

Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union
Board of School Directors' Regular Meeting
Date: October 24, 2011
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Middletown Springs Elementary School

Official Minutes

Present: Kimberly Mathewson (M), Alicia Marcy (M), Tammy Holcomb (M), Mary Jo Teetor (M), Matt Peschl (M), Pat Davenport (M), Clarence Haynes (M). Superintendent Joan Paustian, Acting Director of Student Support Services Paul Eaton, and Business Manager Louis Milazzo.

The meeting was **called to order** at 7:12 PM by Chairperson Kimberly Mathewson. The Chair handed out the draft Board goals for review.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes:

- **Motion made by Tammy Holcomb, seconded by Mary Jo Teetor to approve the minutes of September 26, 2011.** Request to note that Alicia Marcy and Tammy Holcomb arrived late. No other changes requested. **Motion to approve the minutes with noted change, carried.**

Report of the Superintendent: Superintendent Paustian's written report was included in the board packets, in addition she reported:

- Service Plan - has been finalized by Paul and Louis
- 504 - 504 (ADA) provides for access to programs. Independent schools are charging an additional fee (above the tuition) for 504 services. Discussion has occurred between Superintendent Paustian and the headmaster of the school and a written agreement is being drawn up. Paul has attended 504 meetings and has confirmed that the students do have a need for services (504). Discussion ensued. The law states that agreements for payment of services (504) are to be worked out between the sending and receiving schools as long as the parents are not required to pay and there is no delay in services. Superintendent Paustian will keep the Board informed.
- Poultney has a new school board member, Teresa Coker, who has been appointed to the board until the March 2012 election.
- The VSBA Training Manual is at Central Office if any board member wishes to borrow it.
- Superintendent Paustian recently attended the VSA meeting. Emphasis was put on the fact that schools cannot do it alone; there must be more support for public schools. One bad message can undermine all good work that has come before. Criticism of our schools is deadly. Only 25% of the population has school-age children; 75% do not. School Boards need to send a clear message regarding the importance of support for school.
- Updated Staff/Student Ratio Report provided to the board for informational purposes
- Director of Educational Advancement will report at the November meeting.

Report of the Business Manager: Mr. Milazzo's written report was included in the board's packet. All items related to budget (FY13) and will be handled later in the meeting.

Report of (Acting) Director of Student Support Services: Mr. Eaton was not asked to provide a written report. He verbally reported:

- Thanked Louis Milazzo for his assistance with the Service Plan and in amending the IDEA-B grant.
- Many hours are being worked during this interim period as he transitions and due to an unanticipated illness of another staff member. The Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Eaton for his efforts.
- Most of the Instructional Assistants across the supervisory union have now been trained in CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention); the remaining IAs will receive their training in March 2012.

➤ **Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Mary Jo Teetor to approve the reports of the consent agenda. Motion carried.**

Approval of Bills and Orders:

➤ **Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Mary Jo Teetor to approve Warrant # 125 in the amount of \$33,255.43, dated 9/23/11 and Warrant # 126 in the amount of \$53,301.86, dated 10/7/11. Motion carried.**

General Public Comments: None.

Old Business:

Board Goals - (Draft #2) was handed out to the board at the beginning of the meeting for review. **By consensus the board will review and provide input to Kimberly Mathewson prior to the next meeting, at which time they are planned to be adopted.**

New Business:

The Chair called for a change in order of the agenda; the board agreed to hear FY13 budget items after committee reports and action of sub-grants.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance** - Notes from last meeting were included in the board's packet. Tammy Holcomb reviewed. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 14, 2011 at 4:30 PM at Tinmouth Elementary School. Tammy will let the committee members know if the meeting is to take place.
- **Systems Management** - Notes from the last meeting were included in the board's packet. The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2011 at 5:00 PM at Central Office.
- **Human Resources** - no meetings held or scheduled.

- **SU Negotiations** - Superintendent Paustian will report to the board in executive session later in the meeting.
- **Act 153** - The next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2011 at 5:30 PM at Tinmouth Elementary School (prior to the SU meeting).

Authorize/Approve Title I Sub-Grant Agreements:

- **Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Tammy Holcomb to approve and to authorize the Chair to sign the FY12 Title I sub-grant agreements between the RSWSU and Middletown Springs in the amount of \$44,000.00; Poultney in the amount of \$137,400.00; Tinmouth in the amount of \$35,000.00 and Wells in the amount of \$48,300.** Discussion ensued. **Motion carried.**

Budget FY13 - Mr. Milazzo reported:

- He recently attended the VASBO meeting and was informed that health insurance premiums are anticipated to increase 5-7% for FY13. He will have a “not to exceed” percentage in November.
- The State base tax rate is expected to increase two cents from 87 to 89 (possibly three cents).
- The State based tuition rate is expected to remain flat at \$8,544.00.
- Small Schools Grant funding may be cut; the recommendation is to cut it over a three year period.
- The hold harmless rate is 3.5%
- Equalized pupil rate is expected to stay the same.

Discussion ensued. Based on the information reported (from the state) all budgets are being cut by 3% before school board can even start the budgeting process.

Mr. Milazzo reviewed the draft FY13 budget with the board section by section, explaining areas of increase or decrease and answering any questions.

As more information becomes available, Mr. Milazzo will insert more data into the budget. Draft #2 will be presented at the November meeting.

The Chair called for a short break from 8:50 - 8:55PM.

A brief discussion occurred regarding any directives from the board for Mr. Milazzo in preparing the budget; and the anticipated changes that will occur in FY14 budgets due to the shift in expenses from local budgets to the SU budget for transportation and special education.

Policies:

- **Motion by Tammy Holcomb, seconded by Kimberly Mathewson to adopt policies B-1 Board Member Education and H-5 Visits by Parents, Community Members or Media Interviewing, Filming, Videotaping or Recording.** Motion carried.

Action on Personnel Contracts:

New Hires:

- **Motion made by Clarence Haynes, seconded by Kimberly Mathewson to approve hiring Terrie Sady - PES After School Program Assistant (Title I funded); Vanessa Campbell - PES Substitute After School Program Assistant (Title I funded) and Melissa Theis - Itinerant Counselor (for Tinmouth and Middletown Springs). Motion carried.**

Other Lawful Business: None.

Set Next Meeting: November 28, 2011 at 6:30 PM (due to Legislators being invited) at Tinmouth Elementary School.

Executive Session:

- **Motion made by Tammy Holcomb, seconded by Mary Jo Teetor to move the board into executive session at 9:07 PM for the purpose of contractual matters and negotiations (to include the Superintendent). Mr. Eaton was asked to step out of the executive session briefly until the board called him back in. All others were excused. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Dente
RSWSU Board Recording Secretary

Continuation Minutes

10/24/2011

Attending: Matt Peschl (MTS), Alicia Marcy (PTSD), Clarence Haynes (MTS), Mary Jo Teetor (PTSD), Pat Davenport (PTSD), Tammy Holcomb (WVS), Kimberly Mathewson (MTS), Superintendent Joan Paustian

Paul Eaton present at 9:30PM

Tammy Holcomb made a motion to move into executive session at 9:06PM for personnel and contract negotiations/legal issues. Mary Jo Teetor seconded. Motion carried

Clarence Haynes made a motion to move out of executive session at 9:30PM. Kimberly Mathewson seconded. Motion carried

Action

*Kimberly Mathewson made a motion to hire Paul Eaton as director of student support services for the RSWSU. Alicia Marcy seconded. Motion carried

Kimberly Mathewson made a motion to move into executive session for personnel and negotiations at 9:40PM. Alicia Marcy seconded the motion. Motion carried

Motion made by Alicia Marcy to move out of executive session at 9:50PM. Tammy Holcomb seconded the motion. Motion carried
*No Action Taken

Motion made by Tammy Holcomb to adjourn at 9:52PM seconded by Alicia Marcy. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Teetor