

RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit 50
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To be approved by the Rye School Board at the school board meeting on February 15, 2023

RYE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The regular monthly meeting of the school board of the Rye School District will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2022, at 5:30pm. at the Rye Junior High School, Rye, New Hampshire, NH 03870

PRESENT:

School Board Members: Matt Curtin, Jeanne Moynahan, Katherine Errecart, Heather Reed

School Board Members Absent: Susan Ross

Attendees: Stephen Zadravec, Superintendent of Schools
Susan Penny, Business Administrator
Brian Helfrich, Facilities Manager
Michelle Pitts, Principal, Rye Elementary School
Anne Gilbert, Principal, Rye Junior High School

Attendees Absent: Kelli Killen, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Stacey Kirby, Director of Special Education

Virtual Attendees: Rebecca Dwyer, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools,
Chris Russo, Director of Technology, Krista Atwater, Danielle Maxwell

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Curtin called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m and indicated that the meeting would begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Curtin asked for public comment from the audience and online. Hearing none, he indicated that the meeting would move to the Principal's Reports.

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Rye Elementary School:

Ms. Pitts highlighted the incredible community support of Bowl-O-Rama in sponsoring the recent field trip for the third and fourth graders. Ms. Pitts highlighted the amazing work of the PTA and Mr. Helfrich for their work in obtaining a grant that will help achieve our goal for a new playground for Grades K-2. in fundraising for the new playground. Additionally,

she indicated that there will be a Walk-A-Thon on March 24 to continue to help raise funds for the project.

Ms. Pitts highlighted that family lunch has started back up at Rye Elementary School. All family members are welcome to join. They just have to let the school know ahead of time. Ms. Pitts highlighted that staff recently met to conduct a “year-in review”. She shared that a lot of exciting work has been accomplished and a Writing Committee will be established soon, in addition to reading professional development and taking a greater look into scheduling to maximize achievement and student engagement.

Ms. Pitts indicated that she wished to thank Deputy Chief Blaisdell for his work in conducting the recent A.L.I.C.E for the preschool staff. She highlighted that the recent Homeland Security Assessment went well. During the assessment, Homeland Security and Emergency Management offered feedback on surveillance, access control and emergency alerting capacities that are currently in place.

In closing, Ms. Pitts highlighted that next week is Kindness Week and report cards will be going home on February 3.

Rye Junior High School:

Ms. Gilbert began by highlighting that Rye Junior High School Homeland Security Assessment will take place next week. A lot of work is being done to focus on safety and security. She noted that tomorrow and Friday, she would be meeting with every team to discuss what the expectations are should something happen school wide, should something happen in the Junior High School.

Ms. Gilbert highlighted that Rye Junior High School students will be working with Rye Elementary School students to put on a drama production and serve as mentors to the Elementary School students.

Ms. Gilbert highlighted that Rye Junior High School will be sponsoring a new PTA grant for new sound systems.

Ms. Gilbert highlighted that the students’ ability to manage themselves has been impacted by COVID. She noted that some restorative practices are being discussed as alternatives to punishments.

Ms. Pitts highlighted a project called ‘Name the Space’ for the outdoor space. Information will be sent home for students to come up with ideas. All are encouraged to participate.

DRESSCODE POLICY DISCUSSION

Ms. Moynahan indicated that the Policy Committee met on Friday and noted that included in the Board packet, there are two copies of the draft policy. She noted that One copy is a little bit tighter on what will be acceptable and what is not. Ms. Moynahan shared the Committee discussed the possibility of having all four districts working to adopt this policy.

Mr. Zadavec added that a lot of research was done to create this policy, including looking at a policy in Portland, Oregon. He noted that during the policy committee, the committee discussed bringing this to every Board because it's an improvement to the current SAU 50 policy. Additionally, Mr. Zadavec noted that these drafts are only up for First Reading. He noted that the Policy Committee will take another look at this to make sure that it's perfect.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding the draft policy. During the discussion, it was noted that the Principals should bring this back to their staff for their thought, in order to give the Policy Committee some feedback on any changes that need to be made.

On a motion by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Ms. Errecart, the Board voted to approve Policy, JICA for a First Reading as recommended by the Policy Committee. Discussion. Roll Call: Vote: 4-0

INSTRUCTIONAL CORE MOMENT:

Mr. John Dinger, Ms. Lindsay Kaplan, Ms. Erin Fleming, and Ms. Laura Brown made a presentation to the Board regarding Project Based Learning. Additionally, two Elementary School Teachers, Ms. Jacquie DeFreze and Ms. Diane Smaracko also participated in creating this presentation. During the presentation, the teachers provided an overview of what Project Based Learning was, highlighting the opportunity that they were given to participate in a course taught this past Fall by Mr. Zadavec.

The teachers highlighted the work that they did with the Center for Wildlife, which works to rehabilitate injured animals.

The teachers highlighted-

Additionally, the teachers highlighted the Great Food Truck Experiment. Students in the seventh and eighth grade will have the opportunity to work together to design a business plan for a food truck. They will also work to come up with their own menu, financial plan, employment plan, etc. The students will meet with various professionals in the field in order to gain insight into what really makes this business thrive. The goal will be to kick off a Five-Day Food Truck Event-

The Board took some time to ask the teachers questions regarding their presentation. It was suggested that the teachers should consider utilizing community resources in order to gain support for their topics.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Zadavec had no communications to share with the Board this evening.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

On a motion by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Ms. Errecart, the Board voted to approve the public minutes of December 21, 2022. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

On a motion by Ms. Moynahan, seconded by Ms. Errecart, the Board voted to approve the nonpublic minutes of December 21, 2022, as amended. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: 4-0

APPROVAL OF THE MANIFESTS:

On a motion by Ms. Reed, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, the manifest for December 17, 2022, through December 23, 2022, was approved in the amount of \$1,906,932.56. Discussion. Roll Call: Vote: 4-0

On a motion by Ms. Reed, seconded by Ms. Moynahan, the manifest for December 24, 2022, through January 18, 2023, was approved in the amount of \$496,663.34 Discussion. Roll Call: Vote: 4-0

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Ms. Penny indicated that her report was in the Drive and noted that the Board was short \$113,000. She noted that she was able to find a line to transfer that amount from. Ms. Penny indicated that the warrant articles need to be posted by "X" date by law. The Board briefly discussed some changes to the warrant articles and which positions would be up for re-election this year.

Budget Transfers:

On a motion by Ms. Errecart, seconded by Ms. Reed, the Board voted to approve the budget transfer in the amount of \$113,090.97 in order to cover a high school tuition shortfall. Discussion. Roll Call: Vote: 4-0

CENTRAL OFFICE REPORTS:

Superintendent:



Mr. Zadravec highlighted that we have published the fourth edition of our SAU 50 newsletter. You can find it [here](#).

Mr. Zadravec highlighted that we will be bringing forward a proposed draft calendar for 2023-2024. It is linked [here](#) and also in the drive. He noted that our admin team across the SAU worked together to bring more consistency to the district calendars. Mr. Zadravec highlighted that one of the primary objectives in doing so is to provide time to increase collaboration and professional development across districts, while also adhering to any needs outlined in current contracts.



Mr. Zadavec highlighted that in response to questions about the Dress Code, we reviewed some model policies with an eye towards greater gender balance. In reviewing the Portland, Oregon policy with Ms. Pitts and Ms. Gilbert, we felt this best represented the direction we are looking to go with a change to respond to the concerns that have been raised. We talked about the need to have a policy that fit both Rye Elementary School and Rye Junior High School and felt the broader language from the policy could live in the district policy, which would then point to the student handbook for the specifics. At our Policy Committee meeting, we talked about all districts adopting the new broader language policy, which would allow them to still keep specifics in their handbooks. Copies of both are in your drive for consideration.

Upcoming Events

- Rye School District Deliberative Session- February 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
- Rye School Board Meeting - February 15, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Rye Junior High School
- Secondary Advisory/ AREA Meeting - Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at Portsmouth High School

Facilities:

Mr. Helfrich highlighted the work of Mr. Jim Gordon for his help at MHT last week as well as the amazing volunteer work of our students. Mr. Helfrich asked if anyone had any questions regarding his report. The Board had a brief discussion regarding the water testing program, specifically that one filter will be placed on the outlet to get it under the safety limit and another outlet that is used for washing dishes will require no further actions as it is not used for drinking or food prep.

The Board briefly had a discussion around school safety and the recent Rye Elementary School Homeland Security Assessment. The same assessment will be done at Rye Junior High School on January 25, 2023. It was noted that these assessments are extremely beneficial programs that will help guide the future efforts at both schools. Additionally, the Board briefly discussed several issues that have taken place with the windows at Rye Junior High School. This item will continue to be a focus for future budget/projects.

In closing, Mr. Helfrich highlighted the new SAU 50 Facilities Instagram account that he will be creating in order to share all of the projects and images that he views on a weekly basis.

Technology:

Mr. Russo highlighted that his report is in the Drive. He summarized his first month with the SAU and noted that he had the opportunity to consult before coming into the role fully. Mr. Russo highlighted that he feels we have access to everything we should have access to. He noted that at this time, a lot of work is being done to compile a list of necessary usernames and passwords. Mr. Russo highlighted that he has been spending a lot of time with this Technology Team across the SAU to support Technology.

Mr. Russo indicated that the new School Bus App is finally up and running.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding data security and where any potential vulnerabilities might lie. Mr. Russo indicated that he has made some adjustments to certain items, specifically like filtering. A brief discussion took place surrounding improving virtual participation in Board meetings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business to discuss this evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2023-2024 Academic Calendar: Mr. Zadavec briefed the Board on the idea for the calendar this year. Specifically noting the desire to bring the districts closer together. He gave credit to the entire Admin team for their collaborative work in creating this unified SAU 50 calendar. Mr. Zadavec noted that any comments and edits are welcome. It was noted that in the past, we do try to coordinate with Portsmouth.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding the functionality of the calendar. Specifically, is there any way to combine vacations and extend them so we don't take away from the learning that needs to take place.

B. Action Items for the Board: There were no action items for the Board this evening.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

AREA:

Secondary School Advisory:

Budget Committee:

Capital Improvements Plan:

Emergency Management:

Rye Recreation:

PTA:

Professional Development:

Rye Education Foundation:

Special Issues:

Technology:

For record of the minutes, there were no reports from the Standing Committees this evening.

POLICY: (1st Reading)

Ms. Moynahan highlighted two policies, BEDH and JJJ that are up for First Reading this evening.

