

RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

September 8, 2020

School Board Members Present:

Alison Notte, President
Joanne Pencak, Clerk
Brittany Cavacas
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Ann Dages
Dena Goldberg
Kevin Kiefaber
Matthew Olewnik
Charlene Seward (6:34 pm)
Erin Shimp
Cathy Solsaa
Hannah Solimano, Student Representative
Isabella LaFemina, Student Representative

Also Present:

Superintendent Bill Olsen
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Director of Finance Ted Plemenos
Director of Technology Patricia Aigner
Director of Equity & Inclusion Pam Reed
Director of BG&T Michael Derevjanik
Executive Director Tapestry & EPIC Marie Gilmond
Carol Baker
Pati Beaumont
Kate Bosnich
Kerry Coarse
Melissa Connor
Scott Corbett
Susanne Engels
Cathy Farman
Jessica Henderson
Meaghan Marsh
Bianca McKeen
Sharon Napolitano
Loren Pepe
Justine Ruhlin
Steve Sampson
Greg Schillinger
Jennifer Wigmore
Amanda Gokee
Jenna Montgomery
Marisa Kiefaber
Andy Cassarino

President Notte recognized the opening of school and called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Notte noted all commissioners are in attendance except for Commissioner Seward (6:34 pm.)

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Pencak/Kiefaber to approve the agenda as written.

**MOTION:
APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Motion by Cavacas (Hurley)/Dages to approve the consent agenda which includes:

**MOTION:
CONSENT
AGENDA**

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Personnel Memorandum #613 (Attached)
- Summer Professional Development Report
- Second Reading Policies:
 - Policy 6340 Theft of Services or Property
 - Policy 7698 Child Nutrition and Wellness

President Notte explained the process for public input, noting that there would be opportunity for public comment (with time limitation) on the mascot proposal following the tonight's presentation. In addition, an adhoc Board Committee will also hold a forum on October 6, 2020, dedicated entirely to the mascot proposal.

**PUBLIC
INPUT**

Live stream of the meeting was not possible due to technical difficulties. Several attempts were made to reconcile the issue.	TECHNICAL ISSUES
Point of Order by Commissioner Cavacas (Hurley) – question of meeting legality due to the inability to stream live. Discussion revolved around requirements for public meetings. President Notte read the March 30, 2020, VSBA Statement which was extended while the State of Emergency is in effect.	POINT OF ORDER PUBLIC COMMENT NOT ON AGENDA
Public Input Regarding Items Not on the agenda – None.	
President Notte invited Amanda Gokee (RHS Class of 2010) and her team to address the Board regarding their proposal to change the Rutland Mascot. Ms. Gokee thanked the Board for the opportunity for discussion regarding the mascot. She shared her personal experience and goals for the campaign. She introduced Jenna Montgomery (current RHS student) who shared her perspective, Andy Cassarino (RHS Class of 2014) who shared his research on the history of the mascot and Marisa Kiefaber (RHS Class of 2010) who read testimonials of support from the alumni and community members (Harry Chen, MD, Shaina MacLaughlan (Class of 2010), Alex Morgan (Class of 2005), Kate LaBelle, Emily Isabelle and Jerrica Magill.)	PROPOSAL TO CHANGE MASCOT
President Notte thanked Ms. Gokee and her team for the presentation and information and noted that there will be a meeting dedicated to discussion regarding the mascot on October 6, 2020.	
Commissioner Solsaa thanked the group for their presentation, noting that it was well done.	
Commissioner Goldberg requested clarification that the October 6, 2020 meeting would include an adhoc committee of the whole Board for a community engagement and further discussion.	
President Notte invited public comment to address the Chair, noting that all conversation should be civil, constructive and limited to 90 seconds per individual.	PUBLIC COMMENT
Heather Stevenson (210 Lincoln Avenue), Jacob Powsner, Samantha Cohen, Jill Steigerwald (Colorado), Aaron Epps, Caleb Dundas, Michael O’Brien (Proctor), Marina McCoy (Vermont) and Sarah Allen (East Washington Street) spoke in support of the Change the Mascot Campaign.	
Butch Paul (21 Catherine Drive, RHS Class of 1968) spoke in opposition of the Change the Mascot Campaign and questioned who makes the decision. President Notte advised that the issue is under the purview of the Administration and the Board.	
Ernest LaGuardia, SRO, noted that he did not need to speak as his question had been answered by President Notte.	
President Notte noted the Community Engagement Forum scheduled for October 6, 2020.	
School/Program Updates – Student Representatives’ Report – Faculty Professional Development at Northeast, Northwest and RMS were highlighted.	STUDENT REPS’ REPORT
Opening of School Report/Highlights – Assistant Superintendent Bliss noted that he and Superintendent Olsen had been in each of the schools and attendance was at 94%. He thanked the community for readiness. Principals provided opening day highlights:	OPENING DAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Rutland High School – Greg Schillinger – The Class of 2024 engaged in team building and games with their advisories, toured the building and opened their lockers. The Freshman Integrated Team presented shared expectations for all students. All four grades will be welcomed tomorrow.
- Stafford Technical Center – Melissa Connor – STC welcomed the Red Team. Student Remote Learning Choice is at 3% (down from 6%.) They welcomed students from 11 partner schools and RHS.
- Rutland Middle School – Pati Beaumont – RMS held an Opening Day Celebration for in person and remote students which included singing and a poetry reading. Nineteen students were welcomed into the Bridges Program. Students were respectful of health and safety guidelines and demonstrated great collaboration with technology challenges.
- Allen Street Campus – Scott Corbett – No time was lost with all forward progress. Students are back working in the garden and riding exercise bikes. It was a smooth and happy opening.
- Rutland Intermediate School – Kerry Coarse – Excitement abounded everywhere. Everyone was patient and kind. Artwork is already up in the halls. Things are good at RIS.
- Northeast Primary School – Susanne Engels – Great teamwork between school and families at Northeast. The staggered schedule was helpful. Great masks included Batman, other super heros, kitties and hearts. Kids were amazing mask wearers.
- Northwest Primary School – Loren Pepe – Happy children and staff at Northwest. The new Pierpoint Learning Center is up and running. They are making great use of the outdoor classroom.

**OPENING
DAY
HIGHLIGHTS
CONT.**

Assistant Superintendent Bliss thanked the Board for allowing principals to share opening day highlights.

Central Office Reports – Superintendent Olsen thanked families, staff and students for making opening day work. He recognized the Maintenance Department for their work with cleaning processes. He noted Inservice Days prior to the start of schools which allowed for preparation and included work with Bor Yang, Executive Director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission. He advised that next steps include District Wide work on questions of equity led by Rob Bliss and Pam Reed. He thanked President Notte for attending a VSA leadership meeting with Assistant Superintendent Bliss and himself. He and Director of Finance Ted Plemenos will be attending a VSA leadership meeting for School Business Mangers. Installation of the secondary flagpole has been delayed but work will be completed within the next two weeks.

**SUPERINTEN-
DENT'S
REPORT**

COVID 19 Expense Related to Compliance – Director of Finance, Ted Plemenos reported that a system was set up by Mary Alma Noonan for tracking extraordinary expense related to COVID 19. There were approximately \$250,000 additional expenses from April – June 2020 related to PPE, cleaning supplies and IT for remote learning (approximately 1.5% of the budget.) The application for relief funds has been submitted and we are hopeful for full reimbursement. The State also asked for an estimate of extraordinary expenses through the first half of the year (anticipated - \$500,000 – 1.5% of the budget for the same time frame.) We are also hopeful for full reimbursement, but dependent on submissions, if not sufficient the State will prorate.

**COVID 19
EXTRA-
ORDINARY
EXPENSE**

President Notte asked the board if there were questions regarding Central Office reports and thanked the Administration.

Building committee – Commissioner Shimp reported that the Building Committee met and reviewed new criteria/standards and costs. She thanked Michael Derevjanik and staff and advised that another proposal to expand solar capacity was discussed. A recommendation will be brought to the Board at a later time.

**BUILDING
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Policy Committee Report – Commissioner Olewnik presented Policies 3140 (to update) and 7700 (recommended by the VSBA) for first reading.

**POLICY
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Motion by Olewnik/Solsaa for:

**MOTION:
FIRST
READING**

- First Reading - Policy 3140 Flagpole Use and Display Policy
- First Reading – Policy 7700 District Equity Policy –

Commissioner Pencak asked if the policies were reviewed by an attorney. Bill Meub advised on Policy 3140. VSBA attorneys reviewed model for Policy 7700.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Olewnik noted that Patricia Aigner is reviewing an electronics communication policy recommended by the VSBA and new Title 9 requirements will require new policies.

Staff Relations Committee Report – Commissioner Goldberg reported a very productive meeting last Tuesday. More details will be discussed later.

**STAFF
RELATIONS
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

New and old business – Draft Board Calendar 2020-2021 was distributed to the Board for review.

**NEW/OLD
BUSINESS**

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Motion by Pencak/Cavacas (Brittany) at 8:06 pm that the Rutland City Board of School Commissioners enter into an executive session with Superintendent Olsen, Assistant Superintendent Bliss, Director of Finance Ted Plemenos and Bill Meub, Esq. for the purposes of obtaining confidential attorney/client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the District the general public knowledge of it which would clearly place the Board at a substantial disadvantage.

**MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion passed unanimously.

**OUT OF
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 9:05 pm.

Motion by Shimp/Cavacas (Hurley) to accept the Building Committee’s recommendation not to pursue the solar proposal.

**MOTION:
SOLAR
PROPOSAL**

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Cavacas (Hurley)/Seward to adjourn at 9:07 pm.

ADJOURN

Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty Kapitan, Recording Secretary

TO: Board of Education

FROM: William K. Olsen, Superintendent

DATE: September 2, 2020

RE: Personnel Memorandum – Licensed and Non-Licensed

RESOLVE: That the LICENSED and NON-LICENSED SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL MEMO **NO. 613** dated **September 2, 2020**, be approved as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

A. LICENSED SECTION

1. Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Joseph Doherty	Physical Education/RHS	8/10/2020

2. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Greg Styles	STEAM Integration Specialist/RMS	\$59,605.00	8/28/2020
Mary Homan	LTS Music Teacher/NE & NW	\$40,758.87	8/31/2020

B. NON-LICENSES SECTION

1. Retirement/Resignation

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Patricia Trapeni	Paraeducator/RHS	8/25/2020
Paolo Zancanaro	Paraeducator/RHS	9/2/2020

2. Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Sue Burke	Facilities Worker I – Bus Driver	\$23.32/hour	8/31/2020
Stephanie St. Lawrence	Facilities Worker I – Custodian	\$23.32/hour	9/3/2020

3. Fall Coaching Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Stipend</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Tom Geisler	Cross Country Head Coach/RHS	\$5,515.00	Fall Season