

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 23, 2013**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Wayne Cooke
Peter Fagan
Rob Kurchena
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas
Rob Towle
Lena Cohen

Members Absent

Daniel Alcorn
Richard Courcelle
Jamie Pemrick

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Wil Cunningham
Bill Olsen
Kristen Hubert
Peter Amons
Ellie McGarry
Lyle Jepson
Nicole Carter
Jessica Henderson
Steve Sampson
Patricia Aigner
Susanne Engels

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Mello noted the absence of Commissioners Alcorn, Pemrick and Courcelle.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Motion by Towle / Cavacas to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2013 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:
MINUTES
04/09/13
MEETING**

Written and Oral Communications - None

**WRITTEN &
ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATIONS**

STC Project - Mr. D'Esposito and students from STC involved in SADD, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), explained the Act Out Loud national contest. Mr. D'Esposito described the stages of the contest and the different entries. There will be a rally on May 11 in the Home Depot parking lot to include music, speakers, demonstrations and interactive activities. The three STC students presented the different components of the event.

**EDUCATION
REPORT**

**STC
PROJECT**

Mathematics Report - Dana Johnson, the K-6 Math Coach and Kevin Browne, grades 7 - 12 Math Department Chair, presented math programming. Ms. Johnson reviewed data tracking, intervention, and assessment.

**MATHE-
MATICS
REPORT**

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- Who among the teaching faculty is providing the degrees of intervention? Ms. Johnson explained the different faculty involved in the tiers and the group sizes.
- Does Everyday Math go through grade 6? Yes. And the transition to 7th grade? Ms. Johnson said they start with Math Schematics. When transitioning to the Common Core, there is a divide between grades 5 and 6. We are supplementing our programs with other resources to make sure we are meeting the standards
- How can a child doing homework at home who might be having difficulty, get help? Commissioner Fagan said he thinks Khan Academy is a great website. Ms. Johnson reviewed the goal of homework and how supplemental homework is designed to help meet the needs of all students. There is a Everyday Math

reference book which parents can use at home. We have purchased the deluxe version of Everyday Math which allows parents and students to log in at home and navigate through the site. Classroom teachers can make the connection.

- There was discussion about Khan Academy and other on-line tools. Commissioner Cavacas said with the Common Core, students will be asked to look at the investigation process instead of just the procedural process.
- There was discussion about some on-line materials on Common Core from other states' departments of education. Ms. Johnson said states have the rights to adopt 15% additional curriculum so not all materials from other states might work for us. Faculty has been using some of those materials internally but she does not think it should be recommended for students or parents yet.

Ms. Johnson continued her presentation explaining professional learning, alignment, increased departmentalization, and working toward Common Core standards. The final NECAP administration will be in fall 2013. Ms. Johnson reviewed the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and showed some examples of concepts and procedures, problem solving, reasoning, and modeling and data analysis from their released items.

There were more questions and discussion from Board members:

- Mr. Fagan asked for parents to be signed up at parent-teacher conferences for the Everyday Math online parental help resources and for teachers to show parents how to help their children.
- Are writing rubrics being pulled in? Ms. Johnson said there is a focus on writing which makes everything "gel" -- writing across the curriculum.
- Commissioner Towle asked for parents to be made aware of online resources in other ways, not just at conferences. Mr. Browne said there are other avenues: the website, Infinite Campus at the high school and communication sent home from teachers and the principals.
- What are we doing at the middle and high schools for students who might not be algebra-ready by grade 9? Mr. Browne said students are still being put in an algebra curriculum with the same curriculum points as in the college prep class, but not with the same depth. For students who struggle, there are interventions with tutorial, or they can get help at other times during the day.

Mr. Browne reviewed the direction using Smarter Balance Assessment. There are many resources which honor the promises of the Common Core but not yet many exemplary materials. We are moving forward with preparing and training our teachers. Mr. Browne presented the structure of Common Core K-12 for math and he highlighted some student projects.

K-6 Co-Teaching Report - Ms. Hubert and three teachers from Northwest Primary School presented information about co-teaching. This team has been together for four years. There were two second grade teachers and the special educator. Ms. White, Ms. Guevin, and Ms. Spaulding presented how co-teaching helps students and how co-teaching roles are interchangeable. The teachers discussed how their day is scheduled and how they collaborate on some projects, especially in some instances where they have received grants. Ms. Spaulding said there needs to be more of a focus on writing. Ms. Hubert said with co-teaching, it is exceptional to have teachers who are content masters working with those who are process masters. There is good communication with parents. Common Core is integrating and co-teaching allows us to do that.

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- What difference has co-teaching made for children’s progress? Ms. Spaulding said she used to take students out for reading and math. Now, there is more fluidity. There are intervention blocks but children can show their skills in different ways, without being pulled out. Students see each other in different ways. Ms. Guevin said teaching is more clarifying with co-teaching -- when a student was being pulled out, the classroom teacher did not see what they were doing. The special educator helps to clarify for everyone. Ms. Hubert said students know they have two teachers and there are two teachers going to support team meetings. They are able to provide a more comprehensive plan for students.
- Do you see great improvement in socialization over pull out? Ms. Spaulding said she has seen a lot of benefits to students. Students are in the classroom much more. They are now being pulled out just for occupational or physical therapy. Co-teaching helps students with socialization, communication, and friendships. Ms. Hubert said everyone is kinder and more tolerant. There are no longer students in the “mystery classroom at the end of the hall.”
- Can you see results with NECAP or Aimsweb? Ms. White said there are different children being tested each year. Ms. Hubert said they see huge benefits and a level of growth. There are fewer children on plans.
- There was discussion about the day’s schedule. The teachers said the schedule is based on students’ IEPs.
- The first students who were in co-teaching classes are going to be going to high school. Can we hear how this change has affected the whole educational system? Ms. Moran said that data set is being developed as they look at students longitudinally.
- Commissioner Kurchena said he appreciates the process and the challenges and this is well-done. He sees a lot of enthusiasm in the teaching.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Cavacas / Towle to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 481 dated April 19, 2013, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION: PERSONNEL MEMO #481

The appointments were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached. Ms. Moran reviewed the positions yet to be filled. She said she hopes to have recommendations for the next meeting.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

BUSINESS REPORT

Business Report - None

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Announcements

- Lena Cohen said National Honor Society inductions will be happening soon. Yesterday there was a “turn off texting activity.” Tomorrow Mrs. Wallstroms’s class is going to the quarry at Giorgetti to do geology activities. Next Friday will be class elections and new school board representative. The joint junior-senior prom is this Saturday at the Killington Grand. This is the first year with one prom. Lena said everyone is excited. There are assemblies for students about prom safety and acting responsibly.
- On April 27 Northeast School will be having their annual Spring Clean-up day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Northeast student Karsyn Bellomo has taken first place in the VT Secretary of State Poster contest and two Northwest students, Aiden Berry and Kiera Van Dein have taken Honorable Mention.
- Northwest’s spring fundraiser is delivered to school this Wednesday. Their volunteer reception is this Thursday. Running Club begins this Friday. The PBIS assembly will be on May 3 with guest “hero” is Dr. Wheeler and medical professionals.
- This Thursday RIS will host the second annual Show Your Work Night.
- The RMS annual coffeehouse takes place May 2 and students will recite their original works.
- Today Operation Military Kids winners were honored at the Statehouse and thanks to Mr. Fagan for the customized private tour.
- Congratulations to Lyle Jepson, Vermont Technical Center Director of the Year. Ms. Moran said he is a force of leadership for all technical centers around the state.

Legislative Report - Mr. Fagan and Ms. Moran discussed some of the legislative activity which impacts education.

LEGISLA-
TIVE
REPORT

Building Committee Report

COMM.
REPORTS

- Mr. Cooke said the committee met. Dana and Watkins are status quo. The Dana listing is up soon. The committee stresses to consider the needs of the community. Watkins is on track for an August closing.
- Ms. Moran said the school shooter drill went well in an attempt to help police forces have active training.
- Mr. Cooke said the high school bond will retire in 2014. Interest rates are good and the committee is looking at putting together a bond proposal to address buildings and grounds needs as well as safety projects. The administrative team is working on this.

BUILDING
COMM.

NEW & OLD
BUSINESS

New Business - None

KUDOS FOR
CYBER-
BULLYING
PRESENTA-
TION

Old Business - Mr. Kurchena said he is was impressed with the John Halligan cyber-bullying presentation and he has heard good feedback from students and other parents.

Motion by Cavacas / Thomas to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Passed.

MOTION:
ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary