

**Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union
Board of School Directors (Regular) Meeting**

Date: January 24, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Place: Middletown Springs Elementary School

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Board Members Present: Kimberly Mathewson (M), Tracee Oakman Rupe (M), Alicia Marcy (M), Jerry Keezer (M), Tammy Holcomb (M), Kimberly Stewart (M), Mary Jo Teetor (A), Clarence Haynes (M), Helen Mango (M).
Others Present: Superintendent Joan Paustian, Director of Student Support Services Darren McIntyre, Assistant Director of Student Support Services Paul Eaton, Business Manager Louis Milazzo, Principal Aaron Boynton and Technology Integration Specialist Jay LaMora.

The meeting was **called to order** at 7:02PM by Chair Kimberly Mathewson.

Presentation on Technology – Principal Aaron Boynton and Technology Integration Specialist Jay LaMora presented information and updated the board on the history of the Technology Committee and current progress being made in Technology across the supervisory union. The Committee has established a new Mission/Vision for Technology which was shared with the board (it will also be posted to the RSWSU website). A key point made by Principal Boynton was the importance of follow thru and support needed from all administrators in order for the plan to be successful. Google Doc (web based tools free to schools) is now being accessed which opens the door for many more opportunities for students, staff, parents, etc. Mr. LaMora demonstrated and elaborated for the board's information. Discussion followed. Mr. Boynton and Mr. LaMora were thanked for the presentation and for their work in bringing technology forward in our supervisory union.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Unofficial Minutes of December 20, 2010 – Motion made by Helen Mango, seconded by Kimberly Stewart to approve the minutes of December 20, 2010 (with one minor correction). Motion carried.

Report of the Superintendent: In addition to her written report included in the board's packet, Dr. Paustian reported:

- All of the ELA essential standards have been identified and much progress has been made during the course (curriculum).
- Warnings (for town meeting) are prepared and are available for board signatures
- ARSU Superintendent and Business Manager have met with Dr. Paustian and Mr. Milazzo to discuss possible savings by combining purchasing on items such as fuel oil, supplies, etc. Work will continue in this area.
- Vermont School Boards Association has recognized board members with nine, twelve, fifteen (or more) years of continuous service. **The following members in RSWSU were recognized:**
 - ❖ **Kathleen White (Ira School Board) 15 years**
 - ❖ **Charity Downs (Wells School Board) 12 years**
 - ❖ **Helen Mango (Tinmouth School Board) 9 years**
 - ❖ **Mary Jo Teetor (Poultney School Board) 9 years**

Report of the Business Manager: Mr. Milazzo reviewed the reports provided in the board's packet and reported on:

- FY10 RSWSU Audit results – there was one finding regarding semi-annual certification for grant funded positions. This finding has already been corrected.

Report of the Director of Student Support Services: In addition to the report submitted in the board's packet Mr. McIntyre reported:

- Child Count- (reported details in packet) since completed there are now 135 students.
- Provided explanation regarding a state placed student change – savings resulting
- 2012-2013 anticipated 6-Year Compliance Monitoring Due
- Updated the board on STARS

Report of Director of Educational Advancement: Information included in the Superintendent's report.

Update/Report on Curriculum Coordinating Council: Information included in the Superintendent's report.

Approve Bills and Orders: Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Tammy Holcomb to approve Warrant # 105 in the amount of \$24,426.38, dated 12/17/10 and Warrant # 106 in the amount of \$25,849.76, dated 12/31/10. Motion carried.

General Public Comments: None.

Old Business: None.

The Chair called for a short break at 8:05PM and called the meeting back to order at 8:12PM.

New Business:

Formal Discussion regarding Merging School Districts/Supervisory Unions: Dr. Paustian reviewed the requirement for holding a formal discussion regarding merging school districts/supervisory unions. She reviewed some of the options to get the discussion started. Areas of discussion included:

- The possibility of merging Tinnmouth, Middletown Springs, Wells and Ira School Districts into a reorganized K-6 school district (RED).
- Transportation was mentioned as a concern from an expense point of view and for the time students would be on buses and geographical difficulties.
- Combining classes (example: Grades Pre-K & K, 1&2, 3&4 and 5&6) and where/how the newly configured grades would be housed (which building).
- Staffing issues were discussed. It was mentioned that by combining grade levels and school populations a savings might occur as the number of staff could possibly be decreased however it was also considered that any savings may be offset by additional transportation costs or other costs not yet touched upon.
- School Choice is important to local school districts and it was recognized as an issue for further discussion; it was also considered a draw for families to these communities.
- Closing schools which are the "center" of each community may negatively impact each community in a number of ways. It was suggested that one impact on communities in closing schools, and/or eliminating school choice was a possible decrease in property values as the "draw" for families may decrease.
- Sharing resources among our supervisory union/schools as well as the possibility of sharing resources with other supervisory unions was discussed.
- Merging all schools with the PSD was discussed; however this would require unionization and would eliminate choice for secondary level students.
- Merging local districts with other districts outside RSWSU was also discussed briefly.

Finally, it was suggested that information be gathered regarding what a combined K-6 population/enrollment would look like, as well as the projected staffing needs, projected transportation costs, food service and other areas etc. The board will review the data after the March elections and may determine if a study committee would be formed to research further.

Dr. Paustian also reminded the board that as of FY12 all Special Education and Transportation is to be run through the supervisory union (as opposed to individual school districts), discussion ensued regarding the impact this would have on budgeting, staffing, etc.

Approve Substitute List: Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Kimberly Stewart to approve the substitute list as presented.

Committee Reports:

- Finance – Next meeting – no meeting scheduled at this time.
- Systems Management – Next meeting scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 3:15PM at Central Office.
- Human Resources – Next meeting anticipated March 22, 2011 at 1:00PM at Central Office.

Policies: Motion made by Tammy Holcomb, seconded by Helen Mango to adopt policies E-518 Mileage and Travel Reimbursement and F-105 Life Threatening Allergies as presented. Motion carried.

Action on Personnel Contract: None

Other Lawful Business: None

Set Next Meeting: (Anticipated February 21; 7:00 PM at Tinmouth Elementary School) – this will be determined after executive session. There may not be a need to hold a February meeting.

Executive Session: 1 VSA § 313 (1) (a)(b): **Motion made by Kimberly Stewart, seconded by Tammy Holcomb to move the board into executive session at 8:50PM for a personnel issue (Superintendent’s annual evaluation); the Superintendent was asked to step out briefly and would be asked to re-join the meeting upon board request. Motion carried.** The recording secretary and all others were excused at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Dente
RSWSU Recording Secretary

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Motion to come out of executive session at 9:20 p.m. made by Clarence, seconded by Kimberly M. Motion carried.

Motion made by Clarence, seconded by Kimberly M., to accept the evaluation of the Superintendent proposed by the Human Resources Committee, and to charge the Superintendent with providing a list of goals for next year for board approval. Motion carried.

After a brief discussion of potential agenda topics, **the board agreed not to hold a February meeting. The next meeting of the RSWSU board will be on March 28, at 7 p.m., in Tinmouth.**

Motion made by Clarence, seconded by Kimberly M., to commend the Systems Management Committee, chaired by Helen Mango, for its work on policies. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. made by Tammy, seconded by Tracee. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Mango