

# **ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR / STUDY SESSION MEETING**

November 21, 2011

### 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, November 14, 2011, in the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center, 501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan. President Barb Cenko called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Cenko asked for a moment of silence in memory of a student from Hamlin Elementary who passed away over the weekend after a long illness.

#### **RECORD ROLL**

Members Present: Barb Cenko, Jennifer Berwick, Gerald Moore, Lisa Nowak, Beth Talbert, Marty Sibert, Chuck Coutteau

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Fred Clarke, Bill Mull, Beth Davis, Irene Larson, Sandy Srabian, Deb Walter, Debbi Hartman, Lori Hartnell, Jeff Mozdzierz, Anne Evans, Rachel Guinn, Doug Hill, Mike Emerson, Christine Keener and approximately 120 visitors.

Mrs. Cenko welcomed audience members to the meeting and reminded the community of the ways in which they could participate in the meeting and/or contact the Board of Education.

#### **ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT** – Hart Middle School

Mrs. Pellafone, teacher from Hart Middle School, and eighteen advanced language arts sixth grade students gave a presentation on critical reading and thinking, as well as new ways to improve writing.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **A. Secretary of the Board of Education**

Mr. Moore shared the following communications received since the prior Board of Education meeting: Meghan Buban sharing thoughts on the media specialist position; Mike Reno with questions and opinions on the legislative information presented at the Board meeting on November 14, 2011; and Virginia M. Shtogrin, Kellie Conner, Leslie Sheldo, Theresa Bilicki, David Duncanson, Maggie Hay and Deb Wren regarding concerns with the new healthcare legislation.

## **B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda**

Joshua Raymond, parent, and his two daughters addressed the Board regarding more opportunities for gifted learners.

Suzette Sutton-Frazee, parent, addressed the Board regarding more opportunities for gifted students.

La Toya Tung, parent, addressed the Board regarding more opportunities for advanced and gifted students.

Michelle Mineau, parent, addressed the Board regarding exploring more opportunities for accelerated learners.

Erin Howlett, parent, addressed the Board regarding gifted education differences between private and public schools.

Mike Reno, parent, addressed the Board regarding gifted and talented education.

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

Theresa Knapp, student representative from Stoney Creek High School, shared information about activities taking place at her school since the previous Board meeting which included: the canned food drive, the senior who received the Ms. Golf Award at the All-State Golf Banquet, Michael Fallon, motivational speaker, who spoke to the freshman class, and working with Neighborhood House on a toy drive.

Leah Mazzara, student representative from Rochester High School, shared information about activities taking place at her school since the previous Board meeting which included: the canned food drive, blood drive and an athletic update including a state meet for the dive team, a senior that signed their letter of intent to play basketball at Western University and an upcoming hockey game.

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

Mrs. Talbert shared a communication she received from Cindy Muir, Reuther Middle School PTA member, regarding the sale of Blessings in a Backpack ornaments for \$10 with proceeds going to the program.

Ms. Nowak shared the following comments that she and Mrs. Talbert received at the Board Chat this evening: Lena Shaw, Jeff West and Suzan Sutton-Frazee regarding their experiences with gifted and talented education with their children in the district and also out of the district. They also shared some ideas as to what the district might want to do to improve our product and offerings in this area.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Moved by: Mrs. Berwick  
Supported by: Mr. Coutteau

- A. Approve the Current Bills payable for October and November 2011 in the amount of \$4,584,523.04.**
- C. Approve the Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2011.**
- D. Approve the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) classes for the following Board of Education members: Mrs. Talbert - one (1) class in the total amount of \$85.00; Mrs. Pierobon - one (1) class in the total amount of \$180.00; and Dr. Piskulich - one (1) class in the total amount of \$180.00. Source of Funding: General Fund**
- E. Approve a Special Meeting, Closed to the Public, for the Board of Education on Monday, November 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center, 501 W. University Drive, Rochester, Michigan 48307 for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Evaluation.**

Ms. Nowak requested Item B., To approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2011, to be removed from the Consent Agenda. This agenda item would be placed under the New Business portion of the agenda.

Motion carried: 7-0

## **REPORTS**

### **A. Health Care Presentation (Informational Item) Mr. Mull**

Mr. Dave Hoisington, consultant, McGraw Wentworth gave an overview on the implication of recent legislation with regard to employee health care benefit costs. PA 152 requires the district to either adopt the 80:20 cost sharing rule or implement a hard cap. The default option is the hard cap.

The interpretation of the PA 152 effective dates for Rochester Community Schools is complex, but counsel recommends the following three compliance dates: RAA – January 1, 2012; Clerical, Paraprofessionals, Managers, Supervisors and Coordinators, Maintenance Grounds, Transportation and Custodial, Executive Staff and Directors, and Children's Programs – July 1, 2012 and Rochester Education Association (teachers) – September 1, 2012. The current Rochester Community Schools annual net health plan cost is \$15.4 mm. If Rochester Community Schools simply charges each employee amount above Cap or 20% of plan cost (80:20), Rochester Community Schools annual plan cost drops: Cap \$275,000 to \$1.4 mm and 80:20 \$1.6 mm to \$2.5 mm.

Board discussion included the following questions and comments: if the 80:20 cost sharing rule is adopted can the decision be revoked (it has been seen both ways, still a gray area and is not clear at this time), does

the Board have the ability to choose 80:20 for one union and the hard cap for a different union (again this has been seen both way), are the effective dates the same whether the Board chooses the hard cap or the 80:20 plan (yes), are there any opinions on the criteria as to which union would receive which plan (in theory the Board could do anything as long as the end result is that they have complied with the law), if there was a mixed solution within a school district would the aggregate be measured based on the 80:20 or would each sub group be broken out (there is no governing body that is authorized to measure the outcome, there is no actual group that comes in to audit the districts outcome that is noted in the regulation), is this an annual decision (yes), clarification on Senate Bill 7 (this is the founding Senate Bill behind Public Act 152), and what impact will this have on the various groups (for this fiscal year the RAA will be affected and potentially a \$25,000 benefit for the six months and recommends that this be placed in the budget amendment that will be brought forward in February).

James Casazza, community member, inquired if the cap figures are adjusted for inflation (yes, medical inflation), does the cap part apply to FTE or only to employees that elect health insurance (only applies to people who enroll in the health plan), and what role does dental play in this (health plans and health reimbursement accounts are included in the cap calculation but dental and vision are not).

Doug Hill, President of the Rochester Education Association, commented that this is all a product of what happens when local control is taken away by the State of Michigan and we need to remind Legislation that some things are left best to the local groups.

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

Superintendent's Continuous Improvement Committee – Mr. Clarke, Superintendent, shared information from the committee discussion including new board orientation, a budget calendar, board meeting agenda mapping, and athletic academic standards.

Superintendent's Curriculum Advisory Committee – Mrs. Srabian, Director of Secondary Education, shared information from the committee discussion including all day kindergarten, high school profile sheets, media center staffing and the action plans associated with the performance objectives under Goal 1 in the Operational Plan including Appendix A.

Superintendent's Business, Operation and Support Advisory Committee – Mr. Mull, Assistant Superintendent for Business, shared information from the committee discussion including a budget status update, major highlights of the audit, workers compensation third party administration bids, the media center support model, a five year plan for technology needs which exceeds the \$500,000 allocation, and a budget calendar.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. 2010-2011 Audit Report (Action Item) Mr. Mull**

Mr. Mull introduced Mr. Jim Koepke from the auditing firm of Doeren Mayhew who presented the 2010-2011 Audit Reports. The PowerPoint presentation highlighted the Governmental Balance Sheet, Governmental Funds Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance, Total General Fund Revenue and Other Sources, General Fund Revenue and Other Sources, General Fund

Expenditures and Other Uses, Total General Fund Expenditures and Other Uses, Analysis of General Fund Expenditures and Other Uses, Per-Pupil Analysis of General Fund Revenues and Expenditures, General Fund Balance as a Function of Weeks of Operation, Retirement Funding – MPSERS Expense, Employee Health-Related Expenses, Per-Pupil Analysis – MPSERS and Employee Health-Related Expenses Increase District Projection for the Year Ended June 30, 2012 and the District-Wide Balance Sheet.

Board discussion included the recommendation to delegate the authority to assign fund balance amounts to be used for specific purposes (this needs to be done by the time the Board adopts the budget in June 2012), and why it is important to do this (Mr. Mull stated that this bears committee discussion in the coming months).

Mrs. Cenko and Mr. Mull recognized Mr. Koepke and staff. They also recognized Ms. Lori Hartnell, Director of Budget and Finance, and her staff for their dedication and effort in the auditing process.

A motion was made to accept the 2010-2011 district audit report as presented.

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

**B. Consent Agenda Item B., To approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2011.**

Ms. Nowak was absent, with notice, from the November 14, 2011 Regular Board of Education meeting.

A motion was made to approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2011.

Moved by: Mrs. Talbert  
Supported by: Mr. Coutteau  
Ayes: Mr. Coutteau, Mr. Sibert, Mrs. Talbert, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Berwick and Mrs. Cenko  
Nays: None  
Abstentions: Ms. Nowak  
Motion carried: 6-0-1

**C. Recommendation and Resolution regarding P.A. 152 of 2011 – Employee Health Insurance Cost Sharing Options (Action Item) Mr. Mull and Ms. Davis**

Mr. Mull and Ms. Davis presented a recommendation that the Board adopt the 80:20 option under PA 152 which passed on September 27, 2011. This option is projected to have the greatest cost savings to the district and the effective date for this change varies by bargaining units. The administration has met with the bargaining unit leadership to share the recommendation. Mr. Mull then read the Resolution that was included in the Board of Education packet.

David Zemans, community member and member of the Rochester City Council, expressed his concerns and outrage with the state mandating these restrictions on local municipalities.

A motion was made to approve the Recommendation and Resolution regarding P.A. 152 of 2011 – Employee Health Insurance Cost Sharing Options as presented.

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

The Board recessed at 9:00 p.m. and resumed at 9:10 p.m.

## **STUDY SESSION**

### **A. Strategic Plan Update Related to Instructional Areas (Informational Item) Mrs. Larson**

Mrs. Larson, Director of Assessment, Evaluation and Grants, presented information to the Board on the Strategic Plan related to Teaching for Learning Performance Assessment. The PowerPoint presentation included the following: MEAP; New MEAP/MME Cut Scores; ACT Explore, Plan and ACT; ACT for Graduating Classes and Benchmark Targets; Percentage of Students Ready for College-Level Coursework for the Class of 2011; Graduation and Dropout Rates; and Advanced Placement.

Board discussion included clarification on which interventions are new, when Success Maker started getting used widely in the district (Mrs. Larson stated it has been in place for the last two years at the middle school level and implemented this last year at the elementary level), analysis based on the trends, resources needed, low percentages in 11<sup>th</sup> grade and the causes, new cut scores for MME/MEAP, the usefulness of MEAP, having a broader discussion on assessment overall vs. looking at this moving target, MEAP being a flawed measure and to discuss the measures that are not flawed, would like to see how much time goes into testing by each grade level, would like a more consistent measurement to collect this data, how to turn this data into actionable information, possibility of reviewing the objectives, benchmark targets and looking at the percentage of students that are ready for college-level coursework upon graduating.

Joshua Raymond, parent, inquired if the district had any standardized tests that assess grade level opposed to grade mastery for student growth and if this data is available. Mrs. Larson responded that there is a reading assessment and this correlates to an upgrade range grade correlation to reading. There is not one for math at the elementary level other than the common assessments that are currently in place, and this information is not published.

Mrs. Cenko thanked Mrs. Larson, Mrs. Walter and Mrs. Srabian. The Board will be looking at this information in more detail at the February Retreat.

**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

**A. Citizens Present**

James Casazza, community member, addressed the Board regarding the district improvement in the progress of students and their success in college, and the new food standards discussed in the news.

**B. Members of the Administration**

Mr. Clarke shared that he attended a charity event for the Rainbow Connection on Sunday. He also met with L. Brooks Patterson, who sent a special proclamation saluting Rochester Community Schools Board of Education for Excellence in School Governance.

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

Mrs. Berwick shared that she attended *Annie Get Your Gun* at Rochester High School and that it was very well done.

Mr. Coutteau congratulated the Adams High School girls swim and dive team on their performance and expressed his appreciation for Mr. Mull's work with the district.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming RCS Events**

November 23-25, 2011: No School / Thanksgiving Recess

November 28, 2011: Board of Education Meeting, closed to the public, 7:00 p.m., RCS Admin. Ctr.

December 12, 2011: Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., RCS Administration Ctr., Harrison Room

December 14, 2011: Superintendent's Community Coffee, 10-11:30 a.m., RCS Administration Ctr.,  
Graham Room

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 p.m.

Moved by: Ms. Nowak

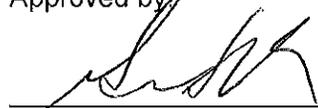
Supported by: Mrs. Talbert

Motion carried: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
Secretary, Board of Education