

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADHOC - POLICY AND PROCEDURE REVIEW**

May 25, 2021

Committee Members Present:

Dena Goldberg, Chair
Ann Dages
Charlene Seward
Stephanie Stoodley

Other Board Members Present:

Kevin Kiefaber
Alison Notte
Tricia O'Connor
Cathy Solsaa

Also Present:

Superintendent Bill Olsen
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
RHS, Principal, Greg Schillinger

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm. Assistant Superintendent Bliss began recording and admitting members of the public into the meeting.

CALL TO
ORDER

Motion by Seward/Stoodley to appoint Commissioner Goldberg as Chair of the Committee.

MOTION:
CHAIR

Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Goldberg stated the need for patience while the Committee moves forward with their charge, noting that the Committee is charged with reviewing processes and not discussing matter of the Mascot. Members of the public who desire to address the full Board on the mascot issue will be allowed an opportunity at the June 22, 2021 (tentative) meeting. She advised that if anyone requested to make a public comment at this time, a few minutes would be allowed before the Committee proceeded. There were no requests to address the Committee.

PUBLIC
COMMENT
(NONE)

Chair Goldberg advised that Committee had accepted the charge and needed to figure out how to proceed and bring recommendations, information and findings to the full Board.

COMMITTEE
CHARGE
BOARD CHAIR
MEMO - 5/11/21 -
ATTACHED

Commissioner Seward suggested starting with a list of things to collect and review. Commissioner Stoodley suggested looking at the five items listed in the Board Chair's memo and breaking it down to come up with a list. Suggestions included: minutes, agendas and video recordings of previous meetings.

The Committee reviewed requests listed on the memo:

#1. Determine the procedures that were followed during the Board's prior actions to change the RPS mascot and report on what occurred and when it occurred and how it occurred.

Suggested were reviewing minutes, agendas and video recordings of prior meetings.

#2. Consult with any needed experts on Robert's Rules of Order to identify if things were done correctly, and if not, what are the consequences of such actions.

Discussion revolved around requirements related to State Statute, Robert's Rules, lack of the Committee's expertise in the area of Robert's Rules, getting assistance from a parliamentarian and outside legal counsel.

Commissioner Notte suggested starting with consulting with a parliamentarian to avoid wasting time if it there was no infraction. She stated that Robert's Rules point of order was for use during meetings and that there was no mechanism to pick meetings apart or change outcomes. She advised that the Committee should consult with a parliamentarian to see if it is appropriate for the to complete the charge.

Discussion revolved around involvement of an expert being part of the process for guidance being a priority of the Committee.

Chair Goldberg noted that #1 and #2 addressed the work needed to be done and #3, #4 and #5 are items to come out of the work.

Discussion continued regarding engaging and working with a parliamentarian/expert and reviewing agendas, minutes and video recordings.

Chair Goldberg questioned if the work/charge of this Committee might open opportunities for other incidents where procedures may have unintentionally not followed correctly. Commissioner Stoodley stated that it would be up to the Board Chair. Commissioner Seward commented that "we are already here."

Commissioner Notte spoke to her prior point, stating that point of order was designed to challenge at the time of the meeting.

Commissioner Seward advised that the Committee was not taking public comment at this time.

Commissioner Notte advised that she was not making public comment, noting she was acknowledged by the Chair and all Board Members are allowed equal participation.

Chair Goldberg ruled that Commissioner Notte be allowed to continue with her statement.

Commissioner Notte suggested that the Committee should start with the #2 request because if it is not allowed, then the charge is complete.

The Committee discussed finding expertise, starting review (minutes, agendas, video recordings) and identifying meetings.

Chair Goldberg advised the need to develop a timeline, decide on how often to meet, assignment of tasks, getting feedback from an expert and concluded that getting expertise should be a priority.

Superintendent Olsen and Assistant Superintendent Bliss advised that they would assist the Committee in finding an expert and making documentation easily accessible to the Committee.

Discussion continued addressing the timeline, June 22, 2021 (tentative) meeting for the public to address the Board, Committee doing their own investigation while finding an expert at the same time, Committee meetings and Board conduct document (self-reflection, review of at the beginning of meetings, being part of the process for feedback to the Board as a whole.)

Superintendent Olsen noted that he would supply the Committee with agendas, minutes and video links for related meetings tomorrow.

Commissioner Kiefaber asked about dates of meeting to be reviewed – October 20th when motion was made and meeting in February when adopting the Ravens as the mascot was approved. Discussion revolved around timeline of events including: initial presentation, meeting when the

motion to change the mascot was approved, when the Ravens as the mascot was approved, the meeting for public comment and information emailed to Board Members.

COMMITTEE
CHARGE BOARD
CHAIR MEMO –
5/11/21 –
ATTACHED

Commissioner Kiefaber noted that he was trying to suggest a list for whoever would be pulling these things together. Superintendent Olsen advised that we will sort through it.

Commissioner Dages clarified that the Committee would review information concurrently while working on acquiring an expert for consultation, asking if the expert would attend the next meeting?

Commissioner Stoodley asked what happens if we don't find someone?

Superintendent Olsen advised that he would begin working on finding someone right away and their attendance at the next meeting would be dependent on scheduling.

Discussion continued regarding the scheduling of meetings and accommodating an expert when found.

The Committee decided to schedule meetings:

- June 1, 2021 at 6:00 pm
- June 15, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Commissioner Seward stated that she thought the Committee is making this harder than it needs to be and may be overthinking things.

Motion by Stoodley/Dages to adjourn at 5:55 pm. Passed.

ADJOURN

Respectfully Submitted,
Betty A. Kapitan, Recording Secretary

BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
6 CHURCH ST.
RUTLAND, VERMONT 05701

From: Hurley Cavacas, President of the Rutland Board of School Commissioners

To: Ad Hoc Committee to Report on Events and Consequences of the Mascot Change whose members are:

1. Dena Goldberg
2. Stephanie Stoodley
3. Charlene Seward
4. Ann Dages

Subject: Committee Charge

Date: May 11, 2021

Pursuant to Board Policy 1330, "Temporary and ad-hoc committees shall be created by the President at his/ her discretion." I am establishing an *ad hoc* committee in an effort to clarify the facts and the issues for the Board, so that it can reasonably and respectfully decide how to proceed in connection with the mascot issue. I request that the Committee do the following:

1. Determine the procedures that were followed during the Board's prior actions to change the RPS mascot and report on what occurred and when it occurred and how it occurred.
2. Consult with any needed experts on Robert's Rules of Order to identify if things were done correctly, and if not, what are the consequences of such actions.
3. Report to the Board on the facts, the results, and conclusions of the Committee's research.
4. Answer the questions: May the action(s) and decision(s) be properly revisited or reconsidered? And, if so how?

5. Make recommendations to the Board on what next steps might or could be considered proper, knowing that only the Board has the authority to act on these issues.

The Committee should establish a timeline in which it can reasonably accomplish its work and report back to the Board so that we know when we might expect the Report from this Committee.

The Superintendent is available to help coordinate the activities of the Committee.

Thank you for participating on this Committee.