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Superintendent's Report Rye School Board Meeting Monday, June 10, 2019 5:00 PM

Agenda

The school board meeting will begin with three special presentations which include recognition of retiring Rye District Staff, a student presentation, followed by representatives from the Rye Energy Committee and Energy Management Consultants.

Kelli Killen will present information on the Data Governance Manual, Employee Handbooks, a report on Pupil Services, Professional Development, New Hampshire State Assessment Results, and a Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction Plan review and focus for next school year.

Amy Ransom will not be in attendance on Monday evening. I will provide an update on current FY 2019 fund balance.

Sarah Reinhardt will be in attendance for special education matters including an update on a legal matter which will require a brief non-public session at the conclusion of regular business.

Communications

- 1) Letter from the Association of Coastal Teachers / Rye requesting to open negotiations for a successor agreement
- 2) Letter from Anne Gilbert who will be completing a Master's Program through Southern New Hampshire University and advancing to a higher track on the 2019-2020 salary schedule.

SAU 50 Joint Board Meeting

I would like to thank school board members who attended the last SAU 50 Joint School Board Meeting of the year on May 22nd in New Castle.

Business Administrator

As previously communicated to you, Ms. Mindy Ryan has accepted our employment offer for the position of Business Administrator and will assume her new duties effective July 1, 2019. We have scheduled two half days and one full day in June in order to allow Ms. Ryan an opportunity to transition with Amy Ransom.

Grade 5 & 6 Open House

I attended the Open House on Wednesday evening and want to acknowledge the fine work of Marie Soucy and her staff for their preparation and presentation to Rye families. Teachers from grades 5 & 6 along with the unified arts teachers greeted over 100 students and parents while answering questions in regard to the transition for the 2019-2020 academic year.

State Assessment Results

Kelli Killen will share some great news on Monday evening when she reports the results of the 2019 New Hampshire State Assessments. Our students performed quite admirably across all content areas and most importantly, the percentages of students moving into Level 4 (Highly Proficient) is extraordinary! A Level 4 student typically performs significantly above the standard for the grade level is able to access above-grade-level content and engages in higher-order thinking skills independently.

I am very proud of these accomplishments and thank the fine work of our administration team, principals, teachers and support staff.

Portsmouth High School Top Students

I was extremely pleased to read Thursday's Portsmouth Herald which featured the top students graduating from the senior class at Portsmouth High School. Seven (7) out of the top ten (10) seniors previously attended elementary and middle school in SAU 50! This is certainly a testimony to the caliber of building leadership, teachers, and support staff within our SAU. Congratulations to the following seniors:

- # 1 Melanie Carolan - Greenland
- # 2 Jacob Allen - Rye
- # 3 Emily Locandro - Rye
- # 4 Anna Danielski – New Castle
- # 5 Sam Kelly-Derzon - Greenland
- # 6 Isabella Marin – Rye
- # 7 Katherine Hansen - Greenland

CONVAL Lawsuit

As reported in the Portsmouth Herald and through the New Hampshire School Boards Association, the lawsuit filed by the ConVAL school district against the State of New Hampshire came to an end. On June 5, 2019 Cheshire Superior Court ruled that the state's formula for funding education is unconstitutional. The core of the decision is that RSA 198-40a II(a), (which sets the cost of baseline adequacy at \$3,636 per student) is unconstitutional. The opinion examines the creation of that formula by a Joint Legislative Committee in 2008 and finds that the Joint Committee's analysis was incomplete, arbitrary, and illogical in a number of respects. In light of these numerous defects, the Court concluded that the formula is so flawed that it is unconstitutional as it is currently applied to ConVal and the other plaintiff school districts, as well as all school districts in the state.

The Court did not agree to the plaintiff districts' request to essentially have the Court rewrite the adequacy aid formula. The Court also did not reach the question about the validity of the State's definition of adequacy, although it did note some of the inconsistencies and gaps in the definition. The Court re-stated the principle from the *Claremont II* decision that the NH Constitution requires that the taxes used to fund an adequate

education must be proportional and reasonable. However, the Court did not issue any rulings about whether the current system violates those requirements. Instead, the Court stated that the next step must be for the Legislature to determine the true cost of a constitutionally adequate education and then fund it.

Summer Planning Retreat

The Town Library is not available to host the annual summer retreat on Thursday, August 1st. I spoke with Chief Kevin Walsh and I have secured meeting space at the Rye Safety Complex in the second floor training room. If the Board would like to have the planning session videotaped on Town Hall Streams, then a change to Rye Junior High would be required.

Meeting Reminders

- RJH Graduation – June 13, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Rye Junior High
- Last Day of School – June 14, 2019, Early Release
- SAU 50 Joint Board Meeting – September 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Newington Public School

I look forward to meeting with the Board on Monday evening.

Submitted by,

Salvatore Petralia
June 7, 2019