

RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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To be approved by the Rye School Board at the November 9, 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, October 17, 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
Sarah Reinhardt, Special Education Director
Suzanne Lull, Rye Elementary School Principal
Marie Soucy, Rye Junior High Principal

Staff: Hope Murray, Piper Cronin, Sheila Adams, Sarah Holmes, Maggie Hanna, Kathie Kennedy, Sharry Sparks

Residents/Visitors: Celeste Christo, Bill Christo, Nina Parrott, Katy Sherman, Chris Piela, Kim Piela, Sharon Scott, Michelle Bingham, Alyssa MacGlashing, Jake MacGlashing, RES students

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 5:01-5:32 p.m.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION (5:01- p.m.)

Sarah Holmes, Rye Elementary math specialist, Rye Elementary School 4th and 5th grade students presented their findings as a result of a project based learning initiative that they participated in. The project outlined ideas for various play structures to be placed at Rye Junior High School. Students presented information on cost, installation and shipping. The Board members then had a chance to ask the students questions.

Sheila Adams, Rye Junior High School Science teacher, shared highlights from her 3-day ISTE conference. Ms. Adams was recognized with an ISTE award for her work within RJH and the New England affiliates. She received free registration to the conference with the award. The conference focused on pedagogy, content, integration, communication, efficiency, and using data. Topics covered included scientist vs. maker, school branding and school culture, data and computer science and gadget and applications. Ms. Adams shared that she appreciates that the conference is held towards the end of the school year as it helps to rejuvenate her and give her ideas to work on over the summer.

Sharon Sparks, Educational Support Professional at Rye Junior High School, provided the Board with an update on current educational legislation. The Board thanked Ms. Sparks for her efforts.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (5:32-5:33 p.m.)

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the public minutes of September 19, 2018, as amended. Vote: 4-0 (1 abstention).

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the non-public minutes of September 19, 2018. Vote: 4-0 (1 abstention).

Approval of Manifest (7:24-7:30 p.m.)

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the manifest voucher of September 18, 2018 to September 28, 2018 in the amount of \$440,931.15 Vote: 4-0 (1 absent).

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the manifest voucher of September 29, 2018 2019 to October 2, 2018 in the amount of \$356,572.97. Vote: 4-0 (1 absent).

Communications (5:32-5:42 p.m.)

Mr. Petralia received communication from NEA-NH on behalf of Sharon Sparks, to request release for Ms. Sparks to serve as a delegate to the NH Executive Board for two school days, December 7, 2018 and March 22, 2019. NEA-NH will reimburse the district for the cost of substitute coverage.

Mr. Petralia received communication from RJH Physical Education Teacher, Piper Cronin, notifying the Board of her retirement at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to accept Piper's retirement as submitted, with regret. Vote: 5-0.

Mr. Petralia received one additional communication that the Board will discuss during non-public session.

REPORTS

Superintendent Report (5:42-5:47 p.m.)

Mr. Petralia shared highlights from his report with the Board. He shared that several items will be discussed during non-public session including an update from Ms. Reinhardt, a review of the tentative agreement with the Rye Educational Support Professional Association, and to discuss the tuition agreement between Rye and New Castle. Mr. Petralia discussed some items related to the Grade 5 Transition, including a space agreement with Rye Recreation. Mr. Petralia also shared that the Board packet includes an employment agreement regarding a custodial supervisor.

Assistant Superintendent Report (5:47-5:57 p.m.)

Ms. Killen shared additional reading and math data from the spring NH State Assessment Results. The Board discussed various factors that impact how data is interpreted; including sample size, class sizes, and town-to-town comparisons. The Board requested aggregate data of Grades 3-5 and then Grades 6-8, as well as data from Oyster River.

Business Administrator Report (5:57-5:58p.m.)

Ms. Ransom included an updated fund balance for the Board.

Rye Elementary School Report (5:58-6:06 p.m.)

Ms. Lull requested a response from the Board regarding the play structure.

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to allocate up to \$12,500 for the purchase of new playground equipment at Rye Junior High School, contingent on PTA and REF funding the remaining amount. Vote: 5-0.

Rye Junior High School Report

Ms. Soucy provided the Board with the RJH Principal's report. She will update the Board regarding Grade 5 Transition, Wedgewood, and Grade 8 Science curriculum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (6:06-6:25 p.m.)

Grade 5 Transition Planning

Ms. Tsetsilas shared that new household postcards were left at the Town Clerk's office to collect data, but there have not been many people in to register cars. The Board should continue to collect data on this method of collecting information. The Grade 5 Transition Committee visited Berwick Academy on October 16, 2018. Berwick is a smaller school than RJH, and their teaming structures have more flexibility depending on the number of enrolled students. The staff mentioned that some students in grades 5 through 8 have some difficulty with the transition, but it is not specific just to 5th graders. All school visits have revealed a 2 person teaching team for 5th grade. The Grade 5 Transition Committee will be discussing all options to have an educationally-sound and budget-responsible recommendation for November 9th. Dr. Marion stated that the Board's role in this is to support budgetary needs of the district, but allow administrators to make the recommendation. Dr. Marion added that he feels it would be a hard sell for any model that increases the amount of staff members. Dr. Marion asked Ms. Killen if the district is heading towards competency based education. Mr. Petralia added that according to substantive duties of the School Board show that they can weigh in on decisions such as these. Ms. Honda reminded the audience that all of the information related to this topic is available on the Rye Elementary School website.

(http://res.sau50.org/middle_school_transition)

Lunch Payment System

This agenda item was deferred until the November meeting.

Public Comment (6:25-6:34)

Piper Cronin (RJH Teacher) – Ms. Cronin asked the Board about how unified arts may be impacted by the Grade 5 Transition. Ms. Cronin also asked the Board if they have any questions regarding athletics. Ms. Tsetsilas responded that there will be recommendations for unified arts for both schools, as well as consideration of athletics.

Chris Piela (Parent) – Mr. Piela asked how staffing configurations would be impacted in regards to RES teachers moving to RJH. The Board responded that the meeting on October 18, 2018 will discuss the various models and benefits to those models. Ms. Crapo responded that the Board will be weighing in on options that are best for students and budget-conscious.

Public Hearing (6:35-6:48 p.m.)

Ms. Honda suspended the regular school board meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, for the Board to conduct a public hearing in accordance RSA 198:20-c, regarding potential expenditures for the Wedgewood Farm Property. Vote: 5-0.

Ms. Soucy is requesting an amount up to \$11,000 to complete various projects in the Wedgewood property during the 2018-2019. An itemized list of materials was presented to the Board for consideration.

The Board discussed if the goats are the most cost-effective method for eradicating the poison ivy.

Ms. Honda closed the public hearing related to fund requests for Wedgewood farms.

Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Crapo, to approve up to a total of \$11,000 for Wedgewood property expenditures as presented by RJH Principal's October Report, contingent on Ms. Soucy's presentation of the cost of other poison ivy eradication options. Vote: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS (6:48-7:06 p.m.)

New Castle Tuition Agreement

Details of the agreement will be discussed further in nonpublic session.

Personnel Item – Staff Retirement

Details will be discussed further in nonpublic session.

Grade 8 Science Curriculum Update

Ms. Killen provided the Board with an update regarding Science curriculum. Ms. Killen provided the Board with Grades 6 through 8 instructional guidelines; science content was highlighted. Science teachers met with Barbara Hopkins and determined where certain content would be taught throughout the grade level and the school year. Dr. Marion questioned the level of detail of the documents. Ms. Honda clarified that the Board is not advocating that teachers be catering to an exam but that further documentation that outlines units taught would be helpful. Mr. Petralia recommended that having teachers present on their content may help to clarify the content. Ms. Killen shared that updated curriculum documents are being developed to reflect staffing changes and instructional shifts.

Marketing Item

This item was deferred until the next meeting. The Board will be discussing more comprehensive marketing strategies.

Other

John Gray, Rye community member, is offering to paint the score board posts at no cost to the district.

Ms. Crapo made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marion, to accept the donation of John Gray. Vote: 5-0.

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS

STANDING COMMITTEES (7:07-7:29pm)

Reporting Committees

Rye Education Foundation

Ms. Crapo spoke with Tasha Goyette who shared that REF has divided up roles and responsibilities. Ms. Goyette will provide Ms. Crapo with an update to share with the Board after each meeting.

Portsmouth High School

The Secondary Advisory Meeting was held on September 25th. The AREA meeting was held last week. Mr. Petralia has minutes from those meetings if the Board would like them. Dr. Marion added that SAU 50 does not have voting rights at the AREA meetings. Ms. Crapo volunteered to attend the AREA meetings and stated that Rye should have input on the AREA meetings. The Board will discuss options for different towns in the SAU to

rotate representation on the committee. Ms. Tsetsilas added that Ms. Killen will be collecting Quarter 1 and Quarter 3 grade reports about how Rye students are performing at Portsmouth High School.

Parent Teacher Association

PTA has been discussing new ideas, such as the Someone Special Snowball, which eliminates the gender-specific dances done in the past.

Rye Recreation

Update was given to the Board in their work packet.

Budget

Dr. Marion added that the budget process is going well.

SAU Technology Committee

No update.

Special Issues

No update. The Board discussed the role of the Special Issues agenda item. In the past it was used for teachers, parents, and other topics that were happening in the district.

Policies

Ms. Moynahan stated that there were no policies to discuss. Ms. Moynahan mentioned that one policy specific to Rye is related to fees charged for building use. Ms. Moynahan will gather more research on policies and fee schedules and the Board agreed to discuss this further.

SAU 50 Sub-committee

Ms. Honda presented that there is an opportunity to form a sub-committee of the schools in the district to discuss collaborative opportunities. The committee will not have to vote on topics, but rather research and share ideas that are brought back to the SAU 50 Joint Board.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

**Rye School
Board
10/17/2018
Meeting
Action Items**

Project/Status	When	Who	Action Item
Student Surveys	Ongoing	Marie, Suzanne	Share results as available.
Parent University	Fall	Sarah, Paula, Margaret	Alison Dunn & Anne Gilbert holding roundtable discussion on film, "Eighth Grade" Paula and Sarah to discuss programming for remainder of year.

RSD Public Gym Use Policy	Fall	Jeanne	Provide fee schedule recommendation for RSD policy
Revisit Bus Utilization and Contract	Fall	Sal/Margaret	Determine efficiency and use of bus routes for cost savings measure; contract ends June 30, 2019
Driveway Paving	Fall	Deb/Jim Gordon	Deb to coordinate meeting with Jim Gordon
Strategic Planning	Ongoing	Sal/Margaret	Sal to look into organizations and resources available to School Board
Social/Emotional Learning (SEL)	Fall	Marie, Suzanne, Guidance	Have guidance counselors attend future meeting to inform Board of 2018-2019 goals
New RSD student reporting	Fall	Marie & Suzanne	Provide overview of new student reporting
Parent Focus Group	2018-2019	Scott	Board to consider holding late March focus groups; hire researcher to conduct
School Comparisons-Matrix Development	2018-2019	Admin & School Board	Explore concept further and develop overall objectives and criteria
Website redesign	Fall	Sal, Margaret, Marie & Suzanne	Create uniformity of the two schools' websites
REF/PTA/School Board	Spring 2019	Margaret	Volunteerism ceremony
2018-2019 District Goals	Oct	Marie & Suzanne Margaret	Add social/emotional goals into current plans Publish goals for public in newly created

			graphic
Capital Improvement Plan	Sept	Marie & Suzanne	CIP school projects to be issued to Board.
Elimination of Plastic Straws	Fall	Student and RJH staff	Present proposals for eliminating plastics straws at RJH
Town Election Venue	Fall	Sal & Town Admin	Explore alternatives for town election sites; <u>OR</u> consider making voting days PD days
NHSAS Results	Fall	Kelli Killen	Kelli to look at aggregating data 6-8; Kelli to add ORSD
RJH Retention Plan	October	Board	Discuss and choose preferred approach for developing a retention plan for 5 th to 6 th grade transition year when students consider private schools
Classroom visits	Ongoing	Kelli Killen	Read out of visits to RES and RJH
Science Curriculum	Fall	Scott, Kelli Killen, Marie Soucy	Meet and discuss science mapping

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion made by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Ms. Crapo, the Board entered non-public session at 7:32 p.m., in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Roll Call Vote: 4-0 (1 absent).

RETURN TO PUBLIC

On a motion by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Ms. Crapo the Board returned to public session and sealed the non-public minutes at 8:35 p.m. Vote: 4-0

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Crapo, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, the Board adjourned their meeting at 8:38 p.m. Vote: 4-0.


Secretary