

To be approved by the Rye School Board at the December 19th, 2018 meeting.

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The School Board of the Rye School District held its annual budget review meeting at the Rye Town Hall on Friday, November 9, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Margaret Honda (chair), Scott Marion, Paula Tsetsilas,
Jeanne Moynahan

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent
Amy R. Ransom, Business Administrator
Sarah Reinhardt, Special Education Director
Lorraine Curtis, Database Administrator
Suzanne Lull, Principal, Rye Elementary
Marie Soucy, Principal, Rye Junior High

Staff: Samantha Fuller (SAU 50)

Residents/Rye Parents: Peter Crawford, Kerry Labovitz, Kim Piela, Tasha Benson

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

Ms. Honda welcomed the Board and Administrative Staff to the budget meeting. She reiterated that the meeting was to go over the Preliminary Fiscal Budget 2019-2020. Each member of the Board received their budget binder previously for review.

Mr. Petralia informed Board members that he would need to excuse himself at approximately 8:45 AM to attend a special Veterans Day Ceremony being held at the Greenland Central School.

Ms. Ransom presented the Board with the FY 2019-2020 proposed budget for Rye Elementary School and Rye Junior High School. She briefly explained how the budget binder was set up (same format as last year). She noted that the binder has been updated with numbering to make referencing it less cumbersome; broken out by section with an overview that leads into the detailed item request.

Ms. Ransom noted that Mr. Petralia had asked her to use the SAU 50 Tyler Accounting System for some aspects of the budget report. This year she used the aforementioned system for "position budgeting." Every staff member was given a position title rather than the previous format which was by staff name. She explained that the spreadsheet is lengthy due to the way the Collective Bargaining

Agreement is broken out. A teacher's base salary is a line item, longevity is a line and degree is a line item. The Tyler system also breaks the report down by account number. The software automatically calculates the benefits for each position.

Dr. Marion expressed that in an effort to be transparent to the public, including job title only in the budget allows for an individual staff member to be easily determined by the public.

Mr. Petralia stated that salary is public information and okay to post.

Ms. Ransom noted that due to privacy reasons, she excluded staff members that chose to take "buyouts."

Ms. Honda felt that teaching positions listed within the report would not be an issue.

Ms. Ransom noted health insurance has a GMR of 6.7%, dental insurance is 2.3% and New Hampshire Retirement increased for teachers and decreased for other staff employees.

Ms. Ransom stated the default budget including state/federal grants and food service is at \$13,982,511.00 which is a decrease from last year. Once requests are calculated the budget increases \$222,674.00. The total budget being net increase of 1.46% from the 2018-2019 budgets.

The budget is broken out by function for requests. Ms. Ransom will go line by line to discuss each request.

Para Educator Salaries were reclassified per the new law. There were no raises for RESPA employees.

Scholar supplies

Scholar Supplies decrease based on needs of the schools. Going forward the freight line will be incorporated into the scholar supplies account. The amount budgeted is based on the need including shipping.

Instructional Equipment

There was a request for instructional equipment for RJH consisting of three stand-up desks for staff and one for a table set up for a language arts classroom. Dr. Marion reiterated that multiple quotes should be sought out on those items in order to get the most reasonable price.

Art

There are no major changes to either school for Art other than slight supply increases.

Language Arts

Reading books decreased at RES while they increased at RJH.

Dr. Marion and Ms. Lull discussed how the grade five transition to the middle school would affect the requisition requests. Ms. Ransom stated that is taken into account therefore, the RES budget will

decrease slightly as the RJH budget will simultaneously increase. Ms. Ransom noted that the increase and decrease amounts may not be a perfect swap because they are also taking additional enrollment numbers into account.

There was discussion between Dr. Marion and Ms. Lull regarding the Lucy Caulkins Language Arts material. He questioned why there was not a greater shift to do on-line curriculum. Ms. Lull explained the foundations like spelling, vocabulary and handwriting need to be practiced with workbooks etc.

Ms. Killen reiterated that many foundation skills cannot be taught online. For example, K-2 are unable to manipulate more advanced skills on iPads. The younger children need more basic tools to advance their learning scope.

Dr. Marion asked why the older students needed workbooks. Ms. Lull responded that the older students use workbooks for journals and readers workshop.

Ms. Honda noted that she has a current fifth grader at RES. She stated her child is required to go through the process of actually writing in a journal. As a parent she feels this is valuable for handwriting while also incorporating vocabulary.

The Language Arts Subscription has increased at RJH due to enrollment numbers and the grade five transition.

World Language

RES budget is down. RJH is up \$247. There is a new World Language teacher at RJH that needs certain items for the curriculum.

Physical Education

Ms. Ransom informed the Board that Physical Education has decreased.

At RES the supplies needed are balls and nets. RJH has some recurring costs as well including a new back stop.

Life Skills

Ms. Tsetsilas asked if additional funding was needed for the fifth graders at RJH. She questioned if the budget needed to increase more to cover the additional students. Ms. Ransom noted that there was currently an increase for a sewing machine replacement. Last year RJH actually spent less than the set preliminary budget amount so it is her understanding that the current preliminary budget will be enough to include the fifth grade students.

Mathematics

Math in Focus was renewed for next year. The contract will continue through next year (1 year contract). Online manipulatives, textbooks and test generators are included in the contract. The Administrators will be looking at other mathematics programs to choose from. Ms. Killen noted that

administrators will meet after the Thanksgiving break to discuss the other math programs that are offered on the market.

Ms. Tsetsilas asked if the online math subscriptions, like Dreambox, were being utilized by parents at home. Ms. Lull stated they are able to track usage. Most classes use the online components in centers during class. Teachers use it consistently. Older students use the textbooks in collaboration with the smartboard.

Music

RES has a slight increase for repairs, piano tuning and a new music application. Ms. Lull noted the music application was for chorus. RJH has increased slightly for replacement instruments.

Dr. Marion asked if additional instruments would be needed for the grade five transition. Ms. Honda said no because students rent instruments in that grade.

Science

Mystery Science K-5 curriculum is new this year for the whole SAU 50.

RJH has an increase for items such as ROV robotics and replacement consumable equipment (converters). Dr. Marion asked if there is a justified fit for use of vex robots in the science curriculum. Ms. Honda asked if they are able to use the robots repeatedly. Ms. Soucy said yes.

Social Studies

RES has a decrease for supplies and books due to more components online. There is an increase due to an atlas purchase and workbooks.

Tech Ed

RJH has a budget increase for supplies such as lumber, screws and nails. There is an increase for small hand tools and additional equipment.

Special Education

There has been a 2.5% raise for the Special Education Coordinator proposed in the SAU 50 Budget.

RES – a decrease in services based on student IEP.

RJH – slight increase for teacher salary but no increase to student services.

HS – as a whole has decreased specifically due to tuition to private schools.

Ms. Tsetsilas asked what special education increases/decreases are based on. Ms. Ransom indicated it is based on how many IEPs are currently in the program on file. It is also based on history of who will be leaving the program or referrals of IEPs entering into the system. Ms. Reinhardt noted that one of the big decreases in contracted services is due to the hire of a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst. Less outside contracted services will be necessary with this addition. They will work with children who have educational needs based on their IEPs. The BCBA will be shared between Greenland and Rye.

ESOL Teacher

There is a reduction of a staff member that is currently at .9% to point .8% based on the needs for next year.

PreSchool

Preschool is based on student IEP needs at age three. A child can enter the program at any point in the year. Ms. Ransom stated that budget had decreased by \$11,000 based on the students they are aware of at this juncture. Ms. Reinhardt reiterated to the Board that this number was just for Rye Preschool students identified with IEP needs. Greenland, Newington and New Castle for example, have budget line items for their PreK IEP students and are charged a fee.

Assemblies

Ms. Tsetsilas questioned Ms. Soucy about the parent participation in the Brown Center trip last year. She noted that parents were budgeted into the cost of the trip but did not end up participating. She feels parents that sign up to attend the Brown Center trip, yet in turn do not attend the trip, should be required to reimburse the district for the cost incurred.

Ms. Honda feels it is a positive opportunity for parents to attend such a field trip with their child but agreed that there should be an obligation for parents to attend if confirmed to participate.

Ms. Tsetsilas suggested parents pay in advance and if they attend they are then reimbursed.

Dr. Marion stated his belief that the school budget should not pay for parents to attend field trips in general.

Ms. Testulas decided to make finding the adult per head cost as an action item for the next meeting.

Co-Curriculum Salaries

The only change is the Rye Recreation stipend to reimburse the district for the recreation staff person.

Athletic supplies went down. Last year new uniforms were purchased. Ms. Honda asked if other gear needed replacement (helmets, bats). Ms. Soucy will check with Ms. Cronin.

Guidance Counselor

Testing at RES is down. Books have increased.

RJH testing has increased (ie STAR testing).

Nurse

RES has a reduction in nursing equipment/repairs and shows an increase in supplies.

RJH shows a small increase in supplies.

Psychologist

This budget is based on student IEP. There is student testing throughout the year. There is an increase in need at RJH. Ms. Reinhardt noted students are evaluated at least every three years.

Speech Therapist

This budget is based on IEP. Hardware has increased. Ms. Reinhardt noted that the increase is based on communication tools that are needed for current students. The communication tools/devices travel with a child throughout their educational career.

Professional Growth

This budget is based on the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Ms. Ransom noted the full amount is not budgeted in to the CBA line because not every teacher takes advantage of the programs offered. Ms Ransom offered the example of last years budget was for \$20,000 and only \$15,000 was used.

Library

There was a reduction in internet subscription, increase in supplies and books. Ms. Ransom noted that there was an increase of replacement equipment at RJH of \$1,200. Ms. Soucy noted that this increase was for three school wide projectors.

Ms. Tsetsilas asked how often the internet subscriptions are reevaluated. Ms. Lull stated that a new program called Class Link shows the programs that are being used and how often. Both schools have access to Class Link.

Technology

Ms. Ransom indicated the administrators are awaiting guidance regarding HB 1612. Currently the state has given no matix on how to track the information necessary to make changes. Dr. Marion stated the state would have to give the Board the time to build the budget and review the changes in the law.

Internet Subscriptions increased due to content filters, jump cloud and necessary infrastructure that need to be updated including the cost of Malware and Sonicwall.

RES has an increase in Technical Equipment towards the purchase of a new sound system in the gymnasium. The current system is twenty five years old. RES is requesting to purchase new iPads. RJH is looking to upgrade the phone system to match that of RES. They also have requested new computers for the office staff.

School Board

No big budget changes are recommended.

Ms. Tsetsilas discussed her desire to have the board increase marketing efforts. One idea would be to create a marketing video (approximately 2 minutes), as well as brochures to hand out to real estate agents to promote RES and RJH. She would like to add an additional \$2,250 under the *Other* budget line for the purpose of increasing marketing efforts to draw in families considering a move to the town of Rye.

Ms. Moynahan discussed that the Rye Live Streaming was \$1800 per year and feels currently it is not being utilized by the public. She also noted that it was inconsistent in its recording ability. She questioned the value added of this utility versus its cost. Dr. Marion suggested looking at the number of hits over the course of several months. Ms. Tsetsilas suggested also surveying the parent community to see how often they use the service.

The Board took a brief recess at 10:23 a.m.

The Board returned to the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Public Comment

Mr. Crawford – Mr. Crawford stated that his data showed the Live Stream was being utilized by the public. He felt the link to the meetings needed to be more streamlined so users would not have to seek out the most current meeting. He thought if the link to the Live Stream was updated on the website it may receive more hits. Mr. Crawford suggested an adjustment could be made to the many buses that take kids to and from school that seem to be empty.

Dr. Marion and Ms. Honda reiterated that buses by law have to be made available to students.

Ms. Moynahan indicated that the SAU 50 is currently in the fifth year of a five year contract with the bus company. Discussion regarding transportation will affect next year's budget.

Ms. Honda noted that she and Sal will be riding the bus routes to survey current needs and usage. Clustering pickups may prove helpful however, some bus rides are already extremely long in duration.

Ms. Labovitz – Co-President of the PTA. Ms Labovitz requested additional funding be made to the budget for several items. Her first request was in regard to the composting initiative. Currently, composting is occurring at RES with Mr. Fox. The PTA is paying for it yet feel it should become a responsibility of the budget. She indicated adding it to the RJH budget noting that as the fifth graders transition to middle school they have obtained knowledge on the benefits of composting.

Ms. Labovitz discussed the possibility of a dishwasher at RES in an effort to be more environmentally responsible (washing utensils rather than plastic). Additionally, Ms Labovitz reminded the Board that the PTA sponsored a thriving theatrical production in 2017-2018. Performing arts is limited at RES and the PTA feels it is an important part of education. While the PTA received a grant last year they are hoping this is something the Board can include in the budget going forward. Lastly she discussed the need for a school crossing guard at the elementary school reminding the Board that a number of students bike or walk to school and crossing Sagamore Rd can prove treacherous. She noted that often the Rye police will park there but they are not obligated and often are busy responding to official duty. Ms. Moynahan stated that many years ago she was the crossing guard for both school and was paid by the police department.

Principal

2.5 % raise for both RES and RJH Principal. Decrease in RES and RJH Internet subscription due to the cancellation of Schoology.

Custodial

Increase in Custodial Supervisor 2.5% raise and the Board voted to give a stipend to the head custodian.

Facilities

There are proposed increases in Facilities for several areas. RES has two doors within the inner sanctum of building that need to be updated into security doors (this is contingent on the Rye Rec Adult Program). Ms Tsetsilas noted that the security doors were only necessary if Rye Rec would be hosting the program within the RES building. If Rye Rec was not going forward with the plan to use RES then it would not be necessary to update the current doors.

The RES gymnasium floor is in need of substantial repair including sanding the entire floor, staining, line painting, etc. Ms. Honda questioned how long ago the RES gymnasium floors had been refinished and Ms. Moynahan suggested it has been at least twenty years.

Ms. Lull noted potential lunch program budget increases. Ms. Furman is researching an industrial strength dishwashing machine. Currently the cost for a machine that can wash pots and pans simultaneously is approximately \$26,000.00. There is a less costly option that would not accommodate for washing pots and pans. Ms. Furman will gather more quotes specific to that item. Ms. Lull estimated that if a new dishwasher was purchased it would take only five years to reach a return on the investment. The school would no longer need to purchase as many plastic utensils, plates etc.

Dr. Marion stated that there would need to be a strong case made for the effectiveness of such a switch. He suggested the students be prompted to use this opportunity to gather data as a STEM project. Through project based learning students could research water flow efficiency, effect on septic system, electricity used, the current cost and usage of plastics, etc.

The RES lunch room is also in need of purchasing new lunch tables to more easily accommodate students while establishing a more efficient set-up/take-down process.

Dr. Marion raised a question about the water testing that is currently being done every six months. Ms. Ransom reminded him that it is a requirement to test the water and HB 1612.

Mr. Petralia noted that, with new legislation, schools are required to test every water access point. He stated that the State only pays for a small amount towards the total cost of testing. Mr. Petralia stated the budget will reflect the additional cost now required to test all of the access points including toilet water and outdoor faucets. Ms. Ransom added that if testing indicates levels are below what the state mandates, the testing will not be required for an additional three years. In the interim the budget will incorporate the cost for testing. She noted the mandate was just for lead testing at every access point. RJH is in need of the replacement of two interior doors that are currently not up to fire code (Art Room and Gymnasium). There are is also a need to refinish the Gymnasium floor. It is currently a safety hazard due to cupping of the floors.

RJH is in need of replacing thirty seven of the buildings windows. New valances and shoes are required for the safety and operation of the windows in order to open/close. Some of the windows currently are inoperative. The quote given was for \$22,350.00. Ms. Ransom noted that this need could be taken out as a warrant article.

Ms. Honda asked if the window request could fit into the Capital Improvement Plan.

Ms. Moynahan noted that projects have to be given to the Capital Improvement Committee during the summer. She said it would be addressed in the 2019 session.

Ms. Tsetsilas questioned how the request would fit as a warrant article.

Ms Moynahan responded that by issuing it as a warrant article the Board would be offering transparency about the implicit needs of the school building. This would allow for the Rye community members to voice their agreement/disagreement of said need. She noted that during the renovation twenty-two years ago none of the front side windows were replaced at that time reiterating how old the windows truly are.

Ms. Ransom noted that the windows are a safety issue. Many of the windows are unable to be opened to provide fresh air. Replacement of the windows would ensure more efficient heating during the winter months.

Ms. Ransom noted she will be doing an energy audit for the Greenland School District during Spring 2019 and she could include RJH in a similar energy audit to provide information for the 2020-2021 budget.

Dr. Marion reiterated that he supports the warrant process in order to provide the funds for the replacement of windows.

Ms. Honda agreed and added that if there were truly one or two windows that are an utmost safety concern those should be included in the 2019-2020 budget in order to address concerns promptly.

Mr. Petralia asked if a Building Maintenance Expendable Trust was also an option. Ms. Moynahan said it is not set up for unanticipated items.

RJH has a request to paint the stairway walls, ground floor, first floor and second floor hallways. Ms. Lull suggested having the custodians do some of the painting during the summer. Ms. Ransom noted that just to have custodians do all the required cleaning over summer weeks is a big endeavor. They may not have the hours to fit in painting.

Dr. Marion feels we should stage the painting in phases rather than all at once. Ms. Moynahan reiterated that some of the areas of the school have not been repainted since the renovation that occurred twenty-two years ago.

Ms. Ransom asked if the Board wanted to leave \$9,000.00 in the budget in order to, at a minimum, do the first floor. The Board agreed to \$9,450.00 for year one of four years to complete the painting project.

RJH also requested for four new entranceway rugs in the main lobby as well as new rubber flooring on the ramp located near the school library.

Ms. Honda wants to remind the public that there are many savings within the requests as far as electricity, insurances, etc.

Ms. Lull asked if the cost of Mr. Fox to compost should be added to the budget (currently the PTA is paying it but requesting the school budget cover the cost going forward). The cost for the elementary school composting would be \$2,500.00. Ms. Tsetsilas noted that she would like to see the composting also budgeted into RJH in order for students to continue the process from elementary school through middle school.

Ms. Ransom noted that the custodian has requested an increase in the budget for Lawn Care and Community Field (Lang Field). Dr. Marion asked if we charge non community members to use the field. Ms. Moynahan indicated there was a fee schedule currently being created.

Ms. Tsetsilas asked if there was a plan to make additions (swings, slide) to the RJH playground area especially with the transition of grade five. Ms. Honda felt such items would not be utilized by the student population at the middle school level. Ms. Tsetsilas reiterated that she had taken a survey of grade four students that indicated they would want those items. Ms. Soucy recommended that we wait to have the grade five transition to occur and see the dynamic during the first year and then review this topic.

Outdoor Maintenance Repairs

The custodian has requested a pressure washer.

Additional Non Instructional Equipment

RES reiterated the request for a new lunch table set up for the cost of \$14,595.00. The cost is for ten tables. Ms. Lull reiterated that the custodian spends a large amount of time setting up tables and chairs everyday (over 100 individual chairs per day). The school has "flip tables." It takes the custodian time from his other custodial duties. She reiterated there is added pressure when the custodian has to rush in order to get ready for an assembly.

Ms. Moynahan noted that current tables are as old as the building (twenty-two years).

Security

Security has increased to accommodate for the new monitoring system. The new system is required to be on the server. There are added maintenance and monitoring costs in order to maintain the integrity of the new system.

Mr. Marion asked for further detail as to how the new security system was purchased. Mr. Petralia presumed it was covered by the grant. The grant only covered the installation, not the continued upkeep of the system. Mr. Petralia noted that in the future for such an item (ie security system), that the cost of continued maintenance is also indicated when applying for a grant in an effort to avoid having added costs incurred on the budget.

Additional funds requested for the RJH fire alarms system for \$1,000.00. The request is specific to the fire alarm not the sprinkler system/extinguisher.

Transportation

Ms. Ransom stated the SAU 50 is at the end of a five year agreement with the current contracted bus company (First Student). The SAU is going to bid to establish a new contract going forward.

Mr. Petralia noted that he recently met with David Fairweather, the Area General Manager of First Student. More information in regard to that meeting will be discussed during non-public session as it pertains to contract negotiations.

Ms. Ransom added that there is a metric that they are currently using to compare other area bids.

Special Education Transportation is based on the needs and IEPs. There is an increase of up to 5% that vendors may add on to their prices. Currently that percentage is incorporated into the budget.

Office Maintenance

A printer/copier machine has been requested at RJH to accommodate the grade five transition. Ms. Ransom explained to Board members how copy machine agreements work.

Ms. Soucy clarified that currently there is a small printer located in the basement but that the Unified Arts teachers do not have a copy machine located in the basement.

Dr. Marion felt the cost quoted for a printer/copier machine at \$3,100.00 seemed high. Ms. Honda asked if the new machine was a necessity. She suggested purchasing a less expensive multi functioning printer not a copy machine.

The Board entered a short recess at 11:43 AM

The Board Reconvened at 11:50 AM

Public Comment

Ms. Labovitz reiterated to the Board that the budget discussion must continue to keep in mind the grade five students. She would like the budget increase to provide specific opportunities based on their move to the Junior High (for example needs for potential additional transportation athletics, field trips).

Ms. Ransom made an additional comment regarding the security system. The monitoring of the system is changing over from Seacoast Security to Pelmac Security. Therefore, there will be an

additional \$900 annually to cover monitoring plus a \$500 per building (one time cost) for the video system that must be posted on the server for both schools.

Employee Benefits

Healthtrust rates have increased to 6.7%. This is based on elected plans staff members have made for family versus an individual plan. Ms. Ransom noted the proposed budget for Health Insurance will always be higher than the default. Mr. Petralia further explained that in the addition of new hires a former employee may have had an individual insurance plan but the new hire elects a family plan. All of these types of fluctuations must be taken into account within the budget.

Dental insurance same concept as health insurance with a 2.3% guaranteed max rate increase.

Life Insurance was a small increase due to the changing of vendors and better rates.

FICA Insurance is based on salary same as NH Retirement for support staff and teaching staff. There is an increase for teachers up 17.8% (was 17.3%) and a decrease for support staff (from 11.37%) to 11.17%. The decrease is due to the fact that New Hampshire feels teachers stay in the system longer and return as retirees.

Facilities Studies

Ms. Ransom noted that Facility Studies are level funded due to a list of items that need to be addressed on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Gordon met with Ms. Ransom with a list of maintenance items such as exhaust fans that need replacing, refinish of the RJH gym floor, check valve replacement at RES, and Control Systems.

Ms. Honda asked how maintenance objectives are being tracked on a yearly basis. Dr. Marion asked if there was an ongoing list that is regularly updated on a consistent basis. Ms. Ransom indicated that Mr. Gordon was compiling such a list. The previous list was a 20 year plan list of items on a rotating basis. Ms. Honda suggested that this list needs to be referenced with the CIP list.

Ms Ransom noted last year we used all of the money budgeted for maintenance. She expressed schools are continually spending on maintenance.

Ms. Honda indicated she would like to see a comparison for the last few years specific to the continued maintenance budget line. She also wanted to ensure that the yearly funds were used as they were intended. Ms. Ransom indicated that she would review the previous list created by Jim Katkin to the current list made by Mr Gordon. Mr. Gordon will now keep track of the items on the maintenance list as they are added and then completed. Ms. Ransom noted that Mr. Gordon will also receive a stipend for overseeing said list.

Food Service

Food Service is an enterprise fund. The commodities piece has been reduced.

Ms. Tsetsilas inquired about several items unrelated to food service. She noted that in September and June classrooms tend to get hot. She is curious if there are fans within the classrooms and/or if teachers are permitted to bring personal fans.

Ms. Soucy stated that RJH has ceiling fans.

Ms. Lull stated within RES some classrooms have fans and teachers bring in fans.

It was determined that at this time there was no other solution to the temperatures within the classrooms during warmer weather.

Ms. Tsetsilas had additional questions regarding the grade five transition: Will they use chromebooks? Ms. Lull stated they would take the assigned chromebooks they are currently using at RES.

Ms. Tsetsilas asked if RJH will require more parking spaces with the increase of staff and parents due to the grade five transition? She estimated at least ten new spots for parking would be needed.

Ms. Ransom noted that adding parking spaces may take away from playground space and may not work with traffic flow.

Ms. Honda stated it's not possible to add to the budget for this year. She and Mr. Petralia agree to review next year, post grade five transition and reevaluate the parking situation.

Ms. Tsetsilas stated that she feels there is a need for improved signage at RJH - possibly an electronic sign.

Ms. Honda and Dr. Marion agreed to discuss the prospect of a new sign after the Town Election/Vote in March 2019.

Mr. Petralia suggested that a subcommittee be established to research the topic.

Ms. Tsetsilas referenced the earlier public comment regarding budgeting for a RES theatre production. Ms. Lull spoke of several issues they had in previous years with an all school elementary play. For example finding a teacher that wants to take on such a project, it requires a lot of parent involvement, supervision and age appropriate attention span for practice times. Ms. Lull suggested another option would be to host an after school enrichment program where parents pay for their child to be part of a theatre program. She also noted on a smaller scale Artist in Residence programs visit the school and work with a specific grade levels.

Ms. Tsetsilas discussed "climate and culture" as it pertains to the Rye School District. She questioned how to approach the concept of surveying a plan for the topic eighteen months out.

Dr. Marion stated his feeling that first there needs to be a number and a plan behind the number.

Ms. Honda shared her opinion that they will need to have a plan in place for the next five years for each building for the climate and culture of each school post the grade five shift to RJH.

Mr. Petralia noted his belief that part of the concept needs to reflect back into an identified concern issue. What are the concerns; vaping, drugs, bullying? Are there underlying issues that do not get reported?

Ms. Honda noted there is recognition needed for all the work currently being done by staff and board members to improve school climate and culture and agreed it should be an ongoing endeavor.

A motion was made by Ms. Honda, seconded by Dr. Marion to enter into non-public session at 12:28 PM in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, IIc for personnel and contract negotiation. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

A motion was made by Dr. Marion and seconded by Ms. Moynahan to come out of non-public at 1:35 PM. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

A motion was made by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Dr. Marion to seal the non-public minutes at 1:36 PM. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

Technology Staffing

Ms. Ransom noted that there is a 2.5% raise for Systems Administrator.

The Integrator salary has a reduction in staff to .5% in the default budget. This is a Rye district-wide level position. and reduction is based on less need.

Other

Ms. Ransom asked if the Board had any additional changes they would like to be made to the preliminary budget prior to the next meeting. Ms. Honda and Ms. Moynahan stated that the changes discussed throughout the meeting seem sufficient at this time.

Ms. Ransom discussed briefly the Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement with RESPA. She noted that she has a clarification so the number may change. Currently it is for a five year agreement at \$65,217.00, for the first year which includes changes to salary, health insurance and FICA NH Retirement. The number will decrease over the course of the five years. Ms. Honda noted it is a warrant article for this year. Ms. Ransom will create the wording for the warrant article. Ms. Moynahan noted that if the CBA warrant article does not pass then a second warrant article will need to be created. The second warrant article is to allow reentering in to negotiations if the CBA warrant article does not pass.

Ms. Honda asked if there were any further questions. There were no other budget related questions. The Board members commended Ms. Ransom on a comprehensive and well led budget session. Ms. Honda opened up discussion for public comments.

Public Comments

Mr. Crawford asked if the High School Budget had been discussed. He questioned how many Rye students are currently at the high school versus how many we had budgeted for the 2018-2019 school year. Ms. Ransom noted in the 2018-2019 it was budgeted for 180 students however as of October 1, 2018 the actual number of students is 171. For the 2019-2020 school year the number is currently anticipated to be 177 students therefore Ms. Ransom noted that she left the budget cost at \$17,350.00 (the same number as the last year budget).

Mr. Crawford referenced the Lister Academy. Ms. Ransom noted it was still in the budget as level funded.

Mr. Petralia informed the public that the Board chairs met in October and gave him the authorization to organize a meeting between SAU 52 Superintendent with attorneys and one school Board member present to discuss AREA Agreement and Lister Academy as well as potential alternatives to the AREA Agreement as it relates to Lister Academy.

Mr. Crawford offered information he compiled from Vimeo in regard to the School Board Meeting streaming hits on the website. He felt the numbers he gathered were attributed to a better system of when the PTA would post on the Facebook page. Ms. Honda explained that some of the hits may be from a single person watching a video in segments (rather than one sitting). Town Hall Streams accounts for hits differently than Vimeo. Town Hall Streams are counted by a single viewer regardless if they stop and restart a particular video stream.

Dr. Marion noted that the streaming of meetings is now an expectation to the community and should not be eliminated. The Board agreed any Town Hall Streaming issues should be fixed and the PTA should be encouraged to promote the links on Facebook.

Mr. Crawford stated that the school website should also create direct links to view meetings. Ms. Honda noted that she had recently updated the School Board section of the Rye websites for users to navigate agendas and meetings more directly.

Ms. Ransom asked Board members when they would like to schedule a next meeting to review the budget prior to the Rye Budget meeting.

The date of November 14th at 5:00 PM was set.

At 2:00 PM a brief recess was taken prior to the start of the regular School Board meeting scheduled for 2:30 PM.

Ms. Honda called to order the regular School Board Meeting at 2:38PM.

Mr. Petralia reviewed communication received from the New Hampshire School Department Commissioner approving the Rye District's request to conduct remote instructional days (due to inclement weather), for the upcoming school year.

Mr. Petralia noted that it was discussed at the recent Administrators meeting that the Blizzard Bags would not begin on the first snow day rather on the second official snow day. Newington also applied for the remote instructional day and was approved based on the same criteria.

Ms. Tsetsilas indicated that Blizzard Bags were received at Open House. RJH Blizzard Bag material will be completed by students online through modified lesson plans. Ms. Tsetsilas wants to make sure RJH parents receive detailed instruction on Blizzard Bags.

Mr. Petralia directed Board members to New Business for discussion on the approval of the teaching model proposed by the grade five transition committee. Principal Soucy previously introduced the model at a recent transition committee meeting Mr. Petralia is now asking the Board for approval for the proposed model as presented.

Dr. Marion stated he believed the school population plan should look out three years rather than five years for planning.

Dr. Marion commended the efforts of teachers that have worked hard to create a more integrative flow of subjects (ie. social studies containing more current events).

Ms. Honda noted there needs to be a process of documenting the history of population within Rye as a way to look at population growth going forward. Discussions going forward based on integrating with the Greenland school district need to be continued. A more formal approach to the collection of documentation on the history of ideas should be established so future Boards have a perspective to compare clearly. The strategic plan needs to be packaged so that public community members can understand clearly there is a plan for moving forward. Ms. Honda feels the Board has been effective thus far in decision making, but would be an added benefit to show history in collaboration with anticipated growth/decline in student population.

Dr. Marion volunteered to be the point person for compiling a more specific strategic plan and gathering all the necessary information into a more concise binder. He stated that Rye School District should be a magnet school reaching out to those who want to take advantage of the opportunity to tuition children in to this unique school.

Mr. Petralia shared that at a recent SAU 50 Joint Board Meeting there was discussion regarding more collaboration between districts within the SAU. Declining enrollment in the Seacoast Area is an issue affecting many communities. It would be advantageous for schools to collaborate their resources.

Public Comment

Mr. Crawford commented on the variation of enrollment. He discussed an RSA dealing with Property Tax forms. He suggested if Rye requires every resident to fill out such a tax form indicating persons living in a household every year, it would better estimate student population.

Mr. Petralia agreed that such a process would be effective. Mr. Crawford will send the RSA he is referencing to Dr. Marion.

Ms. Piela noted that the Veterans Ceremony held at Rye Elementary School early in the day was “one of the best assemblies she has attended. It was very well done.”

Ms. Piela asked how parents can be of support to the budget process as it moves forward to the Town Budget meeting. Ms. Honda noted the budget meeting schedule was on the School Board section of the Rye website. She noted that December 12th is first vote by the Budget Committee. Dr. Marion noted that the second key date was for the public hearing on January 9, 2019.

Ms. Piela asked how the percentages of the Unified Arts teachers at RES/RJH will change with the grade five transition.

Ms. Honda explained that different grade levels have different needs as far as allotment of time for a specific Unified Arts class. The example Ms. Honda used was Physical Education. Younger grades may have the class three times a week while a middle school grade may only have it once or twice a week. In addition there are variables in regard to the capacity within each of the classes. Currently it has been determined that there is still the capacity to fulfill Unified Arts teaching needs. This will all be explained in more detail at the RJH Grade 5 Transition Open House in November.

Ms. Honda reiterated that it is capacity combined with the schedule that allows for the level of current Unified Arts to continue.

Ms. Benson stated she feels fortunate to be a resident of the Town of Rye and allowed to be part of the budget process. She acknowledged the Board has done a great job in being transparent. She thanked them for the impact that they have made. She hoped parents recognize that they too are fortunate to be given the opportunity to participate.

The Board members thanked Ms. Benson for her support.

A Motion was made by Ms. Tsetsilas seconded by Ms. Moynahan to approve the three teacher team Grade 5 Teaching model as presented previously by Ms. Soucy. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

A motion was made by Dr. Marion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan to adjourn the meeting at 3:02 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Samantha Fuller
Secretary to the Superintendent
November 30, 2018


Secretary


Date