

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS**

December 11, 2018

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Rob Kurchena
Michael Blow
Dena Goldberg
Kam Johnston (6:38 pm)
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Joanne Pencak (6:38 pm)
Charlene Seward (6:47 pm)
Erin Shimp

Members Absent

Hurley Cavacas
Isabella Gides, Student Representative
Haley Lassen, Student Representative

Also Present:

Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
CFO Peter Amons
Kerry Coarse
Melissa Connor
Susanne Engels
Cathy Farman
Jessica Henderson
Ellie McGarry
Peter McKenney
Sharon Napolitano
Bill Olsen
Glenn Olson
Pam Reed
Steve Sampson
Greg Schillinger
Jay Slenker

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

It was noted that all Commissioners are in attendance except for Commissioners Cavacas, Johnston (6:38 pm), Pencak (6:38 pm) and Seward (6:47 pm.)

Motion by Shimp/Notte to accept the minutes of the November 27, 2018 regular school board meeting as written. Minutes stand.

**MINUTES:
11/27/18**

Communications – Clerk Kurchena read Ellie McGarry’s letter of retirement.

**COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

School Program Update – Student Representatives – None.

**SCHOOL
PROGRAM
UPDATE**

Central Office Reports – Superintendent – Assistant Superintendent Bliss noted budget presentations on the agenda.

**CENTRAL
OFFICE**

Facilities and Finance – Stafford Technical Center Budget Ratification

Motion by Shimp/Notte to accept the FY19 Vermont State Equipment Grant in Support of equipment purchases at Stafford Technical Center in the amount of \$27,647.05

**MOTION: STC
VT EQUIP-
MENT GRANT**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Motion by Shimp/Blow to accept the Federal Carl D. Perkins grant for FY20 for use in support of the operation of Stafford Technical Center with an anticipated award amount of \$284,547.

**MOTION:
PERKINS’
GRANT**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Motion by Shimp/Notte to accept the FY20 Stafford Technical Center budget as presented with the total expenditures of \$5,390,087 resulting in a total tuition of \$16,651.

**MOTION: STC
BUDGET**

Commissioner Notte noted that the Stafford Technical Center budget is set by the Regional Advisory Board, but is included in the RCPS budget.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Peter Amons reviewed the break-even point for fuel use verses wood pellets and the bids received for wood pellets.

Motion by Shimp/Kurchena that the Board of School Commissioners accept the price quotation of \$239.99 per ton for wood pellets from Sandri Energy of Greenfield, MA and Rutland, VT.

MOTION:
WOOD
PELLETS

There was discussion regarding the ability to switch back to fuel if there is a sudden drop in fuel prices.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Budget: FY20 Presentation – Peter Amons reviewed changes to the budget since the last presentation to the Board and distributed updated pages for budget books. Version 2 is up 5.2 percent. This is down from 6.1 percent included in Version 1. The cuts in Version 2 are mostly due to cuts in special education expenses, including: not replacing a special educator at RIS, not buying an accessible van and adding 9 fewer paraeducators (13 instead of 22.) Version 3 will be presented at January 8, 2019 meeting. Some amount of positions will be reduced.

FY20 BUDGET

Special Education Budget/Program Presentation – Ellie McGarry presented current data regarding special education numbers and eligibility categories. She explained the role of paraeducators and types of services/supports needed for students to be successful as they related to specific disability categories. She noted enrollment and supports for Federally Mandated Section 504 students. Responsibilities of special educators were reviewed. Increased student needs, effects of trauma, student behavior/reactions to trauma and increased autism numbers were presented. The role of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) were noted and cost comparison for in house BCBA's versus contracting these services was provided. Cost comparisons for in district Autism Classrooms (6-8 students per classroom at NE, RIS and RHS) and specialized classrooms at NE, NW, RIS, RMS, RHS and Allen Street versus day program or residential placements were provided. Work with community agencies to wrap services for children and families was noted. Discussion revolved around: number of students on IEPs (year to year), implementation of MTSS and District Management Council recommendations, increase in significant needs and challenging behaviors of students at the primary/kindergarten level, Section 504 (differences between 504 Plan and IEP), change in the role of paraeducators (supporting behavior, physical, medical needs – no longer providing direct instruction), Interventionists' role, State and National percentages, Co-teaching, new students with intensive needs moving in district, small groups utilization instead of 1:1, Rutland Mental Health services, consistency and cost containment. It is important to note that, regardless of the model, the requests for paraeducators would be the same. A request to compare the role of special educators and paraeducators was brought forward. There was discussion regarding the use of Rutland Mental Health Counselors: cost and wrap around services (24/7 care.) It was noted that care must be taken when talking about students and needs. Turnover and level of non-attendance of paraeducators was discussed. Paraeducators work a school year calendar. The same guest teacher list for teachers and paraeducators is utilized to cover nonattendance. Part-time versus full time hiring of paraeducators was brought up. Ms. McGarry noted that hiring part-time paraeducators would be challenging.

SPEL BUDGET

Budget Deliberations – President Courcelle noted the opportunity to provide more feedback to administration regarding budget and the unsettling demographic indicators in the State. Discussion included: declining enrollment with increases in student eligibility for special education services, school budget impact on tax rate, special education reimbursement, revenue forecasting, increased teacher pay to bring it closer to the Rutland County average, attracting families, attracting talent, pressures on tax payers, tax base, teacher training (related to trend of IEPs) and insulating the Longfellow building (economics didn't pan out from last energy audit.) Commissioner Johnston requested to reduce the Board's supply budget and thanked the Administration for each version of the budget presented. Version 3 of the budget will be presented on January 8, 2018. Ballot language and timeline were noted. Commissioners who would like more information or clarification regarding the budget are encouraged to meet with Peter, Rob or Adam prior to January 8, 2018.

**BUDGET
DELIBERA-
TIONS**

Personnel - Motion by Goldberg/Kurchena to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed sections of the Personnel Memorandum No. 586 dated December 7, 2018, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #586**

Personnel Memo No. 586 was reviewed by Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss and is attached.

Motion carried with one abstention (Johnston.)

Committee Reports – None.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

New Business – None.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Old Business – None.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Olewnik/Notte to adjourn at 7:38 pm.

**MOTION:
ADJOURN**

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty A. Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Adam Taylor, Superintendent
DATE: December 7, 2018
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 586 dated **December 7, 2018**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Eloise S. McGarry	Director of Support Services/District	6/30/19

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Oshen-Keli Beayon	Paraeducator/NW	\$12,297.74	12/3/18
Heather Butler	Paraeducator/RIS	\$13,970.46	12/10/18
Sabrina Stone	Paraeducator/RIS	\$13,292.37	11/30/18

Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
James Kalb	Paraeducator/RMS	11/9/18