

**RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
School Administrative Unit 50  
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*To be approved by the Rye School Board at the March 20, 2019 meeting.*

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

The regular monthly meeting of the School Board of the Rye School District was held at Rye Junior High School on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

School Board Members: Deb Crapo, Margaret Honda, Scott Marion, Paula Tsetsilas  
Jeanne Moynahan

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent  
Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent  
Suzanne Lull, Rye Elementary School Principal

Staff: None

Visitors: Celeste Christo, Carla Cole, Sharon Scott, Joe Cummins, Peter  
Crawford, Lori Carbajal, Frances Erhlebacher

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Honda called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. She announced that a special student presentation will be held at the March School Board meeting. She requested Mr. Petralia present Communications and the Superintendent Report.

**COMMUNICATIONS (1:20)**

Mr. Petralia shared an update on letters sent out to teachers in regard to Grade 5 staffing. The topic will be discussed further during unfinished business.

Mr. Petralia noted a recent email received from a Rye parent that requested the Board look in to increasing the stipend for athletic coaches at Rye Junior High School in an effort to have a more consistent coaching staff from year to year. Coaching consistency would be beneficial to the athletic program most likely resulting in more student participation.

Mr. Marion suggested looking at the stipend compensation that surrounding towns offer their athletic staff.

Ms. Moynahan noted that the current stipend was set quite some years ago and agreed it may need to be adjusted.

Ms. Honda stated that the Board would find out more information and discuss the topic at a future meeting.

## REPORTS

### **Superintendent Report (5:20)**

Mr. Petralia informed the Board that HB 101 and 564 that pertain to gun free school zones were heard earlier that day, February 13, 2019 at the Legislative Office Building in Concord, NH. He noted that legislature has received over 100 emails and letters from gun advocates opposing either piece of legislation. NHSAA had not taken a stand on the issue other than advocating for the safety of staff and students.

Mr. Petralia discussed HB 184 which references Kindergarten and Average Daily Membership. The bill is intended to move full-day kindergarten to equal status in the ADM count and remove Keno as the sole funding source for full-day kindergarten.

Mr. Petralia indicated that the SAU 50 Directory of Technology position had been posted and the application deadline is February 25, 2019. He included in Board packets the search committee timeline and acknowledged the members of the search committee. Mr. Petralia explained the search committee will assist in selecting the best candidates for the first round and make a nomination in time for the March 27<sup>th</sup> SAU 50 Joint Board Committee meeting.

Mr. Petralia provided a copy of the approved SAU 52 academic calendar for 2019-2020. He noted that Ms. Lull had brought to his attention a potential Primary Voting Day in February 2020 that may require schools to close for polling purposes.

Ms. Honda asked that the topic be held for a future meeting as she was aware of discussion within the town regarding alternative polling stations (other than the elementary school), for future primaries and elections.

Mr. Petralia informed the Board of a recent productive meeting of the Executive Board. He also reiterated his pleasure in learning that five teachers had submitted applications for grants to the Clipper Fund. He acknowledged that Ms. Lull was one of those applications.

Mr. Petralia informed Board members that the next Secondary Advisory Committee meeting will be held March 5, 2019. He asked that board members send him agenda items to be discussed at that meeting.

### **Assistant Superintendent Report (16:40)**

Ms. Killen updated members on the grade 5 & 6 science curriculum. She discussed that the science teachers recently participated in a self-reflection on the science practices. Three science programs are currently being reviewed. Each teacher has chosen a unit to pilot of one of the programs being reviewed. They will bring back reflection and student work to the next meeting mid-March. Each teacher is also choosing a NH Science Modular Assessment to have students complete by mid-March. The group will analyze results and plan for the NH Science Assessment for May.

Ms. Lull noted that they used modules last year as an instructional tool to lead in discussion for specific curriculum topics.

Ms. Honda added for the purpose of clarification, that teachers are not teaching to the (assessment) test, rather using them as additional tools to ensure the science curriculum has the necessary components to ensure learning growth.

Ms. Killen next shared the NH State Assessment Comparisons of Rye with other surrounding schools as it pertains to proficiency and growth percentiles.

Ms. Killen noted that she would discuss the iPlatform at the March Board meeting.

Ms. Killen spoke of a recent meeting with the SAU 52 Assistant Superintendent in which they discussed freshman math readiness. It was determined that Rye students are successful as they begin the College Prep Algebra course at PHS. Going forward Ms. Killen will be looking at additional placement tests for Algebra. She will continue to use STAR assessment to assist with recommendations that have to be done in February.

Ms. Killen noted that after speaking with Amanda Weeks, head of the PHS Math Department, that there does not seem to be an overall separation of curriculum understanding for SAU 50 students, however feels that the pace of the accelerated math seems challenging for some SAU 50 students. Within the freshman accelerated math program students are expected to learn one or two new math components per lesson. If a student is having trouble understanding information the burden is placed on them to individually seek help from the teacher or other given resources. Ms. Killen stressed that it is imperative that parents take into consideration placement recommendations given by teachers.

Ms. Killen plans for further collaboration with SAU 52 regarding math competencies being developed.

Ms. Killen gave Board members an update on HB 1612 noting that in addition to an existing law on student privacy a data governance plan also needs to be completed. A part of that plan includes the security of data access. Ms. Killen formed a technology sub-committee to work through the elements of the data governance plan and establish what is already in place, what needs to be completed, and allocating who will be in charge of overseeing each element is completed.

Ms. Killen discussed the privacy requirements for hardcopy and digital information. She included in Board packets policy JRA – Annual Notification of Rights Under Ferpa, and a copy of the FERPA policy. She reiterated to Board members that they must be careful not to reference at any point identifying information in regard to students or staff. Non-public session is the time for discussion of a private issue to take place.

Ms. Moynahan questioned if the policy committee would need to review SAU policy due to HB 1612. Ms. Killen stated that all policies involving privacy (digital or otherwise), would need review in light of the new governance plan.

#### **Principal Report RJH (43:05)**

Ms. Soucy was unable to make the meeting due to sickness. Ms. Lull presented the RJH report on her behalf. Ms. Lull acknowledged the winners of the Spelling Bee and Geography Bee.

Ms. Lull briefly reviewed Ms. Soucy's document for student representation on the School Board. Ms. Honda determined the topic would be further discussed at the March meeting.

#### **Principal Report RES**

Ms. Lull provided Fall – Spring proficiency percentage comparisons for grade 2-5 based on STAR testing results.

Dr. Marion added clarification for community members in attendance as to what the percentages indicate. For example 85<sup>th</sup> percentile as a score indicates a student is performing at a higher level than 85% of the sample population of students in that grade nationwide using said assessment test.

Ms. Lull reiterated that this is one point of data that is utilized twice a year that shows comparison between our students and the rest of the students nationwide. Assessment data is combined with other classroom unit data to determine the direction a student should be guided (ie a student with combined high score in both areas may need an increased grade level in math).

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (55:20)**

### Grade 5 Transition - Staffing

Mr. Petralia shared information regarding Grade 5 staffing. Following protocol the positions were advertised in both RJH and RES. Principals Lull and Soucy made an initial review with recommendations of the applicants. Mr. Petralia stated he was pleased to announce the transfer of two RES staff members moving with grade 5 to RJH. Ms. Audrey Garcia will teach Math and one unit of Social Studies and Ms. Doris Gianforte will teach Language Arts and one unit of Social Studies. Within RJH Sheila Adams, the current grade 8 Science teacher, will move to the grade 5 team where she will continue teaching Science and one unit of Social Studies.

Mr. Petralia reiterated that Principal Lull and Principal Soucy feel this will be an excellent team going forward.

Ms. Honda also congratulated the teachers and in their new positions and agree it will be a very strong grade 5 teaching team.

Mr. Marion asked if this will leave an opening for the grade 8 Science teacher position. Mr. Petralia said yes and they will follow CBA posting guidelines and then proceed to post the position outside the district.

Ms. Crapo asked if a motion should be made to accept the grade 5 teaching nominations. Mr. Petralia stated that a motion to approve the nominations would be made at the March meeting.

### Marketing Initiatives (1:04)

Ms. Crapo spoke with the Town Hall regarding marketing and stated they agreed to work with the School Board. She requested a brief marketing summary from Ms. Tsetsilas that would then be posted on the Town website. The idea of community members being able to opt in to receiving Board agendas will continue to be discussed going forward.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT (1:07)**

Community member, Lori Carbejal had a question in regard to the Lister Academy and how the cost for to the town was determined. She felt the budget does not match with the number of Rye students attending the Academy from year to year.

Mr. Petralia explained a brief history of how the Lister Academy contract came to fruition (formerly known as PASS). Under the current contract (that has been in place for years), the SAU 50 is obligated to pay a fee regardless of the number of SAU 50 students enrolled in the Lister program.

Mr. Petralia noted that Labor Counsel had recently reviewed past agreements and determined those previous agreements may now be illegal in some capacities. The SAU 50 Joint Board (consisting of sixteen school board members), will be assessing the current agreement going forward.

Mr. Petralia offered further perspective on how to view the current Lister academy agreement. He likened it to similar Consumer and Technology programs offered at PHS, band, and sports programs. Tax payers are required to pay money to help support all of those programs regardless if they know a student participating in

them. They are supported in effect to better the community as a whole. Likewise the Lister Academy offers programs to students that support specific interests. The programs need ongoing support regardless if one knows a student participating. Again it is a tough process of supporting our students as a whole community. It is a shared responsibility to run the program. The added benefit of the current agreement is that students within our district will be allowed first access into the programs offered whereas students in other towns not only will pay a greater cost but may also have to be waitlisted should spots be filled.

Mr. Petralia noted currently the Lister Academy Agreement has been on the forefront of discussion due to a decision to budget as its own line item within the total budget. This adaptation allowed for the public to have a more clear view of the cost. In the past while the cost has been consistent over the past years it was set up within the budget in a more complex way.

Mr. Petralia asked that the public understand the parties involved going forward in the contract process will be going back to the table to discuss the legality or illegality of the program formally called PASS (now Lister).

Ms. Honda added that while there are no current students in Rye participating in the Lister Academy, history provides evidence that students who do desire those programs have had the opportunity to participate in their area of interest getting the educational support they needed.

Joseph Cummins briefly spoke in support of Lister Academy stating that in the future some sort of agreement be memorialized so that Rye students may continue take advantage of the opportunity.

Mr. Cummins inquired about the Science Program. Mr. Marion informed him that Science had been discussed at length earlier in the meeting and directed him to review the recording at another time.

Mr. Cummins stated his belief that there had been a flaw in the process at the Deliberative Session. He then spoke in regard to his experience at that meeting.

Peter Crawford stated his frustration with the way the Deliberative session had run. He felt RSAs had not been debated and discussed properly at said meeting. He also reiterated his belief that there was inadequate posting of the warrants and announcement for the Deliberative Session. He ended his comments by handing each of the Board members a letter expressing his frustrations.

Community member, Frances Erhlebacher, stated that while she had not attended the Deliberative Session, she had heard from others what occurred at the meeting. She expressed her feeling that each person at the meeting should have been granted the opportunity to discuss the warrant articles.

Mr. Marion reiterated that on January 24, 2019 Ms. Ransom posted warrant article at the Town Hall, RES, RJH, SAU 50 Central Office and on the SAU 50 website well in advance of the scheduled Deliberative Session.

Dr. Marion reminded the public that the Moderator was in charge of running the Deliberative Session not the School Board.

Ms. Honda pointed out that three of the five school board members had asked for warrants to be reconsidered for discussion at said meeting but still there were not enough votes to do so.

Ms. Crapo spoke to Mr. Crawford's letter.

Ms. Tsetsilas explained her rationale for voting in favor of not reconsidering discussion at the Deliberative Session.

Carla Cole put forth a proposal to add a third twenty minute recess to the elementary school day. This would entail a contract negotiation going forward for teachers for a proposed fifteen minutes to be added on at the end of the school day. Ms. Cole reiterated her understanding that recess is a fundamental part of social emotional growth for children.

Ms. Moynahan agreed with the benefits of an added recess and longer school day, however, reminded the Board that this may entail rearranging bus schedules.

At 6:51 PM Ms. Honda called for a short break.

At 6:57 PM Ms. Honda called the meeting back to order.

### **Gym Use Prioritization (2:00)**

Ms. Honda stated that she will work closely with principals to gain a better understanding of the prioritization of the gym and space availability going forward. The schedule policy will also be reviewed and updated in the coming months.

### **Action Item List**

Board members took time to review the most recent action item list to clean it up and review assigned tasks going forward.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Parent Survey (2:27)**

It was decided to replace the parent survey with focus groups. Further discussion will take place at the March meeting.

### **REPORTING COMMITTEES**

#### **Policy (2:37)**

IMG – Animals in Schools – was discussed. Ms. Moynahan explained the response from the SAU 50 insurance carrier Primex. Primex will not cover a staff member bringing in an animal. In order to be covered the staff hired role must be specifically as handler to the particular therapy animal.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to hold on further discussion of Policy IMG – Animals in Schools at this time. Vote: 5-0.*

JBAB – Transgender and Nonconforming Policy – was discussed.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Crapo to approve and adopt Policy JBAB – Transgender and Nonconforming Policy for first reading. Vote: 5-0.*

KDCA – Use of students in Public Information Program was discussed.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Crapo, to approve and adopt as amended Policy Use of Students in Public Information Program. Vote: 5-0.*

KED – Public Concerns or Complaints about Facilities or Services was discussed.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Crapo, to approve and adopt Policy KED – Public Concerns or Complaints about Facilities or Services. Vote: 5-0.*

KFA – Public Conduct on School Property was discussed.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Crapo, to approve and adopt Policy KFA – Public Conduct on School Property. Vote: 5-0.*

KFB – Weapons Free School Zone was discussed.

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Crapo, to approve for first reading Policy KFB – Weapons Free School Zone. Vote: 5-0.*

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT (2:58)**

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Crapo to approve with edits the public minutes of January 16, 2019. Vote: 4-0-1*

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the non-public minutes of January 16, 2019. Vote: 4-0-1.*

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Crapo to approve with edits the public minutes of February 5, 2019. Vote: 5-0*

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the non-public minutes of February 5, 2019. Vote: 5-0*

### **Approval of Manifest**

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan to approve the manifest voucher of January 12, 2019 to January 31, 2019 in the amount of \$443,244.05. Vote: 5-0.*

*Dr. Marion made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to approve the manifest voucher of February 1, 2019 to February 11, 2019 in the amount of \$349,552.85. Vote: 5-0.*

### **NON-PUBLIC SESSION -None**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*On a motion by Dr. Marion, and seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, the Board adjourned their meeting at 8:11 p.m. Vote: 5-0.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Samantha Fuller  
February 22, 2019*

**Rye School Board  
2/13/19 Meeting  
Action Items**

<b>Project/Status</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Action Item</b>
<b>Student Surveys</b>	May	Marie, Suzanne, Scott	Share results as available.
<b>RSD Public Gym Use Policy</b>	April	Margaret	Provide fee and use schedule recommendation for RSD policy
<b>Revisit Bus Utilization</b>	Winter	Sal/Margaret	Determine efficiency and use of bus routes for cost savings measure
<b>Driveway Patching</b>	Winter	Deb/Jim Gordon	Deb to coordinate meeting with Jim Gordon
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	Ongoing	Sal/Margaret	Sal to look into organizations and resources available to School Board
<b>Parent Focus Group</b>	March	Scott	Board to consider holding late May focus groups; hire researcher to conduct
<b>REF/PTA/School Board Appreciation</b>	Spring 2019	Margaret	Volunteerism ceremony
<b>Town Election Venue</b>	Winter	Paula & Town Admin	Ask BOS to consider Rye Congregational Church as potential election venue
<b>Science Curriculum</b>	Winter	Scott, Kelli Killen, Marie Soucy	Meet and discuss science mapping
<b>Solar Panels</b>	Winter/ Spring	Scott/Sal	Scott to work with principals to present alternate energy proposals to the Board, with the intent of going "greener"
<b>Population Tracking</b>	Winter	Paula	Paula to further explore viability of implementing RSA Chapter 74 or annual census/other population tracking methods



<b>Special Issues</b>	Fall	TBD	Select date and forum for public discussion on potential RJH re-name
<b>SAU50 Policy Review</b>	Spring	Jeanne, Sal	Work with NHSBA and SAU50 colleagues for possible policy audit.
<b>PHS Data</b>	March	Kelli	Elaborate data to show comparisons with Greenland and PMS students
	April		Report on Q3 grades
<b>E-alerts for Minutes and Meetings</b>	Winter	Deb	Look into posting meeting dates and minutes on Rye Town website.
<b>District Press Releases</b>	Winter	Deb	Work with principals to create schedule of student activities worthy of releases.
<b>Public open houses</b>	Spring	Suzanne & Marie	Provide feedback to idea of public open houses for each school
		Deb	Publicize election day open house at RES
<b>Comprehensive marketing plan</b>	Winter	Paula & Deb	Develop comprehensive marketing and retention plans for district
<b>2019-2020 Calendar</b>	March	Sal & Board	Monitor potential change due to upcoming primary election
<b>Therapeutic dog policy</b>	March	Sal	Advise Board on recommended next steps.

Paula Tsetsilas  
Paula Tsetsilas, Secretary

3/20/19  
Date