

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 22, 2014**

School Board Members Present:

Daniel Alcorn (6:33 pm)
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Richard Courcelle
Peter Fagan
Rob Kurchena (6:32 pm)
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas
Christian Wideawake

Members Absent

Peter Mello
Cooper Babbitt

Also Present:

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Acting Chair Courcelle noted the absence of Commissioners Mello, Kurchena, Alcorn and Student Representative Cooper Babbitt.

Motion by Fagan / Cavacas to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2014 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Written and Oral Communications

- Michael Dick of Rutland City commended the Board for their work on the budget. He is concerned with future cuts that will negatively impact programs. He recommended informing the public about state decisions impacting the budget. Our schools need to continue to be strong. Friends of Rutland Education (FORE) has been resurrected to help the campaign. He gave ideas about ways for the Board to help get the budget passed.
- Nancy Crandall of Rutland City and a former teacher in the district encouraged Rutland voters to vote positively for the budget. She gave some examples of programs in the district which support children.
- TJ Sabotka of Rutland City asked for support for the school budget without any further cuts. He has been a coach in the district for many years and sees the value of many types of programs. He would like to see the education system remain tops in the state.
- Colin Fingon of Rutland Town and a taxpayer in Rutland City advocated for the Board and the school budget. He said the district is a model in the state and asked voters to consider long term consequences of budget cuts.

Vote and Planning - Superintendent Moran said a lot has been done by staff and members of the public to encourage the vote, which will be held on May 13. The school has developed a flier which will be sent on behalf of the Board to all registered voters. She reviewed the changes to the revised flier, how to vote in advance of May 13, and other measures being utilized to reach out to voters. Mr. Amons also reviewed

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

**MOTION:
MINUTES
04/08/14
MEETING**

**WRITTEN &
ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATIONS**

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS
IN SUPPORT
OF THE
BUDGET**

**EDUCATION
REPORT**

**VOTE AND
PLANNING**

some of the things being done to encourage voters. Parent and community volunteers are leading many of the efforts. Since the first vote, the budget was reduced by \$450,000 and the increase, which was 2.9% increase, is now at 2%. The tax rate is decreasing by 2.4 cents from last year's budget. The budget that had been voted down was a decrease by 1/10 cent. Commissioner Cavacas said as a Board member he is frustrated that when the budget is being worked on, they do not receive public comments. He asked members of the public to bring their concerns to Board members. Commissioner Fagan encouraged voters to approve the budget and said Rutland City has very good schools and he reviewed many of the positive programs in the schools.

**VOTE AND
PLANNING,
cont.**

Math and Literacy Reports - Mr. Bliss introduced teachers Lorraine Bargmann Metz and Dana Johnson, Literacy and Math Coaches. Ms. Bargmann Metz reviewed K-6 Literacy programs, the 4 Blocks Framework, assessment, and intervention. She said the Data Specialist has been helpful in pulling together assessment data and results were explained. She also reviewed Common Core State Standards ELA Shifts and next steps. Mr. Fagan asked about intervention and Ms. Metz explained the benchmarks, how they group students, and how they determine if students move based upon the data. Mr. Bliss reviewed how the Coaches have helped evaluate instructional programs. Ms. Johnson explained the different programs we are using, professional development, and Common Core Shifts in Mathematics: Focus, Coherence, and Rigor. Commissioner Olewnik asked about whether, with co-teaching, if there is a way to differentiate where the benefits are coming from and the interventions. Ms. Johnson said Everyday Math breaks down lessons into two parts. At the second part, small groups, there are differentiated options which are identified by co-teaching staff to provide for a variety of approaches. At the primary level, there are interventions running within the classroom. At RIS, interventions are running during the WIN (What I Need) block. Mr. Bliss said there is a combination of variables and these were explained in the context of the interventions.

**MATH &
LITERACY
REPORTS**

Motion by Kurchena / Fagan to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 500 dated April 18, 2014, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #500**

The resignation, transfer and appointment were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

PERSONNEL

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**BUSINESS
REPORT**

Contingency Request - Mr. Amons said the Board was polled asking for early approval of asbestos removal in order to proceed with work for the Energy Performance Contract. All Board members had voted "yes" and this is formal approval.

**CONTIN-
GENCY
REQUEST**

Motion by Fagan/ Shimp that the Board of School Commissioners approve charging the contingency account \$28,050 for the removal of asbestos from school district locations to proceed with the energy performance contract with Johnson Controls. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:
APPROVAL
OF CONTIN-
GENCY
CHARGE
FOR
ASBESTOS
REMOVAL
CHARGES**

Mr. Courcelle said there will be \$44,057 left in contingency after this. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Announcements

- Congratulations to RHS teacher Hunter Berryhill, who completed the Boston Marathon yesterday.
- Ms. Moran presented Cooper Babbitt's report: Senator Sanders visited with students and staff today and it was a terrific visit and students got to ask questions. The prom is on Saturday at the Killington Grand. An Easter egg hunt was hosted by the lacrosse teams at RHS last weekend. The high school students hid the eggs and children had to pick them up with lacrosse sticks. School wide elections for class officers will be next week.
- Ms. McGarry and others will be putting on free special education workshops for families with special needs children in May.
- Northeast School will have a Positive PAWS puppet show where the NE puppet team will teach students stress reduction and positive problem solving strategies. Kindergarten screening will be held April 28 - May 2. School spring clean-up day is on May 3. There will be a Parent Teacher Collaborative meeting at NE School on May 5.
- Northwest School Kids on the Block puppet shows took place today, generously funded by Alderman's Chevrolet. Puppet shows covered the topics of bullying and diversity in schools. PBIS hero assembly is this Thursday with traits of perseverance and diligence being honored.
- RIS "Show Your Work Night" is this Thursday. Student work will be displayed in the Keefe Gym, RIS Café and music performances in the Auditorium.
- Rave reviews for the RMS Talent Show held last week. Congratulations to all student and staff performers. RMS Spring Fling Extravaganza takes place April 25. The RMS Spring Orientation for sixth grade families who will enroll at RMS next fall will take place on May 7.

**SUPERIN-
TENDENT'S
REPORT**

**ANNOUNCE-
MENTS**

Legislative Report - Mr. Fagan updated the Board on the Education Governance Bill. There is still work to be done and he said he is not sure it will be completed on time for this session. There are different versions being worked on in the House and Senate.

**LEGISLA-
TIVE
REPORT**

Committee Reports - None

**COMM.
REPORTS**

New Business - Mr. Fagan said Vermont has new Education Quality Standards and he asked for this to be a future agenda item.

**NEW & OLD
BUSINESS**

Old Business - Mr. Olewnik asked for co-teaching in the upper grades to be a future agenda item.

**REQUESTS
FOR
FUTURE
BOARD
MEETING
AGENDA
TOPICS**

Motion by Fagan / Thomas to adjourn at 7:46 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
DATE: April 18, 2014
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 500 dated April 18, 2014, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Erin McGraw Piotrowski	English/RHS	6/30/14

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Transfer

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Sherry Bersaw	Accounts Payable/District	\$35,000	6/23/14

2. Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Dawn Melen	Paraeducator/RIS	\$3,942.54 (pro-rated)	4/21/14