

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

November 12, 2019

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Michael Blow
Ann Dages (6:31 pm)
Kam Johnston
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Joanne Pencak (6:44 pm)
Charlene Seward
Erin Shimp
Hannah Solimano, Student Representative
Members Absent:
Dena Goldberg
Haley Lassen, Student Representative

Also Present:

Interim Superintendent, Dave Wolk
Assistant Superintendent, Rob Bliss
Felicia Allard
Pati Beaumont
Melissa Connor
Scott Corbett
Michael Derevjanik
Suanne Engels
Jessica Henderson
Sharon Napolitano
Bill Olsen
Loren Pepe
Steve Sampson
Greg Schillinger
Andrew Skarzynski
Jennifer Wigmore

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Courcelle noted that all Commissioners are in attendance.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

Approval of the Agenda – There were no alterations to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

Consent Agenda: Motion by Cavacas/Notte to approve the consent agenda, noting a typo on Personnel Memo No. 603 (effective date of retirement of Anita Crosby is June 30, 2020 and not June 30, 2019) which includes:

**MOTION:
CONSENT
AGENDA**

- Approval of the minutes of the October 22, 2019 regular school board meeting as written.
- Approval of Personnel Memo No. 603 dated November 6, 2019, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools (Attached.)
- Approval of the 8000 Series Policies, updated to remain in keeping with the Vermont and Federal Laws related to students services and Vermont special education rules, as presented for second reading:
 - 8510 – Children with Disabilities
 - 8511 – Special Education Programs
 - 8512 – Local Education Agency Plan
 - 8513 – Essential Early Education
 - 8510 – Students with Disabilities Participating in School District
 - 8530 – Evaluation and Planning Team
 - 8540 – Student Individualized Education Program (IEP)
 - 8550 – Student Identification-Evaluation
 - 8560 – Parent Involvement in Special Services Placement
 - 8562 – Educational Surrogate Parents
 - 8563 – Extended School Year
 - 8570 – Impartial Hearing Officer
 - 8580 – Program Accessibility
 - 8590 – Provision of Services to Private Schools

- Wood Pellet Bid Approval

Commissioner Johnston noted that he was pleased that the vendor awarded the wood pellet bid was the low bidder and also a local vendor. Commissioners Johnston noted that he would abstain from the consent agenda vote. Commissioner Cavacas noted that he would also abstain.

Motion passed with two abstentions (Johnston, Cavacas.)

Communications – It was noted that a letter from O’Brien, Shortle, Reynolds and Sabotka PC, was received. The letter outlined the responsibility of O’Brien, Shortle, Reynolds and Sabotka PC, as well as the scope and timing of the audit (to begin this week with reporting at the end of March 2020.)

COMMUNICAT-
IONS

Audience Communications – Kathleen Krevetski (Roberts Avenue) urged the Board to take up the issue of fluoridation (re: report submitted to the Board at the October 22, 2019 regular meeting. It was noted that a vote resulted in the City continuing to fluoridate.

AUDIENCE
COMMUNICAT-
IONS

School/Program Update – Student Representatives’ Report – Encore Theatre will be performing, *Regarding Peter*, written by an RHS graduate on November 14, 15 and 16. The Spanish Honor Society (Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica) facilitated a Veterans’ Day Ceremony last Friday.

STUDENT REPS’
REPORT

RMS and RHS School Improvement Plans – Pati Beaumont and Sharon Napolitano presented the Rutland Middle School Continuous Improvement Plan. Ms. Beaumont opened with thanking Superintendent Wolk and the Administrative Cabinet for their support during the transition of taking on the role of Principal at RMS. She reviewed goals and progress related to improving student outcomes in mathematics and ELA, community engagement, implementing PLPs, restorative justice practices and improving Tier I instructions. Discussion centered on delivery of mathematics instruction and intervention, what a PLP looks like and what software is utilized, hall monitors, subjectivity of interruptions and disruptions, length (currently 69 minutes) and structure of flex time. Superintendent Wolk noted that Ms. Beaumont has done a great job turning challenges into opportunities during her first month on the job.

RMS & RHS
CONTINUING
IMPROVEMENT
PLANS

Principal, Bill Olsen presented the Rutland High School Continuous Improvement Plan. He thanked the Board for participating in the NEASC visit. He noted multiple reporting and overlapping expectations and goals in relation to NEASC, the State (Education Quality Standards) and the Board of School Commissioners. He noted ongoing committee work related to the effects of trauma, equity in education, STEM and Global Studies curriculum aligned 7-12 and the self-study process. Discussion revolved around the acclaim of Rutland High School and the NEASC visit. Superintendent Wolk congratulated the High School Team and thanked Board Members. He noted that he had never heard the unbridled praise from a NEASC visiting team throughout his - vast experience with the process (leading the self-study process four times as well as serving on and chairing several visiting committees.) He quoted the Committee Chair: “Rutland High School is the best high school in New England,” and gave credit to Bill Olsen for his leadership. Commissioners Dages and Johnston were both present for the presentation. Commissioner Dages commented that the committee chair would “not have said that if he didn’t mean it.” Commissioner Johnston noted that he was glad to participate and see what a great job is being done.

Central Office Reports – Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Wolk noted:

- He is collecting information for needed cosmetic improvements in the schools (painting, flooring, signage...) The goal is to enhance the décor/improve the decorum (take pride, show respect, improve the environment.)
- Board minutes will be taken (by recording secretary) and posted for all Committee Meetings.
- Vermont State Secretary of Education, Dan French, will be Rutland next Friday.
- The District budget is being developed predicated upon meeting students’ needs and having the right people in the right positions (this may mean alternative programs and is a work in progress.) The budget will have an eye on student needs and will also be fiscally prudent, resulting in little or no increase to the tax rate.

Facilities and Finance – Stafford Technical Center Budget Presentation – Director Melissa Connor and Assistant Director Felicia Allard presented an overview of the FY 21 Stafford Technical Center Budget. Highlighted were grant opportunities, funding for three positions being moved to the STC local budget, increase of health insurance (12%,) reductions in equipment (to be covered by grants,) cutting back on field trips (to be funded by student enterprise) and the reducing a secretarial position to ½ time upon a retirement. A new grant (TIME Grant) and changes to the Perkins Grant were explained. NEASC starts next week at STC. Total direct expenditures are up 5.4% as compared to 8.8% last year. Enrollments are strong and growing. FY 21 brings a 7.5% tuition increase, putting us in the middle of the pack. Discussion ensued regarding: overhead expenses, tuition rate and effect on enrollment (superintendents on RAB Board concur that the increase will be tolerated,) programs on the watch list (every program is above 80%,) caps (there are none, programs can be full, is not the same as school choice,) STEM Outreach Coordinator, tuition rate and six semester average, Pre-tech offerings (Pre-tech Foundations available at RHS and offered to grades 9 and 10,) TIME Grant, equipment (confident that grants will be awarded, contingency or student enterprise funds to be used if needed,) and academic needs and scheduling. The STC budget will be ratified on December 10th.

**STAFFORD
FY 21 BUDGET**

Maintenance and Capital Plan – Michael Derevjanik and Mary Alma Noonan presented the Maintenance and Capital Plan, noting a one sheet document listing expenditures exceeding \$15,000. Everything else is level funded. Discussion included: pending proposals/Building Committee to approve master plan, long term assessment and sequencing, SmartBoard projects and Tech. budget (Maintenance handles installation – IT does interface work,) Allen Street Campus Kitchen (School to Work plans,) parking/paving, stair coverings, status of solar project (waiting for electric company to tie into the system,) library rehab. and consolidated purchasing (still in exploration phase.)

**MAINTENANCE
& CAPITAL
PLAN**

Old Business – President Courcelle requested consideration of adopting Board Operating Protocols, noting that these are rules of engagement are different than policy.

**OLD BUSINESS
BOARD
OPERATING
PROTOCOLS**

Motion by Cavacas/Pencak to adopt Board Operating Protocols (attached.)

Commissioner Johnston requested a roll call vote.

Motion passed 7-1: Olwenik – Yes, Johnston – No, Seward – Yes, Cavacas – Yes, Pencak – Yes, Shimp – Yes, Blow – Yes, Dages – Yes.

New Business – President Courcelle invited Assistant Superintendent Bliss to speak on his support of the Movember Foundation (supports research on men’s health issues.)

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Board Meeting Schedule – President Courcelle proposed a restructuring of the Board Meeting Schedule for consideration. He proposed meeting monthly (second Tuesdays) and utilizing the fourth Tuesdays for greater scope and expansion of Committee Meetings. Also noted were meeting at schools and expanding PEI. Policy 1520 (Regular Board Meetings) to be referred to the Policy Committee with a plan to adopt a new schedule in January 2020. Discussion revolved around more meaningful service, committee minutes to be included in Board packets and Committee Chairs or designees reporting at Board Meetings. The November 26, 2019 Regular Meeting will be held at the 77 Grove Street Campus.

Motion by Cavacas/Johnston to refer Policy 1520 (Regular Board Meetings) to the Policy Committee for review.

**MOTION:
POLICY 1520 TO
COMMITTEE**

There is no need for executive session.

Motion by Johnson/Notte to adjourn at 8:13 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN



Rutland City Public Schools

Rutland City Board of School Commissioners Board Operating Protocols

For the purpose of enhancing teamwork among members of the Board and between the Board and administration, we commit collectively and individually to the following operating protocols:

1. The Board will represent the needs and interests of ALL the children in our district.
2. The Board will lead by example. While we encourage debate and differing points of view, we will do it with care and respect.
3. We agree to ask the Board Chair or the Superintendent to place an item on the agenda, instead of bringing it up unexpectedly at the meeting unless the issue is emergent and requires immediate attention.
4. The Board will encourage others to follow District policies on complaint procedures by presenting concerns, problems or proposals to the person who can properly and expeditiously address the issue.
5. To be efficient and effective, long Board meetings should be avoided. If a Board member needs more detailed information about an item on the agenda, the Board member should contact the Chair or Superintendent in advance of the meeting. Items brought up during the meeting that are not on the agenda may be tabled until a later date.
6. The Board will consider research, best practice, public input, and financial impacts in its decision-making.
7. The Board will speak to the issues on the agenda. Facts and information needed from the administration will be referred to the Superintendent for follow-up.
8. The agenda will allow time for focused discussions on Board and District goals and outcomes, and alignment with strategy and practices.
9. Board members will honor the confidentiality of Executive Sessions.

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Dave Wolk, Interim Superintendent
DATE: November 6, 2019
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 603 dated November 6, 2019, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Anita Crosby	Elementary Teacher/RIS	6/30/19

2. Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Matthew Kolb	Mathematics/RMS	11/1/19

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

<u>Appointments</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Rachel Kyhill	Paraeducator/NW	\$14,765.52	11/4/19

2. Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Steve Diehlmann	Paraeducator/ASC	10/30/19
Jamie Gero	Paraeducator/RIS	10/28/19
Robert McGarry	Paraeducator/PPLC	10/21/19
Jacqueline Proulx	Paraeducator/RHS	11/6/19

3. Winter Coaching Appointments and Re-Appointment



To: Dave Wolk
From: Mike Norman
Date: November 1, 2019
Re: 2019-2020 Winter Coaches

I would like to recommend the following Winter Coaching Nominations for the 2019-2020 season.

WINTER COACHES				
MIKE WOOD	BOYS BASKETBALL HEAD COACH	1	5	6845.22
CHRIS WOOD	JV BOYS BASKETBALL	3	5	4563.48
JASON HALL	F BOYS BAKSETBALL	4	5	3993.05
BAILEY PLANTE	MS BOYS BASKETBALL	5	4	3251.85
ROB CASSELL	MS BOYS BASKETBALL	5	2	2909.55
NATHAN BELLOMO	GIRLS BASKETBALL HEAD COACH	1	5	6845.22
DICK WRIGHT	F GIRLS BASKETBALL	4	5	4584.73
KATE MCCORD	JV GIRLS BASKETBALL	3	5	4563.48
DAWN ADAMS	ALPINE HEAD COACH	1	5	6845.22
LORI MCCLALLEN	ALPINE ASST	4	5	1996.50
MELISSA PATTERSON	ALPINE ASST	4	5	1996.50
BILL BELMONTE	NORDIC COACH	2	5	5362.09
CARA GAUVIN	WINTER CHEER HEAD COACH	1	5	6845.22
SHELBY SENEAL	WINTER CHEER JV	5	5	3422.61
COURTNEY TOWLE	MS WINTER CHEER	6	1	2190.40
MIKE AUDETTE	INDOOR TRACK HEAD COACH	3	5	4563.48
STEVE FRENCH	INDOOR TRACK	5	5	3422.61
JERRY GORRUSO	INDOOR TRACK	5	5	3422.61
MIKE ANDERSON	BOYS HOCKEY HEAD COACH	1	5	6845.22
TIM MCCAULIFFE	BOYS HOCKEY ASST	3	3	4106.70
DIRK STEUPERT	GIRLS HOCKEY HEAD COACH	1	5	6845.22
KATHRYN PATE	GIRLS HOCKEY ASST	3	5	4563.48