MEETING MINUTES – FY2015
Rowe School Committee
Monday, September 22, 2014 – 5:30pm – Rowe School

MEETING CANCELLED - LACK OF QUORUM

ROWE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Agenda Monday, September 22, 2014
5:30 pm at the Rowe School
Rowe, Massachusetts

I **Call to Order---**

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II **Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes from August 25, 2014

III. **Audience of Citizens:** Jenn Morse – Re: Little League

IV. **Correspondence/Handouts**

A. FY 15 updated Financial Statement
B. August 25,2014 Minutes
C. Principal's Report
D. Parent Letter
E. Newspaper Articles

V. Principal's Report: Principal Bill Knittle will be present to discuss any pertinent items and concerns relative to staffing, physical plant, programs, and the overall operations of the Rowe School.

VI. Financial Statement: An FY 15 Financial Statement Dated July 1, 2014 through September 16, 2014 is included.

VII. Superintendent's Report:

A. Residency Issue
B. Out of State Tuition Request
C. Franklin Tech
D. Mohawk Enrollment
E. Mass Dept. of Health
F. 240 Grant

VIII. **Report of the Chair:**

A. Mohawk School Committee
B. High School Tuition
C. FY 16 Budget

IX. **Unfinished Business:** Missing Minutes-

X. **New Business:** School Choice Policy, School Use Policy

XI. **Executive Session: Per Chapter 30A, Section 21 MGL-**
To discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining.

XII. Action Items: Vote to approve the Rowe Teachers' Contract-August 15, 2014 to August 14, 2017.

XIII. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Personnel/Negotiations
B. Policy
C. Transportation

XIV. Adjournment:

Rowe Elementary School – Principal's Report
School Committee Meeting – September 22, 2014

Academics:

- New student roster
- Benchmark Assessment results
- MCAS results
- Library

School Based Activities:

- Newsletter for SC members?
- Pot Luck
- Fire Drill, Monday 9/29
- Open House, Thursday, 10/2
- Preschool field trip to Pine Hill Orchard. Monday, 9/22
- K-6 field trip to Boston, Friday, 9/26
- Fire Safety presentations, Monday, 10/6

Building, Staffing and Professional Development/Training:

- New teaching staff
- Bus Radio
- Professional Learning Days
- Safety Plan
- Building Security
- Rediker, Destiny, NWEA MAP

School Calendar:

September
24 – Wednesday, Professional Learning Day, 1:50 release
26 – Friday, Boston Field Trip for K-6, 7 a.m., return 5:45 p.m.
29 – Monday, Fire Drill
October
2 – Thursday, Open House, 6-7
6 – Monday, Fire Safety presentations
8 – Wednesday, Professional Learning Day, 1:50 release
10 – Friday, Hike for K-6, Adams Mountain

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

September 16, 2014

First Class and Certified Mail

Kristopher O. Burnes
P.O. Box 82
Heath, Massachusetts 01346

RE: **Non-Residency in Rowe**
Students will be sent home if they appear for school on Monday, September 22, 2014

Mr. Burnes,

On September 2, 2014 you were sent notice by First Class and Certified Mail to 85 Branch Hill Road in Heath, MA that it had come to the attention of the District that you no longer live in Rowe. This was confirmed by the owner of the property in Rowe you formerly had listed as your physical address (506 Tunnel Road in Rowe, Massachusetts 01367). In addition, in the student registration form which you filled out for Jasmine Burnes, you listed your physical address is 85 Branch Hill Road in Heath Massachusetts.

You contacted the School following the letter and on September 3rd I had a conversation with you regarding this matter. In that conversation I informed you that your children would no longer be able attend school in the Rowe School District because you lived in Heath and were no longer a resident of Rowe. You told me that you still lived in Rowe and would be moving to Heath at a later date. I told you that in order for your children to continue in the Rowe Public Schools you were to provide documentation supporting your contention that your residency was still in Rowe.

As of this date you have continued to send your two children, Joshua and Jasmine Burnes, to Rowe Public Schools. I have received no documentation from you supporting your claim that you are a resident of Rowe. **Absent sufficient documentation supporting residency in Rowe received by September 19, 2014, the District will no longer allow your children to attend school in Rowe**.

For your information to help ensure that your children are receiving educational services in accordance with M.G.L. 76 Section 1 please find below the contact information for your local Heath, Massachusetts school district:

Heath Elementary School
18 Jacobs Road
Heath, MA 01346
Phone: 413-337-5307
Fax: 413-337-5507
Email: ksprague@mohawkschools.org

Sincerely,

Jon Lev,
Superintendent

cc: Legal Counsel

North Berkshire School Union

Jon Lev <jlev@nbsunion.com>

Greenfield RECORDER - Tue. Aug. 26, 2014

2 messages

Jack Williams <jakwms@gmail.com> Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 7:23 AM
Bcc: jlev@nbsunion.com

Greenfield RECORDER - Tuesday, August 26, 2014

Rowe open house draws a crowd Pg. C6

Recorder staff

ROWE — Big crowds turned out for the open house of the town's new elementary school this weekend, which opened about two years after the 50-year-old school building was destroyed by fire.

School Principal Bill Knittle said at least 200 people came out for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new building, which opens for its first day of school Wednesday.

"It was just a great day," Knittle said. "People were very excited to see the new building. There was a great outpouring of positive energy — a great start for this school year.

Built on insurance proceeds from the school fire — and without any state money — construction of the $6.9 million school began December 2013. Designed by Greenberg Associates Architects, the building has four classrooms, a separate Projects Room, a special education wing, administrative offices, a faculty area, cafeteria/community room, and a spacious gymnasium. The school was built by DEW/MacMillan Construction Co. of Vermont.

With the new school, this town of roughly 400 people will also be able to hold meetings and special events in the community room and school gymnasium.

The projected enrollment this year is 60 students, with 32 coming from Rowe and the rest coming through School Choice.

For the last two years, the Rowe School students have shared the Hawlemont Regional School building with Hawlemont schoolchildren.

Sunday's speakers included School Building Committee Chairwoman Susan Zavotka, Knittle, School Committee Chairwoman Lisa Danek-Burke, Superintendent Jonathan Lev, Selectmen's Chairwoman Marilyn Wilson, state Rep. Paul Mark, architect Chip Greenberg and school building Project Manager Dan Pallotta of T-3 Construction.

The school's new telephone number is 413-512-5100, and it has a new website, under construction: www.roweschool.org

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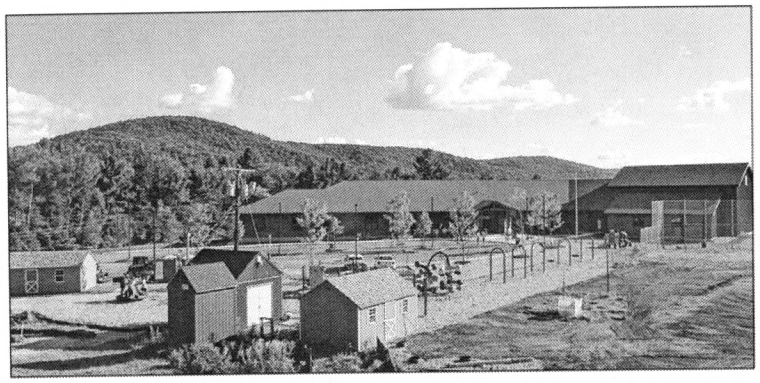

The new Rowe Elementary School, overlooked by Adams Mt.

Families explore the hallways of the Rowe Elementary School on Sunday.

Editorial - Pg. A4

A new school year begins

Despite August's last gasp of warm breath, people know that summer is on the wane.

And if you need more proof, just ask the students.

All across the county, school building doors are being flung open as preschoolers to college-age students head back to their desks or worktables. Some, perhaps, enter a bit reluctantly while others are imbued with the spirit of "bring it on!"

For most students and their families, a new school year means a return to cadence of a day based upon a fairly rigid schedule as well as the academic calendar. Although a contrast to the freedoms afforded through summer vacation, the start of the new school year allows for a vital re-connection on several different levels.

For students, those first couple of days are a chance to catch up with friends, whose summer life has possibly taken them down different paths — work, camp, family vacations, etc. But youngsters aren't the only ones to whom a new school year means a return to relationships. People with children in schools see old friends, as well as those who don't also share in what a new school year has to offer. Having awakened from their summer nap, school buildings are centers of activity. From concerts, sporting events and art shows to events brought in from the outside, schools are part of the community pulse.

Many Rowe residents know this. For two years, since the elementary school caught fire and burned down, there's been something missing. That's not to say that Rowe students were short-changed by being at Hawlemont Regional School. But the desire to rebuild wasn't just driven by the need to have one's child close to home. That wish was also fueled by an understanding of what having a functioning school means to residents.

This year, Rowe students get to return to a new home with the opening of its $6.8 million elementary school.

Rowe isn't the only place where students, staff and the community will walk through new doors into a new building. In Greenfield, eighth- through 12th-graders, too, get to start a new year with a new building. Unlike Rowe, though, there is still more to be done to create a new and different campus. Seeing — and coping with — the rest of the changes taking place will be part of the year.

New building or not, one more reconnection that the start of school holds is of promise, of learning, socializing and of a great year ahead.

Welcome back.

Jon Lev <jlev@nbsunion.com> Tue, Aug 26, 2014 at 6:40 PM
To: Wendy Cohen <wcohen@gmavt.net>

[Quoted text hidden]

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Jon Lev, Superintendent
North Berkshire School Union
98 Church St