

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 10, 2015**

School Board Members Present:

Richard Courcelle
Hurley Cavacas, Jr
Peter Fagan
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas
Christian Wideawake
Brendan Wright
Members Absent
Peter Mello
Daniel Alcorn
Rob Kurchena
Lydia Gulick

Also Present

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Peter Amons
Steve Sampson
Susanne Engels
Jay Slenker
Ellie McGarry
Bill Olsen
Glenn Olson
Pam Reed
Patricia Aigner
Kerry Coarse

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

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Motion by Fagan / Shimp to accept the minutes of the Feb. 24, 2015 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

MOTION: MINUTES 02-24-15

Written and Oral Communications - None

WRITTEN & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Performance Excellence Initiative (PEI) / Progress Updates - Mr. Courcelle said the next phase will be discussed at the next meeting when there is a new Board member. The Vision Statement approved at the last meeting will be appearing on district stationary and documents.

PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

Student Representatives - Brendan said last week Model UN Club took their annual trip to NYC. Upcoming this month is the Global Studies and STEM Fair where students will be making presentations. On April 2 will be the Global Issues Network Conference all day and in the evening at The Paramount Theater. RHS and the Rowland Foundation will be presenting about the Global studies program at a Bennington College forum and also to NEASC.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Global Studies and GIN Conference - Mr. Olsen introduced two students and teacher Ms. Cassel. Brendan Wright said this is very student driven and students have taken an initiative. He presented information about the Global Studies strand or concentration at RHS. He explained the class structure, community service, and capstone project requirement . One student explained the capstone course and how students choose the world issue they would like to study. Another student discussed the GIN Conference, which encompasses one author's ideas on the 20 global issues which need to be conquered in the

GLOBAL STUDIES & GIN CONFERENCE

next 20 years. The goal of the conference is to educate students. He described what will happen at the Conference in Rutland. Brendan said Global Studies is an authentic program at RHS; students get to take a role in their learning and they are very involved and interested. It gives students a voice and allows them to take action in their community.

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

How many students are participating in the global studies initiative? The program is in its second year. All 9th and 10th grade classes are going to be set up interdisciplinary and all students will have a chance to have a Global Studies concentration. Interested students then pursue it. Guidance is tracking students interested in STEM and Global Studies. Nine students are graduating this year with a Global Studies concentration, which will be an endorsement on their diploma. There are 20 students interested. The Global Studies Network involves the entire school and community.

What are some community service component and projects? Work at the indoor farmer's market, work at the mission and the salvation army thrift store, working at the recycling center, making soup bowls for hunger, etc. Ms. Cassel provided more information about the April 2 GIN Conference, the presenters and keynote speaker. She said as of now, there are students coming from five other schools. They have received a city permit for their public walk at 4:30 pm from the Main St Gazebo to the Paramount with their signs calling attention to the issues. And then there will be the public screening of the movie at the Paramount.

The students were asked what made them personally pursue the Global Studies concentration. 1) The education standpoint; make peers more familiar with what is going on. A career goal of marine biology which ties in with issues of climate change. 2) A career goal of being a forensic psychologist. This is a great educational opportunity to see issues otherwise not being taught or talked about. 3) The capstone work has given a perspective on what college will be like.

The students were asked if they were self-directed and confident before going into independent learning. 1) Confident in the beginning, then lost it during the process, and now has gained it back. 2) Learned a lot about themselves as a student and how they learn best, what are their limits, and how far they are willing to push themselves. 3) Was a procrastinator but learned through the process that other people are relying on some of the work, especially with preparing for the GIN Conference. Ms. Cassel said as an educator, it is very rewarding to see the students struggle and then prevail. Students are stepping up and taking charge, running committees, talking with adults at a round table, etc. March 18 is the evening for the capstone presentations.

CENTRAL
OFFICE
REPORTS

SUPERIN-
TENDENT

Superintendent - Ms. Moran said it is Music in our Schools Month and it has been busy everywhere. Students have received excellent media coverage. Last week RMS held a mock legislative session and it was very powerful and well executed. Kudos to the students, teachers and visitors. Ms. Moran called attention to the art projects on the walls at Longfellow. Soup Bowls for Hunger will be taking place on March 26. The Board's new member will be in attendance on March 24 and will be sworn in that night.

Election Results - Commissioner Notte reviewed the results of the school budget. She thanked everyone who worked hard on the effort and community members for favorably voting for the budget.

ELECTION RESULTS

Legislative Report - Commissioner Fagan spoke favorably about the RMS mock legislative session and said it was very well done. He said there is no real movement on the education finance bill, which involves a cap on the tap of the education fund. It will continue in different committees this week. There are other bills being discussed like the ghost students and small schools. Ms. Moran said in terms of mandated expenses and normal inflationary increase, this could have a devastating impact. Ms. Moran said legislators like to hear from constituents. There was further discussion about education equity around the state and teaching to different levels.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Purchase of Chromebooks and Carts for Testing - Mr. Amons said the purchases are mostly driven by SBAC testing, although not entirely. We have successfully dealt with these vendors in the past. Ms. Moran said the imperative is to buy these resources for the test. But they will be used every day, year round.

FACILITIES & FINANCE

PURCHASE OF CHROME-BOOKS & TESTING CARTS

Motion by Cavacas / Fagan for the Board of School Commissioners to accept the price quotation of \$519,794.24 for the purchase of 1,571 Chromebooks and related licensing and setup costs from GovConnection and for \$92,989.65 for the purchase of 55 computer carts from Ormsby Inc.

MOTION: PURCHASE CHROME-BOOKS AND COMPUTER TESTING CARTS

Mr. Bliss said the purchases will give us "one-on-one" from grades 2 -12. Mr. Fagan asked if we risk federal funding without the purchases. Ms. Moran said without the technology we have to do the testing by hand but would not risk the federal funding. Mr. Amons said this is all being paid for from Title grant funding. Mr. Bliss explained the Title funding and a carry-forward we have had and the permissions we have received from the federal and state departments allowing us to spend those monies for these technology purchases. Ms. Moran said Mr. Bliss, Mr. Amons and Ms. Aigner have spent a lot of time on the grant and finance pieces. Mr. Courcelle asked about the lifespan of a Chromebook. Ms. Aigner reviewed the technology rotation cycles.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Personnel

Motion by Fagan / Cavacas to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 513 dated March 6, 2015, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL

MOTION: PERSONNEL MEMO #513

The appointments, family medical leave and resignation were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

Ms. Moran reviewed Glenn Olson's appointment as Director at Stafford Technical Center. She said there has been a succession plan in place for Mr. Olson to replace Mr. Guilmette, who replaced Mr. Jepson. There will be a search for an Assistant Director.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Committee Reports - None

**COMM.
REPORTS**

New Business - None

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Old Business - None

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Motion by Fagan / Cavacas at 7:23 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel, legal 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.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

**MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

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

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

Motion by Thomas / Shimp to adjourn at 7:41 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
DATE: March 6, 2015
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 513 dated March 6, 2015, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Glenn Olson	Director/STC	\$114,200.00	7/1/15

2. Family Medical Leave

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Lindsay Zeitler	Special Education/NW	8/26/15-10/12/15

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Spring Coaching Appointments and Reappointments – See attached memo

2. Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Janet Mondlak	School Board Secretary	6/30/15