

# **ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

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

September 24, 2012

### **MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A Regular Meeting / Study Session, Open to the Public, of the Board of Education for the Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Monday, September 24, 2012, in the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center, 501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan. President Jennifer Berwick called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Jennifer Berwick, Beth Talbert, Lisa Nowak, Jane Pierobon, Pat Piskulich

Members Absent: Chuck Coutteau and Gerald Moore with prior notice

Others Present: Tresa Zumsteg, Geraldine Moore, Dan Romzek, Beth Davis, Debbi Hartman, John Stoner, Irene Larson, Debi Fragomeni, Dave Harwell, Anne Evans, Jeff Mozdierz, Doug Hill, Christine Keener and 30 visitors.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Mrs. Talbert shared the following communications that the Board of Education received since the prior meeting: Doreen Groen regarding the number of students in a science class at Rochester High School; Smita Kalokhe regarding the superintendent's resignation and the terms of the superintendent search; Mary Ann Ziegeler, Bradley Hamelin, and Cheryl Hadd regarding the superintendent's severance; and Dr. Thomas Harwood regarding the former superintendent and the interim superintendent.

##### **B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda – None**

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

Ms. Nowak shared the following comment that she and Mrs. Pierobon received at the Board Chat this evening: Michelle Bueltel regarding the ways the Board responds back to community concerns that are brought up in meetings and the superintendent's resignation; Joshua Raymond regarding honor classes at the high schools and smarter balanced assessment; and Joanna Vanraaphorst regarding educational legislation and initiative.

#### **REPORTS**

##### **A. Superintendent's Committee Reports (Information Items) Dr. Zumsteg, Mrs. Moore, Mr. Romzek**

Superintendent's Continuous Improvement Committee – Dr. Zumsteg, Interim Superintendent, shared that the committee will be planning a Board Retreat and a timeline for reviewing Board Policies.

Superintendent's Curriculum Advisory Committee – Mrs. Moore, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, shared information from the committee discussion on September 19, 2012 including the disproportionality of district suspensions among African American students with disabilities, which has been addressed with required remedies including allocating 15% of IDEA grant dollars for early intervention services and reviewing/revising policies and practices; putting academic and behavioral interventions into place in an elementary, middle and high school; and interventions including staff support, academic support and

supplies for identified “at risk” students. The committee also received an update on the hybrid online course and the health advisory committee.

Superintendent’s Business, Operation and Support Advisory Committee – Mr. Romzek, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, shared information from the committee discussion on September 12, 2012 including a review of the preliminary 2011-12 financial results which are being audited; an update on the start-up of contracted services; a review of student enrollment information; a discussion regarding the possibility of Finance and Human Resources software procurement process; and Stoney Creek High School stadiums ongoing problems with ground water and surface drainage.

**B. Superintendent’s Update** (Informational Item) Dr. Zumsteg

Dr. Zumsteg shared information from the Oakland County School Board Association presentation on the Core Curriculum State Standards units of studies, some of which were written by RCS teachers. There will be sample lessons available for teachers to review. She also shared a national Gallup Poll’s results on public education which demonstrates there is strong support for the Core Curriculum and noted that for the first time, the public identified finances as a concern for public schools. Dr. Zumsteg also shared that there is a bill being presented by Representative McMillin opposing the Common Core State Standards. A Parent Trigger Law (Senate Bill 620) is also being introduced, which would allow 51 percent of parents to petition for a low achieving public school to be converted to a charter school.

**C. Durham Update** (Informational Item) Mr. Romzek

Mr. Romzek introduced Colleen Mayes, General Manager, and Justin Grygiel, Director of Business Development, from Durham School Services. Mrs. Mayes was the Transportation Manager for Rochester Community Schools last year and went to work for Durham. Also, introduced was John Stoner, Director of Facility Operations for the district. Durham reported that many of the district’s drivers were retained by Durham. Durham conducted training sessions with drivers, in addition to training provided by the ISD. Most of the key administrative and maintenance staff was also retained. The remaining positions were filled with new employees. All positions have been filled and there is a waiting list of applicants.

Durham provided a summary of the hiring process which includes a personalized interview about safety and communication practices, a driving record check, drug testing, including no DUI charges in the past 10 years and a background check through fingerprinting, sex offender registry and other law enforcement data bases, conviction of a felony which involves direct harm to another person or a pattern of misdemeanors. Employees are required to report any incidents that they are involved in after they have been hired that would fall into one of the above categories.

There are 100 busses running every day for a total of 540 routes. There are 121 shuttles. The department is starting to review stop change requests and should have that completed by mid-October. After the first two days of school the phone call response improved. The GPS system has been replaced with one that interfaces with the Edulog system.

Durham addressed the communication issues the first two days of school. Drivers who normally are trained to answer the phone calls and questions that parents have were being used as drivers instead. Durham is looking at ways to improve this next year even if it means bringing on additional temporary help.

With regard to the incident with the bus driver that was arrested at the Village of Rochester Hills, Durham is investigating. The employee is on administrative leave. There were no children involved. There is no history in the employee’s background of incidents of this nature, but this will be reviewed again. The employee is entitled to due process. The suspension will continue until the legal issues are resolved.

Board discussion included background checks, authorized lay-over locations, communications regarding restoring the confidence of the community and an update on the investigation.

Jim Casazza, community member, addressed the Board of Education regarding the employee's actions being dealt with by the criminal system and the bus being in an unauthorized lay-over location.

Cheri Noble, community member and parent, addressed the Board of Education regarding the transportation for OTEC students as well as bathroom/custodial concerns at Rochester High School.

### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

**A. Citizens Present at the Meeting** – None

**B. Members of the Administration** – None

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

Mrs. Talbert provided an update from the Superintendent Search Committee. School Exec Connect would like to present at the Board of Education Meeting on October 8, 2012 and would like to post an ad now with a starting date of possibly January 1, 2013 or as negotiable. The Board recommended posting the position immediately as well as posing in national publications based on a capped dollar amount.

A motion was made to expend up to \$2,000 for the purposes of advertising for a permanent superintendent.

Moved by: Ms. Nowak  
Supported by: Mr. Piskulich  
Motion carries: 5-0

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Upcoming RCS Events**

October 8, 2012	Board of Education Regular Meeting, Administration Center, 7 p.m.
October 10, 2012	Evening Conferences (Grades 9-12)
October 11, 2012	Evening Conferences (Grades 6-8)
October 17, 2012	Evening Conferences (Grades 6-8)
October 18, 2012	Evening Conferences (Grades 9-12)
October 22, 2012	Board of Education Regular Meeting / Study Session, Admin. Center, 7 p.m.

### **STUDY SESSION**

**A. Common Core Update** (Informational Item) Mrs. Moore

Mrs. Moore and the Curriculum Department led the Board in a discussion of the Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Mrs. Larson, Director of Assessment and Grants, Mrs. Fragomeni, Director of Elementary Education, Mr. Harwell, Director of Secondary Education, summarized the Common Core State Standards information presented at the June 18, 2012 Board of Education meeting which included the Standards for Mathematical Practice and the Standards for English Language Arts. The PowerPoint presentation included information on Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

Smarter Balanced is a state-led consortium working collaboratively to develop next-generation assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that accurately measure

student progress toward college and career readiness. Smarter Balanced is committed to delivering a fully functional assessment system that will be ready for implementation in the 2014-15 school year. In addition, Smarter Balanced is supporting member states as they implement the Common Core State Standards. Tools and resources for educators will be posted online in 2012 and incorporated into the digital library as part of the assessment system. Some Rochester Community Schools' staff is participating on the county wide collaboration with Oakland Schools Common Core Standards Initiatives (CCSI) and will continue to receive professional development towards this transition.

Board discussion included citing sources, applying and synthesis of the information, building a deeper understanding, technical aspects, trained graders, technology devices, communication to parents, professional development for staff regarding the writing components, changes to report cards, and visible thinking.

Diane Glinski, parent, addressed the Board of Education regarding the superintendent search including vision, practical experience, district size, reference checks, level of commitment, and reassurance to the community that the next superintendent will be dramatically different.

Joshua Raymond, parent, addressed the Board of Education regarding his excitement with the Smarter Balanced Assessment replacing the MEAP.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.  
Moved by: Ms. Nowak  
Supported by: Mrs. Pierobon  
Motion carries: 5-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
Jennifer Berwick  
Secretary, Board of Education