

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 24, 2012**

**School Board Members Present:**

Peter Mello  
Christopher Book  
Wayne Cooke  
Richard Courtelle  
Peter Fagan  
Collin Fingon  
Erin Shimp  
Kate Thomas (6:50 pm)  
Rob Towle  
Caroline Corsones

**Member Absent**

Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Jamie Pemrick

**Also Present:**

Superintendent Mary Moran  
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss  
Wil Cunningham  
Lyle Jepson  
Bill Olsen  
Peter Amons  
Jay Slenker  
Ellie McGarry  
Patricia Aigner  
Kristen Hubert  
Susanne Engels  
Jessica Henderson  
Steve Sampson  
Pam Reed

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

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Motion by Towle / Cooke to accept the minutes of the Jan. 10, 2012 regular school board meeting with the correction on page three, paragraph four: the "Success tuition rate has been \$20,000 for at least seven years" (not \$25,000). Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

MOTION:  
MINUTES  
01/10/12  
MEETING

Written Communication - Commissioner Courcelle read a letter to the Board from Commissioner Book resigning from the Board, effective March 12, 2012. Ms. Moran said Mr. Book has been an exemplary school board member and he will be missed.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

BOARD RESIGNATION

Oral Communication - None

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Community Outreach - Ms. Moran said the Board has approved the budget and it is now time to prepare outreach to the community. She distributed a "Frequently Asked Budget Questions" sheet which will be given out around the community, in the schools, and put on the website. There will be a mailer to voters. In past years, Budget Buddies has met at neighborhood meetings and a phone bank has been used. She asked for Board input for what to do this year. Mr. Mello said the goal is to inform the public. Ms. Moran said there will also be a show on PEG-TV showing the history of the budget and tax structure. Ms. Moran invited board members to work the phone bank.

EDUCATION REPORT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Motion by Cooke / Towle to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 456 dated Jan. 20, 2012, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL MEMO

MOTION:  
PERSONNEL  
MEMO #456

The appointments and retirements were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

Business Report - None

Announcements

- Ms. Moran said we have welcomed our new neighbor across the street, CCV. We have established a good relationship with the operations manager.
- At Northeast School on Jan. 20, more than 200 parents and children attended the annual mid-winter film night featuring the production of "The Smurfs". On January 23 as part of the PBIS Monthly Celebrations, students visited the Spartan Arena for skating. It was coordinated by the school's PBIS team and generously underwritten by their PTC. Groups of students skated for one hour. Joining them for assistance and encouragement were members of the Rutland High Schools Boys and Girls Hockey teams. On January 25, second graders will be visiting the Paramount Theater for a live performance of "Are You My Mother?"
- Toshiba America Foundation awarded Northwest School a grant of \$805 to be used to buy materials for an inquiry based science and math unit titled: Learning Through Recovery: Erosion and Irene. Second grade students in Phoebe Guevin, Jackie White, and Rynne Spaulding's classes will be looking at historical weather data to compare rainfall in this year's hurricane with rainfall in past years' storms. Northwest students had a school-wide celebration last week in recognition for positive behaviors and filling the "STAR" jar! Each grade level had a small dance-party with popcorn! Thank you to Mike Coppinger. Kindergarten and first grade students travel to the Paramount Theater on Wednesday to see "Are You My Mother?"
- RIS hosted a movie night on January 13 enjoying Mr. Popper's Penguins. RIS will have their second PBIS assembly this Friday in celebration of all of the schools hard work around positive behaviors. Grocery Bingo will be held on February 2.
- On February 2 Rutland Middle School will present the first in a series of presentations about adolescents. The topic is: Navigating the Transition from Childhood to Adolescence or "*Where did the sweet and loving child I once knew go?*" The presenter that evening will be Ms. Susie Girard in, a highly respected middle school consultant.
- At RHS, the NHS held their bowl-a-thon and raised about \$2800 to help the following organizations: United Way Irene Relief fund, the local humane society and the adaptive ski program. The RHS Music Department will present its annual "Night of Jazz" on January 26. This concert features the RHS Jazz Ensemble as well as the jazz bands from Rutland Town School. Two Rutland High students have been selected as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. Congratulations to Kathleen Candon and Marie Schwalbe.
- STC Road Show rehearsal are this week. They visit all the area high schools to talk about programs.
- Winter sports teams are doing well and showing talent and excellent sportsmanship.

Legislative Report - Ms. Moran reviewed some of the education items moving through the legislature:

- If the Commissioner should be appointed by the Governor as a Secretary or by the State Board of Education.

- Senator Mullin's suggestion that there be 16 supervisory districts in the state.
- Revision of Act 153, the Voluntary Merger Bill.
- Discussion of changing how the education property tax is figured.
- Discussion of the state collecting property tax rather than locally.
- Discussion about dual enrollment and having money follow the child.
- Discussion about public high school choice for all students.
- A bill looking at 7th and 8th grade public school choice.
- A bill to make the agency fee mandatory.
- Mandatory CPR training as a graduation requirement.

Commissioner Fagan added there is a proposal to establish a fund to help clean up the water statewide which would add pennies to the education property tax to fund it. He said the cross-over date is Feb. 2 from the House to the Senate and vice versa and the money bill cross-over date is Feb. 9. If any bills are not moving by those dates, they are dead.

COMM. REPORTS

Building Committee:

BUILDING COMM.

Watkins - Commissioner Cooke said Watkins is buttoned up for the winter. Regarding the offer from the Housing Trust, they are in agreement with language changes we asked for. The offer is for \$100,000 which remains firm. The timeline has been pushed back; we are probably looking at the summer before it comes to fruition. A purchase and sales agreement is being developed as well as a draft resolution for the Board to move forward and at the City level. Mr. Mello has communicated the intent with the Alderman Chair.

WATKINS / DANA BUILDINGS

Dana - Mr. Cooke said it is also winterized with minimal occupancy. The City Recreation Department is using one area for storage. The building committee thought it be a good idea after town meeting to meet with neighbors to hear what they are thinking. This will be scheduled for sometime in March.

Mr. Cooke said we have been notified that we can no longer get hardware for the district telephone system and the vendor no longer offers support software. The system dates back to 1994. The administration is doing research and will bring in a technical and fiscal plan in the spring.

Mr. Cooke said the committee began discussion about a reserve fund process. This would be a small amount set aside each year as a "rainy day fund" which would be used for larger projects, such as a roof. He said perhaps some proceeds from Dana or Watkins can start that type of fund.

PENSION COMM.

Commissioner Fingon said the Pension Committee meets next week and he asked all committee members to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

New Business

Mr. Fagan said he is reading the Picus Report, the Vermont Legislative Report which evaluates the school formula funding, and recommended using some of that data to inform discussion in the future. He also suggested having a presentation at a Board meeting, perhaps at the end of the school year, on Starbase and their new curriculum piece about robotics. Mr. Fagan asked for a future discussion on how we can leverage

AGENDA TOPIC RECOMMENDATIONS

CCV and Ms. Moran said there could be an educational agenda item in the future on the Preparation for College course they offer.

**STUDENT  
REPORT**

Student Report - Caroline Corsones said there was an 8th grade open house recently. Clubs and activities set up booths and talked to students about what they do. She said the Gay-Straight Alliance is conducting a no-name calling campaign to discourage bullying.

**OLD  
BUSINESS**

Old Business

Tapestry Director and Northeast Principle Search Schedule - Ms. Moran said search committees have been formed and timelines developed. Approximately 25 applications for the principle and about 20 for Tapestry have been received to date. They close next week.

**TAPESTRY  
DIRECTOR  
AND  
NORTHEAST  
PRINCIPLE  
SEARCH  
SCHEDULE**

Motion by Towle/ Fagan at 7:13 pm, after a recess, 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. Unanimously passed by those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:20 pm.

**PUBLIC  
SESSION**

Motion by Book / Cooke to adjourn at 8:21 pm. Passed.

**ADJOURN**

Respectfully submitted

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Janet Mondlak  
Recording Secretary