

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
MAY 14, 2013**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Daniel Alcorn
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Richard Courcelle (6:31 pm)
Rob Kurchena (6:44 pm)
Jamie Pemrick
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas
Rob Towle
Lena Cohen

Members Absent

Wayne Cooke
Peter Fagan

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Wil Cunningham
Lyle Jepson
Bill Olsen
Steve Sampson
Jay Slenker
Ellie McGarry
Nicole Carter

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

Motion by Towle / Thomas to accept the minutes of the April 23, 2013 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Written and Oral Communications - None

Graduation and Year End Activities Report - A summary of year end activities was distributed. Ms. Moran commented on the busy schedule and highlighted some of the upcoming special events. She said so far, spring activities have been exemplary.

Rutland Middle School STEAM Report - Mr. Bliss introduced teachers Jack Adams and Bianca McKeen, who introduced four Middle School students. Ms. McKeen presented on the work being done at the Middle School in STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. STEAM also includes the Arts. Last summer, all the teachers set a goal of integrated, interdisciplinary, project-based learning in both 7th and 8th grades. They planned four projects in each grade which would align with the new standards. Ms. McKeen reviewed how they added these goals into the curriculum. Mr. Adams reviewed the focal points for the projects the students would be working on. The students explained their projects. Teachers commented on how some of the projects were ones they have done for years but by combining math and science together and including other disciplines, they feel like students grasped the concepts better. Ms. McKeen said they are working on growing STEM networking and partnering throughout Rutland County. She explained how they fit the projects into their other curricula. There is talk about adding more projects and doing one per quarter. She said there is a lot of flexibility in the middle school schedule to accommodate the projects. Ms. McKeen and Mr. Adams also discussed how they assessed the projects. They are working on an overall STEM rubric for grades 7 - 12. Mr. Mello asked the students about interest in these projects compared to standard units and there were favorable responses.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MOTION:
MINUTES
04/23/13
MEETING

WRITTEN &
ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATIONS

EDUCATION
REPORT

GRADUA-
TION &
YEAR END
ACTIVITIES

RMS STEAM
REPORT

Motion by Towle / Kurchena to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 482 dated May 10, 2013, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #482**

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

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Motion by Cavacas / Shimp to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum Addendum No. 482 dated May 14, 2013, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
ADDENDUM
#482**

The appointment was reviewed by Superintendent Moran. It is attached.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**BUSINESS
REPORT**

Business Report - None

Announcements

- Mr. Mello congratulated Lena Cohen who will be attending American University in the fall. Lena Cohen said today was the last day today for NECAP testing. This is the last week of Advanced Placement testing. May 15 is the RHS Evening of the Arts. There is an on-line dress code survey ongoing. Last week a number of students attended the All State Music Festival and a number of students participated. Elections were recently held at the high school and Lena congratulated the new student representative to the School Board, Cooper Babbit.
- Ms. Moran congratulated Board Member Kate Thomas who will be graduating this coming Saturday from Law School.
- Northeast School will hold a luncheon for Foster Grandparents on May 22. Their positive energy, interest and help with the students is valuable and greatly appreciated. There will be an annual Picnic with a Book day on May 24. Guest readers are invited to have lunch and share their favorite books and their enthusiasm for reading with students.
- The Northwest School STAR student bowling trip is on Friday. The Summer Reading Book Fair is on Wednesday.
- RIS last week celebrated Teacher and Staff Appreciation with a PBIS assembly about respect. Students participated in a video thanking staff for all their hard. PTC also hosted a Staff Appreciation Breakfast on Wednesday.
- On May 16 the RMS Chorus and Middle Tones perform in the RIS Auditorium. On the same day, there will be a meeting of RMS parents interested in helping out with the Grade 8 Class Day breakfast. The RMS Memorial Day Assembly takes place on May 24, sponsored by the RMS Student Council.
- Graduation is June 13. Board members are invited to participate.
- The End of the Year celebration is June 17 at 4 pm.
- Congratulations to Steve Sampson who has been named the Vermont Assistant Principal of the Year.

**SUPERIN-
PENDENT'S
REPORT**

**ANNOUNCE-
MENTS**

Legislative Report - The session is due to conclude this evening.

**LEGISLA-
TIVE
REPORT**

Committee Reports - None

**COMM.
REPORT**

New Business - Board Project Graduation Contribution

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Motion by Towle / Thomas for the Rutland City Board of School Commissioners to donate \$500 to Project Graduation. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:
BOARD
DONATION
TO
PROJECT
GRADUA-
TION**

Old Business - Ms. Moran said there are two teaching positions left to fill.

Mr. Mello reflected on Graduation and encouraged Board members to attend. He said it is a very rewarding experience.

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Motion by Towle / Kurchena at 7:26 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 7:46 pm.

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

Motion by Shimp / Thomas to adjourn at 7:47 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary