

**RUMNEY SCHOOL BOARD  
RUSSELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
AUGUST 19, 2009  
MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Yvon Cloutier, Paula Ferenc, Tom Cowie, Jennifer Miller, Jerry Thibodeau

**Administration Present:** Holly Barrett-Morse, Ethel Gaides

**Others Present:** Fred Bramante, Kim Catucci, Jim Buttolph

**Public Session:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Ms. Ferenc with a motion to move the non-public session to the end of the meeting, to allow an invited guest to speak. Mr. Cloutier seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Fred Bramante, a member of the New Hampshire State Board of Education, had been invited by Mr. Thibodeau to speak to the board. Mr. Bramante opened by stating that his favorite topic is “school redesign” and he hoped to give the board a sense of what was happening at the Department of Education regarding changes in regulations. Mr. Bramante’s career with the Board of Education began in the 1990’s. After a period off to run for public office, he returned to the board in 2003. He stated that during the 1990’s, minimum standards were a hot topic of debate. In the past, the amount of time spent in the classroom was the standard for advancement, while the level of competency was a variable. Effective in 2005, this was reversed so that the level of competency is the main standard and the time in the classroom is a variable. This means that students can get credit by showing mastery in a subject, rather than by attending a regular class. This new policy shifts some of the control from the system to the student and family. These new policies had a phase-in period and until 2008/2009, schools could use either seat time or subject mastery to give credit. After the 2008/2009 school year, seat time alone is no longer relevant.

Discussion followed regarding different ways in which students could obtain mastery in subjects outside of the standard classroom. It was noted that these methods were more applicable to high school students and worked as ways to retain students or even to attain early graduation. Following a brief question and answer period, Mr. Bramante was thanked for taking the time to meet with the board.

**Agenda Review:** as previously noted, the non-public session is moved to the end of the meeting.

Official Minutes

**Minutes of July 29, 2009:** Mr. Cloutier made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Ferenc seconded the motion and all voted in favor with Mrs. Miller abstaining.

**Privilege of the Floor:** none

**Principals Report:** Mrs. Barrett-Morse reported that preparations for opening day were proceeding. Teachers will be reporting on Monday, August 24 with the first day for students on Thursday, August 27. There are currently 135 students enrolled. She expressed her thanks to the school board for their feedback on the student handbook. The handbook has been printed and copies are available

**Board Issues:** A question was presented at last months meeting regarding the use of funds that have been set aside for maintenance needs. Dr. Gaides reported that after discussion with Mr. Petrin, she was informed that the funds in question can be held onto until needed; there is no deadline for spending them. The only stipulation is that they are reserved for maintenance use.

Other – also carried over from last month, the board was informed that the excess funds from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Class of 2009, may be held over from year to year to provide for start up costs for the next class. On that note, the Class of 2010 had a successful outing at Rumney Old Home Day to start off their fundraising efforts.

**Privilege of the Floor #2** – none

**Non-public session:** Mr. Cloutier made the motion at 6:35 PM to enter into non-public session to discuss personnel issues. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

**Public Session:** At 6:55 PM Ms. Ferenc made the motion, Mr. Cowie seconded and all voted in favor to return to public session.

Based on discussions during the non-public session the following staff appointments were approved:

On a motion by Ms. Ferenc with Mrs. Miller seconding, all voted in favor to approve Katelynn Walden to the position of 60% Kindergarten 1:1 aide.

Mr. Cloutier made the next motion, seconded by Mr. Thibodeau, to approve Sarah Dalzell as the behavior specialist. This is a contracted service at 15 hours per week. Funding is provided 50% by grants and 50% by school budget. All members voted in favor.

## Official Minutes

Mr. Thibodeau made the motion to approve Carrie Sanborn for an additional 20% position to focus on a positive behavior program. Ms. Sanborn is currently the school guidance counselor which is an 80% position funded by the budget. This additional 20% position will be funded by a Title V grant that supports innovative programs and will be a separate contract for the 2009/2010 school year only. Mr. Cowie seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Ms. Ferenc made the motion to continue the contracted services of Rexford Burnett as the school psychologist. Mr. Cloutier seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

At 7:11 PM Mr. Cowie made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Thibodeau seconded that motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy McQuinn-Downing