth annual RMS Talent Show will take place on April 11 at 6 pm and again for the student body on April 12

- Stafford Technical Center students have finished competing in the Vermont Youth Leadership Competitions. Stafford did extremely well with many metal winners. Students that compete at the State level and that win a Gold medal in their respective competitions are eligible to compete in the Nationals. We are proud of the achievements of all students this year. Winners: (Skills,USA-FCCLA, and DECCA). Skills USA – is a nationally affiliated youth leadership organization with approximately 250,000 members. This year Stafford Technical Center students won a total of 17 medals: 8 gold, 7 silver, 2 bronze. Metal winners from this year’s state wide Leadership competitions are: Collision Repair Technology: Bronze: Jonathan Severy. Gold: Kobe Pinkham. Auto Refinishing and Repair: Silver: Kobe Pinkham. Medical Math: Silver: Samatha Lacz. Job Skill Demo: Silver: Allyson Bradley. Plumbing: Bronze: Ryan Taylor. Silver: Joshua Fraiser. Post Secondary Cosmo: Silver: Gabby Vest. Nurse Assisting: Gold: Courtney Patterson. Teamworks: Silver: Aaron Bates and David Johnson.
- During vacation week we are collaborating with local and state police to do drills and the continuing work on school safety plans. Thanks to the Chief Baker and the State Police Captain for working on this with us..

Legislative Report - Ms. Moran updated the Board on several school-related legislative items. Bills on pre-K and unionization of pre-K workers are moving quickly. Mr. Fagan said he is proposing an amendment that for school choice, that the ADM or money should follow the child. He said this is a non-partisan issue and is mostly small school versus large school. He spoke of the financial impact of the pre-K bill. Regarding school choice, there are 27 students who will be coming to RHS next year (and two leaving). That is at a cost of 25 x \$12,500, which will not follow the child. Mr . Fagan said he would like the amendment to become effective for the next budget year.

LEGISLA-
TIVE
REPORT

Committee Reports - Committee assignments were distributed.

COMM.
ASSIGN-
MENTS

New & Old Business - None

NEW & OLD
BUSINESS

Motion by Fagan / Cavacas to adjourn at 8:03 pm. Passed.

MOTION:
ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary