

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

March 26, 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, March 26, 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, Lisa Nowak, Gerald Moore, Jane Pierobon, Pat Piskulich

Members Absent: Chuck Coutteau with notice

Others Present: Fred Clarke, Geri Moore, Dan Romzek, Beth Davis, Debbi Hartman, John Stoner, Irene Larson, Lori Hartnell, Christine Keener and approximately 130 visitors.

ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT

A. Long Meadow Elementary

Long Meadow staff member, Mrs. Strausbaugh, Media Specialist, along with six 3rd grade students presented their Animal Reports which they created.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Mrs. Talbert shared the following communications that the Board of Education received since the prior meeting: Debabrat Sarkar regarding dual enrollment with Oakland University, Marie Abreo regarding high school transcripts, and Nicole Wilinski regarding Senate Bills 315 and 316.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda

Andrew Jaracz, bus driver, addressed the Board of Education on the subject of contracting services for transportation.

Jeff Green and Rusty Kostsuca, grounds department employees, addressed the Board of Education on the subject of contracting services for grounds.

C. Student Representatives to the Board of Education

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: Student Council presentation for German students, Student Council State Conference, BPA Students State Leadership Conference, State Solo and Ensemble Festival, athletic events, the Thespian Society annual musical production will be *Once Upon a Mattress*, and the Freshman Mentor Program is accepting applications.

Leah Mazzara and Jack Sinko, student representatives from Rochester High School, shared information on their participation at the Student Council State Conference and that RHS and SCHS will co-host next year's Student Council State Conference with the theme of *Life is a Highway*.

D. Members of the Board of Education

Ms. Nowak shared the following comment that she and Mrs. Talbert received at the Board Chat this evening: Mr. Sarkar regarding high school science curriculum, Mr. Casazza regarding a publication from the Office of Retirement, natural gas purchasing and school busses, and Mrs. Beaubien regarding a letter for each Board of Education member with respect to media assistants.

REPORTS

A. 2012/2013 Budget Projections Update and Budget Reduction Considerations (Informational Item) Mr. Romzek

Mr. Romzek, Assistant Superintendent for Business, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2012/2013 Budget Projections and Budget Reduction Considerations. This presentation included the Budget Planning Objective, Projected 2012/2013 Budget, General Fund Revenue and Expenditures, State Aid per student and MPSERS Rate Trends, General Fund Equity as a Percent of Expenditures, Assumptions used in Budget Projections – Revenue and Expenditures, Factors that will Affect the 2012/2013 Budget, Addressing the Budget Shortfall, Impact of Budget Reductions on Fund Equity, How has RCS remained fiscally solvent?, Budget Hierarchical Levels, Budget Reduction Considerations (not prioritized), Possible Budget Considerations for Future Years (2013/2014 and Beyond) and the Budget Planning Calendar.

Board discussion included a request that each Budget Reduction Consideration item listed reference the appropriate Budget Hierarchical Levels of Instructional Support number/s and that the following two columns be added: Expenses (reduction) and Revenue (enhancers). Other discussion and questions included the Learning Consultant Para-educators positions (partial vs. full elimination of positions), impact statements on staff reductions (impact on student learning), would like to see what the General Fund Subsidy to Athletics – 10% Reduction in expenses would look like (if possible not more fees to families), when the Governor's Budget will be put in place (estimated date is June 1), enrollment projections for next year, update on the number of retiring teachers, a reminder that the list is budget considerations not budget decisions and on April 30 this list might look different.

Lorraine McGoldrick, parent, addressed the Board of Education on the subject of budget including reduction in administrative costs, the impact of funding with the possible elimination of some of these programs, employee costs, after school care BASES and community support.

Lisa Adam addressed the Board of Education on the subject of budget and privatization.

B. Review of Contract Proposals for Transportation Services & Custodial and Partial Grounds Services (Informational Item) Mr. Romzek and Mr. Stoner

Mr. Romzek and Mr. Stoner, Director of Operations, presented the review of the contract proposals for Transportation Services & Custodial and Partial Grounds Service. The overview of the PowerPoint presentation included; "How did we get to this point?", Other Contracted Non-Instructional Services at RCS, Bidding Process, Review the Proposals for Transportation Services, Review the Proposals for Custodial and Partial Grounds Services, Combined Savings, Other Factors to Consider and the Next Steps.

If, after careful consideration, the Board gives direction to move forward with contracting for these services, the interview teams recommend Durham School Services for Transportation Services and GCA Education Services for Custodial & Partial Grounds Services. Mr. Stoner stated that the RFP for High School Parking Lot Attendant and Mail Carrier positions will be issued in the coming weeks.

Mr. Clarke, Superintendent, commented that Rochester Community Schools is faced with extremely difficult times because of the budget. Three years ago the district was faced with a similar situation but the district was able to hold off contracting due to the sacrifices of the Blue Group. The district is faced with a \$10.8 million dollar budget problem. The district receives the same state funding as it did five years ago yet is expected to pay the continuing rising cost of retirement. Unfortunately, something has to give and the district is left with choices and none of the choices are good. This is a very difficult decision that will impact around 250 people. It comes down to how the district will save the high level of student achievement and academic programs.

Board members discussion and comments included feedback from surprise site visits, percentage of current employees hired by these companies and percentage retained, keeping management staff in place for a period of time to oversee these contractors, current bargaining groups did not submit proposals, impact on employees regarding wages, health care and retirement rate, bus replacement options, and partial grounds.

Eunice Jones, secretary for transportation department, shared concerns on privatizing the transportation department including benefits and retirement.

Lyne Gamache, transportation driver, shared comparisons of working for the school district versus working for a private company.

Denise Markham, reserve school bus driver, shared information on the revenue that the transportation department brings to the district and the quality of service.

Sue Cullen, resident and employee, shared concerns on privatization including maintenance of the schools and grounds, wage and benefit cuts already taken by this group, starting at the top instead of the bottom, and using Michigan based companies.

Jason Grant, Chapter Chair for the Blue Group and community member, shared concerns on privatizing including fines on open areas vs. failure to comply with background checks. Also, still waiting on the counter proposal and started negotiations in February.

Richard Hall chose not to address the Board of Education at the podium but stated that what he wanted to say had been covered.

Jim Casazza, community member, shared concerns and questions on how the contact companies handle healthcare cost and reform.

Jeff Green shared concerns that the district may pay more to the contract company than what is currently being paid for the three grounds positions.

Kirk Pennell, resident, shared concerns on the vagueness of some of the answers given, if all the details will be available to everyone before the Board votes, and ownership of the district's buses.

Rusty Kostsuca, AHS grounds employee, shared concerns regarding privatizing and the grounds work needed at a moment's notice for athletic events and weather related issues.

Richard Maikoski had questions on the proposals with regards to health care and rate of pay being charged to the district vs. what is being paid to the contracted employee.

Doug Hill stated that the support staff contributes greatly to the increased retirement rate that school districts have to pay and he also expressed some concerns with privatization.

Lisa Adams, resident and parent, shared concerns regarding privatizing including student safety.

Andrew Jaracz, bus driver, requested the Board investigate the possible failures of Durham School Services.

Mary Welch, resident and transportation assistant, shared concerns with privatizing transportation including quality and respect.

Gene Bilewicz, RHS custodian, shared concerns with eroding the tax base of the community.

Dave Duncanson, resident and past custodial employee, shared concerns regarding privatization including the intangibles of staff and student interaction, past wage concessions and rate of pay.

Additional Board member discussion included clarification on health care differences, benefits, the athletic turf maintenance, difficult decision, fiscal responsibility, and the budget. Direction and support from the Board of Education was given to continue to move forward with the recommended vendors as presented. The Board of Education will vote on these contracts at the April 16, 2012 Board of Education meeting.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting

Lorraine McGoldrick, parent, addressed the Board of Education regarding the budget and voiced her preference of custodial services over transportation services.

B. Members of the Administration

Mr. Clarke commented on the MASA/MASB Legislative Conference that he and Mrs. Pierobon attended last week including an educator evaluator instrument that does not yet appear to be able to define how to measure student growth.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Mrs. Talbert and Ms. Nowak attended the "Read a Latté" program at Reuther Middle School. Mrs. Pierobon took two MASB classes at the conference in Lansing and she attended the Stoney Creek High School 10

Year Anniversary event and the Hugger Elementary Spring Carnival. Mr. Piskulich attended the Sparkle Awards with Mrs. Berwick and Mr. Coutteau. Ms. Nowak attended the Reflections Ceremony with Mrs. Berwick, Mrs. Talbert and Mr. Piskulich.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming RCS Events

March 30, 2012: End of Quarter 3
April 2-9, 2012: No School – Spring Recess
April 9, 2012: Teacher Records
April 10, 2012: Classes Resume; Quarter 4 Begins
April 12, 2012: Superintendent's Community Coffee, Administration Center-Parker Rm., 10-11:30 a.m.
April 16, 2012: Board of Education Regular Meeting, Administration Center, 7 p.m.
April 19, 2012: Report Cards Distributed; Evening Parent Conferences Gr K-5
April 23, 2012: Authors in April Week
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 10:17 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

Beth Talbert
Secretary, Board of Education