

To be approved by the Rye School Board at the October 18, 2017 meeting.

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The regular monthly meeting of the School Board of the Rye School District was held at Rye Junior High School on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Kevin Brandon, Margaret Honda, Scott Marion,
Jeanne Moynahan, Paula Tsetsilas

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent

James Katkin, Business Administrator
Amy Ransom, Assistant Business Administrator
Suzanne Lull, Principal, Rye Elementary
Marie Soucy, Principal, Rye Junior High

Staff: Amy Reynolds, Jeanne Brown, Phoebe Bischoff,
Kathy Tucker, Sharon Sparks, Ed O'Brien

Residents/Visitors: Peter Crawford, JoAnn Hodgdon, Tasha Benson

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Marion called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Approval of public and non-public minutes of August 30, 2017:

On a motion by Mr. Brandon, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the public minutes, as amended, of August 30, 2017, as amended. Vote: 4-0 (1 abstained).

On a motion by Ms. Tsetsilas, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the non-public minutes of August 30, 2017. Vote: 4-0 (1 abstained).

On a motion by Mr. Brandon, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to seal the non-public minutes of August 30, 2017. Vote: 4-0 (1 abstained).

Communications

Mr. Petralia received communication from the National Education Association (NEA) on behalf of Sharon Sparks. The NEA is requesting release time for Ms. Sparks to attend meetings and conferences throughout the year in her role as national NEA delegate. The NEA will reimburse the district for the cost of a substitute for Ms. Sparks.

Ms. Sparks was present during this evening's meeting and stated that she is proud to represent the students and public education in New Hampshire in her role. Mr. Petralia and Ms. Soucy supported the request.

*On a motion by Mr. Brandon, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve the leave request of Sharon Sparks to attend the NEA leadership conferences as submitted.
Vote: Unanimous.*

Mr. Petralia received communication from Rye Town Administrator, Michael Magnant confirming that mosquitos with the West Nile Virus have been found in Rye. Spraying will take place on Sunday, September 24, 2017 in appropriate locations and all fields will be able to be used the following day. Mr. Petralia will send a notice through School Messenger to parents.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Petralia is pleased to announce that the new SAU 50 website launched on September 18th. He thanked Kelli Killen and Tracy Dumais for picking up on April Fox's previous work to shepherd the website work to completion.

Negotiations with Rye Education Support Professionals Association (RESPA) will begin on Friday, September 22nd at Rye Junior High. RESPA represents custodians, paraprofessionals, food service workers, and special education aides. Mr. Petralia, Mr. Brandon, and Ms. Honda will represent the Board.

Mr. Petralia will be attending the Secondary Advisory meeting next Tuesday, September 26th and will be bringing input from the Rye School District.

Mr. Petralia will be starting his school visits on Friday, September 22nd at both RES and RJH. Mr. Petralia thanked the principals for the tours they gave to the School Use Feasibility Committee.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Facility and Building Maintenance Plan

Mr. Katkin shared that his office has been creating an outline, describing the work that has been done in both buildings, including the work completed and the dates. Dr. Marion stated that the historical information is helpful but the Board also needs to know the life expectancy of the various building systems so that the Board can plan appropriate maintenance.

Electrical Upgrade Update

Mr. Katkin shared that both RES and RJH need some expensive electrical repairs.

At RES, topics discussed included more outlets in classrooms, updated circuits and access to panels, and unlabeled circuits.

At RJH, some residential panels should be commercial panels, outlets located near water outlets that should be GFI outlets, overloaded outlets and filled panels, and other code issues. Mr. Brandon asked if there is enough electricity coming into the buildings. Mr. Katkin responded that the issue is overloaded panels and the need for redistribution of circuits and panels. Mr. Katkin projects the cost will be \$35,000 for both buildings. The work will be prioritized based on safety and need. Some of the electrical work can be done while school is in session, but some work will need to be completed during vacation time.

Ms. Moynahan asked about using Rye's portion of SAU 50 unassigned fund balance to cover the cost of this electrical work. The money being spent cannot exceed the bottom line budget number for the Building fund. Mr. Katkin will have the prioritized list for the next Board meeting.

ASSISTANT BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Ransom shared the monthly balance sheet that portrayed the budget for each account, the amount spent to date, the amount encumbered, and the amount of funds not yet encumbered. Ms. Ransom stated that the balance is approximately \$700,000, but does not include all items since it is only September. Ms. Ransom stated that she could create an estimated encumbrance balance for the Board to review.

Ms. Ransom highlighted some areas for the Board to note, included some changes in staffing and salary that affect the budgetary categories. The Board thanked Ms. Ransom for the financial information presented.

RYE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT

Ms. Lull shared that Curriculum Nights were well attended and Lori Arsenault presented the JICK (Student Safety) policy to parents. Brad Belin, the project-based learning consultant, is returning to RES on September 21st.

Ms. Tsetsilas asked if the wax museum project and state fair project will still take place. Ms. Lull responded that some of the projects have been tweaked to include more components of project-based learning.

Ms. Lull shared results of 2017 exit interviews of why students did not begin the year at RJH. Ms. Tsetsilas added that the kindergarten class was projected to be 38 students and is up to 51 students.

RYE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT

Ms. Soucy shared that Open House night took place on September 7th. Ms. Soucy explained some schedule changes for the school and Dr. Ellwood explained her new role in the STEAM position to parents. The 6th grade team will be going to Mount Agamenticus on Friday, September 22nd. The whole school will be attending Take Flight in Kittery and then participating in a team building activity on Friday, September 29th back at RJH.

The enrichment classes are up and running and include babysitting certification, survival skills, and photography, among many others. All teams are committed to sending regular newsletters. The 5th grade students will be shadowing at RJH on October 24th and they are trying to schedule a parent night that includes a panel of teachers, and parents to learn about the great education at RJH.

Dr. Ellwood will be working with each grade level by trimester. The theme will be “Finding Your Swing” and included a student kickoff. The students will produce two boats and a coffee table book. A raffle and auction will occur at a community event to sell the student’s products.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water Testing Results from RES and RJH

Dr. Marion shared updated water testing results that he discussed with Rye Representative Messmer. There are two fountains at RJH that have high copper readings that need to be addressed. Dr. Marion explained the reports to the Board, and how to interpret the data. Dr. Marion stated that Representative Messmer believes the limits set by the State of New Hampshire are too high when compared to other states.

Representative Messmer recommends re-testing the water in six months to determine if the results vary by season. The Board agreed with this recommendation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Crawford (Brackett Road) – Mr. Crawford informed Dr. Marion that when he attended a previous School Use Feasibility Committee meeting that Dr. Marion stated Mr. Crawford’s data was incorrect. Mr. Crawford explained his data further. Mr. Crawford wanted to state that he was disappointed to be told he was wrong. He added that if enrollment is 40 students per grade, what will happen to the classes? Ms. Honda added that the Board is already well aware of what Mr. Crawford was presenting, especially since he has presented several times previously. They are trying to find solutions to these problems. Mr. Brandon added that the Board is trying to make the Rye schools the best option for families that want to choose it. Mr. Brandon corrected Mr. Crawford that social studies was not eliminated, and math would not be either. Mr. Crawford would like to see a coherent plan on how the Board will handle declining enrollment going forward.

Phil Winslow (Rye Selectman, Grandparent) – Mr. Winslow stated that he has a granddaughter in 6th grade who is very enthusiastic about the school year, and is very excited about the STEAM class. He gave a kudos to Rye Junior High.

Tasha Benson (PTA Co-President) – Ms. Benson introduced herself to the Board as the new co-president of the PTA. The Board thanked Ms. Benson for her work with the PTA. The PTA is funding the 6th grade boats at RJH. The PTA is also researching apps to help manage school forms and other data.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Advisory Committees

School Use Feasibility Committee

Ms. Tsetsilas shared that the committee has toured RES, RJH and Greenland Central School. She is pleased with the balance of representation on the committee. A concern of the committee is the accuracy of the projection data. The committee may recommend investing in collecting more accurate data, if possible before major decisions are made. Ms. Tsetsilas explained options that are being discussed that require varying amounts of potential capital expenditures.

- K-4th at RES, 5th to 8th at RJH
- K-6 at RES, 7th & 8th and Town Offices at RJH
- Tuition Agreements
- School Consolidation with other SAU schools

Mr. Brandon added that the Committee is an extension of the School Board and must consider what is best for students. Ms. Tsetsilas added that a goal of the committee is to preserve the educational excellence while considering variable enrollment.

The Board discussed reaching out to other schools regarding how they configure their schools. Mr. Petralia added that an updated census may help confirm enrollment projections.

The town input evening session has been scheduled for Wednesday October 25th at 6:00 PM. The Board discussed having clear expectations and ground rules for the public information meeting.

Dr. Marion mentioned that the Planning Board meeting will take place on October 12th to discuss the master plan. The School Use Feasibility Committee might want to consider this timing.

Reporting Committees

Policies

No update.

Rye Education Foundation

Deb Holloway will be the interim chair of REF. The osprey camera is up and running.

Portsmouth High School

No update.

Parent Teacher Association

See Public Comment.

Rye Recreation

Ms. Lull continues to check in with the Rye Recreation program. It seems to be going well and has more students than they typically do.

Budget

Mr. Petralia stated that the Budget Committee is going to attempt to hold fewer meetings to accommodate the various schedules of the Board members. These meetings will be supervised by Ms. Ransom.

SAU Technology Committee

The new website is more user friendly and the principals are learning how to update it.

Special Issues

Ms. Honda asked about the yearly meetings with teachers. The principals will bring this up to the staff and report back to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS**Future Meeting Times**

The Board announced that 5:00 p.m. will be the default board meeting time. Mr. Brandon suggested that the *Public Comment* and *New Business* sections be discussed later in the meeting to accommodate working schedules.

Personnel

Sarah Rosenson has been hired as a special education paraprofessional at Rye Elementary School.

FINANCIAL REPORT

*On a motion by Mr. Brandon, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve the manifest voucher of August 26, 2017 through September 14, 2017 in the amount of \$540,668.41.
Vote: Unanimous.*

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS/DESIGNATED FOLLOW UP

**Rye School
Board Meeting:
9/20/2017
Action Items**

Project/Status	When	Who	Action Item
<i>Science Curriculum</i>	Ongoing	Marie/Kelli	More complete mapping of 3 dimensions of science
<i>Building Maintenance Plans</i>	October	Jim Katkin	Create a prioritized summary of facility and building maintenance plan with associated expense related to plumbing, electric, boiler to build long term infrastructure. Plan should include some history with regard to scope of work that has been completed in history and build in accountability for vendors.
<i>Electrical Engineering Scope of Work</i>	October	Jim Katkin	Jim to prioritize scope of work under three tiers for each school and specify related costs for each tier.
<i>PFCs Water Testing</i>	January	Marie/Scott	Remediation of copper in upstairs and downstairs water fountains at RJH Test again for PFC's in January
<i>Late Fall RJH Open House</i>	<i>Student Shadow Day- October 24</i> <i>Open house- TBD</i>	Margaret/Marie	Plan late fall RJH open house for incoming RES 5 th graders & New Castle 6 th graders
Math PD Conference Report	December	Suzanne and teachers	Suzanne and/or teacher team to report on PD from 3 attending teachers: information learned, how to

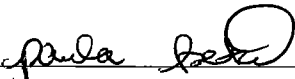
			disseminate and how to implement learnings
Student Surveys	Fall	Scott/Marie/ Suzanne	Develop survey and “test” among sample students in fall; refine for spring implementation
ESOL, 504, Spec Ed	Fall	Sarah	Sarah will prepare a presentation to the board on updates on these 3 segments- COMPLETE Update on ESOL student progress and advise Board if additional teacher support is needed
RJH Science Mapping	December	Kelli	Mapping of all aspects of next gen science standards
District Strategic Planning	September	Marie/Suzanne	Complete Action Plans within the district plans COMPLETE
Learning Management System	January & June	Sal/Kelli	Present interface of Schoology among early adopters with teacher feedback on measurable indicators
Budget Timeline	October	Amy	Post timeline once approved on schools’ website
Annual Student Health & Contact Forms	Fall	Kelli	Kelli to investigate if any of our current management systems allow for parents to update these forms online every fall
Special Issues	Fall	Board/ Suzanne&Marie	Board to identify Special Issues, if any
Enrollment Numbers	Ongoing	Suzanne & Marie	Principals to provide enrollment updates, showing any student additions or departures per grade
Parent University	Fall	Sarah/Paula/ Margaret	Discuss topics for parent education and work with PTAs for implementation
Handbook Review	October	Marie	Marie to provide updated handbook. Board to review and approve.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Crawford (Brackett Road) – Mr. Crawford stated that the district is working on the right things. Mr. Crawford stated his opinion on the School Use Building Feasibility options that were mentioned and how taxpayers may feel. Mr. Crawford feels that the K-8 option is best. Dr. Marion stated that he preferred to wait until the committee does its work before reaching conclusions. Ms. Honda added that the committee is well represented.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Brandon, and seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, the Board adjourned their meeting at 7:31 PM. Vote: Unanimous.



Secretary