

*To be approved by the Rye School Board at the June 10, 2019 meeting.*

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

A special meeting of the School Board of the Rye School District was held at Rye Junior High School on Wednesday, May 15, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

**School Board Members:** Margaret Honda (Chair), Paula Tssetsilas, Scott Marion

**Administration:** Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent; Suzanne Lull, RES Principal; Marie Soucy RJH Principal

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Ms. Honda stated that the purpose of the meeting was to address teacher concerns over the decision to have focus groups as a vehicle for understanding school climate.

The previous four to five years there have been low response rates to annual parent surveys. During the 2018-2019 academic year the Rye School Board has researched ways to improve the response rate. Upon considering all options, the Board decided to utilize focus groups to gather the information. The Board impressed to those in attendance that faculty most definitely has input into the process.

A faculty member questioned “the three points of data” that Mr. Preble was gathering and questioned why teachers were not included as one of these points.

Dr. Marion stated the Board was replacing the parent survey with a systematic method of data collection. He noted that Mr. Preble offered to create student focus groups as well as the parent groups.

Dr. Marion reiterated that previously a committee which included teaching staff, created a parent survey (approximately five years ago), ultimately the teachers at that time did not want results made public.

Ms. Papousty stated it was her recollection that at the time of the survey Dr. Marion is referencing teaching staff had concerns only over their names being included on the survey.

Ms. Tssetsilas stated that the focus group was to be a replacement for the parent survey. The Board planned to meet with teachers instead of doing a survey with them.

A faculty member asked why this process was taking place at the end of the school year rather than facilitating formative assessments in the fall.

Mr. Petralia reiterated that the focus groups were informative and would allow the Board time to plan over the summer recess.

A faculty member asked why the decision to hold focus groups was made in a recent Rye School Board non-public session.

Mr. Petralia stated that the Board actually voted in public session after a non-public session had occurred.

Further discussion took place about the process of including teachers as part of the focus groups and the financial cost incurred. Mr. Petralia reiterated that the cost stands at \$8,900 adding that the Board could discuss the possibility of including teachers with the center.

Ms. Honda reiterated that she feels many great things are happening with in the Rye School District and is hopeful for the way in which things are progressing.

Ms. Honda asked if there is interest in re-establishing ongoing listening sessions between the school board and staff. All parties agreed this is welcomed and will be scheduled throughout the academic year moving forward.

The faculty and other staff in attendance thanked the Board for taking the time to foster communication over the focus group survey issue.

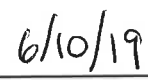
**ADJOURNMENT:**

*On a motion by Ms. Tsetsilas seconded by Dr. Marion the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.*

Respectfully Submitted By,

Hope Murray, Special Education Case Manager

  
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Paula Tsetsilas, School Board Secretary

  
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Date