

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
March 10, 2020 – Amended Minutes

School Board Members Present:

Dick Courcelle
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Ann Dages
Dena Goldberg
Kam Johnston
Alison Notte
Matthew Olewnik
Joanne Pencak (6:17 pm)
Charlene Seward
Hannah Solimano

Members Absent:

Michael Blow
Erin Shimp
Haley Lassen, Student Representative

Also Present:

Interim Superintendent, Dave Wolk
Assistant Superintendent, Rob Bliss
CFO, Mary Alma Noonan
Melissa Connor
Scott Corbett
Michael Derevjanik
Susanne Engels
Cathy Farman
Jessica Henderson
Mike Norman
Bill Olsen
Loren Pepe
Pam Reed
Steve Sampson
Greg Schillinger
Jennifer Wigmore

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Courcelle noted the absence of Commissioners Blow, Pencak (6:17 pm) and Shimp.

CALL TO ORDER

Approval of Agenda with the following additions:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- School Choice (Central Office Reports – Superintendent)
- New Business (Goodbyes – Vacating Board Members)

Motion by Cavacas/Seward at 6:03 pm for the board to convene to executive session, with Superintendent Wolk, Assistant Superintendent Bliss and Incoming Superintendent Olsen for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, the premature release of information regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

MOTION: EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board came out of executive session at 6:30 pm.

OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MOTION: CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of the minutes of the February 11, 2020, Regular School Board Meeting, February 25, 2020 Building Committee Meeting and February 25, 2020, Staff Relations Committee Meeting, as written.
- Approval of Personnel Memo No. 608 dated March 5, 2020, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools (Attached.)

Motion carried.

Communications – Chris Wideawake, Edgerton Street, requested the Board to consider School Choice limits.

COMMUNICATIONS

School Program Update – Student Representatives' Report – RHS Global Studies and Stem Fair will take place on March 26, 2020 and the GIN Conference on April 2, 2020.

STUDENT REP. REPORT

Activities and Athletics Report – Mike Norman presented the Activities and Athletics Report noting: members, academic achievement awards, staffing and stipends, the process for starting a club and participation numbers. Many students are involved in multiple clubs and/or sports. Athletic Training Services provided by Vermont Orthopedic Clinic were highlighted. Discussion included: process for club development, paid stipends, recruitment and promotion. Superintendent Wolk recognized Mike Norman for doing a great job.

**ACTIVITIES &
ATHLETICS
REPORT**

Central Office Reports – March 3 Election Results – Superintendent Wolk thanked everyone regarding the passing of the FY20/21 budget. *Yes* vote results were the second highest ever.

**CENTRAL
OFFICE
REPORT –
ELECTION**

Health/COVID-19 Preparation – Superintendent Wolk reviewed proactive steps taken in preparation to address concerns related to COVID-19 in the event any action is necessary. The Administrative Team met with Claudio Forte, Dr. Rick Hildebrand and Jody Macintosh last Thursday. Superintendent Wolk participated in a webinar sponsored by the Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Education. The CDC, Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Education are providing guidance. We will continue to provide current information to the community. Information regarding Clorox 360 (disinfecting system) was provided. Normal school events will continue with no out of State travel until further notice. In State travel will be considered on a case by case basis. Assistant Superintendent Bliss provided information outlining plans in the event of school closing which includes online learning, deploying Chromebooks (150) and additional machines from the RHS Library, potential to loan 20 routers to secure internet access (deployment would be one home at a time), teachers have been asked to have at least 5 days plans available, Patricia Aigner has been preparing/training via UTube videos, face to face and webinars. I.T. Staff will stagger hours if necessary. Focus will be on high school. Business operations will keep going, even if off site access is needed. Discussion revolved around conception of needs (Annual I.T. Survey.)

**COVID-19
PREPARTION**

Recognition of Commissioners Blow, Johnston, Olewnik – President Courcelle recognized and thanked Commissioners Blow, Johnston and Olewnik for their service, noting that he, Superintendent Wolk, Assistant Superintendent Bliss had visited Commissioner Blow, who is recovering from surgery, recently. Commissioners Johnston and Olewnik expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

**RECOGNITION
OF COMMISS-
IONERS**

School Choice – Superintendent Wolk gave a brief history of School Choice which was piloted in Rutland about 25 years ago, noting that not every school is the right match for every student. As we have more students wanting to attend Rutland High School next year than school choice spaces available, a lottery is necessary. The lottery is scheduled for Thursday evening. Steve Sampson and Bill Olsen provided details including: Thirty-four school choice students are returning next year and ten are leaving, leaving six spaces available. We have 20 applications for incoming students. After students are selected for the 6 available spaces, a prioritized wait list is selected. Discussion revolved around determining school choice numbers/limits, grade level of school choice applicants (most are 9th graders), pushing for legislative change (money to follow students) and potential of creating ill will with other superintendents and smaller schools.

**SCHOOL
CHOICE**

Motion by Pencak/Johnston to suspend the rules. Motion carried.

**MOTION:
SUSPEND THE
RULES**

Motion by Pencak/Johnston to increase the number of incoming school choice students to 54.

**MOTION:
SCHOOL
CHOICE**

Discussion included Statute requiring setting capacity by February 1st, school choice applicants currently paying tuition (due to home district out limits), towns without in district schools currently paying tuition, data (10% - maximum of 40,) and finance implications.

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

Motion by Pencak/Goldberg to suspend the rules. Motion carried.

**MOTION:
SUSPEND THE
RULES**

Motion by Pencak/Dages to increase the number of incoming school choice students to 50.
Roll Call Vote: Olewnik – No, Johnston – Yes, Seward – No, Notte – No, Cavacas – No,
Pencak – Yes, Goldberg – Yes, Dages – No. Motion failed.

**MOTION:
SCHOOL
CHOICE**

Committee Reports – Facilities Committee Report – Commissioner Cavacas referred to the two actions items on the agenda, noting the splitting of the bids to get the work done quicker and avoiding additional costs.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

Roof Bids – Motion by Cavacas/Pencak that the Board of School Commissioners accept the following bids for building roof repairs for FY20:

**MOTION: ROOF
BIDS**

Vermont Roofing:

- Stafford Technical Center - \$28,600
- Rutland High School - \$48,800

Premier Building Associates:

- Rutland Middle School - \$149,000
- Allen Street Campus - \$86,850

Total Project Estimated: \$313,250

Discussion ensued regarding funding coming from underspent projects and contingency. Most funding is coming from underspent projects. Time frame is as soon as weather permits. Both vendors have assured us that projects will be completed by midsummer/August.

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

Facilities Condition Assessment – Motion by Cavacas/Pencak that the Board of School Commissioners accept the bid of \$42,718.45 from Bureau Veritas for a Facilities Condition Assessment for FY20.

**MOTION:
FACILITIES
CONDITION
ASSESSMENT**

Discussion revolved around this being a budgeted project, internal assessment, independent from solar project, software component and updating. The Finance Department will be monitoring capitalized items. Commissioner Pencak suggested systematizing and will follow up with the Finance Committee.

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

Facilities Committee Meeting – March 24, 2020 at 6:30 PM. Johnson Controls will attend.

**NEW/OLD
BUSINESS**

Committee Meeting Schedule – Staff Relations Committee Meeting – March 24, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Old and New Business – Ratification of the Superintendent Contract – Motion by Cavacas/Pencak to ratify the Superintendent’s Contract for William Olsen and to have the President sign the contract.

**MOTION:
SUPERINTEN-
DENT
CONTRACT
RATIFICATION**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Project Graduation Donation – Motion by Cavacas/Dages to donate \$2,000 to Project Graduation.

**MOTION:
PROJECT
GRADUATION
DONATION**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

New commissioners will be sworn in at the April 7, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Chair Courcelle noted that he will resign as President at the beginning of the meeting and resign from the Board at the end of the meeting.

Motion by Cavacas/Johnston to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Betty A. Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education
 FROM: Dave Wolk, Superintendent
 DATE: March 5, 2020
 RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMORANDUM NO. 608 dated **March 5, 2020**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Kathleen Silva	Elementary Teacher/RIS	6/30/2020

2. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Erica Caetano	LTS Mathematics Teacher/RMS	\$19,755.27	3/9/20
Bobbie Higgins Tyler	.20% Occupational Therapist/RHS	\$358.30/Day	3/11/20

B. NON-LICENSED SECTION

1. Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Christoffer Donahue	Paraeducator/RMS	2/6/20
Kim Wortman	Paraeducator/NE	3/13/20

Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Pro-rated Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Hazar Mansour	Accounting Clerk/Longfellow	\$15,111.30	2/19/20
Heather Olsen	Secretary/NE	\$30,444.75	8/2020
Kaylee Richards	Paraeducator/ASC	\$8,951.25	2/24/20

2. Spring Coaching Nominations ~ See Attached Memo