

RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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To be approved by the Rye School Board at the March 17, 2021 meeting.

RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

A meeting of the School Board of the Rye School District was held through Google Meets on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Margaret Honda, Jeanne Moynahan, Matt Curtin, Heather Reed
Absent: Scott Marion

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Brian Grattan, Director of Technology
Mindy Green, Business Administrator
Sarah Reinhardt, Special Education
Marie Soucy, Principal
Suzanne Lull, Principal

Visitors: Carla Cole, Jacquie DeFreze, Krista Atwater, Stephanie Tabit,
Sarah Harrington, Kim Piela, Andrea Papoutsy, Julie Struble
Two 603- call ins

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Ms. Honda announced that due to the State of Emergency, declared by the Governor, as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with Emergency Order 12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body was authorized to meet electronically.

Ms. Honda noted that there was no physical location for the public to attend, however public access was being provided through telephone and video electronic means via Google Meets.

Ms. Honda noted that all the members of the Board had the ability to communicate, and the public could listen and make comment. Ms. Honda provided the meeting phone in number and meeting link information. Ms. Honda noted that they had provided the public with notice of the meeting and she provided information for the public to alert the administration, if there were problems. Ms. Honda mentioned she or Ms. Killen could be e-mailed if they have any contact problems.

Ms. Honda noted that the meeting would be rescheduled if the public was unable to access the meeting.

Ms. Honda took roll call attendance, asking the Board Members to indicate if there was anyone in the room with them and all were alone.

Manifest/Financial Reports

Mr. Petralia reviewed the Manifest of January 12, 2021 through February 10, 2021 for \$765,214.75 and said that it included teacher retirement payments.

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve the Manifest dated February 17, 2021 in the amount of \$765,214.75. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Ms. Moynahan was curious about the live streaming cost. Mr. Petralia explained that the fee was a monthly cost on a contract regardless of use. Ms. Reed asked for clarification regarding the live stream access. Ms. Honda clarified that the meetings were recorded but the camera was at the Junior High cafeteria.

Secretary's Report

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin, to approve the Public Minutes of January 11, 2021. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin, to approve the Public Minutes of January 20, 2021. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to approve the Public Minutes of January 28, 2021. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 3-0, 1 abstention

Ms. Honda deferred the Non-Public Minutes.

Communications

Mr. Petralia noted that there was a hearing notice from the State Board of Education regarding a matter that he would review during Non-Public per RSA 91 (c) and (e). In addition, Mr. Petralia said he would be asking the Board to approve a staff leave of absence request for 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Petralia explained that he included communications from Mr. White (Facilities Consultant), regarding the Facility Assessment. Mr. Petralia noted that the extensive check lists had been completed by Mr. Gordon. Mr. Gordon had a site visit with Mr. White over the weekend and he thanked Mr. Gordon for facilitating both school visits.

Mr. Petralia included the Governor's Emergency Order 83 but noted that the communication was mute based on the Board's action to align the deliberative session for the District with the Town.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Petralia thanked the principals and staff for completing the State Interim Assessments on time.

Mr. Petralia said there were recommendations in the Board packet from the principals regarding the Re-Entry Plan.

Mr. Petralia explained that he had continued discussion with First Student and plans to have a written proposal in time for the March School Board Meeting.

Mr. Petralia included the final Memorandum of Agreement for the Rye Educational Support Personnel Association (RESPA). He explained that he had yet to receive the Association's ratification, but he recommended the Board approve, pending the union ratification.

Mr. Petralia noted that the principals had a proposed change for the 2020-2021 calendar, due to the change of the Town voting; they were recommending adjusting the March 9, 2021 to April 8, 2021.

Mr. Petralia said he provided the draft 2021-2022 Academic Calendar and he suggested planning as if it would be a typical school year. Mr. Petralia acknowledged the staff and administration for their input into the calendar.

Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Killen reviewed the Title IX changes. Ms. Killen explained that there were many roles to fill by different personnel. Ms. Reinhardt has the experience and is well equipped to be the Title IX coordinator.

Ms. Killen explained that the second role needed was an investigator; this role would be contracted out. Ms. Killen noted that they had previously contracted out for an investigation and it worked well. Ms. Killen added the reporting process is time consuming and would take them away from other important responsibilities.

Ms. Killen said she would serve as the decision maker and Mr. Petralia would review appeals.

Ms. Killen explained that the Title IX covers sexual harassment, and all other infraction would follow the same procedures in place. Ms. Killen reviewed the new definitions which include harassment has to be severe and pervasive and has to occur on school property or at a school activity offsite.

Ms. Killen clarified that the school could investigate any complaint but was not obligated to unless it was a school activity.

Ms. Killen said that staff and principals were obligated to make reports, then support measures would be put into place and the report would be created. She mentioned that there was a difference between a report and a complaint. Ms. Killen noted that if a report was formalized into a complaint or the coordinator felt the report warranted action, then an investigation would occur.

Ms. Reinhardt explained that during the reporting phase, she could insist that a report move forward if she felt it was egregious enough.

Ms. Honda reviewed that this was a law but noted that there was a policy and asked if they aligned. Ms. Reinhardt explained that they did align and that was why it was so extensive.

Ms. Killen explained that there was a curriculum folder in the board drive to review for a March approval. Ms. Killen mentioned that the two items in the folder were for the STEM Curriculum and the Science Curriculum.

Ms. Killen said she included the SAT assessment report for the Board. Ms. Killen noted that the Rye students had a higher median score in Math and ELA than the scores of Portsmouth, the State and the Nation. Ms. Killen reviewed a slide that compare scores from 2015 through 2020.

Central Office Reports

Mr. Grattan reviewed the history regarding the Rye Public library catalog system and the switch to using the State system, which was not vetted. Therefore, it is not a system the schools could use due to HB 1612.

Mr. Grattan explained that there had been some issues with the budgets and timelines, so the School need to switch catalogs sooner than expected.

Ms. Reed asked about the interlibrary loan. Mr. Grattan explained that the interlibrary loan would allow schools to share materials and have a digital record.

Mr. Petralia asked for additional clarification regarding the reasons the school could not stay connected to the library. Mr. Grattan explained that House Bill 1612 outlined standards that software vendors had to adhere to be used by the schools and the public library system offered by the state did not meet the standards. Mr. Grattan added that after the conversion to the new system, the District would see approximately \$2,300 a year in savings.

Ms. Honda asked what was needed to move forward. Mr. Grattan said a \$6,287.54 transfer was needed from the Health Insurance line 10.2900.211.00.00 to be divide equally \$3,143.77 to the Media Software lines 10.2222.650.00.10 and 10.2222.650.000.20.

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan to approve the transfer of \$6,287.54 from the Health Insurance line 10.2900.211.00.00 to be divide equally in the amount \$3,143.77 to the Media Software lines 10.2222.650.00.10 and 10.2222.650.000.20. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Mr. Grattan explained that he was working on the E-rate reimbursement, but it was a slow process.

Mr. Grattan mentioned that he had been working with Comcast to get agreements for increased bandwidth to go live as soon as possible. The fiber installation is tentatively scheduled in March for the junior high and May for the elementary school.

Mr. Grattan said they had recommended Mr. Connor LaHiff for the Technology Coordinator position. Mr. Petralia reminded the Board that they had previously approved the Central Office to move forward with the hiring for that position.

Ms. Green said she had the financial report ending January 31, 2021 in the drive, which showed a balance of \$481,917.52, a 3.31% remaining for unappropriated funds. Ms. Green explained that this was the appropriation side and revenue would be included later. Ms. Green reviewed the over spent lines including the salary lines which were covered by some warrant articles, the permanent substitute position, the High School tuition and some special education items.

Ms. Honda noted that the overage for tuition shows the reasons for why they follow the tuition budgeting process they do. Ms. Ryan confirmed that they do a regularly review of the numbers.

Ms. Green discussed the allocations including the funds received from the SR1 of \$14,640 and the \$109,600 from the SPSRF, calculated at \$200 per student. Ms. Green explained there was a new fund, the SR2 for \$37,100.

Ms. Reed confirmed that the funds were COVID related. Ms. Honda mentioned needing to understand the parameters for the funds to determine use. Ms. Honda asked about applying the funds toward summer programming. Ms. Killen said there were funds in the Title IV for summer programming. Mr. Petralia said if the services could be connected to the pandemic then the funds could be used.

Principal Reports

Ms. Lull reviewed proposed changes to the Re-Entry Plan starting with the reduction in self quarantining from 14 to 10 days and allowing less quarantine time with a negative test taken between day 6 to 7. Ms. Honda asked about the time for testing results. Ms. Lull said they have heard the testing results could take 1 to 3 days. Ms. Honda noted that when the result time was added to the waiting period of 6 to 7 days, it could be close to 10 days regardless.

Ms. Lull explained that the second proposed change allowed individuals to skip quarantine, if they had COVID with 90 days or received vaccines.

Mr. Curtin asked if the DHHS and CDC policies aligned. Ms. Honda and Ms. Lull noted that they were the same.

Ms. Reed asked the history of cases relating to travel. Ms. Lull noted that to date no cases were linked to travel.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to approve the changes to the Re-Entry plan as proposed by Ms. Lull and Ms. Soucy. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Ms. Soucy reviewed the proposed change to the 2020-2021 calendar to move March 9th remote day to April 8, 2021 and schedule conferences on April 8-9, 2021 for the end of the quarter.

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to approve the proposed changes to the 2020-2021 Academic Year moving the remote learning day from March 9, 2021 to April 8, 2021. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Ms. Soucy explained that they would run sports in the spring as they had during the fall and winter. Ms. Honda voiced support of the idea.

Ms. Soucy said she met with Mr. Petralia and the Principal at Greenland regarding graduation and protocols on what could and what could not happen. Ms. Soucy noted sending surveys to parents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FY 2021-2022 Budget

Mr. Petralia explained that the process was completed.

Eversource Reduction Rate

Ms. Honda noted that since the rate difference was not so significant the transfer to the new power provider could wait until the warrant article is voted on and Ms. Green confirmed.

Mr. Petralia asked the Board to approve the Memorandum of Agreement as agreed to by the parties for the health and safety and working conditions as a tentative agreement.

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to approve the RESPA Memorandum of Agreement as agreed to by the parties for the Health and Safety and Working Conditions, as a tentative agreement. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

NEW BUSINESS

Transportation

Mr. Petralia had nothing additional to share

2021-2022 Academic Calendar

Mr. Petralia explained that the draft was created with feedback from the staff. Mr. Petralia said it was the hope that they would have a more traditional school year but if desired at a later time, they could pivot to a hybrid or add remote learning. Mr. Petralia reviewed the calendar, which was created with the Department of Education skeleton calendar. Mr. Petralia noted that weather cancellations days were added, and it included the 188 contract days.

Mr. Curtin noted the election day and confirmed that the election days would be remote learning days. Mr. Petralia confirmed.

Mr. Curtin suggested that given the ability to go remote, would it be possible to start after Labor Day and have a full week in June. Mr. Petralia noted the preference of starting before Labor Day to provide the staff time. Mr. Petralia explained that 3 days would need to be added in June, if the start day moved and noted that there would not be much wiggle room.

Ms. Honda asked about the inclusions of remote Fridays and what the expectation would be for including Friday learning. Ms. Lull said Friday learning could be an option.

Ms. Reed explained that there could be benefits to keeping the remote Friday for the purpose of specific content and Ms. Honda noted that those discussions were needed. Ms. Lull said her team had not discussed this yet. Ms. Soucy said that there have been initial discussion and considered moving remote days to Wednesdays. Ms. Lull and Ms. Soucy said they had not discussed this enough with staff to make any decisions. Mr. Petralia echoed that discussion was needed and suggested surveying parents. Mr. Petralia noted there were benefits to keeping the Fridays, but there were many factors to consider.

Ms. Honda reviewed possible benefits to moving remote days to Wednesday as it relates to academics.

Mr. Petralia explained that political decisions – what the new administration demands -- could determine our course of action.

Ms. Reed said she hoped that some piece of the remote and technology learning could be incorporated.

Mr. Curtin said he agreed. Mr. Curtin said he felt there were some valuable pieces to take away from the remote learning experience, that could have some long-term benefits. Mr. Curtin said this was an opportunity for the schools to chart their own path and they should be prepared to discuss how they want to move forward and transition to next year.

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve for first reading the proposed 2021 - 2022 Rye School District Academic Calendar. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Ms. Honda asked about professional development days. Ms. Killen said there were not professional development days on the calendar. Ms. Killen said she would be discussing professional development with staff after the break, in addition to early release days.

Ms. Honda mentioned that summer programming was on the agenda to get the discussion started as well as how to proceed with what did and did not work over the past year.

Mr. Curtin said whatever can be done to close deficits during the summertime would be beneficial. Mr. Curtin suggested even creating some online programming.

Ms. Honda voiced that it was important to address the needs of all students, not just those who might need to address a gap in learning.

Ms. Lull explained that they discussed literacy, and that they were prepared to offer summer tutoring, but they were watching the data.

Ms. Honda asked if the tutoring would be an opt.-in program. Ms. Lull said it would be targeted to those who need the support.

Ms. Reinhardt mentioned that not all students that fall under special education qualify for Extended School Year - ESY. Ms. Reinhardt explained that they review the dates for concluding the year and the dates for starting the year first, then determine the time for ESY. Ms. Reinhardt said they plan in April.

Mr. Petralia asked if the ESY and an Enrichment program could coexist. Ms. Reinhardt said there might be an emergency order and reviewed possible options for both remote coarse and in-person services.

Ms. Honda said she was looking for programming for everyone in order to cover content that could not be covered due to the instructional limitations. Ms. Killen reviewed that they had prioritized the standards for instruction. Ms. Killen said she would be sitting down with staff after the break to review each content area to see how the standards were used and what was lacking.

Ms. Honda suggested packing up resources to create a curriculum that families could continue throughout the summer. Ms. Lull explained that last summer they provided the iReady Math and reading program and the students were still working on them now and that could continue through the summer. Ms. Lull said the programs covered more than the standards and were personalized.

Ms. Killen said that there were many resources available for parents and she offered to pull together resources including the two platforms Ms. Lull mentioned. Ms. Honda mentioned wanting to maintain the logins through the summer.

Ms. Reed noted that the Clipper Academy offered classes through VLACS.

Ms. Honda encouraged everyone to think broadly and have a more holistic approach.

Mr. Curtin mentioned wanting to ensure that there were similar online programs at the Junior High that could be extended. Mr. Curtin shared his experience with the Clipper Academy and noted that anyone who desires can work with that program. Mr. Curtin also suggested partnering with the PTA for summer programming.

Ms. Honda expressed that it was time to start thinking about planning for next year and begin discussion on how to execute the planning process. Ms. Honda mentioned needing to pull information together through parent and student surveys, as well as staff and administration collaborations.

Ms. Killen said she was gathering information from the staff and would be discussing planning with the administration. Ms. Killen noted that they wanted to capture and incorporate ideas that came out of this experience like outdoor learning, outdoor breaks, and class sizes.

Mr. Petralia suggested keeping this subject on the agenda. Mr. Petralia said the staff would be key in recommending students that might need assistance. Mr. Petralia advised taking information from the remote learning experience for the summer and coming year. Mr. Petralia said guidelines might still be in place during the summer and voiced concerns over staff availability for summer programming. Mr. Petralia expressed the need for the staff to have a break after all the work over the year.

Ms. Honda reiterated they should think broadly and look at what other districts have done. Ms. Honda suggested surveying parents soon.

Ms. Killen said she was looking at March and April for gathering information and planning in May and June.

Ms. Reed explained that it was still good to be prepared for possible quarantining in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Honda reviewed an e-mail from Andrea Papoutsy, resident and staff, noting that the Board had done a nice job of communicating. Ms. Papoutsy had followed the School Board on Facebook in order to receive meeting alerts, but those without Facebook were not as informed. Ms. Honda said Ms. Papoutsy explained that she emailed updates out and suggested that in addition to the Facebook posts, e-mails should be sent out.

Ms. Honda expressed that she was a big fan of communications and she connected with Mr. Petralia regarding the possibility of Ms. Fuller sending out agendas and updates to the staff. Ms. Honda noted that everything was posted to the website and encouraged people to check the site. Ms. Honda said the Principals did send meeting information out in their weekly e-mails as well.

Ms. Honda asked for any additional public comments and there were none.

Personnel

Mr. Petralia asked the Board to approve a one-year leave of absence for Ms. Kacie Friberg for the 2021-2022 School Year, as submitted.

Ms. Reed made a motion, second by Ms. Moynahan to approve a one year leave of absence for Ms. Kacie Friberg for the 2021-2022 School Year, as submitted. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Committees

REF

Ms. Reed said REF approved a grant for the outdoor classroom at RES and irrigation for the garden.

PTA

Mr. Curtin explained that the PTA also granted funds for the outdoor classroom. .

Mr. Curtin asked about the building checklists. Mr. Petralia said Mr. White was reviewing the checklist information and he would have more information at the next meeting.

Policies

Ms. Moynahan reviewed the details regarding EBB - School Safety and JLCJ - Concussion and Head Injuries along with the acute concussion evaluation form. Ms. Moynahan suggested adopting EBB and JLCJ. Ms. Moynahan noted that GBCD - Background Record Checks was on hold.

Mr. Curtin asked about JCA. Ms. Moynahan said she believed there were changes coming from the NHSBA, so it was not included in the packet.

Mr. Curtin asked if the ace care plan need to be approved or was it an accessory of JLCJ. Ms. Moynahan said it was a form that was kept with the policy which had to be completed before the student could return to activity and/or school.

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve for second reading and adoption policies JLCJ - Concussion and Head Injuries and EBB - School Safety. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Ms. Moynahan recommended EHAC for first reading and noted that the Board did not have this policy. Ms. Honda asked if most of the information was based on the RSAs and said she needed to review more. Ms. Moynahan explained that most were under the RSAs but wasn't sure about the other references. Ms. Moynahan said they could accept this for a first reading and go from there.

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to accept for first reading policy EHAC - Electronic Digital Records and Signatures. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Ms. Moynahan said BGAA - Policy Development, Adoption and Review, VHE - School Board use of Email and other Electronic Communications, EB - Work Place Safety Program and Joint Loss Management Committee and GBCE Training and Information Relative to Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, were up for second reading.

Ms. Honda asked to discuss each individually in order and asked if there were changes to BGAA. Ms. Moynahan said that there were not any changes to BGAA and they were adopted by Greenland and New Castle, which Mr. Petralia confirmed.

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to approve and accept policy BGAA - Policy Development, Adoption and Review. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Ms. Moynahan asked Mr. Petralia about the committee relating to EB - Work Place Safety Program and Joint Loss Management Committee. Mr. Petralia explained that they did not have the committee yet but reviewed who should be involved. Ms. Moynahan explained that this policy combined 2 policies and noted some new regulations. Ms. Moynahan mentioned it was good to including the Facilities Manager and said the committee should meet sometime before August. Ms. Honda said she supported it, if the committee meeting could occur in time.

Mr. Petralia said he would engage Mr. White regarding this policy and what other Districts had done. Mr. Petralia referred to the New Hampshire Administrative rule 306 and said he was reminded of the safety plans and the school-based committees already in place.

Mr. Curtin reviewed parts A and B of the policy and noted that it seemed to carry a lot of implications.

Ms. Honda asked about the policies origin. Ms. Moynahan said she would have this policy added to the Policy Committee meeting agenda. Mr. Petralia mentioned that he would ask Ms. Fuller to have the RSA and applicable rules available at the meeting.

Ms. Moynahan asked if they should table this policy and Ms. Honda confirmed.

Ms. Moynahan asked if Ms. Reinhardt had anything to add to policy GBCE. Ms. Killen suggested approving the policy and noted that it was a law. Ms. Killen mentioned that training for staff would need to be considered.

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin, to approve policy GBCE - Training and Information Relative to Child Sexual Abuse Prevention. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

OTHER

None

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to move into a Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3(c) at 7:11 p.m. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

RE-ENTRY INTO PUBLIC SESSION

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin to come out of non-public session at 7:21 p.m. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin to seal the non-public minutes. Roll Call Vote 4-0

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed to adjourn the public meeting at 7:23 p.m. Roll Call Vote 4-0

*Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Panek
March 4, 2021*

Matt Curtin

Matt Curtin, Secretary




2021-03-24

Date

Signature Certificate

Document Ref.: FPHRF-8SGZZ-CKW4S-RYDKZ

Document signed by:

	<p>Matt Curtin Verified E-mail: mcurtin@sau50.org</p>	 
<p>IP: 66.31.225.14 Date: 24 Mar 2021 17:28:07 UTC</p>		

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