

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
September 8, 2015

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Peter Fagan
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Joanne Pencak
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas (6:38 PM)
Christian Wideawake
Nova Wang

Members Absent:

Rob Kurchena
Daniel Alcorn
Lydia Gulick

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Patricia Aigner
Peter Amons
Kerry Coarse
Kristen Holsman-Francoeur
Ellie McGarry
Glenn Olson
Pam Reed
Jay Slenker

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Courcelle noted the absence of Commissioners Kurchena, Alcorn, Thomas (6:38 PM) and Student Representative Gulik.

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL

Motion by Fagan/Shimp to accept the minutes of the August 25, 2015 regular school board meeting as written.

MOTION:
MINUTES 8/25/15

Written Communications - Commissioner Wideawake read thank you letters from former Student Representative Brendan Wright, Retired Administrator/Teacher Andrea McQuade, Athletic Director Michael Norman and John Burnette, Jr. (RHS Class of 1965.)

COMMUNICA-
TIONS - ORAL
AND WRITTEN

Oral Communications – None

Performance Excellence Initiative/Progress - Chair Courcelle announced that there would be a proposal to review and discuss presented at the next meeting. He referred to the three dates listed on the agenda that are scheduled for planning the work for the January 2016 Retreat. Superintendent Moran said that the decision to add additional staff members to the team was made at the last meeting. There will be representation from the primary, intermediate and middle school levels to include both teachers and paraeducators at each level. This will be kicking into high gear this month.

PEI PROGRESS

School Program Update: Student Representative Wang spoke about the CSPAN visit to RHS. This was a big event with lots of student and teacher engagement. He thanked Comcast, PEG TV, all the guest speakers and the music groups who performed. It was an amazing event and the students really enjoyed it. Superintendent Moran commented that this was a great event and it was an opportunity to showcase the new library. She thanked Stafford Technical Center for providing refreshments and for filming the event. There was great enthusiasm for voter registration and excitement about voting. Voters may register to vote at age 17 if they will be 18 prior to the general election. A video highlighting the event and programs such as Global Studies and STEM will air on PEG TV.

SCHOOL
PROGRAM
UPDATE

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium - Assistant Superintendent Bliss stated that the goal is to do a comprehensive report for the board. At this time there are still questions about individual and school level data and there are discrepancies. We are working to interpret the data. The State will be offering a training in early October and we will be sending a team. We will be making use of the data and learn how to put it to good work. We are currently working on analyzing data as it relates to our schools and schools around the state with similar demographics. This is a work in progress. The information will be presented when it is complete and appropriate. Questions/Comments:

- Commissioner Olewnik asked if there was a way to compare technology availability as it relates to schools with other schools around the State.
 - That is one of the questions that will be asked of like schools. We will also be asking about models, intervention, professional development plans and a number of other data points. We will be talking with principal and superintendent groups. Chair Courcelle commented that this is a one day, one test and that exposure to technology does not equate to successful testing. We need to be careful as we look at the data.
- Commissioner Cavacas commented that Common Core Curriculum has just been implemented in the past 2 years. He said that he sees no worth in the data for the next few years until background for Common Core is built up. Superintendent Moran said that this has been a national conversation and as of last Wednesday, 15 states have not released results. This is a work in progress.
- Commissioner Pencak asked if individual results will be shared with students.
 - Yes, they will be shared on the parent portal (on-line), by mail or at teacher conferences (younger grades.) We expect that this information will be distributed in October.
- Commissioner Pencak expressed concern for students potentially being discouraged with test results and effecting performance on higher stakes testing and college aspirations.
 - Superintendent Moran explained that strength of transcript and quality of school are more important in regards to college aspirations.

School Choice Report – Superintendent Moran thanked Cherie Bizzarro, Kristi Firliet and Steve Sampson for their work in preparing the reports included in the Board Packet. She reviewed the reports and noted that one contains identifying information, is confidential and for the Board only. We have 35 students inbound and 17-18 outbound. Funding does not follow the child. This equates to about \$238,000. There are 91 participants in school choice in Rutland County. Reasons for participation include parental convenience, fresh start, small to big school, big to small school and a number of other reasons. Questions/Comments:

- Commissioner Fagan noted that he and Kathy Keenan have a bill in the House in regards to school choice. Peter Amons testified, as well as a couple of other folks in support of the bill. He doesn't know if it will go anywhere.
- Commissioner Olewnik asked about the impact of the \$238,000 on the district.

- Superintendent Moran noted that the incremental increase does not make much of a difference in a big school. Some schools have reached outbound limits. Why not let them go? Commissioner Fagan noted that small schools could collapse. There a lot of small school districts.

SCHOOL CHOICE
REPORT (CONT.)

Central Office Report:

CENTRAL
OFFICE REPORT

Superintendent Moran announced that we had a terrific opening. She thanked all the staff for their energy and enthusiasm, especially during the heat. She thanked Marty Irion and Café Services for providing water stations for the students. The spirit at RHS/STC is contagious. Parent involvement has been great at all levels. Student Representative Wang noted that the things have been more upbeat. A formal report regarding enrollment will be given in October. In the last 3 days we have had 43 new students enroll at RHS - for an enrollment of 900-910 which fluctuates, but is stabilized. If you haven't seen the new library at RHS, please stop by to see it. We are planning a rededication around the first week of October.

SUPERINTEN-
DENT'S REPORT

Act 46/School Consolidation Reform Plan - There are pros and cons. Due to our size we are not required to do anything. There was talk in the past of cooperation - not consolidation. Perhaps Act 46 may rekindle interest in this concept. There is concern in regards to capping percentage increase at 2.17%. Higher spenders have lower caps, lower spenders have highest caps. We/Peter Amons will keep a close watch on this going forward and keep you updated.

ACT 46

- Commissioner Cavacas asked: What does this mean for schools that have school choice?
 - It is not intended to have an adverse effect.
- Commissioner Cavacas asked: Studying consolidation and tax effect, do districts that have already consolidated get penalized? Is there anything in the works?
 - There is no tax advantage for not consolidating. There will be a penalty in regards to breaching the cap if the cap survives. We can expect that it will be implemented as written for FY 17.
- Chair Courcelle noted that the caps will be challenging for budgeting.

Facilities and Finance:

FACILITIES AND
FINANCE

Project Update - Superintendent Moran reviewed the facilities projects:

PROJECT
UPDATE

- The control system/air condition in the RHS Library is on its way to being rectified. Furniture is on its way. Books are going back on the shelves. End points of the shelving has been refinished by Stafford Technical Center.
- At Longfellow trim painting has been completed. The structure/brick work is ongoing. Power washing has been taking place and the northeast corner is being finished. Paving is scheduled and will take place shortly. The roof replacement was not included in the project due to the high cost. Replacement of slate/repairs will take place as needed.
- At the Intermediate School control work is being tweaked. Thank you for your patience.

- Grounds work is ongoing. There is a lot of busing for fall activities and athletics. The climbing wall at RHS will be repaired/replaced in the next three weeks. Great job with all facility work.

**PROJECT
UPDATE (CONT.)**

Motion by Fagan/Cavacas to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed sections of the Personnel Memorandum No. 523 dated, September 4, 2015 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO NO. 523
DATED 9/4/15**

Superintendent Moran reviewed Personnel Memorandum No. 523. Questions/Comments:

- Commissioner Thomas asked: How are stipends decided?
 - A complicated scale based on number students, meetings, travel, gender equity, age equity and visibility was worked out years ago.
- Commissioner Wideawake asked about the open positions included on the memorandum.
 - Positions have been posted and we hope to fill them soon.
- Commissioner Olewnik asked: What is Skills USA at Stafford Technical Center?
 - This is a competition for technical students. Scholarships can be won.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Committee Reports - None

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

Superintendent Moran noted that a Building Committee Meeting will be scheduled.

Assistant Superintendent Bliss noted that he and Commissioner Shimp will schedule a Policy Committee Meeting.

New Business - Commissioner Thomas asked about accessing an Athletics Schedule on the web site. Assistant Superintendent Bliss explained how to access a pdf file of the schedule on-line. Superintendent Moran advised to contact Taylor Kenyon in the Athletic Office for assistance.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Courcelle noted that we will be holding 2-3 Board Meetings at different locations. He encouraged Board Members to visit schools and asked for suggestions. We will probably hold a meeting in the new RHS Library in October. Commissioner Cavacas commented that it would be helpful to arrive at the meeting location early for a tour of the school.

Old Business – Chair Courcelle reviewed the Draft Board Meeting Schedule and asked for topics of interest to enrich the Board's knowledge. Please let Superintendent Moran or Chair Courcelle know if you have suggestions so it can be built into the schedule. Administrators were invited to suggest presentations.

OLD BUSINESS

- Commissioner Shimp suggested that Student Representative Wang have students participating in the CSPAN Project present.
- Commissioner Cavacas suggested a presentation on the Standards Based Report Cards effect for graduating seniors.

- Commissioner Olewnik suggested hearing from students in regards to personal learning plans and those pursuing flexible pathways.
- Commissioner Fagan suggested hearing an update on the class ranking system and the impact of Global Studies.

OLD BUSINESS
(CONT.)

Chair Courcelle noted that we have so many great things that they will have a hard time fitting it all on the schedule.

Motion by Fagan/Shimp to adjourn at 7:27 PM. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted
Betty Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
 FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
 DATE: September 4, 2015
 RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 523 dated September 4, 2015, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Family Medical Leave

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position/Location</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Katie Chapman | Special Educator/RHS | 1/4/16-2/12/16 |

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. 2015-2016 STC Advisor Stipends

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
|-------------------|--|----------------|
| Sue Densmore | FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America) | \$2,553.00 |
| John Bixby | .5 SkillsUSA | \$1,628.00 |
| Melissa Patterson | .5 SkillsUSA | \$1,272.00 |
| Judi Delpha | NVTHS | \$1,691.00 |

2. 2015-2016 Co-Curricular Advisors

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| RHS | | |
| Peter Miller | ADVANCED ORCHESTRA | \$1,544.52 |
| Darren Spafford | ART CLUB | \$720.72 |
| Fred Lower | ART CLUB | \$720.72 |
| Dan Graves | CHORAL FESTIVALS CLUB | \$2,450.46 |
| Kate Herlihy | CLUB GIVING | \$1,089.07 |
| Cathy Archer | DRAMA | \$3649 |
| Ron Eisenman | FORENSICS CLUB | \$1,455.86 |
| Elaine Beal | SOPHOMORE ADVISOR | \$467.13 |
| Amy Conn | SOPHOMORE ADVISOR | \$467.13 |
| Meaghan Apjohn | GMTI | \$1,868.51 |
| Open | GSA | \$1,119.57 |
| Dan Graves | MALESTROMS | \$1,374.69 |
| Brent Barnett | JAZZ BAND | \$1,468.12 |
| Alison Remy | SENIOR ADVISOR | \$867.52 |
| Deb Robinson | SENIOR ADVISOR | \$867.52 |
| Carolyn Ravenna | KEY CLUB | \$1,668.31 |
| Hilary Poremski-Beitzel | CREATIVE WRITING CLUB | \$1,134.14 |
| Taborri Bruhl | MODEL U.N. | \$727.92 |
| Ellada Siliski | MODEL U.N. | \$727.92 |
| Hunter Berryhill | NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY | \$667.33 |
| Brent Barnett | PEP BAND/FESTIVALS | \$1,455.86 |

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Fieh Chan | ROCK CLIMBING | \$562.59 |
| Michael Ellis | SCIENCE CLUB | \$533.86 |
| Jody Sabatano | SCIENCE CLUB | \$533.86 |
| Jen McLemore | JUNIOR ADVISOR | \$667.33 |
| Liz Filskov | JUNIOR ADVISOR | \$667.33 |
| Patricia Alonso | SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY | \$1,153.16 |
| Mary Haskell | STUDENT SENATE | \$1,153.16 |
| Deb Robinson | STUDENT SENATE | \$1,153.16 |
| Ron Lurvey | TECH DIRECTOR | \$3,649.00 |
| Jennifer Hart | TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY | \$1,334.65 |
| Jennifer Hart | UNPREDICTABLES | \$1,844.23 |

RMS

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Jim Sowards | RMS ADVANCED ORCHESTRA | \$795.42 |
| Carol Baker | RMS ADVANCED ORCHESTRA | \$795.42 |
| Deb Tobin | RMS ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES | \$667.33 |
| Karen Jabonaski | RMS ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES | \$667.33 |
| Sally Timmons | RMS ART CLUB | \$1,458.41 |
| Open | RMS DRAMA | \$772.30 |
| Nicole Kanehl | RMS INTRAMURALS | \$664.67 |
| Jon Wallett | RMS INTRAMURALS | \$1,329.30 |
| Kate McCord | RMS INTRAMURALS | \$664.67 |
| Carol Baker | RMS JAZZ LAB | \$1,371.25 |
| Josh Bunker | RMS MATHCOUNTS | \$1,134.45 |
| Laura Foley | RMS MEMORY BOOK | \$744.75 |
| Tegan Kirk-Elkin | RMS MEMORY BOOK | \$744.75 |
| Tom Chamberlain | RMS PEER MEDIATION | \$1,119.57 |
| David Cornwell | RMS ROCK CLIMBING | \$720.62 |
| Deb Robinson | RMS ROCK CLIMBING | \$612.62 |
| Sandy Celauro | RMS SPELLING BEE | \$544.54 |
| Marisa Astin | RMS SPELLING BEE | \$544.54 |

RIS

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Jim Sowards | RIS ADVANCED ORCHESTRA | \$1,590.85 |
| Debbie Dauphinais | RIS ART CLUB | \$1,641.46 |
| Jason Ballard | RIS CHESS CLUB | \$1,153.16 |
| Open | RIS COMMUNITY SERVICE | \$1,444.25 |
| Open | RIS COMMUNITY SERVICE | \$667.33 |
| Jessica Weber | RIS HANDBELLS | \$1,399.46 |
| Carol Baker | RIS JAZZ BAND | \$1,590.85 |
| Erika Politano | RIS STUDENT COUNCIL | \$636.35 |
| Melissa Solomon | RIS STUDENT COUNCIL | \$636.35 |