

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 23, 2009**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Christopher Book
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Wayne Cooke
Roberta Dress
Collin Fingon
Cindy Kilic-Murray

Members Absent

Richard Courcelle
Peter Fagan
Peter Forshay
Rob Towle
Daniel Wigmore

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
John Rice
Wil Cunningham
Ellie McGarry
Kristin Francoeur
Kristen Hubert
Susanne Engels
Ted Guilmette
Lyle Jepson

Motion by Cooke / Kilic-Murray to convene to executive session at 6:15 pm for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, the premature release of information regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Unanimously passed by those in attendance.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 6:55 pm.

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Mello noted the absence of Commissioners Courcelle, Fagan, Forshay and Towle and Student Representative Wigmore

**MOTION:
MINUTES
6/09/09
MEETING**

Motion by Cooke / Dress to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2009 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**WRITTEN
COMMUN-
ICATION**

Written Communication - Mr. Mello read a letter from Ellen Greene, president of the REA, thanking the Board and Administration for the delightful end of year celebration.

**LETTER
FROM REA
W/ THANKS**

Oral Communication - Rutland City resident Ben Lynch addressed the board about a few topics. Mr. Lynch's comments:

**ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATION**

- The Board should hold the administration accountable.
- The cost of non-performance includes crime. An educated person is less likely to fall into crime.
- There should be extra effort to help the students in the Northwest school district, as requested by those teachers. We are a checkmark school again. Next year's first grade at NW will have the largest number of students and largest number on plans. Why hold back?
- Mr. Lynch referred to state statute regarding the Board's power regarding staffing stating it is not only up to the administration. He feels the hiring of teachers should be up to the Board.
- School reform means doing what is best for the children.

**COMMENTS
FROM
PUBLIC RE:
A VARIETY
OF
CONCERNS**

ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATION,
cont.

- Mr. Lynch is concerned about the “black eye” the public school system is receiving and referred to alleged misconduct by a member of the administration. He asked for a statement from the Board or administration to counteract the allegations if they are not true.
- Mr. Lynch urged the administration and Board to take a more forceful action to improve the school system. How long can we continue to always be on the checklist without improvement? He said the drug abuse is a big problem and education is the way to improve the City.

Mr. Mello thanked Mr. Lynch for his comments and concerns and coming to the Board with research and data. He understands Mr. Lynch has a passion for the welfare of the students and education. He said any rumored allegations and actions the Board may or may not take are personnel matters and are legally confidential. Rumored allegations are made by people who are the least informed about what is going on in the district. Mr. Lynch said crime has been escalating in the City. Everyone knows what is going on – people have to come forward.

EDUCATION
REPORT

Summer Hiring Protocol

Motion by Cooke / Cavacas to authorize the Superintendent to notify the Board via e-mail, of potential hires during the summer. If there is no significant objection to the recommended candidate, the position will be hired and filled. The Board will ratify such actions at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

MOTION:
SUMMER
HIRING
PROTOCOL

Ms. Moran reviewed the positions remaining to be filled: one high school technology position, RIS Assistant Principal (pending Board action tonight), one SLP and paraeducators.

Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Fingon / Kilic-Murray to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 407 dated June 19, 2009, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #407

Ms. Moran introduced three current members of our staff being recommended for leadership appointments:

- Susanne Engels - currently the Interim Director of Success recommended to be Director of Success.
- Jessica Henderson - currently a special educator recommended to be Assistant Principal at RIS,
- Kristin Holsman-Francoeur - currently Assistant Principal RIS recommended to be Assistant Principal at RMS.

The other appointments and resignations were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

MOTION:
RATIFICA-
TION OF
RSSA
CONTRACT

Ratification of the Rutland City School Staff Association Contract
Motion by Cavacas / Book for the Board of School Commissioners to ratify the Rutland City Staff Association Contract as presented.

Commissioner Fingon summarized the highlights of the process and contract. He said the RSSA is made up of hard working individuals and it was nice working with them. The contract is for two years. It includes new money of 4.15% in FY10 and 5.35% FY11. Mr. Fingon explained that new money includes all elements of compensation including salary, health insurance, taxes, and retirement. Ms. Moran said the Association ratified the contract last week.

**SUPERIN-
TENDENTS'
EMPLOY-
MENT
CONTRACT
EXTEN-
SIONS**

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Mary E. Moran and Robert S. Bliss Employment Contract Extensions - Mr. Mello said Ms. Moran and Mr. Bliss' individual contracts require them to notify the Board of their intent to extend their contract for an additional year. Letters have been received from both of them. Their current contracts run from 2008-2010. This is a request to extend the term to 2011 but it does not set the compensation.

**MOTION:
ACCEPT
REQUEST
TO EXTEND
EMPLOY-
MENT
CONTRACT
EXTEN-
SIONS FOR
MORAN &
BLISS**

Motion by Dress/Fingon to accept the request to extend employment contract extension to June 30, 2011 for Superintendent Mary E. Moran and Assistant Superintendent Robert S. Bliss. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Acceptance of FY 10 IDEA-B Grant Funds - Ms. McGarry said each year we receive federal funds for special education and the Board needs to officially approve them. The memo outlines the use of the monies.

**BUSINESS
REPORT**

Motion by Cooke / Fingon to accept the FY 10 IDEA-B Grant Funds in the amount of \$629,170 and to accept the FY 10 IDEA-B Pre-School Grant Funds in the amount of \$21,170 as presented.

**MOTION:
ACCEPT
IDEA-B
GRANT
FUNDS.**

Commissioner Cooke asked for a more detailed report and Ms. McGarry will provide it. She said the amount of money is similar to previous year's with a small increase.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

BIDS

Bid Award - Window Replacement - Mr. Rice reviewed the scope of work for the exterior classroom window replacements. There are 34 at Northwest, 24 at Northeast and 18 at Success. He said there were three bidders and they were all qualified. There is a two month lead time to manufacture the window and we are scheduled to begin installation on or about the first of September. The money is from the 2010 budget.

**MOTION:
AWARD
CONTRACT
FOR
WINDOW
REPLACE-
MENTS**

Motion by Cooke / Fingon to award the contract for the window replacement at Northwest, Northeast and Success to Royal Glass and Security for \$73,900.

Mr. Rice said the installations will be done during off-hours, not during class time. Once the project begins, he believes it will take approximately one month to complete. Mr. Rice reviewed the windows not being changed. He said we are only doing classroom windows now. There are an additional 15 administrative windows at Success and a few at Northeast. It completes this type of window replacement at Northwest. Mr. Cooke complimented the work, planning and vision. He said the work is timely in terms of energy efficiency and need. Mr. Rice said as part of the energy performance contract, windows will be replaced at RMS and RIS

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Bid - STC Power Mechanics and Natural Resources Building Refurbishment - Ms. Moran apologized for the late information on another bid. This is for an ongoing Stafford project. Mr. Rice said this is a complete replacement of heating and ventilation, plumbing, lighting and electrical upgrades, installation of epoxy floor, painting, ceiling, and roof replacement at the Stafford Power Mechanics and Natural Resources building. There were six bidders and they were all qualified. Otter Creek Builders seem very well qualified and experienced. They are trying to do all the work by October. The program has been relocated.

**MOTION:
APPROVE
BID FOR
STC POWER
MECHANICS
& NATURAL
RESOURCES
BUILDING
REFURBISH-
MENT**

Motion by Cooke / Fingon to approve the STC Power Mechanics and Natural Resources Building Refurbishment to Otter Creek Builders in an amount not to exceed \$330,000 utilizing funds authorized by the STC Regional Advisory Board.

Mr. Cooke said while this looks rushed, it has been in the works for quite a while but there have been some obstacles. The plan assures safety of all students and this is in the best interest of the students. Mr. Jepson said we have been looking at this for 12 years. The bids are good and the cost is spread to all the sending high schools. In addition, there is some oil savings and a reimbursement just received from a roof project from several years ago. He said things have come together now.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**SUPERIN-
TENDENT'S
REPORT**

Announcements

- We will be losing two School Resource Officers due to budget constraints. The remaining SRO will be assigned K-12. Their work is valued. The job has been posted and officers have applied. She said this is a loss we hope to bring back in the future.
- Ms. Moran thanked everyone for the wonderful year end events. There was excellent cooperation in all grades.
- John Rice and his crew are underway with summer projects.
- Tapestry will be starting soon as will the STC summer camp.
- We have received a note from Duke University with an update on the WISER program, the school in Africa some of our graduates are involved with. RMS students have contributed to the scholarship fund so that each year, one of their student's education is supported by RMS students.

**ANNOUNCE-
MENTS**

Search Updates - Mr. Bliss is putting back together the search committee to fill the RIS Assistant Principalship (grades 3-4 slot).

**SEARCH
UPDATES**

Committee Reports - None

**COMM.
REPORTS**

New Business - EHT Resolution

Motion by Kilic-Murray / Cavacas to adopt the following Resolution on EHT, 6-23-09: "Recognizing the positive correlation between indoor environmental quality and student achievement and the collaborative accomplishments of the Environmental Health Team in its use of the Environmental Protection Agency's Tools for Schools program, the Rutland City Board of School Commissioners resolves to:

**NEW
BUSINESS**

**MOTION:
EHT
RESOLU-
TION**

- Encourage and support the work of the EHT in being pro-active in examining indoor environmental health issues using the EPA's program.
- Continue to correct any facility issues as they relate to indoor environmental quality as soon as is practicable.
- Promote the education of the entire school community in the work of the EHT and the importance of healthy indoor environments, both at school and at home."

**MOTION:
EHT
RESOLU-
TION, cont.**

Other - Commissioner Dress requested that Board packets be sent electronically to save postage and paper. Ms. Moran said the office has the capacity so it is up to Board members. Mr. Mello said the full Board will be polled.

**REQUEST;
SEND
BOARD
PACKETS
ELECTRON-
ICALLY**

Old Business - None

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Motion by Kilic-Murray / Fingon to adjourn at 7:52 pm.

ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary