

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 23, 2011**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Christopher Book
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Wayne Cooke
Richard Courcelle
Peter Fagan
Kate Thomas
Caroline Corsones

Members Absent

Collin Fingon
Jamie Pemrick
Erin Shimp
Rob Towle

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Peter Amons

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Mello noted the absence of Commissioners Fingon, Pemrick, Towle, Shimp.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Cavacas / Cooke to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2011 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

ROLL CALL

Motion by Cooke / Cavacas to accept the minutes of the Aug. 9, 2011 regular school board meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

**MOTION:
MINUTES
06/28/11 &
08/09/11
MEETING**

Written Communication - Mr. Mello said a note from an employee of a personal nature was received. He or Mr. Courcelle will respond to the employee.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Oral Communication - None

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Opening of Schools - Ms. Moran said all information about the opening of school has been sent home to families, will be in the Rutland Herald, and is on the school's website. All schools open Wednesday, August 31. Back to school nights were announced and are posted on the school's website. Tomorrow night is an orientation for all new middle school students. New staff orientation is on Thursday and welcome back opening convocation for all staff is on Monday.

EDUCATION REPORT

OPENING OF SCHOOLS

Board Calendar - Mr. Mello said a draft calendar for topics for upcoming Board meetings was distributed. He asked Board members to suggest any other topics they are interested in discussing or hearing about.

BOARD CALENDAR

Board Retreat Update - Mr. Mello said at the board retreat, members reflected upon the many accomplishments -- those based upon actions taken at board meetings as well as work done at committee meetings. He reviewed the list of accomplishments. Mr. Mello pointed out internal communication issues which are being addressed. At the retreat, they tried to come up with three goals being worked on:

BOARD RETREAT UPDATE

- improve communication

- student engagement for all students; more relevance; project based learning
- continued effort in early childhood and connecting with parents at an early age.

Commissioner Cavacas said he thinks the retreat went well. Communication is big and he asked the public to help by contacting board members or administration with questions. Ms. Moran said the district has a number of copies of a book which addresses understanding family poverty and she offered them to Board members. Commissioner Cooke said he continues to be impressed with the number of things offered for students to stay engaged. He said he heard a compliment about Larry Lattanzi from a family who attributed their child's graduation to the work he did.

Ms. Moran pointed out the summer Tapestry program artwork on the bulletin board. She said the program has a terrific staff under Diana Pfenning's direction. Students attended the Academy and Tapestry for six weeks throughout the summer. Counseling and nursing staff were available. She said this is one more example of an enriched program for students.

**MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #449**

Motion by Cavacas / Thomas to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 449 dated Aug. 19, 2011, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The appointments, family medical leaves, and resignations were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached. Ms. Moran reviewed the changes in the business office and said everything will be covered.

Motion passed by all those in attendance.

**BUSINESS
REPORT**

Business Report - Mr. Amons said the food service program is highly regulated from the National School Lunch program, which just passed some new laws. The government does not want school districts to charge for meals any less than the federal reimbursement. Otherwise, they feel they are indirectly subsidizing people who should be paying fully. Accordingly, Sodexo has computed new prices for lunch at the three schools. The elementary and middle schools are increasing by ten cents and the high school is increasing by fifteen cents.

**FOOD
SERVICE
PROGRAM**

Ms. Moran said this is part of the Child Nutrition Act passed in Congress last year. There are other stipulations about training and hiring of food service workers which might have some unintended costs. The federal government understands it has to be done gradually. Mr. Mello said it is important to let parents know that the federal government has imposed the increases.

There were questions and discussion from Board members:

- Can we get around this? Can there be a reduction for cash payments? Ms. Moran said this is all regulated.
- How does this impact the reduced price lunch children? Mr. Amons said it does not affect them. It is for children who pay full price.
- When does this become effective? Starting next week.
- Is this a move toward meeting the subsidized government amount? Mr. Amons reviewed the pricing and subsidy.

- What percentage of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch? Mr. Bliss said about 47% of the full district; about 54% are Rutland City students and 54% in grades K-8.

FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM, cont.

Superintendent's Announcements: Ms. Moran said her announcements were given in the school opening report.

SUPERINDEPENDENT'S REPORT

Building Committee - Mr. Cooke thanked and acknowledged the staff working all summer: teachers, Tapestry, custodians, secretaries and administrators. He reviewed the building summer accomplishments:

COMM. REPORTS

BUILDING COMM.

- STC renovation project is nearing completion. It has been on time and budget and continues to be.
- Power mechanics / welding and automotive refinishing / collision are complete.
- The electrical plumbing and creative structures building has been painted.
- Cosmetology salon is complete.
- The "Big Dig" at STC will be completed as early as this week. He said this involved repairing the sewer line that needed work. The line was longer and further away than anticipated but they did an incredible job. Drainage was done between STC and RHS to keep water away from buildings.

Mr. Cooke shared other highlights of summer work: cleaning, waxing floors, supporting technology equipment, staging, Head Start classroom moving into Allen Street, moving teachers into classrooms, moving classrooms to enhance instruction, playground repaired. The Longfellow front stairs were repaired and a new roof is on the side ramp, new lights in front of RIS, reconfigured storage at Porter Place.

ACTIVITIES COMM.

Activities Committee - Mr. Fagan said there is a meeting tomorrow.

Student Report - Caroline said the fall sports meeting was last week. Tryouts for football started last week and all other sports are this week. There is mentoring for new freshmen from upperclassmen.

STUDENT REPORT

New & Old Business - None

NEW & OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Courcelle / Fagan at 7:09 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and 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

PUBLIC SESSION

The Board came out of executive session at 7:39 pm.

Motion by Book / Fagan to approve the Personnel Memo # 449 Addendum. Passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

MOTION: PERSONNEL MEMO #449A

ADJOURN

Motion by Cooke / Fagan to adjourn at 7:41 pm. Passed.

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak, Recording Secretary