

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING – SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

October 6, 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
Erin Shimp
Cathy Solsaa

Also Present:

Superintendent Bill Olsen
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Director of Technology Patricia Aigner
Principal, Rutland High School, Greg Schillinger
Public Comment - Speakers as Listed

President Notte called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm. She welcomed the public and noted that all commissioners are in attendance.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

Commissioner Pencak read: a statement from the Vermont Principal’s Association on school mascots (dated August 28, 2020) followed by the Board’s Vision and Mission Statements.

**READING OF
VPA
STATEMENT,
BOARD
GOALS &
MISSION**

President Notte read the Board’s Goals. She explained the process for public input and reviewed key points for civil discourse.

**PUBLIC
INPUT
PROCESS &
KEY POINTS**

Public Comment:

1. Melinda Kimmel, Rutland, VT (RHS 1980)
 - o Spoke in opposition of changing the mascot.
2. Rachel Black, Rutland, VT (RHS 2009)
 - o Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
3. Caleb Dundas, Rutland, VT (RHS Senior)
 - o Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
4. Marisa Kiefaber, Rutland, VT (RHS 2010)
 - o Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
5. Whitney Pratt, Whitefish, MT (RHS 2010)
 - o Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
6. Samantha Cohen, Carpinteria, CA (RHS Alum)
 - o Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
7. Jesse Wilson, Portland, ME (RHS 2009)
 - o Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
8. Nell Reis, Cleveland, OH (RHS 2010)
 - o Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
9. Amanda Pagano, Rutland, VT (Originator of Online Petition)
 - o Spoke in opposition of changing the mascot.
10. Samantha Tuepker, Essex, VT (RHS 2010)
 - o Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
11. Jonathan Bassett, Ossining, NY (RHS Alum)
 - o Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

12. Jill Steigerwald, Tabernash, CO (RHS 2003)
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
13. Jacob Pluta, Killington, VT (RHS 2006)
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
14. Sarah Allen, Rutland, VT
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
15. Jacob Powsner, Chittenden, VT (Technical issues – See #31)
16. Anne Lezak, Burlington, VT (Parent of RHS Alumni)
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
17. Aris Sherwood, Rutland Town, VT (RHS 2018)
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
18. Tricia O'Connor, Rutland, VT
 - Spoke in opposition of changing the mascot.
19. Heather Juliussen-Stevenson, Rutland, VT (Technical issues – See #32)
20. Harry Chen, Burlington, VT (Former Commissioner of Health, Former RRMC Physician)
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
21. Craig Hahn, Rutland, VT
 - Spoke in opposition of changing the mascot.
22. Heather Juliussen-Stevenson, Rutland VT (Technical issues – See #32.)
23. John “Jack” Arthur, Rutland, VT
 - Spoke in opposition of changing the mascot.
24. Sharon Courcelle, Rutland, VT
 - Spoke in opposition of changing the mascot.
25. Marsha Cassel, Rutland, VT (RCPS Employee & Parent of Alum)
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
26. Annie Daley, Poultney, VT
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
27. Jillian Stevens, Rutland, VT (RCPS Employee)
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
28. Aaron Epps, Rutland, VT
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
29. Becca Booth, Philadelphia, PA (Not Present)
30. Tom DePoy, Rutland, VT
 - Spoke in opposition of changing the mascot.
31. Jacob Powsner, Chittenden, VT
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.
32. Heather Juliussen-Stevenson, Rutland VT
 - Spoke in favor of changing the mascot.

President Notte thanked everyone for speaking, listening and attending. She closed the session at 6:19 pm.

CONCLUSION

Respectfully Submitted,
Betty Kapitan, Recording Secretary