

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

April 16, 2012

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education for the Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Monday, April 16, 2012, in the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center, 501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan. President Jennifer Berwick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jennifer Berwick, Beth Talbert, Chuck Coutteau, Lisa Nowak, Jane Pierobon, Pat Piskulich, and Gerald Moore (via live audio feed)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Fred Clarke, Geri Moore, Dan Romzek, Beth Davis, Debbi Hartman, John Stoner, Jeff Mozdierz, Irene Larson, Lori Hartnell, Mary Beth Garcia, Anne Evans, Josie Petitta, Mike Emerson, Christine Keener and approximately 150 visitors.

ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT – Van Hoosen Middle School

Mr. Cottone, World Studies Teacher, asked for a moment of silence in memory of Joseph Cooper Salsberry, a student at Van Hoosen Middle School, who passed away over the weekend.

Van Hoosen Middle School 7th and 8th grade students shared a Prezi presentation about critical thinking skills in Mr. Cottone's World Studies class and Ms. Dittforth's German class.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Mr. Coutteau shared the following communications that the Board of Education received since the prior meeting: Pat Szymanski regarding privatizing High School Grounds positions, Bridgette Bachler, Kelly Bush, and Eric Lohr regarding the contracting of services in Rochester Community Schools, Tricia Pfannes regarding middle school sports and 2012-2013 budget and potential reductions, Kate Lionas regarding the possible reduction in Media Specialists and contracting for services, Debabrata Sarkar regarding high school science curriculum, Jeff Green regarding privatizing the Grounds Department, Marianne Maurer regarding the importance of a strong Media Center program, and Patricia Blucher regarding the possible elimination of the Learning Center programs.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda

Andrew Jaracz, bus driver, addressed the Board regarding contracting services for transportation.

Dyanne Sanders, parent, and Erin Hill, Farmington Public Schools Bus driver, addressed the Board regarding contracting services for transportation.

Julie Wright, parent, addressed the Board regarding the legislation out of Lansing supported by Representative McMillin and Senator Marleau that has hindered public education in Rochester.

C. Student Representatives to the Board of Education

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: Prom will be May 23, 2012, Ultimate Soccer Arena will be the new location for commencements on June 5, 2012, All Night Senior Party, 3rd Quarter Grades, Top Scholars, graduation speech auditions, school supplies drive, and the Key Club Fun Run on June 3, 2012.

Jack Sinko, student representative from Rochester High School, shared information about the activities taking place at his school since the previous Board meeting, which included: Spring Careers Days, Top Scholars, Spring Play, Night with the Stars Senior Assembly, Green Out, athletic events, Art Students trip to Chicago, and the Business Professionals of America (BPA) students' trip to New York City. On behalf of the RHS students, administration and staff send their condolences to Van Hoosen Middle School on the loss of their friend Cooper Salsberry.

Aaron Meek, student representative from Adams High School, shared information about the activities taking place at his school since the previous Board meeting, which included: athletic events, Robotics Team, BPA and DECA students will attend Nationals, Spring Musical and Sympathy Band performing at State Festival. Mr. Meek shared Cooper Salsberry's obituary.

D. Members of the Board of Education

Mrs. Berwick shared the following communications received: Rahul Munot, parent, regarding middle school uniforms and dress code, Pat McKay regarding the completed improvements to the Van Hoosen Farm School House, Marsha Andres regarding privatization, and Jason Grant regarding sick days for the Blue Group.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS – Stoney Creek High School Art Department

Diane Heath from Stoney Creek High School Art Department shared information about accomplishments of students in the Art Department including scholarships, state and national awards and the partnership with General Motors and the graphic arts students.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve the Current Bills payable for February 27, 2012 through March 30, 2012 in the amount of \$10,062,992.49.**
- B. Approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2012.**
- C. Approve the Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2012.**
- D. Approve the Head Start Director's Report for February, 2012.**

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

Moved by: Mr. Coutteau

Supported by: Ms. Nowak

Mrs. Berwick requested a Board of Education member roll call.

Ayes: Mr. Piskulich, Mrs. Pierobon, Ms. Nowak, Mr. Moore, Mr. Coutteau, Mrs. Talbert, Mrs. Berwick

Nays: None

Motion carried: 7-0

REPORTS

A. Human Resources Recommendations (Action Item) Ms. Davis

A motion was made to move the item to the table.

Moved by: Ms. Nowak

Supported by: Mrs. Pierbon

Ms. Davis, Executive Director of Human Resources, presented the following recommendations:

APPOINTMENT

Michael Emerson, Energy Education Specialist

RETIREMENTS

Lauren Berry, Art Teacher, Brooklands Elementary
Carol Blender, Kindergarten Teacher, Brooklands Elementary
Nancy Brandt, Math Teacher, Rochester High School
Gayle Buttrey, 5th Grade Teacher, McGregor Elementary
Debra Clark-Vickers, Language Arts Teacher, Hart Middle School
Janis Houston, 4th Grade Teacher, Delta Kelly Elementary
Wendy Hutt, 2nd Grade Teacher, McGregor Elementary
Stacey Ingram, English Teacher, Adams High School
Barbara Kranitz, 1st Grade Teacher, North Hill Elementary
Jane Long, 3rd Grade Teacher, Brooklands Elementary
Laura Matthews, Project Find Coordinator, Administration Building
Kathryn McCurdy, 1st Grade Teacher, McGregor Elementary
Alice Murphy, 3rd Grade Teacher, Delta Kelly Elementary
Al Must, Social Worker, Van Hoosen Middle School
Timothy Palmer, Music Teacher, Delta Kelly Elementary
Christine Pasternak, 4th Grade Teacher, McGregor Elementary
Ingrid Perring, 5th Grade Teacher, McGregor Elementary
Sharon Sassalos, Art Teacher, North Hill Elementary
Nancy Swanson, Media Specialist, McGregor Elementary
Paul Shinsky, Math Teacher, Rochester High School
Patricia Trinowski, 1st Grade Teacher, McGregor Elementary
Mary Ward, Social Studies Teacher, Hart Middle School
Ruth Warnock, Art Teacher, McGregor and University Hills Elementary

RESIGNATIONS

Dawn Barger, 4th Grade Teacher, North Hill Elementary
Lori Giacalone, Math Teacher, Hart Middle School
Jamie Paximadis, Art Teacher, Hamlin Elementary
Leslie Rosenblatt, Spanish Teacher, Rochester High School
Juliana Wonboy, Kindergarten Teacher, McGregor Elementary

Mrs. Berwick requested a Board of Education member roll call.

Ayes: Mr. Piskulich, Mrs. Pierobon, Ms. Nowak, Mr. Moore, Mr. Coutteau, Mrs. Talbert, Mrs. Berwick

Nays: None

Motion carried: 7-0

B. Superintendent's Committee Reports (Informational Item) Mr. Clarke, Mrs. Moore and Mr. Romzek

Superintendent's Continuous Improvement Committee – Mr. Clarke, Superintendent, shared information from the committee discussion including the measurables for the Superintendent's Evaluation, expenses update, Policy Review Committee and USAA registration.

Superintendent's Curriculum Advisory Committee – Mrs. Moore, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, shared information from the committee discussion including World Language and American Sign Language, ADED kindergarten, Lumens online registration system, and the Grosse Pointe School visit.

Superintendent's Business, Operation and Support Advisory Committee – Mr. Romzek, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, shared information from the committee discussion including the interviews of the bond underwriting firms for possible refunding bonds, 2012/2013 budget projections and reduction considerations, review of the contract proposals for Transportation, Custodial and Partial Grounds, school cost comparison, and an update on the Finance/HR software bidding process.

C. Legislative Update (Informational Item) Mr. Clarke

Mr. Clarke's legislative update included House Bill 4513 which moves the kindergarten start date from December 1st to September 1st which impacts both parents and school districts, and House Bill 5335 which would prohibit board members from participating in board meetings by phone or over the internet. Senate Bill 315 and 316 are also linked to the September 1st kindergarten start date and applying for a waiver. Senate Bill 619 allows unlimited cyber schools. This may be modified to only allow 1 or 2 % cyber schools but this would still impact public school funding to brick and mortar schools. There are school aid budget proposals in both the House and Senate, as well as the Governor's proposal. Senate Bill 1040 relates to the MPERS and changes that would impact future retirees as well as those with fewer than 30 years vested. If this becomes effective July 1 there are many employees who will retire within the next 4-6 weeks who may otherwise have continued to work. This could create logistical problems for districts in filling positions quickly.

NEW BUSINESS

A. The Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2012. (Action Item)

A motion was made to approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2012.

Moved by: Mr. Piskulich

Supported by: Mrs. Talbert

Ayes: Mr. Piskulich, Mrs. Pierobon, Ms. Nowak, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Talbert, Mrs. Berwick

Nays: None

Abstentions: Mr. Coutteau

Motion carried: 6-0-1

B. The Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2012. (Action Item)

A motion was made to approve the Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2012.

Moved by: Ms. Nowak

Supported by: Mrs. Pierobon

Ayes: Mr. Piskulich, Mrs. Pierobon, Ms. Nowak, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Talbert, Mrs. Berwick

Nays: None

Abstentions: Mr. Coutteau

Motion carried: 6-0-1

C. Authorizing Resolution for the Issuance and Delegating the Sale of Refunding Bonds
(Action Item) Mr. Romzek

A motion was made to approve the Authorizing Resolution for the Issuance and Delegating the Sale of Refunding Bonds as presented.

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

Mr. Romzek recommended that the Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Delegating the Sale of Rochester Community Schools 2012 or 2012 Refunding Bonds.

Board member discussion included debt retirement, reduced interest costs will result in lower debt levy to RCS taxpayers, estimated savings over the life of the bonds, bond sale, and the formal bond acceptance resolution before the bond closing date.

Mrs. Berwick requested a Board of Education member roll call.
Ayes: Mr. Piskulich, Mrs. Pierobon, Ms. Nowak, Mr. Moore, Mr. Coutteau, Mrs. Talbert, Mrs. Berwick
Nays: None
Motion carried: 7-0

D. Authorizing Resolution to enter into a Contract with Durham School Services for Pupil Transportation Services and Issue Notices of Lay-off to Affected School District Employees
(Action Item) Mr. Clarke

A motion was made to move the item to the table.
Moved by: Ms. Nowak
Supported by: Mr. Coutteau

Mr. Clarke shared that Rochester Community Schools is facing extremely difficult financial times. The 2012/2013 budget projections show an estimated \$10.8 million shortfall. This budget problem is due to district costs increasing at a rate greater than state revenues. The level of state funding next year is projected to be at the same level as it was in 2006/2007, yet the district is expected to pay the continuing rising retirement costs. The board has cut \$31 million in costs since 2001, including \$2.2 million in concessions from the Blue Group in 2009. As a result of these challenging times, the district must look at reducing non-instructional costs from the budget in order to preserve instructional programs.

On January 23, 2012, the Board of Education passed a Resolution directing the Administration to conduct an investigation of how to provide the current level, mix and quality of pupil transportation services and custodial and partial grounds services through the most cost efficient delivery systems available, including seeking competitive proposals from private contracting firms. This Board Resolution resulted in the District issuing Requests for Proposal for Pupil Transportation Services and Custodial and Partial Grounds Services. The proposals revealed significant financial savings can be obtained by contracting for these services. Several firms have the technical ability to meet the current level, mix, and quality of services, and we are recommending tonight the award of two contracts that will provide an estimated \$11.7 million in cost savings over the next three years.

The recommendation for Pupil Transportation Services is Durham School Services. They offer a three year contract with the option to renew upon successful annual review for up to 3 additional years. The contract pricing is variable, depending on the number of bus routes, mid-day shuttle runs, and field trips. The estimated cost for the 2012/2013 year is approximately \$5,048,974, which is an estimated savings of \$1.3 million for 2012/2013, and total estimated cost savings of \$4.7 million over the next three years. After careful review of all four proposals received, completion of vendor

interviews, and satisfactory completion of references, the Committee unanimously recommends that the District enter into a contract with Durham School Services for the following reasons:

- Durham School Services is committed to providing high quality pupil transportation services.
- The company currently serves 350 K-12 school districts across the country, including 5 districts in the State of Michigan.
- The company currently serves Birmingham, Royal Oak, and Southfield school districts, which are located in Oakland County.
- Committee members did extensive reference checks with other Durham districts.
- Highly competitive pricing structure which will result in significant cost savings for the District.

Board discussion included staff complying with district policy, transportation appeals committee, current administrative staff, caliber of the Durham employees, back ground checks and requirements, monthly service reports, special education students, current RCS staff that transition to Durham, term of the contract, safety, purchase of fuel, and the flexibility for RCS to own its own bus fleet (this will be determined each year).

Terrie Hendrix, transportation assistant, thanked the parents in the audience for their support.

Richard Hall, resident and transportation employee, gave his condolences to Cooper Salsberry family and addressed the Board regarding privatizing.

Rebecca French, resident, addressed the Board regarding special needs students and privatizing transportation services.

Kristin Swark, resident and transportation employee, addressed the Board regarding the privatization of the transportation department.

Mr. Clarke read the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the state funding system for K-12 public education has failed to keep up with the actual cost of providing the non-instructional services necessary to operate the School District and educate the over 15,000 students in the School District; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the School District's financial integrity and ensure School District resources are directed to the maintenance of high quality educational services and programs for its students, the Board of Education issued a Request for Proposals for Pupil Transportation Services on January 29, 2012 (the "RFP"); and

WHEREAS, after review and consideration of the proposals received in response to the RFP, and giving the Rochester Custodial/Maintenance/Grounds and Transportation Union AFSCME, Local 202, Council 25, an opportunity to bid on the pupil transportation services contemplated in the RFP on an equal basis as other bidders, the Board of Education has concluded that it can maintain and enhance the level, mix and quality of the pupil transportation services of the School District and achieve substantial savings through contracting for the School District's pupil transportation operations.

THEREFORE, the Board of Education resolves that:

1. The School District hereby selects Durham School Services, L.P. ("Durham") to perform the pupil transportation services of the School District as set forth in the RFP.
2. The Superintendent or his designee is hereby authorized to:
 - (a) negotiate and finalize the terms and conditions of the contract with Durham, subject to the review and approval by the School District's legal counsel, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the RFP and Durham's proposal.
 - (b) execute the resulting contract with Durham, as well as any and all documents necessary and incidental to said contract, on behalf of the School District.
 - (c) issue notices of layoff to affected School District employees in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

Additional Board discussion included that 86% of the budget is labor cost, balance the budget, hard decision to make, elimination of transportation services, increase in retirement cost, a bucket of bad choices, support district as a whole and make decisions in the best interest of the students, cuts to programs, required by law every year to balance the budget, fund balance, these cuts are painful, and the professionalism of the union leadership and employees.

A motion was made to approve the Authorizing Resolution to enter into a Contract with Durham School Services for Pupil Transportation Services and Issue Notices of Lay-off to Affected School District Employees as presented.

Mrs. Berwick requested a Board of Education member roll call.

Ayes: Mr. Piskulich, Mrs. Pierobon, Ms. Nowak, Mr. Moore, Mr. Coutteau, Mrs. Talbert, Mrs. Berwick

Nays: None

Motion carried: 7-0

E. Authorizing Resolution to enter into a Contract with GCA Education Services for Custodial and Partial Grounds Services and Issue Notices of Lay-off to Affected School District Employees
(Action Item) Mr. Clarke

A motion was made to move the item to the table.

Moved by: Mr. Piskulich

Supported by: Mrs. Pierobon

Mr. Clarke stated that recommendation for Custodial and Partial Grounds Services is GCA Education Services. They offer a three year contract with the option to renew upon successful annual review for up to 3 additional years. The proposed contract amount is \$3,049,115 per year for the next three years. The estimated savings for 2012/2013 is \$1.6 million, and total estimated cost savings are \$7.0 million over the next three years. After careful review of all six proposals received, completion of vendor interviews, satisfactory completion of site visits, and satisfactory completion of references, the Committee unanimously recommends that the District enter into a contract in with GCA Education Services for the following reasons:

- GCA is committed to cleanliness and safety that is the benchmark for districts across Michigan.
- The company currently serves 160 K-12 school districts and 60 colleges and universities across the country.
- The company currently serves Birmingham, Royal Oak, and Novi school districts, locally in Oakland County.
- Committee members did extensive reference checks with other GCA districts, both current and past.
- Site visits and interviews with representatives from other school districts confirmed that GCA provides excellent services and the committee found other district facilities to be clean and well maintained.
- Highly competitive pricing structure which will result in significant cost savings for the District.

Board discussion included feedback from a retired principal, accountability measures, screening and hiring process, student scholarships, and how emergency situations are handled.

Jim Casazza, resident, addressed the Board regarding concerns he has with GCA Education Services including pay for daily custodians versus night time custodians, health insurance, employees being able speak and read English.

Mr. Clarke read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the state funding system for K-12 public education has failed to keep up with the actual cost of providing the non-instructional services necessary to operate the School District and educate the over 15,000 students in the School District; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the School District's financial integrity and ensure School District resources are directed to the maintenance of high quality educational services and programs for its students, the Board of Education issued a Request for Proposals for Custodial and Partial Grounds Services on January 29, 2012 (the "RFP"); and

WHEREAS, after review and consideration of the proposals received in response to the RFP, and giving the Rochester Custodial/Maintenance/Grounds and Transportation Union AFSCME, Local 202, Council 25, an opportunity to bid on the custodial and grounds services contemplated in the RFP on an equal basis as other bidders, the Board of Education has concluded that it can maintain and enhance the level, mix and quality of the custodial and partial grounds services of the School District's facilities and achieve substantial savings through contracting for the School District's custodial and partial grounds operations.

THEREFORE, the Board of Education resolves that:

1. The School District hereby selects GCA Education Services, Inc. ("GCA") to perform the custodial and grounds services of the School District as set forth in the RFP.
2. The Superintendent or his designee is hereby authorized to:
 - (a) negotiate and finalize the terms and conditions of the contract with GCA, subject to the review and approval by the School District's legal counsel, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the RFP and GCA's proposal.
 - (b) execute the resulting contract with GCA, as well as any and all documents necessary and incidental to said contract, on behalf of the School District.
 - (c) issue notices of layoff to affected School District employees in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

A motion was to approve the Authorizing Resolution to enter into a Contract with GCA Education Services for Custodial and Partial Grounds Services and Issue Notices of Lay-off to Affected School District Employees as presented.

Mrs. Berwick requested a Board of Education member roll call.

Ayes: Mr. Piskulich, Mrs. Pierobon, Ms. Nowak, Mr. Moore, Mr. Coutteau, Mrs. Talbert, Mrs. Berwick

Nays: None

Motion carried: 7-0

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting - None

B. Members of the Administration - Mr. Clarke announced that Barnes and Noble was congratulating RCS students for nominating Madame Jarrell and Mrs. Pellifone to the Barnes and Noble teacher recognition program. Mrs. Moore announced that RCS will present at the Governor's Summit.

C. Members of the Board of Education - Mrs. Talbert attended the McGregor 50th anniversary. Mrs. Berwick attended Mrs. Salmon's Ellis Island experience. Mrs. Pierobon shared the Chat with the Board comments about special education students on the bus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming RCS Events

April 18, 2012: Report Cards Distributed/Grades Posted
April 19, 2012: Evening Parent Conferences Gr. K-5
April 23-27, 2012: Authors in April Week
April 24, 2012: Authors in April
April 25, 2012: Evening Parent Conferences Gr. K-5
April 30, 2012: Board of Education Regular Meeting/Study Session, Administration Center, 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Moved by: Mr. Coutteau
Supported by: Mrs. Talbert
Motion carried: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Charles M. Coutteau
Secretary, Board of Education