

3 Mary Jo Teetor

Tammy Holcomb elected Vice Chair as declared by Chair Kimberly Mathewson.

The Chair called for Nominations for Clerk.

Pat Davenport nominated Karen Stomski for Clerk, seconded by Mike Nagar.

Tammy Holcomb nominated Mary Jo Teetor for Clerk, seconded by Steve Letendre.

Hearing no further nominations, nominations closed.

Votes cast (by Australian ballot): 6 Mary Jo Teetor

3 Karen Stomski

Mary Jo Teetor elected Clerk as declared by Chair.

Appoint/Announce Committee Representatives (each local board appointed representatives; announcement at RSWSU Board is for the record):

Systems Management Committee

Charity Downs (Wells)
Mary Jo Teetor (Poultney)
Kimberly Mathewson (Middletown Springs)
Helen Mango (Tinmouth)

Human Resource Committee

Karen Stomski (Wells)
Mike Nagar (Poultney)
Jodi Comeau (Middletown Springs)

Finance Committee

Tammy Holcomb (Wells)
Al Jackson (Poultney)
Jim Gilmour (Middletown Springs)

Appoint Newspaper of Record:

*Motion made by Charity Downs, seconded by Mary Jo Teetor to retain the Rutland Herald as newspaper of record. Motion carried 9-0.

Affirm Roberts Rules of Order (for small boards):

*Motion made by Steve Letendre, seconded by Karen Stomski to continue with Roberts Rules of Order (for small boards). Motion carried 9-0.

Affirm/set regular monthly meeting schedule:

*Motion made by Mike Nagar, seconded by Tammy Holcomb to continue with the fourth (4th) Monday of each month, at 7PM, at alternating schools. Motion carried 9-0.

Appoint/affirm RSWSU Treasurer:

*Motion made by Pat Davenport, seconded by Tammy Holcomb to reappoint/affirm Patricia McCoy as RSWSU Treasurer. Motion carried 9-0.

Appoint/affirm RSWSU Board Secretary:

*Motion made by Steve Letendre, seconded by Tammy Holcomb to reappoint/affirm Jan Dente as RSWSU Board Secretary. Motion carried 9-0.

No need to elect/appoint Truant Officer.
No other re-organizational business noted.

Kathleen White (Ira Board Member) arrived.

Presentation on Fast ForWord: Superintendent Gallagher gave the board a brief overview of the program. All relocated to the computer lab for hands on demonstration and further presentation by Margo MacDonald (PES Teacher), Barb Festa (Wells and EEE Teacher), Michelle Folger, Director of Curriculum and Vinnie Covino (Technology Coordinator PSD).

All returned to the Library to continue meeting. Superintendent Gallagher thanked all presenters. Several questions were asked of the presenters with explanation provided. Adjustments can be made to the earphones to better fit each student. Coaches are trained to identify students who may be having difficulty with the program and to determine if the difficulty is learning based, or equipment malfunction. The program is for all students, and adjusts to each student. The program records data to allow coaches to track data in general and for each student to show progress and areas of difficulty. The program is especially helpful for auditory discrimination. There were no further questions.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes: February 23, 2009 (Regular) - list of names under “new hires” to be recorded in minutes. Board members to be identified by Office held (RSWSU) and voting status (RSWSU) under “Present”. Director of Curriculum Report: clarification required for sentence “the trend is toward New York”. By consensus, it was decided to remove the sentence. No further amendments noted.

Report of Superintendent: Written report inadvertently not included in board packet. Addendum to Agenda, including Report of the Superintendent was handed out at the beginning of the meeting. Superintendent Gallagher brought the board’s attention to the Mission Statement as noted in his report. The Mission Statement had been adopted by the board in 1995.

Superintendent Gallagher reported that there are currently three bills in legislature that are important to the majority of our schools. One is regarding designated schools; one is an adjustment to Act 82 regarding reporting tuition; and one is regarding school choice for elementary schools.

Superintendent Gallagher suggested the board review its timeline for setting Goals for the Superintendent. He noted that the current timeline is not efficient especially based on the timeline for evaluation.

Report of the Business Manager: Report was e-mailed and included in packets. Clarification was provided regarding the reconciliation of “funds” and the results. Mr. Milazzo clarified that it appears that when separate funds were set up in the system several years ago, that errors occurred in transferring data; and no reconciliation had occurred in several years. Mr. Milazzo has reconciled all funds, and implemented controls whereby reconciliation will continue on a monthly basis. The board recognized the huge undertaking and effort made by the Business Manager with this task, and thanked him for his work. No further questions.

Report of Director of Student Support Services: Mrs. Lenihan’s written report was included in the packets. Further details were provided by Mrs. Lenihan and Mr. McIntyre regarding revising the referral and tri-annual evaluations timeline. Mrs. Lenihan noted that efforts were being made to share resources with other Supervisory Unions. Clarification was provided for the term “out of district” at the request of one board member. Explanation was provided regarding the distinction of students from our district who are placed out of district by our Education Team; versus those students who are placed by DCF (at no cost to us) where we cannot control where the student is placed. Clarification given that there are two different Speech Language Pathologists serving Wells Village School for the balance of the school year. A Physical Therapist has been interviewed, but cannot start when we need services. Compensatory services will be provided to students. No further questions.

Report of the Director of Curriculum: Michelle Folger reported that Carrie Becker is working on obtaining a

grant in the amount of \$250,000; we are waiting to hear if approved. It would start this summer and offers professional development opportunities.

Superintendent Gallagher suggested that a procedure be implemented whereby only goal oriented courses (professional development) are approved.

No further questions.

Report of Grant Coordinator: Joe LaRosa gave an overview of the accomplishments and programs funded by grants to date, as well as, some programs that are to begin in the near future. He suggested the board reconsider working with VAC to administer program/grant. He anticipates the cost of administration to be \$4,000 - \$5,000. He reminded the board that the grant was designed to “phase out” the coordinator position; however clerical services and some administrative services are still needed.

Mr. LaRosa stressed the importance of “going after other grants”; he reminded the board that the formula has changed and will require matching funds (dollar for dollar) beginning FY11. We should be working on securing matching grant funds as soon as possible. Matching funds may come from anywhere, but must meet specific criteria. Mr. LaRosa is already working on the transition plan with the Superintendent.

He reported that our Supervisory Union has an impressively high participation rate for our after school programs. Our average is 85% participation, as compared to the state average of 32%. Mr. LaRosa named several programs currently operating in our schools: Drama Club; Pottery; Bigger/Faster; Nature; Environmental; VINS; Remediation in Math, Writing; and Fluency; Spanish Club; Rock Climbing; Bowling; and Horseback Riding. The Safe Driving program (at PHS) is still being worked on.

There will be a Legislative breakfast on April 2, 2009. Mr. LaRosa indicated our supervisory union was nominated for an award specific to our Wellness Programs.

Mr. LaRosa noted that he would have further updates for the Board in April. The transition plan is being worked on now; it is due to the state by July 1, 2009. He is confident the plan will go smoothly. He offered to consult if needed. Mr. LaRosa ended his presentation by thanking the board committee responsible for hiring Mr. Milazzo; he praised Mr. Milazzo stating he was doing a “great job”.

*Motion made by Mary Jo Teetor, seconded by Tammy Holcomb, to approve the minutes with amendments and to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Warrant #51, in the amount of \$103,229.91, dated 2/27/09.

*Motion made by Tammy Holcomb, seconded by Karen Stomski to approve warrant #51. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

The Chair called for a short break at 8:35PM. The Chair called the meeting back to order at 8:45PM.

Mr. Milazzo was excused at this time.

General Public Comments: None.

Old Business:

Shredding and Scanning: No new information reported on scanning and shredding.

Approval of Substitute List:

*Motion made by Mary Jo Teetor, seconded by Tammy Holcomb to approve the new substitute list (included in packet). Brief discussion ensued. Motion carried.

New Business:

Committee meetings:

Systems Management: to meet on 3/25/09, 4PM at CO.
Finance - information forthcoming.
HR Committee - nothing scheduled at this time.

Policies: No policies for action at this meeting. Policies are on hold until after Systems Management Committee meeting.

Employment Contracts:

New Hires (listed on addendum)

One board member questioned the contract for K Crowley noting that she was already employed as ASP Coordinator at Wells Village; Superintendent Gallagher will determine if this is a duplication or separate contract.

*Motion made by Tammy Holcomb, seconded by Steve Letendre to approve all new hires as follows:

- Crowley, Katie (ASP Wells) – funded by 21st C Grant
- DeBonis, Leanna (Fluency Tutor-PES)- funded by 21st C Grant
- Sady, Terrie (Writing Tutor-PES)-funded by 21st C Grant
- Kahill-Brown, Maureen (Writing Tutor-PES)-funded by 21st C Grant
- Vail, Soaring (Math Tutor-PES)-funded by 21st C Grant
- Mahoney, Kay (Math Tutor-PES)-funded by 21st C Grant
- Colpitts, Anne (Spanish Club Advisor)-funded by 21st C Grant
- Raino, Shannon (FY10 Psychological Services) (Vendor) SU-wide
- DeBonis, Leanna (Wellness Center Guide-PHS)-funded by Title IV Grant

Motion carried.

Other Lawful Business: One board member requested more details from the Superintendent regarding aligning the Goals of the Superintendent. Superintendent Gallagher will work with the HR Committee before the April board meeting.

Set Next Meeting: April 27, 2009 at 7:00 PM at Tinmouth Community Center.

One board member expressed a need for executive session (board only).

*Motion made by Tammy Holcomb, seconded by Karen Stomski to move the board into executive session for personnel reasons at 8:55PM. Motion carried.

Recording Secretary excused at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Dente
RSWSU Recording Secretary