

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

April 28, 2020

School Board Members Present:

Alison Notte
Joanne Pencak
Brittany Cavacas
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Ann Dages
Dena Goldberg
Kevin Kiefaber
Charlene Seward
Erin Shimp
Cathy Solsaa

Also Present:

Superintendent Dave Wolk
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
CFO Mary Alma Noonan
Incoming Superintendent Bill Olsen
William Meub, Esq.
Patricia Aigner
Michael Derevjanik
Matthew Olewnik

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Notte noted all commissioners are in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Pencak/Goldberg to approve the Consent Agenda which includes:

**MOTION:
CONSENT
AGENDA**

- The minutes of the April 7, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting.
- The Mayor's Recommendation of Matthew Olewnik to fill the seat vacated by Dick Courcelle.

Roll Call Vote: Goldberg – Aye, Cavacas, B. – Aye, Dages – Aye, Kiefaber – Aye, Shimp – Aye, Seward – Aye, Cavacas, H. – Aye, Solsaa – Aye.

President Notte welcomed Mr. Olewnik to the Board and noted that he would be sworn in later this week.

Old/New Business – Flexibility of Graduation Requirements due to COVID-19 – Bill Olsen noted that the School Board sets graduation requirements (Policy #7340) and reviewed guidance from the Vermont Agency of Education. The AOE asks school boards to provide flexibility in focusing on the most essential critical learning (transferable skills) to pass and to graduate. Transferable skills are aligned with the Education Quality Standards of 2014, as is the curriculum. He requested to extend the regular school year into the two weeks of YES Plan. Discussion included: the challenge to address the same amount of content through e-learning, effect on honors classes, AP exams and Stafford Technical students.

**OLD/NEW
BUSINESS –
GRADUATION
REQUIRE-
MENTS**

Motion by Pencak/Goldberg: In light of the impact of the Covid Virus on our educational program, when the Rutland Public Schools has to apply and determine graduation requirements for seniors in High School in evaluating students regarding their demonstrated proficiencies as described in RCPS Policy 7340 and in the Vermont Education Quality Standards of 2014, the Rutland Board of School Commissioners approves the use of remote learning methodologies as well as the extension of the regular academic calendar, which substitutes for and shall be deemed to replace the YES Plan in 2020, and authorizes the Rutland Public Schools to have whatever flexibility they deem appropriate to conclude that students have satisfied graduation requirements as described in Board policy and award graduation certificates.

**MOTION:
GRADUATION
REQUIRE-
MENTS DURING
COVID-19**

Roll Call Vote: Goldberg – Aye, Cavacas, B. – Aye, Dages – Aye, Kiefaber – Aye, Shimp – Aye, Seward – Aye, Cavacas, H. – Aye, Solsaa – Aye, Pencak – Aye.

School Board Committee Assignments – Information only.

**COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS**

There was no other new/old business.

Motion by Pencak/Cavacas, H. at 6:49 pm to adjourn to executive session with Superintendent Wolk, Incoming Superintendent Olsen, Assistant Superintendent Bliss, William Meub, Esq., Mary Alma Noonan, Michael Derevjanik and Matthew Olewnik for the purpose of discussing contractual matter, the premature release of information regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage.

**MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Roll Call Vote: Cavacas, B. – Aye, Goldberg – Aye, Dages – Aye, Kiefaber – Aye, Shimp – Aye, Seward – Aye, Solsaa – Aye, Cavacas, H. – Aye, Pencak – Aye.

The Board came out of executive session at 7:48 pm.

**OUT OF
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Pencak/Shimp to adjourn at 7:49 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN