

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

February 9, 2016

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Rob Kurchena
Peter Fagan
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Joanne Pencak
Erin Shimp
Christian Wideawake
Student Representative Lydia Gulik
Student Representative Nova Wang

Members Absent:

Daniel Alcorn
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Kate Thomas

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Patricia Aigner
Peter Amons
Kerry Coarse
Melissa Connor
Michael Derevjanik
Kristin Holsman-Francoeur
Ellie McGarry
Bill Olsen
Pam Reed
Steve Sampson
Jay Slenker

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Courcelle noted the absence of Commissioners Alcorn, Cavacas and Thomas.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Fagan/Shimp to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2016 regular school board meeting as written. The minutes stand.

**MOTION:
MINUTES
1/26/16**

Performance Excellence Initiative/Progress – Chair Courcelle noted the summary of work done at the retreat. A good deal of work has been done over the past year, including the development of the vision statement and high level goals. There will be a meeting with the facilitator after the break to talk about the next steps. All comments from the retreat were reviewed and the pervasive theme of the comments was appreciation for the Board looking beyond test scores to determine success of the District.

PEI UPDATE

Student Representatives Report – Student Representative Gulick noted that a group of RHS students competed against Otter Valley in an academic bowl and won by 115 points. They will be competing at the next level against Fair Haven. Students and faculty members attended a GIN conference in Washington, DC. RHS will hold a pep rally for the arts. Murals have been painted in the Main Lobby and plaques have been taken down. Paintings reflect what Rutland is all about. Student Representative Wang noted that the Forensics Team had a great season. There will be a Global Studies and STEM Fair on March 16, 2016. This will give students an opportunity to present in front of teachers, parents and community members. Superintendent Moran welcomed Erica Wallstrom back from Antarctica and noted that all projects and fellowships are coming together.

STUDENT REPS' REPORT

Early Essential Education Report – Ellie McGarry introduced Kerry Coarse, Coordinator of Support Services for Birth - Age 3. Ms. Coarse reviewed the Early Essential Education Program which includes 3 EEE Classrooms at Pierpoint Early Learning Center (2 are run in conjunction with Head Start and one by RCPS that is taught by a EEE Teacher and a Special Educator) and an additional, fourth, classroom at Northeast Primary School that is run in conjunction with Head Start. Classes take place from 8:30 am - 1:00 pm, with extended hours on Fridays if required by students' plans. Breakfast, lunch and transportation is provided. Services by speech language pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists are also utilized. Both locations are licensed by the Child Development Division of the State Step Ahead Recognition System (STARS) and have 5 stars. Activities are tailored to meet individual needs. Eligibility is determined by a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed physician and a

EEE REPORT

delay in one or more of 5 areas. Enrollment varies based on how many children turn 3 in particular years. There is an outreach program. A special educator and a SLP go out into the community (VAC, Parent Child Center, Little Lambs, home day cares and the Meadow Street and Hickory Street Head Start locations.) The program is beneficial for meeting the needs of each family and staff are able to work with students prior to them entering kindergarten. For many families this is a first experience with the school system and an opportunity for setting a positive tone for a school/home relationship.

Assistant Superintendent Bliss provided an update on Act 166/the Universal PreK Act and efforts to maximize enrollment. There is a financial benefit as well as an opportunity to have more children arrive in kindergarten with basic social emotional and academic skills. Currently, there is a collaborative team with Project Vision. A small team is working to cultivate a trauma informed learning experience, meaning that it would benefit any student who had a rough start. Information has been distributed and sent home with every student, PreK - Grade 3. The response has been several phone calls requesting more information. Efforts are being made to reach out via media (PEGTV show with Peg Bolgioni of Building Bright Futures and a piece for the Rutland Herald.). Collaborations are being created across the community.

Commissioner Fagan asked: How do you see Prek and EEE working together?

Assistant Superintendent Bliss advised that the EEE/PreK interaction is inevitable. The challenge is that they are two different entities. We want to have a simple relationship. It's all about establishing positive relationships.

Commissioner Fagan asked: What is the purpose of the assessment of birth to age 3?

We don't do assessments. Children's Integrated Services or Physicians make referrals, most often right before a child's 3rd birthday. Children's Integrated Services reaches out to schools based on needs and where children live to help transition them to us. Head Start might request screenings.

Commissioner Shimp asked: How frequent is the outreach?

This is based on the individual child. Most often it is weekly or twice a week.

Commissioner Olewnik asked: Is EEE mostly based on referrals from pediatricians?

Most referrals are from the Parent Child Center, VAC and preschools in town.

Commissioner Olewnik asked: Is there a way to assess how effectively the program is serving the community? It seems challenging to find all the kids who need services.

We do a child find and most often people seek us out based on word of mouth. Over the years it is very rare that we don't identify a student. There may have been two students that we were unaware of over the past 10 years.

Superintendent Moran asked for the definition of a pre-qualified provider.

The State sets forth criteria and providers must apply to the State. It's out of the school district's hands. It is time and cost intensive. Having 5 stars is a big deal.

School Choice Limits – The Board is required to set inbound and outbound limits.

Motion by Kurchena/Shimp to accept the FY 17 School Choice numbers (40 inbound – 10 outbound.)

**MOTION:
ACCEPT
SCHOOL
CHOICE
LIMITS**

Discussion revolved around the application process and outbound limits. Superintendent Moran suggested we defer action until the next meeting and review the Statute (Title 16 VSA 21 & 822A.)

Motion by Kurchena/Shimp to accept the FY 17 School Choice numbers (40 inbound - 10 outbound.) withdrawn.

**MOTION:
WITHDRAWN**

Superintendent's Report/Legislative Report - Superintendent Moran noted that she has been emailing information from VSA and VSBA to the Board as it becomes available. One of the emails sent included a link to the Picus Report. Much discussion in Montpelier is being generated by the Picus Report. It is worth looking at the executive summary. Act 46 was adjusted last week. Caps were raised from 2 - 2.9% for FY 17 and eliminated for FY 18. The Rutland City Public Schools Budget was NOT built based on the caps, but was built in the same responsible way as always. Relating to the ADM bill, there has been discussion in the House regarding funding following the child and continuing conversation about possible Universal PreK adjustments. There is a Bill in the Senate regarding suspension and expulsion that could be problematic. The Secretary of Education has provided an explanation of why this is not wise public policy. There are 51 bills in the House alone that are relative to public education in Vermont.

**SUPER-
INTENDENT'S
/LEGISLATIVE
REPORT**

Commissioner Fagan noted that it is typical for about 15% of bills to make it through the process, so we might be looking at 7 - 8 instead of 51. The ADM Bill allows schools to count every individual student going to their school. Sending schools may send funding or the receiving school is allowed to count the total ADM. There are a lot of small school representatives on the Education Committee. He does not know if they will look favorably on this or not. Rebecca Holcomb is very pleased with what's going on with School Boards and Districts.

The Southwest Regional Superintendents met with legislators yesterday afternoon. It is hard for legislators to get away this time of year. There were good conversations. Thanks to those who attended and updates to those who could not attend were sent.

Budget Buddies Update - Peter Amons noted that though the election is March 1st, an early voting opportunity will be available around the middle of this month. There will be a voting booth at the City Clerk's Office and voters can vote at their leisure. Voter registration can now be done online and either a Driver's License or the last four digits of one's Social Security number are needed to register. Encourage people to register up until February 24, 2016. Budget information is on the School District's website, including FAQs, comparative information and the entire budget. A mailer will be sent out just before the elections including the new budget language, the sum of the budget and what we currently know about tax information - it will also be posted on the website. There will be a spot on PEGTV with Mary Moran, Dick Courcelle and Peter Amons and we hope to plan a radio show with Rob Bliss, Bill Olsen and Ken Hayes. If you can display a lawn sign in a prominent place, contact a union employee. They are coordinating the display and distribution of lawn signs. There will be signs on buses and a reminder to vote telethon on February 25th and 29th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Callers are needed. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the principal at the school from where you would like to call.

**BUDGET
BUDDIES
UPDATE**

Motion: Shimp/Fagan to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum #531 dated February 5, 2016, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #531**

Superintendent Moran reviewed Personnel Memorandum #531.

**PERSONNEL
CONT.**

Motion passed unanimously by all in attendance.

Policy Committee Report – Commissioner Shimp advised that the Committee met the other day, joined by a parent and student, to discuss experience regarding fragrances and clean air. The committee doesn't feel they need to establish a policy regarding this issue, but will update the handbook. They are looking at combining 3 separate policies on hazing, harassment and bullying and hope to have this ready for a first reading at the next meeting. A policy regarding video surveillance and a policy updating and creating proficiency based graduation are also in the works.

**POLICY
COMMITTEE**

There will be a Building Committee meeting scheduled after vacation.

**BUILDING
COMMITTEE**

New Business – None

Old Business – None

Motion by Fagan/Notte at 7:20 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 8:25 pm.

Motion by Notte/Fagan - It was moved that the Chairman issue a letter to the REA indicating that the decision of the Board was to acknowledge that the language in the contract is not clear so evaluations of nurses should not be mandatory but cooperative and that the new contract have a provision that clearly addresses that nurses, like all employees, have to be evaluated regularly.

**MOTION: REA
LETTER**

Motion passed unanimously by all in attendance.

Motion by Olewnik/Notte to adjourn at 8:28 pm. Passed.

**MOTION:
ADJOURN**

Respectfully submitted
Betty Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
DATE: February 5, 2016
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 531 dated **February 5, 2016**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
William J. Comstock	Jazz & Contemporary Music/STC	6/30/16

2. Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-Rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Grace-Anne Canfield	RN/RMS & RIS	\$8,066.92	4/4/16

3. Family Medical Leave

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Nicole Adams	Physical Education/RIS	5/28/16-8/26/16