

*To be approved by the Rye School Board at the July 19, 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, June 14, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

School Board Members:

Kevin Brandon, Margaret Honda, Scott Marion,  
Jeanne Moynahan, Paula Tsetsilas

Administrators:

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

Staff:

Jennifer Miller, Phoebe Bischoff, Eric Ross, Jeanne  
Brown, Mary Combs

Residents/Visitors:

Karen Allen, Joseph Cummins, Peter Crawford,  
Elisa Bolton, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students: Juliette Michaels,  
Natalie Manser, Gabrielle Garceau, Ron Fortier.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Dr. Marion called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Approval of public and non-public minutes of May 31, 2017:**

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the public minutes, as amended, of May 31, 2017, as amended. Vote: (Unanimous).*

*Ms. Tsetilas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the non-public minutes of May 31, 2017. Vote: 4-0 (1 abstained).*

**Communications**

Rye residents, Mr. and Mrs. John Facella, wrote to Mr. Petralia in appreciation of their son's 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Ellen Jackson. They stated that their son has shown so much growth and a large part of that is thanks to Ms. Jackson. Mr. Petralia thanked the Facella's for sending the letter and Ms. Jackson for her dedication.

**Superintendent Report**

Mr. Petralia attended the RES Field Day on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Holly Warden and the rest of the RES staff for their organization of a fun day for students. Mr. Petralia committed to

participating in the dunk tank for the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Petralia has been in frequent communication with Ms. Soucy throughout the process of filling the music and science positions. Mr. Petralia complimented Ms. Soucy for her communication of the STEM position to the community. Ms. Tsetsilas passed the communication regarding the position on to some parents of children in lower grades so they can be aware of the great things happening at RJH. Mr. Petralia stated that he was pleased to announce that Tracy Dumais has been nominated as the Superintendent's secretary. Ms. Dumais has a BA from Franklin Pierce College and experience working at a law firm as a paralegal. Mr. Petralia thanked Diane Petersen and Jeanne Moynahan for their participation with the interview process. He also thanked April Fox and Sarah Reinhardt for helping with the final step of the interviews. Ms. Dumais has spent two days with April Fox, who has also been keeping a procedural manual of her duties including chronological order of duties. The committee agreed unanimously on the choice of Ms. Dumais. Mr. Petralia stated that there will also be a nomination of one Special Education teacher at RES and RJH later in the meeting.

### **Business Administrator Report**

Mr. Katkin shared an updated maintenance project list with schedule start dates. The only items that are not yet scheduled for over the summer are: replacing the art room door at RJH and installing the strobe lights in the hallway at RJH and RES. Mr. Katkin also shared that the water testing requested will need to be sent out of state and could take 4-6 weeks to return the results. Dr. Marion proposed waiting to see what the results are before making any decisions.

### **RES Principal Report**

Ms. Lull shared that the students at RES raised \$2,000 for the Lighthouse Kids Walk. The students also opened the time capsule from 1997 and decided that they are going to fill it up again in the fall. The *Talents by the Sea* book has been published and includes work from RJH and RES students.

### **RJH Principal Report**

Ms. Soucy shared that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent night was a huge success and that several parents emailed saying that they were on the fence about sending their students to private school but now want to meet with Marie. Ms. Soucy shared that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students attended step up day at RJH and that was successful as well. Ms. Tsetsilas shared that her son came home and was very excited about the STEM class and meeting the teachers. Ms. Soucy thanked the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team for their efforts this year. Ms. Soucy commended Ms. Wirth for a successful spring concert. On Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade held a culminating event and presented the Art Show and Gear Wall. Ms. Soucy commended the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team for their efforts.

Ms. Tsetsilas commented that the Gear Wall idea came from the movie, *Most Likely to Succeed*, which a parent had helped bring to the community. Ms. Tsetsilas stressed the importance the parent of involvement in the schools. She wanted to encourage ideas to come from parents and for the Board to solicit ideas from them. Dr. Marion responded that the teachers shouldered this project to completion. Dr. Marion added that the projects that were done in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, from the 1920's unit, to the monument project and finally the Gear Wall really increased in complexity. Dr. Marion gave kudos to the staff and the leadership. He has seen the complexity and project based learning happening in all grades and thanked Ms. Soucy and the RJH staff.

Ms. Coombs has been working with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade ICT students to analyze primary sources from Rye history to create documentaries on various topics. She presented some high-quality student work and the Board thanked Ms. Coombs for doing this work with students.

### **Assistant Superintendent Report**

Ms. Killen provided end of year reports for Committee Work, Goals, Professional Development of Staff, and STAR growth proficiency in Reading and Math. Longitudinal Reports are available with the STAR program. The spring test has to be taken before May 31<sup>st</sup> to be included in the longitudinal reports for this year. The Board asked Ms. Killen what information she gleans from the STAR reports. Ms. Killen responded that she looks at the slope of the graph. Higher grade levels increase the depth required; the benchmark increases each year. The 40th percentile is the default for STAR. A district can increase the score that is the cut off. Rye scores are much higher than other schools do. Teachers generally know how students will perform on the STAR. Dr. Marion hopes that the STAR tests are not playing too much of a role in making decisions. Principals stated that they are not. Ms. Lull said that it is important to have benchmarks.

Ms. Killen shared the spending for upcoming professional development. Dr. Marion commented that he was hoping to see the additional professional development for teachers to get together to work on curriculum, instruction, and/or assessment. He reminded Ms. Killen and the principals that if teachers want to get together in the summer, the Board will find the money they need. Ms. Killen noted that her report only shows what is spent from their professional money. Ms. Killen will share a report in September of the work being done over the summer.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Update on RJH Teaching Positions**

Ms. Soucy provided the Board an update on the teaching positions at RJH. The candidates for the music teaching position provided demonstration lessons for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students today. The interviews for the science teaching position took place on June 14, 2017 and brought forth strong candidates. Math interviews will take place next week.

#### **RJH Dress Code**

8<sup>th</sup> grade students Juliette Michaels, Gabby Garceau, and Natalie Manser (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students) shared the revised dress code policy that they worked on. The students towards students, regardless of their body type. The students acknowledged the difficulty with enforcing a dress code and admitted that it was more difficult for staff to fairly enforce than they anticipated. The policy is designed to put more judgment in the hands of the students and a hope that their judgment can be trusted. Though they are graduating in a few days, but they wanted to pave the way for future generations of RJH students. Ms. Soucy stated that the process helped all involved see see different perspectives including how being dress coded could make students feel body shamed, and that it distracts from their education. The students were able to see that it was very difficult for teachers to enforce the dress code fairly. Mr. Brandon asked if homeroom teachers would be responsible for dress coding the students. Ms. Michaels responded that if a homeroom teacher believes a student is violating the dress code, they will be sent to the principal, guidance counselor, or nurse. If a dress code issue is not addressed in the morning it will be let go for the rest of the day. Dr. Marion stated that bringing about change is not always easy but the 8<sup>th</sup> graders helped to make fabulous progress. The students thanked Gabby Shestreet and Maggie Cassily for their participation in creating the new dress code policy. Ms. Soucy stated that this updated policy will be put in the handbook and communicated to parents. Ms. Honda asked if the boys had any input on the process and the girls said they could have input but did not have any to include.

#### **Building Maintenance Plan**

See Business Administrator's report.

### **Scope of Electrical Engineering Consultant**

See Business Administrator's report.

### **Water Testing Update**

See Business Administrator's report.

### **Updating on Summer Professional Development Plans**

Ms. Lull stated that 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers would like to work on curriculum alignment. Diane Smaracko and Michele Gwinn would like to work on STEAM integration. Ms. Killen shared with the Board that when staff completes professional development work they have to share the result and a product before any money is paid out. They also fill out a time sheet documenting the work done and time spent.

*Ms. Tsetsilas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon to authorize the expenditure of up to \$2,500 for elementary school curriculum work at the discretion of Principal Lull. Vote: Unanimous.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Mathematics Curriculum**

Ms. Killen shared the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum framework with the Board for their review. The 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum framework will be given out at the July Board retreat.

### **Personnel**

Mr. Petralia stated that he was pleased to nominate Kaitlyn O'Neill for the Special Education teacher at RES and RJH. Ms. O'Neill has a Special Education Degree in the area of Autism and has been employed as a case manager in New Market, New Hampshire. She also has worked at the Birchtree Center in Newington, New Hampshire. She was the unanimous choice of the interview team.

*In accordance with Rye School Board Policy GCPA, RSA 189:14-A, RSA 189:39, RSA 189:39A, and RSA 189:39B, Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to accept the nomination of Special Education Teacher Katilyn O'Neill for the 2017-2018 school year. Vote: Unanimous.*

Ms. Tsetsilas asked for some background regarding this position. Mr. Brandon indicated that it was recommended at the budget meeting in November and this position is meant to work with more intensive special education students that require a significant amount of services in the least restrictive environment. Mr. Petralia added that Ms. Reinhardt will provide the Board with more information at the July retreat regarding data for incoming special needs students that were not known during the budgeting process. The Project Based Learning Curriculum Position will also be discussed at the July retreat.

### **Agenda Planning**

June 15, 2017 – Building Feasibility Committee Meeting

June 19, 2017 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation (7:00 PM)

June 20, 2017 – Last Day for Students (Early Release)

July 19, 2017 – School Board Retreat (8:30 AM – 4:00 PM)

## **RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS**

**Jennifer Miller (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts)** - Ms. Miller shared that in all of her years of teaching that this year has been the best. She thanked the Board, Mr. Petralia, Ms. Killen, Ms. Soucy for their

support and feedback. She thanked the parents of the community for their continued support and participation of her curriculum and teaching. She thanked her 7<sup>th</sup> grade team, Sheila Adams, Sarah Nice and Amy Reynolds, and the rest of the RJH community for their continued support of her professionally and personally. She stated that the grass truly is greener on this side of the fence. Several of the Board members expressed appreciation for Ms. Miller's comments and for her great teaching. Dr. Marion added that "we hit a home run when we hired you."

**Joseph Cummins (Washington Road)** – Mr. Cummins thanked Ms. Honda for speaking out in support of the Tech-Ed program. Mr. Cummins asked Dr. Marion if any Rye School Board member would be speaking up to encourage Portsmouth High School to reconsider the construction trades program and PHS. Mr. Petralia responded that the director of the construction program, Ms. Canada, noted declining enrollment each year. Dr. Marion stated that he agrees that the construction trades are important but that school districts have to be responsible with staffing and the expenses required to run such a program. Dr. Marion stated that the Board would take the concern to the Secondary Advisory Council. Mr. Cummins spoke to three townspeople who stated they are pleased with the school system. Mr. Cummins hoped that the topic of science NECAPs has not been dropped. Dr. Marion assured that the topic has not been dropped and information will be provided in the fall. Mr. Cummins asked that status of bullying in the schools and if there are things in place to protect students. Dr. Marion responded that there are many supports in place from elementary through middle school to respond to bullying situations. Mr. Cummins asked about solar panels. Dr. Marion stated that it does not make sense to look into solar panels until the Building Feasibility Committee has made recommendations.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Advisory Committees**

#### **School Use Feasibility Committee**

Ms. Tsetsilas shared that Mark Sedam and Katherine Errecart are the parent representatives on the committee. The first meeting will take place on June 15<sup>th</sup> and is a public meeting. The committee will focus on introductions and look at data regarding declining enrollment. Ms. Tsetsilas will post the documents for the Board to share. Ms. Tsetsilas shared that Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are the states with the oldest populations. Dr. Marion stated there is a difference between district and school consolidation in towns with declining enrollment. Ms. Tsetsilas added that there only 21 districts in the state that are not declining in enrollment. The Board cautioned the committee that building a knowledge base should be the priority so that research drives decisions, not preconceived notions. The Committee should be open to as many options as possible. The Board discussed how the meeting minutes should be posted. Mr. Petralia will be opening the meeting and the committee members will be self-selecting. Ms. Moynahan and Ms. Tsetsilas would be open to co-chair the committee. The Committee should follow the Roberts Rules of Order and the public's Right to Know. The Committee should maintain transparency and decorum.

### **Reporting Committees**

#### **Board Communications**

Ms. Honda stated that anything to promote cross-pollination between the schools will promote community connections. By sharing calendars, parents can see events occurring at both schools. Ms. Lull added that the SAU could give Ms. Soucy access to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent contacts to inform them of information.

### **Rye Education Foundation**

Dr. Marion thanked REF for their support of the Gear Wall.

**Portsmouth High School**

Mr. Petralia shared that graduation was successful. Ms. Moynahan shared that the speeches were very well done. A Rye student was the 2017 class president. Mr. Petralia stated that dates will be shared regarding Area Meetings and Secondary Advisory Committee.

**Parent Teacher Association**

Kerry Labovitz and Tasha Benson have some new ideas for the upcoming year. Ms. Honda let the PTA know that there may be a need for supplemental materials for the STEM position and other technology initiatives that will be going on. The Board thanked the PTA for their continued support.

**Rye Recreation**

The Board received a newsletter from Rye Recreation.

**SAU Technology Committee**

This committee will reconstitute in the Fall 2017.

**Special Issues**

An update on how the STEM program is going should be provided for the Fall 2017 meetings.

**Survey**

There has been minimal parent response but is slowly improving. Dr. Marion proposed piloting the student survey in the Fall 2017 and then revise it for the Spring 2018 full scale implementation.

**Policy Committee**

No update.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the manifest voucher of May 27, 2017 to June 12, 2017 in the amount of \$404, 292.93. Vote: Unanimous.*

**SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS/DESIGNATED FOLLOW UP**

**Rye School Board Meeting**

**6/14/17**

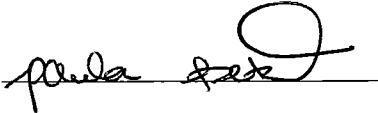
**Action Items**

<b>Project/Status</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Action Item</b>
Parent Survey Open	June/July	Scott	Reviewing completed surveys and will provide analysis at July retreat.
Science NECAPs Open	Ongoing	Marie/Kelli	Teachers are mapping out curriculum against standards to identify duplication or missing content areas.

			lead and copper testing.
<b>Student Retention</b> Open	July Retreat	Suzanne	Results/discussions of 5 <sup>th</sup> grade parent exit interviews whose children are not continuing in district.
<b>Video Streaming</b> Open	July	Jim Katkin/Sal	Investigate video streaming and implementation in Rye Caf after July 1 for all public meetings.
<b>Late Fall RJH</b> <b>Open House</b> Open	Summer/early fall	TBD	Partner with PTA to plan fall RJH open house for incoming 5 <sup>th</sup> graders.
<b>Math PD Conference</b> <b>Report</b> Open	Sept	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.
<b>Star Data –</b> <b>Assessments</b> Open	Summer	Kelli	Kelli to provide year-over-year data for one cohort for 3-year period to see how students “on watch” or below preform over time.
<b>July Retreat</b> Open	Early July	Sal/Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up retreat agenda.</li> <li>• Secure location for retreat.</li> </ul>
<b>Student Surveys</b> Open	Fall	Scott/Marie/Suzanne	Develop survey and “test” among sample students in fall; refine for spring implementation.
<b>School Use Feasibility</b> <b>Committee</b> Open	June/Ongoing	Paula	Upload all research collected for article 3 and agendas.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, the Board adjourned their meeting at 9:45 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Tsetsilas", is written over a horizontal line.

Secretary