

*To be approved by the Rye School Board at the February 12, 2018 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, January 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

School Board Members: Kevin Brandon, Margaret Honda, Scott Marion,  
Jeanne Moynahan, Paula Tsetsilas

Administrators: Salvatore Petralia, Superintendent  
Amy Ransom, Assistant Business Administrator

Staff: Kathy Collyer

Residents/Visitors: Kerry Labovitz, Tasha Benson, Sarah Curtin,  
Matthew Curtin, Natasha Goyette, Julie  
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**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Marion called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

On a motion made by Mr. Brandon, and seconded by Ms. Honda, the Board entered into non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Vote: 5-0.

**RETURN TO PUBLIC**

On a motion made by Ms. Tsetsilas, and seconded by Mr. Brandon, the Board returned to public session at 5:40. Vote: 5-0.

On a motion made by Ms. Moynahan, and seconded by Mr. Brandon, the Board voted to seal the non-public minutes. Vote: 5-0.

The Board resumed the regular public meeting at 5:43 p.m.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Approval of public minutes of December 20, 2017 and January 3, 2018.**

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the public minutes of December 20, 2017, as amended. Vote: 5-0.*

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the non-public minutes of December 20, 2018. Vote: 5-0.*

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the non-public minutes of January 3, 2018. Vote: 5-0.*

### **Approval of Manifest**

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the manifest voucher of December 16, 2017 to December 29, 2017 in the amount of \$1,825,992.35.  
Vote: 5-0.*

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the manifest voucher of December 30, 2017 to January 9, 2018 in the amount of \$104,825.49.  
Vote: 5-0.*

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to approve the manifest voucher of January 10, 2018 to January 12, 2018 in the amount of \$352,224.67.  
Vote: 5-0.*

### **Communications**

The Rye School Board will hold their next meeting on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

The March School Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Petralia received communication from Rye PTA and Rye Education Foundation regarding a request for funding support for a play structure at Rye Elementary School. The Board asked PTA and REF to speak to this request.

**Tasha Goyette** (750 Brackett Road) – Ms. Goyette shared that the Principal’s Advisory Committee collected student input on what might help increase interest in playing outside for recess, since that interest is currently down with RES students. This committee is asking the School Board to consider contributing funds in collaboration with REF and Rye PTA to use overage money from budget to support the purchase of a new play structure. Ms. Tsetsilas asked about injuries related to the proposed structure and also about similar needs for options at RJH. Ms. Goyette shared that she had done research and there are some injuries, but nothing more than other structures. Mr. Brandon asked the committee to consider observing the kids using the structures to make sure that they are interested in using it. Ms. Honda asked the committee to consider the work of the School Use Feasibility committee so that a purchase is not made that won’t be able to be used with future decisions. Dr. Marion added that he feels the research for the play structure was a missed opportunity for a service learning opportunity for students to survey their peers, work with other subject areas to design or choose the best option.

Dr. Marion stated that the Rye community is very consistent in approving budgets, and that is largely because the School Board returns unused funds to the town. The Board is a steward of these town funds. Ms. Honda added that finding out how old the current play structures are used could help this project to gain support. Mr. Brandon asked if there was other equipment that students use. Ms. Collyer shared other options that the students have (jump rope, football, kickball, slide, zipline, etc.). Decisions regarding the fund balance

will be made by April. Dr. Marion stated the Board is interested in supporting the play structure but cannot commit at this time.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Mr. Petralia stated that he was pleased to report that Amy Reynolds has won the 2017 Honor Kindness Award sponsored by the University of New Hampshire. The Board members congratulated Amy on this terrific honor. Mr. Petralia thanked school board members who were in attendance for the SAU 50 Joint School Board Meeting held on December 20th at Rye Junior High School. He extended his appreciation for their support and approval of the proposed FY 2019 budget which included additional support in the area of technology. Mr. Petralia also received an update from the Department of Education regarding funding for full-day kindergarten in FY 2019.

Mr. Petralia stated that the Rye School Board and the Rye Educational Support Personnel Association did not reach a tentative agreement this fall and the Association declared an impasse at the last session held on November 28, 2017. The parties agreed to enter into mediation and a full day session was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. After six full hours working with the mediator, the parties did not reach a tentative agreement. The Association sent an email to the Rye School Board negotiation team indicating they wished to pursue fact-finding.

### **ASSISTANT BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Ms. Ransom updated the Board that they are in good financial standing. She distributed an updated budget packet to the Board. The Budget Committee voted to reduce the proposed budget due to a change in the SAU 50 technology position that was approved by the SAU 50 Board on December 20, 2017. Ms. Ransom updated the Board regarding a warrant article that was submitted by a Rye citizen. Ms. Ransom explained that the warrant article would allow the municipal budget committee to delegate the determination of the default budget. Dr. Marion explained the warrant article further and stated he would recommend the Board take a stand on this warrant article to not endorse it. Ms. Ransom read the definition of the default budget. Mr. Brandon stated that the budget is formulaic in nature and that it has not drastically changed over time.

*Mr. Brandon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to reduce the 2018-2019 proposed default budget to \$13,869,687.*

*Mr. Brandon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to approve the revised 2018-2019 operating budget to \$14,000,230.*

*Ms. Moynahan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tsetsilas, to not recommend the citizen's petitioned warrant article. Vote 5-0.*

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Online Lunch Program**

Ms. Tsetsilas provided an update regarding the Online Lunch System. Lorraine Curtis provided updates regarding the online security of the system. All financial transactions

occur within the firewall of the school. Mr. Petralia inquired with Greenland and they are interested in this system, but have not voted on it yet. Tasha Benson received survey results from 65 parents regarding input about school lunch choices and payments and the majority were supportive of moving to an online lunch system. Ms. Lull and Lisa Furman are in support of this program. The Board would like information about recouping unpaid funds. There is a slight cost saving each year the district keeps the subscription. The Board discussed convenience for parents and saving building principal's time to deal with teaching and learning. Dr. Marion asked if the district would be prorated for months that the program is installed if it were implemented during the current school year since Mr. Petralia recommended that the set up and communication take place in the late spring and summer of 2018 so it can start up at the start of school in August 2018.

### **Water Quality Testing**

The Board discussed the additional water tests that will be included in the next set of testing.

### **Board Feedback on Teacher Evaluation Process and Supervision Schedule**

This item will be moved to the February meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Voting Warrant for District Officers**

### **RECOGNITION OF GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL VISITORS**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **Reporting Committees**

#### **Rye Education Foundation**

**Julie Derderian** (81 Central Road) – Ms. Derderian shared that REF had an exciting Fall grant cycle. They received requests totaling \$43,000 and granted about \$20,000. REF is excited about the engagement with the teachers. The Spring grant cycle will end April 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Goyette will be creating a new REF bulletin board in collaboration with Dr. Ellwood in the front lobby of RES. This will be put up in the next few weeks.

#### **Portsmouth High School**

The Board expressed its sincere condolences to the Kohlhase family for the loss of David Kohlhase, former Rye student, in a recent accident. The Board also offered thoughts to Max Malilla, who was injured in the accident.

#### **School Use Feasibility**

Ms. Tsetsilas shared that based on current projections, there would be 101 students at Rye Junior High by 2026. Ms. Tsetsilas suggested that the Board decide what the problem with the enrollment numbers are, and what action can be taken depending on what that definition is. Mr. Brandon reminded the Board that many families are choosing schools that are smaller than what they would experience in Rye. The focus should be for the Board to continue working with building administrators to hire great teachers and elevate

the curriculum. The Board should not be focusing on changing the demographic of Rye, and reversing a trend based on factors outside of their control. Ms. Honda stated that the Board does need to make preparations to deal with what education looks like when enrollment reaches those numbers. Ms. Tsetsilas stated that these topics came up at the public meeting as well. Certain consolidation options might allow for recreational growth. Mr. Brandon spoke to the capital investments that would be required to change a building into the town offices. Ms. Moynahan added that the variable enrollments are what throw off numbers; not necessarily declining enrollment. The Board agreed that cost projections for making additions to either building would be valuable information to have. The Board discussed the footprints of each building. The Board discussed asking the building administrators what educational planning would look like if 5<sup>th</sup> grade moved to the RJH building. Ms. Tsetsilas suggested the Board break into separate committees to research other options and to come closer to finding out what the tipping point(s) is/are. Dr. Marion suggested that someone speak to the Greenland Board to find out if there would be any interest from Greenland to have some of their students attend Rye on a tuition basis. The Board emphasized that it is not a financial decision to move 5<sup>th</sup> graders to RJH, it is an educational decision. The Board agreed that ongoing research and discussions must continue so that preparations can be recommended. Mr. Petralia recommended the formation of a sub-committee that includes the Superintendent, Ms. Lull and Ms. Soucy, Paula Tsetsilas as School Board representation, and a staff member.

### **Parent Teacher Association**

The PTA is sponsoring a story slam inspired by “The Moth” radio program. Students will perform their own short stories in front of a live audience and the “best” will be selected to attend the Music Hall performance of “The Moth” in March. This program is being led by Rye teachers, Erin Fleming and Denise Wheeler.

### **Rye Recreation**

An updated newsletter was given to the Board.

### **Budget**

No new update.

### **SAU Technology Committee**

There will be a meeting in February.

### **Special Issues**

No update.

### **Policies**

The Board discussed discrepancies with the language of the School Assignment and Manifest Education Hardship policies. Ms. Moynahan will bring the discussed questions back to the policy committee.

*Mr. Brandon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, to adopt policy JFA – Legal Residency of a Student, for 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Vote: 5-0.*

*Ms. Tsetsilas made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brandon, to adopt policy JJA – Student Activities and Organizations, as amended. Vote: 5-0.*

*Mr. Brandon made a motion, seconded by Ms. Honda, to rescind policy JJG – Contests for Students. Vote: 5-0.*

Policy JLCF – Wellness was tabled until the next meeting. A wellness committee will be meeting and the policy can be discussed in February.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

**Rye School  
Board  
Meeting:  
1/17/2018  
Action Items**

<b>Project/Status</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Action Item</b>
<i>Science Curriculum</i>	Ongoing	Marie/Kelli	More complete mapping of 3 dimensions of science
<i>Building Maintenance Plans</i>	February	Jim Katkin	Create a prioritized summary of facility and building maintenance plan with associated expense related to plumbing, electric, boiler to build long term infrastructure. <b>Specifically, for use by unassigned fund balance.</b>
<i>PFCs/ Water Testing</i>	February	Jim Katkin	Remediation of copper in upstairs and downstairs water fountains at RJH
<b>Math PD Conference Report</b>	February	Suzanne and teachers	Suzanne and/or teacher team to report on PD from 3 attending teachers: information learned, how to disseminate and how to implement learning
<b>Student Surveys</b>	February	Scott/Marie/ Suzanne	Develop survey and “test” among sample students in fall; refine for spring implementation

<b><i>Learning Management System</i></b>	February & June	Sal/Kelli	Present interface of Schoology among early adopters with teacher feedback on measurable indicators
<b><i>Annual Student Health &amp; Contact Forms</i></b>	Spring	Lorraine	Investigate if any of our current management systems allow for parents to update these forms online every fall
<b><i>Parent University</i></b>	Winter	Sarah/Paula/Margaret	Discuss topics for parent education and work with PTAs for implementation
<b>School Board/Teacher meeting</b>	February	Suzanne & Marie	Administrators to advise if teachers would like to meet with Board.
<b>Lunch Program</b>	February	Paula/Lorraine	Develop benchmarks for unpaid balances for comparison purposes should system be implemented  Determine amount to be voted upon and terms of agreement (timeframe covered)  Ask Randi (Greenland SB) to review compliance protocols  Create calendar/steps for implementation
<b>New Language Arts Program</b>	February	Suzanne	Present new language arts program to Board
<b>Personalized Learning in Music</b>	Winter	Suzanne/A. Papoutsy	Present example to Board
<b>RSD Public Gym Use</b>	Winter	Suzanne/Marie	Establish policy and procedure/priority for facility use of school gyms
<b>Revisit Bus Utilization and Contract</b>	Winter/Spring	Paula/Amy	Determine efficiency and use of bus routes for cost savings measure; contract ends June 30, 2019
<b>Create sub-committee to examine Prek-4</b>	Winter/Spring	Sal/Principals/Paula	Commence Committee.

<b>and Gr5-8 configuration</b>			
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**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Brandon, seconded by Ms. Honda, the Board adjourned their meeting at 8:45 p.m. Vote: 5-0.

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Secretary

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