

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 25, 2011**

**School Board Members Present:**

Peter Mello  
Christopher Book (6:53 pm)  
Richard Courcelle  
Roberta Dress  
Peter Fagan  
Collin Fingon (6:36 pm)  
Peter Forshay  
Erin Shimp  
Rob Towle  
Blake Bohlig

**Member Absent**

Hurley Cavacas, Jr.  
Wayne Cooke

**Also Present:**

Superintendent Mary Moran  
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss  
Peter Amons  
Ellie McGarry  
Bill Olsen  
Kristin Francoeur  
Jessica Henderson  
Pam Reed

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The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Mello noted the absence of Commissioner Cavacas, Fingon, Cooke, Book.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Motion by Forshay / Towle to accept the minutes of the Jan. 11, 2011 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**ROLL CALL**

**MOTION:  
MINUTES  
01/11/11  
MEETING**

Written Communication - None

**WRITTEN &  
ORAL  
COMMUN-  
ICATIONS**

Oral Communication - None

**EDUCATION  
REPORT**

Home Schooling - Ms. Moran provided materials to the Board about the home schooling process and reviewed Vermont's requirements. She said the school district gets word from the State about children living in the city who are enrolled in and following a home schooling process but they do not send any other information. Home school children are allowed to take up to 40% of their full day education in the school system. Ms. Moran said this does happen and students sometimes take classes such as music, science lab or advanced courses. Home schooled children are eligible to participate in co-curricular activities and need to meet the same eligibility requirements regarding insurance, etc., as all other students.

**HOME  
SCHOOLING**

Ms. Moran said in the city, there are currently 14 families with a total of 17 children in home school programs with students in grade K - 11. She said there have been very compatible relationships. Families need to work with the school district in which they reside. Mr. Mello said a parent asked him about school choice because they live outside Rutland City but want to enroll their child 40% time in Rutland City schools. Ms. Moran said they would have to attend the school in which they reside. Mr. Mello asked about tuition and if the family can pay 40% tuition for 40% of classes. Ms. Moran said either a student is a resident or not.

Ms. Moran said home school students do not get a diploma when they graduate. Upon

successfully completing their program, they get a report from the state saying they have completed their home schooling program. They do not need a GED. Commissioner Dress asked about NECAPs and about the home school coordinator. Ms. Moran said the home school coordinator has nothing to do with home schooled children. Home school coordinators are school counselors in the lower grades. She said school administrators do check up and make sure the students are bona fide home schooled children and are not truant. Ms. Moran said home school children do not have to take NECAP tests. They do need to report competencies to the state. Ms. Moran said the district needs a policy about home schooling and a sample policy is being referred to the Policy Committee.

**HOME  
SCHOOLING  
cont.**

**BUDGET  
BUDDIES**

Budget Buddies - Commissioner Shimp provided an update to the Budget Buddies schedule. They are scheduling public meetings and going to things such as sporting events. They are planning a series of parent-teacher meetings and clubs. The schedule will be posted on the website. Mr. Amons' office is getting information for the FAQ. Ms. Moran said information and literature will be available next week. Blake Bohlig is working on a student voter registration drive.

**MOTION:  
PERSONNEL  
MEMO #438**

Motion by Towle / Fagan to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 438 dated Jan. 21, 2011, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The appointments, family/medical leave, and retirements were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached and there was discussion about an appointment.

**BUSINESS  
REPORT**

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

**MISSION  
FUND**

Mission Fund - Mr. Amons said the Mission Account is an old school district account created with monies left over from the sale of the Park Street School to the Mission. The Board has authority over using the money however they want. The City Treasurer is cleaning up old accounts and asked for it to be closed.

**MOTION:  
APPROVE  
USE OF  
MISSION  
ACCOUNT  
FUNDS**

Motion by Towle / Dress that the City of Rutland Board of School Commissioners approve the use of \$2,793.57, or any exact final sum, from the Mission Account for the use of general repairs and maintenance such that the fund may be closed.

Commissioner Fagan asked if there are other funds like this and Ms. Moran said to our knowledge, this is the end of this type of fund. Mr. Amons said we plan to put this into the bus repair account, which we know will be over-budget.

**SUPERIN-  
PENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**ANNOUNCE-  
MENTS**

#### Announcements

- A reminder for families to read newsletters and check school website for activities.
- Primary student progress reports will be sent home with children this Friday
- At Northwest, this Friday is Attendance and Giraffe Awards assembly.

- Kindergarten and grades 1 - 2 concerts are next week.
- At Northeast, this Friday evening is a PTC Movie Night with a viewing of “Toy Story III.” Kindergarten and first grade have their winter concerts next week. Next week there will be two programs which support current curriculum studies: Tin Cup Adventures, a traveling museum of pioneer living bringing to life for second graders their study of 19th century pioneer life; and Star Lab, a fiber arc projector which simulates stars, planets and constellations for first graders.
- Congratulations to RIS teacher Mr. Todd Stratton, the winner of the Educate / Innovate Grant. As a result, he will be receiving a laptop lab and software for his classroom. The RIS PTC have their annual Grocery Bingo tomorrow. RIS will have their first annual Snowflake Dance this Saturday. Students must come with a parent.
- RMS Term 2 Honors Assembly takes place this Friday. Grade 8 NAEP testing for grade 8 students will take place next Wednesday.
- RHS congratulates sophomore Lisa Ogorzalek, one of 12 finalists of Vermont high school students to be recognized in the ‘State of the Union’ essay-writing contest developed by Senator Bernie Sanders. RHS Social Studies teacher Jennie Gartner challenged her students to write their thoughts on how they see America progressing. Lisa’s essay will be placed in the Congressional Record. Also congratulations to RHS field hockey players Allison Resnick and Margaret Markowski who both made the NFHSCA High School National Academic Squad. Rutland High School second semester Open House is tomorrow night. The Rutland High School Music Department will present a “Winter Jazz Concert” this Thursday. The concert features jazz groups from Rutland Town School as well as the RHS Jazz Ensemble. In forensics, Sam Lucci received a first place award for Poetry at the Woodstock tournament. Liam Fagan won first place in Extemp. at the CVU forensic tournament.

LEGISLA-  
TIVE  
REPORT

Legislative Report - Ms. Moran said the delegation has been keeping us updated. There will be a full update at the next Board meeting.

COMM.  
REPORTS

Policy Committee - Commissioner Book reviewed three policies for review.

POLICY  
COMM.

Motion to Forshay / Towle approve the following policies for first reading as recommended by the Policy Committee:

MOTION:  
APPROVE  
POLICIES  
FOR FIRST  
READING

#6132 - Employee Use of Social Networking, Social Media Sites, Including Personal Sites

#6200 - Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment

#7400 - Prevention of Harassment of Students

Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

NEW  
BUSINESS

New Business - None

Old Business

OLD  
BUSINESS  
REVISIT  
TAX RATE

Commissioner Towle suggested that if the tax rate is set at \$.88 instead of \$.87, that the Board revisit the budget to maintain a 0% increase. Ms. Moran said the dialogue regarding the tax rate is continuing state-wide.

Mr. Fagan asked about the policy on social networking which the Board just passed. He asked if it was prescribed or if the committee created it. Mr. Bliss reviewed some of the background about the policy and its intent. He said the committee initiated the policy and it was developed with input from the Vermont Superintendent's Association, case law, and policies read from other states.

**SOCIAL  
NETWORK-  
ING POLICY**

Motion by Towle / Fagan at 7:01 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel, legal contractual matters, the premature release of information regarding those subjects which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Unanimously passed by those in attendance.

**MOTION:  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION**

The Board came out of executive session at 8:25 pm.

**PUBLIC  
SESSION**

Motion by Book / Cooke to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Passed.

**ADJOURN**

Respectfully submitted

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Janet Mondlak  
Recording Secretary