

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014**

**School Board Members Present:**

Peter Mello  
Daniel Alcorn  
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Peter Fagan  
Rob Kurchena (6:36 pm)  
Alison Notte  
Matthew Olewnik  
Erin Shimp  
Kate Thomas  
Christian Wideawake  
Lydia Gulick  
**Members Absent**  
Richard Courcelle  
Brendan Wright

**Also Present**

Superintendent Mary Moran  
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss  
Peter Amons  
Bill Olsen  
Patricia Aigner  
Steve Sampson  
Susanne Engels  
Jay Slenker  
Pam Reed  
Ted Guilmette  
Sharon Napolitano  
Kerry Coarse  
Greg Schillinger

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

Motion by Fagan / Notte to accept the minutes of the Sept. 9, 2014 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Written and Oral Communications - None

Performance Excellent Work / Progress - Mr. Mello said the subcommittee met September 16 and the notes of the meeting were distributed. The overarching vision statement that the workgroup is recommending be adopted as the Visioning Question to be used by all facilitators is: "It is 10 years from now and Rutland Public Schools is among the highest performing school districts in the nation, providing rigorous, high quality learning opportunities for students. What does it look like?"

Mr. Mello said as we solicit input, there will be many different sources. He has already visited a couple of schools and more are scheduled. He is collecting comments from faculty members and the subcommittee will decide how to move forward with that input. He heard commonalities in the schools he visited, but he also heard some differences. Commissioners announced some other community activities that have been scheduled and Mr. Mello urged Commissioners to keep moving forward.

School / Program Update

Future agenda topics - Mr. Mello said Ms. Moran always provides Board agenda topics, some are mandatory and some are traditional. He asked Board members to provide input on topics they would like to see be considered. Several topics

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**MOTION:  
MINUTES  
09/09/14  
MEETING**

**WRITTEN &  
ORAL  
COMMUN-  
ICATIONS**

**PERFOR-  
MANCE  
EXCELLENT  
WORK /  
PROGRESS**

**SCHOOL /  
PROGRAM  
UPDATE**

**FUTURE  
AGENDA  
TOPICS**

were suggested:

- New SBAC and testing
- Freshman Academy at RHS and other initiatives that speak to improving or maintaining rigor.
- RMS programs; how they decide on teams, looping, etc.
- More information on our system's seamless transition from K-12, both how it affects students but also how it goes with curriculum.
- Food service and what we do to make sure local food makes it to the cafeterias.
- Learn more about the co-teaching model.
- How the schools are tied in with the communities, how they give back, volunteer coordinators, etc. And how to share that information with the public.

**SCHOOL /  
PROGRAM  
UPDATE,  
cont.**

Mr. Mello asked Board members to continue to think about ideas.

#### Central Office Reports

Superintendent - Ms. Moran said there are between 70-100 RHS students who are qualifying for dual enrollment credit from Castleton State College. Mr. Mello said that information should be publicized.

**CENTRAL  
OFFICE  
REPORTS**

**SUPERIN-  
TENDENT**

Pre-K Program / Process Report - Act 166. Assistant Superintendent Bliss said Act 166 becomes effective July 1, 2015. He provided some information on the status of prekindergarten education and the broad topics that will require budgeting consideration for FY16. A draft of the rules governing Act 166 have just been released and Mr. Bliss highlighted some of the "hot topics" being talked about. He reviewed topics to be addressed during the budget and planning process and also reviewed current estimates of students and spaces in pre-K. Mr. Bliss said it would be premature to estimate a budget. This must be implemented by July 1, 2015. There was discussion on some of the specifics regarding the number of providers and those who are qualified and those working toward qualification, the unpredictability of student numbers, and the potential flow of money following a student. It was noted that the law is not a mandate for students to attend pre-K.

**PRE-K  
PROGRAM /  
PROCESS  
REPORT**

Instructional Technology Report - Ms. Aigner highlighted the necessity of technology in the schools and offices in order to run the district. Administrators and teachers across the district were featured in a video discussing the ways they use technology. She reviewed how technology is helping drive a district goal of differentiation and individualization. Ms. Aigner also highlighted how technology is being used for collaboration and preparing students for the workplace and higher education. Dan Roswell, network administrator, gave a presentation on the network and hardware updates throughout the entire district.

**INSTRUC-  
TIONAL  
TECHNO-  
LOGY  
REPORT**

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- The presentation was done in a great way showcasing different ways of using technology and using a high-tech format.
- Do we know how many students do not have internet access at home and what we are doing to help them? Ms. Aigner said there is an annual survey at RMS -- there are fewer and fewer students. Teachers are very flexible and

help students as much as possible. She believes at least 80% of our students have access to technology at home. Mr. Roswell said some is via a phone or tablet. Commissioner Thomas said it is great to have technology at home but for the students who do not have it, usually the poor children, she would like to see us continually evaluate the situation. She said she does not want to inadvertently see a situation where students who do not have access at home suffer.

- Does Tapestry let students use computers? Ms. Moran said technology is used throughout Tapestry in the summer and after school.
- Mr. Mello said the most reliable indicator are the teachers. They know of students who cannot do homework if they do not have a computer at home. We need to promote access. Ms. Aigner said for example, at RHS, if a student would like to borrow a laptop from the library, they can.
- Students bring home information on internet service producers who offer reduced rates for qualifying families.
- What is the ratio of equipment to students? Ms. Aigner said it varies based on the building.
- Can teachers navigate access to the equipment? Ms. Aigner said it is going better, but they are always asking for more equipment and there has to be sharing.
- What kind of professional development is there for teachers who are not confident? Ms. Aigner said there are opportunities throughout the day and some learning via videos we created. The IT department, principals and even some teachers do screencasts. Ms. Moran said there is a lot of summer work as well.

**FACILITIES &  
FINANCE**

**Facilities and Finance**

Board Budget Committee - Mr. Mello said last year a subcommittee of Board members worked on the budget in more detail and depth. Commissioners Notte, Fagan and Kurchena volunteered to serve on that ad-hoc committee for this budget cycle.

**BOARD  
BUDGET  
COMMITTEE**

Motion by Fagan / Shimp to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 507 dated Sept. 19, 2014, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION  
PERSONNEL  
MEMO #507**

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

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**COMMITTEE  
REPORTS**

Committee Reports - Staff Relations will meet Sept. 30 at 5 pm.

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

**New Business**

Meeting Dates / Adjustments

November 12 instead of November 11

November 18 to avoid Thanksgiving week

December 9 regular

December 16, if necessary for a second meeting in December

**MEETING  
DATES NOV.  
& DEC.**

Fingon Memorial - Mr. Fagan said the golf tournament raised \$10,000 for uniforms for men and women soccer. Thanks to all the sponsors, especially Sodexho.

**FINGON  
MEMORIAL**

School program updates - Lydia Gulick shared RHS upcoming events. She said she and Brendan Wright are planning how to communicate with students in lower grades on "What their school should look like in ten years." Lydia said she and several teachers attended a conference in Montpelier today called Shaping Our Future Together, Act 77. It focused on personalized learning plans and curriculum and reshaping education. Ms. Moran said that will be a future topic for an agenda. Lydia said she said she hopes to stay involved with the initiative.

**STUDENT  
REP.  
UPDATES**

Motion by Kurchena / Fagan at 7:42 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.

**MOTION:  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 7:52 pm.

**PUBLIC  
SESSION**

Motion by Shimp / Olewnik to adjourn at 7:53 pm. Passed.

**ADJOURN**

Respectfully submitted

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Janet Mondlak  
Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent  
DATE: September 19, 2014  
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 507 dated September 19, 2014, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**A. LICENSED SECTION ~ None**

**B. NON-LICENSED SECTION**

1. Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Lisa Spooner	Health Careers Inst./STC	\$28.00/hr	9/10/14

2. Coaching Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Stipend</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Nick Maniery	Freshmen Football Coach	\$3,069.70	Fall Season