

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 11, 2014**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Wayne Cooke
Richard Courcelle
Peter Fagan (6:56 pm)
Rob Kurchena (6:31 pm)
Jamie Pemrick
Erin Shimp
Cooper Babbitt

Members Absent

Daniel Alcorn
Kate Thomas

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Wil Cunningham
Lyle Jepson
Bill Olsen
Steve Sampson
Glenn Olson
Jay Slenker
Nicole Carter
Pam Reed
Sharon Napolitano
Peter Amons
Ellie McGarry

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

Motion by Pemrick / Cooke to accept the minutes of the Feb. 25, 2014 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Written and Oral Communications - None

Recognition of Board Members - Commissioners Pemrick, Towle, and Cooke - Mr. Mello acknowledged and thanked Commissioners Towle, Pemrick, and Cooke for their service to the Board and committees they served on.

Capstone Projects & School Transformation - Student Representative Cooper Babbitt reviewed changes at RHS which are keeping in line with school transformation. He introduced three students who spoke on some of the changes. One student explained learning based on a student's individualized interests. Personalized learning plans will be state-mandated for grades 7 - 12. Plans will be developed based on interests and goals. She highlighted some of the changes already in place toward that goal. Another student spoke about students and teachers building relationships. She said RHS does a good job with that. Flex is one block a day and helps build good relationships. She said personalized learning plans should help students connect with teachers. Another student said with proficiency based grading, work is graded based on standards and skill sets. He said students can assess where they are at, based on their work. Students track their progress and set their pace. He said starting this September, it will be required that all seventh graders are graded on this type of system.

Cooper Babbitt said Capstone Projects are for seniors who research a topic of their choosing and take action. He introduced two students who were part of the pilot program last semester. One student spoke about her Capstone Project, which focused on Social Media and Cyberbullying. She said students worked in independent study

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

**MOTION:
MINUTES
02/25/14
MEETING**

**WRITTEN &
ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATIONS**

**RECOGNITION OF
BOARD
MEMBERS**

**EDUCATION
REPORT**

**CAPSTONE
PROJECTS
& SCHOOL
TRANSFOR-
MATION**

with teacher guidance. She reviewed how the teachers helped, how she explored her topic, and what she needed to do to meet the standard. Her action was to create a new club at RHS, CyberYou. Club members are working toward the goal of ending cyberbullying at the school. Another student spoke about his project, which focused on Alternative Energy. He highlighted his research and said for his project, he developed a plan to conserve energy at RHS. He focused on asking teachers to not keep all the light switches on in classrooms all day. He said he liked how his information from research related to his other classes. Both students talked about the connections they made and how the relevancy. All the students created their own websites on their research and projects and those websites are linked to the school site. Commissioner Cooke commended the students for being so articulate and commented on the correlation with their work. He said he was able to see how the students thrived as they became immersed in their work. He said this is true learning and the wave of the future.

**CAPSTONE
PROJECTS
& SCHOOL
TRANSFOR-
MATION,
cont.**

Budget Discussion - Mr. Mello said he and Mr. Courcelle met with administrators regarding the budget. They developed a four part plan

- The Administration has been asked to identify potential cuts and bring back the information to the Board for input.
- They will review and analyze the results of the election by ward.
- They will take a more aggressive approach to get information to voters, including to people who did not vote the first time.
- They will set a date for a revote when the Board feels they are ready, and within the time frames allowed.

**BUDGET
DISCUSSION**

Motion by Fagan / Cavacas to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 497 dated March 7, 2014, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO \$497**

The resignation and leave of absence were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Energy Performance Contract Financing - Mr. Amons explained the two Resolutions.

**BUSINESS
REPORT**

Motion by Fagan / Cavacas for the Rutland City School Board to adopt the two Resolutions regarding the Performance Contract with Johnson Controls, Inc., as attached.

**PERFOR-
MANCE
CONTRACT**

Mr. Amons said the projected payback is 18 years. The interest rate was bid at 4.35% (there were two bidders). There is no pre-payment available for the first seven years. Mr. Amons said Johnson Controls will guarantee savings if we pay for a Monitoring and Verification Contract which will cost about \$15,000 a year. We can drop the old annual assessment if we want, or we can roll it into the new one. Mr. Cooke recommended that we drop it. Mr. Amons said the two resolutions were drafted by the school attorney. One resolution authorizes the Superintendent to sign the contract with Johnson Controls. The other resolution allows Mr. Moran and Mr. Amons to seek financing.

**MOTION:
RESOLU-
TION RE:
PERFOR-
MANCE
CONTRACT
WITH
JOHNSON
CONTROLS**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Commissioner Pemrick said this year there has been a severe shortage of pellets. How will we make sure there will be enough? Mr. Amons said we will put out to bid a contract for a delivery of about 800 ton of pellets for a season. By contract, they will have to give us pellets first. Mr. Cooke said there is also oil backup.

Third Resolution: Mr. Amons said there is a third resolution which says that Board members acknowledge the financing documents.

Motion by Fagan / Cavacas for the Rutland City School Commissioners to approve the attached Resolution to enter into an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement with Green Campus Partners, LLC, pending approval of the school attorney.

Mr. Amons thanked Commissioner Kurchena for his help with the financing documents. Mr. Kurchena said the documents are very efficient. The savings will pay for the cost of the upgrades. He said it is well done.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Announcements

- Cooper Babbitt said this Saturday RHS Encore Theater is hosting the Regional One Act Fest. Students taking part in the RHS Model Union Conference, just returned. RHS represented Belarus. One week from tomorrow is the Global Issues Network Conference at RHS and everyone is excited.
- Ms. Moran agreed that the RHS faculty is very involved and excited about the GIN Conference. There has been a staggering amount of work for this one day event.
- We recognize the passing of one of our esteemed colleagues, Keith Page, and send condolences to his family. Ms. Moran said this is a loss of a great staff and community member.
- Ms. Moran recognized all the art work on display at Longfellow and thanked the art teachers in all the schools.
- Two of our leaders will be starting their PhD programs in the near future: Nicole Carter and Kristen Hubert
- RIS Annual Book Fair at Parent Teacher Conferences.
- RMS will be hosting a naturalization ceremony on March 24. The entire student body will watch and celebrate with the new citizens.
- 8th grade students just completed their third STEM project; design and installation of solar cookers. Students are now analyzing the data.

Legislative Report -Commissioner Fagan said as a result of the school budget votes statewide, the Education Committee will be putting more effort into consolidation moving forward. He said the \$.07 increase will not happen. The Tax Department's recommendation of this increase is eliminated. Nothing has been recommended in its place, but it will not be as high as \$.07. Ms. Moran said there was a wonderful visit from the House Education Committee last week. They were impressed with the breadth and depth of our programs. Thanks to our legislators who helped make it happen.

PERFORMANCE CONTRACT, cont.

MOTION: RESOLUTION RE: LEASE WITH GREEN CAMPUS PARTNERS, LLC

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Committee Reports - None

New Business - Mr. Courcelle said March is Music in Our Schools Month. He said over the past week, he attended three concerts. They were all fantastic with full audiences. Strong showing of Rutland students at the District Festival. Our programs are very full. Thanks to all the dedicated faculty and parents supporting their children.

Mr. Cooke thanked his fellow Board members and administrators for collaborative work over the years. He said it has been a great experience. He remains impressed with the Rutland City Schools. He also acknowledged all the amazing things at Stafford Technical Center.

Old Business - None

Motion by Fagan / Cooke at 7:27 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, the premature release of information regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Unanimously passed by those in attendance.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:40 pm.

Motion by Cooke / Pemrick to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Passed.

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary

COMM.
REPORTS

NEW
BUSINESS

MARCH IS
MUSIC IN
OUR
SCHOOLS
MONTH

OLD
BUSINESS

MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION

PUBLIC
SESSION

ADJOURN



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Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
 Robert S. Bliss, Assistant Superintendent
 Peter P. Amons, Chief Financial Officer
 Eloise S. McGarry, Director of Support Services
 Patricia W. Aigner, Director of Technology

RESOLUTION OF RUTLAND CITY SCHOOL BOARD

At a duly called meeting of the Rutland City School Board held in accordance with all applicable legal requirements, including open meeting laws, on the 11th day of March, 2014, the following resolution was introduced and adopted:

RESOLVED that the Rutland City Public Schools shall enter into a Performance Contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. for energy and infrastructure improvements to Rutland City Schools (the "Contract"), substantially on the terms as contained in the Contract and associated Work Schedule, Assured Performance Guarantee, Service Schedule and Payment Schedule submitted by Johnson Controls, Inc. which are attached hereto. The Rutland City Board of School Commissioners authorizes the Superintendent to sign all documents associated with the transaction and to negotiate any other modifications that she deems appropriate.

RESOLVED that the Superintendent and/or the Chief Financial Officer is further authorized to negotiate and to execute any and all documents necessary to reasonably finance the costs to pay for the Contract.

The undersigned further certifies that the above resolution has not been repealed or amended and remains in full force and effect and further certifies that the Performance Contract and associated Schedules are the same as presented at such meeting of the governing body of School Board, excepting only such changes, insertions and omissions as shall have been approved by the officers who executed the same.

Date: _____, 2014

RUTLAND CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By:

Name: _____
 Title: _____

Attested By: _____
 Name: _____
 Title: _____

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Rutland City Public Schools (the "Lessee") is a political subdivision duly organized under the constitution and laws of the State of Vermont; and

WHEREAS, it is hereby determined that a true and real need exists for the acquisition of energy savings equipment (the "Equipment"); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable and in the best interest of the Lessee, as lessee, to enter into an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement (the "Agreement") with Green Campus Partners, LLC or another entity stated therein, as lessor (the "Lessor"), for the purposes described therein, including the leasing of the Equipment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE RUTLAND CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Agreement, in substantially the same form as presented in the proposal dated from Green Campus dated March 6, 2014 which was made available for review at this meeting, and the terms and performance thereof are hereby approved, and the Superintendent of the Lessee is hereby authorized to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Lessee, with such changes therein as shall be approved by the Superintendent, and such approval shall be conclusively shown by the Superintendent's execution the Agreement.

Section 2. The Johnson Controls Performance Contract (Energy Savings Agreement) shall be executed between the Lessee and Johnson Controls Inc., in substantially the same form as presented at this meeting; the terms and performance of the Energy Savings Agreement is hereby approved in substantially the same form as presented at this meeting; and the Superintendent of the Lessee is hereby authorized to execute and deliver the Energy Savings Agreement on behalf of the Lessee, with such changes therein as shall be approved by the Superintendent, such approval shall be conclusively shown by the Superintendent's execution of the Energy Savings Agreement.

Section 3. The Escrow Agreement (the "Escrow Agreement"), if any, as presented at the meeting among the Lessee, the Lessor and the escrow agent named therein, and the terms and performance thereof are hereby approved, and the Escrow Agreement is hereby authorized to be executed and delivered on behalf of the Lessee by the Superintendent of the Lessee, with such changes therein as shall be approved by the Superintendent, such approval shall be conclusively shown by the Superintendent's execution of the Escrow Agreement.

Section 4. The Lessee shall, and the officers, agents and employees of the Lessee are hereby authorized and directed to take such further action and execute such other documents, certificates and instruments as may be necessary or desirable to carry out and comply with the intent of this Resolution, and to carry out, comply with and perform the duties of the Lessee with respect to the Agreement, the Energy Savings Agreement and the Escrow Agreement.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately after its adoption by the governing body of the Lessee.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing body of the Rutland City Public Schools this ____ day of _____, 20__.

RUTLAND CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____