

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
August 25, 2015

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Rob Kurchena
Daniel Alcorn
Peter Fagan
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas
Christian Wideawake
Lydia Gulick
Nova Wang

Members Absent:

Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Joanne Pencak

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Peter Amons
Michael Derevjanik
Loren Pepe

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Courcelle noted the absence of Commissioners Cavacas and Pencak.

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL

Motion by Fagan/Shimp to accept the minutes of the June 23, 2015 regular school board meeting as written.

MOTION:
MINUTES 6/23/15

Motion by Fagan/Thomas to accept the minutes of the August 11, 2015 meeting retreat as written.

MOTION:
MINUTES 8/11/15

President Courcelle noted that if no there are no alterations to the minutes, a vote to accept the minutes is not required in accordance with Robert's Rules.

Written Communications – none

COMMUNICA-
TIONS - ORAL
AND WRITTEN

Oral Communications - Superintendent Moran announced that Betty Kapitan will be the new Recording Secretary, replacing Janet Mondlak who retired.

Performance Excellence Initiative/Progress – President Courcelle noted the summary from the Retreat for Board of Commissioners and Administrative Cabinet included in the Board packet and asked folks to retain this document for future reference. He noted that the focus of the retreat was to define expectations and roles for administrators and board members. It was a working session to develop a vision. The mission was retained. The next step will be for Superintendent Moran, Assistant Superintendent Bliss, President Courcelle and Clerk Kurchena to meet with the facilitator in September to outline recommended next steps. The work group will then develop goals. There is another retreat scheduled for January. President Courcelle asked for thoughts/comments from the Board:

PEI PROGRESS

- Clerk Kurchena said he enjoyed the process and the use of the post it notes board for developing a collaborative path forward and defining steps toward end measures.
- Commissioner Shimp noted that it was a great team exercise to build relationships.

- Commissioner Fagan said the work product process was helpful and caused us to think deeper. The process was very helpful, the facilitator was excellent and the implementation exciting.
- Commissioner Thomas reflected that she was touched by what the Cabinet sees as their purpose. It excited her and reminded her why she wants to serve.
- President Courcelle noted that there are not many school boards in Vermont engaged in this type of work. He quoted former School Board President Mello who said: “this is high level work.”

PEI PROGRESS
(CONTINUED)

School Program Update:

SCHOOL
PROGRAM
UPDATE

Superintendent Moran advised that she launched a welcome back phone message to roughly 3,600 people. She reviewed the opening schedule and explained that only Grade 9 would attend at Rutland High School on August 26, 2015 and explained Kindergarten orientation. Athletic events have begun.

OPENING OF
SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES

There will be police and firefighters presence at all of our schools tomorrow/the first day of school as part of community engagement activities. We have requested that cruisers are parked off campus so not to alert families.

Bus information and opening of schools information is published in the Rutland Herald, on our web site and mailed home.

Superintendent Moran requested that parents and community members be patient, not redial and listen to the messages being sent through our messaging system so as not to overwhelm our switchboard.

The Tapestry bulletin board (in the Board Room) and all of the summer Tapestry activities were recognized.

The Administrative Team has been excused from the meeting tonight so they can prepare for opening day.

Assistant Superintendent Bliss reviewed the Summer Professional Development Report that was distributed to Board Members. He noted that some may think that when the doors close, there is not much action. It is quite the opposite. We have been very busy with professional development with 35 team based activities. We do not support/pay for solo endeavors. The major foci of summer professional development: technology integration, standards based grading and proficiency based learning, aligning with the common core and next gen. 1,800 Chromebooks have been deployed in the last six months, bringing us much closer to a one to one format. Regarding the Math Curriculum Common Core State Standards, there was focus on K-3 format foundations for future success spearheaded by Lorrain Bargmann. We're in a good spot with this and proud of the work done. Not listed in the report: On August 20th there was a professional development event held at the RHS spearheaded by Kate Labelle addressing K-12 Standards Based Physical Education and Grading. Most of the funding for this professional development is from federal grants. About \$40,000 was targeted. Teachers are not paid for the work until the work and the product is reviewed and signed off on by the Principal and the Assistant Superintendent. This oversight is important to our auditors and Federal Monitors.

SUMMER
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

President Courcelle thanked Assistant Superintendent Bliss for his well-done presentation and helping us to understand the intensity of the work being done. It's helpful information as we look at developing budgets.

SUMMER
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
(CONTINUED)

Central Office Report:

CENTRAL
OFFICE REPORT

Superintendent Moran requested topics of interest from the board for use in building schedules on points of interest. All items from a similar list that was generated last year were covered.

Board members should be receiving an invitation from Pam McKenzie at Comcast. On September 4, 2015, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM, the 2015 Election Bus will be at Rutland High School. The day will be built around student voice and participation. It will be televised on PEGTV.

SBAC results were released yesterday and the coverage from the local press was quite good. We are diving into the data. It is very complicated. Molly Wasserman and the Principals are working on it.

Commissioner Fagan noted that he received the C-Span invitation and regrets that he will be unable to attend due to another commitment to attend a meeting on State Pension.

Facilities and Finance:

FACILITIES AND
FINANCE

Michael Derevjanik reviewed the work done over the summer:

- The Library Project is very visual. There has been a delay with getting furniture but they are working with vendors to resolve issues and open the space as quickly as possible. Mr. Derevjanik gave all credit to John Rice and Superintendent Moran for their work on this project.
- The HVAC Project at RIS – all the work is in the ceiling. The all new ventilation system should provide better air flow and a healthier environment for learning. Testing and modifications will be completed over the next couple of weeks.
- The Longfellow Renovation – Work is still in progress. Mr. Derevjanik thanked the Historical Society for their assistance.

There will also be paving done at RIS and more next year to add about 20 parking spots. There will also be paving done at Longfellow.

Superintendent Moran thanked Mr. Derevjanik and his staff who have been working almost 24/7 to get ready for the opening of schools. She complimented the RIS Administrative Team, the teachers and staff for their graciousness and cheerful, positive attitudes during the project. She advised that she had the pleasure of showing Doctor Richard Brothers around the new Brothers' Information Center today as he will not be down for the dedication. Dr. Brothers was pivotal in the development of "the new high school."

President Courcelle congratulated Mr. Derevjanik on the success of the work done and asked if there are questions.

- Commissioner Fagan asked if there was anything that was scheduled be done that didn't get done?
 - *There was nothing that didn't get started. Only Longfellow is not finished and there was no deadline to meet.*

There are a multitude of projects on the list for improvement, but none that are nearly as in depth as the work done this summer.

**FACILITIES AND
FINANCE
(CONTINUED)**

Mr. Amons stated that all projects were on time and under budget.

Motion by Fagan/Shimp to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed sections of the Personnel Memorandum No. 522 dated, August 21, 2015 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION
PERSONNEL
MEMO No. 522**

Superintendent Moran reviewed Personnel Memorandum No. 522.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

President Courcelle noted that there no committee reports for tonight.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

New - none

NEW BUSINESS

Old – none

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Fagan/Kurchena to adjourn at 7:12 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted
Betty Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
DATE: August 21, 2015
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 522 dated August 21, 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>
Jason Repolle	1 Year Special Ed/RMS	\$41,455.00	8/21/15

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Haley Cotrupi	Paraeducator/ASC	\$17,690.40	8/24/15
Carolyn Pomeroy	Paraeducator/NW	\$17,539.20	8/24/15