

**RUMNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RUSSELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
OCTOBER 21, 2009
MINUTES**

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

Administration Present: Holly Barrett-Morse, Ethel Gaides

Others Present: Peggy Grass, Susan Clark, Heidi Adams, Mary Hulse, Kim Catucci

Non-Public Session: The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM by Ms. Ferenc with a motion to enter into non-public session to discuss personnel issues and contract negotiations. Mr. Cloutier seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Public Session: Ms. Ferenc made the motion at 6:12PM to enter into public session. Mr. Thibodeau seconded the motion and all approved. Based on discussions held during the non-public session, Mrs. Miller made the motion to increase the time worked by the food service aide by one half hour per day. This request was made by the food service director to allow for additional time needed each day to meet some new special requirements. Mr. Thibodeau seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Agenda Review: Mrs. Miller requested the addition of a follow up discussion on the absentee policy that was discussed briefly last meeting. It was noted that there are no minutes to review for September 23, 2009 or September 30, 2009 as those were non-public meetings held for the purpose of reviewing the contract negotiations.

Minutes of September 16, 2009: Ms. Ferenc made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Mrs. Miller seconded and all voted in favor.

Privilege of the Floor #1: Peggy Grass was present to update the board on the winter program. A survey was drawn up by Mrs. Grass and Mrs. Morse and sent home with every student with a request to return the survey so they could get an idea of which activities are of most interest to the students. They received forty responses out of an approximate student body of 130. Disappointment was expressed about the small response and it was discussed that perhaps families thought they were actually signing up for a program rather than just completing a survey. Either way, it is apparent that the level of interest in a skiing/snowboarding program is very low, most likely due to the cost involved. It was also noted that of the 40 responses, 12 indicated that they would be requesting scholarship aide to fund their child's activity. Mrs. Grass and Mrs. Morse

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were thanked for their efforts and requested to analyze the survey results and make a recommendation to the board at the next meeting.

Principals Report: Bus safety – Mrs. Morse reported that on September 25, 2009, the school held a practice bus evacuation in conjunction with Robertson Transit. All safety rules were reviewed and practiced by everyone. In addition, safety tips to be aware of when riding and waiting for the bus were included in the weekly newsletter along with a handout from the NH School Transportation Association. NECAP testing has been completed. The testing involved a lot of time over the past three weeks. Mrs. Morse acknowledged and thanked Carrie Sanborn, guidance counselor, for her efforts during the testing, in particular for coordinating support staff with students in need of assistance with taking the tests. The fresh fruit and vegetable program as discussed at the last meeting is moving forward. Bowls of fruit are available on a daily basis at different locations in the school and were most helpful during the NECAP testing.

Everyone is invited to the barn dance being held at the school on Friday evening, October 23, 2009. The event is free and open to the public. Artist in residence David Millstone will be at the school Friday afternoon doing workshops with the students and will then be calling the dance that evening. The staff is currently working on a health fair to be held at the school on November 6, 2009.

Board Issues: A+ update – Dr. Gaides provided a brief update on the funding of the A+ program in response to the news last month that a grant from JCPenny is no longer available. It was stated that families are encouraged to apply for state aid based on child care reimbursement. Peggy Grass noted that in the most recent brochure sent home to families, they are encouraged to sign up for programs regardless of their ability to pay. The school board emphasized that they strongly support the program.

LD Policy - there were no changes to the policy other than what was discussed last month in relation to it being worded as an RES policy and referenced to the RES policy book. Mr. Cloutier made the motion to accept the Learning Disability Policy, Ms. Ferenc seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Budget dates – the final date for publication of the budget is January 4, 2010. The first draft will be available November 6, 2009. Budget work sessions will take place on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, during the regularly scheduled meeting and Tuesday, November 24, 2009. Then on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, the board will meet to review the revised budget and contract negotiations.

School Board goals – all members were asked to think about where we are with previously stated goals and to bring new ideas to the December meeting. It was requested that the SAU office be authorized to issue the annual payments due to school board members.

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Other – Mrs. Miller had asked for clarification on the school absentee policy. Mrs. Morse explained the procedure for contacting parents/guardians and Mrs. Miller wanted to be assured that all possible efforts were made and what happens if contact is not made. The policy will be reviewed again and recommendations are to be presented by the administration at the next meeting. Grade 4 teacher Susan Clark spoke at that point and expressed her gratitude that the policy was being reviewed closely and talked of the dangers to children, particularly those waiting for the bus along busy Route 25.

Privilege of the Floor #2 – none

Correspondence – recent accounts payable manifests were signed along with two requests by outside organizations for the use of the building.

Mr. Cloutier made the motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy McQuinn-Downing