

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 10, 2015**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Daniel Alcorn
Peter Fagan
Rob Kurchena
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas (7:12 pm)
Christian Wideawake
Brendan Wright

Members Absent

Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Richard Courcelle
Lydia Gulick

Also Present

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Ted Guilmette
Jessica Henderson
Greg Schillinger
Sharon Napolitano
Peter Amons

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

Motion by Kurchena / Notte to accept the minutes of the Jan. 13, 2015 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Written and Oral Communications - None

Performance Excellence Initiative (PEI) / Progress - Mr. Mello reviewed the initiative and the process for developing a vision for Rutland City Schools. The committee has put together a draft of the end result and Mr. Mello reviewed it. He anticipates having a final version at the next Board meeting.

Student Representatives - Brendan Wright announced his college plans for next year. He gave an update on things happening at RHS. STEM students have been working on independent study projects and research presentations. There will be a Global Issues Network Conference on April 2. There will be a Global Studies STEM Fair on March 18. He reviewed examples of STEM Capstone presentations. Juniors will be preparing for the SBAC test in April. The National Honor Society implemented a tutor program to assist teachers helping students during flex block. The Student Senate will be doing a voter drive. RHS held a successful blood drive last month, recognized by the Red Cross with a plaque. There will be another on March 26. Brendan noted exceptional student honors in Cross-Country Skiing and in Debate. RHS was acknowledged for their work regarding their work against bullying and the After School App. The Governor acknowledged the school, as did Senator Leahy, which put RHS in the Congressional Record. Commissioner Olewnik asked Brendan for student feedback after taking the SBAC test, perhaps via a Student Senate survey.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

ROLL CALL

**MOTION:
MINUTES
01-13-15**

**WRITTEN &
ORAL
COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

**PERFOR-
MANCE
EXCELLENCE
INITIATIVE**

**STUDENT
REPRESENT-
TIVES**

Superintendent Moran said the legislature has been busy and information is sent regularly to Board members. There is a lot going on regarding education governance and finance. Mr. Fagan said he feels we are lucky to have Rebecca Holcombe. He touched on two points which affect the education budget: ghost students and small school grants. There was a brief discussion about these. Ms. Moran said these are complicated issues as are others, such as the corrections department high school program. Ms. Moran said emailing legislators is an effective way to let them know what people are thinking.

School Choice - Mr. Mello said this action is required per State Statute.

**SCHOOL
CHOICE**

Motion by Fagan / Olewnik that the Rutland High School allow up to ten students to leave RHS for another high school and for RHS to receive up to 40 students under the State School Choice law.

**MOTION: RHS
SCHOOL
CHOICE
ALLOW-
ANCES**

Ms. Moran said we have six outbound and 23 inbound students currently. The money does not follow the student.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Facilities and Finance

**FACILITIES &
FINANCE**

A. Paving Bid - Mr. Amons said three companies were solicited, one bid was received.

Motion by Fagan / Notte for the Board of School Commissioners to award the bid for paving of the parking lots and entrance drives at Rutland Intermediate and Rutland Middle Schools to Wilk Paving of Rutland, VT for a total base bid amount of \$95,460.

**MOTION:
PAVING BID
AT RIS &
RMS.**

Mr. Amons said Mr. Rice believes that because the job was so big, only one bidder was interested. He said Mr. Rice felt the bid amount was in the realm of what he thought it would cost.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

B. RIS Ventilation and Electrical Bid - Mr. Amons said this is part of the deferred maintenance bond approved last year. He explained the nature of the improvements and said the goal will be for the work to be done in the summer.

**MOTION: RIS
VENTILA-
TION &
ELECTICAL
BID**

Motion by Fagan / Notte for the Board of School Commissioners to accept the bid of \$1,149,753.74 from Wright Construction for ventilation, electrical, and miscellaneous upgrades at Rutland Intermediate School.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

C. Wireless Points for Network Bid - Mr. Amons said this is the part of the \$70,000 project. There are other expenses but this one expense exceeds the \$15,000 level that needs Board approval.

**MOTION:
NETWORK
WIRELESS
POINTS BID**

Motion by Fagan / Kurchena for the Board of School Commissioners to accept the bid of \$37,442.50 from Summit Technology for 70 additional wireless points for the network.

**MOTION:
NETWORK
WIRELESS
POINTS BID,
cont.**

There was discussion about the work and the cost. Mr. Amons said this work advances the long term technology plans. The cost difference is from the contingency fund. Ms. Moran said the SBAC challenge has been enormous.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**FINANCIAL
MANAGE-
MENT
QUESTION-
NAIRE**

D. Financial Management Questionnaire - Mr. Amons said the legislature passed a law requiring that school districts annually review financial management and internal controls procedures and make the review available to school boards. Mr. Amons has to submit it to the Superintendent, who has to submit it to the School Board Chair who has to submit it to the School Board. He said there is nothing alarming in the report. There was discussion on the business office controls and Mr. Amons explained the duties of different individuals. Two people touch every transaction. Commissioner Fagan asked about the signature stamp and Mr. Amons explained the procedure. The city clerk is the school treasurer. There are many controls in place before a check is issued.

E. Budget Tax Impact Report

**BUDGET TAX
IMPACT
REPORT**

The actual tax rate - Mr. Amons said the tax rate is up 13.5 cents but the budget is up only 2.7%. He said the budget increase is unremarkable. He reviewed some of the other factors such as decrease in revenues, decrease in projections for sending school tuitions, an increase in the state's base tax rate, an increase in the Common Level of Appraisal. To lower the tax rate by one penny would cut \$200,000 from the budget.

The affect of taxes on a typical house -- Mr. Amons said the average house in Rutland City is assessed at \$150,000. This budget will add \$203 a year in taxes for homeowners who do not receive income sensitivity. More than 70% of Rutland taxpayers receive some income sensitivity.

F. Budget Buddies Update - Ms. Notte said they met and talked about the budget and "getting the vote out." There was discussion about some of the key financial considerations that would inform the Budget Buddies. Ms. Notte talked about some of the outreach and other Board members were encouraged to help. The deadline for registering to vote and be eligible to vote in the March 3 election is Feb. 25.

**BUDGET
BUDDIES
UPDATE**

Personnel

Motion by Thomas / Fagan to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 512 dated Feb. 6, 2015, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #512**

The appointment, retirements, and leaves of absence were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Building Committee - Commissioner Shimp said the committee reviewed:

- Pellet boilers are installed with oil back-up.
- RIS and RMS heating system issues have been rectified.
- HVAC at RMS is in progress.
- RIS and RMS - summer plans
- No damage so far due to weather this season.
- A \$20,000 grant was awarded for Longfellow for brick restoration, painting, slate roof, wood - Historic Preservation.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS

BUILDING
COMMITTEE**

STC - Commissioner Wideawake attended the Advisory Board meeting. They talked about standards based grading and challenges being consistent with all the schools. They saw a presentation made by students on recruiting students to the school. There will be an open house at STC on March 5.

**STAFFORD
TECHNICAL
CENTER**

New Business:

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Member to Member Agreement request - Mr. Fagan said Ms. Moran and Mr. Mello are in receipt of a request from MSJ for a member to member agreement regarding a student interested in playing women's hockey next season.

Motion by Fagan / Kurchena to assign the request from MSJ to the Policy Committee for review and to be brought back to the full Board at their next meeting.

**MOTION:
ASSIGN
REQUEST
FOR A
MEMBER TO
MEMBER
AGREEMENT
TO POLICY
COMMITTEE**

Ms. Moran said the Policy will not be meeting before the next Board meeting.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Ms. Moran distributed copies of the book Wonder for Board members for a group reading assignment.

**BOARD
READING
ASSIGNMENT**

Ms. Moran announced Commissioner Alcorn returned a school library book, due May 15, 1991!

**RETURNED
LIBRARY
BOOK**

Mr. Kurchena said many quality educators are on the retirement list this year.

Old Business - Mr. Fagan asked when the discussion on bullying would be on the Board agenda and Ms. Moran said it is scheduled for March.

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Motion by Fagan / Thomas at 7:45 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.

**FUTURE
AGENDA
ITEMS**

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:30 pm.

**MOTION:
BOARD TO
ENTER
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Wideawake / Notte to adjourn at 8:31 pm. Passed.

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
 FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
 DATE: February 6, 2015
 RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 512 dated February 6, 2015, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Retirements

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Kathleen Cater	Speech Language Pathologist/NW	6/30/15
Thomas Chamberlain	School Counselor/RMS	6/30/15
Terri Currier	Elementary/NW	6/30/15
Laura Foley	English/RHS	6/30/15
Ted Guilmette	Director/STC	6/30/15
Andrea McQuade	Special Educator/RIS	6/30/15
Beth Nason	Elementary/NW	6/30/15
Kathy Riley	School Counselor/NE	6/30/15
Joanne Trucker	Science/RMS	6/30/15
Ann Wilson	Elementary/RIS	6/30/15

2. Leave of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Caroline Dimotsis	Elementary/RIS	4/10/15-6/5/15

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Elizabeth Quincy	Paraeducator/RIS	\$9,798.81	1/28/15

2. Leave of Absence

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jennifer Gilhooly	Paraeducator/PPLC	3/2/15-4/13/15