

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
APRIL 28, 2015**

**School Board Members Present:**

Richard Courcelle  
Daniel Alcorn  
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Peter Fagan  
Rob Kurchena  
Alison Notte  
Matthew Olewnik  
Joanne Pencak  
Erin Shimp  
Christian Wideawake

**Members Absent**

Kate Thomas  
Lydia Gulick  
Brendan Wright

**Also Present**

Superintendent Mary Moran  
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss  
John Rice  
Bill Olsen  
Jay Slenker  
Steve Sampson  
Patricia Aigner  
Pam Reed  
Greg Schillinger

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Courcelle noted the absence of Commissioner Thomas. Student Representatives Gulick and Wright were also absent.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Motion by Fagan / Shimp to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2015 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
MINUTES  
04-7-15**

Written and Oral Communications - None

**WRITTEN &  
ORAL  
COMMUNI-  
CATIONS**

Recognition - Abby Hawkins - Ms. Moran acknowledged Abby Hawkins, a freshman at RHS and her work in oratorical and debate / forensics. Abby distinguished herself at the Vermont State Championships and qualified for a district competition in Pennsylvania. Commissioner Kurchena presented Abby a proclamation from the Vermont State Legislature. Abby said she loves debate and has learned a lot.

**STUDENT  
RECOGNI-  
TION**

Performance Excellence Initiative (PEI) / Progress - Mr. Courcelle said there is a meeting scheduled May 6 to discuss and plan the next steps.

**PERFOR-  
MANCE  
EXCELLENCE  
INITIATIVE**

Student Representative - Ms. Moran said the students are involved with sporting activities but they provided her with updates. She reviewed past and upcoming activities at the elementary schools: Teacher staff appreciation week, kindergarten screening, star student dance, running club, Arbor Day celebration, spring clean up day, walk to school day, foster grandparent luncheon, and picnic with a book. At RIS, there was the annual show-your-work-night and scheduled events include national walk to lunch day, Grade 5 Dare graduation, and a combined Scholastic Book Fair and movie night. At RHS, SBAC testing is underway. Library renovations are on budget and ahead of schedule.

**SCHOOL /  
PROGRAM  
UPDATE**

**STUDENT  
REPRESENT-  
ATIVES  
REPORT**

Capstone Projects - Teachers Ann Marie Mahar and Tyler Weideman and two senior students in the STEM concentration presented on the capstone projects. There were 30 students total in the STEM and Global Studies concentrations. Ms. Mahar provided background information about developing the capstone course and said the students improved their research and presentation skills as well as learning other things like providing feedback, developing a website and blog. Mr. Weideman said the students gained real world skills to prepare them for the next level: college. This gave students personalized learning. Ms. Mahar said professionals from colleges and organizations have shown interest in their work.

**CAPSTONE  
PROJECTS  
FOR STEM &  
GLOBAL  
STUDIES  
CONCENTRA-  
TIONS**

Eric talked about developing his idea and how it was something he cares about while being relatable to the community. The class made him feel accountable to himself and he gained a lot of experiences. Students were encouraged to talk to people in the real world. Mary Kate said the hardest part of the class was figuring out the project. Students had to develop the questions and then work on the research and presentation. Mr. Weideman said the teachers were the facilitators for the students' learning. He and Ms. Mahar explained assessing the students. The class is standards-referenced. They came up with proficiency scales; 50% for preparation and 50% for presentation. This was standards-based grading. Students spoke about the impact of their research. Mr. Courcelle said this is the embodiment of the vision statement adopted several months ago. Congratulations to Mr. Weideman who will be leaving RHS to be Assistant Principal at Mill River Union High.

**ALLEN  
STREET  
CAMPUS  
REPORT  
POSTPONED**

#### Allen Street Campus Report - Postponed

Superintendent - Ms. Moran provided updates for planned searches for Assistant Principal at RIS and for Director of Buildings and Grounds. Congratulations to Deb Hathaway and everyone involved at Tapestry for their new programs. They are recruiting students for the summer programs.

**SUPERIN-  
TENDENT**

Legislative Report - Mr. Fagan highlighted actions taken in the Legislature with regards to the school consolidation bill, small school grants and the hold harmless provision. Mr. Fagan said Senate 9 passed out of committee, the bill will provide more protections for our youngest children and will help DCF do a better job. Ms. Moran said there is movement on the House bill which will create a universal savings account for Vermont born children as an incentive to attend Vermont colleges.

**LEGISLA-  
TIVE REPORT**

#### Facilities and Finance

Longfellow Exterior Maintenance - Mr. Rice said five bids were received for the renovation work which primarily entails brick and wood work and painting. These are mostly maintenance items. We received a \$20,000 grant from the state historical fund. Otherwise the work is being paid for from the funds from the bond.

**FACILITIES &  
FINANCE**

**BIDS**

Motion by Cavacas / Fagan for the Board of School Commissioners to accept the bid of \$221,415 for structural exterior renovations of the Longfellow Building by Giancola Construction. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
LONG-  
FELLOW  
EXTERIOR  
MAINTEN-  
ANCE**

Rutland Middle School Kitchen Hood Replacement - Wright Construction is already on-site for other RMS work and this helped keep their bid low. These funds will come from the bond.

**MOTION:  
RMS  
KITCHEN  
HOOD  
REPLACE-  
MENT**

Motion by Cavacas / Fagan for the Board of School Commissioners to accept the price quotation of \$64,950 for the RMS kitchen hood replacement by Wright Construction. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Pick-Up Truck Replacement - Mr. Rice said there were three bids. This will be paid for using 2016 budget funds.

**MOTION:  
PICK-UP  
TRUCK  
REPLACE-  
MENT**

Motion by Cavacas / Fagan for the Board of School Commissioners to accept the price quotation of \$21,165 for a Ford Transit by John C. Stewart Inc.. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

School Bus Replacement - Mr. Rice said this will be paid for using 2016 budget funds. There were three bids. This purchase keeps the buses all being International.

**MOTION:  
SCHOOL BUS  
REPLACE-  
MENT**

Motion by Cavacas / Fagan for the Board of School Commissioners to accept the price quotation of \$84,332 for a 71 passenger International school bus by DATTCO Inc. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

#### Personnel

**PERSONNEL**

Motion by Cavacas / Notte to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 516 dated April 24, 2015 and Addendum No. 516 dated April 28, 2015, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:  
PERSONNEL  
MEMO &  
ADDENDUM  
#516**

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

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**COMM.  
REPORTS**

#### Policy Committee

**POLICY  
COMMITTEE**

Second Reading - Policy Number 7514 - Removal of the policy "Participation by Non-Resident / Non-Tuition Student Athletics" from the Rutland City Public Schools District Policy Manual

**REMOVAL OF  
POLICY**

Commissioner Shimp said the Policy Committee recommends removing the policy because they believe entering these agreements should not be a Board decision, but rather an administrative decision. She said community members have spoken with her about what this might open, and what RHS has built -- great athletics and academics. Ms. Shimp said the administration believes that Member-to-Member Agreements are not necessary at this time.

**MOTION:  
REMOVAL OF  
POLICY #7514  
FOR SECOND  
READING**

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.

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- Commissioner Cavacas said he is concerned with this removal. He said if this passes, he would want to make sure the Member-to-Member policy procedures are in place; from administrator to administrator. He said he is uncomfortable with how this has come about. School choice has removed a lot of Member-to-Member Agreements.
- Commissioner Kurchena said he is concerned about the removal of the policy. He does not want this to be an additional burden to the administration. If this moves forward, and he thinks that in some cases it could be beneficial, that the Board needs to keep an eye on it. Are there unintended consequences? If a student comes from a different school and it moves a player on the team to a lesser role, people get upset. Mr. Kurchena said if it becomes a burden on the administrators, he thinks the Board should look at reinstating the policy.
- Commissioner Notte said she will be voting against removing the policy. She believes there will be unintended consequences and it puts stress on the administration. She said she thinks the Board should decide to keep the policy and not put this in the administration's hands to then micro-manage to make sure the right decision was made.
- Commissioner Pencak said she thinks the policy should be removed and it does not mean that the Board will micro-manage it. She said we are here for all the students.
- Ms. Shimp said the school district provides certain opportunities and is doing good things. It is a choice and people are happy with RHS.
- Ms. Pencak said sports are a marketing tool. She said students who play for a RHS team might decide to enroll in the school. They will see the great opportunities.
- Commissioner Wideawake said when the policy was was created, there were many more students and school choice was just starting. Now some teams' participation numbers are slim. There are teams where there is room for a couple of other students. For Member-to-Member, there are are only a couple of sports that it could be applied to and the administration could make a decision. This opens opportunities. If there are dwindling numbers with teams, we might have to otherwise cut an opportunity because we are short a few students. If costs are covered by sending schools, it could mean we continue to provide an opportunity.
- Ms. Shimp said with the VPA guidelines, she feels that protocol needs to be followed between administrators from any of the schools.

Rutland City resident Tom Valente said he is an MSJ School Board member. He said that MSJ was advised that the request had to go to the Rutland School Board because of the policy. He said there was no attempt to circumvent any process. The VPA rules provide protections. He said that because RHS is such a big school, it will not apply to too many sports. He said on behalf of the MSJ Board and community, they appreciate the Rutland City School Board's time and attention. Mr. Courcelle agreed that when the MSJ Board first approached, they were counseled that coming to this Board was the correct protocol.

Motion passed on a vote of 5-4. (For: Pencak, Wideawake, Fagan, Alcorn, Olewnik. Against: Notte, Cavacas, Kurchena Shimp)

Mr. Courcelle said the removal of the policy is not the Board's endorsement of Member-to-Member Agreements. The removal means that the Board agrees that entering and executing Member-to-Member Agreements follows VPA's rules and regulations and rests solely with the administration. He said this is not an endorsement. He said he does not anticipate the Board will hear about this again.

**BUILDING  
COMM.  
UPDATE**

Building Committee Update - Mr. Cavacas said the Building Committee met and discussed an expedited search committee process for a new Director of Buildings and Grounds. They hope to bring a recommendation to the Board for the May 29 meeting. He said the RHS library project is on target for completion at the end of July. We are within budget and ahead of schedule. Mr. Cavacas reviewed other project updates at RIS, RMS, RHS and Northwest all being completed with funds from the bond. There is one custodian to replace. Graduation is June 11 and preparations are in place. They talked about the question raised on bus speed.

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

New Business - Commissioner Olewnik asked about a future meeting agenda item on SBAC testing and specifically students' thought on that kind of test. Ms. Moran said it is being scheduled.

**FUTURE  
AGENDA  
ITEM**

Motion by Shimp / Cavacas at 7:45 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing 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.

**MOTION:  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 9:50 pm.

**PUBLIC  
SESSION**

Motion by Fagan / Shimp to adjourn at 9:45 pm. Passed.

**ADJOURN**

Respectfully submitted

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Janet Mondlak  
Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education  
 FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent  
 DATE: April 24, 2015  
 RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 516 dated April 24, 2015, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**A. LICENSED SECTION**

1. Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Curt Casper	Video & Multimedia Instructor/STC	6/30/15
Daniel Fowler	Mathematics Teacher/RMS	5/12/15
Tyler Weideman	Communications Teacher/RHS	6/30/15

2. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Sarah Crossmon	Elementary/NW	\$48,088.00	8/21/15
Sara Merrell	Speech-Language Pathologist/NW	\$46,430.00	8/21/15

3. Transfers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location From/To</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jessica Henderson	<b>From:</b> Asst. Principal/RIS <b>To:</b> Project Search Leader/District	\$74,000.00	7/1/15
Nancy Spaulding-Ness	<b>From:</b> Counselor/NE/NW <b>To:</b> Counselor/RMS		8/21/15
Paula Tordonato	<b>From:</b> World Language/RMS <b>To:</b> World Language/RHS		8/21/15

4. Family Medical Leave

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Valerie Clark	Special Education/NW	9/14/15-11/16/15

**B. NON-LICENSED SECTION**

1. Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Eric Dowling	Paraeducator/RHS	6/30/15
Peter Kelada	Planning Room Paraeducator/NW	5/15/15

# ***ADDENDUM***

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent  
DATE: April 28, 2015  
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed ADDENDUM

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 516 dated April 28, 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>
Megean St. John	School Counselor/NE & NW	\$41,455.00	8/21/15
Anna Walker	School Counselor/NE	\$49,746.00	8/21/15