

Approved by the Rye School Board at its February 18, 2009 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 January 21, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members:

Ian Grant, Betty Anderson, Peggy Balboni,
Michael Schwartz, Jeanne Moynahan.

Administrators:

Dr. George A. Cushing, Superintendent
Chris Pollet, Principal, Rye Junior High
Patricia-Lane Richardson, Principal, Rye Elementary

Staff

River Bissonnette, Robin Ellwood, Katie Jarvis, Kerry Ridolfi,
Sheila Adams, Jeanne Brown, Ron Fortier, Sharry Sparks,
Kathleen Cole.

Residents/Visitors:

Annie Cole, Lee Arthur, Michele Swenson, Stephanie Kelley,
Ellen Bergeron, Robin Husslage, Lucy Neiman.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Grant called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Approval of public minutes - On a motion by Mrs. Moynahan, and seconded by Mrs. Balboni, the public minutes of December 17 were accepted as amended by Mr. Schwartz. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Communications – Dr. Cushing reported that the Safe Routes Community session meeting is scheduled for January 28th from 6:30 to 8:00pm at the Rye Public Library.

The NEASC visit for RES is scheduled for March 22nd through March 25th. Ann Houle, Principal in Plainville will chair the committee.

Dr. Cushing distributed a letter of resignation from David Glidden at RES. David will be staying home next year to care for his children. He thanked the Rye School District for their support. Mr. Grant stated that Mr. Glidden has a great passion for teaching and has made wonderful connections with his students over the years. Ms. Anderson commented that Mr. Glidden started at RES as a paraprofessional and has made a great impact on the school and its students. He will be sadly missed.

Dr. Cushing passed out a letter of thanks from Donna Berry.

Dr. Cushing passed out a copy of the report from the Department of Education Standards Committee regarding their recent RJH visit. He noted that the report and visit were very positive.

Dr. Cushing distributed a letter from Robin Ellwood at RJH requesting a paid half year sabbatical during the 2009/2010 school year. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

February Newsletter and Annual Report –Ms. Anderson stated she will have a draft of the February newsletter and annual report available for the Boards review next week. The newsletter will discuss the budget and goals that will help to explain thoughts regarding the budget this year.

Mr. Schwartz stated we will not be mailing the annual report again this year to save on postage cost. It was agreed that 400 reports will be printed for distribution. He also noted the Board needs to decide on the dedication page.

Mr. Schwartz reported that REF will be holding a Gala in March. He asked if the School Board was interested in inserting an announcement for this Gala in the annual report. The Board agreed to include this information.

Other – Mr. Grant reported that he heard a discussion on National Public Radio about State testing results. Dr. Cushing stated the results were released yesterday.

REPORTS:

Superintendent:

- *NECAP* – Dr. Cushing said he will be e-mailing a letter from the Commissioner’s office concerning NECAP test results to the Board. He further stated that Mr. Southworth has reviewed these results and has met with both principals to discuss. Mr. Southworth will report on this information at the February Board meeting.
- *Portsmouth Superintendant Search* – Dr. Cushing reported that the superintendant search has been narrowed down to 3 candidates. A question and answer session with these candidates will be televised tonight. The candidates have met with City Council and parents in the district. Dr. Cushing met with each candidate himself for about 40 minutes. Mr. Grant stated he went to the Portsmouth School Board meeting and was able to ask questions of the candidates. Dr. Cushing said he though the process for finding a replacement was very good and similar to that of Rye School Districts search for a principal at RES and RJH. Dr. Cushing said the PHS budget process was for a zero percent increase, not to exceed last year’s dollar value. Dr. Cushing will be meeting with Dr. Lister to discuss priorities.
- *Curriculum Coordinator* – Dr. Cushing reported that Linda Walsh is back to work on a shortened schedule and expects to be back full time after February vacation.
- *Special Education* – Dr. Cushing asked if there were any questions about the special education report that was distributed. There were none.
- *Adventure Based Learning Proposal* – Dr. Cushing stated that Robin Ellwood is currently working on her PhD. Her goal is to continue with her dissertation project that is directly related to 8th grade science. Dr. Cushing has met with Ms. Ellwood, Mr. Pollet and Mr. Schwartz regarding an adventure based learning request. At this point Dr. Cushing turned it over to Ms. Ellwood.

Ms. Ellwood stated she would like to set up a science focused ABL program. She has talked with professors at UNH in regards to setting up a partnership with RJH. This includes working

with them to write grants to fund both the program and support a ½ year sabbatical. The idea is to create a science program that would get students involved in inquiry based, student driven projects. Ms. Ellwood is also working with The Joan and James Leitzel Center for Mathematics, Science and Engineering education. This center facilitates partnerships and initiates programs and activities with the goal of developing educators' thorough knowledge of science and human learning strategies to develop learners who experience the joy of discovery and the challenge of understanding. They have also expressed interest in assistance with grants if we are committed to the process. Currently they are focusing on a grant of up to \$2 million through REESE (Research and Evaluation on Education in Science and Engineering). Ms. Ellwood presented a power point slide show of what funding needs, including her salary that could be met through this grant. The project required a \$1million grant to build a special science building to be behind the RJH and a van. Ms. Ellwood is asking for a commitment from the Rye School Board for a half year paid sabbatical for the 2009-2010 school year, and to consider whether a program position could exist within the next 2-3 years. When asked, Ms Ellwood says she does not intend to come back to RJH as a classroom teacher and that it would be about 1.5 years until the conclusion of her PhD. She would hope to come back as the head of the ABL program.

Mr. Grant asked for any comments. Dr. Cushing stated that if you ask an 8th grader what they remember from their time at RJH, a lot of students comment on the science excursions they have been involved in for both 7th and 8th grade. The students would discuss dog sledding, diving and climbing excursions they have been on that have pushed them to try different things and work as a team. He further stated that this learning concept has been proven effective over time. Mr. Pollet stated that this is an extension of learning we cannot even come close to in a classroom. He said that this type of learning teaches to specific needs and desires and is the pure form of differentiated instruction. Mr. Schwartz reminded the Board that this discussion began about a year ago as part of a conversation about starting a charter school and that it continued with the current school board goal, "Investigate Adventure Based Learning". Mr. Schwartz stated he thinks there are two questions here; do we want these types of activities for our students and a separate question of granting a paid sabbatical. He thinks the value of this activity is great and will have a life long lasting impact on the students. Mrs. Moynahan commented that her daughter was involved in the ABL program at Rye years ago and they both found the program to be amazing in what it brings out of students. She personally saw the self esteem in her daughter go through the roof while involved in the ABL program. Ms. Anderson asked why the ABL program left Rye. Dr. Cushing stated that the number of students increased and that the program ran into problems with space issues, and time constraints as Ms. Ellwood was employed as a fulltime teacher and the ABL program needed a full time instructor. Ms. Ellwood conducted a lot of the programs on weekends. Mrs. Moynahan also commented that as the numbers increased the cost grew and it was cut for budget reasons. Mrs. Balboni stated she has no problems with the merit of this program. She commented that if the program was cut because it was too big, should we not consider developing it until we have additional space for this program. Mr. Pollet replied that the first step would be for a separate position and the second step would be equipment. He stated we already have equipment from the previous ABL program at Rye. He further stated that the schedule currently has a heavy focus on areas that do not need a heavy focus and that we are looking to add an assembly block into the schedule. This would allow for more flexibility. Dr. Cushing stated that if it was a separate position all grade levels could be involved. Ms. Balboni asked if all students would have access to the program. Ms. Ellwood talked about it being in a rotation. Mr. Grant stated he loved the concept. He asked how the field work and UNH would tie in. Ms. Ellwood replied that the Leitzel Center would help with the grants and that RJH would be

a research site with UNH perhaps providing interns. Mr. Grant asked if there was a school we could look to as a model. Ms. Ellwood replied that there is a school in New Hampshire and one in Colorado with a similar program but that this was really a new concept. Mr. Grant asked if it was possible to have the grant cover her sabbatical cost. Mrs. Balboni asked how the 8th grade science class would work during the half year sabbatical and would the students be involved in the project. Ms. Ellwood replied that she would teach through December and that the plan would be to have the 8th grade involved in the inquiry based program in April and May. Mrs. Balboni asked how the program related to the standards. Ms. Ellwood replied that it is the standard. Mr. Grant stated that they recently went through a very difficult budget process and that politically he would not be able to support a paid sabbatical. Mr. Grant thought the Board needed to make a decision now on whether or not they agree to a paid sabbatical to be fair to Ms Elwood in her planning stages. Mrs. Balboni asked if the decision could be tabled until the next meeting. Mrs. Moynahan agreed. Ms. Anderson asked what more information was needed to make a decision. Mr. Grant asked what the salary cost would be for the half year sabbatical. Dr. Cushing replied about \$37,000.00. Mr. Grant said he has a difficult time agreeing to the paid sabbatical after the recent budget process. Ms. Anderson made a motion not to accept the half year paid sabbatical, seconded by Mr. Schwartz. Dr. Cushing stated that the school has not had a request for a sabbatical in over 20 years. He further stated that we would have to change contract dates to match the budget cycle. Mr. Schwartz suggested looking at this program as an investment for the town. He asked what the likelihood of receiving the grant might be. Mr. Schwartz stated that he would like to have the option to look at this again if we find we have more money in the budget. Ms. Anderson replied that she would be offended if there was extra money in the budget. She further stated if the Board was going to agree to do this that we move to put in the funding at the deliberative session. Mr. Schwartz asked if this is voted down could it be brought back at the next Board meeting. Mr. Grant said he thinks it sends a bad message based on what they did already with the budget. He stated that there are a lot of risks and unknowns in this program including what were the impacts on curriculum and the schedule? What was going to have to be reduced to accommodate this? Was it 10 students or 100 students that would benefit every year? Could the school even build a new science building? We would have to increase the staff to accommodate this project to have an 8th grade science teacher and an ABL director several years down the road and could we afford that? He stated that there is a motion and a second on the table. Mr. Schwartz stated he would like to table this as he would like more time to think about it. Vote: Not approved: Mr. Grant, Ms. Anderson and Mr. Schwartz, abstained: Mrs. Balboni, and Mrs. Moynahan. Mr. Grant suggested we look more into the grant piece first. It seemed that so much of this relied on the \$1 million grant and Ms Elwood and UNH should secure that before hand and not on a "hope we get it basis". Mr. Schwartz stated that he voted not to support it at this time, but with the understanding that he could bring it back for a future vote if more information became available. Mrs. Balboni stated she abstained because she feels we don't have the money in the budget and wants to be consistent. Mrs. Moynahan agreed with Mrs. Balboni. Ms. Anderson said she is concerned that no real information was brought to the meeting about what kind of negative impact this might have on the curriculum. Mr. Pollet replied that they have looked at a couple of different models and that he could bring that information to the next meeting. Ms. Anderson stated that it would be a good idea that if we were going to partner with UNH that we should do so in a formal written agreement. Mr. Grant agreed that there were a lot of framework details to be worked out. Mr. Schwartz stated that it would be important to UNH to know if Rye was supportive of this concept and an ABL program in Rye. Mr. Schwartz made a motion to say that Rye schools value ABL programs in the school and the exploration of a partnership with UNH and the Leitzel Center. Four members of the Board agreed that there is a

general consensus to support the concept. Ms. Anderson felt a decision was premature without more information.

Principals

Ms. Lane Richardson – Rye Elementary School

- Ms. Richardson stated that David Glidden will be greatly missed and that she wished him well.
- Ms. Richardson said REF has approved grants in the amount of \$18,000.00, a lot of which are for the music program.
- Maggie Hanna did well in the Disney run and has qualified for the Boston marathon.
- Ms. Richardson reported that the Browns will not be funding the literary journal as hoped for this year and that they are looking to the PTA for funding.
- Mr. Grant noted the amount of time staff was spending on NEASC and wanted to let the staff know how appreciative the Board is. Ms. Richardson thanked Kathleen Cole and the steering committee for all their hard work.
- Mr. Schwartz mentioned his appreciation that Ms. Richardson checked to see if it was appropriate to reschedule the holiday concert during the Jewish holiday of Chanukah. He had given his support, but in hindsight, having received feedback from other families, he recommends that we do not schedule future concerts during the Jewish holiday.

Mr. Chris Pollet – Rye Junior High School

- Mr. Pollet reported the NEASC approval process is very involved and that he and his staff most recently met with David Flynn to discuss their progress.
- The State visit at RJH went very well and Mr. Pollet wanted to thank Jim Katkin and Dr. Cushing for their help in preparing for that visit. He stated that our policies are solid and that although we do not have a formal health class they were impressed with the thoroughness of programs run by Ann Rafferty, JoAnn Costanzo, Piper Cronin and Janet Smith.
- RJH recently held a sing-a-thon to help raise funds for the chorus field trip. He wanted to thank Kathy Collyer and all those who helped with the fundraiser. Mr. Schwartz said he attended and that it was great.
- RJH recently held an assembly with the Bamidele dancers to kick off the 6th grade Africa unit.

Financial

Manifest –

Mr. Grant stated he is still waiting for clarification regarding the property management invoice and that the pay phone solution was in process.

Mr. Schwartz proposed, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, a motion to approve the manifest of December 18, 2008 through December 30, 2008 in the amount of \$270,666.17. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mr. Schwartz proposed, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, a motion to approve the manifest of December 30, 2008 through January 15, 2009 in the amount of \$382,316.23. Vote: Unanimously approved.

It was noted that the Budget Deliberative Session will be held February 5, 2009 at 6:00 pm. The snow date will be February 6, 2009 at 5:00 pm.

The filing period for the Rye School Board School District clerk runs from January 21, to January 30, 2009 at Rye Town Hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Calendar of Policy Action – January:

Dr. Cushing stated that the principal evaluations have been completed.

Goals Update -

Ms. Richardson reported that 50% of the staff is working on the Learning Compact with Dr. Cushing. She thanked Mary Lyons and Sue Ratnoff for all their work with the staff.

Mr. Pollet and Ms. Richardson continue to work on the handbook for next year.

Tim Moynahan is working on Assessment and Accountability.

Parent Survey was sent to Rye School Board. Special Education piece still needs to be worked on. The Board will look over and advise.

Mr. Grant stated he liked the look of the draft survey provided. He agreed we need to require parent name on the survey. He suggested adding a section for the School Board evaluation in addition to listing all subject matter areas like reading, math, language, writing etc. to get a pulse as to satisfaction levels. Dr. Cushing stated he has other suggestions and will work with Mr. Pollet and Ms. Richardson. Mr. Pollet sent an outline of parent input sheet with his board report. He is still working to improve ways to get better feedback. Mr. Grant suggested sending the sheet out in April as opposed to the end of the year when it is busier. Mrs. Balboni thought sending with student report cards is a good incentive for parents to respond.

Dr. Cushing reported that Tom Southworth and JoAnn Costanzo are on the agenda for next months meeting to report on college planning document.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Kathleen Cole stated that SES day will be held on March 20, 2009 and that staff can register online this year.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

- Rye Rec – Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Richardson and Mrs. Moynahan met with Lee Arthur and Paul Penman from Rye Rec to discuss what the Rye Rec program would need for next year. If the current demand continues with a 5-10% increase, Rye Rec anticipates requests for approximately 70 to 80 kids. Rye Rec stated they would need 2 dedicated classrooms to fulfill their needs next year. They would like to be able to separate by age groups, with a classroom for the younger kids and one for the older kids. In addition they will also need some storage space and a third room for kids to do their homework in. Mr. Schwartz stated that Rye Rec was asked to make their

ideal request and that we now as a committee and Board will need to determine what can actually be provided.

Mr. Schwartz stated that the Board needs to determine what space we can provide to the aftercare program. He indicated that the committee has also brainstormed other possibilities including bussing students to RJH. Mr. Schwartz said that in addition to space there needs to be continued work to discuss the stability/operations of the program.

Ms. Arthur stated that they do not want to have the program leave the school and would look at redefining the program if only one room was available. She stated they had no idea of the demand they would have for next year's program. She said she asked about using space at the old police station but were told they would need a new septic, and furnace in addition to some refurbishing of the space. She reported that last year the church had initially turned them down but that Rye Rec has not approached them for next year's program. Ms. Arthur stated she had left a message at the science center but has had no response from them. She also said that the space at Rye Rec is not conducive to the program.

Mr. Grant said he supports the need and benefits of after care for students on behalf of parents but his belief is that the school/school board's first responsibility is to insure the strength of program at the school from 8:00am to 3:00pm for the 325 students that are there and second to support Rye Rec's after care program for the 50-70 students. He observed that the issue is the overlap of time not necessarily the availability of space. School ends at 2:45 and then students load the busses. The issue is the "dedicated rooms" which restrict the school programming. Ms. Arthur said that they would need to be able to access a classroom at 2:00 in order to prepare for the kids. She added that it is chaotic with 40 kids in one room at dismissal time. In addition, she stated that the design and layout of the classrooms are not convenient for After Care Programming. Mr. Grant replied that they are designed as classrooms to maximize educational learning which is how they should be utilized. Mr. Schwartz passed out a map of the classrooms at RES for the Board to look at. Various uses of the rooms were discussed.

Ms. Richardson stated that she did not see having a second room available for the program next year. Ms. Balboni feels we should try to work it out as the program is so valuable. Mr. Grant stated there is no lack of need for a room and that as it is we are already doubling up with teachers in the world language and music rooms. He understands the issues and what Rye Rec needs and that as a school we need to respond. He suggested we delegate back to the committee to work it out.

Ms Arthur stated that she gets many calls from parents not understanding why Rye Rec cannot accommodate them. Mr. Grant suggested the Board send a letter to parents helping them understand the issues.

Ms. Richardson said we can stay with one room for the remainder for the 2009/2010 school year and that maybe there would be a room available the following year. She asked Ms. Arthur to look at other places available in the community

Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to dedicate one room to Rye Rec for next year's program, and look for a second room that would be shared, noting that we cannot dedicate two rooms at this time without affecting the curriculum

Ms. Richardson said it is important when Rye Rec does their enrollment to track how many actually end up in the program so we don't have the same problem next year.

Mr. Grant stated for clarification; Rye Rec is asking for one dedicated room, one for overflow and one for homework.

Ms. Anderson said the final vote would be on what Ms. Richardson can do and to make it clear exactly how it will work so that it doesn't impact the teachers and their rooms. Ms. Richardson also thinks that Rye Rec needs to look at staff training for behavioral management in order to keep the program running smoothly.

Mr. Grant stated that we cannot dedicate 2 rooms and that it should go back to the committee to get as close to that as possible. Vote: Unanimously approved. Ms. Richardson added she would like the community to know how much time we have put into trying to work out this issue.

- Physical Plant – Nothing to report at this time.
- Special Issues - Ms. Richardson reported it was a good meeting and well attended. The following topics were discussed: Technology and the amount of work that has to be done on the internet particularly at RJH were too much as opposed to last year where it was said there was not enough. Writing curriculum at RES, guidance program at RES, acceptable websites, how books were chosen for summer reading and the RJH book fair, starting school after Labor Day and a waiver for days missed due to the ice storm. Ms. Anderson said she thought it was a great session and that those in attendance felt they were heard.
- REF – Mr. Schwartz attended the last meeting. REF was excited about helping raise money for the one to one laptop initiative and would like to tie it into their Gala event. They approved a request for funding of the RJH school play for choreography and lighting, but asked if this would be an ongoing request or would the school be funding this in the future. Mr. Grant stated that the Board has and are funding the school play through the Artist in Residence program. Mrs. Balboni said that apparently the amount of money being asked for to fund the school play is not enough and could we get a handle on what the play will actually cost. It was agreed that the principals should meet with Mrs. Raymond and discuss. Mr. Grant asked what the plan for the one to one laptop initiative is. He spoke with Berwick Academy which has a similar plan, but notes that they had a plan for teachers ready that imbedded the technology into their curriculum. The full planning took 14 months to make sure it was ready to go. Mr. Grant wants to make sure that if we get the laptops, teachers are ready to use them within the curriculum. Mr. Pollet replied that teachers at RJH are already using technology. Mr. Schwartz reiterated that the staff has been meeting to expand their scope of technology use. He stated that the teachers came together beginning this past August and that Ms. Adams has had ongoing PD with teachers. Mr. Grant asked if it was in the curriculum plan such as; this is what is changing and this is what we will be eliminating. He asked if we have modified the curriculum in regards to taking notes, exams and the process for homework so that the program can be 100% utilized. Ms. Anderson stated she supports the program and thinks it could be hard to write curriculum if they don't know for sure that they will even be getting laptops. She thinks the program is great and would love to see it in our school. Mr. Grant said he absolutely supports it, but wants to make sure that everything is prepared ahead of time. Buying the computers is the easy part, if there is not a written plan, the full benefits of a true one-to-one laptop program won't be realized. Mr. Schwartz stated that there has been work done to prepare for adding this technology to the curriculum but that it has not all been discussed with the Board. He agreed that now that funding is being supported, that a presentation should be made later this year.

- PHS – Secondary School Advisory: Mr. Grant spoke with Mitch Schulman, Portsmouth School board Chair in regards to the budget and why Rye/SAU 50 can't see a proposed budget broken out line by line to truly understand the changes to PHS. He agreed to push forward to get better information. Mr. Grant showed him what Rye's budget looks like. There was some confusion on whether there was to be a 0% increase on their school budget or 0% increase on the tax budget. There was no AREA meeting.
- PTA – Ms. Richardson and Mr. Pollet attended this meeting. There are currently 187 members which is down 12 members from last year. The PTA was asked for \$2500.00 to help fund the literary journal and for funding to help pay for the NEASC visit this spring.
- Communications – Nothing
- Technology – Nothing
- Curriculum – Ms. Balboni has met with the Portsmouth Curriculum Council and they are looking to develop a formal process on how to evaluate curriculum. She stated that curriculum review is difficult process as the standards are constantly being updated. Mr. Grant asked if there was a format that could be shared. Ms. Balboni stated that SAU 50 has a curriculum review process detailed in the Professional Development Master Plan. Once the all SAU standards are aligned with the state and federal standards curriculum review will be on-going through professional learning communities.
- NEASC – discussed in principals reports.
- Energy Committee – Mr. Grant met with this committee and talked about how to proceed. They will need a detailed spec that can be bid from and the Jordan Institute can provide the framework. They discussed management of the project and asked for specs from the Jordan Institute (not included in the bid ready spec). Mr. Katkin stated it would be around \$40,000.00 to get a spec ready bid. They discussed doing the project in 2 parts or having it ready to go right away. There is a block grant as part of the stimulus package through the state that we may be able to tap into for both the energy and library projects. Mr. Grant stated that David Borden has been very responsive to his inquiries. The key part he continued would be to have a bid ready spec.

Ms. Anderson made a motion seconded by Mrs. Moynahan to authorize getting a bid ready spec not to exceed \$40,000.00 Vote: Unanimously approved.

- Bus Committee – Mr. Grant stated bus information will be in the newsletter including information on the new PHS bus times. They are asking for e-mail addresses to begin an e-mail notification process.
- Track and Safety – Mr. Schwartz attended the last meeting. They voted to go to the selectman with the proposal as they have expressed an interest in the project. Gregg Mikolaities also attended this meeting. To this point Mr. Mikolaities has spent approximately \$1200.00 in his help with the plans. He estimates his total cost at \$4000.00.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to commit \$4000.00 (to include the \$1200.00 in arrears) to enlist Mr. Mikolaities and his companies help to present this project to the selectman and provide oversight assuming the funding is received. Mr. Grant asked do we still go forward if the PTA is looking like they may not fund. Ms. Anderson said there are a lot of people in the community who have given their time and expertise to do things for the district and she does not feel that we should necessarily support paying some individuals and not everyone. Vote: Approved: Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Balboni, and Mrs. Moynahan. Not Approved: Mr. Grant, Ms. Anderson.

- Policies:
JEB – School Age Requirements, for adoption: Mr. Schwartz made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan. Vote: Unanimously approved.

JLCC – Communicable Diseases and Conditions, for adoption: Ms. Anderson suggested adding that notification would be sent to parents regarding lice. Ms. Richardson stated that they do send out a letter of notification but only if there is more than one outbreak. Mr. Schwartz stated that this policy is about students who have a contagious condition that presents a hazard to others. If a hazard exists, he believes that parents in the classroom should be notified. His concern is not just lice. Mrs. Balboni made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan. Vote: Approved: Mr. Grant, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Balboni, and Mrs. Moynahan. Not approved: Mr. Schwartz. Mr. Schwartz believes parents should be notified.

JFAC – Tuition for Resident High School Students, for adoption: Ms. Anderson made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Balboni. This policy was tabled pending more information.

JFAD – Tuition for Resident Seventh and Eighth Grade Students, for adoption: Mr. Schwartz made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan. Vote: Unanimously approved.

JLCA – Physical Examinations and Immunizations of Students, for adoption: Mrs. Moynahan made a motion to adopt, seconded by Mr. Schwartz. Vote: Unanimously approved.

JLD – School Guidance and Counseling Program, 1st reading: Mrs. Balboni made a motion to accept as a 1st reading, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan. Vote: Unanimously approved.

IKE – Promotion and Retention of Students, for 2nd reading: The 6th paragraph was stricken. Mrs. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson to accept as modified as a 2nd reading. Vote: Unanimously approved.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr. Schwartz proposed, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, a motion to go into non-public session at 9:53 p.m. Unanimously approved on a role call vote.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The Board returned to public session at 10:05 p.m.

Mr. Schwartz addressed three lessons he learned from our recent budgeting efforts. He stated that he will not be able to attend the February meeting, so he felt it was important to mention these now, however he hopes to have future discussions to consider these as a Board.

- We need to open communication with the Budget Committee and that means ongoing discussions, not just presentations of the final budgets.
- We as a Board need to have more high level strategic discussions upfront and plan rather than change course after much work has been expended.
- We should speak as a Board when presenting as a Board on Board decisions. We seem to be inconsistent in that sometimes we report “as a Board” when we as members are split and other times we do in fact report this split vote. Mr. Grant stated it was Mr. Schwartz’s idea to highlight the 3-2 vote on the RJH library.

Mrs. Balboni said she supported the concept that the best person on the Board should present a project/topic to the budget committee. She agreed with having more strategic planning.

Mrs. Moynahan thought the budget committee was caught off guard in reference to the library project.

ADJOURN: Mr. Schwartz proposed, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. Vote: Unanimously approved.

School Board Secretary