

**RUMNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RUSSELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 18, 2009
MINUTES**

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

Administration Present: Holly Barrett-Morse, Ethel Gaides

Others Present: Heidi Adams, Kim Catucci

Non-Public Session: At 5:35PM 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: Ms. Ferenc made the motion at 6:30 to enter into public session. Mr. Cowie seconded the motion and all approved. Based on discussion held during the non-public session, Mrs. Miller made the motion to accept the slate of co-curricular positions as presented by Mrs. Morse. The slate includes the basketball coaches as follows: gr. 5/6 girls – Jenna Nagy; gr. 5/6 boys – Tim Vasconcellos; gr. 7/8 boys – Charles Skip Orr. Upon a second to the motion by Mr. Thibodeau, the positions were approved by all. Also during non-public session, it was pointed out by Mrs. Morse that the position of athletic director has not been filled since the start of the school year. An individual had been appointed but then realized that she was unable to fulfill the requirements. In the absence of an athletic director, the school secretary, Pam Rogers has been instrumental in assisting Mrs. Morse in seeing that the job gets done. Based on that, Mr. Cloutier made the motion to award Pam Rogers a \$200 Thank-you appreciation bonus, to be paid via payroll. Mr. Cowie seconded the motion and all approved in favor.

Agenda Review: The wellness policy is to be tabled until December. Mrs. Miller asked if there was any new information regarding the attendance policy. Mrs. Morse responded that she feels that to cover the matter completely, she would like to form a committee to review the policy.

Minutes of October 21, 2009: Mr. Cloutier made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Ferenc seconded the motion and all approved in favor with Mr. Cowie abstaining.

Privilege of the Floor - none

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Principals Report: Winter Program – Mrs. Morse reports that the Rumney Bible Conference has new management and they have been very helpful and supportive in offering the school the use of their facilities for ice skating, cross country skiing and tubing. In working with Mrs. Grass, they tried to accommodate the families that requested downhill skiing. Unfortunately, the guidelines of the ski areas are not flexible and the proposed schedules cannot be worked out. Starting in late January and into the first week of March, grades K-4 will participate as one group and grades 5-8 will go on another day. Activities can change from week to week as the students so choose. The school has offered information regarding other weekend ski programs that families may decide to participate in.

Curriculum goals – Every classroom teacher has been able to attend a Six Traits Writing Conference and they are all working on building the information into the curriculum. Whereas the summer in-service focused on math, they are also working to align it with the writing. A new math newsletter is being sent home to parents.

Mrs. Morse recently had a building walk-through with Jon Francis and Kim Catucci to review the current state of the facility. The first question that came up was how to get a handle on security. It was noted that the locks to the outside doors are old and that quite possibly there may be numerous keys floating around the community that were never returned over the years. The suggestion was made to consider an electronic key system. Mrs. Morse would like to invite Mr. Francis to the next meeting to discuss the issue. It was noted that the drainage work done recently is working good. The east end of the building, the oldest portion, has some issues. The outside stairway needs upgrading, there is some window sill rot and the stairwell awning is leaking. Mr. Francis brought up that in the past year there has been some discussion regarding boiler replacement. There will also be a need in a year and a half for a wheelchair lift to accommodate a student whose classrooms will be on the second floor. Mrs. Morse suggested that the board consider forming a committee to look into future building needs. All of the board members are in agreement that it is a good idea. At this point they need to get through the budget process first and will revisit a building committee soon.

Budget – Draft #1 – next the board began its review of the first draft of the proposed budget for the school year 2010 – 2011. During the line by line review, Mr. Cloutier made the motion to increase the rate of pay for a full day of substitute teachers to \$70 per day, effective with the 2010 - 2011 school year. Ms. Ferenc seconded the motion and all voted in favor. As the lines were reviewed request was made for more information regarding the Medicaid billing fees, the transportation costs of multiple special ed and pre-school students, and the after school program – what happens if there is no grant money available. Dr. Gaides will gather that information. The budget was reviewed through page four and will resume at the next scheduled meeting of November 24, 2009.

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Privilege of the floor #2 – none

The motion was made by Mr. Cowie at 7:35 to adjourn. Mr. Cloutier seconded and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy McQuinn-Downing