

To be approved by the Rye School Board at the May 16, 2018 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 Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members:

Deb Crapo, Margaret Honda, Scott Marion,
Jeanne Moynahan, Paula Tsetsilas

Administrators:

Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Amy Ransom, Assistant Business Administrator
Suzanne Lull, Rye Elementary Principal
Marie Soucy, Rye Junior High Principal

Staff:

Leah Weeks, Andrea Papoutsy, Holly Warden,
Sheila Adams, Phoebe Bischoff, Kathleen Collyer,
Eric Ross, Jeanne Brown, Janet Smith, Sharry
Sparks

Residents/Visitors:

Julie Derderian, Kerry Labovitz, Tasha Benson,

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

Ms. Honda offered a short statement as the new Chair of the Board. She asked for everyone's respect and patience as she learns the role of Board chair.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (4:01-4:16)

Approval of public and non-public minutes of March 20, 2018.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marion, to approve the public minutes of March 20, 2018, as amended. Vote: 5-0.

Approval of Manifest (6:18-6:20)

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve the manifest voucher of March 17, 2018 to March 27, 2018 in the amount of \$393,444.74.

Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marion, to approve the manifest voucher of March 28, 2018 to April 12, 2018 in the amount of \$339,874.43.

Vote: 5-0.

Communications (4:15-4:22pm)

Mr. Petralia stated that he has received several communications. One is from Commissioner Edelbut regarding an update on the Public School Infrastructure Grant. RES Principal, Ms. Lull, has submitted a request for professional development that is out of state. Mr. Petralia will address this request later in the meeting. Mr. Petralia also received a letter stating that Rye School District Special Education files are in 100% compliance. He thanked Coordinator Meg Louney, case managers and special education staff for their efforts. Mr. Petralia shared an email from a Rye parent complimenting the caring dedication of RES guidance counselor Lori Arsenault and the Rye Elementary staff regarding their timely response to a recent difficult situation that struck the Rye community. Mr. Petralia also received correspondence from a Rye resident who had a chance to tour the RJH STEAM space. He complimented the respect and courtesy demonstrated by the students as well as their knowledge of the woodworking terms. He complimented Ms. Soucy and Dr. Ellwood.

REPORTS

Superintendent Report (4:29pm-4:39pm)

Mr. Petralia requested a non-public session at the conclusion of the public meeting.

Mr. Petralia provided the Board an update regarding the school safety forum that was discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Petralia, Chief Kevin Walsh, Ms. Soucy, Ms. Lull, and Ms. Tsetsilas held a planning meeting last week to hold a public safety forum related to RES and RJH. The forum is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2nd at 6:30 pm in the RJH cafeteria. A general overview of school safety in each school will be presented, as well as what improvements are being made. Mr. Petralia also shared updates regarding technology, workshops for new school board members, and meeting reminders.

Mr. Petralia shared that he tries to provide the Board with all required materials at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to support a productive meeting. All questions and requests prior to the meeting can be sent to the Board Chair.

Assistant Superintendent Report (4:23-4:29pm)

Ms. Killen asked the Board to review the English Language Arts Curriculum for grades K-2. She added that she will be adding Grades 3-8. She would like the Board to consider adopting these at the May Board meeting. Ms. Killen and the PLAC committee is seeking input regarding the Plan for Effective Teaching. Ms. Killen added that she will be using the walk-through form to observe freshmen classes at the Portsmouth High School.

Assistant Business Administrator Report (4:40-4:46pm)

Ms. Ransom shared updated information on fund balances for the month of April. The fund balance is currently \$249,503.00 (1.82%). Some of this money will be used for the end of year purchases and contributions towards the Infrastructure and Safety grant. Ms. Ransom has requested that all final purchase requests from the administrators be made by May 4th. At this time there is nothing unexpected with the financials. Dr. Marion asked how much of the fund balance is tuition related. Ms. Ransom reported that approximately \$180,000 of the balance as a result of unused tuition at Portsmouth High

School and special education tuition. Dr. Marion and Ms. Moynahan noted that since the Board has agreed to return all tuition to the Town's general fund, only approximately \$70,000 would be available for other uses.

Business Administrator Report (4:46-5:45)

**End of Year Maintenance Items & Update on RJH Water Fountains
RES Playground and Testing of Water from RES**

Ms. Lull and Ms. Soucy reported their respective Capital Improvement Plans for RES and RJH. These reports included timelines and quotes for priority projects. Requests included safety concerns, items covered by the Safety grant, as well as requests for improvements such as repainting, and repairs. Funds have been encumbered for fixing the water fountains at RJH but the work has not started yet. Ms. Honda explained that two additional items on the agenda (RES Playground and Testing of Water from RES classroom sinks) have financial implications so the Board decided to move those items to be discussed with the end of year maintenance. Ms. Crapo said that the Rye Water District and the DES are requesting water data from both of the schools. However, Dr. Marion and Mr. Petralia both reported that they had never received any such requests. Ms. Crapo shared that she thinks the district should test all of the sinks since children may drink from them. Discussion ensued regarding how students use the classroom sinks. Ms. Lull shared that students wash their hands at the classroom sinks but typically fill their water bottles using the filtered fountains. Teachers do not see students drinking from the sinks. Dr. Marion stated that he feels the water sampling that has taken place is sufficient and that it is scientifically and fiscally irresponsible to test the sinks, especially since the students do not drink from the sinks. Ms. Tsetsilas shared that she feels the Board has done their due diligence in regards to water testing. Ms. Moynahan said she does not feel that the Board needs to have every sink tested, but would not be opposed to testing some of the sinks.

Ms. Crapo made a motion to test all of the sinks (minimum 30) at Rye Elementary School. Ms. Crapo amended her motion.

Ms. Crapo made motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to test 5 sinks in the primary wing sinks to ensure there is no contamination. Vote: 3-2.

Roll Call Vote:

YES: Ms. Moynahan, Ms. Crapo, Ms. Honda

NO: Ms. Tsetsilas, Dr. Marion

Ms. Honda asked the Board what contaminants they wanted tested. Dr. Marion said that it did not make sense to test for any PFOAs or PFCs since those would have been picked up in the other tests. Ms. Crapo said any sinks that have copper pipes and lead soldering. Ms. Tsetsilas suggested Mindi Messmer or Leslie Moll come to the next Board meeting to speak to the point students using the sinks to wash their hands. The Board discussed the costs associated with water testing (approximately \$500 per draw).

Kerry Labovitz (PTA Co-President) – Ms. Labovitz discussed the background and timeline of the proposal for improvements to the RES Playground. The total cost of \$26,713.00 includes structures at both RES and RJH. PTA is offering to pay for half of the cost (\$13,356) and is asking the School Board to cover the other half. Ms. Tsetsilas added that she feels keeping the Gaga Pit reserved for the junior high would add novelty and options for students arriving at RJH. Ms. Moynahan asked if there was a price advantage for building the Gaga Pits at the same time; Ms. Labovitz shared that there is no advantage. Ms. Derderian added that REF is out of the grant cycle so REF cannot commit to taking one-third of the cost as once discussed. Ms. Crapo asked Ms. Ransom if the district insurance covers the structures. Ms. Ransom explained inspecting the play structures would be part of the maintenance cycle.

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas to allocate \$20,435 towards improvements to the RES electrical outlets and circuits and installation of fence and gate at Rye Elementary School. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Crapo suggested asking the town to review the condition of the driveway to see if they could cover any of the needed improvements.

Ms. Tsetsilas made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to allocate \$12,600 to fund the Four-Sided Play Structure at Rye Elementary School and the Gaga Pit at Rye Junior High. Vote: 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT (5:45-5:46)

Sheila Adams (RJH Science Teacher) – Ms. Adams provided the Board with information regarding the Earth Day Webcast that will be taking place in her classroom on Friday, April 20th.

Rye Elementary School Report (5:46-5:57)

Ms. Lull shared a copy of the updated handbook for the Board to review for the May meeting. Ms. Lull stated her report will include a highlighted focus; this month is on personalization in education. RES Music teacher, Andrea Papoutsy, shared with the Board how she is personalizing music in her classroom.

Rye Junior High School Report (5:57-6:05)

Ms. Soucy shared that there is a small group of students working with science teachers Sheila Adams and Chandra Eves to investigate the installation of solar panels. Ms. Soucy stated her report will also include a highlighted focus; this month is on the Overview of the STEAM program. Ms. Soucy shared an update of how the STEAM schedule and program has been implemented at RJH. Ms. Soucy explained ideas to improve the program for next year and the Board asked if additional supplies would be needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (6:05-6:18)

Wellness Policy Review (JLCF*)

Ms. Moynahan shared an update regarding the need for an updated Wellness policy. Ms. Moynahan feels that the policy is comprehensive and covers issues faced by small and large schools.

Ms. Crapo made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marion, to accept Policy JLCF-Wellness Policy, for 1st reading. Vote: 5-0.*

Parent Survey – Review Questions

The Board discussed if there was a need to do a parent survey this year. Dr. Marion suggested that he could create a short electronic survey, that functions as a temperature check. The Board agreed that having a temperature check of parent input for the July School Board retreat is important.

Questionnaire for Incoming Families & School Use Feasibility Committee

No new update.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marion, to approve Principal Lull's professional development request to attend the iNACOL Symposium, as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS

None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Reporting Committees

Rye Education Foundation

Ms. Crapo has been in touch with Deb Holloway regarding the Marguerite Kelly Scholarship. REF is also in the middle of reviewing and approving April grant submissions.

Portsmouth High School

Secondary Advisory Council meeting will be held on May 1, 2018 at 5:00pm at PHS.

Parent Teacher Association

No new update.

Rye Recreation

An updated newsletter was given to the Board. Ms. Tsetsilas shared that there are 10 students on the waiting list for the Rye Recreation after-school program.

Budget

No new update.

SAU Technology Committee

No new update.

Special Issues

No new update.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

**Rye School
Board
4/17/2018
Meeting
Action Items**

Project/Status	When	Who	Action Item
<i>Science Curriculum</i>	Spring	Marie, Kelli	More complete mapping of 3 dimensions of science
<i>Water Testing</i>	Spring	Jim Katkin Amy Ransom	Jim Katkin to replace junior high water fountains due to high copper Provide results for RES K-2 sink water sample tests
Math PD Conference Report	May	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	July	Marie, Suzanne	Aggregate data for July retreat
<i>Learning Management System</i>	Spring	Kelli	Demo Schoology for Board

Parent University	Spring	Sarah, Paula, Margaret	Discuss topics for parent education and work with PTAs for implementation
RSD Public Gym Use	Spring	Suzanne/Marie Sal	Establish policy and procedure/priority for facility use of school gyms
Revisit Bus Utilization and Contract	Spring	Paula, Margaret, Amy	Determine efficiency and use of bus routes for cost savings measure; contract ends June 30, 2019
School reconfiguration	July retreat	Sal/Principals	Administration to provide educational, social, financial, facilities/operational, impact of reconfiguring RES to Prek-4 and RJH to Gr 5-8 models
Student population monitoring	Spring	Paula	Work w/ Select Committee to develop system to query new residents' household composition
Snow Day Make-up Days	Summer	Sal & SAU50 joint board	Create recommendations for how to handle extensive snow days for future years
Driveway Paving	Spring	Sal, Jim	Work w/ town to see if town would consider handling patch-work for paving
RES Parent/Student Handbook	June	Board members	Review school handbook
Parent Surveys	May	Scott	Scott to provide sample survey for Board review

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

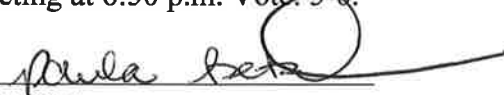
On a motion made by Dr. Marion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, the board entered non-public session at 6:20 p.m., in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Vote: 5-0.

RETURN TO PUBLIC

On a motion by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, the Board returned to public session and sealed the non-public minutes at 6:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, the Board adjourned their meeting at 6:50 p.m. Vote: 5-0.


Secretary