

RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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To be approved by the Rye School Board at the April 17, 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, March 20, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

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

Staff: Erin Fleming, RJH teacher

Visitors: Sarah Curtin, Peter Crawford, Katy Sherman, Eveland Sherman,
 Kamara Williams, Kate Williams

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (1:27)

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

Ms. Lull lead a moment of silence in honor of Ann Barr, former Rye Elementary School Teacher.

Ms. Honda deferred two agenda items--the reorganization of school board and committee assignments, due to the absence of two board members.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION (3:23)

Rye Junior High Students, Eveland Sherman and Kamara Williams, presented the inspiration and reasons behind the e-waste recycling day, they are organizing at Rye Junior High. Eveland Sherman explained how she shared her concerns about e-waste to her classmates and Ms. Fleming. Eveland Sherman and Kamara Williams then developed a plan, shared it with Ms. Soucy and contacted the recycling center to requests a discount for a bulk e-waste deposit. Ms. Sherman and Ms. Williams were instructed to present to the Board of Selectman, which they did.

Ms. Sherman and Ms. Williams explained how a broken calculator in Math class and learning about Alex Lynn in Language Arts, inspired them to investigate how they could promote e-waste recycling at Rye Junior High. After presenting and sharing their written proposals and essays to the board, the students took questions and asked for the School Board's support.

Ms. Honda congratulated them for their work and for stepping up.

Ms. Tsetsilas asked for an explanation of what e-waste would be in your home. Both students responded about the types of items and effects those items have on the environment. Ms. Honda shared her personal experience with saving electronics for recycling.

Mr. Petralia asked the students about Alex Lynn and the students shared how Alex Lynn's work inspired activism and legislation.

Ms. Moynahan asked about the process for collection and the students explained the e-waste items would be collected at Rye Junior High.

Ms. Honda asked about the date for the program. The students plan to select a day during the week prior to Earth Day.

Ms. Honda voiced support of the project on behalf of the board.

Mr. Petralia thanked Ms. Fleming for her support of the students and thanked the students' mothers.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION (12:37)

On a motion made by Ms. Tsetsilas, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, the Board entered non-public session at 5:14 p.m., in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Vote: 3-0.

RETURN TO PUBLIC (12:53)

On a motion by Ms. Jeanne Moynahan, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, the Board returned to public session and sealed the non-public minutes at 5:46 p.m. Roll Call 3-0

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

REPORTS

Superintendent Report (13:48)

Mr. Petralia highlighted legislative updates from the New Hampshire School Administrators' Association. Mr. Petralia explained the change to HB 380, providing the Superintendent the ability to select a designee to review criminal records checks. Mr. Petralia mentioned a slight change was made to HB 414 on bullying compliance. Mr. Petralia included a copy of HB 489 in the packet and explained that the language is more defined.

Mr. Petralia announced that during the Clipper Foundation Board meeting on Feb. 22nd, Rye Elementary School received a grant for an application submitted by Maureen Ganem, Jen Richards, and Suzanne Lull. The submittal titled 'Sensory Pathway to Build Success,' was awarded a \$1500.00 grant for the purchase of a pathway for the hallway at Rye Elementary School.

Mr. Petralia updated the board on the Director of Technology position. The interview committee including -- Principal Pete Lasso, Jeanne Moynahan, Chris Russo, Mr. Petralia, Kelli Killen, Ann Hoyt, Lorraine Curtis, Lauren Teeden, held semi-finalist interviews and one finalist emerged. The Finalist spent the day in district and a recommendation will be made at the joint School Board meeting next week. Mr. Petralia thanked those involved in the process.

Mr. Petralia included a flyer for the Youth Summit 2019. Mr. Petralia reviewed the dates - April 5th for Students and April 6th for Parents, Educators, and Community. Mr. Petralia informed the board that the topics and agenda look fantastic.

Ms. Honda asked how this opportunity is presented to students. Ms. Tsetsilas suggested the information be provided in the Principal weekly e-mail. Ms. Moynahan suggested looking into the availability of any video of the event.

Mr. Petralia reminded the board of the Joint Board meeting on March 27th, in Greenland in the Art Room, the Parent University coming up and the next School Board meeting on April 17th at the Rye Junior High.

Ms. Tsetsilas asked about a possible discussion regarding the cafeteria tables. Ms. Ransom explained the discussion is slotted for later in the meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Report (23:01)

Ms. Killen reported on curriculum review and adoption. Ms. Killen is creating the final document formatted for review and placing in Rye School Board Folders. These items need to be reviewed for approval at the April meeting and include Music Curriculum for K through grade 8 and Social Studies Pre-K through grade 5. Ms. Killen explained the process for the Curriculum Board folders and that she is still populating the folders with documents.

Ms. Killen completed visits to the freshman classes and will have the official report in April.

Ms. Killen provided freshman math grade comparisons in the Board Packet which compare the first quarter and include the second quarter grades of Rye Elementary and Greenland freshman.

Ms. Tsetsilas asked if there were any key take aways from the comparisons. Ms. Killen explained that in the Accelerated course and Advanced College Prep. course, she noted more As and Bs and in the College Prep. course, she saw more Bs and Cs. Ms. Killen wondered if the Greenland students followed their course recommendations and thus were more successful.

Ms. Honda noted the information was useful.

Principal Report (30:27)

Ms. Lull reviewed the Student Teacher Survey results. Ms. Lull noted that question three needed to be reworked, due to the students not understanding the question. Ms. Lull administered the survey to every grade while the teachers were out of the room. Ms. Lull highlighted her favorite answers and explained that the answers inspired conversation. Ms. Lull explained a shorter survey will be done for the Unified Arts.

Ms. Tsetsilas asked if there would be any changes based on the surveys and Ms. Lull responded that she didn't foresee changes but explained that she just reviewed the results with staff, question by question that day. Ms. Lull also explained the students were taught about scales for the surveys, so they could understand what a 1 represented versus a 5. Ms. Lull felt it was a good assessment and the students did a great job.

Ms. Honda asked what the plan moving forward and Ms. Lull explained the survey would be repeated.

Principal Report (39:03)

Ms. Soucy congratulated Ann Gilbert on her nomination for 2020 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Soucy reviewed how the 8th grade the Social Studies classes are being taught by themes versus time periods, this year.

Ms. Soucy explained the High School scheduling and course selection was underway. The process began on March 11th with a visit from Melanie Wolf, a Portsmouth High School Counselor, who presented to students at the Junior High. The students and parents worked together to select courses and the Portsmouth High School Open House is scheduled for March 21st. Teachers noticed how the 8th grade students buckled down and focused, as they faced the challenges of preparing for the move to High School. As a result, some of the 8th Grader students will be visiting the 7th grader students to discuss what they are going through as they prepare for High School. The hope is that the 7th graders will take to heart the lessons of the 8th grader students.

M. Soucy announced that they are having career days at local business. The students visited Seacoast United this week and they will visit Timberland next week.

Ms. Soucy updated the board on the STEAM program for building boogie boards or surf boards. The 8th grade students will create either a Boogie Board or Surf Board, as a capstone project.

Ms. Soucy discussed that all the 8th grade students will attend the upcoming trip to Montreal, at the end of May. Ms. Soucy announced that the students raised \$6180.00 through calendar sales to go toward the trip.

Ms. Soucy proposed to have the 8th grade graduation on the night of Thursday June 13th with the award ceremony that morning. Mr. Petralia noted there might be competition for the date but the times seemed fine.

Ms. Moynahan asked for explanation of the 6th Grade Hurricane Island trip. Ms. Soucy explained that the 6th grade got a grant from REF to go on a 3-day trip to Hurricane Island up the coast of Maine.

Ms. Tsetsilas asked for more of an update on Social Studies program. Ms. Soucy explained that they are exploring a Humanities Model for 7th and 8th grade. A team is working through the schedule and details should be ready for the next meeting.

Financial Report (48:05)

Ms. Ransom announced that the financial statement is up on the drive and the estimated fund balance of \$256,929.00. Ms. Ransom explained they are reviewing where money might be available and that final purchase orders are due in. Ms. Ransom will have more firm information in April.

Ms. Ransom learned that tables at Rye Elementary could be purchased or donated to the Newcastle Elementary School, with board approval. Ms. Ransom explained that RES was scheduled to receive new lunch tables and reviewed the policy on used equipment.

Ms. Tsetsilas motioned, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to donate up to 10 of the round tables from RES to New Castle School district. Vote: 3-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Student Liaison (52:25)

Ms. Soucy plans to work with the 8th grader students in the coming weeks to have a representative in place for the April meeting.

Grade 5 Transition (52:59)

Mr. Petralia mentioned they now have 2 well-crafted documents as a result of the last meeting.

Ms. Tsetsilas noted that they identified all the tasks necessary to make the 5th grade move, a seamless transition. Included in the list was the need for an additional Parent night at the Junior High. Ms. Tsetsilas suggested inviting parents to an evening open house and including both 4th and 5th grade parents. Ms. Tsetsilas will post the task document on the website for parents to review.

Ms. Soucy announced that the teachers joining the Junior High staff joined them for their professional development day.

Ms. Tsetsilas listed the points that will be covered in the open house.

Ms Honda thanked everyone.

Rye Recreation Agreement (57:29)

Ms. Honda explained they were on track to complete early and the Master Agreement was in. Mr. Petralia noted having received the Master Agreement for review and plans to have the review completed by the April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS (58:00)

Political Candidate Forums in School Buildings (58:20)

Ms. Honda mentioned how the previous request to hold a political forum at the Junior High, inspired the need for discussion about the process and logistics of having these events.

Mr. Petralia noted that the original request for the Political event was presented to the board so the board could discuss and plan the process for future events. Mr. Petralia explained how it isn't just approving an event, but it involves the staff handling logistics and communications with local and national political groups. Staff time is needed to process requests, manage capacity, working with the press and other concerns.

Ms. Tsetsilas explained she hadn't realized it was taking staff time away from their duties. The Board discussed the benefits compared to the requirements. Ms. Lull said she didn't mind the events as long as it is available to all parties equally and doesn't disrupt the school day.

Ms. Moynahan noted the event is scheduled for a Sunday, which is common. Weekend events certainly won't affect the school day. Ms. Moynahan reviewed the policy from 11 years ago and explained that a one-page policy grew to 5 pages. Ms. Moynahan mentioned the fee schedule needs reviewing.

Ms. Honda noted her main concerns relate to the size of events and size of audience. Mr. Petralia expressed the need to review each request as they come in.

Ms. Tsetsilas expressed that these events are good learning opportunities. Ms. Honda suggested that as long as the principals approve of the event, then the Board will support these events.

Ms. Moynahan voiced that a 2 weeks' notice is important and that other parts of the policy, like providing access to cafeteria for food should be removed from policy. Ms. Moynahan explained that those items will be addressed at the policy meeting.

Ms. Honda expressed that the board will discuss in more detail later.

Town Charette (1:11:38)

Ms. Tsetsilas explained that the idea of a Charette is a group of professionals--civil engineers, designers, and planners, who create a plan to better the down town. In this case, the group Plan New Hampshire, would look at the Rye town center, meet with town leaders, conduct listening sessions with residents in order to help them create ideas to make the town more cohesive and attractive to families. Ms. Tsetsilas explained the process takes time, but the impact could affect the schools by draw younger families and also support our seniors.

Update on Education Funding (1:15:15)

Ms. Honda noted that there has been discussion about public school funding at the Capital and there is discussion about Rye returning to the status of donor town.

Mr. Petralia noted a somewhat related item which he included in the packet. The ConVal School District engaged in a Lawsuit against the State of New Hampshire regarding adequacy aid. Superintendent Rizzo Saunders released a letter appealing to other schools to join the lawsuit.

Ms. Moynahan mentioned that during the time of donor and receiving towns, it was difficult. The money collected could be used by the town for projects not education related.

Ms. Honda asked that the Board be informed of any news on this issue. Ms. Tsetsilas added Education Funding to the action item list and noted that she would discuss with New Hampshire State Representative, Jacqui Grote, to see what she is hearing.

Staff Retirement (1:19:27)

Mr. Petralia included a letter from Sally Welch announcing her retirement at the end of this school year. Mr. Petralia asked for a motion to accept her retirement.

Ms. Moynahan motioned, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to accept Ms. Welch's letter of retirement for the end of the 2018-19 school year with regret. Vote: 3-0.

Nomination of Professional Staff (1:20:54)

Mr. Petralia explained that upon receiving Ms. Cronin's notification of retirement, he and Ms. Soucy spoke and quickly advertised for the position, including an internal notification. Internal and external candidates were considered and interviewed. Mr. Petralia announced that after semifinalists were interviewed, the committee selected current 6th grade teacher Aaron Scogin, to nominate for the position as Physical Education and Health teacher at Rye Junior High. Mr. Scogin has also offered to serve as Rye School District Athletic Director.

Ms. Honda noted that in accepting this nomination the position of 6th Grade Math Teacher will need to be filled. Ms. Tsetsilas mentioned his abilities and experience easily transfer into this new position and it is important to support his growth.

Ms. Moynahan made a motioned, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to accept the nomination of Aaron Scogin for PE and Health as recommended. Vote 3-0.

Mr. Petralia presented the list of nominations for the 2019-2020 School year. In accordance and in compliance with RSA 189:14 A, 189:39, 189:39 A, and 39 B, Mr. Petralia placed into nomination the list of names for election to be approved by the School board. Mr. Petralia explained that in accordance with GCPA the nomination list includes the position, percent employee and salary.

Ms. Honda motioned, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to accept the 2019-2020 Professional Staff nominations as recommended. Vote 3-0.

Request for PD Funds (1:30:26)

Ms. Soucy requests PD Funds to send a few teachers to the Mountains Conference. Alison Dunn is presenting and River Bissonnette will also be attending. Ms. Soucy requested \$1,170.68 to cover the costs.

Ms. Tsetsilas motioned, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve \$1170.68 to send two staff members to the conference this spring. Vote 3-0.

Mr. Petralia mentioned that normally he would supply a list of support staff with the Professional Staff list although it doesn't require approval. Adjustments are still in the works with the support staff list so it was not provided this week but will be include in April.

PUBLIC COMMENT (1:32:30)

Peter Crawford – Rye resident.

Mr. Crawford explained how he read the School Annual Report and voiced his disappointment in there not being a financial statement accompanying the Report. Mr. Crawford noted a math error on page 45 of the report. Mr. Crawford noted concern with the scores on page 37. He noted the scores differences and changes from the 5th grade to 8th Grade. Mr. Crawford compared the Rye students to the national average and discussed the annual funds per student. Mr. Crawford expressed that based on his research regarding spending per student and comparisons to other districts, Rye students should be scoring well above the state average. Mr. Crawford feels something is drastically wrong with the system. Mr. Crawford reviewed the school board election results over the past few years and feels the declining votes cast for school board position in the last election could be an indication of declining support.

Sarah Curtain - Rye Resident and parent of RES student

Ms. Curtain expressed thanks to the board for allowing the students to present at the last couple of meetings. She acknowledged the need to continue to review facility use and budget items as noted by Mr. Crawford, but feels that the money well spent and thanked the board for all they are doing.

At 7:13 p.m. (1:38:38), Ms. Honda called for a short break.

At 7:18 p.m. (1:43:23), Ms. Honda called the meeting back to order.

REPORTING COMMITTEES (1:43:20)

SAU Collaboration Committee

Ms. Honda inquired about the status of the committee. Ms. Moynahan stated it would be on the SAU Board meeting next week.

Rye Education Foundation

Nothing Reported

Portsmouth High School

Ms. Tsetsilas noted no agenda items that needed to be addressed.

Secondary Advisory Meeting

Mr. Petralia attended the brief meeting in March, only one item pertinent to New Castle.

PTA

Ms. Honda shared that the PTA has many activities going on. Advertising for Parent University and the Parent Night Out Fundraiser on April 6th, open to all, not just parents at the Elks Lodge. Ms. Honda mentioned the upcoming Spring Soiree, formerly known as Father Daughter Dance, the dance is now open to all--Parent, Boys and Girls. The PTA Sponsored Summer Camp is also open for Registration.

Rye Recreation

Ms. Tsetsilas confirmed there is an agreement to be reviewed and mentioned that she asked for clarification on their new after school middle school program, so the board can answer questions regarding it.

Budget

Ms. Honda noted nothing major and the budget is approved. Mr. Petralia added a thanks to the public for the supporting vote on the budget.

SAU Technology

Mr. Petralia confirmed the committee is up and running, although a sub-committee is doing most of the work at this time, per HP16:12. Ms. Killen is heading the sub-committee. Mr. Petralia anticipates meeting the requirement with reports available by June 30th.

Special Issues

No Special Issues

Approval of Manifest (1:48:18)

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the Manifest Voucher of February 12, 2019 to February 22, 2019 in the amount of \$302,378.82. Vote: 3-0.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the Manifest Voucher of February 23, 2019 to March 12, 2019 in the amount of \$452,862.10. Vote: 3-0.

Approval of Minutes (1:50:48)

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve with edits the Public Minutes of February 13, 2019. Vote: 3-0.

Mr. Petralia requested signature on MS22 to certify appropriations in March.

POLICY (1:53:57)

KF - Facility Use

Ms. Honda noted several changes needed; fundamentally it is contradictory in wording. Ms. Moynahan stated that the Building Principal should be listed as the primary authority with School Board maintaining the authority to override. Ms. Honda noted Dr. Marion's suggested changes. Ms. Honda suggested cleaning up the wording. Ms. Moynahan will review, make some changes and forward the most up to date copy to the board, prior to the next board meeting.

Admissions of Non-resident pupils

Ms. Moynahan noted the packet includes two policies - General Policy and Rye Policy. Ms. Moynahan explained that the goal is to have a general policy for all districts. Mr. Petralia explained the process for Newcastle non-resident pupils. The Board discussed tuition rates, variables and the differences in the School

Board policy document and the tuition agreement. Ms. Honda asked is there were any issues with the Rye Policy. Ms. Moynahan explained that she will take comments back to the Policy Committee for further review.

KFD - Intruder in School Policy

Ms. Tsetsiles made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to resend policy KFD. Vote: 3-0.

KFC - Bomb Threat Policy

Ms. Tsetsiles made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to resend policy KFC. Vote: 3-0.

IMG - Animals in School

Ms. Moynahan mentioned the insurance provider would accept nothing short of hiring a handler for any animal. The insurance company will not cover the liability. Ms. Tsetsilas asked if a volunteer handler or someone receiving a stipend would meet the requirements. Ms. Moynahan will investigate with the insurance company. Ms. Honda suggested approving for a second reading.

IHBDA* - Evaluation Requirements for Children with Development Delay

Ms. Moynahan noted this is a required policy which needs to be approved and adopted as soon as possible. Ms. Moynahan reminded the board that this is coming as a first reading so it could be reviewed further. Ms. Honda expressed that a second read seemed unnecessary.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsiles, to adopt IHBDA with typo correction. Discussion. Vote: 3-0.

GBCDA and GBAB


Ms. Moynahan noted GBCDA will be presented for first read and GBAB will be presented for second reading at the next meeting.

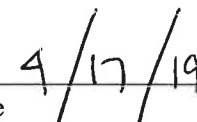
Mr. Petralia suggested that Ms. Moynahan schedule the Policy Committee meeting on Mondays that do not fall on the same weeks as the School Board Meetings to allow the staff sufficient time to turn around information. Ms. Moynahan explained that the committee normally schedules that way.

ADJOURNMENT (2:30:35)

On a motion by Ms. Tsetsilas, and seconded by Ms. Moynahan, the Board adjourned their meeting at 8:04 p.m. Vote: 3-0.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Panek
March 25, 2019*


Paula Tsetsilas, Secretary


Date

**Rye School Board
3/20/19 Meeting
Action Items**

Project/Status	When	Who	Action Item
Student Surveys	May	Marie Suzanne	Share results as available. Complete
RSD Public Gym Use Policy	April	Margaret	Provide fee and use schedule recommendation for RSD policy
Revisit Bus Utilization	Winter	Sal/Margaret	Determine efficiency and use of bus routes for cost savings measure
Driveway Patching	Winter	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
Parent Focus Group	March	Scott	Board to consider holding late May focus groups; hire researcher to conduct
Town Election Venue	April	Paula & Town Admin	Ask BOS to consider Rye Congregational Church as potential election venue
Science Curriculum	Spring	Scott, Kelli Killen, Marie Soucy	Meet and discuss science mapping
Solar Panels	Spring	Scott/Sal	Scott to work with principals to present alternate energy proposals to the Board, with the intent of going "greener"
Population Tracking	Spring	Paula	Paula to further explore viability of implementing RSA Chapter 74 or annual census/other population tracking methods
Special Issues	Fall	TBD	Select date and forum for public discussion on potential RJH re-name