

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
FEB. 25, 2014**

**School Board Members Present:**

Peter Mello  
Daniel Alcorn  
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Wayne Cooke  
Rob Kurchena  
Jamie Pemrick  
Kate Thomas  
Cooper Babbitt

**Members Absent**

Richard Courcelle  
Peter Fagan  
Erin Shimp

**Also Present:**

Superintendent Mary Moran  
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss  
Peter Amons  
Lyle Jepson  
Jay Slenker  
Steve Sampson  
Ellie McGarry  
Kristin Francoeur  
John Rice  
Pam Reed  
Patricia Aigner  
Nicole Carter  
Bill Olsen

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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, Fagan, and Shimp.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Motion by Cooke / Thomas to accept the minutes of the Feb. 11, 2014 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
MINUTES  
0211/14  
MEETING**

**Written and Oral Communications**

- Rob Towle of Rutland City said on behalf of the chair, family, moms and dads, Ms. Moran, Mr. Olsen, Mr. Norman and the Coach, thanks for taking the lead and checking into the questions about what happened last Saturday. Mr. Towle congratulated the Lady Raiders.
- Mr. Mello said each Commissioner received a three page letter electronically from Mr. Don LaGro. Mr. Mello noted receipt of the letter regarding his concerns. He asked the Superintendent to reply acknowledging receipt.
- Mr. Mello read a public statement on behalf of the Board of School Commissioners:

**WRITTEN &  
ORAL  
COMMUN-  
ICATIONS**

**THANKS  
FROM ROB  
TOWLE**

**LETTER  
FROM  
CONCERN-  
ED PARENT**

**“PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS**

**STATE-  
MENT  
FROM THE  
BOARD**

Recently there have been several correspondences directed to the Board regarding improper treatment of children in our care. We presume they were precipitated by the results of a recent Due Process Hearing which were made public through the media. Confidentiality laws prohibit us from discussing any circumstances involving this case. However, at this time the Board would like to go on record with the following: First, the Agency of Education has strict rules on the use of physical restraint with children. They not only prohibit certain physical restraints but limit the use of physical restraint to prevent an imminent and substantial risk of bodily harm to the student or others. Training on an annual basis, is provided in the proper techniques of restraint for all Rutland City Public School staff who work with children with challenging behaviors. It also includes specific techniques for non-physical crisis intervention. None of the outside agencies including The Agency of Education, the Department of Child and Family Services, and the Rutland City Police has ever found the district in violation of the rules on restraint and seclusion when allegations have been brought forth.

Second, the Board disagrees with the aforementioned findings and will be pointing out the inaccuracies leading up to and including the process in a letter to be sent to the Secretary of Education.

The RCPS Board of School Commissioners, Administration and Staff are committed to providing students, staff and the community an educational environment which is safe and supportive for all.”

**EDUCATION  
REPORT**

STC STEM Project - Mr. Jepson and Mr. Chan discussed the STEM Academy at Stafford, opening in the fall. A project initiation grant was received to help with initial costs. An advisory committee of industry leaders was established. Mr. Chan said part of the program development was looking at: “How do you create a program for an emerging 21st century workplace.” They have adopted Project Lead The Way, which is hands-on and project based. The program is aligned to standards and is in partnership with Rochester Institute of Technology and Vermont Technical Center. The goal is to create an expansive introduction to engineering. Mr. Jepson and Mr. Chan reviewed the day student offerings as well as evening courses. There will be apprenticeship programs with General Electric. Mr. Jepson said they will be interviewing soon for an instructor, who will go through Project Lead The Way training. There are about 15 students expected initially. Mr. Chan reviewed the outreach he has been doing. There was discussion about the track these students would follow after the program and Mr. Chan said some will go onto higher education, some will go into an apprenticeship program, and others will go right into the workforce.

**STC STEM  
PROJECT**

GIN Conference Presentation - Ms. Kravitz and Ms. Cassel have been working together on the upcoming Global Issues Network Conference, being hosted at RHS on March 19. This is an international organization. All RHS students will be participating. They reviewed the background of the organization and their involvement. A grant from the organization is paying for expenses for the conference. There will be keynote speakers, breakout sessions, dignitaries, global villages, displays, and much more. The movement encourages taking action and so there will be a volunteer component. Ms. Kravitz said they have invited students from other major Vermont high schools. In the evening there will be a Global Studies and STEM fair and our students will be exhibiting. Ms. Cassel said they would like to be the hub and clearinghouse in the future. Rutland is the first public school in the US to host the conference. Ms. Cassel and Ms. Kravitz said there has been widespread support amongst the faculty.

**GIN  
CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATION**

Motion by Kurchena / Cooke to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 496 dated Feb. 21, 2014, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**PERSONNEL**

**MOTION:  
PERSONNEL  
MEMO 496**

The spring coaching appointments were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**BUSINESS  
REPORT**

RHS / STC Pipe & Boiler Repair - Mr. Rice reviewed the pipe problem at RHS. There was a corroded pipe and leaking water in the pit. He said if the pipe is lost, heat will be lost to the building. Mr. Rice said they would prefer not to fix the entire problem now because of the digging needed. They have installed pumps in the pit. In case an emergency repair is needed, the pipes and valving have been ordered. A contractor is ready. It is being monitored. Mr. Rice said as of now, the cost estimate is \$30,000. They will make a determination on the rest of the pipeline as needed. Mr. Rice said if this fails

**RHS / STC  
PIPE &  
BOILER  
REPAIR  
UPDATE**

before then, there are trained custodians for emergency shutdown of the furnace and heating system; they will find a temporary heat source (trailer mounted boiler system) immediately and dig and cut the pipe. They estimate it will take approximately three days under good conditions. So far, it is stable and has not worsened. They hope to do the complete repair in June.

**RHS PIPE  
REPAIR,  
cont.**

Contingency: Mr. Amons said there is \$195,000 in contingency at this time. He said fuel is overbudget by about \$30,000 at this point.

**CONTIN-  
GENCY**

Water main break: Ms. Moran right now, there is a city water main break at Library Ave. and Church St., which would effect RIS if not fixed before school in the morning. Ms. Moran said school maintenance employees are on hand monitoring the situation. The city has assured them it will be fixed by the morning but if not, Ms. Moran will do an Alert Now. There might be road detours in the morning and staff has been notified. This will not impact RMS, just RIS.

**WATER  
MAIN  
BREAK**

#### Announcements

- Cooper Babbitt congratulated the Cheerleading team. He also congratulated Patrick O'Rourke for reaching the 1000 point mark. There are some playoff games this week. The Red Cross is holding a blood drive at RHS next Tuesday; students over age 16 may give blood with permission.
- Ms. Moran said Northwest School will be holding a February Hero Assembly with Guest Hero Mayor Louras. Dr. Seuss continues throughout the week. Fit Club begins this week, part of the wellness program. The skating program was great.
- The RIS PTC is collecting books and games for the upcoming book fair. The PTC will hold the monthly movie night this Friday.
- A budget pre-town meeting will be held next Monday at 6:30 pm at Longfellow. This is an informational meeting for the public. It has been warned and announced. It will cover the budget and two ballot items.
- Rutland Schools are hosting the House Education Committee all day on Thursday. The legislators want to see teaching and learning – students and teachers. There will be a forum at 5 pm, open to the public.
- There have been positive letters to the editor at the Rutland Herald regarding the town meeting votes. The public can get answers on the website.

**SUPERIN-  
TENDENT'S  
REPORT**

**ANNOUNCE-  
MENTS**

Legislative Report - Ms. Moran said there has been a lot of discussion on governance and a possible consolidation of K-12 districts. There is a bill in the legislature for incremental change. They are trying to have more effective and efficient governance structures. Our legislative delegation is very active.

**LEGISLA-  
TIVE  
REPORT**

Committee Reports - None

**COMM.  
REPORTS**

New & Old Business - None

**OLD & NEW  
BUSINESS**

Motion by Cavacas / Thomas to adjourn at 7:33 pm. Passed.

**ADJOURN**

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent

DATE: February 21, 2014

RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 496 dated February 21, 2014, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

***A. LICENSED SECTION ~ NONE***

***B. NON-LICENSED SECTION***

1. Spring Coaching Appointments ~ See below

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
KEVIN BELLOMO	BASEBALL HEAD COACH	\$5,393.14
JON WALLET	JV BASEBALL	\$3,253.38
CASEY BATTLES	FRESH BASEBALL	\$1,468.12
GREG LEWIS	MS BASEBALL	\$2,268.91
MAX BATTLES	MS BASEBALL	\$1,468.12
DICK WRIGHT	SOFTBALL HEAD COACH	\$5,393.14
WALLACE HAYES	JV RED SOFTBALL	\$2,076.12
APRIL HIGGINS	JV RED SOFTBALL	\$2,076.12
BREANNA COOMBS	MS SOFTBALL	\$2,268.71
JASON CASSARINO	MS SOFTBALL	\$2,404.68
MIKE AUDETTE	TRACK HEAD COACH	\$4,051.39
STEVE FRENCH	TRACK	\$2,609.37
BILL BELMONTE	TRACK	\$1,735.05
ROB PURDY	BOYS TENNIS	\$3,351.09
MARY HASKELL	GIRLS TENNIS HEAD COACH	\$3,253.48
DEB ROBINSON	JV GIRLS TENNIS	\$2,476.91
JON BRISBANE	ASST GOLF	\$2,937.04
RICH ALBERTI	GOLF HEAD COACH	\$4,051.90
KYLE BOURGEOIS	JV BOYS LACROSSE	\$2,669.30
COREY POLLOCK	MS BOYS LACROSSE	\$1,202.33
KATE HERLIHY	GIRLS LACROSSE HEAD COACH	\$3,536.82
LISA RYAN	JV GIRLS LACROSSE	\$2,268.91
LAURA DALEY	MS GIRLS LACROSSE	\$1,468.12