

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
MAY 12, 2015**

School Board Members Present:

Richard Courcelle
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Rob Kurchena 6:32 pm.
Matthew Olewnik
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas
Christian Wideawake
Lydia Gulick

Members Absent

Peter Fagan
Daniel Alcorn
Alison Notte
Joanne Pencak
Brendan Wright

Also Present

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Ellie McGarry
Susanne Engels
Patricia Aigner
Pam Reed
Kristin Francoeur
Glenn Olson
Nicole Carter
Bill Olsen
Greg Schillinger
Peter Amons
Jessica Henderson

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

CALL TO
ORDER

ROLL CALL

Motion by Cavacas / Shimp to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2015 regular school board meeting with the following correction: The vote for the Policy Change #7514 was recorded incorrectly. The entire motion / vote should read as follow: "Motion by Fagan / Pencak to approve Policy Number 7514 - Removal of the policy: "Participation by Non-Resident / Non-Tuition Student Athletics" from the Rutland City Public Schools District Policy Manual for second reading. Motion passed on a vote of 5-4. (For: Pencak, Wideawake, Fagan, Kurchena, Olewnik.) (Against: Notte, Cavacas, Alcorn, Shimp)." Motion to approve the amended minutes passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

MOTION:
MINUTES
4-28-15

Written and Oral Communications - None

WRITTEN &
ORAL
COMMUNI-
CATIONS

Performance Excellence Initiative (PEI) / Progress - Mr. Courcelle said the group met and reviewed progress to date and discussed next steps, which will involve the identification of the values and the big goals. He will be consulting with a facilitator who has done a lot of this work in this regard. She will be present at the next committee meeting on May 27. Mr. Courcelle said he has asked former Board Chair Peter Mello to remain involved and he has agreed.

PERFOR-
MANCE
EXCELLENCE
INITIATIVE

Student Representatives - Lydia Gulick spoke with Ms. Hubert at Northwest and students about their Star Jar celebrations and a new initiative called No Tardy Taters which is helping with the tardiness issue. Ms. Moran said next year Nova Wang will be the rising junior Board student representative and Lydia will be the senior representative.

SCHOOL /
PROGRAM
UPDATE

STUDENT
REPRESENT-
ATIVES

Allen Street Campus Report - Nicole Carter and Gina Fucci shared a presentation with words from students reflecting on how the Allen Street Campus is helping them with their behaviors, emotions and academics. They spoke about the alternative programming at Allen Street and what it all looks like and the staffing there. They also highlighted their funding and how dedicated and committed the staff is to the therapeutic approach.

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- What is the academic and clinical supervision for? Ms. Carter said teams talk about each student's needs academically and clinically and to make sure all the plans are aligned. The supervision is for the staff.
- How do students become enrolled at Allen Street? Ms. Carter said there are multiple supports in all the schools. When students get to a point where they need individualization, they are referred to Allen Street. Enrollment is based on the IEP process. Families are engaged in the process.
- Who oversees the students IEPs? Ms. Carter said she does.
- What are the main differences between Allen Street and Howe Center? Ms. Moran said Allen Street is essentially special education driven. Howe is more of a drop-out prevention program. They are two separate ways for youngsters to succeed and hopefully matriculate to graduation.
- What is the typical or average length of time a student is at Allen Street? Ms. Fucci said for high schoolers, their transition plan starts when they arrive with goals articulated they need to meet. The staff works with them to help meet those goals. Some students come in and out. Some transition to Howe. Some stay at Allen for four years. Some transition to the high school and then STC.
- If there were no financial restraints, what else would you like to be able to do? Ms. Fucci said she would like to have a micro STC inside Allen Street; a high level hands-on integrated academic program. Ms. Carter said training for existing staff in EMDR; evidence based effective treatment to help with the challenges people face.

Literacy Update - K-6 Literacy Coach Ms. Bargmann Metz said they have been prioritizing standards. There are 47 ELA standards at each grade using specific criteria. They examined what has been done and then looked at Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium ELA Claims. Ms. Bargmann Metz reviewed the Marzano Proficiency Scale and reviewed what is still needing to be done. Mr. Bliss said they have made a lot of progress but more work is needed. Ms. Bargmann Metz reviewed how many standards fit in. Mr. Bliss said there is a three year implementation plan. Next year there will be a lot of work on educating the community. The changes at the elementary grades will not be as noticeable as we have been grading and evaluating on standards based. There will be bigger changes for grades 8-12 because we will be going from a 100 point scale to a 4 point scale. A lot of time will go into educating the community and talking about how we will transition. Ms. Bargmann Metz said they have spent a lot of time reading the standards and making sure everyone has the same interpretation of each standard. What does it mean? What are the implications for the classroom? It is time intensive for everyone but they want to make sure everyone has the same

understanding. Mr. Bliss said regionally the curriculum coordinators work together to understand and align and share resources. The state offers some guidance but Mr. Bliss said there has been more through regional collaboration.

Math Update - Mr. Schillinger presented information on the district wide approach to develop math standards and scales. Teachers and administrators are being challenged to identify the important things in the curriculum and to align with the Common Core. Mr. Schillinger reviewed the hierarchy of standards. To help with math intervention, there is an online math tutorial available called ALEKS. Integrated Math will replace Algebra I. Mr. Bunker, the Grade 7 - 12 Department Chair spoke about the program Big Ideas, which will bridge from elementary to high school, is aligned with Common Core, and has skills review and differentiation strategies built into it. Mr. Schillinger reviewed that with the Hierarchy of Standards, next year there will be implementation in the classroom. The following year grades 9-12 will modify the report card. There are others which might be graduation requirements.

**MATH
PROGRAM
UPDATE**

Mr. Schillinger reviewed how the curriculum will be changed with Integrated Math. He said they found the Math Vision Project to be favorable. Mr. Bunker said in elementary school, all the math is integrated. It takes that type of concept to not departmentalize each component. He said without categorizing math as algebra, geometry or trig, we should see growth in the students. Mr. Bunker said compared to Everyday Math, this is not as much of a spiraling concept. Integrated takes all the components to build a complete picture. Mr. Schillinger said an important component is about math standards, which are going up. Algebra is becoming more and more an 8th grade standard. Mr. Bliss said Everyday Math will continue to be used in grades K-5. The idea is to have a similar math language aligned with Common Core. Mr. Courcelle said these changes work toward answering the questions: "What is the important the stuff?" "What is presented to parents?" That is what the Board has been looking at.

Mr. Bliss shared with the Board one example of data used to benchmark student progress, make instructional decisions and drive intervention strategies at the primary level. He explained how the data sheet shows growth of a group, different classrooms, individual students, etc. The data tells us how effective we are with a group and with individuals. The work that Molly Wasserman is doing makes it very easy for teachers to get the data and evaluate it. Mr. Courcelle said it is important to recognize how important technology is to the district and for us to continue to make investments in the technology capacity and capabilities we need.

**CENTRAL
OFFICE
REPORTS**

Superintendent - Ms. Moran read a letter from the Green Mountain Power Outreach Coordinator praising the students and staff for all the work done for Green Up on Grove.

**SUPERIN-
TENDENT
UPDATES**

Ms. Moran noted the passing of Tom Chesley who served as Superintendent here in the 1970-80s. He was 89 years old and had been a wonderful servant leader of education.

**LEGISLA-
TIVE
REOPRT**

Legislative Report - Ms. Moran said H361, the Education Consolidation Bill is currently in conference. She has a full analysis for those interested.

Facilities and Finance - None

**FACILITIES
& FINANCE**

Motion by Cavacas / Shimp to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 517 dated May 8, 2015 and the Personnel Addendum No. 517 dated May 12, 2015, as recommended by the Superintendent.

PERSONNEL

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO &
ADDENDUM
#517**

The appointment, resignations, retirements and leaves of absence were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

**COMM
REPORTS**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**FOOD
SERVICE
UPDATE**

Food Service Update - Mr. Amons said the food service bid was sent at the end of April. Sodexo and Abbey Group will be bidding. Two other companies were also invited to bid. Responses are due back by June 15 and Mr. Amons said they hope to a proposal a proposal by June 23 with a contract in place by July 1. Commissioners Thomas and Pencak served on the committee.

**SEARCH
COMM.
UPDATE
FOR
DIRECTOR
BUILDINGS
& GROUNDS**

Buildings & Grounds - Commissioner Cavacas updated on the search for the new Director of Buildings & Grounds. They started the interview process and there are two strong candidates who will be spending time with Mr. Rice. The committee will then make a recommendation.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Board Project Graduation Contribution - Ms. Moran said it has been Board practice to make a donation to Project Graduation.

**MOTION:
BOARD
CONTRI-
BUTION TO
PROJECT
GRADUA-
TION**

Motion by Cavacas / Shimp for the Board to contribute \$1000 to Project Graduation for the senior class. Motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD
RETREAT**

Board Retreat - Mr. Courcelle said the Board retreat is August 11.

End of year events - Ms. Moran reviewed the events and specifically invited Board members to RHS Graduation and the end-of-year retirement celebration.

**END OF
YEAR
EVENTS**

Old Business

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Ms. Shimp asked if we are still administering NECAPs and Mr. Bliss said only in science, grades 4, 8 and 11.

NECAPS

Motion by Thomas / Shimp at 7:53 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter, 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**

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:15 pm.

ADJOURN

Motion by Cavacas / Thomas to adjourn at 8:17 pm. Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Mondlak, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
DATE: May 8, 2015
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 517 dated May 8, 2015, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Resignations/Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Katherine Milliman	School Psychologist/District	6/30/15
Cynthia Kilic-Murray	Family & Consumer Science/RHS	6/30/15
Heather Sawyer	Mathematics Teacher/RHS	6/30/15
Gayle Wetzler	Elementary Teacher/RIS	6/30/15

2. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Nicholas M. DeVita	School Psychologist/District	\$45,443.43	8/14/15
Nicolette Lash	Special Educator/RIS	\$41,455.00	8/21/15
Kristen Saville	Mathematics Teacher/RHS	\$39,797.00	8/21/15

3. Leaves of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Ashley Brua	Speech-Language Pathologist/PPLC	8/31/15-1/4/16
Jennifer Enzor	English/RMS	8/21/15-6/2016

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Resignations/Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Kelly Clifford	Paraeducator/RHS	6/12/15
Sharon Howard	Paraeducator/RIS	6/30/15
Mary F. Raymond	Paraeducator/RIS	6/30/15
Kathryn Stankiewicz	Paraeducator/RHS	6/17/15
Robert Wetzler	Attendance and Truant Officer/RHS	6/30/15

ADDENDUM

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
DATE: May 12, 2015
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 517 dated **May 12, 2015**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Abby Brodowski	English/RHS	\$43,113.00	8/21/15
Cristina Kumka	Video and Multi-Media Communications/STC	\$44,771.00	8/21/15
Anthony Trombetta	English/RMS	\$41,455.00	8/21/15

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Richard Baker	Facilities Worker I/RIS	6/30/15