

**RUMNEY SCHOOL BOARD  
RUSSELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
JUNE 17, 2009  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Yvon Cloutier, Paula Ferenc, Jennifer Miller

**Administration Present:** Peter Helgerson, Ethel Gaides

**Others Present:** Kim Catucci, Heidi Adams, Jon Francis

**Non-Public Session:** At 5:31 PM, Ms. Ferenc made the motion to enter into non-public session to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Cloutier seconded and all voted in favor.

**Public Session:** The motion was made by Mr. Cloutier and seconded by Mrs. Miller to enter into public session at 5:50 PM, all voted in favor. Based on discussion during the non-public session the board voted to accept with regrets the resignations of art teacher Jo-Ann Gardella and para-professional Erin Kindl. The motions were made by Ms. Ferenc, seconded by Mrs. Miller and approved by all. On the recommendation of Dr. Gaides, Ms. Ferenc made the motion to accept the nomination of Carmelina Fauteux to fill the position of Art Teacher 30%. Mr. Cloutier seconded the nomination while also requesting information on the economic impact of this new teacher on the budget. Dr. Gaides will report back on that request. The nomination was approved by all.

**Agenda Review:** Dr. Gaides reports that the information regarding the master plan is not complete and for it to be tabled until the next meeting. Items to be added include a discussion regarding the 2009/2010 handbook, communication from the Rumney Teachers Association re: contract discussions and correspondence from the Speare Hospital Dental Program.

**Minutes of May 20, 2009:** Ms. Ferenc made the motion to accept the minutes as written, Mrs. Miller seconded and all voted in favor.

**Minutes of June 3, 2009:** Mr. Cloutier noted a correction to be made. It was Mr. Cloutier and not Ms. Ferenc who made the motion regarding the use of unexpended funds. Mrs. Miller then made the motion to accept the minutes as amended, Mr. Cloutier seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

**Privilege of the Floor #1:** None

## Official Minutes

**Principals Report:** (Part 1) End of the year activities – Mr. Helgerson reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class trip went well and a good time was had by all. He expressed his appreciation to the class advisor, Paula Thompson, for a job well done. A letter from music teacher Brian Fairbanks was reviewed in which he expressed his thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to provide advanced lessons to some students. Using an allocation of funds from the Russell Sisters Trust fund, Mr. Fairbanks provided individual lessons to a small group of students who he felt would benefit the most. To demonstrate the results, a recording of the students' efforts was played for the enjoyment of the board. Mr. Fairbanks expressed his desire to continue with the program next year. Of the \$2500 that was allocated for this purpose, estimated expenses are expected to be between \$1800 and \$1900. Unfortunately, this allocation was a one-time opportunity and the only thing the board can do at this point is retain any funds not used for future music needs. Mr. Cloutier then made the motion that any excess funds left over from the Russell Sisters allocation for this program be encumbered for other music department needs. Ms. Ferenc seconded that motion and all voted in favor. The board expressed their thanks and appreciation to Mr. Fairbanks for his efforts in this project.

**Vinyl siding update:** At this point the floor was turned over to Jon Francis to receive an update to the vinyl siding situation. Mr. Francis passed out information from the three proposals that he had received. He felt they were all qualified and if there were no preferences he would recommend going with the lowest bid which was from David Prescott. Some details were discussed as a follow up to previous meetings. Unfortunately a decision cannot be made until the board is informed of what funds may or may not be available after the end of the fiscal year. The item is to be revisited again at the July meeting. Mr. Francis was thanked for his assistance.

**Principals report:** (Part 2) the meeting continued with some final notes from Mr. Helgerson. He passed some information on to Mrs. Miller regarding a new portable defibrillator that the board may want to consider. The equipment currently in place is not portable enough to carry away from the building and updates to technology and recommended techniques has made it almost obsolete. The cost of the new equipment is approximately \$1000 and Dr. Gaides offered to look into possible grant funds. The board was reminded of the community picnic to take place the next day and 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation on Friday evening, June 19. All are encouraged to attend.

**Board Issues:** Handbook review – the board discussed the need to have a special meeting to focus on the updating of the handbook. Mr. Helgerson has already done some extensive review and made recommendations for changes. He has passed this information on to Ms. Barrett-Morse for her review and Mrs. Adams noted that she has received some input from the staff and she will confer with the staff again to obtain any additional suggestions. It was noted that the areas that need the most review are those regarding attendance, discipline, food collection policy and procedures and the winter program. It was also noted at this time that there are some conflicts with members' schedules and the regularly scheduled meeting of July 15, 2009. After comparing

## Official Minutes

calendars it was decided that the next meeting of the Rumney School Board will be on July 29, 2009. The non-public session will begin at 4:30; public session from 5:00 to 5:30 and from 5:30 on the meeting will focus on the review of the handbook.

Summer School – Mr. Helgerson reported that there are 42 students confirmed to attend summer school. Nine of those students are incoming Kindergarten students. There will be 15 in grades one – four and 17 in grades five – eight. Contracts for the summer school staff have all been signed and returned. Classes start on Tuesday, July 7 and will run on Monday through Thursday until July 30. Ms. Gaides made note that all expenses for the summer school program are paid with Title I grant funds.

ARRA Grants – Dr. Gaides reported that Mr. Halloran is pleased to announce that Russell School has been awarded a grant that will purchase a hot food table for the kitchen. As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in cooperation with the USDA and St of NH Department of Education, the cost of the new equipment, \$1949.26, will be covered in full. Also in conjunction with ARRA and Title I, Russell School will be receiving \$100,000 to be used to address our math needs. This is a one time, one year grant to be used to fund the employment of a certified math teacher. Dr. Gaides is still in the process of completing the grant paperwork that will outline how the funds will be used. It is understood that it can also be used for targeted professional development as it relates to our needs to improve student math scores.

Rumney Teachers Association – correspondence has been received from the RTA contract negotiation team requesting that meetings start in September to discuss the next contract period. Ms. Ferenc recommends that Mr. Cloutier and Mr. Cowie represent the school board during the negotiations. Mr. Cloutier is in agreement and will have to wait to see if Mr. Cowie is available. Meeting dates will be set after that time. Other correspondence from the RTA requested the addition of two positions to the co-curricular staff. One position is to serve as a public relations representative of the school to get information out to the community. The other is to be a detention monitor. Mr. Cloutier requested that discussion on these items be deferred until a non-public session and also included with contract negotiations.

Other business – as previously stated the July meeting will be on July 29. For August the board will return to the regular schedule and meet on August 19, 2009. A safety committee update is requested for the August meeting.

Mr. Cloutier brought up a question regarding the use of his personal e-mail for school board related business. Under the Right-to Know Laws, could his personal computer be subject to inspection and possibly confiscation? Dr. Gaides feels the answer is yes but will look into it further.

**Privilege of the Floor #2** – Mr. Helgerson took this time to speak on behalf of Peggy Grass who was unable to attend. Mrs. Grass has informed Mr. Helgerson that the

## Official Minutes

summer camp program for 2009 has been canceled due to lack of participation. The program needs a minimum of 20 campers and only seven had signed up. On a positive note, Mrs. Grass stated that she was in receipt of a grant to run a short summer program to develop leadership skills in middle school students. The program can only accept eight students and she is currently working on setting this up.

Ms. Ferenc made a motion at 7:00 PM to move to non-public session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Cloutier seconded and all voted in favor.

At 7:11 PM Mr. Cloutier made the motion to adjourn. Mrs. Miller seconded and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy McQuinn-Downing