

To be approved by the Rye School Board at the June 11, 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 Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 5:00 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

Staff: Kathleen Collyer, Jeanne Brown, Sharry Sparks
Amy Reynolds

Residents/Visitors: Nina Parrott, Peter Crawford, Julie Struble,
Kevin Brandon, Sarah Curtin, Matt Curtin

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (5:07-5:12 p.m.)

Approval of public and non-public minutes of April 17, 2018.

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve the public minutes of April 17, 2018, as amended. Vote: 4-0 (1 absent).

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve the non-public minutes of April 17, 2018, as amended. Vote: 4-0 (1 absent).

Approval of Manifest (8:00 – 8:02 p.m.)

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marion, to approve the manifest voucher of April 13, 2018 to May 4, 2018 in the amount of \$635,194.31. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marion, to approve the manifest voucher of May 5, 2018 to May 9, 2018 in the amount of \$58,327.80. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Honda made a statement that School Board Agenda Planning is done the week before and asked that the Board be given necessary information so the Board can have an informed discussion.

The Board presented Mr. Kevin Brandon with a token of appreciation for his service on the Rye School Board.

The June School Board Meeting will take place Monday, June 11, 2018 at 5pm.

Communications (5:32 - 5:36 p.m.)

Mr. Petralia stated that he received two communications, one from Governor Sununu and one from Commissioner Edelblut, regarding receipt of the Infrastructure Grant. Ms. Ransom will speak more to this topic in her Assistant Business Administrator Report. Mr. Petralia also received a letter from Santina Thibedeau at the New Hampshire Department of Education, regarding a status report for 2016-2017 that indicated compliance. Mr. Petralia received the annual donation request from Portsmouth High School Celebration Graduation Committee.

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tssetsilas, to authorize a donation of \$250 to the Portsmouth High School Celebration Graduation Committee. Vote: 4-0 (1 absent).

REPORTS

Superintendent Report (5:36 – 5:45 p.m.)

Mr. Petralia summarized his report including information on end of year fund balances, and completed water testing. He thanked Jim Gordon and Jodi Wick for their coordination and efforts in helping the water testing to take place. Results showed there was no bacteria present from the sinks. Mr. Petralia stated that there is a proposal to install a cell tower on Brackett Road but some townspeople have informally requested that the School Board consider siting it at RES. Mr. Petralia said that there are still many questions and more research needed. Mr. Petralia thanked the Board and all contributors to the Rye Schools Safety Forum. The video from the forum is now loaded on TownHall Stream. Mr. Petralia explained some new changes to the Administrator Evaluation input collection that he gets from faculty and staff. With the help of Ms. Ransom, and input from ACT, the form includes some formatting changes and is on Google forms, where it is reported anonymously. Mr. Petralia provided some legislative updates regarding SB 193 and HB 1636. Mr. Petralia also shared that he toured RJH with Greenland Board Member, Pat Walsh, who was impressed with the facilities and programming options at the school.

Assistant Superintendent Report (5:45 – 5:51)

Ms. Killen shared that the district has decided that now is not the time to continue with the learning management system, Schoology. The full functionality is available through September and the basic system will be used for PLC work free of charge. Ms. Killen also provided the Board with an update on completed committee work.

Business Administrator Report

Mr. Katkin was not in attendance.

Assistant Business Administrator Report (5:51 – 6:03)

Ms. Ransom shared anticipated fund balances (approximately \$235,000). Expenses are limited from now until the end of the year. The Board discussed that unspent tuition money is returned to the town. Rye returned \$406,000 last year, so there is an

improvement this year. Ms. Ransom discussed the Infrastructure Grant and what money is needed from the Rye School District to meet the 20% agreement (\$30,032). Ms. Ransom told the Board that many schools that have received Infrastructure grant money will be lining up to have work completed so it would be a good idea to authorize the money to be spent.

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to authorize \$30,032 to be spent from the unreserved fund balance to serve as the district's portion of the Public Infrastructure Grant. Vote: 5-0.

Rye Elementary School Report

Ms. Lull was not in attendance. The Board received Ms. Lull's report and complimented the staff's showcase of their professional development work.

Rye Junior High School Report (6:03 – 6:17)

Ms. Soucy was not in attendance. On her behalf, Ms. Killen provided an update to the Board on RJH science curriculum mapping. The document was aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and included having each area of science; physical, life, and earth/space, at each grade level; using a progression of learning so that the learning builds across the years; and leaving time in the year for teachers and students to pursue topics of interest that would be aligned with the science practices and science competencies. The Board discussed science practices and cross-cutting concepts. Dr. Marion added that he would hope to see well-developed units that do not "chase standards," but focus on the major ideas of science across the grades. Ms. Killen added that facts are the vehicle for teaching skills and bigger ideas. Ms. Honda added that it is important for students to love what they are learning, but also that they are prepared for the next grade level. Ms. Killen shared that conversations are on-going with Portsmouth High School to make sure Rye students are prepared.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tssetsilas, to authorize up to \$10,000 to be spent on the vestibule/sidelite framing at Rye Junior High, as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (6:28 – 6:49 p.m.)

Water Testing Update

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tssetsilas, to maintain the schedule and sampling approach for water testing for lead, copper, PFCs and PFOAs every 6 months. Vote: 4-1.

The Board discussed maintaining a schedule of testing water at the schools every 6 months. Ms. Crapo brought some water testing kits to Mr. Petralia. Mr. Petralia shared that he decided to have Seacoast Analytics complete the samples to provide the report to the Board. Recent water samples showed that the sink water is safe. Students should continue to employ the practice of filling their water bottles at the filtered fountains.

Driveway Paving Update

Deferred until the June meeting.

Meeting Minutes Format

Deferred until the June meeting.

English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum Adoption

Dr. Marion asked Ms. Killen about the status of creating more integration among content areas, especially English language arts (ELA) and social studies. Ms. Killen responded that teachers have been discussing how many standards are being addressed interchangeably between ELA and Social Studies. There has been preliminary discussion of moving towards a humanities class at RJH. The Board discussed concerns that arose when the middle school restructuring was taking place. Ms. Killen thanked Ms. Soucy and the ELA teachers for their consideration of implementing this model. Ms. Killen explained that ELA teachers will be using Lucy Calkins resources to supplement ELA standards.

Ms. Crapo shared that many of the Marguerite Kelly Scholarship Essays highlighted language arts teachers and showed appreciation for the work they did.

Ms. Tsetsilas made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to adopt the English Language Arts Curriculum Pre-K through 8, as presented by Assistant Superintendent Killen. Vote: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS (6:49 – 7:24)

Cell Tower

A cell tower at RES could potentially generate up to \$20,000 per month. Dr. Marion shared that there are some concerns about cell signal safety that would need to be discussed but he indicated that the science suggests that these are very low risk. Ms. Moynahan shared that in her time on the Board it has been brought up twice and she has concerns about students climbing a fence around the proposed tower. Ms. Moynahan also has concerns about the lack of buildable space at RES. The Board agreed to consider the proposal and learn more about the potential of the cell tower being placed on school property. Rye town administrator Mike Magnant will be presenting more information at a future meeting.

RES Handbook Review

This is deferred until the June meeting.

Parent Survey Sample

The Board reviewed the updated Parent Survey Sample and discussed some of the prominent topics including homework, and the WIN and Enrichment blocks at RJH. A cover letter will be included.

Rye Recreation Space Use Agreement (5:12-5:30 p.m.)

Gregg Mikolaities (Chairman of the Rye Recreation Committee) and Lee Arthur (Rye Recreation After School Director) – Mr. Mikolaities shared an update that the

after-school program could have up to 60 students for the 2018-2019 school year. The Rye Recreation Commission is trying to be proactive to reserve spaces at RES to accommodate students for after school programming. Ms. Arthur shared that there has been a waiting list before and the program needs a full classroom for equipment storage. The goal of the Board is to support Rye Rec in their efforts to accommodate as many students as possible. Mr. Mikolaities stated that Rye Rec wants to be able to inform parents if they will be on the waitlist as soon as possible. The committee provided the board with an update Space Use Agreement. The agreement was discussed but the Board agreed to table the topic until Principal Lull is able to respond to questions.

**Other
Staff Nominations and Request**

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Crapo, to accept the nomination of Ms. Sarah Holmes, as 1.0 FTE Mathematics Specialist. Vote: Unanimous.

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to accept the nomination of Ms. Jennifer Adams, as 1.0 FTE Special Educator. Vote: Unanimous.

Tricia LaBelle has been nominated as paraprofessional at Rye Elementary School.

Ms. Tsetsilas made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to accept the professional development request from Sheila Adams to attend the ISTE Conference in June 2018 in Chicago, as submitted. Vote: 5-0.

Dr. Marion led a discussion on the benefit of conferences as professional development. He stated that he feels conferences are not the best use of professional development funds and he would like to find a way for teachers to share out what is learned at conferences that directly relates to their teaching. Ms. Crapo added that Ms. Adams has been amazing teacher and she would not recommend turning down the request. In an effort to gauge the value of conferences, the board will ask Ms. Adams to provide a report on the outcomes from the event.

NH School Board Association Update from Ms. Tsetsilas

Ms. Tsetsilas attended a conference regarding student voice. Districts shared how student voice is incorporated to varying degrees of involvement and success. Ms. Tsetsilas provided the Board with a self-assessment in case the district wants to explore this topic further. Additionally, a discussion regarding Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) ensued. Research on ELOs show that when implemented well, results are favorable. Ms. Honda suggested that ways to include students more in Board meetings or having a student representative on the board could be discussed at the July retreat.

PUBLIC COMMENT (6:17 – 6:28)

Peter Crawford (Brackett Road) – Mr. Crawford stated that he does not feel remaining special education money should be spent on something else. Mr. Crawford explained that

some of the language for unreserved fund balance has been misused. The correct term to describe would be anticipated fund balance.

Sharon Sparks (Staff and Sagamore Road) – Ms. Sparks thanked the Board for allowing her to lobby in Washington, D.C. Ms. Sparks shared information regarding some initiatives that she has learned about for the Board to be aware of including: HR 2, Military Saving Account, Preventing Gun Violence, Bullying and Mental Health. RESPA and ACT made a donation to schools affected by hurricanes in Costa Rica. NEA-NH has been lobbying for an educator death benefit for teachers that are killed protecting students or at school. The Board thanked Ms. Sparks for her time and information.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS

Peter Crawford (Brackett Road) – Mr. Crawford shared that he believes the town is getting \$50,000 per year from the tower on Grove Road. A tower at RES would be beneficial. Mr. Crawford asked if the bus routes are being considered to try and save money. Mr. Crawford also suggested a mailing be sent out to find out how many children are in the town. Mr. Crawford asked about the Lister Academy agreement.

STANDING COMMITTEES (7:24 – 7:56)

Reporting Committees

Rye Education Foundation

Ms. Crapo provided an update from REF.

Portsmouth High School

Mr. Petralia attended a meeting led by Ms. Lyons providing an update on how the year has gone. Ms. Honda attended the Portsmouth School Board meeting and shared that the Lister Academy has had a high amount of graduates and ELOs this year. Leveraging for PHS students. Graduation is Friday, June 8th.

Parent Teacher Association

Ms. Tsetsilas shared that PTA completed staff/teacher appreciation events. Volunteer appreciation. Invoices for playground/gaga pit need to be submitted to SAU.

Rye Recreation

Update provided in packet and other the Space Agreement was discussed earlier.

Budget

Dr. Marion attended budget meeting 4/26. School/town budgets presented. The Budget Committee complimented Ms. Ransom and the administration on the quality of the budget preparation. Capital Improvement plan should have more details to coordinate. Remind the town that school fiscal year starts July 1.

SAU Technology Committee

Ms. Killen thanked the SAU Technology committee. An update will be provided at the joint board meeting.

Special Issues
None

Policies (7:56 – 7:58)

Ms. Crapo made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marion, to adopt Policy JLCF-Wellness Policy. Vote: 5-0.*

School Use Feasibility

Ms. Honda hopes that by July a choice would be made in which direction the district wants to go. Decide the path and research the path. The Board reiterated and discussed the choices: do nothing, move 5th to RJH (5-8 at RJH, Pre-k through 4), and collaborate with Greenland. Gather as much information as possible on the choices; Greenland is not at capacity yet – their current middle school enrollment is approximately 150. Where is the tipping point for too small, too big? Talk with principals and at next meeting discuss next steps. Ms. Tsetsilas explained a consultant service that looks at live births and other population data, as well as job availability. It was recommended to talk with other Boards that went through this.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS (8:02-8:05 p.m.)

**Rye School
 Board
 5/16/2018
 Meeting
 Action Items**

| Project/Status | When | Who | Action Item |
|---|-------------|------------------------|--|
| Student Surveys | July | Marie, Suzanne | Aggregate data for July retreat |
| 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 |

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| 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 Board 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 | Deb | Work w/ town to see if town would consider handling patch-work for paving |
| Parent Surveys | July | Scott | Collect data for July retreat |
| Rye Recreation Lease | May/June | Suzanne | Determine ability to accommodate Rye Rec needs for afterschool program |
| Professional Development Readout | TBD | Sheila Adams | Sheila Adams to provide feedback from June conference. |
| Invitations to Upcoming School Board Meetings | June | Sal | Invite Ann Gilbert to report on 8 th grade schedule changes. Invite Town Administrator & Town Council to provide background on potential cell tower request at RES. |
| Mon June 11 5pm next board meeting | June | Margaret/ Administration | Notify community of change in June meeting date. |

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion made by Dr. Marion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, the board entered non-public session at 8:10 p.m., in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Roll Call Vote: 5-0.

RETURN TO PUBLIC

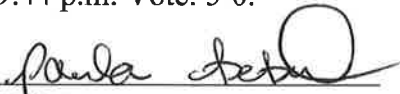
On a motion by Dr. Marion seconded by Ms. Moynahan, the Board return to public session at 9:36 p.m. Roll Call Vote: 5-0

On a motion made by Ms. Tsetsilas, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, at 9:39 pm. to appoint Margaret Honda and Scott Marion to the negotiating team for the Rye School Board for RESPA Negotiations. Vote: 4 Yes, 1 No; (YES: Paula Tsetsilas, Jeanne Moynahan, Margaret Honda, and Scott Marion. NO: Debra Crapo)

On a motion by Ms. Tsetsilas, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, the Board voted to seal the non-public minutes at 9:40 p.m. Roll Call Vote: 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Crapo, seconded by Dr. Marion, the Board adjourned their meeting at 9:44 p.m. Vote: 5-0.


Secretary