

**Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union  
Board of School Directors' Meeting  
April, 2010 7:00 PM at Middletown Springs Elementary School**

**Official Minutes**

Board Members Present: Kimberly Mathewson (M); Jerry Keezer (M); Alicia Marcy (M); Kimberly Stewart (M); Cindy Taylor-Patch (M); Tracee Oakman Rupe (M); Tammy Holcomb (M); Karen Stomski (M); Charity Downs (M); Helen Mango (M); Clarence Haynes (M); Mary Jo Teetor (A).

Administration /Staff Present: Superintendent Joan Paustian; Director of Student Support Services Bonnie Lenihan; Assistant Special Education Coordinator Darren McIntyre; Business Manager Louis Milazzo; Principal Susan McKelvie; Principal Linda O'Leary; Team Leader/Evaluator Kristi Hansen; Teachers Kathryn Byrne Grossarth, and Sherida Kinney.

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

The Chair and Superintendent introduced those representatives present from the two hiring committees. The Superintendent gave a brief overview of the entire process, and then asked members of the committees to elaborate. Committee members expressed appreciation for being given the opportunity to contribute to the process and gave further details regarding the process. Committee members were thanked for their time, effort and contribution to the process.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approval of Minutes- Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Karen Stomski to approve the minutes from March 22, 2010 as presented. Motion carried.**

**Report of the Superintendent-** In addition to her written report (included in board packet) Dr. Paustian provided the board with a handout to accompany the Annual Measurable Objectives Report. Dr. Paustian explained the scores and target levels. Dr. Paustian also provided the board with the Technology Audit. Principal Aaron Boynton has been asked to chair the Technology Committee. Dr. Paustian gave a brief report regarding the recent conference she attended. Dr. Paustian provided the board with a Legislative update on the following: S297 Discussion followed. Dr. Paustian reported the Supervisory Union had received preliminary approval for Title I and Title IIA Grant funds for FY11. Title I is \$324,000.00 and Title IIA is \$125,000.00. Dr. Paustian informed the board that research was being done regarding adding a wall in Central Office which would provide a much needed confidential meeting space ; the estimated cost is \$3,000 - \$4,000. It is preferable to complete this project within this current fiscal year. Dr. Paustian informed the board that Vermont is not applying for A Race for the Top Grant. The Legislature is proposing increasing the tax rate to .87. Discussion ensued.

**Report of the Business Manager -** Louis Milazzo reviewed his written report (included in the board packet). Helen Mango inquired what the plan was for the anticipated \$45,000.00 FY10 surplus. Discussion ensued. A board decision cannot be made until the Audit is completed. Typically the decision is made in the following fiscal year. Mr. Milazzo will have a better idea of final anticipated figures in May as the current year winds down; he does not anticipate the surplus amount to decrease. The Title I School Wide Plan report was discussed. Tammy Holcomb asked for an anticipated end of year report for the May meeting. Mr. Milazzo explained that unused Title (CFP) money may be carried forward; however the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant money may not. Charity Downs inquired why the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant was not approved for FY11. Superintendent Paustian gave a general overview. Some of the reasons included: previous inadequate local matching funds established; supplemental grant dollars not available as initially believed; long range plan not in place previously; fewer grant applications were accepted than in the past, administrator position was supposed to be 30 hour/week position, not initially submitted as such, and could not change strategies after the fact; previous strategies were not tied to the curriculum. Discussion ensued. Dr. Paustian informed the board that the supervisory union could apply for the grant in the future. Dr. Paustian explained that the Department of Education was very controlling, yet arbitrary with the grant administration process this year.

**Report of Director of Student Support Services -** In addition to her written report (included in board packets) Mrs. Lenihan reported that the funds generated by Medicaid billing are approximately \$17, 00.00 above the amount we had billed at this time last year. Mrs. Lenihan reported that there would be anticipated carry forward funds available for both ARRA and

IDEA-B grants.

Mrs. Lenihan briefly reviewed the Extended Year Services (EYS) process with the board (brochure included in board packets), specifically explaining the eligibility requirements.

**Motion made by Helen Mango to approve the reports as presented, seconded by Karen Stomski. Motion carried.**

**Approve Warrants: Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Tammy Holcomb to approve Warrant #82 in the amount of \$50,044.76, dated 3/26/10 and Warrant # 83 in the amount of \$79,267.95 dated 4/6/10. Motion carried.**

**General Public Comments:** None

The Chair called for a short break at 8:15 PM; back in session at 8:25 PM.

**Old Business:**

**Health Insurance Option (HSA): Brief discussion. Motion made by Charity Downs, seconded by Clarence Haynes to table this issue to a future meeting. Motion carried.**

**SU Negotiations:** Dr. Paustian has spoken with Sean Leach of the Vermont NEA, and is waiting for his response regarding whether or not our Teachers' Unions would be in favor of a unified negotiated agreement. Dr. Paustian has also spoken with Dennis Wells, Esq. regarding handling the process. Tom Gallagher is also available and willing to assist in the Fall. There would be an "observer role" (place holder) available for one Tinmouth Board representative and one Teacher representative. Discussion ensued. Concern was raised by Clarence Haynes regarding moving forward with this process before it is known what the Legislature will decide. The Legislative session is due to end approximately May 7, 2010 therefore the board may have updated information at the May supervisory union meeting which may impact how the board will proceed. Discussion ensued regarding having the committee meet with Dennis Wells. Other board members expressed concern regarding having to wait another month to make a decision, with three units' agreements ending June 30, 2010; it would be desirable to move forward as soon as possible.

**Motion made by Tammy Holcomb, seconded by Karen Stomski to move forward with the Supervisory Union-wide Negotiated Agreement pending approval from local boards and with commitment from the local Teachers' Associations.** Discussion ensued regarding each local board taking an official vote to move forward and for the committee to work with Dennis Wells to pull all common language from each current agreement. To date, the Wells and Middletown Springs Teachers' Associations have made it known to their respective board members that they are willing to move forward toward a unified agreement. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Milazzo inquired if the RSWSU would cover the expense for Dennis Wells. **The board indicated such by consensus.**

**Sign Code of Conduct/ Code of Ethics - Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Kimberly Mathewson to adopt the Code of Conduct as noted in these minutes and by board signatures and to approve acceptance of the Code of Ethics (no signatures required). Motion carried.** The Code of Conduct was circulated to each board member present for signature. Superintendent Paustian or Kimberly Mathewson (Chair) will see that those board members not present will be provided with the document for signature as well.

**New Business:**

**Report of Committees:**

**Finance -** Tammy Holcomb presented a verbal report of the recent work of the committee. Next meeting scheduled for 5/10/10 at 5:30 PM at Tinmouth Elementary School.

**Systems Management -** Helen Mango referenced the draft policies on pink paper in the board packets and noted this was a new step whereby boards and administrators are asked for input before the policy is presented for adoption. If anyone has input, please notify either Helen or Superintendent Paustian as soon as possible. All mandatory policies are now adopted across the SU, with copies being given to each school and posted on-line. As other policies are finalized, they will be posted to the website and provided to the schools. Jan will be meeting with each school's administrative assistant over the summer to ensure they each have the most recent policies and table of contents. Next meeting is scheduled for 5/4/10 at 3:00PM at Central Office.

Human Resources - Next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2010 at 1:00 PM at Central Office.

Board Development Meeting - will not be rescheduled at the supervisory union level. The Poultney Board has opted to meet on their own in May for this purpose. Discussion ensued regarding what training is available to other new board members. Individual boards may avail themselves of training via the VSBA, or to access video web streams and other information available on the VSBA website.

Approve the Substitute List: **Motion made by Karen Stomski, seconded by Clarence Haynes to approve the substitute list as presented. Motion carried.**

**Policies:** All policies presented are drafts and for input only (no action required at this time). Bullying and Truancy will be revised by the committee and resubmitted in draft for input.

**Action on Personnel Contracts:**

Resignation: Brittany Petty (EEE Instructional Assistant) - **Motion made by Kimberly Mathewson, seconded by Karen Stomski to accept the resignation of Brittany Petty effective immediately. Motion carried.**

Alicia Marcy inquired whether or not the Supervisory Union had an exit interview process. At present there is not a formal process. **By consensus the board agreed that a process should be established.** Superintendent Paustian will research.

New Hires: The following positions were to be discussed and decided upon in executive session: Director of Student Support Services; Director of Educational Advancement and RSWSU Board Recording Secretary. The finalists for Director of Student Support Services and Director of Educational Advancement were asked to leave the room momentarily, then return to the executive session one at a time as called for interview by the board. Tammy Holcomb commented that the action for the Recording Secretary position was just a formality to allow payment of the stipend to be made as a separate position rather than combined with regular hours.

**Motion made by Karen Stomski, seconded by Helen Mango to move into executive session for personnel matters at 9:13 PM.** All except the board members and Superintendent Paustian were excused.  
**Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Dente  
RSWSU Recording Secretary