

**RUTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 8, 2011**

School Board Members Present:

Peter Mello
Hurley Cavacas, Jr.
Richard Courcelle
Peter Fagan
Collin Fingon
Jamie Pemrick
Erin Shimp
Kate Thomas
Rob Towle

Members Absent

Christopher Book
Wayne Cooke
Caroline Corsones

Also Present:

Superintendent Mary Moran
Assistant Superintendent Rob Bliss
Lyle Jepson
Bill Olsen
Peter Amons
Bob Johnson
Jay Slenker
Wil Cunningham
Susanne Engels
Cathy Farman
Mike Norman
Ted Guilmette
Jessica Henderson

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Mello noted the absence of Commissioners Cooke, Book, and Student Representative Corsones.

Motion by Fagan / Thomas to accept the minutes of the Oct. 25, 2011 regular school board meeting with the correction that Towle was not present. Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

Written & Oral Communications - None

Activities and Athletics Report - Mr. Olsen reviewed the list of clubs and activities at RHS and their enrollment. It was noted that Club Giving, Encore Theater, Marching Band, and the Spanish National Honor Society had increases in participation. There was an overall significant increase last year of students involved in activities. Mr. Olsen presented Mr. Olson's activity participation numbers, including RMS and RIS numbers. It shows the number of students in one sport / activity; two, three, or four. Mr. Norman reviewed the student participation in sports. 60% of students at RHS are involved in at least one sport or activity.

Mr. Olsen said he does not know how our participation rate compares to other schools in Vermont with a similar make-up but he will check with Mr. Olsen. Ms. Moran said our co-curricular offering is one of the largest in the state, even in comparison to larger schools. There was discussion on the RIS number of students in the Community Service Club. Mr. Slenker said about one third of RIS students participate and he questioned the number on the report.

Mr. Norman reviewed the Athletic Council agenda areas. The Tri-Scholar academic achievement is given to students who are also on the honor roll and the Academic Achievement award is similarly given for students who complete 120 hours of an activity and who are on the honor roll. The reports gave a break-down of number of students participating by grade and gender in each particular sport and also the number of teams

CALL TO
ORDER

ROLL CALL

MOTION:
MINUTES
10/25/11
MEETING

WRITTEN &
ORAL
COMMUN-
ICATIONS

EDUCATION
REPORT

ACTIVITIES
AND
ATHLETICS
REPORT

and coaches. Mr. Norman said athletic training services are provided to RHS by Vermont Orthopedic Clinic. There was discussion on the athletic training services at games. The Clinic provides services at home games. Mr. Norman said services are available at other schools. He said the interns from Castleton State College have also been very helpful. It was noted that there are portable defibrillators in all our schools and at athletic events. Ms. Moran said all administrators and coaches are trained to use them.

ACTIVITIES
AND
ATHLETICS
REPORT,
cont.

STC Budget Presentation - Mr. Jepson said the draft budget is preliminary. The STC finance committee will review it again and then send it to the Regional Advisory Board again. They like input from a wide variety of sources. The overall budget increase based on total expenditures in the draft budget is 2.5%. Mr. Jepson said the budget is down \$53,000 from two years ago and up about \$97,000 from this year. He said the sending schools look at the town assessment change, which is proposed at 9.7%. That is an increase on the assessment to the sending schools and amounts to about approximately \$370 more per student. He said the primary reason for the increase is that there are slightly fewer students next year based on the six semester average. There are only four fewer students but that affects the assessment.

STC
BUDGET
PRESENTA-
TION

Mr. Jepson said the Regional Advisory Board made wise but difficult decisions in dropping programs last year. As some of the new programs get averaged into the six semester average, it should help the budget over the next three years. Mr. Jepson said there are 15 programs with an average enrollment last year of 13.4 and this year of 16.1. The programs are full. He said it takes a pattern of three years with low enrollment before decisions are made to drop a program. Mr. Jepson said there are no new programs being proposed for next year. He explained the incubator fund line item. Mr. Jepson said the Perkins Grants are federal funds and the budget shows an anticipated reduction of \$26,000 in our allotment for next year. There was more discussion on program development at STC.

The STC budget will be presented at the Board meeting on November 29 for questions and the Board will be asked to approve it at their December 13 meeting. Ms. Moran said the sending towns need to know the cost of sending students to STC as they build their budgets.

Motion by Fagan / Cavacas to approve the Licensed and Non-licensed section of the Personnel Memorandum No. 452 dated Nov. 4, 2011, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

PERSONNEL

MOTION:
PERSONNEL
MEMO #452

The appointments, retirement, family medical leave, and resignation were reviewed by Superintendent Moran. They are attached.

Motion passed with one abstention (Cavacas)

BUSINESS
REPORT

Contingency Funds - Mr. Amons reviewed the three expenses recommended to be charged to Contingency. The total of the three items totals \$75,397.73 and are the first items to be charged to Contingency in this fiscal year, leaving a balance of \$174,602.27.

CONTIN-
AGENCY
FUNDS

Motion by Cavacas / Fagan to approve the following recommendations from the Director of Buildings and Grounds:

**MOTION:
CONTIN-
AGENCY
FUND
CHARGES**

- Charge FY12 Contingency Account \$8397.73 for repair of the CVPS electric line leading to Library Avenue complex.
- Charge FY12 Contingency Account up to \$32,000 for a commercial 4 wheel drive lawn mower.
- Charge FY12 Contingency Account up to \$35,000 for cooling systems in the district's server room located at RHS.

Mr. Fagan said he is concerned with other potential expenses at the server room at the high school outlined on the memo. Ms. Moran said they have talked about this and the other corrections will not be able to be done until the summer. Mr. Fingon asked about the old mower and Mr. Amons said he thinks Mr. Rice will attempt to sell it.

Motion passed with one abstention (Towle)

**SUPERIN-
TENDENT'S
REPORT**

Announcements

**ANNOUNCE-
MENTS**

- Ms. Moran presented a student report from Caroline Corsones. Junior Information Night is going to be November 15 in the Lecture Hall. This night will include information for Juniors and their parents about planning for Senior year, the college search, and the application process. The Rutland High School Advanced Orchestra joined the British group The Paul Dunton Quintet with vocalist Phoebe Katis at 7:00 pm on Thursday November 3 in the Rutland Intermediate School Auditorium, this charity concert giving all donations to flood relief through "Vermont Strong." The RHS Theater Department is putting on the play, "Harry's Hotter at Twilight" at 7 P.M. on November 17th-20th. All fall sports have ended. The field hockey team made it to the semi-finals. Winter sports officially start the week after Thanksgiving.
- Ms. Moran said the Howe Center Campus newsletter is well done and congratulated the students.
- The Northwest School Stuff a Bus continues throughout the week. They have partnered with the Heritage Family Credit Union. Students will travel to the Allen Street branch to pick up their food and monetary donation before heading to Price Chopper. There will be a VSO presentation on Wednesday. The Annual Thanksgiving Feast is Nov. 18.
- At Northeast School, on Wednesday, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra's "Fiddlesticks" String Trio will perform for all students. In celebration of Veterans Day, Mrs. Webster's class will be visiting the Maples on Thursday for a short program honoring our Veterans. Meeting the children will be Mr. Charles Skuba, a World War II Veteran and Purple Heart recipient. He will speak with the children of his service to our country. Mr. Skuba is the father of Mrs. Webster. Next Tuesday, all of Northeast will join together for the annual Thanksgiving meal. On Thursday and Friday of next week, first grade classes will be visiting Billings Farm and Museum. November 18 is a school spirit day, "Twin Day," where children (and adults) dress as twins with their best friends.
- At RHS, congratulations to Hilary Poremski-Beitzel, who was awarded a \$4,000 National Endowment for the Arts poetry fellowship last fall. She spent the month of July at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT, where she devoted herself

to her own studio practice in poetry writing. To complete the fellowship, she has been given a sum of money to bring her studio experience and poetry expertise into the lives of RHS students. In the spring, the Vermont Studio Center will sponsor and host an event where Hilary will give a public reading of her poetry.

- Also at RHS, the Forensics team competed at Lyndon Institute this past weekend. Brenda Delorey, a 9th grader at RHS, won 3rd place in poetry recital competition. NHS has had their ice cream social to welcome our exchange student. Students are making cancer bracelets with money going to help the Foley Cancer Center at RRM. G.M.T.I and Student Senate are collaborating to work on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey Initiative again this year. They will present their data to the Board at a future meeting. The Unpredictables sang the National Anthem, at a women’s hockey tournament, which was a fund raiser for the Foley Cancer Center.

COMM.
REPORTS

Policy Committee

POLICY
COMM.

Motion by Fagan / Fingon to approve for second reading the following policies:

- Policy #7550 - Student Awards and Scholarship
- Policy #7695 - Restrictive Behavioral Intervention

MOTION:
APPROVE
TWO
POLICIES
FOR
SECOND
READING

There was questions and discussion on Policy #7695. Mr. Bliss explained that the policy does not specify the involvement of the School Resource Officer, who functions under the policy. He operates at the school under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Police Department. Mr. Bliss also explained that in the event there is an ongoing incident, the administration has to be aware. The administrator on duty has to be overseeing the incident. He said if there is a need, we would call Community Crisis, which launches more support beyond our walls.

Motion passed unanimously by all those in attendance

Pension Committee - Mr. Mello read a statement. It is attached.

PENSION
COMM.

Mr. Mello asked for comments from the other Pension Committee members. Commissioner Towle said as a matter of housekeeping, one of the major items of contention was whether or not it was proper for the Pension Committee to pay for the research. He said there have to be expenses involved and he thinks Peter Amons was proper to research it. He said he thinks it is unfortunate how much time was spent. Commissioner Fagan said he needs to think about Mr. Mello’s recommendation. But he pointed out that there are different legs of the Rutland City Pension Plan. One for police and fire personnel and one for everyone else on the school and municipal side. The proposal was for a third leg -- one just for the school. The intent was to make it easier for our actuary to do her job and to make it easier to account for the assets and who they belong to. Commissioner Fingon said he supports Mr. Mello’s recommendation but he was fully behind the proposal. He said it did not touch the assets. There was a lot of confusion. The proposal was for a housekeeping action to create a document. He said the Pension Committee is wasting a lot of time and there are much bigger things the Pension Board needs to tackle. He said there was a lot of confusion and misinformation.

PETER
MELLO
PREPARED
STATE-
MENT

DISCUS-
SION

Mr. Mello said the Pension Board is scheduled to meet in December and they propose

discussion about document wording. He said if that happens, we will participate. He said he does not want the union or our employees or other members of the Pension Board to believe we had other intentions but to separate our assets for housekeeping purposes.

**PENSION
COMM.
DISC., cont.**

New Business

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Mr. Mello said he visited RHS last week and sat in on classes at the invitation of the REA. Caroline Corsones was his escort in the classes. They watched teachers working in a variety of settings. They will discuss it at a future meeting when Caroline is present.

**VISIT TO
RHS**

Mr. Fingon said on November 16, a professional basketball player will be speaking at RHS for students in the afternoon and in the evening for the community. He is a motivational speaker with a great story for the community to hear. He urged people to attend.

**MOTIVA-
TIONAL
SPEAKER**

Mr. Towle said he was alarmed to hear about Meatless Monday as part of the food service. He questioned the vegan-only menu. Ms. Moran will look into it.

**FOOD
SERVICE**

Mr. Fagan praised the Rutland Halloween parade and said the Frankenstein float from students from Encore was fabulous.

**HALLO-
WEEN
PARADE**

Mr. Fagan thanked IBM for their computer donation to the Starbase program which will be at the Rutland Armory's new location when they move in December.

**IBM
DONATION**

**GIFT OF
LIFE**

Mr. Cavacas encouraged everyone to register for an appointment for giving blood at Gift of Life. There is a high school challenge and area schools are sending buses of students.

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Old Business - None

**MOTION:
EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

Motion by Towle / Fagan at 7:35 pm, after a recess, for the board to convene to executive session for the purpose of discussing 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.

**PUBLIC
SESSION**

ADJOURN

The Board came out of executive session at 8:10 pm.

Motion by Fagan / Cavacas to adjourn at 8:10 pm. Passed.

Respectfully submitted

Janet Mondlak
Recording Secretary