

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
School Administrative Unit 50  
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*To be approved by the Rye School Board at the February 13, 2019 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, January 16, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

School Board Members: Deb Crapo, Margaret Honda, Scott Marion, Paula Tsetsilas  
Not Present: Jeanne Moynahan

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

Staff: Diane Smaracko, Eileen Murphy, Andrea Papoutsy

Visitors: Matt Curtain, Sarah Curtin, Julie Struble, Sharon Scott

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

A moment of silence was held in honor James Katkin, former Business Administrator for SAU 50.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION (2:37)**

Principal Suzanne Lull, grade four teacher Diane Smarack and grade two teacher Eileen Murphy, led a special PowerPoint presentation in regard to the iNACOL Conference they attended in October 2018 in Nashville, TN. All three were appreciative that they were afforded the opportunity to attend the conference. They returned with valuable information specific to *Student Centered Learning/Personalized Learning*.

Ms. Lull noted one great take away from the conference was the reiteration that personalized learning is not limited to a school and the grades it houses, rather should be an all-encompassing and continuing progression from grades K-8. Ms. Lull recently established a K-8 Team with members of both schools to discuss next steps in achieving the goal of what personalized learning looks like for the Rye School District. Ms. Lull noted the K-8 Team had already met twice and the concept has been well received.

Ms. Honda asked how we reconcile student centered learning as it relates to standardized testing scores.

Ms. Lull reiterated her stance that students are more engaged when they are learning at their level. Ms. Murphy felt it important to first present the purpose of a lesson to students. Once that is understood students will learn faster, utilizing skills and concepts while simultaneously internalizing the new found skills.

Dr. Marion stated he is in agreement with project based and personalized learning. He feels it is still important for assessment scores to be used as an indicator.

Ms. Crapo emphasized the importance of applauding the teachers for the great things they have done and are currently doing in educating students.

Ms. Crapo also noted that not all students are great test takers so assessment testing is not a sure indicator.

Ms. Tsetsilas stated that going forward there is an important component in educating parents about how to support a new educational learning/teaching style.

Mr. Petralia expressed gratitude for those volunteers that were able to be part of the newly formed the K-8 Leadership Team. .

Ms. Honda deferred the approval of the minutes and manifest until later in the meeting.

## **Communications - None**

## **REPORTS**

### **Superintendent Report (38:53)**

Mr. Petralia shared highlights from his report with the Board. He began by informing Board members of an upcoming opportunity. The NHSBA will be hosting NHDOE Commissioner Frank Edelblut on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm at 25 Triangle Park Drive in Concord. This event will feature discussion on current NHDOE initiatives relative to the "Learn Everywhere" and "Career Academy" programs.

Mr. Petralia took time to acknowledge his gratitude and for the affirmation from the Board members in regard to the recent approval of the FY2020 SAU50 budget as well as his contract extension. He thanked them for their continued support.

Mr. Petralia informed the Board that he met with the President of the Teachers' Association Andrea Papoutsy, to review the draft calendars for academic year 2019-2020. He noted that the NHDOE had not released any further information pertaining to the post Labor Day start date. Mr. Petralia recommends the district go forward with the August start date.

There was discussion in regard to the current 2018-2019 academic calendar. A change will be made to address town elections aligning with a teacher work day. The Rye district schools will now have a teachers workshop day on March 12<sup>th</sup> (town election day). March 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a regular school in session day.

Mr. Petralia touched upon the grade five staffing. He noted positions are currently posted internally. The deadline for SAU 50 staff to apply is January 17, 2019.

Mr. Petralia stated he is confident that they will have a strong grade 5 team to compliment grade 5-8 faculty at Rye Junior High.

Mr. Petralia noted that the Technology Committee had a recent meeting at which they discussed in greater detail the implementation of HB 1612 as it pertains to local and state requirements.

Mr. Petralia gave further information on the topic of a student representative to the School Board. He provided RSA 189c in Board packets (this is a high school statute as there is not currently one specific to middle school).

He noted that Attorney Loughman informed him that a student could be designated without a statute. The student would be referred to as a “student liaison,” would participate in public session with no voting abilities, and would not be authorized to attend non-public sessions.

Ms. Soucy will discuss the topic of student liaison at the February meeting.

Mr. Petralia noted that the State Board of Education approved moving forward with an amendment to Ed 306.18 (c) to allow districts to set the high school graduation date at the beginning of the school year and not have to adjust it to accommodate for snow days.

Mr. Petralia reminded Board members about the upcoming New Hampshire School Board Delegate Assembly scheduled for Saturday January 26, 2019 in Concord, NH. He noted that Ms. Moynahan, the SAU 50 Board Chair, would be in attendance.

Mr. Petralia stated he would need to step out of the meeting in order to attend a Safety Forum being held at Greenland Central School. He asked Board members to sign the 2019 Warrant Articles and two copies of the New Castle & Rye Tuition Agreement. He would pick up said documents upon his return.

Ms. Honda asked that the Board make a decision on the change on the current academic calendar.

*On a motion made by Ms. Crapo, seconded by Dr. Marion the Board agreed to approve the change on the current academic calendar to reflect a teacher work day on March 12, 2019 and a regular in session school day on March 22, 2019. Vote 4-0*

#### **Assistant Superintendent Report (54:23)**

Ms. Killen discussed that the American Association of School Librarians updated their curriculum. Ms. Killen will be working with district Librarians to in turn update curriculums going forward to reflect the new standards.

Ms. Killen noted the Comprehensive Technology Education has been changed to STEM at the state level. STEM teachers with in SAU 50 have chosen to base curriculum on the Next Generation Engineering Design Standards. The focus will be on engineering design principles and practices where students will apply science and math.

Ms. Killen discussed first quarter grades for Rye PHS freshman.

Dr. Marion indicated that it would be beneficial and offer more context to see the percentages for the other schools within the district as well as the other students attending PHS.

Ms. Killen reviewed the statistics of the 2018 Rye PHS graduates.

There was discussion regarding student growth versus student achievement. Dr. Marion noted achievement is the indicator of how kids perform in a given year. Gross percentile asks how well a student’s scores in a specific year compare to their personal score history. Student growth is a way to measure how students have done relative to how they have done in the past.

### **Principal Report (1:23:16)**

Ms. Soucy updated the Board on the WIN and Enrichment blocks being offered at the end of school days. WIN stands for *What I Need*. It is time set aside at the end of the school day (several days a week), allowing students the opportunity to review goals for the week with homeroom teachers, sign up for extra help or complete school work. The *Enrichment Block* occurs in the final period twice a week. This is an opportunity for students to integrate with other grades. It is more of a movement oriented time allowing for activities that engage students creatively, athletically and/or to try new things. It gives students an outlet for imagination and creativity.

Ms. Tsetsilas stated she appreciates the WIN block as it aligns with the concept of the TASK block that is utilized at Portsmouth High School.

Ms. Soucy noted that students had taken surveys last year at the end of each enrichment session. Board members agreed that would be a useful tool going forward to understand if the enrichment block continues to be a beneficial usage of time during the school day.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Middle School Science Curriculum (1:30:20)**

Ms. Killen discussed the Middle School Science Curriculum and Next Generation Science, adding that she and Ms. Soucy had worked together and outlined the responsibilities to be taught in the curriculums at each grade level. She added that Barbara Hopkins, an educational consultant specializing in science, had met with teachers prior to the start of the school year to ensure strong curriculum outlines were in place.

Ms. Killen continues to work with teachers in PLC groups to reflect knowledge of science practices. She stated one of the goals is to ensure the information being taught is on a continuum.

Ms. Killen stated she forwards information regarding Next Generation Science workshop opportunities to teach for further training on science standards and encourages their participation.

Ms. Soucy stated that the RJH teachers have done extensive work as a team reviewing science assessments and finding common ground to build upon throughout the grades.

Ms. Killen stated that during the 2019-2020 school year grade 5 will have science every day and will continue to have a solid program.

Dr. Marion questioned how closely related grade 5 science was to the grade 6 science. Ms. Killen noted that it is aligned as such to create a foundation that will then be built upon in the Next Generation Science and Stanford Science in grades 6-8.

Dr. Marion stated the new science structure will be a great improvement in collaboration across grades. He reiterated that the Stanford Science program will provide more opportunities to practice research and analyzing techniques in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

#### **Tuition Agreement**

Ms. Honda passed around two copies of the New Castle Rye Tuition Agreement for Board signatures.

#### **Special Issues/Naming of RJH 91:44:50)**

Ms. Honda stated that the issue of the possible renaming of RJH should be deferred until at least the next academic year.

Ms. Crapo relayed that she had spoken with several people with knowledge of the previous naming of the school. She reiterated that the current sign does indicate Rye Junior High – A Middle School. She stated she would like the discussion to be brought up with the town after the grade five has transitioned to the school.

## **NEW BUSINESS (1:55:05)**

### **Academic Calendar (1:55:41)**

*On a motion made by Ms. Tsetsilas, seconded by Dr. Marion the Board approved the 2019-2020 academic calendar with an August start date. Vote 4-0.*

### **Agenda Format**

Ms. Crapo asked that going forward the names of the reporting committee member be listed correspondingly on the agenda.

Ms. Crapo thanked the Board for reinstating the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of School Board Meetings.

Ms. Crapo discussed the possibility of creating an opportunity for community members to sign up for direct emailing of agendas. She referenced several examples of how the Town of Rye makes agendas available to the public. She discussed the possibility of creating a School Board Page on the Rye Town website.

### **Rye Recreation Agreement (2:17:34)**

Suzanne Lull and Paula Tsetsilas met with Brett Mulvey of the Recreation Commission to discuss next year's accommodations for the After School Program as a result of grade 5 moving to Rye Junior High. It was confirmed that with the second classroom designated for the program, they will be able to accommodate all the children on their list for the after-care program. Mrs. Lull also offered the possibility of using a room upstairs in the school should they need a space for homework. In terms of the middle school programming, the Recreation Commission is in current negotiations with the church in the center of town for this program. The commission is going to pursue getting estimates on what it would cost to add a bathroom in Rye Elementary if needed. The Board discussed looking into incorporating a clause to the agreement going forward making it more of a fluid contract from year to year barring any major changes to student population.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Andrea Papousty – Rye resident and RES staff member.

Ms. Papousty expressed that she was grateful for the educational expertise of the members of the Rye School Board, Principals and staff.

Ms. Papousty noted a recent marketing opportunity that she felt was successful and should be utilized going forward. The example she provided was in regard to invitations that were handed out personally from students to community members during voting day in November 2018. The invitation was to promote the Veterans Day Assembly that was to be held. Ms. Papousty noted how large the turnout for that assembly was and specifically attributed the turn out to the personal touch of students previously handing out invitations welcoming community members.

## **REPORTING COMMITTEES (2:22:57)**

PTA – Ms. Honda shared that the PTA had a UNH Men's Hockey Night that drew a successful turnout. She also added that the after school enrichment program continues to be a great benefit. This spring the PTA will host the Spring Soiree (formerly the Father/Daughter Dance). The name change was an effort to be more inclusive.

**POLICY (2:28:51)**

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve and adopt Policy KDBA – Classroom Visits.  
Vote: 4-0.*

In the absence of Ms. Moynahan, the Policy Committee representative, the Board decided to defer discussion on several policies until they can review with her further.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Crapo to approve the public minutes of December 19, 2018.  
Vote: 4-0.*

*Ms. Honda made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marion, to approve the public minutes of December 31, 2018.  
Vote: 4-0.*

**Approval of Manifest (2:43:50)**

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas to approve the manifest voucher of December 18, 2018 to December 20, 2018 in the amount of \$323,503.95  
Vote: 4-0.*

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the manifest voucher of December 21, 2018 to January 11, 2019 in the amount of \$705,941.63.  
Vote: 4-0.*

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

On a motion made by Ms. Honda, seconded by Dr. Marion, the Board entered non-public session at 8:10 p.m., in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Roll Call Vote: 4-0.

**RETURN TO PUBLIC**

*On a motion by Ms. Tsetsilas, seconded by Ms. Crapo, the Board return to public session and sealed the non-public minutes at 8:50 p.m. Vote: 4-0*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*On a motion by Dr. Marion, and seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, the Board adjourned their meeting at 8:51 p.m.  
Vote: 4-0.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Samantha Fuller  
January 24, 2019*

  
Paula Tsetsilas, Secretary

2/13/19  
Date