

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
December 10, 2019

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Michael Blow
Ann Dages
Dena Goldberg
Kam Johnston
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Joanne Pencak (6:33 pm)
Charlene Seward
Erin Shimp
Haley Lassen, Student Representative
Hannah Solimano, Student Representative

Also Present:

Interim Superintendent, Dave Wolk
Assistant Superintendent, Rob Bliss
CFO, Mary Alma Noonan
Patricia Aigner
Pati Beaumont
Kerry Coarse
Melissa Connor
Michael Derevjanik
Cathy Farman
Bill Olsen
Sharon Napolitano
Loren Pepe
Steve Sampson
Greg Schillinger
Jennifer Wigmore
Betty Bell
T.J. Moran
Carolyn Ravenna
Laurie Wilson

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 Commissioner Pencak (6:33 pm.)

**CALL TO
ORDER**

Consent Agenda: There was a request to withdraw the Approval of Policy #1520 (Regular Board Meetings) as presented for second reading for separate discussion and consideration.

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

Motion by Cavacas/Shimp to approve the consent agenda as amended which includes:

**MOTION:
CONSENT
AGENDA**

- Approval of the minutes of the November 26, 2019 regular school board meeting as written.
- Approval of Personnel Memo No. 605 dated December 5, 2019, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools (Attached.)
- Stafford Technical Center Budget Ratification (Acceptance of the FY21 Stafford Technical Center budget as presented with total expenditures of \$5,667,888 resulting in a total tuition of \$17,895.)

Commissioner Johnston noted the complexity of the Stafford budget process and that the budget was given careful consideration. President Courcelle noted an error in protocol, at the last meeting, regarding the action item (under New - appointment of the RCPS VSBA Delegate in relation to Act 11 of 2018 and the Commission on Public School Employee Health Benefits.) There was no iniquity due to unanimous vote.

Motion passed with one abstention (Johnston.)

**MOTION:
POLICY 1520
SECOND
READING**

Motion by Cavacas/Johnston to read the revised Policy 1520 (Regular Board Meetings) as presented for second reading.

Commissioner Cavacas read the revised policy for second reading. Commissioner Johnston noted that he was in support of the policy change, but wanted to make sure that the public is

informed that the policy change is not intended to decrease the number of public meetings. A correction to the policy was noted (paragraph 3 – “his” designee to “their” designee.)

A roll call vote was taken: Johnston – Yes, Seward – Yes, Notte – Yes, Cavacas – Yes, Pencak – Yes, Goldberg – Yes, Shimp – Yes, Blow – Yes, Dages – Yes, Olewnik – Yes. Motion passed.

Communications – 77 Grove Street Welcome and Presentation – Rutland High School Assistant Principal, Greg Schillinger thanked AEP/Howe Center Campus/Grove Street Campus students, superintendents, Mark Foley (community partner,) IT staff, Maintenance staff, Jamie Holt, and teaching staff. Carolyn Ravenna (Lead Teacher) and T.J. Moran provided a history of the program and Grove Street Campus student, Betty Bell, shared her experience and success with the program. Superintendent Wolk acknowledged appreciation for Jamie Holt and Greg McClallen and the development of the best drop-out prevention program in Vermont.

**COMMUNICA-
TIONS – GROVE
STREET
CAMPUS**

School/Program Update: Student Representatives’ Report – Northwest held their annual Thanksgiving Feast (many thanks to Miss Kim and Miss Lyn,) choral concerts were held at both Northeast and Northwest and a Hero Assembly is planned at Northwest. Governor Scott attended a Legislative Breakfast at Stafford Technical Center, toured the facility and started the race car built by students. Upcoming at Rutland High School: chorus and orchestra concerts and *Frozen Jr.* play. Congratulations to Trevor MacKay, recipient of a \$10,000 scholarship and acceptance in the United States Senate Youth Program.

**STUDENT REPS’
REPORT**

Central Office Reports – Superintendent – Superintendent Wolk noted the upcoming interactive budget presentation that will show budget decision impacts on the tax rate as correlated to education. He acknowledged visits from Vermont Secretary of Education, Dan French and Governor Phil Scott and noted that the Vermont State Board of Education will be meeting at Rutland High School. He reported good news regarding long time teacher, John Peterson’s health issues.

**SUPERINTEN-
DENT’S REPORT**

Facilities and Finance – FY21 Budget Presentation and Deliberation – CFO Mary Alma Noonan noted the continued receipt of budget information. She reviewed gross expenses, concerns regarding health insurance costs (across the State,) noting that about 78 percent of our expenses are non-discretionary. She addressed the method of coming up with the tap on the Education Fund related to equalized pupils specific to Rutland, weighting factors, property yield, common level of appraisal and projected State increase (6%.) Expense drivers are being felt around the State (dropping enrollments, health care and special education.) Rutland City’s cost per pupil is significantly below the State average (88 out of 118 districts and 21 out of 30 of similar size districts.) Time was spent using the interactive model presented to analyze the effects of cutting specific funding (re: athletic transportation, para educators and reallocation of positions upon retirements and deferred maintenance items.) Discussion included State estimated increases, procedure for reallocations, food service costs, use of para educators (academic and behavior intervention,) deferred maintenance, alternative programs (alleviating class sizes,) focus of budget brochures (conveying ballot language,) and drivers (peaking?) Guidance for the Administration was to return with an increase of 5% or less per pupil spending. Concern was noted regarding deferred maintenance issues and contingency funds.

**FACILITIES &
FINANCE – FY21
BUDGET**

Old Business – None.

OLD BUSINESS

New Business – None.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Cavacas/Shimp at 8:00 pm for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and contractual matters, the premature release of information regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Passed unanimously.

**MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:30 pm.

**OUT OF
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Shimp/Notte to post the Superintendent Position internally.

**MOTION:
SUPERINTEN-
DENT POSTING**

Motion passed.

Motion by Cavacas/Notte to adjourn at 8:33 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Dave Wolk, Interim Superintendent
DATE: December 5, 2019
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 605 dated **December 5, 2019**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Retirements

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
M. Susan Candon	Grade 4 Elementary Teacher/RIS	6/30/20
Karen Holbrook	Grade 3 Elementary Teacher/RIS	6/30/20

2. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
David Blankenbaker	Mathematics/RMS	\$31,085.50	1/3/20
Carol Renfrow	Special Educator/ASC	\$35,792.09	12/16/19

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Coaching Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Justin Veysey	MS Boys' Basketball Coach	Winter Season