

**RUTLAND SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
Continuation of March 24, 2008 (Regular) Meeting  
March 31, 2008  
Poultney High School**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**Supervisory Union board members in attendance:**

Russ North, Ira	Tracee Oakman Rupe, Poultney (non-voting)
Clarence Haynes, Middletown Springs, SU Chair	Al Jackson, Poultney (non-voting)
Kimberly Mathewson, Middletown Springs, SU Clerk	Helen Mango, Tinmouth
Steven Letendre, Middletown Springs	Anne Robbins, Tinmouth
Jodi Comeau, Middletown Springs (non-voting)	Tammy Holcomb, Wells
Mary Jo Teeter, Poultney, SU Vice-Chair	Charity Downs, Wells
Pat Davenport, Poultney	Karen Stomski, Wells
Mike Nagar, Poultney	

**Others in attendance:**

Cheryl G. Chedester, Superintendent  
Bonnie Lenihan, Director of Student Support Services  
Brian Hampl, Business Manager

**Call to Order:** Chair Clarence Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm, stating the meeting is the continuation of the regular SU Board meeting from Monday, March 24 and we would be working from that agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Finance Committee Report:** Tammy Holcomb, committee chair

Committee met March 19. They discussed concerns brought by Mary Jo Teeter, Poultney Board Chair; areas of concerns from the FY '07 audit (reconciliations of AP, AR and Cash on Hand); and the business manager's schedule and the possibility of him not attending as many board meetings. The financial statements show an anticipated shortfall of \$10,000. The superintendent search will be an additional expense of approx. \$10,000. Job descriptions of personnel working in business office are still pending.

**Review and Approve IDEIA-B & IDEIA-B Pre-School grants (FY09):** IDEIA-B budget needs to be approved by the SU board before July 1 if any of the monies are slated for use in the summer programs. Bonnie Lenihan and building principals meet to allocate the monies appropriately. Mary Jo Teeter moved to approve the IDEIA-B grant budget as presented. Charity Downs seconded and the motion carried.

**Approval Bills & Orders:**

1. Warrant #12, in the amount of \$19,485.54, dated 11/02/07 (tabled from January agenda) tabled again.
2. Warrant #21, in the amount of \$37,504.90, dated 2/22/08 – Tammy Holcomb moved to approve Warrant #21. Karen Stomski seconded. The question was raised about an item – answer was IPOD's purchased from grant funding for science teachers in various schools who have learned to use them with visual streaming in their classrooms. Motion carried.
3. Warrant #22, in the amount of \$31,005.43, dated 3/7/08 – Tammy Holcomb moved to approve Warrant #22. Russ North seconded. Question from Tammy: why did we pay two bills to VAC [Poultney ASP] in this one billing cycle? Brian Hampl was asked to research and return answer to finance committee. Motion carried.

**Central Office Staff request re: dental/eye benefits:**

The SU board received a written request from several Central Office support staff requesting an increase in dental/eye benefits to match benefits offered SU instructional assistants. Tammy moved that

since the SU budget approved for FY '09 has \$250 budgeted for each central office support staff dental/eye benefit, the board must deny the request at this time, and suggests that they resubmit it to the HR committee prior to budget time next year. Mike Nagar seconded. Motion carried.

**Additional New Business:** Mike Nagar expressed his concern that the vote for the SU board chair on March 24 might not be valid since one member voted by absentee (phone vote). In this case it was a tie vote and would mean the motion failed. Helen Mango had similar concerns and spoke with Mark Ottinger of the VT Dept. of Education. His opinion was that it was a legal vote by their interpretation. Charity Downs moved to defer question until we get advice from Board's legal counsel. Anne Robbins seconded. Motion carried.

## POLICIES

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Readings:

Tammy Holcomb and Russ North point out that the **Finance Policies** have been warned backwards. All policies except Policy on Bidding should have been for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading. By consensus, the Board asks that the 14 Finance Policies (not including Policy on Bidding) be rewarned for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading for the April meeting.

Helen Mango moved to approve **Public Participation at Board Meetings** as presented. Karen Stomski seconded. Motion carried.

Helen Mango moved to approve **Policy on Bidding** (from Finance Policies). Russ North seconded. After some discussion, motion carried.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Readings:

By consensus, the Board moved to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:

**The Role of Policy**

**Policy Development**

**Professional Development**

**Student Alcohol & Drugs**

**Transportation** (with input from Helen Mango's note from the Policy Committee meeting)

**Policy Dissemination** was not in the packet and will be brought back for a first reading in April.

**Drug & Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees** was tabled. The board asked Superintendent Chedester to research and bring policy back in April for a new 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

**Break:** 9:25pm-9:40pm

## PERSONNEL

**New Hires:** Nicole Keyes was hired as the new half-time Medicaid Clerk. She started today.

### Additional discussion under Personnel:

Clarence Haynes asked about a contractor/vendor position which had been changed during the last year. Much discussion ensued. In the future, if a position filled by a vendor (independent contractor) is made into a salaried employee position – the board needs to make a motion to approve.

## OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS

### Screen Committee for Superintendent Search:

Mary Jo Teeter approved the 14 members of the Screening Committee as listed. Karen Stomski seconded. Motion carried. Members are as follows:

Ira – Russell North

Middletown Springs – Kimberly Mathewson, Aaron Boynton, Ellen Secord

Poultney – Tracee Oakman Rupe, Kristen Caliguiri, Renee Beaupre-White

Tinmouth – Anne Robbins, Susan McKelvie, Holly Noble

Wells – Charity Downs, Linda O’Leary, Ed Pratt  
Central Office – Joe LaRosa

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Next **Regular Meeting** is scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2008 in Middletown Springs at 7pm. The agenda will include: Joe LaRosa, committee formations, policies for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and more...

**Special Meeting** in Wells – Saturday, April 5, 2008 9-11am with Carrie Becker and the SU Board.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board’s attorney Georgiana Miranda sent written replies to questions Board had directed to her. It was her legal advice that the members of the Poultney School Board and the Superintendent recuse themselves from the executive session. Much discussion ensued.

Helen Mango moved the board into executive session at 10:08pm with all board members present. Karen Stomski seconded. Motion carried. The superintendent and audience were excused from the room.

Mary Jo Teeter moved the board out of executive session at 11:10pm. Tammy Holcomb seconded. Motion carried. The superintendent and audience were invited back into the room.

Helen Mango moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:11pm. Karen Stomski seconded. Motion carried.

An additional **Special Meeting** will be held in Wells, Tuesday April 8 at 7:30pm; anticipated executive session for personnel and legal issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Mathewson, clerk