

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS**  
**January 14, 2020**

**School Board Members Present:**

Dick Courcelle  
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Ann Dages  
Dena Goldberg  
Kam Johnston  
Alison Notte  
Matthew Olewnik  
Joanne Pencak (6:35 pm)  
Charlene Seward  
Erin Shimp  
Hannah Solimano, Student Representative

**Members Absent:**

Michael Blow  
Haley Lassen, Student Representative

**Also Present:**

Interim Superintendent, Dave Wolk  
Assistant Superintendent, Rob Bliss  
CFO, Mary Alma Noonan  
Patricia Aigner  
Melissa Connor  
Scott Corbett  
Michael Derevjanik  
Susanne Engels  
Cathy Farman  
Jessica Henderson  
Sharon Napolitano  
Bill Olsen  
Loren Pepe  
Pam Reed  
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 the absence of Commissioners Blow and Pencak (6:35 pm.)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Approval of Agenda – An addendum to Personnel Memo No. 606 was added to the Consent Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Consent Agenda:

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

**MOTION: CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approval of the minutes of the December 10, 2020 regular school board meeting as written.
- Approval of Personnel Memo No. 606 dated January 9, 2020, and Addendum as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools (Attached.)
- Tuition Rates

Motion passed with one abstention (Johnston.)

Communications – None

**COMMUNICATIONS**

School/Program Update: Student Representatives' Report – At Rutland High School: Exams are in progress, a successful open house was held for the Class of 2024, a film – “Basis of Recovery,” will be presented at RHS.

**STUDENT REP. REPORT**

Presentation on Alternative programs – Superintendent Wolk prefaced the presentation by noting the expansion at Allen Street Campus and the successful Grove Street program. Pam Reed lead Principals in exploring ways to provide a K-12 continuum of services and looking at outside traditional settings to insure that individual students will find a place where they will thrive. At this time this presentation is for Board information. Pam Reed and Pati Beaumont presented three programs that are being explored:

**ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS**

- A Primary – Intermediate Off Campus Program

- Expansion of Allen Street Campus to include younger students
- *School Within a School*

ALTERNATIVE  
PROGRAMS  
(CONT.)

Costs would include both special education and general education expenses. Resources and grant funds would be reallocated. *School Within a School* would be funded from general education funds.

Discussion included: consideration of partnerships with other districts or entities, preschool options, spaces being explored (within District and outside – need to be budget neutral,) current number of students identified as needing alternative programs, projected numbers of students in each program (1-20 for Primary – Intermediate Off Campus Program, 5-8 – Allen Street expansion, *School Within a School* – pilot program,) contingency (nothing would come out of contingency,) student transitions, professional development and what would be given up (potential reassignments to maintain current programs.) More specifics will be presented to the Board at a later time.

Central Office Reports – Superintendent – Superintendent Wolk noted that the State Board of Education will at Rutland High School on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 2:00 pm. They are choosing to start a State-wide investigation of proficiency based learning in Rutland. The community is invited. Greg Schillinger, Melissa Connor, Adrienne Weld, Abby Brodowski and a student (to be named later) will present.

SUPERINTEN-  
DENT'S REPORT

Beautification Projects – A planning timeline (through August) will be provided for the Board. Projects will include: signage (common branding throughout the District,) flooring, painting and landscaping – improve the décor, improve the decorum. Discussion included: signage for the door at Northeast, flagpoles at Rutland High School (to provide more opportunity for student voice) and the marble wall along Grove Street.

BEAUTIFICAT-  
ION PROJECTS

Facilities and Finance – FY 21 Budget Ratification and Budget Language – Superintendent Wolk spoke to the proposed budget: Information for the ballot is due to the City Clerk next week. Subsequent to the last meeting (held at Grove Street Campus) the budget has been adjusted to reflect a 3.2 percent increase in equalized per pupil spending. A lot has changed at the State level, including health insurance costs (all districts are dealing with this issue.) The weighting formula (the way in which the State allocates money to school districts) needs to be tracked closely going forward as it could result in fair allocation to the City due to the poverty factor being raised. Our proposed per pupil cost is less than last year's State average. Mary Alma Noonan presented a summary of expenses, noting that compensation costs are about 79% of the total expenses. Also noted were: health care dictated by the State Health Care Plan going into effect for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the FY 21 budget year (there is no option to provide better benefits,) program costs are flat, Grove Street rental expense and special education costs. President Courcelle acknowledged the exceptional job done by Mary Alma Noonan through this first cycle of a very complex budget. He noted that many things that are driving taxes are out of our control – except the Common Level of Appraisal. Commissioner Cavacas noted that the original equalized per pupil increase would be less than ¾ of a percent increase and that this is also out of our control. Discussion revolved around first dollars out of pocket in regards to HSAs and HRAs, food service costs (not contract driven,) transfer of funds and identification of specific items in the budget (anyone can meet with Mary Alma for specific questions,) Statewide teacher shortages and salaries, understanding of HRAs and HSAs (our employees have a good understanding,) State-wide Food Service Program in discussion (funding impacts) and concern regarding budget shifts not impacting the average student and facilities negatively (student experience will not change and hopefully will improve.)

FACILITIES &  
FINANCE  
FY 21 BUDGET  
RATIFICATION  
& BALLOT  
LANGUAGE

Motion by Cavacas/Notte to approve the proposed budget and budget language for the ballot: Shall the voters of Rutland City School District approve the school board to expend \$58,792,157 which is the amount the school board determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,927 per equalized pupil. This projected spending is 3.2% higher than spending for the current year.

**MOTION:  
FY 21 BUDGET  
RATIFICATION  
& BALLOT  
LANGUAGE**

Commissioner Johnston requested discussion regarding amending the proposed budget to be cut by \$100,000 (contingency.)

Discussion ensued and included: Contingency is less than ½ of one percent of the budget (most budgets include 1 – 3% and that helpful, contingency spent for true emergencies, new philosophy in the Finance Department and impact of Finance and Planning Committee.

Point of order called by Commissioner Notte (current motion on the table.)

**POINT OF  
ORDER**

Commissioner Cavacas rescinded the motion to approve the proposed budget and budget language for the ballot.

**MOTION  
RESCINDED**

Motion by Johnston/Dages to cut contingency funds by \$100,000 in the FY 21 proposed budget to foster increased financial stability and forcing more budget consciousness.

**MOTION:  
BUDGET CUT**

Roll Call Vote: Olewnik – No, Johnston – Yes, Seward – Abstain, Notte – No, Pencak – No, Goldberg – No, Shimp – No, Dages – No.

Motion failed.

Motion by Cavacas/Notte to approve the proposed budget and budget language for the ballot: Shall the voters of Rutland City School District approve the school board to expend \$58,792,157 which is the amount the school board determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$15,927 per equalized pupil. This projected spending is 3.2% higher than spending for the current year.

**MOTION:  
FY 21 BUDGET  
RATIFICATION  
& BALLOT  
LANGUAGE**

Roll Call Vote: Dages – Yes, Shimp – Yes, Goldberg – Yes, Pencak – Yes, Cavacas – Yes, Notte – Yes, Seward – Yes, Johnston – No, Olewnik – Yes.

Motion passed.

Superintendent asked the Board if they wanted to use the same budget tool created by Mary Alma next year for budgeting and noted if they have other ideas regarding budget presentations to let her know. The Board is in favor of using the tool created by Mary Alma that illustrated the impact on per pupil cost.

Old and New Business – Committee formation and meeting schedule was discussed. The plan includes establishing more robust work of committees. Superintendent Wolk encouraged the Facilities Committee and the Finance and Planning Committee to take a look at long term impacts and strategic planning, taking into consideration: enrollment changes, State allocation formula and urged the Board to understand and advocate for the weighting formula – this is the key to our financial future.

**OLD/NEW  
BUSINESS**

AFSCME Contract Negotiation Planning – Contract expires June 30, 2020. We are ready to begin the negotiations process. Commissioner Notte will head the committee.

The Board yearbook photo will be taken prior to executive session.

**OLD/NEW  
BUSINESS**

Motion by Cavacas/Johnston at 8:06 pm for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel, contractual and property 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 8:45 pm.

**OUT OF  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

Motion by Notte/Seward to adjourn at 8:46 pm.

**ADJOURN**

TO: Board of Education

FROM: David Wolk, Superintendent

DATE: January 9, 2020

RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM **NO. 606** dated **January 9, 2020**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Retirements

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Daniel Graves	Music Instructor/RMS and RHS	6/30/2020
John Peterson	Social Studies/RHS	6/30/2020
Jessica Weber	Music Instructor/RIS	6/30/2020

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Staci Buysse	Staff Accountant/Longfellow	\$32,355.68	1/6/2020

2. Retirement/Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Carol Coleman	Secretary/Northeast Primary School	6/30/2020
Leah Geryk	Paraeducator/Northeast Primary School	2/3/2020
Kalen Hoag	Paraeducator/Northwest Primary School	12/18/2019

3. Coaching Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Darren Badgley	JV-B Girls' Basketball Coach	\$3,993.00	Winter Season
Hanaa Kenzou	MS Girls' Basketball Coach	\$3,251.00	Winter Season
Sean Miller	Varsity Boys' Lacrosse Coach	\$5,362.00	Spring Season

## ADDENDUM

TO: Board of Education  
FROM: David Wolk, Superintendent  
DATE: January 14, 2020  
RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM ADDENDUM **NO. 606** dated **January 9, 2020**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Staci Buysse	Staff Accountant/Longfellow	1/10/2020