

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

January 23, 2012

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE

A regular meeting of the Board of Education for the Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Monday, January 23, 2012, in the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center, 501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan. President Jennifer Berwick called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Berwick asked for a moment of silence in honor of Susan Jarrell, French Teacher at Stoney Creek High School and Hart Middle School, who tragically passed away on January 10, 2012.

RECORD ROLL

Members Present: Jennifer Berwick, Beth Talbert, Chuck Coutteau, Lisa Nowak, Jane Pierobon, Pat Piskulich

Members Absent: Gerald Moore with notice

Others Present: Fred Clarke, Geri Moore, Dan Romzek, Beth Davis, Debbi Hartman, John Stoner, Jeff Mozdierz, Christine Keener and approximately 50 visitors.

ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT – University Hills Elementary

Mrs. Kelley, media specialist, and Mrs. Conniff, teacher, presented information on collaboration between the Media Center and classroom instruction. Several 3rd grade students from Mrs. Conniff's classroom shared their Michigan Regions brochure which they created.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Mr. Coutteau shared the following communication that the Board of Education received since the prior meeting: Joshua Raymond shared an article on "Differentiated Instruction: Easier in Theory than in Practice" and an article on "Big Study Links Good Teachers to Lasting Gain".

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda - None

C. Student Representatives to the Board of Education

Aaron Meek, student representative from Adams High School, shared information about activities taking place at his school since the previous Board meeting which included: charity week, electronic marquee, teacher rumble, blood drive in March, solo and ensemble festival.

Leah Mazzara, student representative from Rochester High School, shared information about the activities taking place at her school since the previous Board meeting which included: exam week, idol auditions, solo and ensemble, leadership conference sponsored by student council, cheer team competitions, and athletic events.

Therese Knapp, student representative from Stoney Creek High School, shared information about activities taking place at her school since the previous Board meeting which included: athletic events, various fundraisers for the three children of their French teacher that recently passed away, and preparation for the sadies dance (February 11) with the theme Army Strong (to show support of all the soldiers coming home).

D. Members of the Board of Education

Mr. Coutteau shared that he had continued communication with Ramona Winarski, PTA President at Meadow Brook Elementary.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the following consent agenda items:

Moved by: Mr. Coutteau
Supported by: Ms. Nowak

- A. Approve the Current Bills payable for December 24, 2011 – January 13, 2012 in the total amount of \$4,652,842.17.**
- B. Approve the Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2012.**
- C. Approve the Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2012.**
- D. Approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2012.**
- E. Approve Mrs. Berwick, Mrs. Talbert and Ms. Nowak attending the Oakland County School Boards Association Dinner Meeting, January 25, 2012 in the total amount of \$90.
Source of funding: General Fund**

Motion carried: 6-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Board Bylaw 0144 TERM (Action Item, Second Reading) Mr. Clarke

Mr. Clarke referenced, as stated at the previous Board of Education meeting on January 9, 2012, Legislative House Bill 4005 and Senate Bill 427 (now Laws) which require dates of school elections to be in November of even numbered years. By mathematically moving to even numbered years it will also extend each seats term by one year.

A motion was made to remove the item from the table.

Moved by: Mrs. Talbert
Supported by: Mr. Piskulich

A vote was taken on the original motion to approve the revised Board Bylaw 0144 TERM as presented at the Board of Education meeting on January 9, 2012.

Motion carried: 6-0

REPORTS

A. Legislative Update (Informational Item) Mr. Clarke

Mr. Clarke commented on the governor's speech and Senate Bill 619 relating to cyber schools, which is being reviewed in legislative committee.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Resolution for a RFP (request for proposal) for outsourcing non-instructional services including custodial operations, transportation operations, partial grounds services, and parking lot attendants. (Action Item) Mr. Clarke

Mr. Clarke explained the rationale for requesting approval of the resolution for a request for proposal for outsourcing and that the district must be fiscally responsible to best survive this economic storm.

Mr. Clarke read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Board of Education recognizes support services staff as providing highly effective and important school district functions; and

WHEREAS, The state funding system for K-12 public education has failed to keep up with the actual cost of providing these services and educating the approximately 15,000 students in the school district; and

WHEREAS, The school district is required to contribute approximately \$2 million annually to the state mandated retirement system for support service personnel, with a substantial rate increase projected for all groups next year; and

WHEREAS, Based on the state's failure to allow our revenues to keep pace with inflation, the budget deficit projections will require the school district to make substantial cuts in educational programs and support services; and

WHEREAS, In spite of the importance of support service functions, the Board must divert as little funding from the educational program as possible while accomplishing their intended purposes; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education instructs the administration to conduct an investigation of how to provide the current level, mix and quality of a number of non-instructional support service functions through the most cost efficient delivery system(s) available, including seeking competitive proposals from private contracting firms; and

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education directs the administration to be prepared to present and discuss their recommendation(s) with the Board on or after the April 16, 2012 Board of Education meeting.

A motion was made to approve a resolution for a RFP for outsourcing non-instructional services including custodial operations, transportation operations, partial grounds services, and parking lot attendants, as presented.

Moved by: Ms. Nowak
Supported by: Mrs. Talbert

Board discussion included potential site visits, level of professionalism of current staff, bargaining units being able to bid, and this being a measure to just get some fact finding.

Richard Hall, bus driver, shared concerns regarding outsourcing transportation operations.

Jason Grant, chapter chair of the blue group, shared concerns regarding outsourcing the blue group (Custodial/Grounds/Maintenance/Transportation).

James Casazza, community member, commented on past unemployment numbers and asked for clarification on which groups would be covered by non-instructional services.

A vote was then taken on the motion to approve a resolution for a RFP for outsourcing non-instructional services which includes custodial operations, transportation operations, partial grounds services, and parking lot attendants.

Motion carried: 6-0

B. Recommendation to participate in energy cost savings program with Energy Education, Inc.
(Action Item) Mr. Romzek

Mr. Romzek provided information about Energy Education, Inc. (EEI) and is recommending the approval of the contract with Energy Education, Inc. for the proposed energy conservation program.

Mr. Mike Bitar, Regional President from Energy Education, provided a brief overview of the contract and shared a DVD presentation.

A motion was made to approve a recommendation to participate in energy cost savings program with Energy Education, as presented.

Moved by: Mr. Piskulich
Supported by: Mr. Coutteau

Mr. Bitar shared that February 1, 2012 would be the target start date if EEI and Rochester Community Schools form this partnership.

Board discussion included the selection of the Energy Specialist, the software program from EnergyCAP, base year clarification, managing consumption and cost avoidance, and termination penalties/relationship.

James Casazza, community member, questioned how changes in the use of buildings and space are accounted for. Mr. Bitar responded that the base year would be adjusted accordingly.

Lisa Kelley, media specialist, shared concerns regarding children's learning based on temperature efficiencies. Mr. Bitar commented that this program does not challenge comfort levels.

Michelle Bueltel, parent, questioned if EEI has ever had to cancel or terminated a contract with a school district for not implementing the program? If so, what were the things they were not willing to do? Mr. Bitar responded that EEI has been in business for 26 years and has never terminated a contract.

A vote was then taken on the motion.

Motion carried: 6-0

C. 2011-12 General Fund Budget Amendment & Discussion on Preliminary General Fund Budget Projection for 2012-13 Mr. Romzek and Ms. Hartnell

i. 2011-12 General Fund Budget Amendment (Action Item)

A motion was made to approve the resolution amending 2011-12 General Fund Budget as presented.

Moved by: Ms. Nowak

Supported by: Mrs. Pierobon

Ms. Hartnell presented the 2011-12 General Fund Budget Amendment information. The amendment includes revenues of \$150.8 million, expenditures of \$161.7 million and a deficit of \$10.9 million, leaving a fund balance of \$23.4 million.

Board discussion included delinquent taxes, benefit reductions and packages.

A vote was then taken on the motion.

Motion carried: 6-0

ii. Discussion: Preliminary General Fund Budget Projection for 2012-13 (Information Item)

Mr. Romzek presented the Preliminary General Fund Budget Projection for 2012-13. The preliminary projections include revenues of \$150.2 million, expenditures of \$162.6 million and a deficit of \$12.4 million, leaving a fund balance of \$12.7 million.

Board discussion included Best Practices one-time funding, 1st year savings from Energy Education, budget calendar key dates, fund balance and enrollment projections.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting - None

B. Members of the Administration

Mr. Clarke attended the Business Professionals of America (BPA) competition where RCS high school students performed extremely well against the other schools. Mr. Clarke also attended the International Festival at North Hill Elementary which was well attended and a real neat event.

Mrs. Moore announced that five (5) Rochester students have been selected for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. The district also received posters which recognize Rochester Community Schools as being named to the 2nd Annual AP Honor Roll for expanding opportunity and improving performance for AP students by The College Board.

Mr. Romzek thanked the Board of Education and Administration for welcoming him on his first day of work in Rochester Community Schools and for the opportunity to transition with Mr. Mull.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Mrs. Talbert shared the following items: thanked the administration for allowing the transition time for Mr. Mull and Mr. Romzek, reminded the Board of the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Legislative Day on Thursday, March 15, 2012 in Lansing and encouraged Board members to attend, she attended the Musson Elementary PTA meeting and had good dialogue with the parents, and her attendance at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids where the Stoney Creek High School Choir was showcased, including a song composed by director Brandon Ulrich.

Mrs. Berwick attended the West Middle School production of Beauty and the Beast which was held at Rochester High School and it was outstanding.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming RCS Events

January 25, 2012: Half Day for Students Gr. 6-12 AM Student Exams, PM Teacher Records
January 26, 2012: Half Day for Students Gr. 6-12 AM Student Exams, PM Teacher Records
January 27, 2012: No School for Students Gr. K-5, AM Teacher Records Gr. K-5
January 27, 2012: Half Day for Students Gr. 6-12 AM Student Exams, PM Teacher Records Gr. K-12
January 27, 2012: Board of Education Retreat, West Middle School, 8 a.m.
January 30, 2012: No School for Students Gr. K-12, District Professional Development
January 31, 2012: 2nd Semester and 3rd Quarter Begin
February 6, 2012: Board of Education Regular Meeting, Administration Center, 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Moved by: Ms. Nowak
Supported by: Mr. Coutteau
Motion carried: 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Secretary, Board of Education