

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 12, 2014**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Daniel Alcorn
Richard Courcelle
Peter Fagan
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas
Christian Wideawake
Brendan Wright

Members Absent

Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Rob Kurchena
Lydia Gulick

Also Present

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
John Rice
Bill Olsen
Peter Amons
Kristen Francoeur
Glenn Olson
Ted Guilmette
Sharon Napolitano

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

Written and Oral Communications - None

Motion by Fagan / Shimp to accept the minutes of the Oct. 28, 2014 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Performance Excellent Work / Progress - Mr. Mello said the committee met this week and reviewed more than 1000 vision comments. Every school was represented as well as community members and the RHS Student Senate. Comments were all read and filtered. More comments are coming from schools and community groups. After the holidays, the group will get together again.

Student Representative Report - Brendan Wright said he and Lydia have started talking with students in other schools about the PEI and are making plans to meet with other schools. Winter sports start next week. Many classes and teams are doing fundraisers. Two teachers and four students are going to a Global Issues Network Conference in Lima, Peru. The main focus is to discuss climate change. Students are creating a phone app -- a carpool app for students -- and will be presenting it at the conference.

RMS School Improvement Plan - Ms. Francoeur said the RMS goals came out of the Green Mountain Star Plan. They are continuing with the same goals this year because of the transition with a new administrative team and new initiatives. These were reviewed by Ms. Francoeur and Ms. Napolitano. They talked about the school-wide out-loud reading of the book *Wonder* to all students in the school, throughout the year.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

WRITTEN & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

MOTION: MINUTES 10/28/14 MEETING

PERFORMANCE EXCELLENT WORK / PROGRESS

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

RMS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- Commissioner Fagan said he thinks the work being done around social and emotional programs is excellent. Ms. Francoeur said by middle school, students have more freedoms in the home, community and school, and staff is working on helping students deal with that. Mr. Fagan said we knew this was a need but it has not been addressed head-on. He said he also likes the work on data and action.
- Commissioner Courcelle said the goal of family engagement is very important. He believes technology can help with this. The Infinite Campus app is very helpful. Ms. Francoeur said this continues to be addressed.
- Commissioner Thomas said she went to the Rowland Conference and learned about student-run conferences. Ms. Francoeur said RMS has one a year and she updated changes which will engage students even more.
- Commissioner Olewnik said students have different perspectives on bullying and it is good to address it. Ms. Francoeur said the reading of *Wonder* has been helpful with the discussion.
- Commissioner Notte asked about realigning with Common Core and changes in math curriculum. She asked about resources for students who are ahead. Ms. Francoeur explained the changes, specifically in math. RMS has been looking at differentiation of instruction and at content being consistent, with assessments being different.
- Brendan Wright said the work being done at RMS is very appealing to him as a student. He said he still enjoys being read to.
- Mr. Mello said both Ms. Francoeur and Ms. Napolitano are new in their roles. He likes that they looked at important data in math and in social / emotional. It is very real for the students and staff. He asked about progress monitoring. Ms. Francoeur explained some of the ways they monitor progress and their responses.
- Ms. Notte asked about teaming and why students are not being separated. Why are some students not being taught at a higher level? Ms. Francoeur explained the looping system and the method for determining teams. She said everything is taken into account and there is input from many staff members. Right now, the teams are very similar and at most, within one day of each other in all curriculum.
- Are the improvement plans submitted to the state? Mr. Bliss said a similar plan. All schools in the state have a school improvement coordinator. The coordinator helps us align financial grants with school improvement plans.
- Mr. Courcelle said as part of the PEI, when we present these plans in the fall, the Board should be looking at: "how did we do" and "what did we learn".

Superintendent - Ms. Moran staff from Senators Sanders office visited our schools today learning more about what we are doing. She updated on various legislative breakfasts in the area. The Summit on the Future of Education in Vermont is convening next week and she will be attending. Commissioner Shimp attended the VSA / VSBA Annual Meeting and she said a lot of what is being discussed tonight was discussed there. She said a lot of what we are doing was validated by what she heard there.

Contingency - Cafeteria Tables - Mr. Rice said there have been safety issues with the cafeteria pocket tables at the elementary schools and there have been incidences of malfunctioning tables and some falling out of the walls. They are about 25 years old. He feels we have done what we can with them and feels they should be replaced. The situation exists at both Northwest and Northeast but Northeast is worse. Replacement tables for Northeast will cost \$45,000. He had initially budgeted the money for 2016 for both schools but now proposes to buy the Northeast tables from contingency and to buy Northwest tables from the 2016 budget.

FACILITIES
AND
FINANCE

CONTIN-
GENCY

Motion by Fagan / Thomas that the Board of School Commissioners approves charging the contingency account \$45,000 for the replacement of cafeteria pocket tables at Northeast School.

MOTION:
PURCHASE
NE SCHOOL
CAFETERIA
TABLES
FROM
CONTIN-
GENCY

Ms. Notte expressed concern with spending one-fifth of the total contingency budget this early in the year. Mr. Amons said we are almost at the half-way mark and he is not concerned. This has become a safety issue. Ms. Shimp said we did a lot of energy efficiency work and so some of the issues which might otherwise have gone to contingency have been addressed. There was discussion about the tables at the other schools. Commissioner Wideawake said he was at Northeast School this past week and saw how there are ratchet straps holding down the tables. It is a safety issue.

Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Mr. Rice said while recently addressing the air conditioning unit at RHS, it was discovered that a heating duct does not work. The heating duct was exposed when removing the old air conditioning unit. We had thought there were other issues with the heating unit but now we know the unit is failed. The appropriate time to replace it is now, when the air conditioning unit is being replaced. The cost is \$13,826.

MOTION:
PURCHASE
AND
INSTALL
HEATING
UNIT FOR
RHS FROM
CONTIN-
GENCY

Motion by Courcelle / Fagan that the Board of School Commissioners approves charging the contingency account \$13,826 for purchase and installation of the new Reznor Outdoor Duct Furnace for Rutland High School, from Alliance Mechanical, Essex Jct, VT.

Mr. Rice said that was the part of the RHS building that was added on to. It is a supplementary heating system installed separate from the rest of the building.

Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Mr. Amons said the contingency balance is \$164,000.

NETWORK
IMPROVE-
MENTS AND
COMPU-
TERS
NEEDED
FOR SBAC
TESTING

Mr. Amons presented information about SBAC testing and the need for more computers and an improved network. This will be discussed at a future meeting. Ms. Moran said Mr. Bliss worked hard to acquire Title funds for the computers but we will have to do network improvements.

CAPITAL
PLANS

Budget - Capital Plans - Will be discussed at a future meeting.

STC Budget Presentation - Mr. Olson reviewed the Stafford Technical Center budget building process and the approvals needed before it comes back to this Board for final approval on December 9. Mr. Guilmette said the proposal includes a tuition increase of 1.9% from last year. He highlighted the changes which are based on programming and enrollment changes. Mr. Mello said the objective for the Board tonight is to understand the process and budget. Mr. Wideawake is the Board representative to STC and has been a part of the process. Mr. Guilmette said maximum capacity at STC is 285 students and there are now 240. Some programs are not full. There was discussion about the evaluation process for cutting and expanding offerings and about the status of the Home Building program. They are building a home this year and there is one more lot available.

**STC
BUDGET
PRESENTA-
TION**

Personnel

Motion by Courcelle / Shimp to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 509 dated Nov. 7, 2014, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #509**

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

Ms. Notte asked about the hiring of two snowboarding coaches as she believed the program was cut due to lack of participation. Mr. Bliss said the girls' program was cut because there were only two girls. There are many boys. There was discussion about the possibility of the girls training with the boys. Ms. Moran will get the necessary information and will respond.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**COMM.
REPORTS**

Committee Reports - none

**NEW
BUSINESS:
FUTURE
AGENDA
TOPIC
REQUEST**

New Business - Mr. Fagan asked for bullying to be a future agenda item early next year.

Old Business - None

**MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Shimp / Fagan at 7:54 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, the premature release of information regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Unanimously passed by those in attendance.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:10 pm.

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

RB, an employee, had requested a confidential meeting with the Board to consider action taken by the Superintendent. The Board agreed to meet with RB in Executive Session to hear his request. After RB's presentation of his position in Executive Session, as well as presentation of other relevant information, the Board held private discussions to consider the information within the Executive Session.

**EMPLOYEE
UPDATE**

Motion by Fagan / Shimp that the actions of the Superintendent were supported, unanimously, by the Board and the relief requested by the RB is denied. Unanimous vote.

MOTION:
UPHOLD
ACTIONS
OF THE
SUPERIN-
TENDENT

Motion by Wideawake / Olewnik to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent

DATE: November 7, 2014

RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 509 dated **November 7, 2014**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Winter Sports Appointments:

WINTER COACHES		
MIKE WOOD	BOYS BASKETBALL HEAD COACH	\$5,708.08
JACK ROGERS	JV BOYS BASKETBALL	\$4,165.35
TYLER GILBERT	F BOYS BAKSETBALL	\$2,332.43
NATE TRAYNOR	MS BOYS BASKETBALL	\$2,606.84
NATHAN BELLOMO	GIRLS BASKETBALL HEAD COACH	\$5,223.69
DICK WRIGHT	F GIRLS BASKETBALL	\$4,113.40
BILL GREENO	JV GIRLS BASKETBALL	\$4,828.78
NICOLE KANEHL	MS GIRLS BASKETBALL	\$1,935.24
KATE LABELLE	MS GIRLS BASKETBALL	\$1,935.24
TYLER WEIDEMAN	ALPINE HEAD COACH	\$5,380.25
DAWN ADAMS	ALPINE ASST	\$3,343.92
MARTY MAHER	NORDIC COACH	\$4,380.86
FORREST BAKER	SNOWBOARD COACH	\$1,617.62
JESSI TRAVERS	SNOWBOARD COACH	\$2,426.43
CARA GAUVIN	WINTER CHEER HEAD COACH	\$4,044.03
AMANDA PAGANO	WINTER CHEER JV	\$2,606.84
SABRINA KINSMAN	MS WINTER CHEER	\$2,400.08
MIKE AUDETTE	INDOOR TRACK HEAD COACH	\$3,926.21
TIM POCKETTE	INDOOR TRACK	\$2,682.41
JERRY GORRUSO	INDOOR TRACK	\$2,845.73
CHRIS CREED	BOYS HOCKEY HEAD COACH	\$5,542.09
CHRIS ADAMS	BOYS HOCKEY ASST	\$3,403.36
DIRK STEUPERT	GIRLS HOCKEY HEAD COACH	\$6,055.68
EMILY REYNOLDS	GIRLS HOCKEY ASST	\$3,603.60

2. Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Eric Maguire	Paraeducator/ ASC	11/7/14