

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
School Administrative Unit 50  
48 Post Road, Greenland, New Hampshire 03840  
Phone (603) 422-9572 Fax (603) 422-9575

*To be approved by the Rye School Board at the June 16, 2021 meeting.*

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The regular monthly meeting of the School Board of the Rye School District was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at Rye Junior High School, Washington Road, Rye, NH.

**PRESENT:**

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

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

Special Guests: Andrea Papoutsy, Shiela Adams, Dr. Robin Ellwood  
Kathleen Kennedy, Hope Murray, Elaine Richards, Kathleen Tucker

Visitors:

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Ms. Honda led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(0:00:40)

Ms. Honda expressed appreciation to the teachers who had given so much of their lives to the school and community. Ms. Honda noted that the group represented 226 years of service.

Dr. Marion noted the positive experiences his daughter had had with so many of those retiring. Dr. Marion noted that they had been great leaders and they had touched many lives.

Ms. Moynahan expressed her appreciation and said it will not be the same without them.

Ms. Honda presented plaques to Ms. Adams, Dr. Ellwood, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Richards, Ms. Tucker and Ms. Papoutsy. Ms. Papoutsy noted that Maureen Ganem could not attend.

**Financial Report (0:07:00)**

Mr. Petralia reviewed the manifests.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve the manifest dated April 20, 2021 through April 30, 2021 for \$272,773.69. Discussion. Vote. 5-0*

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Dr. Marion, to approve the manifest dated May 1, 2021 through May 14, 2021 for \$447,644.64. Discussion. Vote. 5-0*

**Financial Report (0:08:33)**

Ms. Green said the financial report was in the Board's drive and noted that as of the end of April the unappropriated fund balance was \$568,400.61. Ms. Green explained that she attached lines with overages which mostly related to special education.

Dr. Marion asked if they would receive ESSER Funds.

Ms. Green explained that she created a fund balance sheet with the different buckets of money that were available. Ms. Green said that once the end of April balance was considered, the food service deficit of \$30,000, the retirement incentive and trust money, the unassigned fund balance was an estimated \$185,671.00.

Ms. Green reviewed the unassigned retained fund balance of \$331,618, ESSER 1, ESSER 2 and ESSER 3.

Ms. Green noted ESSER 1 funds had been spent, the ESSER 2 funds of \$37,099 may be used for items such as the HVAC work, purchasing a dishwasher, or building trust fund balances.

Dr. Marion expressed that he would like a list of categories and Ms. Green said she included the detail in the drive. Ms. Green explained that she attended all the guidance, and she discussed the approval of the dishwasher as a response to COVID for purposes of sanitation. Ms. Green said the ESSER funds could be used for the HVAC but noted that the ESSER funds require contracting under prevailing wage work and she compared those costs versus regular contract work.

Dr. Marion noted that there was a lot of money for the District and the Board should be smart about purchases. Ms. Honda said this could be a discussion item to review under reports and determine what to apply the fund to.

Dr. Marion noted that he received an email that there was an issue with the live streaming.

Ms. Honda took a moment to post that the live stream was down.

**Secretary Report (0:18:58)**

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Marion asked for a motion to approve the Public Minutes of the meeting held on April 21, 2021

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin, to approve the Public Minutes of April 21, 2021. Discussion, 5-0*

Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin, to approve the Public Minutes of May 4, 2021 as amended. Discussion. Vote: 4:0 1 abstention

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin to approve the Non-Public Minutes of May 4, 2021. Discussion. Vote: 4:0 1 abstention*

Mr. Curtin noted a typo on page 7 which showed an amount of \$1,500 which needed to read \$15,000.

### **COMMUNICATIONS (0:23:23)**

Mr. Petralia noted 5 communications including two letters of retirement for the Board to approve later in the meeting. Mr. Petralia said there were 3 requests for enrollment, one from a family constructing a home in Rye, the second a request to enroll a kindergarten for the remain school year and the final an enrollment request from a New Castle family for a 6th grade enrollment to Rye Junior High. Mr. Petralia noted that he included related materials including a copy of the New Castle Tuition agreement in the Board Drive.

### **Superintendent Report (0:25:30)**

Mr. Petralia highlighted that he would ask the Board to approve the 2021-22 Federal Funds which included all federal funds, IDEA, Title 1, Title and possibly any COVID related funds.

Mr. Petralia said he would nominate two Special Education teachers and a Music Teacher for the Elementary School. Mr. Petralia acknowledged Ms. Soucy and Ms. Lull for the work posting and interviewing.

Mr. Petralia said he included Senate Bill 130 in the packet, regarding the Statewide voucher plan and he noted that there was testimony before the Senate finance committee. Mr. Petralia added that Reaching High New Hampshire hosted a virtual town hall regarding the item.

Mr. Petralia reviewed House Bill 544 and noted that some districts had formally approved resolutions to vote in opposition to the bill including Oyster River School District, Concord School District, and SAU 70. Mr. Petralia mentioned that the item was listed later in the agenda for discussion.

Mr. Petralia explained that at the Secondary Advisory committee it was announced that the Portsmouth Schools intended to open full time next year, making the previous request regarding the possible enrollment numbers for Newington to enroll in Rye a moot point.

Mr. Petralia asked the Board to consider retreat dates for planning purposes.

Mr. Petralia explained that he would have more details on the transportation negotiations later on.

Ms. Moynahan asked about the Joint Board meeting and if there would be a presentation by Ms. Loughman. Mr. Petralia explained that Ms. Loughman would not present, and the only new member was Mr. Hopps from Greenland who would participate in an online training.

Ms. Honda announced that the deliberative session would be on June 1, 2021 6:30 PM at Rye Junior High and July 13, 2021 would be the Town election date.

Dr. Marion said he wanted to update the Board on Solar.

### **Assistant Superintendent (0:31:55)**

Ms. Killen explained that she would present later.

Ms. Reinhardt said she had nothing to report.

Mr. Grattan explained that they had received some grant funding from the Rye Educational Foundation to improve digital signage. Mr. Grattan explained that they had started using a mobile device filtering software

to manage and filter devices. Mr. Grattan said they were still waiting on the Elementary fiber installation date.

Mr. Grattan explained that they had 2 technology committee meetings and they would be finalizing a plan for the Board. Mr. Grattan explained that the firewall might be the cause of the Live Stream problem.

Ms. Honda thanked to Mr. LaHiff for his work as did Mr. Grattan.

### **Principal's Report (0:35:08)**

Ms. Soucy thanked the PTA for their food and flowers during teacher appreciation. Ms. Soucy said they had Seacoast Mental Health present a youth mental health presentation. Ms. Soucy said that Wedgewood work continued including community members and Portsmouth High School volunteers.

Ms. Soucy explained that they are struggling to find poison ivy removal.

Ms. Soucy explained that she could not pull in enough summer staff to create a summer program that would be robust enough. Ms. Honda noted that there were many options. Ms. Killen said that there were many online options that she would pulling together to provide as resources.

Ms. Soucy said parents were pulling together several events to celebrate graduation, including an outdoor dance.

Mr. Curtin asked if the summer camp would be a multi-year vision. Ms. Soucy explained that they would plan for a program in the future. Dr. Marion noted that this was a nationwide problem.

Mr. Petralia said that Portsmouth had shared similar issues and he wondered if there could be a collaboration between districts. Mr. Petralia mentioned the Seacoast Science Center and other options.

Ms. Honda noted need to just have summer resources. Ms. Reed noted the need for more academic options.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Transportation Agreement (0:42:22)

Mr. Petralia explained that he would review in non-public.

### **Future Planning (0:42:27)**

Ms. Honda asked if there was a timeline for planning and pulling in feedback. Ms. Honda expressed that they should formalize a plan to be presented to the public. Ms. Honda asked if there was a plan to reach out to staff, parents and students. Ms. Honda noted the need to communicate what the plan would be.

Dr. Marion noted needing to formalize the plan and expressed that the goal should be to return to normal instruction. Dr. Marion said the Board need to view a formal plan.

Mr. Petralia explained that he recommended that they plan to be in school five days a week full time.

Mr. Petralia explained that given the number of students in person, he recommended not offering a remote option other than for extreme need due to medical or disability condition. Mr. Petralia said normal needed to be defined with some of the guidelines, which could include wearing masks. Mr. Petralia noted they had not heard much regarding guidance and he believed it would be local control. Mr. Petralia said a lot was learned through the process and that information should be carried forward.

Ms. Honda explained that they should list and define several scenarios, scenario A being back to normal, scenario B regarding a resurgence and a scenario C if they moved back to remote.

Ms. Honda explained that they heard a lot from the staff about social/emotional and keeping recesses at the Junior High, and all of the information needs to be written down.

Mr. Curtin expressed the need for protocols which could include a means for kids to keep up on work when they need to stay home. Mr. Curtin said his takeaway was that as a District, a contingency plan should be in place to address any need to go remote. Mr. Curtin expressed that remote learning could be adopted more quickly. Mr. Curtin said he heard that the staff was up to adopting changes and the staff was encouraged by positives. Mr. Curtin suggested not losing the momentum and utilize the flexibility to make more changes.

Ms. Reed said although they are not planning for remote, they could utilize technology to provide planning time, create chunks of time, and provide the students with options to do more, utilizing technology like Modern Classroom.

Dr. Marion explained that normal will be a new normal and he felt that it was good to have contingency planning. Dr. Marion encouraged that they define normal in a new way. Dr. Marion noted not wanting to lose kids that need remote. Dr. Marion suggested finding ways to keep students at home engaged.

Ms. Honda explained that Portsmouth had committees for areas like social/emotional and schedules. Ms. Honda reviewed how they had parent, student, and staff participation.

Ms. Reed said a survey was sent out from Rye Elementary School.

Ms. Honda suggested that the process should be at the district level and be a holistic approach.

Mr. Petralia said that the disaster scenarios and crisis plans were covered, and they would work with the state.

Ms. Honda asked for suggestion on time frame.

Dr. Marion asked to see an outline draft or framework at the June meeting to allow time to review and revise.

Mr. Petralia reminded the Board that Rye applied for and was approved for the Blizzard Bags. Mr. Petralia noted that the staff was capable of quickly moving into remote. Mr. Petralia said they would continue to monitor.

Ms. Honda expressed that the Board needed a written plan to inform the community that the District has a plan. Ms. Honda reviewed the calendar.

Mr. Petralia said he would discuss the plan with the Principals and would discuss with Senior Staff. Mr. Curtin asked if a similar survey would be released for the Junior High.

Mr. Petralia explained that the parent advisory committee had created and distributed the survey, not the administration.

Ms. Curtin noted that policy would not be based on survey results, but follow CDC guidelines.

Dr. Marion noted that the survey should not have been sent out. He explained that there was a survey committee. Ms. Honda mentioned that they put a lot of thought into surveys.

Ms. Honda explained that a framework was needed.

### **Public Accessibility (1:03:13)**

Mr. Grattan explained that the live streaming of the meeting was being recorded and could be posted.

Dr. Marion noted that remote meetings would not be possible after the end of the month and mentioned that the participation had been better through virtual meetings.

Mr. Grattan explained that Mr. LaHiff had started working on the costs for the equipment needed to allow the live spring and virtual online meeting. Mr. Grattan explained that he hoped to have bids back in June.

Mr. Curtin explained that he learned that with the older demographic groups appreciated the live streaming, so running both in parallel would be helpful. Mr. Curtin mentioned that having a proctor during the meeting was necessary.

Mr. Grattan explained that the person who owns the meet is the proctor and has control. Mr. Grattan explained that there was a procedural piece.

Ms. Honda asked if the RFP and quotes would be available in time to use the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Grattan said he should be able to. Mr. Curtin said it was a common application and should be a quick process.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT (1:08:20)**

Ms. Honda read the comment of Rye resident Nancy Berry, who asked why Rye Schools did not go back to five-day school. Ms. Honda noted that this had been discussed but summarized the need for a planning day due need for teachers to cover the pods.

Dr. Marion noted that adjusting a set schedule can also be disruptive.

### **NEW BUSINESS (1:10:02)**

#### **Science and Stem Curriculum**

Dr. Marion explained that he wanted an example of curriculum with a designed set of key ideas organized across grades in a way that knowledge builds in key domains. Dr. Marion said he added examples in the drive and noted the relationship between the competencies being addressed in the example. Dr. Marion noted how the big ideas and competencies were apparent. Dr. Marion explained the need for precursors, and he felt that the plan should be a series of units. Dr. Marion noted that a parent should be able to pick up the document and understand.

Ms. Killen expressed that the curriculum was defined as what students need to know and do. Ms. Killen said the competencies and standards were included. Ms. Killen explained that the curriculum was almost word for word of the Next Generation Science Standards. Ms. Killen noted that they had instructional guidelines that outlines which specific content areas where presented. Ms. Killen explained that there would be a guideline provide to parents, but it had not been released yet.

Ms. Killen explained that since there were two new science teachers joining the Junior High staff, they wanted to work together to organize the units. Ms. Killen explained that the teaching staff received a full document that includes programs and resource materials. Ms. Killen explained that additions were made to

the staff document. Ms. Killen noted that the Curriculum committee felt the full document was too much for parents.

Dr. Marion requested the full document. Ms. Honda noted after reviewing other curriculum examples she saw some gaps in information that would be helpful for those approving the curriculum.

Ms. Killen explained that the curriculum presented was SAU-wide so adjusting the curriculum would result in Rye having its own curriculum. Ms. Honda voiced that she believed other Boards would appreciate more detail as well.

Dr. Marion explained the need for coherency and noted concerns over the student's science results. Ms. Killen reviewed the history on the State assessments.

Ms. Honda asked to discuss more offline. Dr. Marion asked to see the detailed document.

Mr. Petralia said he would provide the Board with what the teachers were provided.

Ms. Reed and Mr. Curtin agreed that seeing more would be helpful.

Mr. Curtin explained that his expertise was different than others, but he wondered about the process of how the curriculum moved from the Board approval to being placed in practice and how the tools for the curriculum were selected.

Ms. Reed asked about accountability.

Ms. Honda said she understands what the students are doing but desired to see the detail. Ms. Honda read an example.

Dr. Marion noted that the order could impact competencies.

Ms. Killen explained in the past she would present on the curriculum for new School Board members, and she wanted to review the process.

Mr. Petralia explained that the feedback was appreciated.

### **Federal Grant Approval (1:28:36)**

Mr. Petralia asked the Board to entertain a motion to accept all federal funds including any COVID related funds.

Dr. Marion asked if they need to know the amounts. Ms. Moynahan explained that they do not always know the amounts. Mr. Petralia noted delaying nominations pending receipt of funds.

Ms. Reinhardt explained that in the past they would approve after numbers were determined but this year it needed to be done in advance. IDEA activities need to be accepted and approved by the Board.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve the receipt of any and all federal grants awarded to the District through the State of otherwise during the 2021-2022 school year and the Board be informed at each meeting the number and amount of the grant received. Discussion. Vote: 5-0*

Ms. Killen provided Ms. Honda with supporting document for signature.

### **School Districts Position on House Bill 544 (1:31:35)**

Mr. Petralia reviewed the House Bill 544 which prohibits business and institutions including educational institutions that received State funding from teaching about racism, sexism and other divisive comments. Mr. Petralia said three districts had already signed on in opposition and he believed others would follow.

Dr. Marion said it was up to 10 districts Ms. Honda noted that Portsmouth had decided to oppose. Mr. Petralia said he would not endorse any bill that would prohibit fruitful discussions that can be rich when age and topic appropriate.

Dr. Marion said that the bill was not good, and they needed to stand against this bill.

Mr. Petralia said that in Newington a group of citizens created a committee to review diversity. Mr. Petralia explained that most of the positions taken regarding the bill, were taken as a SAU. Mr. Petralia suggested reviewing at the Joint Board meeting and address as one SAU.

Ms. Honda asked what would occur if a Board did not support the opposition to the bill. The Board discussed voiced that the Board should make their choice. Dr. Marion, Ms. Honda and Mr. Petralia discussed that process of signing on the letter.

Ms. Honda confirmed that they would discuss at the Joint Board meeting.

### **Vaccines for Staff (1:38:20)**

Ms. Honda explained that the vaccine was added as a discussion item to consider during the planning process. Ms. Honda asked if the COVID vaccine would be required. Dr. Marion noted that vaccination was not a law but he suggested taking a stand to ask that all staff and children over 12 be vaccinated unless there is a legitimate medical reason. Dr. Marion noted there could be a CBA issue.

Mr. Petralia explained that the two vaccine exemptions are religious reasons or disabilities. Mr. Petralia said if the Board decided to take a stand on vaccinating, they would need to honor the students and staff falling under those provisions.

### **Deliberative Session (1:41:08)**

Ms. Honda discussed that they could divide the Warrant Article presentation between the Board. Dr. Marion explained that they needed to coordinate with Mr. Schwartz and they could use the tent, the cafeteria with spacing or utilize the gym.

Ms. Honda explained that could use the gym if needed. Dr. Marion noted that the Historic District Committee would like to attend due to the solar. Dr. Marion said they could ask for people to wear masks but might need a no mask section.

The Board agreed to use the cafeteria and Dr. Marion said he would coordinate with Mr. Schwartz.

### **Rye Energy Committee (1:44:55)**

Dr. Marion explained that he presented to the Rye Energy Committee. Dr. Marion said they were looking to include a write up in the Rye Magazine and needed letters to the editor.

Ms. Green reviewed what she would include in the packet for the deliberative session. Dr. Marion asked if the full budget would be available. Ms. Honda explained that public members have asked to see the budget.

Ms. Green asked the Board what budget items that they wanted to include. Ms. Moynahan explained how the budget was presented in the past including allowing the public to pay for copies of the budget.

Ms. Green explained that budget was a 114-page report that included the edits and staff FICA information. The Board discussed how to edit and present the entire budget and decided to have a full copy available at the meeting.

Ms. Green explained that for the public the summary and a binder on hand. Ms. Honda explained that they could communicate to the public that they can get a hard copy at the SAU office.

## **OTHER**

### **Tuition Agreement (1:53:36)**

Dr. Marion inquired as to what they were reviewing the tuition in non-public.

Mr. Petralia explained that he initially included the agreement for reference purposes regarding the possible Newington agreement, but he noted that they were in the third year of a three-year contract with New Castle. Mr. Petralia explained that it could be reviewed at the retreat.

Ms. Honda asked if the Board had questions.

### **Planning Retreat (1:54: 58)**

Ms. Honda asked the Board to review dates for the July retreat. The Board reviewed calendars and dates and settled on July 29, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at Rye Junior High.

### **Personnel (1:55:44)**

Mr. Petralia said he had three nominations. Mr. Petralia explained that in accordance with School Board policy GCF, he nominated Ms. Sarah Bruno Schryer for Special Education Teacher at Rye Junior High. Mr. Petralia reviewed Ms. Schryer's Associate's and Master's degrees and mentioned that the interview committee and Ms. Reinhardt endorsed her.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reed, to accept the nomination of Ms. Schryer for the position of Special Education Teacher at Rye Junior High. Discussion. Vote: 5-0*

Mr. Petralia nominated Ms. Elise Thompson for Special Education Teacher at Rye Junior High.

*Ms. Reed made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin, to accept the nomination of Ms. Thompson for the position of Special Education Teacher at Rye Junior High. Discussion. Vote: 5-0*

Mr. Petralia nominated Ms. Catherin (Caron) Francoeur for the Speech and Language Pathologist position for Rye Junior High and Elementary.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin, to accept the nomination of Ms. Francoeur for the position of Special Education Teacher at Rye Junior High. Discussion. Vote: 5-0*

Mr. Petralia asked the Board to accept the appointment of Mr. Eugene Guth as the Music Teacher at Rye Elementary. Mr. Petralia said Mr. Guth came from Greenland Central School.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin, to accept the appointment of Mr. Guth for the position of Music Teacher for the Rye Elementary School. Discussion. Vote: 5-0*

Ms. Soucy explained that they would interview at the end of the month for the remaining positions.

**Recondition of Visitors (2:03:52)**

No visitors present.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS (2:04:00)**

**Rye Education Foundation**

Nothing reported.

**Portsmouth High School**

Ms. Honda explained that the Secondary Advisory met, they had a committee in place for end of year and outdoor activities by grade, there was a vaccination clinic and their opposition to HB 544.

**PTA**

Mr. Curtin said the PTA expressed interest in supplying support on the deliberative session regarding the solar panels. Mr. Curtin explained he could communicate and share warrant article information.

Dr. Marion said he could pull together solar and warrant article information for the PTA. Ms. Honda noted that they had a movie night coming up and they did a great job with the Teacher Appreciation event.

**Rye Recreation**

Ms. Honda explained that there was an open position for the Rye Recreation Department.

**Budget**

Dr. Marion explained that the committee met on Monday.

Mr. Petralia explained that the Town had asked about meeting at Rye Junior High.

**Technology**

Mr. Grattan explained that Mr. LaHiff meet with others and they discussed changes to the interactive boards. Mr. Grattan noted a training for the board at Rye Elementary. Mr. Grattan explained that they were migrating the students from Rye school district to SAU50 there were issues with moving Google Classroom, however the major sync had occurred.

**Special issues**

Ms. Honda explained that she and Ms. Reed meet with staff at Rye Elementary School, then she and Mr. Curtin meet with the staff at Rye Junior High. Ms. Honda explained that they had a nice open discussion with staff. Ms. Honda hoped they would continue meet a couple times a year. Ms. Honda said they discussed keeping things that worked and discusses making changes as we moved forward.

**Policies**

None to review.

**NON PUBLIC SESSION**

*Mr. Curtin made a motion, seconded Ms. Moynahan to enter into Non-public per RSA 91-A:3(c) at 7:50 p.m. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 5-0*

**RE-ENTRY INTO PUBLIC SESSION**

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin to come out of non-public session at 8:06 p.m. Roll Call Vote: 5-0*

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan to seal the non-public minutes. Roll Call Vote: 5-0*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Curtin to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Roll Call Vote: 5-0*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Samantha Panek  
May 26, 2021*

*Matt Curtin*

2021-06-26

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Curtin, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Signature Certificate

Document Ref.: Z6SOT-XXDFU-M7X5Y-CU5D7

Document signed by:

	<p><b>Matt Curtin</b> Verified E-mail: mcurtin@sau50.org</p> <p>IP: 73.149.191.73      Date: 26 Jun 2021 12:38:40 UTC</p>	 
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