

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The monthly meeting of the School Board of the Rye School District was held at Rye Junior High School on May 19, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

School Board Members: Michael Schwartz, Peggy Balboni, Kirsti Marella,  
Maggie Duffy-Durkin, Jeanne Moynahan

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

Staff: Kathleen Cole, Jeanne Brown, Sheila Adams, Phoebe Guarnaccia,  
Ron Fortier, Tom Southworth, Robin Ellwood, Katie Jarvis

Visitors: Paul Goldman, Ian Grant, Scott Marion, Robin Huslage, Laura Brown,  
Stephanie Brown

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Schwartz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

On a motion by Mrs. Duffy-Durkin and seconded by Mrs. Marella, the public minutes of April 21, 2010 were approved. Vote: Unanimously approved.

The non-public minutes of April 21, 2010 were circulated among board members for review.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Dr. Cushing recognized the following communications that were part of the board members' packets:

- Mary Lyons, Director of Pupil Services, SAU 50, was elected by her peers as chairperson of the Commission on Public Elementary and Middle Schools for New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- Rye Recreation After School Program Newsletter for May 2010
- A letter from Commissioner of Education, Dr. Virginia Barry, granting an appeal from RES and determining RES has made AYP in Reading for 2010. Dr. Cushing thanked Mr. Southworth for submitting the request for appeal in a timely manner.
- Letters of resignation - Kristine Dawson, is resigning as School Nurse at RES to return to the medical field and Megan Gage is resigning as Paraprofessional at RJH to continue her education in Boston. Both resignations are effective at the end of this school year.

Mrs. Balboni made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, to accept the resignations of Mrs. Dawson and Ms. Gage with regrets. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Moynahan said she received a call from Betty Anderson thanking the Board for funding and taking care of the repair of the softball field.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Director of Pupil Services Report**

Dr. Cushing distributed Mrs. Lyons, Director of Pupil Services report and asked for questions.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Cushing recognized Mr. Southworth to discuss the CAT/Terra Nova test results.

Mr. Southworth provided highlights of his report:

- 23 students (6%) scored at the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile on the total score
- Scores range from 99% to 6%; those students at the lower range are identified and receiving services
- Test answers are multiple choice
- Questions are content-based

Ms. Richardson said she and Mr. Southworth review each and every test and create a list of needs to make sure no-one falls through the crack. Mr. Southworth said the teachers get a very detailed report. Ms. Richardson said some teachers will come into the office and look at previous test results which are part of the student's permanent record. Ms. Richardson has created a data card to follow the student and the data card will be part of a binder made for the teachers.

The Board thanked Mr. Southworth for his report and for coming to the meeting.

Dr. Cushing continued with his report speaking to the events planned as part of senior week at Portsmouth High School (board handout) and the May 13<sup>th</sup> Pathways to Prevention Workshop. Mr. John Dye spoke of his son's alcohol-related car accident death at the workshop. Part 1 of a cyberbullying presentation was also part of this workshop. Additionally there was a panel of students speaking of results from the at-risk student survey. This recent survey shows an increase in abuse of prescription drugs.

*Race to the Top Grant* – This grant is competitive by state. It requires the state align with national curriculum, national testing, and standard evaluation for teachers. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) requires the superintendent's signature by May 21, 2010. Dr. Cushing feels it is beneficial for the superintendents to sign the MOU to better position the state to get available grant monies and that it allows him to have a voice in the reform process. Dr. Cushing asked for permission to sign the MOU on behalf of the Rye School District. Mrs. Marella confirmed that Dr. Cushing's signature does not commit the Rye School District to the reform.

Mrs. Marella made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, to support Dr. Cushing to sign the Race to the Top Grant memorandum of understanding with the caveat it does not bind the Rye School District to commit to the reform. Vote: Unanimously approved.

### *Director of Pupil Services Report*

Mr. Schwartz asked Dr. Cushing to follow up with Mrs. Lyons to determine if there was going to be a need to use special education unreserved fund balance to meet the financial needs of special education this year.

### **Principals' Reports**

#### *Rye Elementary School – Lane Richardson*

Highlights of Ms. Richardson's report include:

- 47 kindergartners enrolled to date
- Mrs. Wheeler's library collection report was submitted to the board
- Teacher assignment for next year is in the works
- Move-up day is last day of school
- Destination Imagination raised \$1,942 from ice cream sales and the movie night event
- There were over 200 applicants for the grade 1 teaching position; very strong candidates – Dr. Cushing will put two teachers into nomination later tonight

- The Patriotic Garden will be dedicated next Thursday as part of Memorial Day celebration; a granite bench will be dedicated to Mrs. Cole
- Jeff Scott of Blue Ledge Landscape dedicated his time to RES with beautiful landscaping.

### *Job Descriptions*

Dr. Cushing said Mr. Katkin, Mrs. Lyons, Mr. Pollet and Ms. Richardson have been meeting since October to work on job descriptions. There have been twenty 1-1/2 hour meetings thus far. The methodical process has involved seeking information from people currently in the given position, use of a national job description for comparison/reference, and consistent use of terminology and form. The goal is to have something for the board to review in July.

### *Rye Elementary School – Lane Richardson, continued*

Ms. Richardson spoke of staff plans for the May 28<sup>th</sup> professional development day. In the morning staff will be working on the Learning Compact forms; the afternoon will be spent meeting across grade levels. Paraprofessionals will listen to a speaker with a specialty in the autism spectrum; grant money is being used to hire this speaker.

Mr. Schwartz asked about the kindergarten head count so far (47) and asked Ms. Richardson if she felt good with the class size. Ms. Richardson said she feels good and typically the student count at this time of year is pretty close to final for incoming kindergartners.

Ms. Richardson said the Special Issues committee had a good meeting. Bullying was discussed including a discussion of terminology (teasing vs. bullying). Mrs. Maloney, Guidance Counselor at RES has a number of programs and lunch bunch groups (Jedi's – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade boys, American Girl – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade boys) in place as part of a bullying prevention program.

Mr. Schwartz asked Mr. Southworth about the math program website for students to use over the summer. The program is IXLmath and PTA funded the purchase of the program. Ms. Prince set each student up with their own ID and password. Teachers will use the program for homework assignments and can use it over the summer as well. Mrs. Balboni mentioned that the website also tracks the data for teachers to access.

Mr. Schwartz suggested an after-school meeting for parents so they can receive direction as to how to utilize the website and provide guidance for their children.

### *Rye Junior High School – Chris Pollet*

Highlights of Mr. Pollet's report include:

- RJH has created a database for the student information sheet to track information as part of the Learning Compact. Teachers will be able to access the data and use it to inform the instruction of next year's team of teachers. Students have completed surveys which incorporate goals, passions, NECAP data, etc. This information will be input in the morning of the May 28<sup>th</sup> professional development day. The afternoon will consist of grade-level meetings and include New Castle teachers. This sharing of information is the part of the Learning Compact Mr. Pollet is most passionate about; he gave the database to the teachers a week ago.
- RJH hosted an evening for 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents highlighting what has been done with the 1:1 computer program last year.
- RJH hosted a truly remarkable talent show. The student performances were outstanding as was the direction and evening coordination by Mrs. Wirth.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade World Language students went on a field trip May 10<sup>th</sup> to local restaurants where they were able to use their Spanish and French speaking skills and learn more about other cultures while being treated to cooking demonstrations. The teachers all commented on the wonderful behavior and creativity of the students and noted how involved they all were at the restaurants.

- RJH students started Science NECAP testing today, have CPR training tomorrow and then another day of NECAP testing.

*Inquiry-Based Science Instruction* – Mr. Pollet asked Ms. Ellwood to speak to Inquiry-Based Science Instruction. Highlights of Ms. Ellwood’s presentation include:

- Inquiry-Based Science (IBS) has been around since 1930
- There is evidence that when IBS is done well there are outstanding results and levels of learning for the students; it increases motivation, interest and science grades of students
- The recent NHSPCA project by three RJH 7<sup>th</sup> grade students is an example of the success and level of excitement and learning with IBS
- There are three levels of learning: teacher-directed; IBS guided instruction; and independent learning
- Often science instruction falls back to traditional scientific method; social interactions as part of the learning process are not allowed to develop due to instructional time constraints
- Ms. Ellwood’s research question is “How do social interactions within different approaches to inquiry-based science influence student achievement in, and motivation towards, science”; she hypothesizes there will be a deeper level of student involvement, more questions among peers and with the instructor and greater learning.
- There would be two phases of IBS: the first phase would be implemented within the class for a baseline. The second phase would involve trips to the Great Bay Natural Refuge in Stratham.

Ms. Ellwood’s request was to implement the study at RJH as part of her research project.

*Discussion followed:*

Mrs. Marella noted it seems like some students will have a better experience than others. Ms. Ellwood said that is always a concern with research but you need to have a control group.

Mrs. Duffy-Durkin asked what the structure would be for the social interactions. Ms. Ellwood said there would be groups of 2 or 3 students and they would be provided outlines of tasks. Ms. Ellwood would serve as participant and observer.

Mrs. Duffy-Durkin asked what the students that remained in the classroom would do. Ms. Ellwood said all students would work on the same assignment/project; the only difference would be the setting and social interaction that comes with that.

Mrs. Balboni asked if the study would be done in collaboration with the other grade 8 science teacher and how it would affect curriculum. Ms. Ellwood said there is an established curriculum which has been modified for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level.

Mrs. Balboni said the students that go off-site would miss other classes and asked how that would work. Mr. Pollet said this happens all of the time to incorporate musical performances, plays, field trips, etc. and is possible because of the flexible scheduling at RJH. Missed academic time will be made up in other extended periods.

Participation selection would be random once parental permission for consideration of participation is received. Students would be off-site five times within a two-week period for data collection.

Mrs. Duffy-Durkin said she is fascinated with the idea and certain Ms. Ellwood would get some great data. As a parent she wonders how to explain to the student who is not selected to go off-site. Ms. Ellwood explained all of the students; even those not selected for the off-site, have an important role in the research. The process of the research project alone presents some exciting learning opportunities. Ms. Ellwood would be up-front with the students and they will be told about the research project so they have a solid understanding.

Mrs. Balboni asked what the cost would be to the district. Ms. Ellwood said there would only be a transportation cost. Mr. Pollet estimates the bus transportation at a maximum of \$150 roundtrip and said there is funding available in the field trip line of the 2010-2011 budget.

Mr. Marion asked what the variable is. Ms. Ellwood said location is the focus of this qualitative study. The off-site is required to provide students with a different social setting.

Ms. Husslage first thanked the Board for sending out the agenda via email so that everyone knows what will be discussed at the meeting. She then asked if Ms. Ellwood would continue as a science teacher at RJH while conducting the research. Ms. Ellwood said “no” as that would be a conflict of interest.

*Discussion continued:*

Mrs. Marella noted she would like to see the students who are not selected for the off-site participation to have some special assignments to off-set this; perhaps some other IBS assignments.

Mr. Goldman said IBS sounds like a pretty good program and he loves the idea of getting young people involved in an in-depth study of this sort. His one question was if this is something that has been provided for within the school budget.

Dr. Cushing said it will be funded with savings from the three new hires being nominated this evening.

Mrs. Stephanie Brown said she has spoken with Ms. Ellwood, seen the enthusiasm in her students, and feels IBS provides great opportunities for students. It is important for students to realize that even if they do not go off-site they are still part of exciting research.

Mrs. Balboni made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, to allow Ms. Ellwood to conduct her research project as proposed with Rye Junior High School 8<sup>th</sup> graders with the caveat that the students have parental permission to participate. There being no further discussion Mr. Schwartz called for a vote. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mr. Schwartz thanked Ms. Ellwood for her time and energy on behalf of the Rye students.

Mr. Schwartz indicated that later in the agenda there was to be a discussion about Ms. Ellwood providing services to assist in the science curriculum. He suggested the discussion take place at this point in the meeting to better enable parents and staff in attendance to hear the discussion and provide input.

*Inquiry-Based Science Consultant*

Mr. Pollet spoke to a proposal for Ms. Ellwood to serve as an inquiry-based science consultant. He feels Ms. Ellwood’s sabbatical is an ideal time to do this and it will allow both Rye schools to expand and enhance their science curriculum. Mr. Pollet and Ms. Richardson have been in discussion with Ms. Ellwood about this idea and are enthusiastically supportive of it. Ms. Ellwood would serve as a leader and mentor through this process while she works as a consultant for both the elementary and middle school teachers helping them to integrate IBS strategies and units of study into the curriculum. The proposal would be for her to work with our teachers one day a week for the entire school year.

Ms. Richardson said she is familiar with the work Ms. Ellwood does and notes Ms. Ellwood comes over the RES to work with the teachers. Ms. Gianforte is a lead teacher and has noted that the elementary teachers and students have benefited from this. Ms. Ellwood would work with teachers, write lessons, model lessons, tie in with PLCs and write assessments.

Mr. Pollet said this is a great opportunity for embedding professional development and there is a level of excitement among teachers to utilize Ms. Ellwood as a resource and truly engage students.

Dr. Cushing said the greatest moment in teaching is when you see the spark in the student as they learn. The strength of IBS is that it makes the learning interesting.

Mrs. Balboni asked if the professional development opportunities would be with teachers only. Mr. Pollet and Ms. Richardson felt initially it would be teacher-to-teacher professional development but later there would be in-classroom modeling.

Mrs. Balboni asked Ms. Sheila Adams for her thoughts. Ms. Adams stated Ms. Ellwood offers much to the staff and students of Rye. Ms. Adams said she, and others, use Ms. Ellwood as a resource all the time.

Mrs. Balboni asked Ms. Adams if she, a veteran teacher, feels she would benefit from Ms. Ellwood in the role of consultant. Ms. Adams said "Absolutely".

Mrs. Marella asked if there has been any discussion as to how Ms. Ellwood's time would be split between the two schools.

Mr. Pollet said there is clearly value to getting students involved at the elementary level so they are really ready and excited about science when they get to the middle school level. Mr. Pollet and Ms. Richardson will evaluate and determine needs while being respectful of Ms. Ellwood's research time.

Mrs. Duffy-Durkin asked if it was reasonable to assume Ms. Ellwood would do one 7-1/2 hour day each week. Ms. Ellwood said that from her conversations with other teachers that is a reasonable assumption; but it may also be split if needed.

Mrs. Cole noted that looking at curriculum, fluidity needs to be across the schedule.

Mrs. Stephanie Brown feels the skills learned from IBS are life-skills. She believes that in a learning community such as that provided by IBS you will see great enthusiasm among the students; and the huge benefit is that Ms. Ellwood will be coming back. Mr. Southworth agreed 100% with Mrs. Brown's comments.

Mr. Marion said inquiry-based tasks are on tests and he urges schools to start working on it more and strongly suggests that it start in the elementary schools earlier.

Mr. Grant asked what the cost is for the consultant position. Dr. Cushing said \$16,153.91; and there is more than enough in savings from the three new hires to cover that.

Mr. Grant then asked if there were benefits involved with this position. Dr. Cushing stated that the only benefits for the consultant position would be the required involuntary benefits which are included in the \$16,153.91. He also told Mr. Grant that later on in the agenda he would be asking the Board to reconsider the sabbatical leave and make a recommendation that Ms. Ellwood receive health insurance as part of the conditions of the sabbatical at a cost of \$9,737.88. The money to cover both the 20% position and the health insurance would total \$25,891.79 and would be covered by the savings from the three new hires to be nominated this evening as well as the savings from Ms. Ellwood's replacement.

Mr. Grant asked if this area (science) has been deemed the highest need in the schools. Mr. Pollet said when looking at things we've already been working on: math summer camp, 6 Traits of Writing, etc. it seems like science is a reasonable next area for focus. Mr. Pollet said there are other needs but nothing that could be

deemed more urgent. Ms. Richardson agreed stating that from an elementary perspective we really need to do more in science.

Mr. Schwartz noted the administration is proposing this for the 2010-2011. He suggested the proposal be tabled for now and discussed further after a non-public discussion.

Mr. Pollet called the Board's attention to a list of equipment to be disposed of. The equipment is of no commercial value. In accordance with policy DN he presented the list for informational purpose only.

## **Financial**

### *Manifest:*

Mrs. Balboni proposed, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, a motion to approve the manifest of April 17, 2010 through May 4, 2010 in the amount of \$413,646.54. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Moynahan proposed, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, a motion to approve the manifest of May 5, 2010 through May 13, 2010 in the amount of \$297,864.85. Vote: Unanimously approved.

### *Budgetary Considerations*

Unreserved fund balance - Mr. Schwartz said he has had several conversations with Jim Katkin regarding the unreserved fund balance. Mr. Katkin's recommendation is that we not spend any further monies given where we are in the school year.

Mr. Schwartz feels it is important that we install the two basketball hoops at the RJH gym for the purpose of open-gym as discussed in earlier meetings. Mr. Fortier said the problem with portable hoops is the storage and the possibility of scratching the floors. He isn't sure the need is there. Mr. Pollet agreed with Mr. Fortier in terms of the concerns of the floor and storage. Mr. Pollet suggested the custodial staff set up the hoops on Friday afternoon and then put them away on Monday mornings when there is open gym.

After further discussion Mr. Schwartz proposed installation of one retractable basketball hoop from the ceiling instead. Mr. Fortier and Mr. Pollet thought this would be a good option.

Mrs. Duffy-Durkin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Marella, to allocate up to \$5,000 for the purchase and installation of one (1) retractable ceiling mount basketball hoop in the RJH gym. Mr. Fortier will be consulted as to the location of the basketball hoop before installation. Vote: Unanimously approved.

### *Capital Improvement Plan*

Mrs. Moynahan met with Mr. Katkin to review the 2011 – 2016 CIP project list. This list will be reviewed during the budget season so projects can be prioritized and budgeted.

### *Land Proposal*

Mrs. Marella said the purchase of the land next to the RJH would require a warrant article in March and we wouldn't have money available to use for the purchase until July. Alternatively she spoke with Jim Raynes about using conservation funds. Mrs. Duffy-Durkin will attend the next meeting of the conservation committee. The best presentation would be multi-use of the land and it may be beneficial for the presentation to come from a non-school person. Mrs. Duffy-Durkin will report further after the conservation committee has met. The price of the land has been reduced to \$240,000.

### *Other*

The meeting with the Selectmen is June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The agenda will focus on the after school program and the open-gym program. Dr. Cushing is meeting with Mike Magnant, Town Administrator, prior to the meeting and will determine whether the meeting should be at RJH or the Safety Building.

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

Mrs. Cole suggested the land next to the junior high could also be used for the Farmer's Market and Garden Club meetings if it were purchased.

Ms. Adams said her students are conducting soil tests. For a small fee people can drop off soil to be tested by the students.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

### **Policies**

The policy committee will meet again on June 15, 2010.

### **Secretary's Report**

Mrs. Marella noted there is a staff meeting scheduled at RJH, Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Mrs. Balboni and Mrs. Marella will attend this staff meeting on behalf of the Board.

Mrs. Marella then asked Mrs. Duffy-Durkin to report on the recent RES staff meeting she attended.

Mrs. Duffy-Durkin and Mrs. Balboni attended the RES staff meeting and provided the following highlights:

- Teachers thanked the board for supporting small class sizes
- They offered a round of applause for the success of the DI team and Manager Mrs. Balboni
- Teachers asked about school board and NEASC goals
- It was requested that a separate revenue account be established for Literary Journal
- It was also suggested there be a PR person for both schools to share the great happenings within the buildings. Mrs. Cole suggested establishing a relationship with someone at the papers and feeding the highlights to them and keeping them involved in school happenings
- Biodegradable lunch trays were discussed. Ms. Richardson said these trays were cost-prohibitive
- There is an option to use silverware and trays but that would require installation of a dishwasher and personnel to run the dishwasher. Mrs. Balboni suggests this be a discussion during the budget process.

Mrs. Laura Brown pointed out cost and waste water as two factors to consider as part of the dishwasher discussion.

### **REF**

The annual gala is planned for May 22, 2010. Funds to be raised for the purchase of a C.O.W. (computers on wheels) for RES and an ENO board for RJH.

Dr. Cushing said he recently spoke with Jim Noucas who was involved with administering the Fund for Excellence in Education as established by the Greater Portsmouth Education Partnership Council (GPEPC) Mr. Noucas is trying to build The Clipper Foundation which would function much like REF. He suggested at some point Mr. Noucas meet with REF. Mrs. Balboni said REF board members should be certain to check the charter and by-laws of the foundation.

Ms. Richardson said RES received two recent grants from REF: one for Kindergarten scientist program and the other for an artist to come in and work with Mrs. Manning and the grade 3-5 students.

Mrs. Stephanie Brown said REF also approved grants to Ms. Ellwood for the raven exhibit and to partially fund sound equipment. Additional funding was granted for music notation (Mrs. Wirth) and thumb drives for fitness sport folios through the physical education department. Mrs. Brown noted that both schools work well and have a great collaboration with REF. Mr. Schwartz suggested REF come to a board meeting after grants have been approved.

## **PHS**

AREA meeting – Mrs. Duffy-Durkin said she was most impressed with Mr. Collins’ presentation of what the Class of 2010 is doing for the school. They have a huge landscaping/grounds beautification project in the works. The senior class has raised over \$47,000.

NEASC accreditation is one year out for PHS.

Dr. Cushing said there was a budget work session last Monday. Four councilors are looking for 99% of fiscal year 2010 budget. There were 5 votes to support the 2.8% increase. Mr. McDonough and 3 board members met with teachers last Thursday to discuss the possibility of the teachers waiving their salary increase for a year.

## **PTA**

The next meeting is May 26<sup>th</sup>. Teacher Appreciation Day is scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> at RES and May 27<sup>th</sup> at RJH.

## **Rye Recreation**

Nothing new to report.

## **Curriculum**

PLAC voted to use funds to buy new edition of the Dufour’s book for each team in the schools.

## **Emergency Management**

Mrs. Moynahan said there were two drills recently and one of them was the graded drill. She will get the official grade shortly but she noted that the secretaries had the information needed right away and the students were just terrific during the drills.

### *Last day of school*

Mrs. Marella made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, for the last day of school to be a half day. Vote: Unanimously approved.

RJH graduation is set for June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### *Nominations*

Dr. Cushing placed into nomination Ellen Jackson for a first grade teaching position at RES for the 2010 - 2011 school year.

Ms. Jackson is currently a 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade looping teacher in Kingston, NH and was the top candidate of the interview committee. Dr. Cushing said he was very impressed with Ms. Jackson. She is well-rounded and she is already doing many Learning Compact-like communications and activities with her students and parents. Ms. Richardson highlighted several areas of Ms. Jackson’s experience that make her a unanimous choice of the committee.

Mrs. Marella made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to nominate Ellen Jackson as first grade teacher for the 2010-2011 school year. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Dr. Cushing placed into nomination Brandy Uhouse for a first grade teaching position at RES for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

Ms. Uhouse has taught 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in Florida. She flew up from Florida twice for interviews and submitted a DVD of her classroom teaching style. Ms. Uhouse will receive National Board Certification in November.

Mrs. Duffy-Durkin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Marella, to nominate Brandy Uhouse as first grade teacher for the 2010-2011 school year. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Dr. Cushing placed into nomination Alison Hart for the guidance counselor position at RJH for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

Mr. Pollet said for the first round he interviewed 7 candidates with Ann Gilbert, Ann Rafferty, Sarah Maloney and Kim O’Connell. Sarah Maloney, Ann Gilbert, and Mary Lyons conducted the second round of interviews.

The interview committee was impressed by the level of energy Ms. Hart brought to the interview. Dr. Cushing noted that Ms. Harts eyes lit up when she was talking about students. He also spoke to the superintendent of the SAU where she currently works and he spoke very highly of her.

Mrs. Marella made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Duffy-Durkin, to nominate Alison Hart to the position of guidance counselor at Rye Junior High School for the 2010 – 2011 school year. Vote: Unanimously approved.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT *continued*:**

On a motion by Mrs. Moynahan, and seconded by Mrs. Marella, the non-public minutes of April 21, 2010 were approved and sealed. Vote: Unanimously approved

There was a five minute recess from 9:45 – 9:50

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:**

On a motion by Mrs. Marella, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, the School Board entered non-public session at 9:50 p.m. on a unanimous roll call vote and in accordance with RSA 91-A:4 to discuss personnel.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

The Board returned to public session on a roll call vote at 10:35 p.m.

Mrs. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to extend the meeting beyond 10:00 p.m. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Marella, to approve Ms. Ellwood for a 20% position in the Rye School District to provide teachers with direction and guidance on Inquiry Based Science for the 2010 – 2011 school year, to be funded with the savings from the three new hires nominated this evening. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Duffy-Durkin, to grant Ms. Ellwood paid health benefits (80% for year 1 and 100% of year 2) of her two-year sabbatical. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mr. Schwartz said he greatly appreciates the efforts of Ms. Ellwood and wishes the economic climate were better to allow for a paid sabbatical.

*Early retirement update*

Mrs. Marella said it is not prudent to rush into anything and this can be a discussion at the retreat.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:**

On a motion by Mrs. Marella, seconded by Mrs. Duffy-Durkin, the School Board entered non-public session at 10:45 p.m. on a unanimous roll call vote and in accordance with RSA 91-A:4 to discuss personnel.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

The Board returned to public session on a roll call vote at 11:15 p.m.

**ADJOURN:**

Mrs. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, to adjourn at 11:20 p.m. Vote: Unanimously approved.

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School Board Secretary