

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 27, 2012**

**School Board Members Present:**

Peter Mello  
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Wayne Cooke  
Richard Courcelle  
Peter Fagan  
Jamie Pemrick  
Erin Shimp  
Kate Thomas  
Rob Towle

**Member Absent**

Collin Fingon  
Caroline Corsones

**Also Present:**

Superintendent Mary Moran  
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss  
Wil Cunningham  
Lyle Jepson  
Bill Olsen  
Steve Sampson  
Jay Slenker  
Ellie McGarry  
Susanne Engels  
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 Fingon and Student Representative Caroline Corsones.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Motion by Towle / Cooke to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2012 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
MINUTES  
03/13/12  
MEETING**

Written & Oral Communication - None

**WRITTEN &  
ORAL  
COMMUN-  
ICATION**

Reorganization - Swearing in Elected Member - The following Board member took the oath of office: Dick Courcelle for a Three Year Term.

**REORGAN-  
IZATION**

Mr. Mello said the election of Board Clerk was improperly taken at the last meeting since Commissioner Courcelle had not yet been sworn in.

**MOTION:  
ELECT  
BOARD  
CLERK**

Election of Board Clerk - Motion by Towle / Cooke to nominate Dick Courcelle for the position of Board Clerk for one year. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**APPOINT-  
MENT FOR  
VACANT  
SEAT**

Ms. Moran said she has spoken with Mayor Louras and Douglas Gage about Gage's possible appointment to the vacant Board seat. If appointed, his first meeting will April 7.

**EDUCATION  
REPORT**

Howe Center Campus Report - Ms. Holt, the lead teacher at the Howe Center Campus, said she and teachers Mr. Moran and Ms. McLemore are going to reflect on the current status of program, where it is going, and how they are going to get there. The alternative education program is designed for students who need another way to be successful. They are in their 23rd year have graduated more than 400 students. They want to continue to be a viable option for students and the staff continues to look for ways to meet student needs. This year the staff has focused on using PLCs to support students in the alternative learning environment and to take students as far as they can with their learning. Each week the staff focuses on three students and their learning.

**HOWE  
CENTER  
CAMPUS  
REPORT**

Mr. Moran highlighted some of the course work he is doing with the students including lifetime sports and career education. He is working on personal fitness including adventure based learning, which helps with trust issues. They will be adding a job shadowing component to the career education program. Ms. McLemore said the staff is in the second year of a professional development direction and she reviewed the work they are doing, conferences and workshops attended and their work with the Common Core. Teachers said there are 40 students in the program, maximum enrollment. Besides meeting with the teachers, students meet with other providers and organizations: community service, VSAC counselor, home school coordinator, they go to main campus and STC to take classes, VocRehab, Rutland Area Prevention Coalition counselors, and a paraprofessional. All schedules are individualized. Mr. Mello asked Mr. Moran, who had been a traditional high school teacher, about his transition to this program. Mr. Moran said he feels he can make more meaningful connections with students in this program. Teachers said it is important for the students to have many different experiences. Students do a lot of work in the community, which gives them a chance to present a different face in the community and make connections. Ms. Moran said many of Howe Center Campus students go to college or trade school. A video of students talking about their experiences was shown.

Mr. Moran said working with these students had given him an appreciation for the social bonding theory. The smaller class sizes and individualized education plans give more meaning to students and make a big difference for them. He said Rutland is lucky to provide so many options to its students. Board members complimented the program and staff for providing these different kinds of approaches and efforts.

Vermont Senior Survey - Part II Actual Activities after High School - Mr. Sampson said the survey is written by Vermont Student Assistance Corp. (VSAC), whose primary objective is to work with students and young adults to help prepare them for their post-high school years. VSAC compiles the results of the survey. These results are from the class of 2010. The survey was given when students are about to graduate and then a follow up one year later. This class had 58% responding one year later. Mr. Olsen reviewed the statistics and results, which provide data on how the students perceive their experience at RHS and how the perception met the reality.

Mr. Olsen said they are looking at the results and feel this information is important to be able to look beyond the students as numbers. How are the students doing when they get into the real world? This data is part of the school's whole package. Many students stated that finances are a real concern when they make decisions on what they want to do after high school. The number of students who chose the military is about twice the state rate. Also, the number of students entering Science, Math, Technology and Engineering fields is high, 33%. He said 90% of the students felt RHS prepared them. Mr. Sampson said he thinks the percentage of students who needed remedial math or English in college is much less than the national average. There were questions and comments from Board members about some of the data. Commissioner Courcelle commented on the statistic indicating that "we are training our children to live and work somewhere else." He said Rutland had a 71% response rate compared to 58% statewide. He said we continue to do things in the state that drive away students who might live here. We are training them but they are not staying here. Commissioner Cooke said with the cost of college, students need to find employment which will sustain

them. Unfortunately that is a challenge in Vermont with significant loans. Commissioner Towle said he was surprised that no students said they are in apprenticeship programs. Mr. Sampson said perhaps students did not associate what they are doing as apprenticeships. Many students in plumbing and electrical programs may not relate those apprenticeships with this type of question. Mr. Towle said the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) is trying to get some apprenticeships going. Mr. Sampson said he thinks the economy is keeping the WIB from developing more direct apprenticeships at this time. Ms. Moran said some apprenticeships require additional education before entering into a program. We provide opportunities through STC Adult Education and Continuing Education.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Courcelle / Fagan to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 460 dated March 23, 2012, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION:  
PERSONNEL  
MEMO #460

The appointments and resignations were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached. Ms. Moran thanked the people who served on the screening committees for the Administrative Appointments.

Motion passed with one no vote.

Business Report - None

BUSINESS  
REPORT

#### Announcements

- Northwest School has Math Superhero Night this Thursday partnering with the Heritage Family Credit Union. April 5 is spring picture day for all K-2 students. The spring fundraiser is underway with Great American Opportunities. All proceeds go to NW enrichment and STAR student events.
- At Northeast, this Thursday, first graders will continue their study of Vermont with a trip to Sugar & Spice to learn more about maple sugaring! On April 4, over 20 "High School Buddies" will be joining a number of classes at Northeast to complete craft activities. On April 5, the annual Science Night for students will involve a series of simple experiments staffed by eight teachers and one Principal, coordinated by Summer Stoutes.
- RIS will celebrate the school's increased school attendance and improved tardies this Friday as the Positive Behaviors, Interventions and Supports (PBIS) train roles into Sweet Treat station. The entire school will celebrate with an ice cream party. Congratulations to all RIS students on improving their daily attendance this year. The RIS PTC hosted a used book sale, coffee house and snack sale during Parent Teacher Conferences. Everyone had a great time and the PTC raised over \$1,000 for RIS students and classrooms.
- Congratulations to RMS eighth grader Gabby Lazzaro. Gabby is a member of a local Odyssey of the Mind Team that recently won second place in a regional competition. As a result the team is eligible to participate in the World Finals in Iowa in May. Additional congratulations to the following RMS students who recently had their literary works published in the Rutland Herald as part of the Young Writers Project: Keisha McCoy, Anya Smiechowski, Savannah Maroun and Deanna Terounzo.
- Stafford Technical Center Board News: On March 17, Cheryl Niedzwiecki,

SUPERIN-  
PENDENT'S  
REPORT

ANNOUNCE-  
MENTS

Hospitality & Entrepreneurship Instructor for STC, was the recipient of the Leavey Award for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education. Ms. Niedzwiecki was one of 15 educators in the United States to receive this prestigious award and the only educator from New England to be recognized. The award honors outstanding elementary, middle, high school and college teachers who inspire students to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the free enterprise system. These educators act as role models for others to teach students to create value for society through innovative and sustainable ways. The award also included \$7500 that Ms. Niedzwiecki will use to purchase equipment for her program.

**ANNOUNCE-  
MENTS, cont.**

Legislative Report - Mr. Fagan and Ms. Moran updated the Board on pending legislation of interest to Education. Ms. Moran said there has been good work in the area of special education and she will ask Ms. McGarry to report for the next meeting.

**LEGISLA-  
TIVE  
REPORT**

Committee Reports - None. Ms. Moran said there will be items coming from the Building Committee, which is meeting later this week.

**COMM.  
REPORTS**

New & Old Business - None

**NEW &  
OLD  
BUSINESS**

Motion by Courcelle/ Thomas at 7:34 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and 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 8:15 pm.

**PUBLIC  
SESSION**

Motion by Thomas / Fagan to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Passed.

**ADJOURN.**

Respectfully submitted

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Janet Mondlak  
Recording Secretary