

Approved by the Rye School Board at its June 23, 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 May 20, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members:

Ian Grant, Peggy Balboni, Jeanne Moynahan
Mike Schwartz and Betty Anderson joined the meeting
at 6:12 and 7:00, respectively

Administrators:

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

Staff

Bonnie Vadala, Katie Jarvis, Kathleen Cole, Tom Southworth,
Michelle Wirth, Kathie Kennedy, River Bissonnette, Phoebe
Guarnaccia, Sheila Adams, Susan Detwiler, Jeanne Brown, Giselle
Chagnon, Maggie Hanna, Doris Gianforte.

Residents/Visitors:

Kathy MacAlpine, Donald Cavallaro, Joseph King, Joe Cummins,
6th grade RJH student.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Grant called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Mr. Grant stated the meeting would begin with the recognition of the newly tenured teachers from RJH and RES. Dr. Cushing said it was an honor to be able to recognize the teachers going from non-tenure to tenure and that he was pleased the mentoring group was present. Mr. Grant said that this recognition is a milestone and that it was nice to be able to pause and reflect on their 3 years of achievement. He recognized Susan Detwiler, Kathie Kennedy, Giselle Chagnon and Bonnie Vadala from RES and River Bissonnette, Piper Cronin and John Waters from RJH. Ms. Richardson thanked the teachers for their contribution and recognized the improvements made in the math program. She stated that Susan Detwiler and Kathie Kennedy are a great team and that Bonnie Vadala does a great job. She also thanked Ms. Guarnaccia for the mentoring she has done. Mr. Pollet stated that Mr. Bissonnette has a very good relationship with his students and that Ms. Cronin has done a great job at stepping up the PE program at RJH with lifelong fitness activities and assessment programs. At this time there was a break for refreshments.

Mr. Grant reconvened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Approval of public minutes - On a motion by Mrs. Moynahan, and seconded by Mrs. Balboni, the public minutes of April 15, 2009 were accepted. Vote: Unanimously approved (Mr. Schwartz and Ms. Anderson had not yet arrived).

Communications – Dr. Cushing received a copy of a letter from the Association of Coastal Teachers, thanking the Rye School Board for accepting the state’s waiver of 179 school days, and how they appreciated the Board’s acknowledgement of the work they put into the NEASC process.

- Dr. Cushing shared a letter from David Flynn, Director of Commission for NEASC to Chris Pollet notifying him that due to editing delays out of their control they will be unable to review the visiting committee report until November.
- RES received their NEASC report which was accepted and approved. The Board thanked the RES staff for all of their hard work and dedication to the process

REPORTS:

Superintendent:

- Dr. Cushing passed out the Pupil Services report from Mary Lyons. There were no questions at this time.
- Dr. Cushing reported that an advisory council for Follow the Child has been formed at the state level. State Board chair, John Lyons is the current chair for the NH Educational Collaborative, whose mission is to assure a personalized education for each NH student.
- Enrollment at PHS for the 2009/2010 school year was 1051 in October and is now at 1052 as of May. The freshman class will be one of the largest in sometime, at over 300.
- PHS budget came in a .64%. The PHS School Board has looked at the numbers and has realized a savings in the cost of health care and \$110,000.00 in energy savings.
- Mr. Southworth presented the preliminary results of the CAT test. He stated he will highlight certain information this evening and asked the board to e-mail him with any questions.

One area in need was 7th grade math. Mr. Southworth has already discussed this with Ms. Harte and Mr. Pollet. He stated that this year the 7th grade had 14 new students and feels that a transfer of math curriculum can be challenging. Without adding in the scores of these new students, 7th grade math came in at 72%.

Mr. Southworth said that one of the goals was to improve the 8th grade math program and that their scores went from 68% to 78%. He gave credit to the students, teachers and parents.

At this point Mr. Schwartz entered the meeting.

- Dr. Cushing recognized how balanced everyone was while working through the H1N1 virus issue.
- Dr. Cushing stated he attended an SES meeting on May 20th. He said the reviews of our staff members from Rye who were presenters on SES day were very good and that their classes were well attended.

Principals

Ms. Lane Richardson – Rye Elementary School

- Ms. Richardson reported a successful Book Fair.
- RES recently held their kindergarten orientation and that registration is on track.
- REF has announced informally that they have funded all requests from RES this grant period. They stated they will be splitting the cost of the snowshoe grant with the PTA
- A candidate for president of Kenya and person in charge of collecting books program for the countrywide library program visited RES recently.
- Placement process for next year is underway.

- RES has new signage for all rooms and classrooms with room numbers and names written and in Braille.
- Ms. Richardson asked the Board if we could change the current policy in the student/parent handbook regarding bike riding to school from having to mount and dismount at Lang's field, to being able to walk in or out of the school parking lot as long as there were no cars and adult supervision. Mr. Grant stated we should empower Ms. Richardson to figure it out and make the best decision. The rest of the Board agreed.
- The world language department reported that after polling the students, 2/3 will take Spanish and 1/3 will take French next year. In the 6th grade 9 students switched from Spanish to French.
- Mrs. Moynahan reported that she recently attended the wax museum at RES and that the information the students reported on and the costumes they wore were really phenomenal. She also stated what a great job everyone did at the 1st grade concert. Mr. Grant agreed.

Mr. Chris Pollet – Rye Junior High School

- Mr. Pollet introduced Michelle Wirth who was present to report on the recent Chorus trip to Washington DC for America Sings. Mrs. Wirth said the trip was successful and involved community service as well as singing. She then presented a slide show of the trip.
Mr. Grant asked what the process would be for improving the trip if they go again, commenting on the missed school day the day after their return due to a long overnight ride on the bus. Mr. Pollet answered that they were considering all factors. Mrs. Wirth stated that this event is not always held in the northeast and that if they were to attend again it would likely be every three years or more. Mr. Grant thanked Mrs. Wirth for organizing and going on this trip. Mr. Grant asked Mr. Pollet if the 8th grade class trip to DC is being considered again. Mr. Pollet replied that this is discussed every year and that they will look into it. He said the main concern for the 8th grade class trip is how to make it manageable and successful. Mrs. Balboni suggested getting families on board and that the trip should be tied to the curriculum.
- Jeanne Brown reported on the results from the Le Grande Concours/National French Contest. Three 8th grade Rye students placed in the top 10 in New Hampshire. One student who placed 4th in New Hampshire, ranked 10th nationally.
- Ms. Adams 7th grade science class will be mentored by an undergraduate class through the internet using a blog. The group will then teach a focus block. Ms. Adams feels it is important for the students to make this connection and have this experience.
- 5th Grade step-up day was held May 19th at RJH. The students went through a shortened schedule and met with the entire 6th grade and unified arts teachers. 6th grade curriculum night was also a successful event with a good turnout. RJH will hold an Open House over the summer.
- Mr. Pollet reported he received 68 responses to the parent survey to date and will be sending out a reminder to parents who have yet to respond.
- Mr. Pollet reported that he and staff members have been discussing ways to use the student information sheets in the most practical way by trying to determine what kind of students we have as individuals and by groups. Mr. Moynahan has found a way to look at them both ways and they are presently fine tuning the groupings.
- Picturing America will be held May 21st, 2009 at 7:00 pm. Students made artistic interpretations of 50 replicas of famous art work that will be on display. The students were responsible for all aspects of this event including how to present and setting up the gym area for the night's event.

- 8th grade graduation will be held June 19th at 7:00 pm in the RJH gym. There will be an award ceremony at 9:00 am during the day.

Financial

Manifest –

Mrs. Moynahan proposed, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, a motion to approve the manifest of April 11, 2009 through May 4, 2009 in the amount of \$590,238.52. Mrs. Moynahan questioned the payment to Ski 93 Trips. Mr. Pollet explained that this was payment for the 8th grade class trip. Mrs. Moynahan also commented on a payment for the RJH play. She said she thought the PTA had funded the play. Mr. Pollet stated that this was a payment made through donations. Mr. Grant said he would double check with Mr. Katkin. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Moynahan proposed, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, a motion to approve the manifest of May 5, 2009 through May 15, 2009 in the amount of \$322,717.61. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Budgetary Considerations – *unreserved fund balance*

- Mr. Grant stated Mr. Katkin would be getting re-bids for various vendors such as trash removal, mowing, etc... for any cost savings.
- They will be discussing the cost of construction of the leach field that was in critical need of repair
- He reported that the basketball nets at RES were discussed at the recent PTA meeting. Mr. Grant suggested the Board consider spending up to \$500.00 to replace. The Board agreed.
- He stated that we should all be considering any additional projects we would like to do if we do come up with extra money.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he received an email for Gregg Mikolaities asking about the track at RES in consideration of having time to do work on it this summer. We initially told him to hold off and Mr. Schwartz asked the Board if they wanted him to start the process. Mr. Grant suggested waiting as the cost of the library project at RJH is still unknown and will be more than originally anticipated. Mrs. Balboni stated we have already done a lot of work on the track project with the understanding that we would be going forward with it. Dr. Cushing asked what the downside of going forward would be. Mr. Schwartz stated that it would make sense if we are committed to doing it when funds are available. Mrs. Moynahan said the PTA and many town residents are in favor of the project. Mr. Schwartz stated that we had already approved up to \$4,000 with \$1,200 already encumbered for past work. Mr. Grant asked if we had \$2800.00 of the \$4000.00 already encumbered. He said he would check with Mr. Katkin regarding this. Mrs. Balboni made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, to go ahead with the completion of the drawing if the \$2800.00 is already encumbered and the balance is available. Vote: Unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Calendar of Policy Action – May:

Acceptance by SAU Board of Superintendents Evaluation – completed

School Board Reviews of School District Investment Plan – Dr. Cushing reported that there is no investment plan. He stated that all capital improvement money is held at Bank North for payroll and that the money is moved from the town into payroll.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Joe Cummins asked if anything was being done to measure the math Trailblazers program being used at RES. Ms. Richardson replied that they are always looking at the program and that they have math specialists working with the teachers at RES. She further replied that after analyzing the program they

use supplemental materials for each grade level. She stated that test scores indicate it is a good plan and that Trailblazers is a nationally recognized program. Mr. Cummins asked specifically what they saw improve. Ms. Richardson replied the CAT test scores improved. Mr. Southworth commented that he feels the math scores have improved due to the supplemental materials. Mr. Cummins asked what supplements. Kathleen Cole responded that the supplements were, life skills, time units and fraction that blended with Trailblazers in addition to math labs.

At this point Ms. Anderson entered the meeting.

Ms. Richardson continued that in looking at all grade levels, no program was perfect but that they chose Trailblazers over other programs as it teaches thinking, writing and other life skills. Mr. Grant stated that students who used Trailblazers in Rye have shown that they excelled in other math programs and have not been left behind when they have attended other schools. Mr. Cummins commented that he feels Trailblazers is a confusing product and he wishes a dedicated well funded program was used in Rye. Mr. Cummins stated that if the measure is standardized test scores he feels it is inadequate to training at a college level and he is concerned with it confusing the students, and that he wishes it was measured scientifically. Mr. Grant stated that it could possibly be discussed at the Board's summer retreat. He applauded Mr. Cummins for his passion on the subject, but feels we have adjusted the program we use and that the skills are in conjunction with where we need to be. He further stated that we have spent a lot of time and money on programs at Rye and that we do focus on students at the lower end of testing scores. He further stated that there is no one program that will be the answer and he is comfortable with the data points. Mr. Cummins asked if long division was being taught. Ms. Richardson replied that it was.

Sheila Adams reported that a portion of the 7th grade classes will be hosting an expansion to the Earth Day webcast on Thursday, May 28 at 10:45 am, the students have prepared a quiz on environmental issues that they will be sharing live on the internet.

Tom Southworth stated that the John Hopkins test results are in and 5 students in Rye scored with distinction or above average, and two 8th graders who scored over 600 are invited to the state ceremony.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

- *Physical Plant* – Mr. Grant reported that the town has asked for a list of possible capital improvements for the schools. He and Mr. Katkin met to put together a list of projects that may or may not happen. Mr. Grant stated that the Board would not be committed to doing all the projects on the list. Mr. Schwartz made a motion to approve giving this list to the town, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mr. Grant stated the request for proposals for the energy project are out to 7 or 8 bidders. The bids will close on June 5, 2009. Mr. Katkin asked if the committee should decide on the awarding the bids or did the Board want to decide. Ms. Anderson made a motion to allow the committee to make the decision, seconded by Mrs. Balboni. Vote: Unanimously approved. Mr. Grant and Mr. Katkin are working with PSNH as there is a possibility they will pay for the electrical portion of the project. We will need to submit the bid to PSNH and they will let us know if we qualify. Ms. Anderson asked if there were any other options besides electrical. Mr. Grant replied that it is less expensive for PSNH to help out with the cost rather than build another electrical generator.

Four firms were solicited for proposals to replace the leach field at RJH. Mr. Katkin's recommendation is to award the job to North Hampton Excavating & Rental in the amount of

\$14,966.00. Mrs. Balboni made a motion to go with Mr. Katkin's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Schwartz. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mr. Schwartz thanked Mr. Katkin for all the time and hard work he has put in to the library renovation project. The committee met with Mr. Katkin to summarize the plan for the 2nd floor and some changes were made. The roof needs to be reinforced from the inside and the ceiling height will now be 8 feet. The handicap accessible entrance needs to be moved to the back stair entrance— a lift that was remote controlled would be installed by the new stair case built in the library. A glass wall will divide the upstairs 'conference room' and be built just a few inches behind the atrium railings. Bids from the first set of drawings last fall include two low estimates for \$150,000 to \$175,000. We have approximately \$260,000 in reserves set aside by the Board. Mr. Schwartz suggested that if for some reason the bids were too high, that perhaps we could do some of the work this year like the reinforcement of the roof and mezzanine and delay paint, carpet etc. and then reduce the required cost for future completion of the project. Mr. Schwartz also noted that the cost for the lift may be able to come out of the special education budget – if we received stimulus funds for special education. Mr. Schwartz encouraged the Board to look through the plans and that he would be happy to do a walk through with anyone interested. Mr. Grant thanked Mr. Schwartz for his limitless time and leadership on the library project but noted that in the future any projects should involve Mr. Katkin on the first day. He stated that many things were overlooked in the first set of plans that were presented to Board like the very low ceiling height, non handicap access, structural changes outside the library, carpeting, painting etc. all of which will add 30-50% to the final cost. Jim shared with the Committee 2-3 pages of items that needed review. Hopefully with this economy the bids will be competitive enough to move forward on the project. He continued that 4-5 bid packets went out and the closing date is June 16th. The anticipated completion of the project is September 20th, but would probably be closer to mid October. Mr. Pollet stated that he has discussed with Mary Coombs where we could relocate certain parts of the library in the school. On June 3rd there will be a bid meeting with the architect and Mr. Katkin at RJH. Mr. Schwartz also recognized the efforts of Jim Gordon as part of the Library committee.

- Special Issues – Nothing new to report.
- REF – Mr. Schwartz reported funding from REF was outstanding this grant period at \$35,000 and approximately \$70,000 for the year. They are supporting some wonderful projects and events. A request for smartboards was discussed at the REF meeting. REF felt this is an expense that should be in the school budget. REF felt this type of technology should be standard in every classroom. Mrs. Balboni noted how wonderful the REF funded RJH garden is.
- PHS – Secondary School Advisory: Mr. Grant attended this meeting. Graduation is scheduled for June 12th at 5:30 pm. Other topics included the Clipper Foundation which is a student driven Foundation similar to REF. Their goal is to raise 10 million dollars. To date they have raised \$10,000.00 PHS made AYP this year. The youth survey will be released soon. Mr. Grant reported that they discussed being able to see the budget by line item. Mr. Grant will meet with PHS and Mr. Katkin to discuss this further. The PHS play this year was “You're a Good Man Charlie Brown”, with two former Rye students in lead roles.
- AREA – Dr. Cushing reported that this year there are 261 seniors graduating. PHS will be adding an accounting class to their business program. PHS was a Gold Medal winner in the culinary arts, and 3 students completed in the triple automotive challenge. PHS hosted a dance to introduce incoming 9th graders to the school. Mr. Pollet attended and said that it was very well organized, safely monitored, with clear expectations. Other topics discussed were: discipline issues being down, the junior prom was well attended, Student Council taking ownership of the Clipper Foundation and Rachel's challenge members working in teams to help new students.

Ms. Anderson asked if PHS's fee based programs are covered by the tuition paid by Rye. Mrs. Balboni reported that they are not covered by tuition but are fee based for all students.

- PTA – Mrs. Moynahan reported the school assembly enrichment programs came in under budget and that they only needed \$6,000 in total. The PTA voted to help fund the 8th grade graduation party and provided food for the recent Picturing America event at RJH. The spaghetti dinner raised over \$10,000.00. The PTA and REF will be splitting the cost of the RES snow shoe grant request. Mrs. Moynahan stated the PTA funded the 5th grade story teller and the world language food festival. They would like to purchase a basketball hoop for RES. Mr. Grant suggested we find money in the budget to purchase the 2nd hoop. The Staff luncheons and father /daughter/someone special dances both went very well. Mr. Schwartz made a motion purchase for \$300.00 out of this year's budget if the money is available or next year's budget a basketball hoop for RES, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan. Vote: Unanimously approved.
- Rye Rec – Mr. Schwartz apologized for being late and not being able to attend the recognition of the new tenured teachers. He stated his appreciation for their efforts. He explained that he was late as he had to wait on line to sign-up for Rye After School for next year. He highlighted the importance of these programs for parents by describing the large turnout including parents who came at 3pm for signups which started at 6pm. He, Ms. Richardson and Mrs. Moynahan have a meeting scheduled with Rye Rec for next Thursday.
- Communications – Mrs. Balboni and Mr. Grant met with the RES staff on May 4th. They discussed feedback on SES day and what teachers might do for better use of their time on this day. They discussed looking at half school days next year to give teachers more professional development time during the school year, and maybe using any stimulus money available for professional development. Mrs. Balboni and Mr. Grant will be attending the staff meeting at RJH on May 21, 2009.
- Technology – Mr. Schwartz reported that Tim Moynahan would like to get more information on the possibility of being able to connect the technology between RES and RJH. Mrs. Richardson reported that the mini computers are working out great. They are on the COW and in the classrooms being used and appreciated.
Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan to submit the technology plan to the state. Mrs. Balboni commented that there is new information in the curriculum standards and that we need to get behind the goals and objectives laid out in the plan, including professional development for the teachers. She continued we need to stand behind this plan and make sure we have the money to support it. Mr. Schwartz stated that the goals were the section of the report that the committee worked the hardest on. He agreed with Mrs. Balboni about the need to support these goals. Vote: Approved - Mr. Grant, Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Moynahan, and Mrs. Balboni. Abstained - Ms. Anderson as she had not had the time to review the technology plan in its entirety.
- Curriculum – Mrs. Balboni stated they have formed a Core Advisory Board that will oversee the master plan. The group has representatives from all department areas of the SAU and will be looking at where we are and what we can do more effectively. They have discussed meeting quarterly to make sure our curriculum is supported. They also talked about vertical alignment, were all the districts coming out with the same skill set, and that we needed to be more specific about what we will do with professional development money to make it more meaningful. They are also looking at how much money is in teachers' contract for professional development and was it enough. She feels we need to empower the teachers to do more. Ms. Anderson suggested we find out what the per teacher amount for professional development is at some of our peer schools. She stated that an increase in professional development funding should be a negotiated item. Mr. Grant said he would like to see data summarizing what teachers use professional development money, what courses they are taking and at what times during the year they are

using it. Mrs. Balboni discussed job imbedded training which is where a teacher would attend a workshop and then bring back what was learned to the other staff members to share, thus getting more for your money. Dr. Cushing said he would discuss this topic at the next SAU meeting.

- Track and Safety – Mr. Schwartz stated he was contacted by Jack Driscoll from Rye Reflections and was asked where we were with the track project. He would like to help with the project and suggested community fundraising. Mr. Driscoll plans on waiting until July to see if an article or other efforts would be helpful.

- Policies:

ILBA – Assessment Program, for adoption: Mrs. Moynahan stated she would take the notes she received from Ms. Anderson to the committee for review. Mr. Schwartz suggested we add, that we will maintain test results electronically. It was agreed to table this policy for now.

IJO – Community/Partnership Resources, for adoption: Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan to adopt. Vote: Unanimously approved.

IHAK – Character and Citizenship Education, for adoption: Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan to adopt. Vote: Unanimously approved.

IFA – Instructional needs of Students with Different Talents, for adoption: Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan to adopt. Vote: Unanimously approved.

BBAA- Board Members Authority, 2nd reading: Mrs. Moynahan suggested changing duly noticed in 3rd and 4th paragraph to “noticed”. Ms. Anderson stated that if we are adding emergency directions to BEB, it should be added to this one as well. She stated that they should define emergency action as not a legal action. Mrs. Balboni made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan to adopt with changes. Vote: Unanimously approved.

BEB – Special School Board Meetings and Emergency School Board Meetings, 2nd reading:

Mrs. Moynahan questioned what constituted a quorum. She stated that the only time you can have someone participating electronically as part of a quorum is if it is an emergency, Mr. Schwartz said we needed to get more information on what actions a board can take legally without a public meeting. He felt that all actions must be done in public if they required a vote. Mr. Grant asked if we should list the question regarding polling as an action item and define what constitutes an emergency. It was agreed to table this policy.

BEA – Regular School Board Meetings, 2nd reading: Mrs. Balboni made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schwartz to adopt. Vote: Unanimously approved.

IL – Evaluation of Curricular Programs, 1st reading: Mrs. Balboni felt this policy did not say much. Ms. Anderson stated if IL and ILA are both required there must be a reason, but felt IL didn't add anything to ILA and we should look at combining the policies.

IHAM – Health Education Exemption from Instruction, 1st reading: Ms. Anderson stated that the wording was poor in that it spoke of differentiated instruction based on developmental levels, and we don't really do that. She also stated that the “opting out” clause should be part of a policy on opting out generally that states what parts of the curriculum can be opted out and which cannot. The Board agreed they needed to discuss further and the policy was tabled.

Mrs. Moynahan stated that they hope to complete policy updates in the next 2 months. She also stated that we need to make sure we have the policies in place to cover Rye students going to PHS.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The June school Board meeting will be held on June 23, 2009 at 5:00 pm, re-scheduled from June 17th. The July retreat and Board meeting is scheduled for July, 16th, 2009 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Mr. Schwartz stated that he might be out of town the week of June 23rd, but was not yet certain.

- Mr. Grant stated the Board has discussed having teachers contribute their thoughts on policies before the Board meets to approve and/or adopt. Mrs. Balboni stated that they would have very good input considering they have so much to do with a lot of the policies. Mr. Schwartz suggested putting a link to the policies on the website for them to view. Prior to a board meeting, the link could be emailed out to teachers. Mr. Grant agreed that it is a good idea to get other points of view. Mrs. Balboni asked if Mr. Pollet and Ms. Richardson saw a benefit to this. Dr. Cushing replied that there are certain policies that do affect the teaching staff and that we should look at the best way to distribute this information. Mr. Grant suggested the policy committee meet with Mr. Pollet and Ms. Richardson and discuss the best way to distribute.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr. Schwartz proposed, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, a motion to go into non-public session at 9:08 p.m. to discuss superintendent evaluation and personnel. Unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The Board returned to public session at 9:28 p.m.

Approval of non- public minutes - On a motion by Mrs. Moynahan, and seconded by Mr. Schwartz, the non-public minutes of April 15, 2009 were accepted. Vote: Unanimously approved (Ms. Anderson was absent for this vote as she had left the meeting during the non-public session).

- Dr Cushing made the following statement: “I recommend that the Board accept the retirement of Joanne Manning, who is retiring from her position as a full time teacher on June 30, 2009. Ms. Manning will be employed by the District as a part time teacher per the expectation of duties under the collective bargaining agreement until June 30, 2011”. Mrs. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Balboni to accept Joanne Manning’s retirement. Vote: Unanimously approved.
- Mr. Pollet provided the Board with a copy of a memo to Dr. Cushing regarding the study strategies program for 2009/2010 at RJH. The program includes the following:
 - Continue to improve the transition from the sending schools in 6th and 7th grades to allow for successful implementation of the “Follow the Child” initiative as well as reviewing 504 plans, Individual Education Plans and Learning Compact Student Information Sheets. Assist classroom teachers in implementing proper plans and interventions to create positive learning environment.
 - Specific work with all students on math computation, problem solving, and basic math skills in line with our District in Need of Improvement Plan.
 - Work on the essential language of the NECAP testing model to familiarize students with the type of questioning employed on this State Assessment.
 - Work on organization and study skills with numerous students who need assistance beyond the regular classroom. Offer a variety of strategies for students to employ in the hope that each student will embrace a successful method of organization which fits their learning style or way of learning.
 - To employ more aspects of the Learning Compact with students such as learning styles inventories, performance indicators, and parent input sheets.

- Work on specific reading strategies with students who do not receive specific support in special education. We have several students who do not qualify for special education services and are still in need of individual support in reading.
- Continue to offer and expand our existing Homework Club after school for students who need assistance with homework. This could also be an extension to the skill building time that students need to improve skills in math and reading.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr. Schwartz proposed, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, a motion to go into non-public session at 9:40 p.m. to discuss superintendent evaluation. Unanimously approved on a roll call vote.

ADJOURN: Ms. Balboni proposed, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, a motion to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. Vote: Unanimously approved.

School Board Secretary