

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

January 9, 2018

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Rob Kurchena
Michael Blow
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Dena Goldberg
Kam Johnston
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnick
Erin Shimp
Christian Wideawake
Student Representative Connor Solimano
Student Representative Isabella Gides

Members Absent:

Joanne Pencak

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Chief Financial Officer Peter Amons
Patricia Aigner
Kerry Coarse
Melissa Connor
Michael Derevjanik
Cathy Farman
Deb Hathaway
Ellie McGarry
Bill Olsen
Steve Sampson
Greg Schillinger

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Courcelle noted the absence of Commissioner Pencak.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Cavacas/Shimp to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2017 regular school board meeting as written. Minutes stand.

MOTION: MINUTES 12/12/17

Communications – None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Performance Excellence Initiative – No report.

PEI REPORT

School Program Update: Students Representatives – Rutland High School Final/Mid-term Exams have been pushed back one day due to the school cancellation last week. No school on Monday, Martin Luther King Day. An open house, for 8th graders, will be held at Rutland High School on Thursday at 6:00 pm. The Raider Way Assembly was held at Rutland Intermediate School before winter break. The Martin Luther King Assembly will be held on Friday. There are fundraiser in progress at Rutland High School (sales of t-shirts and reusable water bottles.) Student Representative Solimano has been selected for the United States Senate Youth Program. Connor will attend a week long program in Washington and receive a \$10,000 scholarship. A New Neighbors potluck dinner will be held at Rutland High School on January 24, 2018.

SCHOOL PROGRAM UPDATE

School Choice Limits – No action is needed. There are no changes to our procedures. We are following statute. Typically the School Choice Report would be presented at this time. The presentation will take place at a future meeting to allow additional time for the report to be generated. Kristi Firliet (who prepares the School Choice Report) and the Business Office Staff have been impacted with an increased work load due to the health care plan transition. They have done a great job working through this transition.

SCHOOL CHOICE LIMITS

Central Office Reports: Superintendent/Legislative – The Legislature has reconvened. The Governor gave his State of the State Address last week. The Board was sent a digital copy of the first Legislative Report. We are watching for implications of Act 166, Special Education, healthcare, education funding and marijuana legalization. We will be keeping track of the Bills as they come forward. Discussion revolved around costs implications for early education and special education.

SUPERINTENDENT/LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Facilities and Finance – FY19 Rutland City Public Schools Budget Ratification – A final budget summary was distributed and reviewed by Peter Amons. It was noted that school districts do not set the tax rate, but budgets do affect rates and it is a goal of the State to educate voters on equalized cost per pupil which is used to compare all school districts to one another. Discussion revolved around nonresidential rates, revenue projections and the tap on the education fund.

**FACILITIES &
FINANCE – FY19
BUDGET
RATIFICATION**

Motion by Johnston/Notte to reduce the contingency fund to \$100,000.

**MOTION:
REDUCE
CONTINGENCY**

Discussion included means for public feedback, State prescribed language for the ballot, concerns of underfunding contingency, costs of bonding, fiscal responsibility, effect on tax rates and need to expand the tax base.

Motion failed.

Motion by Cavacas/Notte to accept the FY19 Rutland City Public Schools Operations Budget in the amount of \$52,635,059.

**MOTION: FY19
BUDGET
RATIFICATION**

Motion carried.

Peter Amons reviewed the procedure for announcing tuition rates. School districts must announce rates by January 15th. It was noted that Otter Valley's rate is listed incorrectly on the distributed memo.

**FY19 TUITION
RATES**

Motion by Cavacas/ Wideawake Tuition Rates – as presented (Secondary - \$14,850, Elementary - \$10,100 and Special Education - \$40,000.)

**MOTION: FY19
TUITION RATES**

There was discussion regarding elementary tuition students (this is rare), sufficiency of special education tuition to cover actual costs and the difficulty of estimating per pupil costs of the Allen Street Program. The three percent window for tuition was also discussed as well as potential of the State imposing more restrictions and cost factors.

Motion carried.

Michael Derevjanik recommended accepting the bid from Sandri Energy to supply our wood pellet needs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

WOOD PELLETS

Motion by Cavacas/Notte that the Board of School Commissioners accept the bid of \$237.00 per ton for the purchase of wood pellets from Sandri Energy as needed for the balance of fiscal 2018.

**MOTION:
WOOD PELLETS**

Discussion followed regarding costs of fuel oil and wood pellets, bidding for the entire year (the switch from fuel oil was not anticipated this year, we will do this for next fiscal year), pellets meeting industry standards (low ash and low sulfur content) and prior service provided by Sandri.

Motion by Johnston to amend to accept bid from Lyme Green Heat. No second.

It was commented that Sandri Energy was the second lowest bid.

Original motion carried.

Michael Derevjanik reported on the initial installation of underground heating pipes at the Rutland High School/Stafford Technical Center complex and the current state of repaired leak. He recommended contracting with Vermont Mechanical to temporarily fix the leak.

**HEATING PIPES
RHS**

Motion by Cavacas/Shimp that the Board of School Commissioners approve charging the contingency fund up to \$60,000 for Vermont Mechanical to reroute heating pipes at Rutland High School.

**MOTION:
CONTINGENCY**

Discussion revolved around other options, length of the temporary fix, request for detailed reports, estimated cost for a permanent fix, and the Board's role in emergency projects.

Motion carried.

Personnel - Motion by Cavacas/Notte to approve the Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 567 dated January 4, 2018, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #567**

Personnel Memorandum No. 567 was reviewed by Superintendent Moran and is attached.

Motion carried.

Motion by Kurchena/Cavacas to ratify the Agreement Between the Board of School Commissioners of the City of Rutland and the Rutland Education Association, effective July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021.

**MOTION: REA
CONTRACT
RATIFICATION**

Discussion revolved around typos in the contract (p. 13, Article 9.8), increases related to cost of living and rationale for bringing and retaining highly qualified individuals to the District and the contract being negotiated and agreed upon. There have been no major changes between the two parties since the last executive session. There has been some reduction in benefits related to 403B.

Motion carried.

Motion by Kurchena/Johnston to ratify the Agreement between the Board of School Commissioners of the City of Rutland and The Rutland Education Association – Educational Support Professionals, July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2021.

**MOTION: REA –
ESP CONTRACT
RATIFICATION**

There have been no changes since the last executive session.

Motion carried.

Superintendent Search Update – The Screening Committee met yesterday. Candidates were selected and will be notified for interviews this week. First Round interviews will take place January 22-23, 2018 (both in person and via Skype.) A planning meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2018. Second round interviews are scheduled for February 26-27, 2018.

**SUPERINTEN-
DENT SEARCH
UPDATE**

Committee Reports – None

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

New Business – Bill Olsen provided an update on the Rutland High School partnership with Gymnasium Grafing, Grafing, Germany.

NEW BUSINESS

A question was posed regarding the appropriateness of bringing policy suggestions to the Policy Committee. This is appropriate.

Old Business – none.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Notte/Shimp at 7:54 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.

**MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:35 pm.

**OUT OF
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Cavacas/Shimp to adjourn at 8:36 pm. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted
Betty Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Mary E. Moran, Superintendent
DATE: January 4, 2018
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 567 dated **January 4, 2018**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Stefanie DeSimone	Art Teacher/RHS	\$19,606.53	1/16/18

2. Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Christina Bachmann	Science Teacher/RMS	6/30/18

3. Family Medical Leave

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Ashley Brua	SLP/NW	4/1/18-8/23/18

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Margaret Etori	Guest Teacher Coordinator/District Wide	1/2/18