

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDY SESSION

April 30, 2012

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A Study Session of the Board of Education for the Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Monday, April 30, 2012, in the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center, 501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan. President Jennifer Berwick called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Pat Piskulich with notice

Others Present: Fred Clarke, Geri Moore, Dan Romzek, Beth Davis, Jeff Mozdierz, Irene Larson, Anne Evans, Victoria Righter, Doug Hill, Christine Keener and approximately 75 visitors.

ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT – Musson Elementary

Victoria Righter, Principal, the 2nd Grade Teaching Team, and 2nd Grade students showcased a multi-media presentation about Comprehension Strategies and Reader's Workshop.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Mr. Coutteau shared the following communications that the Board of Education received since the prior meeting: Julie Kuslits and RHS English Department regarding Media Specialist position, Elizabeth Witten regarding her thoughts on a balanced budget, Suzanne Waack regarding styrofoam lunch trays, and May Alessandro regarding researching critical decisions to balancing the district's budget.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda

Elizabeth Witten addressed the Board of Education regarding the 2012-13 budget.

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: the Student Council conference for Middle School students, Night with the Stars, athletic events, and their recognition assembly. Jack Sinko, student from RHS, showed the Student Council State Conference 2013 promotional video "Life is a Highway".

Therese Knapp, student representative from Stoney Creek High School, shared information about the activities taking place at her school since the previous Board meeting, which included: the Spring Musical, Senior Prom, Student Council bowling tournament, 2013 Student Trip to Germany, athletic events, and that there are only 15 days left for Seniors.

D. Members of the Board of Education

Mrs. Berwick shared the following communication received: Patricia Blucher regarding the value that the Learning Center Paras provide to the district.

STUDY SESSION

A. Presentation and discussion of 2012-2013 budget reduction considerations, not in priority order, with Board of Education, and related public input. (Informational Item) Mr. Romzek

Mr. Romzek, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, presented the 2012-2013 Budget Projections Update and Budget Reduction Considerations. The PowerPoint presentation included the Budget Planning Objective, Projected 2012/2013 Budget, Assumptions Used in Budget Projections – Revenue (3 versions – Governor’s Budget Proposal, Approved Senate Bill 961 and Approved House Bill 5372), Comparison of State Budget Proposals, One-Time Best Practice Incentive Funds, Assumptions Used in Budget Projections – Expenditures, General Fund Revenue and Expenditures State Aid per Student and MSPERS Trends, Enrollment History, General Fund Equity as a Percent of Expenditures, Factors that will Affect 2012/2013 Budget, Addressing Budget Shortfall, Impact of Budget Reductions on Fund Equity, How RCS has remained Fiscally Solvent, Budget Hierarchical Levels, Budget Reduction Considerations (not prioritized), Possible Budget Considerations for Future Years (2013/14 and beyond), and the Budget Planning Calendar.

Board discussion included redistricting, options and tiers, impact statements, the impact of the 5% reduction of building budgets over the years, the number of administrative staff compared to other districts and the number reduced since 2008, class size in relationship to reducing teachers along with rumors of standing room only (Mr. Romzek shared that none of our class sizes will be increased beyond the contractual limits), student enrollment and closing buildings, the impact of Senate Bill 1040 (the impact is unknown at this time because the legislation is uncertain), breakdown by percentage on the tiers, the maximize revenue increase via School of Choice, revenue enhancements, and the communication to all with the recommended reductions.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting

Patricia Blucher, para educator, addressed the Board regarding the 2011-12 drop in revenue and savings to the district by employees contributing twenty percent to healthcare.

Jim Casazza, community member, addressed the Board regarding the district’s budget and middle schools athletics.

Joshua Raymond, parent, provided the Board some inventive ways to keep the Media Specialists.

Jill Pesci, parent, requested clarification on the best way to voice her opinion on the items listed on the budget cuts. Mrs. Berwick provided the various options: Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda, Chat with the Board, Email the Board of Education, and citizen may comment after every agenda item at the Board of Education meetings.

B. Members of the Administration - Mr. Clarke and Mrs. Moore shared information about the Governor’s Summit where Mrs. Moore and RCS Principals Mr. Behrmann, Mr. Cumming, Mr. Pontziou, Mrs. DiMaria and Mrs. Righter presented best practices used to achieve the Beating the Odds designation. Mr. Clarke discussed the Energy Education training that Mr. Emerson and he attended.

C. Members of the Board of Education - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming RCS Events

May 4, 2012	No School K-12; Professional Development
May 7, 2012	Board of Education Regular Meeting, Administration Center, 7 p.m.
May 9, 2012	Superintendent's Community Coffee, Admin. Ctr., Graham Room, 7-8:30 p.m.
May 12, 2012	RCS Foundation Hometown Hustle
May 21, 2012	Board of Education Regular Meeting/Study Session, Administration Center, 7 p.m.
May 28, 2012	No School K-12; Memorial Day

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Moved by: Mrs. Talbert
Supported by: Mrs. Pierobon
Motion carried: 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

Beth Talbert
Secretary, Board of Education