

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
November 24, 2015**

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Rob Kurchena
Daniel Alcorn
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Peter Fagan
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas
Christian Wideawake
Lydia Gulik
Nova Wang

Members Absent:

Hurley Cavacas
Joanne Pencak

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Patricia Aigner
Peter Amons
Kerry Coarse
Michael Derevjanik
Kristin Holsman-Francoeur
Ellie McGarry
Bill Olsen
Glenn Olson
Pam Reed
Steve Sampson
Greg Schillinger

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

**CALL TO
ORDER
ROLL CALL**

Motion by Cavacas/Fagan to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2015 regular school board meeting.

**MOTION:
MINUTES
11/10/2015**

There is a correction to the minutes: Commissioner Fagan's comments and questions relating to the RHS School Improvement Plan were inadvertently attributed to "Commissioner Forshay"

Motion to accept the minutes as amended passed unanimously by all in attendance.

Audience - None

**COMMUNICA-
TIONS**

Written Communications – None

Oral Communications - None

Performance Excellence Initiative/Progress – Chair Courcelle noted that there will be a working meeting on December 15, 2015. There will be more reporting out at subsequent meetings prior to January Retreat (January 26, 2016.)

**PEI
PROGRESS**

School/Program Update – Student Representative Gulik reported that students at Northwest Primary School have been participating in martial arts and yoga lessons, focusing on focus and relaxation, as part of the PAWS Program. Student Representative Wang reported that Abigail Wright (Stafford Technical Center STEM Program) and Jonah Farrow (Stafford Technical Center Public Safety Program) were nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The program was established in 1964 by the executive order of the President to honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing

**SCHOOL
PROGRAM
UPDATE**

arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. There were 27 students nominated from Vermont Tech centers this year, with 5 chosen to be Vermont's nominees for this national award. Abigail Wright, of Fair Haven, and Jonah Farrow, an MSJ student, were two of the five chosen to be Vermont's nominees for this national award.

SCHOOL
PROGRAM
UPDATE
(CONT.)

School Improvement Plans –Assistant Superintendent Bliss asked noted that, as a formality, we ask the Board to approve the School Improvement plans as presented at prior meetings. Chair Courcelle noted that Board Members should contact himself or Superintendent Moran with their preferences in regards to school liaison assignments.

SCHOOL
IMPROVE-
MENT
PLANS

Motion by Fagan/Shimp to approve the school-wide improvement plans as they were presented to the Board at previous meetings.

MOTION:
SCHOOL
IMPROVE-
MENT
PLANS

Motion passed unanimously by all in attendance.

Rutland High School Program of Studies - The current RHS Program of Studies was distributed to the Board by Superintendent Moran. Principal Olsen reviewed the process of developing the Program of Studies. Departments review course offerings which are aligned to the Action Plan, Global Studies, STEM, Common Core and Next Gen. New course offerings were reviewed.

RHS
PROGRAM
OF STUDIES

Commissioner Thomas asked: How does it work as far as getting credit to transfer to CCV?

It would be through the AP process, if it is accepted by the college. It would not transfer directly. There is also the dual enrollment option.

Commissioner Kurchena noted that he thinks the new AP Macroeconomics offering is a great idea, is glad to see it and it is relevant.

Commissioner Notte asked if any course offerings were deleted. Are there just additions?

Basically they are the same. Sometimes courses are popular and sometimes they're not. There may be courses that don't run because of the lack of students signing up for them.

Chair Courcelle inquired about prerequisites for taking math courses and opening up multiple courses.

The curriculum is integrated and the standards are mixed.

Central Office Report – Superintendent Moran thanked Cafe Services for holiday feasts at Northeast and Northwest. There was a turkey carving by Marty Irion that the kids really enjoyed. Kudos to Northwest for Stuff a Bus. Rutland Intermediate School held a successful Movie Night. The next Movie Night is scheduled for December 18, 2015. There will be a Craft Night (exchange and buy) at Rutland High School on December 3, 2015. Stafford Technical Center closed on the house on South Street (built by the Student Craft Corporation.)

CENTRAL
OFFICE
REPORT

There will be a Legislative Breakfast held in the Board Room on Monday, November 30, 2015 from 7:30 am - 9:00 am. All Board Members are welcome to come for all or part of the breakfast. Commissioner Fagan will be working. Superintendent Moran will report with updates.

SUPER-
INTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Moran was not able to attend the Act 46 Hearing. Major topic is use of caps. There are all kinds of points of view. There is a good amount of work being done in districts where making mergers are in process. All should speak with Legislators regarding cap issue.

**SUPER-
INTENDENT'S
REPORT
(CONT.)**

Facilities and Finance – Approval of Technology Purchases

**FACILITIES &
FINANCE**

Motion by Fagan/Thomas that the Board of School Commissioners accept the price quotation of \$138,070 from GovConnection for the purchase of 450 HP Chromebook 14 inch G4 computers.

**MOTION:
TECH.
PURCHASE**

Commissioner Fagan asked if these are replacements or augmentation.

They are mostly for replacement.

Commissioner Wideawake asked if this will get us closer to one to one.

Yes, closer.

Chair Courcelle asked: What is the general lifecycle of the computers?

3 years.

Commissioner Olewnik asked: Are the computers room based?

As much as possible, they are room based, but some are on carts and in labs.

The motion passed unanimously by all in attendance.

Motion by Fagan/Shimp that the Board of School Commissioners accept the price quotation of \$12,300 from CDW-G for the purchase of 12 Erdogan Charging Carts.

**MOTION:
TECH.
PURCHASE**

The motion passed unanimously by all in attendance.

Motion by Fagan/Shimp that the Board of School Commissioners accept the price quotation of \$25,534 from A&T Labs for the purchase of a 3D printer.

**MOTION:
TECH.
PURCHASE**

Commissioner Wideawake asked if this is any different than the printer in the Stafford Technical Center STEM Lab.

It is similar, but prints in color. Due to STEM needs a printer is needed at Rutland High School.

Motion passed unanimously by all in attendance.

Budget: Draft FY17 Budget Presentation – Peter Amons presented the framework of the budget and explained that we will be delving deeper into it over the next few meetings. Ellie McGarry and Assistant Superintendent Bliss are available for specific questions. Ideally the vote on the budget will be on January 12, 2015.

**FY' 17
BUDGET**

This is a draft budget and is eligible for change. Detail is included in the back of the book for reference. Page one is a summary. Board Members are welcome to meet individually with Peter if they have questions. It is unlikely to trigger caps. The State has not announced anything yet in regards to tax effects. The new Tapestry Grant for grades 7-12 does not affect the education fund or cost per pupil because it is funded through free Federal money. Job cuts are holding

percentages down. Special Education is down about \$500,000. Pre-K is an all new program and also has no effect on taxes.

We are deliberately trying to get the capital maintenance budget up to earlier levels. We are about two years away from getting back to this level. Superintendent Moran noted that decisions related to cuts are due to declining enrollment. We are preparing for class sizes and given the enrollment analysis, we are comfortable given the current student numbers. Class sizes will remain favorable.

Commissioner Olewnik asked if there is any indication of how retirements will offset the effect on people?

We have approached with a responsible and steady reduction. There was only one year not covered by attrition and both employees have now returned to us. We don't believe this will be the case this year, but won't know until January.

Ellie McGarry explained that Special Education Costs are down almost \$500,000. We are trying to get professionals working with students with special needs verses having paraeducators work with them. We are already down 14 (of the 19 listed) paraprofessionals this year, so we are only looking at cutting five more for next year. Special Educators co-teach and as there will be less classrooms to co-teach in next year that is the reason for those cuts. Our investigation supports that counseling social emotional needs early will pay off in all kinds of ways.

Commissioner Fagan asked about revenue loss.

56 percent of eligible reimbursement is revenue, which lowers the tap on ed. fund. It is a 2 to 1 tax impact.

Pre-K is an all new expense and all districts must participate for FY 17. The adjustments are estimates and are dependent on how many 3 and 4 years olds sign up and how many spaces we fill. We are working through Project Vision to get as many young families to access this program. For every child enrolled we will get a specific revenue/a net gain for every child. It is like adding another school to the District. The goal is to have a positive tax impact and educate more kids earlier and at little or no tax cost to the District.

Mr. Amons reviewed the headcount reductions (page 5) over past budgets. The 49 job cuts are not a head count over the six year period. The real number is 28 jobs or a headcount from 510 to 482.

Mr. Amons reviewed budget line items that include increases or decreases of more than \$50,000. (Page 6.)

Commissioner Notte asked if the Pre-K money gets counted as revenue.

It comes as a lump sum. We ask for \$722,000. We count more children. The Pre-K cost per child is \$7,800 and streams in bring the \$14,200 per pupil cost down. It's neutral. It doesn't hurt the tax rate or caps.

Commissioner Fagan explained the funding of retired teachers' health care was coming directly out of the fund, but a separate fund has now been established, freeing it from something that it was never meant to do. This was a huge structural problem, Statewide.

Commissioner Shimp asked: When does the energy performance balance out?

FY' 17
BUDGET
(CONT.)

18 years amortization.

What about pellet use?

We have a three year price lock and it is going as planned.

Commissioner Olewnik asked: How often do we need to recalibrate because of oil prices?

It's not instant, we have some engineering to go - it's not meant to switch back every week, but only once or twice per season.

Chair Courcelle noted that the Board will be revisiting the budget in more detail and stated that the public should remember that the budget increase is only 1.9 percent. The Board does not set the tax rate and it is out of our control. Taxes are determined by the Legislature. It is not the same as the municipal budget and it's important to understand.

Commissioner Fagan noted that the tax rate could be set as early as January or as late as April. We really don't know.

Superintendent Moran noted that the Longfellow Administration is happy to sit down to go over the budget with Board Member and individual citizens.

Motion by Fagan/Notte to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed sections of the Personnel Memorandum No. 527 dated, November 20, 2015 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #527

Superintendent Moran reviewed Personnel Memorandum No. 527.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Committee Reports – Commissioner Kurchena noted that the Staff Relations Committee had a first meeting with AFSCME and REA. Ground rules were established and meetings were scheduled. There is meeting scheduled for December 1, 2015 with the Administration Team.

COMMITTEE
REPORTS

New Business – Commissioner Fagan encouraged everyone to attend upcoming music performances in the schools.

NEW
BUSINESS

Old Business – Commissioner Shimp noted that she would like to have an update on how far we are from one to one. Superintendent Moran reminded Board Members to let her know their preference in regards to School Improvement Teams. Commissioner Alcorn has requested Northwest and Commissioner Notte has requested Rutland High School. The Stafford Budget ratification will be on December 8, 2015 and the Final Rutland High School Program of Studies will be distributed. FY 17 Budget Ratification is anticipated on January 12, 2015. The Stafford Technical Center Budget is included in the back of the book.

OLD
BUSINESS

Motion by Wideawake/Notte at 7:28 pm 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. Passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

The Board came out of executive session at 7:50 pm.

OUT OF
EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Motion by Fagan/Shimp to adjourn at 7:51 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted.

Betty Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
DATE: November 20, 2015
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 527 dated November 20, 2015, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION ~ None

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Coaching Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Bill Belmonte	Varsity Nordic Ski Coach	Winter Season