

To be approved by the Rye School Board at the January 17, 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, December 20, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Suzanne Lull, Principal, Rye Elementary
Marie Soucy, Principal, Rye Junior High

Staff: Jeanne Brown, Kathy Collyer, Sharon Sparks

Residents/Visitors: Steven Borne, Joseph Cummins, Lisa Moll,
Mindi Messmer

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Marion called the meeting to order at 3:33 P.M.

On a Motion by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, the Board entered non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (c). Roll call: 4-0

On a motion by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Ms. Honda, the Board returned to public session and sealed the non-public session minutes at 5:21 P.M.

The Board suspended its meeting at 5:26 P.M. in order to begin the SAU 50 Joint Board School Board meeting at 5:30 P.M.

Following the SAU 50 Joint Board meeting, The Rye School Board meeting resumed at 6:40 P.M.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Approval of public minutes of November 15, 2017 and December 4, 2017.

Ms. Tsetsilas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the public minutes of November 15, 2017, as amended. Vote: 4-0 (1 abstained).

Ms. Tsetsilas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the non-public minutes of November 15, 2017. Vote: 4-0 (1 abstained).

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the public minutes of November 16, 2017, as amended. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the non-public minutes of November 16, 2017, as amended. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the public minutes of December 4, 2017. Vote: 4-0 (1 abstained).

Communications

Mr. Petralia shared two communications. One is from Suzanne Lull regarding the Space Use Agreement at Rye Elementary School for the Rye Recreation Department. The document requires the signature of the Rye Board Chairperson and Rye Elementary Principal. As requested at the November school board meeting, Mr. Petralia sent a letter of appreciation on behalf of the Board to Chief Kevin Walsh for his involvement in the evacuation drill held at Rye Elementary on November 2, 2017.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Petralia provided a copy of his report to the Board members. He highlighted the newly created Public School Infrastructure Fund that has been established under RSA 198:15-y. This fund has an estimated \$19,000,000 available to public schools across the State of New Hampshire. To date, the Department of Education has approved over 100 applications for a total of \$ 5,522,456. The criteria for funding include applications that address life and safety issues at schools and improving safety at schools. Ms. Lull and Ms. Soucy are scheduled to meet with Richard Kane, Coordinator of School Safety & Security in SAU 16. Mr. Kane will assist both principals with the grant application. As part of the application process, the DOE is expecting local boards to commit to 20% funding and the DOE will appropriate 80% of the costs submitted in the approved grant application.

Ms. Tsetsilas shared that PHS Principal has notified the Secondary Advisory Committee of an increase in vaping and e-cigarette use.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Ms. Killen is soliciting feedback from School Boards regarding revisions to the Plan for Effective Teaching. This is requested for the January meeting. Ms. Killen also shared an assessment/data matrix for the Board to see when and how students are assessed. Ms. Killen provided the Board with several updates to the NH Statewide Assessment (taken in the spring). It has the same platform as Smarter Balanced so teachers and students are familiar with the format. The Board discussed that inquiry tasks will still be assessed in the classroom even though that component has been removed from the statewide science test.

RYE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT

Ms. Lull shared that students raised \$1,500 for Mall in the Hall. Ms. Lull also wanted to highlight the staff that presented at the professional development showcase. Dr. Marion

congratulated the teachers for putting themselves out there. Dr. Marion reported that he worked on a math activity in Maggie Hanna's class with Jacquie DeFreze. The next showcase is April 3, 2018. Ms. Tsetsilas asked Ms. Lull how the Principal's coffee went. Ms. Lull stated that there were 5 parents in attendance and included great conversation.

RYE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT

Ms. Soucy and the Board congratulated Sharon Sparks for her nomination as National ESP of the year. Another coffee with the principal was held on the afternoon of December 5th during the enrichment block. Parents were able to tour the school during this time and were able to see the different classes RJH is offering. Students in Mrs. Rafferty's class baked cookies that were then brought home on "The Giving Plate". Dr. Ellwood used the laser cutter to engrave "The Giving Plate" poem onto a piece of material to create a plate. The idea is for the receiver of the plate to fill it up and pass it on to someone else. Ms. Honda added that the team newsletters created by teachers are amazing and highlight what is happening and she suggested that we need to share these newsletters with the 5th and 4th grade parents. The Board and the principals discussed how they can make this happen.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on Robert J. Lister Academy Clause in AREA Agreement

Dr. Marion will serve on the SAU 50 committee regarding Rye's support of the Robert J. Lister Academy. The Board has approved the budget including the financial support of R.J. Lister Academy, but agreed to carefully consider whether or not to continue to fund the Academy prior to June 30, 2018.

Updated Maintenance List

An action item was created for an updated maintenance list and water testing.

NEW BUSINESS

Early Retirement Incentive

The early retirement incentive will be discussed in non-public session.

School Use Feasibility Committee Report

Ms. Tsetsilas shared that the committee discussed strategies to collect more updated census data, such as when new residents register their car. The committee also discussed configurations at both RES and RJH with options for using space at both buildings for other activities, such as Rye Recreation. Lastly, the committee discussed options in collaboration with Greenland. Ms. Balboni encouraged the Board to delve into the School Use Feasibility Report. The report includes options for short-term and long-term goals. Ms. Balboni shared that the town is willing to help the Board with what they need to meet the goals of the district.

Dr. Marion thanked the committee for their report. Dr. Marion added that the committee was well-represented, and appreciated the time put in by the members. Dr. Marion commented on the idea that incorporating 5th grade students at the junior high level may help with retention if students and families have a positive experience.

Dr. Marion commented that he thought the discussion of the “unreliability” of the kindergarten projections in the report was poorly conceived. He stated that while the single year projections vary considerable, it is much more important to look at multi-year averages. Since the elementary school is comprised of six grades, Dr. Marion reported that he calculated three different 6-year averages based on the 18 years of data included in the committee’s report. As seen in the table below [transcribed from Dr. Marion’s report], the average projection was quite close to the actual 6-year average enrollment. Given these results, Dr. Marion questioned whether it was worth pursuing a census because he doubted a census could be more accurate than these results.

	Projection	Actual
1995-2000	43.0	44.3
2001-2006	43.2	46.3
2007-2012	45.8	44.3

Ms. Honda stated that it would be the role of the School Board to determine financial impacts of the scenarios presented. Ms. Tsetsilas suggested the Board set short and long term goals. Ms. Balboni suggested meeting with Rye Recreation to find out the programming needs to see if it matches conceptually with the Board. Mr. Brandon commented that it is not the role of the Board to take on the needs of Rye Recreation but rather to understand enrollment. Mr. Brandon applauded the recommendation to have 5th grade attend RJH. Ms. Balboni clarified and stressed that the excellence in education is paramount to everything else but that other opportunities could be explored.

Dr. Marion added that this will be a standing agenda item for the Board to discuss at each meeting this winter and spring. Ms. Honda added that continued discussion about financial impact will need to occur. Mr. Petralia added that Greenland School Board is addressing increasing enrollment and that the timeline of Greenland does not match that of Rye. Mr. Brandon added that the challenges of Greenland are not necessarily the solution for Rye and vice versa.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS

Steve Borne (Wallis Road) – Mr. Borne stated that the report is a great start for planning ahead. Mr. Borne stressed the importance in planning and strategy. The town is trying to build a warrant article regarding community needs for recreation.

Lisa Moll (Gray Court) – Ms. Moll stated that she has been studying contaminated drinking water. She has attended several meetings regarding how water is brought in to the schools. The Garland Drinking Water Well is 800 feet from the Grove Road Landfill. Children are exposed at a variety of points in their life to this contaminated water. Ms. Moll advocated the Board to remain vigilant with water testing. New

Hampshire adopts the unregulated numbers of the EPA. Ms. Moll asked the Board to consider the more aggressive and protective lower criteria that other states are using as their standards.

Mindi Messmer (State Representative for Rye and New Castle) – Ms. Messmer agrees with Ms. Moll and encourages the Board to consider lower numbers for contaminants. There are many unknown factors about where this issue is going. Dr. Marion responded that the Board continues to have water tests done, and monitoring levels. Dr. Marion requested that Ms. Moll send the recommended tests to the Board so they can add that to their next test.

Steve Borne (Wallis Road) – Mr. Borne stated the town just started testing in June for PFOAs. Mr. Borne asked about the Town Hall Streaming website. Mr. Petralia stated that account is not set up to include the SAU 50 Joint Board. There may be some confusion of where to click to find the meeting. Mr. Borne complimented the Board on how they handled the IT issue in the SAU 50 Joint Board meeting. Mr. Borne asked the Board if parents of home-school and private school students that live in town could have newsletters sent to them. Mr. Borne stated that his wife was impressed with the tour of RJH. Mr. Borne asked how many open seats the Board will have in the upcoming town election. Mr. Brandon indicated that he will not be seeking reelection so there will be one open slot for the Rye School Board. Mr. Borne indicated that he will try to help get the word out to recruit qualified candidates.

Joseph Cummins (Washington Road) – Mr. Cummins stated that he is frustrated with the difficulty to use the school gymnasium at RJH. Mr. Cummins shared concerns about the agreement with Robert J. Lister Academy and how money can be spent there but not to staff the gymnasium. Dr. Marion added that the issues are separate and that issues with the gymnasium are with liability. Mr. Cummins stated that 3 years ago the gymnasium was opened, but stopped because no one came. Dr. Marion stated the Board can discuss this topic at the January meeting since it is the first time this year it has been brought to their attention.

Steve Borne (Wallis Road) – Mr. Borne agreed with Mr. Cummins. The Board stated that they did not know this was a problem, and that it stopped because of lack of demand. The Board dealt with liability and managing the key and building. Mr. Brandon added that it is reasonable to open the discussion again. A process is needed for administrators in determining the use of the facility. Ms. Moynahan added that she assumed Rye Rec had taken this over.

Sharon Sparks (RJH Staff Member/Sagamore Road) – Ms. Sparks stated that she is apprising the Board that as NEA Director, she will be sending postcards and encouraging her members to do the same, against SB 193 to save resources and public schools.

Joseph Cummins (Washington Road) – Mr. Cummins clarified that the School Board does not take a position on political issues. Several Board members agreed that the

Board should remain non-partisan. Dr. Marion noted that the NH School Boards Association has been a vocal opponent to this bill because of the potential negative effect on public school districts in NH.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Reporting Committees

Rye Education Foundation

No update.

Portsmouth High School

Secondary Advisory meeting: SAU 50 members expressed concerns with the suspension policy and the Portsmouth Superintendent agreed it's worth looking into the current out-of-school suspension policy.

Parent Teacher Association

PTA planned a fun and successful evening of watching the Polar Express at RES. PTA is still exploring improvements to the school lunch financial management.

Rye Recreation

An updated newsletter was given to the Board.

Budget

Mr. Brandon reported that the budget committee meeting went well and there was discussion about the conservative nature of the budget in terms of estimates for such costs as high school tuition and fuel oil. Lister Academy was brought up, and that the SAU 50 Joint Board will be handling this issue. The proposed budget is a public document but does not include warrant articles and can be posted. The Board discussed options for posting the budget documents for the community and directed the Superintendent to have the budget posted as soon as feasible.

SAU Technology Committee

No update.

Special Issues

No update.

Policies

Ms. Honda made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve policy *GCCBC – Family and Medical Leave Policy*, for adoption. Vote: 5-0.

Mr. Brandon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve policy *JCA – School Assignment Policy*, for 1st reading. Vote: 5-0.

Mr. Brandon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve policy *JEC – Manifest Education Hardship*, for 1st reading. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Honda made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve policy *JFA – Legal Residency of a Student*, for 1st reading. Vote: 5-0.

Mr. Brandon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Honda, to approve policy *JFAA – Admission of Resident Students*, for adoption. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Tsetsilas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve policy *JFABB – Admission of Foreign Exchange Students*, for adoption. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Honda made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve policy *JH – Student Absences, Tardiness, and Truancy Policy*, for 1st reading. Vote: 5-0.

Mr. Brandon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve policy *JKAA - Child Restraint and Seclusion*, for adoption. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Honda made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve policy *JKCF - Wellness*, for 1st reading. Vote: 5-0.

Approval of Manifest

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the manifest voucher of November 10, 2017 to November 20, 2017 in the amount of \$287,985.21. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Honda, to approve the manifest voucher of November 21, 2017 to December 7, 2017 in the amount of \$489,032.22. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the manifest voucher of December 8, 2017 to December 15, 2017 in the amount of \$383,676.09. Vote: 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

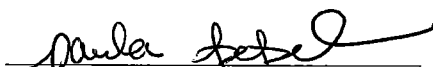
On a motion made by Ms. Moynahan, and seconded by Mr. Brandon, the Board entered non-public session at 9:21 P.M. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Vote: 5-0.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Ms. Moynahan, and seconded by Mr. Brandon, the Board returned to public session at 10:17 P.M. and sealed the non-public minutes. Vote: 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Mr. Brandon, the Board adjourned their meeting at 10:20 P.M.


Secretary