

**RUMNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RUSSELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2009  
MINUTES**

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

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

**Others Present:** Marlene Tabor, Peggy Grass, Tammy LaPointe, other parents/community members

**Non-Public Session:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Ms. Ferenc with a motion to enter into non-public session to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Cowie seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

**Public Session:** At 5:57 PM Mr. Cowie made the motion to enter into public session, Mrs. Miller seconded and all approved. Based on discussions held during the non-public session, Ms. Ferenc made the motion to approve the slate of co-curricular positions as presented by the administration. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

**Agenda Review:** Mr. Thibodeau requested the topic of bus stop safety be added to the agenda. Mr. Cloutier noted that the topic of negotiations is not to be listed under the public session as it will be discussed during non-public sessions.

**Minutes of August 19, 2009:** Mr. Cowie made the motion to approve the minutes of August 19, 2009 as written. Ms. Ferenc seconded the motion and all approved.

**Privilege of the Floor #1:** Kindergarten teacher Marlene Tabor spoke first and thanked the board for again allowing pre-kindergarten students to attend the summer school program. She feels this is a great service to the students and helps them to start off the school year well. She also commented that the current class of grade one students scored very well on recent assessments that were done.

Peggy Grass spoke next on two topics, the A+ after school program and the winter program. She noted that the A+ program will not be receiving a grant from JC Penney this year. It was received last year and was a great help in paying the tuition to the program for families unable to afford it. Currently the fee schedule is on a sliding scale that coincides with a family's eligibility for free/reduced lunch, but there are still many families that are not able to afford the fees. Mrs. Grass anticipates the need to provide

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scholarships in some cases and wanted to the board to be aware of the situation and how some of the school provided funding would be spent. If a student is staying after school for the purpose of completing and getting help with homework, there is no charge.

Regarding the winter program, Mrs. Grass reviewed the situation from 2008/2009 where the program that had taken place in previous years had to be canceled due to the lack of students signing up for skiing, snowboarding and skating. The main reason for the lack of interest was due to the cost. A simpler, less expensive program was provided that involved activities on the school property and at the Rumney Bible Conference. In order to plan a program for 2009/2010, Mrs. Grass was considering sending out a survey to determine the interest and budget levels of the current student population. After some discussion it was decided that Mrs. Grass and Mrs. Morse would work together on getting a survey out soon.

The current 8<sup>th</sup> grade class advisor, Tammy LaPointe, introduced herself to the board and requested information/guidance as to what direction she should be going in with the class and what was expected of her. General discussion went around regarding past class experiences and timetables for meeting with students and parents to set goals and decide on fund raising activities. It was generally agreed upon that this is a good opportunity for the students to take responsibility and work toward their goals.

**Principles Report:** Mrs. Morse began by handing out copies of recent editions of the school newsletter. It was noted that the open house had about a 50% turnout rate, with heavier attendance at the lower grades. The staff held their August 31 in-service day at the camp facilities of the Circle Program. It was a great environment in which the staff reviewed curriculum and covered a lot of material. Mrs. Morse expressed her thanks to Ms. Ferenc and the Circle Program for allowing the use of the facility. Overall the new year is off to a great start and Mrs. Morse feels everyone is very upbeat and positive. Mr. Cloutier made a comment about a notice in the newsletter regarding absences and stressed the need to be sure that the policy is strictly followed. Discussion followed noting the need to keep a log of all efforts made to contact families when a student is absent without having notified the school first. Mrs. Morse assured the board that it is being done.

**Board Issues:** Negotiations – as mentioned earlier, teacher contract negotiations are discussed during non-public session.

Fresh fruit and vegetable program – a grant is available through the NH Dept of Education, Bureau of Nutrition and Program Services, that will provide \$677 per month to pay for fresh fruit and vegetables. The guidelines of the grant state that the fruit and vegetables be provided to students at no cost and are to be offered during the day at times other than meal time. Mrs. Morse has met with food service director Mrs. Cloutier to discuss the possibilities of the program. They have ideas of how to make the food

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available at different times during the day but the biggest obstacle will be the time and labor involved. The grant does allow for 10% of the funds received to be allotted to administrative and labor costs, but the food service department does not have enough time in its current schedule to do it. Ms. Ferenc asked Mrs. Morse if she felt the program would be beneficial. Mrs. Morse responded yes, saying she felt there are many children who appear to be hungry during the day. Mrs. Morse also feels she has other options to solving the labor problem and would like the chance to try. If the program becomes too burdensome, it can be discontinued. At that point, parent Debbie Van Loon spoke up and asked if volunteers could be used and offered her time to help. Mr. Thibodeau then made the motion to give Mrs. Morse permission to apply for the grant. Mr. Cowie seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Mr. Cloutier abstaining.

RES Master Plan – Mr. Cowie made the motion to accept the master plan as prepared by Dr. Gaides. Mr. Cloutier seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Dr. Gaides was thanked for her time and efforts in completing the plan at the request of the town. She added that Mr. Halloran also provided some input.

LD Policy - a brief review was made of the new policy regarding students with learning disabilities. This policy was received from Fran Gonsalves, Special Education Director for SAU #48 as a result of new federal rules. Mr. Cloutier made the motion to approve it as a first reading, with the notation that it must be coded to fit the RES policy book and references to the SAU be changed to RES. It must also be reviewed by the RES staff and all questions forwarded to Dr. Gaides. Depending on the questions presented, we may want to request that Fran Gonsalves attend our next meeting. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Bus stop safety – Mr. Thibodeau reported that a member of the community has observed students standing in the middle of the road while waiting for the bus and expressed concern for their safety. Mrs. Morse said that the bus company is scheduled to come to the school to review evacuation and safety procedures and she will make note of the reported behavior.

**Privilege of the Floor #2 - none**

**Correspondence** – the NH Dept of Education, Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2009 was signed by all board members.

Ms. Ferenc made the motion at 7:11 PM to adjourn. Mr. Cloutier seconded and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy McQuinn-Downing