

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

**November 26, 2019**

**School Board Members Present:**

Dick Courcelle  
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Michael Blow  
Ann Dages  
Dena Goldberg  
Kam Johnston  
Alison Notte  
Charlene Seward  
Erin Shimp  
Hannah Solimano, Student Representative

**Members Absent:**

Joanne Pencak  
Matthew Olewnik  
Haley Lassen, Student Representative

**Also Present:**

Interim Superintendent, Dave Wolk  
Assistant Superintendent, Rob Bliss  
CFO, Mary Alma Noonan  
Pati Beaumont  
Kerry Coarse  
Melissa Connor  
Scott Corbett  
Bill Olsen  
Loren Pepe  
Pam Reed  
Steve Sampson  
Greg Schillinger  
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 except for Commissioners Pencak and Olewnik.

**CALL TO  
ORDER**

Approval of Agenda – President Courcelle noted the addition of Act 11 of 2018 and the Commission on Public School Employee Health Benefits under New Business. The agenda was approved with this addition.

**APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda Items were reviewed by President Courcelle.

Motion by Cavacas/Notte to approve the Consent Agenda as written.

**MOTION:  
CONSENT  
AGENDA**

Consent Agenda:

- Approval of the minutes of the November 12, 2019 regular school board meeting as written.
- Approval of Personnel Memo No. 604 dated November 21, 2019, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools (Attached.)
- Acceptance of School Improvement Plans
- Approval of Policy 1520 (Regular Board Meetings) as presented for first reading.
- Acceptance of the Rutland High School Program of Studies

Commissioner Johnston noted opportunity for feedback from the public in relation to Policy 1520.

Motion passed with one abstention (Johnston.)

It was noted that the Policy 1520 (Regular Board Meetings) would be presented for second reading on December 10, 2019.

Audience Communications – Marsha Cassel invited the Board to attend a breakfast, at Rutland High School, featuring guest speaker, Mitchell Jackson, on December 5, 2019 (7:45 am – 9:00 am.) This event is being held in collaboration with the Vermont Humanities Council and is an introduction to the GIN Conference that will be held in April.

**AUDIENCE  
COMMUNICA-  
TIONS**

Cathy Solsaa thanked the Board for scheduling anti-bias training with the Vermont Human Rights Council.

School/Program Update: Student Representatives’ Report – Rutland High School Sophomores toured Stafford Technical Center. Student Senate is sponsoring a blood drive in December. Commissioners Cavacas and Johnston commented on the great work being done at Stafford.

**STUDENT  
REPRESENTA-  
TIVES’ REPORT**

Central Office Reports – Superintendent – Superintendent Wolk commented on the Stafford Technical Center NEASC accreditation process, noting that the Visiting Chair and Committee were amazed with the diversity of programs and involvement of students, staff, businesses and community. Stafford is fully enrolled with a wait list. Secretary French visited RCPS on Friday and tweeted out praise for RHS related to student aspirations and performance-based learning implementation. Superintendent Wolk remarked on State-wide property tax increase (5%) and other pressures on our budget including, special education and health insurance costs (increasing 12.5%.)

**SUPERINTEN-  
DENT’S  
REPORT**

Facilities and Finance – FY 21 Budget Preliminary Overview – CFO Mary Alma Noonan distributed a Preliminary FY 21 Budget Overview. The drivers of budget increases were reviewed and discussed. This is a starting point in the budget development. Superintendent Wolk noted the ebb and flow of students with IEPs moving in and out of the District and the legal and ethical obligation to provide special education services. The number of students receiving special education services is up 14% (366 to 415) over the past year. Special education reimbursements were explained (about 56% reimbursement up to \$60,000 of expended cost/student and 90-95% of the amount over and above \$60,000.) Allen Street Campus expansion was discussed (ages to serve and capacity.) More information regarding Allen Street and a K-4 plan will be presented when ready. The impact on the investment of expanded programs and future cost savings (related to early intervention and the ability to serve students in District instead of utilizing off site and residential placement) was discussed. Commissioner Johnston asked if money for the RMS bell system had been included in the budget. Mary Alma will get back to the Board with that information. President Courcelle commented that he wanted to make it clear that the RCPS Budget is not going up 6.6% and that the numbers presented tonight are preliminary and reflective of the enormous pressures on the budget. There will be a much more in depth look into the budget at the next meeting on December 10, 2019 (to be held at 77 Grove Street Campus.)

**FACILITIES &  
FINANCE FY 21  
PRELIMINARY  
BUDGET OVER-  
VIEW**

Old Business – None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

New Business – Motion by Cavacas/Johnston to appoint Commissioner Notte as the RCPS Delegate in relation to Act 11 of 2018 and the Commission on Public School Employee Health Benefits.

**NEW BUSINESS  
MOTION: ACT  
11 OF 2018  
DELEGATE  
APPOINTMENT**

Discussion revolved around time pressures being alleviated by using webinars and ability to vote remotely.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

President Courcelle will notify the VSBA regarding the appointment of Commissioner Notte as the RCPS Delegate for legal voting.

Motion by Cavacas/Notte at 7:07 pm for the board to convene to executive session with Assistant Superintendent Bliss, Superintendent Wolk and Pam Reed for the purpose of discussing student and personnel matters, the premature release of information, not public record or review and regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage.

**MOTION:  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

Assistant Superintendent Bliss and Pam Reed left the executive session at 7:55 pm.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:20 pm.

**OUT OF  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

Motion by Cavacas/Notte to have the materials for an internal search for the next RCPS Superintendent to the Board by December 10, 2019 and to post as soon as possible.

**MOTION:  
SEARCH**

Roll Call Vote: Blow – Yes, Cavacas – Yes, Dages – Yes, Goldberg – Yes, Johnston – No, Notte – Yes, Seward – Yes, Shimp – Yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Notte/Seward to adjourn at 8:26 pm.

**ADJOURN**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Betty Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dave Wolk, Interim Superintendent

DATE: November 21, 2019

RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM **NO. 604** dated **November 21, 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>
Nancy Spaulding-Ness	School Counselor/RMS	6/30/20

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Tyler Yakunovich	Paraeducator/RHS	11/13/19

2. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Jodi Casey	Paraeducator/NW	\$13,611.22	11/25/19
Kalen Hoag	Paraeducator/NW	\$11,581.08	1/6/20

3. Transfer

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position From/To</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Melissa Yennerell	FROM: Accountant/Longfellow TO: Medicaid Clerk/Longfellow	12/16/19