

**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 June 16, 2010 at 8:00 a.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, Katie Jarvis

Visitors: Peter Sawtell, Chuck McMahon, Bud Jordan, Gloria Jordan, Nancy
Stiles, Laura Brown

CALL TO ORDER:

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

On a motion by Mrs. Marella and seconded by Mrs. Duffy-Durkin, the public minutes of May 19, 2010 were approved. Vote: Unanimously approved.

The non-public minutes of May 19, 2010 were circulated among board members for review.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

- Rye Recreation After School Program Newsletter for June 2010
- An article from the Portsmouth Herald recognizing Mrs. Cole's 40-year teaching career
- Request for funds from Sheila Adams – this will be addressed later in the meeting

Special Recognition

Dr. Cushing recognized retired Director of Rye's Highway Department, Bud Jordan. Dr. Cushing worked with Bud for 10 years and Mr. Jordan was an old-school sort of guy who did things with a handshake. Mr. Jordan was the point person that Dr. Cushing would call at 4:30 a.m. to get road and weather conditions before declaring snow days or delayed openings. Whether it was snow, ice, hurricanes or beach erosion; Mr. Jordan was always there to take the phone call and offer his opinion on the conditions. Additionally Mr. Jordan would take care of the school parking lots as part of bulk-paving, work on recycling with Mrs. Cole and read to students at the school as part of the annual Dr. Seuss's Read Across America program. Dr. Cushing then presented Mr. Jordan with a certificate of thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Rye School District.

Mr. Jordan said he is not leaving town and is always willing to do anything as an individual for the children.

REPORTS:

Director of Pupil Services Report

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

Superintendent's Report

PHS budget – at the last City Council's meeting it was determined the school had to reduce their budget by \$259,000. Dr. Cushing has been assured that cuts to the budget will not impact class size. Dr. Cushing will provide further information as it becomes available.

End of year events– Dr. Cushing spoke of the many culminating end of year events going on within the schools. Dr. Cushing recently attended a “Top Chef” competition featuring bread and spread goods prepared by four student chefs from Rye Junior High and four student chefs from Greenland Central School. The event was coordinated by Anne Rafferty (RJH) and Beth Sommers (GCS). Dr. Cushing said the breads and spreads prepared and presented by the students were just incredible. The panel of judges including Peter Aikens (Petey's Restaurant), Tom Marshall (Mizuna Restaurant), Wayne Young (Greenland Police Department), Kevin Walsh (Rye Police Department), Dr. Cushing, and the principals from both schools.

Principals' Reports

Rye Elementary School – Lane Richardson

Highlights of Ms. Richardson's report include:

- The May 28th professional development day went very well; teachers talked about RTI, data and are planning on continued communications throughout the year.
- Mrs. Cole was honored for her 40 years of service at RES and was presented with two beautiful Adirondack chairs
- Ms. Richardson thanked REF for granting \$6,665.00 of \$10,812.33 requested for numerous activities within RES
- All teachers have completed information on a data card which was created by Ms. Chagnon – the data card will include reading and math test results, NECAP, CAT, Dibels, and end of year reading scores and will be passed on from year-to-year.
- Ms. Richardson is hoping to pilot NWEA testing next year
- Ms. Richardson has been conducting interviews for both a full-time and part-time custodian and has a school nurse candidate to recommend for hire tonight.

Rye Junior High School – Chris Pollet

Highlights of Mr. Pollet's report include:

- Mr. Pollet distributed a calendar to show the available dates for Rye Recreation to use the school gym for open gym. There are many weekends available from late December to early March.
- Mrs. Coombs created her library report – As she did last year, Mrs. Coombs instituted a ‘summer sign-out’ book program for students. This is a huge hit with the students!
- The 8th graders are due back momentarily from their 2-day Boston field trip. As part of the trip they toured Fenway Park, went on a Duck Boat tour, and saw a performance by Blue Man Group.
- The chorus put on a phenomenal performance at the school on June 10th

Mr. Schwartz complimented the performance by the chorus and was impressed by the number of ‘guys’ in the men's chorus. Mrs. Marella said it was a great idea to have the chorus perform for the students at RES.

- Mr. Pollet said the teachers at RJH also had a successful professional development day on May 28th. They spent the morning entering data and had purposeful and insightful meetings in the afternoon. He felt the day was very productive.

Mrs. Duffy-Durkin said Gene Guth's percussion group was incredible and he undoubtedly inspires the student musicians.

Mrs. Moynahan also noted the recent Picturing America exhibit at RJH and how well-poised students were at the RES 4th grade State Fair.

Financial

Manifest:

Mrs. Moynahan proposed, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, a motion to approve the manifest of May 14, 2010 through May 27, 2010 in the amount of \$275,242.16. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Mrs. Moynahan proposed, seconded by Mrs. Balboni, a motion to approve the manifest of May 28, 2010 through June 11, 2010 in the amount of \$1,102,281.21. Vote: Unanimously approved.

There were no other budgetary considerations for discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Calendar of policy action – completed for June

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

There were no visitors.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Policies

There are no policies this month.

Secretary's Report

Mrs. Marella and Mrs. Balboni recently attended an RJH staff meeting and the following items were brought forward by the teachers:

- Repair to the school cupola
- Air conditioning (particularly in the library)
- Repair to sink in teachers room
- Student dress code
- Request to synchronize clocks within the building

Mrs. Marella also provided an update on the land on Lang Road that had been for sale. She believes it has been sold noting the school district was not able to take action soon enough to present a plan to possibly purchase the land.

Mrs. Balboni suggested the board discuss the procedure for purchasing land at the retreat in the event another opportunity comes up.

REF

Mr. Schwartz thanked REF for their continued support and grants. Mr. Schwartz recognized the wonderful results of the REF Gala that brought in \$13,000 for computers at RES and an ENO board at RJH.

PHS

The June 11th graduation at Portsmouth High School was fantastic and guests were treated to an appearance by guest speaker, Rudy Guiliani.

PTA

Mrs. Balboni attended the recent PTA meeting. She said there is a balance of \$8,000 in their account. There was a recent mother/son hike with 14 students participating. Several fundraising ideas are being discussed including: cookbook fundraiser, Rye-wear, and a yard sale.

Laura Brown spoke to the PTA-sponsored IXL math program. She has received a lot of positive feedback from parents on this program. Peter Sawtell noted student in the after school program are talking about the IXL math with great enthusiasm.

Mr. Schwartz thanked Mrs. Brown and the PTA for all they do for the students.

Rye Recreation

There was a joint meeting of the Rye school board, Rye Recreation Commission, and Board of Selectmen on Monday, June 14th. Rye Recreation is going to oversee open gyms at the school. Mrs. Duffy-Durkin felt there were good conversations at this joint meeting.

The proposed Space Use Agreement was reviewed by board members and several modifications were discussed. It was agreed everyone would review the document and submit edits to Mrs. Duffy-Durkin for consideration and compilation.

Secretary's Report, *continued*

Mrs. Balboni asked for clarification about the student dress code brought up at the RJH staff meeting. Mr. Pollet said the dress code is clear in the handbook and after discussion it was suggested a reminder of the dress code be sent home during the school year. Mrs. Balboni suggested sending an additional reminder about electronic devices that are and are not allowed in school.

Curriculum

Mrs. Marella reported out on the recent Portsmouth curriculum meeting; there was much discussion about what qualified as professional development hours.

PLAC – Mrs. Balboni said that based on the feedback from the May 28th professional development days the teachers indicated the following three areas as areas they want more information on: Response to Intervention (RTI), rubrics for common assessment, and positive behavior intervention.

NEW BUSINESS:

Retreat agenda

The summer retreat will be held at Community Campus in Portsmouth. Agenda items will include: Title I funds, school survey results, metrics, technology, goals and committee recommendation on early retirement.

SECRETARY'S REPORT *continued*:

Mrs. Balboni made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, to approve the non-public minutes of May 19, 2010. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Request from Sheila Adams

Ms. Adams submitted a request to use funds toward expense of attending an international conference, ISTE10 (International Society for Technology and Education). This annual conference will be held in Denver, CO and Ms. Adams will share information from this conference with her colleagues when she returns. Ms. Adams is using personal frequent flyer miles for her flight and is requesting \$690 for estimated

expense of attending the 6 day/night conference. This request is in compliance with policy GCIA and fully-supported by Mr. Pollet and Dr. Cushing.

Mrs. Balboni made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, to approve reimbursement to Ms. Adams for the cost of attending six nights at the ISTE10 conference as submitted. Vote: Unanimously approved.

Nomination

Dr. Cushing placed into nomination Karen Crowley for the school nurse position at RES for the 2010 -2011 school year.

Ms. Richardson interviewed 10 candidates for this position and Ms. Crowley had excellent references from three different physicians.

Mrs. Marella made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Duffy-Durkin, to nominate Karen Crowley as school nurse at Rye Elementary School for the 2010-2011 school year. Vote: Unanimously approved.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

On a motion by Mrs. Marella, seconded by Mrs. Duffy-Durkin, the School Board entered non-public session at 7:50 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 8:35 p.m.

ADJOURN:

Mrs. Balboni made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Moynahan, to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Vote: Unanimously approved.

School Board Secretary