

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

April 23, 2019

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle (7:07 pm)

Hurley Cavacas

Ann Dages

Dena Goldberg

Kam Johnston

Alison Notte

Matthew Olewnik

Joanne Pencak

Charlene Seward

Erin Shimp

Members Absent:

Michael Blow

Isabella Gides, Student Representative

Haley Lassen, Student Representative

Also Present:

Superintendent Adam Taylor

Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss

CFO Peter Amons

Patricia Aigner

Michael Derevjanik

Deb Hathaway

Sharon Napolitano

Bill Olsen

Pam Reed

Steve Sampson

Greg Schillinger

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 Courcelle (7:07 pm) and Blow.

Motion by Johnston to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2019 regular school board meetings with an amendment to include the statement regarding Personnel Memo #592: *“Commissioner Johnston noted that he was on the advisory selection committee for the Rutland Intermediate School Principal search and he supports the hiring decision.”*

**MOTION:
MINUTES
4/9/19**

Motion was retracted.

**MOTION:
RETRACTED**

Motion by Pencak/Johnston to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2019 regular school board meeting with an amendment to correct the name of the last/6th speaker (Eitan Sobel) listed on page one who addressed the board during audience communication.

**MOTION:
MINUTES
4/9/19**

Motion carried with one opposed (Johnston.)

Chair Cavacas amended the agenda to include proposing a special meeting for Tuesday, April 30, 2019, which would consist of a continuation from the executive session tonight.

**AMEND
AGENDA**

Written Communication – Commissioner Notte read letters from Candy Jones and Carol Wright. Both letters thanked the Board for their support of flying the Black Lives Matter Flag.

**COMMUNICAT
-IONS**

Audience Communication – None.

Performance Excellence Initiative – Deferred.

PEI

School/Program Update – Student Representatives’ Report – No report.

**SCHOOL
PROGRAM
UPDATE**

Global Studies and GIN Conference Report – Bill Olsen and Marsha Cassel provided an update on the Global Studies Program, reviewing the components and noting the alignment with the mission statement. They reported on the STEM Fair and opportunities for students by grade level as well as the GIN Conference (topic: Artificial Intelligence.) Students, Anny Lin and Isabella DeCandio

**GLOBAL
STUDIES GIN
CONF.REPORT**

shared their personal experiences regarding their Capstone Projects and noted projects presented by their fellow students. Discussion revolved around noise/energy at the event, 8th grade attendees and sending school attendees.

**GLOBAL
STUDIES GIN
CONF.REPORT
(CONT.)**

Rutland Middle School Update – Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss distributed a report to the Board outlining shifts of behavioral referrals at Rutland Middle School. The data was extracted from Infinite Campus (RCPS Student Information System.) He reviewed the decreases in referrals using 10 day blocks throughout the school year, noting decreases in behavior referrals as the year progressed. Key drivers were outlined – absent/not excused or cutting class was the most recurrent event in the data – all of the events were attributed to 20% of students with 80% of students having no events. Interventions described at the last meeting are having a positive effect and additional parent communication and support from families was noted. Work is in process to connect students with EPIC and mentoring. A PTC Meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2019 at 6:00 pm – all are invited to attend and join the conversation. Discussion included: extending classes (RIS Scheduling Committee), data on disruption to classroom time (not available temporarily due to IC upgrade), procedure for parents and/or students to follow when seeking support/communication, breaking out data to delineate time of day, level of intensity and action plan for students (MTSS.)

RMS UPDATE

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Taylor noted he will be attending the VSA New Superintendents' Academy where more information on labor related legal issues will be covered on April 26th. On May 9th he will attend the VSA Leadership Academy. A Superintendent/Board Chair training is being offered at Lake Morey on May 15th. This training will engage in roles and responsibilities, open meeting law and educational leadership. Spring Conference, May 16-17, will focus on implementing core tenets of Act 173. Work on the AOE MTSS Survey was noted. Discussion revolved impact of Act 173. More information is needed to determine the effect.

**SUPERINTEN-
DENT'S
REPORT**

Facilities and Finance -

**FACILITIES &
FINANCE**

Motion by Johnston/Pencak that the Board of School Commissioners purchase two passenger buses from DATTCO, Inc. of New Britain, CT for a total cost of \$171, 858.

**MOTION:
PURCHASE
BUSES**

Discussion ensued regarding utilizing other manufacturers, electric buses and utilization of buses in the fleet.

Motion carried unanimously by all those in attendance.

Peter Amons reviewed the recommendation to relocate the Howe Center Campus Program as voted on and approved by the Building Committee

Motion by Notte/Goldberg that the Board of School Commissioners approves the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer negotiating a lease contract for rental space at 77 Grove Street with MKF Properties substantially on the terms offered by letter dated February 22, 2019.

**MOTION:
LEASE**

Motion by Johnston to refer proposal back to the Building Committee with the suggestion that the proposal through the normal budgeting process and to allow identification of 9 year cost offsets and to address related concerns. Motion failed.

**MOTION:
REFER TO
COMMITTEE**

Discussion revolved around changes to space to make it suitable for the program's definition, square footage cost, possibility of HR or Special Education office space utilization, budgeted funds, other spaces that were looked at and considered unviable, program expansion, staff involvement, drivers of the change, other tenants, potential sale of property (MKF Properties does not plan to sell), parking, accessibility, proximity to school nurse and opportunity to view the space (it is currently being used as a public art gallery.)

Motion carried with one opposed (Johnston.)

**FACILITIES &
FINANCE
CONT.**

Solar Discussion – Peter Amons distributed photos of car ports with solar panels and noted casual work in process with Johnson Controls. Last Friday a request for qualifications was issued with a closing date of May 6, 2019. Mr. Amons noted that we are seeking a deal with no debt (no savings, money neutral.) No action is required. Discussion included potential locations, tax credits (not applicable with leasing) and the plan 20 years out. Board Members were encouraged to attend the next Building Committee Meeting.

**SOLAR
DISCUSSION**

Superintendent Taylor reviewed Personnel Memorandum No. 593 and the Addendum to Personnel Memorandum No. 593 and they are attached. He noted the effective date for Alyssa Flynn is August 21, 2019 (the effective date of July 1, 2019 on the memorandum is incorrect.)

**PERSONNEL
MEMO #593 &
ADENDUM**

Personnel - Motion by Olewnik/Notte to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed sections of the Personnel Memorandum No. 593 dated April 18, 2019, and the Addendum to Personnel Memorandum No. 593 dated April 22, 2019, resignations with regret, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #593 &
ADENDUM**

Discussion revolved around the additional contracted days. Additional days are standard contract for Counselors who work a year round schedule.

Motion carried with one abstention (Johnston.)

Committee Reports – Policy Committee Report –

**COMMITTEE
POLICY
COMMITTEE**

Motion by Johnston to keep Policy #7550 and Policy #7670 out and accept the following policies for first reading:

**MOTION:
FIRST
READING**

- 7680 – Educational Support Team
- 7690 – Non-Discrimination on the basis of Disability 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act
- 7691 – Animal Policy
- 7692 – Head Lice

Motion failed.

Motion by Olewnik/Notte to accept the following policies for first reading:

**MOTION:
FIRST
READING**

- 7550 – Student Awards and Scholarships
- 7670 – Crisis Intervention
- 7680 – Educational Support Team
- 7690 – Non-Discrimination on the basis of Disability 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act
- 7691 – Animal Policy
- 7692 – Head Lice

Discussion revolved around the Foundation getting endowed gifts, number of gifts, direct scholarship checks to students (non-commercial) and policy obsolete by the Foundation.

Motion by Olewnik/Notte to amend motion to accept the following policies for first reading:

**MOTION: TO
AMMEND**

- 7680 – Educational Support Team
- 7690 – Non-Discrimination on the basis of Disability 504 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act
- 7691 – Animal Policy
- 7692 – Head Lice

and to send the following back to Committee:

- 7550 – Student Awards and Scholarships
- 7670 – Crisis Intervention

Motion carried unanimously.

New Business – President Courcelle reviewed Board Committee Assignments:

**NEW
BUSINESS**

- Liaison to the Activities/Athletic Council – Commissioners Blow, Cavacas, Olewnik and Shimp
- Liaison to the Board of Alderman – Commissioners Courcelle and Cavacas
- Liaison to the Stafford Technical Center Advisory – Commissioner Blow
- Building Committee – Commissioners Cavacas (Chair), Johnston, Notte and Shimp
- Pension Committee – Commissioners Cavacas, Olewnik, Pencak and Seward
- Policy Committee – Commissioners Shimp (Chair), Goldberg, Notte, Pencak, Johnston and Dages
- Staff Relations Committee – Commissioners Notte (Chair), Shimp and Dages

A Special Meeting of the Rutland City Board of School Commissioners will be warned for Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 5:30 PM at the Longfellow Administration Building. The agenda will be executive session for a personnel matter.

Commissioner Johnston noted that he would like to go on record as supporting the hire of the Rutland Intermediate School Principal.

Old Business – None.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Notte/Shimp at 8:17 pm for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and contractual matters, with legal counsel, matters, the premature release of information regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage in the opinion of the chair.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion passed unanimously.

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

**OUT OF
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Notte/Pencak to adopt findings suggested by Counsel and to authorize the Board Chair to finalize necessary reports working with Counsel.

**MOTION:
ADOPT &
AUTHORIZE**

Motion carried with one abstention.

Motion by Notte/Shimp to adjourn at 8:51 pm.

ADJOURN

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty A. Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Adam Taylor, Superintendent
DATE: April 18, 2019
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 593 dated April 17, 2019, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Alyssa Flynn	Psychologist/RIS-RMS	\$57,232.19	7/1/2019

2. Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Ashley Hess	Psychologist/RIS-RMS	6/30/2019

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Ashley Arnold	Paraeducator/RHS	6/30/2019

ADDENDUM

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Adam Taylor, Superintendent
DATE: April 22, 2019
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 593 ADDENDUM dated **April 22, 2019**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Noelle Ahlert	Special Educator/RIS	\$56,138.00	8/22/19

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-Rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Thomas Maniery	FW I – Night Custodian/RIS	\$8,840.00	4/22/19
Scott St. Lawrence	FW I – Night Custodian/RIS	\$7,956.00	4/29/19

2. Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Hunter Gallipo	FW I – Night Custodian/RIS	4/19/19