

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
February 26, 2019

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Rob Kurchena
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Dena Goldberg
Kam Johnston
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Joanne Pencak
Charlene Seward
Erin Shimp
Isabella Gides, Student Representative
Haley Lassen, Student Representative

Members Absent:

Michael Blow

Also Present:

Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
CFO Peter Amons
Patricia Aigner
Peter McKenney
Bill Olsen
Pam Reed
Steve Sampson

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 Commissioner Blow.

Motion by Cavacas/Johnston to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2019 regular school board meeting with correction (striking the word irrelevant – re: Policy #7613.)

**MOTION:
MINUTES –
2/22/19**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Motion by Cavacas/Johnston to change the agenda to reflect: Student Representatives' Report, Superintendent's Report, Personnel Memo #589, Communications for Public Comment and Executive Session to accommodate flow of the meeting.

**MOTION:
MINUTES –
NOTES 2/12/19**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

School Program Update – Student Representatives – At RIS: Grade 4 students will take the NAEP Test on Thursday and will have a *Run, Hide, Fight* assembly in preparation for an upcoming drill with RMS. Students at Northeast have been busy with planetarium visits and love notes downtown projects. Students will be participating in a Winter Festival at Giorgetti and will have a PAWS Assembly this Thursday (the RMS Choral Group will perform.) At RHS: *Soup Bowls for Hunger* will take place on March 21, 2019. The Spring Sports Meeting has been rescheduled for February 28, 2019 at 6:30 pm. Winter sports events were noted.

**STUDENT
REPS' REPORT**

Central Office Reports – Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Taylor began by apologizing for remarks he made at Castleton University. He did not intend to be for his remarks to hurtful, disrespectful or harmful to anyone in the community. He gave his *100 Day Synopsis Report* which included strengths of RCPS (solid behavior intervention system, well maintained buildings, Multi-Tiered System of Supports, extra-curricular programs, strong after school programs, strong student information system and robust continuous improvement plans) and areas to improve (greater consistency of instruction and expectations, coordinating and implementing curriculum, consistency of professional learning for adults, develop video catalog of learning opportunities, K-

**SUPERINTEN-
DENT'S
REPORT**

8 release time for professional development learning time,, increase student voice, annual CPI training, data dashboards to be included on the website and metrics to measure outcomes related to engagement of the community.) Discussion revolved around next steps and plans to move forward.

SUPERINTEN-
DEN'TS
REPORT
CONT.

The Employee Engagement Survey timeline by School Perceptions was reviewed as well as the next steps related to the Board Retreat. An ad hoc committee was appointed to develop a superintendent evaluative tool to bring to the Board by mid-April. The committee will include: Commissioners Shimp, Pencak, Johnston and Goldberg. Discussion followed regarding the Employee Engagement Survey process and reporting.

PEI –
EMPLOYEE
ENGAGEMENT
SURVEY

Personnel - Motion by Cavacas/Notte to approve the Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 589 dated February 15, 2019, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #589

Personnel Memo No. 589 was reviewed by Superintendent Taylor and is attached.

Motion passed with one abstention (Johnston.)

Motion by Cavacas/Notte to approve Policy 1120 and policies from the 7000 Series as presented for second reading.

MOTION:
POLICY

Motion by Cavacas/Johnston to amend prior motion and to approve the following policies from the 7000 Series for second reading:

MOTION:
AMMENDED

- **7460 – Bus Rules and Regulations** – Minor wording correction.
- **7470 – Corporal Punishment** - Updated to align with law and current practice. Note: Corporal Punishment remains outlawed in the State of Vermont.
- **7480 – Suspensions** – Updated to reflect current regulations, practice and law.
- **7490 – Weapons in School** – Deleted an extraneous sentence at the end of the policy.
- **7491 – Bomb Threats or False Public Alarms** – Updated from “Bomb Threats” to reflect current law that “bomb threats and false public alarms” is the proper terminology reflected in statute.
- **7512 – Management of Funds** – Minor update to verbiage and remove passive voice.
- **7513 – Student Spectators Using School District Buses** – Reviewed and affirmed.
- **7530 – Sports and Athletic Program** – Note: The policy committee reconsidered and believe that the deletion which was presented for first reading should be removed and the policy should stand as it was.
- **7531 – Selection/Classification Process for Interscholastic Activities** – Updated the name of the policy from “Selection/Classification Process.”
- **7532 – Student Athletic Injuries** – Reviewed and affirmed.
- **7533 – Athletic and Activities Councils** – Updated to fix typo and reflect the title, “Director of Athletics.”
- **7534 – Athletic Programs – Safety** – Updated to reflect that RCPS complies with VPA and NFHS rules.
- **7540 – Student Contests and Fund Raising Activities** – Updated to reflect appropriate administrative oversight.
- **7570 – Outside Support Groups** – Reviewed and affirmed.
- **7613 – HIV/Aids Policy** – Deleted. Outdated.
- **7620 – Student Accidents** – Reviewed and affirmed.
- **7621 – Safety Conditions** – Updated to reflect the job title of our Director of Buildings, Grounds, Maintenance and Transportation. Also streamlined verbiage.
- **7621.1 Eye and Face Safety Devices** – Reviewed and affirmed.

- **7622 Transporting an Ill or Injured Student** – Reviewed and affirmed.
- **7650 – Emancipated Minors** – Reviewed and affirmed.
- **7660 – Health Records** – Reviewed and affirmed.

**MOTION:
POLICY
AMMENDED
CONT.**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Communications - President Courcelle invited members of the audience to address the Board. The following people addressed the Board:

**COMMUNICA-
TIONS**

Rachel Alexander addressed the Board regarding her concern for RMS. She noted her concerns for RMS being “in crisis”, safety, delivery of curriculum, “decline in functionality”, “disruptions and trauma being spread instead of contained”

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

An unidentified man addressed the Board, stating that his daughter was offended by Superintendent Taylor’s remarks at Castleton University. He noted his dissatisfaction with Superintendent Taylor’s teacher comparisons and comments about refugees. He noted his concern for progress being made building community and that Superintendent Taylor’s comments were “counterproductive.”

**MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Cavacas/Kurchena at 7:14 pm for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Passed unanimously.

**OUT OF
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:50 pm.

Motion by Cavacas/Notte for the Board to authorize the Chair to issue statement in response to personnel matter.

**MOTION:
AUTHORIZE
CHAIR TO
ISSUE
STATEMENT**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Motion by Cavacas/Shimp to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,
Betty A. Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Adam Taylor, Superintendent

DATE: February 15, 2019

RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 589 dated February 15, 2019, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION ~ None

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Aileen Rebecca Lencioni	Paraeducator/RIS	\$8,885.52	2/25/19