

Approved by the Rye School Board at its September 19, 2007 meeting.

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The monthly meeting of the School Board of the Rye School District was held at the Rye Junior High School on August 15, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Ian Grant, Michael Schwartz, Gary Dodds,
Betty Anderson and Peggy Balboni

Administrators: George A. Cushing, Superintendent
Lane Richardson, Principal of Rye Elementary School
Mary Lyons, Director of Pupil Services

Staff Tim Moynahan, Kathleen Cole, and Jeanne Moynahan.

Residents/Visitors Brian Sullivan, Amy Suchocki.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Grant called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Anderson proposed, and Mr. Dodds seconded, a motion to approve the School Board public minutes of July 12, 2007. Vote: Unanimously approved, as amended.

Ms. Anderson proposed, and Mr. Dodds seconded, a motion to approve the yearly planning session public minutes of July 12, 2007. Vote: Unanimously approved, as amended.

Ms. Anderson proposed, and Mr. Schwartz seconded, a motion to approve the public minutes of July 24, 2007. Vote: Unanimously approved, as amended.

REPORTS:

Superintendent:

Communications:

- Dr. Cushing received a resignation letter from Jeanne Moynahan for her food service position at RES. She has undergone surgery on her arm and will be unable to fulfill her duties. It is her wish to return to RES when she is able.
- Dr. Cushing received a letter from attorney Tom Hildreth regarding Verizon Wireless's request to lease land at RES for a cellular tower. Ms. Anderson said she has spoken with Alan Gould and that the Town would like service at Wallis Sands but Verizon won't do that unless they can also put a tower at the school's location. They are offering \$12,000 for the first 5 years with an increase annually for the next 15 years. Ms. Anderson stated that Joe Mills suggested that the School Board have Verizon make a presentation to them and invite the selectmen. Mr. Grant asked if Verizon could provide us with a map of exactly where this tower would be located and then we would have a better idea if it is

something we would even entertain. Mr. Schwartz and Ms. Balboni both stated that they are not in favor of this proposal from Verizon.

- Dr. Cushing sent out the opening day letter to all staff members. He invited the Board to join them at the Greenland Central School on opening day.
- Dr. Cushing sent a letter to Bud Jordan, Director of Public Works, thanking him and his crew for the paving work done at RJH. Dr. Cushing would like to have a luncheon for the crew. The Board agreed.
- PHS is holding an orientation on August 23, 2007 from 8:30 to 2:30.
- Dr. Cushing has received bulletins and updates regarding West Nile virus and EEE from Health and Human Services. The schools will be sending information home with all students as well as posting it on the web. Sports coaches will ask players to bring repellent with them to practices and games. Mr. Grant stated they would re-visit this issue if any new information comes out.
- Dr. Cushing passed around a Community Health Profile report with health information for the Portsmouth community.
- Dr. Cushing stated the custodians are doing a fantastic job with the school buildings and that it looks like a great opening day ahead.
- Mrs. Lyons spoke to the Board about the IDEA grant and Rye's need for a full time Speech Language Pathologist position at the preschool. Speech needs for Rye preschoolers cannot be totally funded through IDEA/Preschool grants. Mr. Grant asked what the cost would be and where it would come from. The cost to Rye would actually be offset by the reduction in K-8 position. Mrs. Lyons asked for the Board's approval for 10% of the cost for Dana McKenna in this position to be covered by Rye. Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dodds to approve. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Elementary School

- Ms. Richardson stated the school is ready to open. RES is holding a new student orientation on August 22, 2007.
- Ms. Richardson asked for the Board's approval to send out a letter to parents regarding the bus route changes.
- RES will be holding curriculum night two times this year.
- The Board discussed changes for the RES handbook prior to printing.
- Kindergarten enrollment open house will be held on August 28, 2007.
- Ms. Richardson stated they have found an excellent candidate for the special education position pending Board approval.
- REF and the PTA are hosting a breakfast for RES and RJH staff members on August 23.
- The new computer lab is in and Mr. Moynahan and Ms. Prince have been working hard all summer to get it up and running.
- Ms. Anderson asked what time band classes were scheduled at RES. Ms. Richardson replied that Ms. Papoutsy will be at RES on Monday and Friday for periods one and two. Chorus will be held on Wednesday and Thursday fourth and fifth period.

Junior High

- The Board discussed changes for the RJH handbook prior to printing.
- Ms. Balboni asked if supply lists could be distributed earlier next year, at the beginning of August.
- Ms. Anderson asked if there could be a report back on the student: teacher ratio in the 7th grade. The Board agreed

Financial

Manifest –

Ms. Anderson proposed, seconded by Mr. Dodds, a motion to approve the manifest of July 19, 2007 through August 1, 2007 in the amount of \$170,704.02. Vote: Unanimously approved. Ms. Anderson proposed, seconded by Mr. Dodds, a motion to approve the manifest of August 2, 2007 through August 9, 2007 in the amount of \$60,289.84. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mr. Grant spoke about the refund of money that was fronted to the Destination Imagination teams for their trip to the global competition. Dr. Cushing stated the coaches and managers have met with him and that monies reimbursed for parent chaperone costs were taken from a \$6300 donation from REF. The additional money that was raised by the teams will be used for future DI trip expenses. The money the school district gave was used to cover registration and lodging costs for the team members and their coaches only, as well as the costs of shipping team props. This manifest included the reimbursements of only one team. There will be additional reimbursements once the 7th grade team submits their expenses.

Ms. Balboni stated that DI will hold an annual fundraiser. Ms. Anderson questioned why the school district funds DI and not Johns Hopkins or the Student Leadership programs when they, too, are both partially facilitated by the schools, including needing teacher nominations to qualify for the program. Mr. Schwartz suggested that funding of these types of enrichment opportunities should be discussed collectively during this upcoming budget cycle. Ms. Anderson proposed, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, a motion to approve the manifest of August 10, 2007 through August 14, 2007 in the amount of \$802.13. Vote: Unanimously approved with the exception of Ms. Balboni, who abstained.

Financial

Ms. Anderson and Mr. Katkin met with the Rye Town Budget Committee on August 13, 2007 to review the year-end school district financial report. They were asked why the cost of special education went down at PHS. Ms. Lyons replied she would look into that. Ms. Anderson also asked for a breakdown of the unspent co-curricular line item and what is done with money that is unspent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Progress on Goals:

- Mr. Grant and the Board reviewed and made the following changes to the 2007/2008 Rye School District Goals and Action Plan.
 - Curriculum Actions:
 1. Keep action as is. Need final completion date.
 2. Keep action as is. No changes.
 3. Delete
 4. Discussed the need to identify and document requirements and how to group or individualize. Need to determine finish date.
 5. Keep action as is. Determined the following for this action: Who – Rye Director of IT, Rye Technology Teacher. How – Technology Committee, When – assessment by October. Final completion date TBD.
 - Communication Actions:
 1. Keep action as is. Designated the following for this action: Who – Ms. Balboni and Dr. Cushing. How – Report to Board. When – Monthly report. TBD.

2. Action: Improve report cards to increase communication to parent/guardians of individual student assessments. Who - Principals. How – Report to Board. When – RES – by 1st semester. RJH – TBD.
 3. Keep action as is. No changes.
 4. Delete
- Leadership and Organization
 1. Keep action as is. No changes.
 2. Keep action as is. Designated the following for this action: Who – Professional Developmental Committee. How – Report to Board. When – Draft by March 2008, with ongoing training.
 3. Keep action as is. No changes.
 - Budget:
 1. Keep action as is. Designated the following for this action: Who – Rye School Board Bus Committee. How – Report to Board. When – February 1, 2008.
 2. Keep action as is. Designated the following for this action. Who – Mr. Dodds, Jim Katkin. How – Report to Board. When – Quarterly.
 3. Keep this action as is. No changes.
 - Assessment and Accountability:
 1. Keep this action as is. Designated the following for this action. Who – Curriculum Coordinator. How – Report to Board. When – December 2007.
 2. Keep this action as is. When – To be determined by Principals.
 3. Changed the following: Goal – Research if there is a gender issue. Who – Guidance. How – Report to Board. When – November 2007.
 4. Changed the following: Research process used to communicate Unified Arts standards. Who – Principals. How – Report to Board. When – to be determined by principals.

Calendar of Policy Action – August

- Notification of Drug Free policy to employees– complete
- Reviewed and approved student handbooks and summary of student accidents.
- Notification of policy: employee responsibility
- Bus Routes updated – done

RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS:

- Kathleen Cole commented on how great both school buildings look and how hard the custodians have been working all summer. She further stated that she would like to revamp the Rye recycling center contest this year and run the program two times this year.
- Jeanne Moynahan stated that she will be the PTA membership coordinator again this year. Mr. Grant suggested offering memberships for longer than one year to help cut down on time and paperwork.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

- Physical Plant: Mr. Dodds stated that both buildings are in good shape. The roof at RES is on target and expected to be completed on time. Mr. Dodds asked if there were extra funds in the maintenance budget as he would recommend replacing the basketball backboards and nets and mark the pavement at RJH for basketball. Mr. Dodds made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to do those things. Vote: Unanimously approved.

- Special Issues: Ms. Balboni has met with the principals to discuss parent stipend issues and is continuing to work on this issue. Mr. Grant asked when they will be ready to report. Ms. Balboni replied, “at budget time”.
- REF - Mr. Schwartz stated they did not meet this month.
- PHS - Ms. Balboni reported the following:
 - 100 teachers took part in a literacy workshop over the summer.
 - The math department is reviewing algebra.
 - Science and Ecology will report on competencies by the end of the year.
 - PHS will focus on teachers teaming this year.
 - Studying student’s preparedness for college.
 - The school will be sending letters home this year if a student is in danger of failing.
 - The school continues its dialogue regarding honors classes.
 - PHS will be offering a Chinese language course to seniors who have completed their requirements for language.
- PTA: Ms. Anderson stated they did not meet this month.
- Rye Rec: No meeting this month. Ms. Anderson stated that Mr. Pollet will be attending the meeting with her in September.
- Communications: Mr. Schwartz stated that he and Ms. Richardson, Mr. Moynahan and Ms. Driscoll will be meeting with Daystar regarding the new e-mail system on Friday. We will be testing the e-mail system next week.
- Technology: Mr. Schwartz commended the work that Ms. Vogt has done on the website and recommended that as the board discussed earlier this year, Ms. Vogt be paid a stipend for the work she did in the second half of the school year on her own time. He also stated that Ms. Vogt will be helping to migrate the website to the new SAU standard site and at that point the schools will be able to take over the maintenance. Mr. Schwartz made a motion seconded by Ms. Anderson to pay a stipend of \$600.00 to Ms. Vogt. Vote: Unanimously approved.
- Curriculum: Nothing to report.
- Peer Schools: Mr. Grant said the committee will meet in September to reexamine the objectives.
- Athletics: Ms. Balboni stated there is a Fall Sports information meeting on Monday August 20, 6:30 p.m. at RJH.
- Bus Committee: Mr. Grant met with Mr. Katkin and the bus company. Families whose bus routes have changed have been contacted. Routes and maps are posted on the websites.
- Policies: GBEBB – (first reading) Employee Student Relations. Board members had several changes in the wording of this policy. Most agreed that this policy will need a lot of revision. Mr. Dodds asked for all comments and revisions to him in writing.
EHAB – (first reading) Retention of Electronic Communications. Dr. Cushing suggested Mr. Moynahan review this policy first and bring it back to the committee. Ms. Anderson said she liked the version Alton, NH uses with the Exeter introduction.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nomination: Dr. Cushing put into nomination Kayleen Edwards for the special education position at RES, replacing Michelle Gwinn who will move into a regular teaching position. She has a lot of experience and is extremely qualified for the job. Mr. Dodds proposed, seconded by Ms. Anderson, a motion to accept the nomination of Kayleen Edwards. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Dr. Cushing informed the Board that Stephen Sayewich has been hired for the paraprofessional position at RJH, replacing Joe Hill.

RJH Graduation: Mr. Dodds thought the RJH graduation ceremony went very well this year. He commented on the presentation of the diplomas and stated that he was unaware any other Board member was able to perform this duty. Mr. Grant stated that as Chairman, he was open to any Board member asking to perform any ceremonial school board duties.

Phone Polling: Mr. Dodds thinks phone polling is beneficial at times, but if it is not urgent, he would prefer to wait until the next meeting. Mr. Grant stated that he checks with the first three board members he is able to reach and if they want a meeting he will schedule a meeting. He never does a phone poll if the issue can wait for a meeting. He added that it has happened infrequently

Other: Mr. Schwartz spoke to Dr. Cushing about Safe Routes and applying for a grant. The Town would like to distribute a letter. Mr. Grant asked to see a draft of letter. Mr. Schwartz stated that they would like to send the letter out before school starts. Mr. Schwartz read the letter and stated it is primarily to get data.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr. Schwartz proposed, seconded by Ms. Anderson, a motion to go into non-public session at 9:30 p.m. Vote: Unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The Board returned to public session at 10:20 p.m. Mr. Schwartz proposed, seconded by Ms. Balboni, a motion to approve and seal the non-public minutes of July 12, 2007. Vote: Unanimously approved. The Board then gave its approval for Ms. Richardson to send out her letter.

ADJOURN:

Mr. Dodds proposed, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, a motion to adjourn at 10:22 p.m. Vote: Unanimously approved.

School Board Secretary