

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

November 29, 2016

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Rob Kurchena
Peter Fagan
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Joanne Pencak
Christian Widewake
Student Representative Nova Wang
Student Representative Connor Solimano

Members Absent:

Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Erin Shimp

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Peter Amons
Patricia Aigner
Fieh Chan
Michael Derevjanik
Susanne Engels
Ellie McGarry
Bill Olsen
Glenn Olsen
Loren Pepe
Pam Reed
Steve Sampson
Greg Schillinger
Brian Shaw, Jr.

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 Shimp.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

Motion by Fagan/Widewake to accept the minutes of the November 8, 2016 regular school board meeting as written. Minutes stand.

**MOTION:
MINUTES
11/08/2016**

Communications - Written – Commissioner Kurchena read Commissioner Alcorn’s resignation from the Board. Chair Courcelle noted the reason for Commissioner Alcorn’s resignation (will be employed by RCPS as a coach) and the noted the process for mayoral nomination for Board Member replacement per the City Charter.

**COMMUNICA
-TIONS**

Oral – Chair Courcelle presented Mr. Brian Shaw, a Vietnam Veteran, with his Rutland High School Diploma. Mr. Shaw attended Rutland High School, but did not graduate with his class. He recently earned his high school diploma through the Vermont Adult Learning Program and has received several honors, including: the American Legion, Post 31 Commanders Award for Service and induction into the National Adult Honor Society. He is an avid hunter, who also assists a disabled friend so that he may continue to be an active hunter. He continues to be very active in the American Legion, Post 31 in Rutland. Mr. Shaw spoke briefly about earning his diploma in a non-traditional way and read an inspirational expression, about attitude called: *I Am Your Master* – Author Unknown.

Performance Excellence Initiative – No report at this time.

PEI UPDATE

School Program Update: Student Representatives’ Report – Winter sports began on Monday. The Freshman Class took a fieldtrip to downtown to look at environmentally friendly architecture. The Encore Talent Show will be held on December 15, 2016. There will be a Student Senate Blood Drive on December 2, 2016. RIS has finished the first trimester and report cards will be mailed home on Friday. RIS PTC Craft Night will take place on December 2, 2016. There will be a RISE presentation at RMS. RHS musical groups toured RMS, RIS, Barstow and Rutland Town Schools. Orchestra and Chorus concert will be on December 5, 2016 and Band concert on December 14, 2016. Chamber Singers visited UMASS Amherst. Twenty-three of our students took part in the District Music Festival. Ms. Cassel and 3 students took part in an Amnesty Conference. The RHS Food Drive provided 500 items and 20 turkey to the Community Cupboard. Student Representative Wang spoke about his experience with the

**SCHOOL
PROGRAM
UPDATE**

National Youth Symphony Orchestra in Grapevine, Texas. It was a 4 day event, culminating with a concert. He will have a DVD copy of the concert for viewing soon.

**SCHOOL
PROGRAM
UPDATE
(CONT.)**

School Improvement Plans – Motion Fagan/Wideawake to approve the school-wide improvement plans as they were presented to the Board at previous meetings.

**MOTION:
SCHOOL
IMPROVE-
MENT PLAN**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Assistant Superintendent Bliss noted that tomorrow is the last day of “Movember.” For details go to movemberfoundation.org.

RHS Program of Studies – RHS Principal, Bill Olsen and Associate Principal, Greg Schillinger presented the substantive changes to the 2017-2018 Program of Studies. The four math courses proposed come on the heels of integrated revision. These courses will be available to students after they have taken Integrated Math 1 - 4 and will be offered in addition to AP Calculus and Statistics. They are math opportunities for students not going on to the honors level.

**RHS
PROGRAM
OF STUDIES**

Central Office Reports: Superintendent – Superintendent Moran noted the Howe Center Newsletter and read a thank you note for participation in Stuff a Bus and the RHS Food Drive. These events provided a total of \$15,500 pounds of food and \$6,000 in cash and gift cards. Congratulations to Student Representative Solimano who is one of six finalists for the United States Senate Youth Program - win or lose, this is a great recognition.

**CENTRAL
OFFICE –
SUPERIN-
TENDENT**

Facilities and Finance – Draft FY 18 Budget – Chief Financial Officer, Peter Amons distributed an additional page (account code key) to the Board to add to the DRAFT FY 18 Budget and provided an overview of the 82 page detailed document, highlighting: the proposed 2.9% increase, projected health insurance costs, major changes and headcount. A questions was asked about what happens when retirees turn 65 (they are not required to go into Medicare, but are advised to take Part A/Hospitalization. There is no beneficial/financial effect on the District. Discussion revolved around the proposed/perspective need for an additional ELL Teacher for FY 18, certification status (certified to teach ELL) of current staff and financial effect of English Language Learners. This is not Special Education (not reimbursable) but ELLs are weighted in the Equalized Pupil formula and has a beneficial effect on local taxes. It doesn't get us more cash. Enrollment and Special Education needs, DMC study recommendations in regards to staffing and financial affect were noted. Budget increases/decreases of more than \$50,000 were reviewed. Peter Amons will get information for the Board related to sustainability/carbon footprint of wood pellet/fuel use. The increase in retirement sick leave buy outs was discussed. The increase is due to the anticipation of two long time AFSCME employees retiring. They are paid out at their actual earning rate. AFSCME is the only unit with this benefit. Other units are paid at a rate of 25 – 40%. There is no short term disability. If anyone would like to go over the budget in more detail, please feel free to come in and meet with Peter, Mary or Michael.

**FACILITIES
& FINANCE –
FY18
BUDGET**

Personnel - Motion by Fagan/Wideawake to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 546 dated November 22, 2016, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #546**

Personnel Memorandum No. 546 was reviewed by Superintendent Moran.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Committee Reports – Staff Relations Committee Report – Commissioner Kurchena noted that the committee met on November 22, 2016 to plan the process and is planning to meet with bargaining units. The committee is scheduled to meet with the REA on January 12, 2017.

**COMMITTEE
REPORT –
STAFF
RELATIONS**

New Business – none

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Old Business – none

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Motion by Fagan/Kurchena at 7:32 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.

**MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:00 pm.

**OUT OF
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Olewnik/Notte to adjourn at 8:01 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Betty Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
DATE: November 22, 2016
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 546 dated November 22, 2016, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION ~ None

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Lisa Cotrupi	Paraeducator/NW/ASC	12/09/16

2. Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Robert Hutchins	Paraeducator/STC	\$18,193.50	TBD

3. Coaching Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Stipend</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Jacob Pluta	Asst. Snowboarding Coach	\$900.00	Winter