

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

April 11, 2017

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Michael Blow
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Kam Johnston
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Joanne Pencak (6:32 pm)
Erin Shimp
Christian Widewake

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Peter Amons
Patricia Aigner
Nicole Carter
Melissa Connor
Michael Derevjanik
Peter Fagan
Deb Hathaway
Kristin Hubert
Ellie McGarry
Bill Olsen
Loren Pepe
Pam Reed
Steve Sampson
Greg Schillinger

Members Absent:

Rob Kurchena
Dena Goldberg
Student Representative Nova Wang
Student Representative Connor Solimano

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Courcelle noted the absence of Commissioners Kurchena, Goldberg and Pencak. Student Representatives both have a tennis match.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Cavacas/Notte to accept the minutes of the March 28, 2017 regular school board meeting with one correction: Next PEI report will be April 25, 2017 (not April 15, 2017.)

**MOTION:
MINUTES
3/28/2017**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Communications – Peter Fagan was recognized for his 13 years of service as School Board Commissioner and presented with a lamp. Peter thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve.

**COMMUNICA
-TIONS**

Deb Hathaway was recognized as the 2017-2018 incoming Rutland Middle School Principal.

Performance Excellence Initiative – No report. Next report April 25, 2017.

PEI REPORT

School Program Update: Both Student Representatives are participating in a tennis match tonight, but provided a report which was presented by Superintendent Moran. RIS completed two sessions of SBAC Testing and held a Spring Dance sponsored by the PTO. RMS will be having a student talent show. There will be a student art show at the Chaffee. SBAC and NECAP Testing for juniors is taking place at RHS. Spring sports have begun. Wednesday a Parade of Champions was held. Congratulations to Ryan French who participated in the All Eastern Music Festival in New Jersey. Congratulations to the Moot Court Team who finished first overall. The Prosecution Team also finished first and Victoria Quint was named Best Prosecutor.

**SCHOOL
PROGRAM
UPDATE**

RMS/RHS Allen Street Campus Report – Superintendent Moran introduced Ellie McGarry, Director of Support Services and Nicole Carter, Director at Allen Street Campus. Mrs. McGarry provided a history of Allen Street Campus. Allen Street Campus provides services for students who have a history of trauma or mental illness. Ninety percent of the students receive special education services. The K-12 program currently serves students at three locations: K-2 at Northwest, 3-6 at RIS and 7-12 at Allen Street Campus. All locations are managed by Mrs. Carter. When the program began other districts tuitioned students to the Allen Street Program.

**RMS/RHS
ALLEN
STREET
CAMPUS
REPORT**

Currently, due to our own increased needs and increased needs in other districts, other districts are developing their own programs. The program currently has 4 tuition students. The process for student placement was reviewed. By law, students must be placed in the least restrictive environment. Documentation is needed to show that every effort has been made to keep the student in a general education classroom. Parental involvement is also required. Mrs. Carter reviewed supports and services and what a typical days looks like at each location. Students are engaged in gardening, theme based projects, culinary and career modules. They have access to flexible support in the community and to wellness activities. Discussion revolved around differences between Allen Street Campus and Howe Center Campus. Allen Street is a therapeutic/special education or other special placement. Howe Center has an application process and is an alternative high school setting. Access to co-curricular and extracurricular activities for Allen Street students. They do have access. Transition to regular classroom was reviewed (this in individualized.) Tuition students and capacity were discussed. Therapeutic approach and addressing trauma were reviewed.

RMS/RHS
ALLEN
STREET
CAMPUS
REPORT
(CONT.)

Literacy Report – Assistant Superintendent Bliss presented the Literacy Report, noting that literacy is a “gigantic topic in education” and his goal was to “give an overview of how we approach, assess and what we do when kids struggle.” He noted that literacy instruction and learning are a journey (shared vision through the PEI process.) Literacy accomplishments are set up in terms of standards and proficiencies for all students. The goal is for all students to meet standards. An example from the Common Core State Standards and gap closing were reviewed. Tracking gains, reviewing growth and intervention measures for all levels were reviewed. Discussion revolved around what we do for those students meeting proficiency “early on.” All students receive instruction to increase skills. Lexile scores/ranges were discussed. Questions regarding cursive writing were addressed. It was noted that we do not run a cursive writing program. Media literacy and what is being done to teach students to evaluate what they are reading was discussed. How intervention is implemented and how concepts are integrated were reviewed.

LITERACY
REPORT

Central Office Reports: Superintendent – Superintendent Moran distributed information from the Vermont School Boards Association to Board Members. Seminars and workshops are not required, but please contact Superintendent Moran if interested.

CENTRAL
OFFICE
REPORT

Legislative Report – Two comprehensive report were sent to the Board via email. Discussion regarding PreK and Human Services continues. There is much discussion about Act 46 occurring that really doesn’t apply to us. There is some discussion regarding the role of the State Board of Education. Discussion revolved around the potential of the State assigning consolidation and if we have been approached by other districts. We had been approached in the past. Districts have gone other directions. Rutland South is now Mill River Unified School District. Rutland Central continues to work with other districts. We are always open to collaborate and listen.

LEGISLA-
TIVE
REPORT

Facilities and Finance – Audit Report – Chief Financial Officer, Peter Amons reviewed the general audit and the A133 Report. The A133 is required for all districts who receive more than \$750,000 in Federal Grants. There is a clean opinion for both the audit and the A133. Mr. Amons advised that he would be concerned if the State were to change education funding mechanisms to rely on the local property tax base. Financial statements and pensions were noted.

FACILITIES &
FINANCE

Personnel - Motion by Cavacas/Shimp to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 553 dated March 24, 2017, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #553

Personnel Memorandum No. 553 was reviewed by Superintendent Moran and is attached.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**PERSONNEL
(CONT.)**

A question was asked: How many positions are still open? – We are in a good position. We are still looking to fill the following: psychologist, mathematics and BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst – filling this position will provide cost savings.)

Committee Reports – Policy Committee – Commissioner Shimp offered Policy #7698 (Child Nutrition and Wellness Policy) for first reading. Copies of both the current policy and revised policy were provided.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS –
POLICY**

Motion by approval Cavacas/Notte to accept Policy #7698 for first reading.

**MOTION:
POLICY #7698
FIRST
READING**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

New Business – Building security was discussed. All schools except for the Stratton Road complex have buzz in systems. Staff must wear identification and guests must sign in and receive identification badges in school officers. Concerns are addressed in collaboration with Officer Greene and the police department.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Old Business – Committee Assignments were noted.

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Motion by Cavacas/Notte at 7:48 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 8:35 pm.

**OUT OF
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Notte/Shimp to adjourn at 8:36 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted
Betty Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
DATE: April 7, 2017
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 553 dated April 7, 2017, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Allison Griffiths	Music/RIS & RMS	\$38,615.00	8/25/17
Kelly Teufel	School Psychologist/District	\$44,241.81	8/18/17

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Retirement/Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
William Greeno	Maintenance Worker/District	6/2/17
Alyssa Hartwell	Paraeducator/RHS	6/30/17

2. Spring Coaching Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Dan Alcorn	Middle School Softball	\$1,468.15
Ben Burton	Middle School Boys' Lacrosse	\$1,263.18
Akhnaton "Paco" Sanchez	JV Girls' Tennis	\$2,268.91
Mark Trepanier	7 th Grade Baseball	\$2,268.91