

# **ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**

January 9, 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 9, 2012, in the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center, 501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan. President Jennifer Berwick called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **RECORD ROLL**

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Fred Clarke, Geri Moore, Bill Mull, Beth Davis, Debbi Hartman, Irene Larson, Deb Walter, Jeff Mozdierz, John Stoner, Kevin Cumming, Deb Fragomeni, Christine Keener and approximately 75 visitors.

#### **ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT** – Adams High School

Adams High School students and Mrs. Megerian, business teacher, presented information on their practicum program. Mr. Cumming, principal, also thanked all the businesses in the district who participated in the practicum program.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Secretary of the Board of Education** - None

**B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda** - None

**C. Student Representatives to the Board of Education**

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: athletic events, the upcoming Spanish Club bagel sale and Solo and Ensemble taking place on January 14, 2012.

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: upcoming exams and athletic events.

Aaron Meek, student representative from Adams High School, shared information about activities taking place at his school since the previous Board meeting which included: the planning of their second Homecoming on February 11, 2012, student council members attending the OAA County meeting and upcoming Cross Town Showdown game between Adams High School and Rochester High School being held at Oakland University.

#### **D. Members of the Board of Education**

Mr. Coutteau received communication from Ramona Winarski, PTA President at Meadow Brook Elementary, regarding the district budget.

#### **SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS** – School Board Recognition

Mrs. Hartman, Community Relations/Foundation Manager, read the Certificate of Proclamation from the State of Michigan Governor's office regarding the Board of Education recognition month, January 2012.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

- A. To approve the Current Bills payable for December 2011 in the amount of \$7,101,035.86.**
- B. To approve the Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2011.**
- C. To approve the Board of Education Regular/Study Session Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2011.**
- D. To approve the Head Start Director's Report for November, 2011.**

Motion carried: 7-0

#### **REPORTS**

##### **A. Superintendent's Committee Reports** (Informational Item) Mr. Clarke, Mrs. Moore and Mr. Mull

Superintendent's Business, Operation and Support Advisory Committee – Mr. Mull, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, shared information from the committee discussion including a budget status update, the potential energy cost savings partnership with Energy Education, Inc., an RFP bid for potential outsourcing of transportation and custodial functions, the Board negotiation team for the upcoming REA negotiations to include Gary King from the law firm Keller Thoma, the prioritized needs for instructional furniture, and the estimated cost for full day kindergarten for 2012-13.

Superintendent's Curriculum Advisory Committee – Mrs. Moore, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, shared information from the committee discussion including Chinese Language, American Sign Language, the Physical Education graduation requirements, Advanced Placement additions, some additional math courses and all day kindergarten.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. All Day Kindergarten recommendation for 2012-13** (Action Item) Mrs. Moore

Mrs. Moore shared that the Board of Education had given the Curriculum and Instruction department a charge last February 2011 to examine and develop a plan for the implementation of all day every day kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year. A committee was formed comprised of kindergarten teachers, elementary

principals, pre-k teachers, ELL teachers, resource room teachers, elementary program consultant, parents and an early childhood consultant from Oakland Schools. Mrs. Moore recommended all day every day kindergarten for all Rochester Community Schools students.

Mrs. Walter, Director of Elementary Education, and committee members were pleased to present the committee report to the Board of Education. The presentation included a video, created by high school students under the guidance of teacher Chris Guyor, which conveyed the story of kindergarten in Rochester Community Schools and a PowerPoint presentation. Mrs. Walter shared information on the committee, timeline, and the research summary which included benefits, comparison to state and national kindergarten standards and the common core state standards. Ms. Morrill, kindergarten teacher at Meadow Brook Elementary, shared information on the belief statements, a typical day and professional development. Ms. Dooling, kindergarten teacher at Hampton Elementary, shared information on the technology component of the committee report. Ms. Devlin, kindergarten teacher at Brewster Elementary, shared information on the pre-k to kindergarten transition plan. Mrs. Hartman covered the communication plan. Mrs. Walter concluded the presentation with the requirements for implementation and projected budget.

The All Day Every Day Kindergarten Committee with the support of Elementary Principals recommends to the Rochester Community Schools Board of Education the adoption of an all day, every day kindergarten program. The curriculum should include all the elements that were cited within the report and the district should devote the staff, time and resources for a quality kindergarten program giving the students the best possible start. The implementation of the program should be communicated well to all of the stakeholders. The committee recommends that an ongoing financial source be identified for the inclusion and support of technology in the classroom. Rochester's goal of ensuring all of our students are college, career and life ready requires that more attention be given to the early years of education. A high quality, all day every day kindergarten program will establish a solid foundation for children to acquire both the cognitive skills and the social and emotional dispositions that propel them to be competent and eager learners.

A motion was made to approve the All Day Kindergarten recommendation for 2012-13 as presented.

Moved by: Mr. Coutteau

Supported by: Mrs. Talbert

Board discussion included reoccurring cost, enrollment projections, quiet (nap) time, scaffolding clarification, budget with regard to the estimated penalty if full day kindergarten becomes state mandatory for full funding, achievement gap, iPad pilot, communication and support plan, kindergarten camp, community outreach to pre-k, transportation, the measurable aspects/data of the success of the full day kindergarten program and how these will be incorporated into the District Goals and Objectives.

Mr. Mozdzierz's goal is to evaluate the strengths and weakness of the iPad as an alternative technology option. The evaluation will help determine which technology is best suited to the kindergarten classrooms (desktops, laptops or iPad) while trying to stay within the current funding allocation to the best extent possible. The evaluation will be completed by March or April 2012 and reported back to the Board (through committee) during this time frame.

Mr. Clarke shared that the all day every day kindergarten report on the progress and measures put in place would likely be available in December 2012 or January 2013 with a follow-up report by the end of the year.

Clarke Bonten, parent, expressed concerns regarding full day kindergarten and feels strongly that the district offer half day kindergarten as an option.

Cynthia Pike, parent, expressed concerns regarding full day kindergarten and asked the Board to consider the option of half day kindergarten.

Joshua Raymond, parent, expressed concerns regarding full day kindergarten, that differentiated instruction be addressed, that full day kindergarten and half day kindergarten be optional, and having a K First class.

Angela Gadlage, parent, expressed concerns with the full day kindergarten, allowing longer nap time, afternoon playtime, the December 1<sup>st</sup> cut-off date, transition time, the need for para pros in the classrooms, what is best for all students, and to move slowly to help the students move fast.

Suzi Carbone, parent, expressed concerns regarding all day every day kindergarten, schedule, summer camp, and communication to non-Rochester Community Schools preschools.

Mary Masson, Early Childhood Consultant at Oakland Schools, recognized the stellar work of the district's committee on the report that was presented. She provided clarification on the bill of intent (School Aid Bill), the value of play of children in the kindergarten age, the need to think about the whole child (social, emotion, physical and cognitive) and that there is more to it than just the reading, writing and math scores.

Motion carried: 7-0

#### **B. Board Bylaw 0144 TERM (Action Item, First Reading) Mr. Clarke**

Mr. Clarke referenced 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 approve the first reading of the proposed revision to Board Bylaw 0144 TERM.

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

A motion was made to table the item until the next regular meeting.

Moved by: Mr. Moore  
Supported by: Ms. Nowak  
Motion carried: 7-0

### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

#### **A. Citizens Present at the Meeting - None**

#### **B. Members of the Administration**

Mr. Clarke thanked the Board for their attendance at the School Law and Finance Seminar presented by Clark Hill, PLC and Plante Moran, PLLC on Saturday, January 7, 2012.

Mrs. Moore acknowledged the work of the partnership between Rochester Community Schools, the Rochester Area Ministerial Association, City of Rochester and Rochester Hills for a well-attended and uplifting Martin Luther King Celebration at St. Paul's Methodist Church on January 8, 2012.

**C. Members of the Board of Education**

Mrs. Berwick also commented on the Martin Luther King Celebration and the inspiring student performances.

Ms. Nowak thanked Mr. Romzek, the new Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, for attending the School Law and Finance Seminar with the Board members and Mr. Clarke.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming RCS Events**

January 11, 2012: Superintendent's Community Coffee, Administration Center, Graham Room, 7 p.m.

January 16, 2012: No School – MLK Jr. Holiday Gr. K-12

January 23, 2012: Board of Education Regular Meeting, Administration Center, 7 p.m.

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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Begin

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Moved by: Ms. Nowak

Supported by: Mrs. Talbert

Motion carried: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
Charles N. Caulton  
Secretary, Board of Education