

**Superintendent's Report
August 13, 2026**

Personnel Update

New Staff

Name	Position	Effective
Hilary Lambert	Culinary Arts Instructor/STC	8/20/26
Melanie Long	K-2 Elementary/NW	8/20/26
Evans Okai	Elementary Teacher/RIS	8/20/26
Margaret Schwartz	School Social Worker/RIS	8/20/26
Victor Marando	Special Education/RIS	8/20/26
Milka Wanjiru	Mathematics Teacher/RMS	8/20/26
Willa Shakeshaft	Secretary III/RHS	8/5/26
Kerrie McKinnell	Bus Aid	7/14/26
Aaron Berman	Paraeducator	8/24/26
Casey Meczywor	Paraeducator	8/24/26
Bella Nashad	Paraeducator	8/24/26
Cody Morton	Paraeducator	8/24/26
Jordyn Tanner	Paraeducator	8/24/26
Megan Apjohn	Paraeducator	8/24/26
Alexandra Olivia	Paraeducator	8/24/26
Stephanie Paradis	Paraeducator	8/24/26
Alexa Lanfer	Paraeducator	8/24/26
Hannah McMahon	Paraeducator	8/24/26
Mary Kelly	Facilities Worker I	8/17/26

Transfers

Kristin Webster	FROM: Paraeducator TO: Family Engagement and Support Specialist	8/3/26
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Resignations

Kerrie McKinnell	Bus Aid	7/20/26
Sarah Elliott	Bus Aid	8/14/26
Rachel Grantham	Bus Aid	8/17/26

Upcoming Events

New Staff Orientation- August 17th & 18th

All staff hired for the 2026-2027 school year will gather for orientation on August 17th. The focus will be on district-wide initiatives and systems, as well as professional development focused on trauma-informed practices. On the second day of orientation, August 18th, for new teachers and educational support professionals, activities will be differentiated based on their roles. Both groups will learn from their colleagues, have time in buildings, and, for new teachers, meet with their mentors.

Teacher Leaders- August 19th

First In-service Day for Licensed Staff- Thursday, August 20th

First In-service Day for All Staff- Monday, August 24th

Convocation- All RCPS staff will gather on **Tuesday, August 25th** for a morning of celebration. The event will be held at RHS beginning at 8:00 with a keynote speaker and recognition of our staff. Brunch will be offered before folks head to meetings and such in their buildings. If board members would like to join us, please email or call Kayla Battles.

Students Return- Wednesday, August 26th

Fall Open House Schedule

Allen Street/Pierpoint Campus -- Friday, September 11, 2026, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Rutland Intermediate School-- Tuesday, September 15, 2026, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Northeast Primary School-- Wednesday, September 16, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Stafford Technical Center -- Thursday, September 17, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Rutland High School-- Friday, September 18, 2026, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Northwest Primary School-- Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Rutland Middle School -- Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Community Partnerships

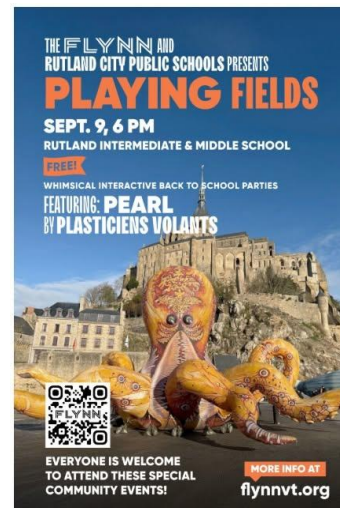
Rutland Recreation Department

This summer RCPS, with the support of grant funds, has partnered with the Rutland Recreation Department to offer free events to support wellness and family engagement. Students and their families can enjoy evenings of swimming, games, and crafts at White's Pool.



Flynn Theater

On September 9th at 6 pm RCPS will host the Flynn Theater's "Playing Fields". The Playing Fields Project is a back-to-school celebration that travels to school districts around Vermont. The project invites communities to gather together for "joyful and awe-inspiring performances" on school fields. All students and their families are welcome to gather at the fields of Rutland Intermediate and Middle School for the event. Everyone is invited to join in the fun!



Southwest Collaborative Education Service Area (CESA)

The CESA Board officially convened, established its purpose and statutory authority, and unanimously elected its officer slate:

- Chair: Rene Sanchez (RNESU Superintendent)
- Vice Chair: Cheryl Gonzalez (MRUU Superintendent)
- Treasurer: Tim Payne (SVSU Superintendent)
- Recorder: Randi Lowe (BRSU Superintendent)

To maintain momentum, the CESA Board voted to meet monthly rather than the minimum statutory requirement of four times per year. Meetings will be open to the public, occurring on the 3rd Friday of every month at 8:00 at Mill River Union High School. There will be a virtual option for meeting participation. The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2026.

Two working groups were established to drive foundational CESA operations:

- Bylaws Working Group: Members Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Chris Sell, and Pam Reed will draft initial bylaws for review at the September meeting, using templates from the VSA/external partners, as well as upcoming Vermont Learning Collaborative trainings.
- Regional Asset Mapping Working Group: Members Rene Sanchez, Randi Lowe, and Meg Honsinger will design a tool to evaluate regional programs, staffing, facilities, IT, special education, and back-office operations to identify shared efficiencies.

Several concerns regarding financial and administrative governance were identified.

- Start-Up Grants: The CESA has \$15,000 in AOE start-up grant funding. Treasurer Tim Payne is seeking state-level clarification on fiscal management, agency contacts, and potential CESA board training.
- Executive Director Position (Voted Down): A motion to budget \$100,000 in FY28 for a CESA Executive Director was unanimously voted down. Board members expressed strong concern about asking local boards/voters to fund a position before defining its scope of work or demonstrating cost savings, especially given tight timelines and overlapping merger study processes. Leadership will bring these timeline and role concerns to state officials.

To ensure transparency, the board discussed utilizing existing website infrastructure to host CESA agendas, minutes, and public comment forms.

Board members will continue to provide updates on CESA activities to their appointing supervisory union/district boards, as required.