

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT

October 26, 2012

Board Vision - College Ready, Career Ready, Life Ready

Mission Statement

“To provide a quality education in a caring atmosphere for students to attain the necessary skills and knowledge to become lifelong learners and contribute to a diverse, interdependent and changing world.”



MINUTES

Call to Order

A Retreat Meeting, Open to the Public, of the Board of Education for the Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Friday, October 26, 2012, in the Rochester Community Schools Administration Center, 501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan. President Jennifer Berwick called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Beth Talbert arrived at 1:30 p.m.

Members Absent: Chuck Coutteau, Gerald Moore with notice

Others Present: Tresa Zumsteg, Geri Moore, Dan Romzek, Beth Davis, Irene Larsen, Debi Fragomeni, Dave Harwell, Anne Evans, Lori Hartnell, John Stoner, Jeff Mozdierz, April Wuest, Cathy Kochanski, Larry Goralski, Michael Behrmann, Doug Hill, Larry Thomas, Christine Keener, Natalie Paddy, Angela Salerio, Lauren Wiley, Anna Mazzara, Fred Reidy, Monica Williamson, Chris Panone, Grant Bracey, Will Sheehy and no visitors.

Introduction

Dr. Zumsteg reviewed the following Goals for the Board Retreat:

- Provide quality dialogue among board members and instructional leaders as we discuss the future of Rochester Community Schools
- Listen to our students' voices as we discuss RCS's future
- Provide a vision to the superintendent candidates for the preferred future for Rochester Community Schools
- Honor the work of the K-12 Restructuring Committee (December 2008), Teacher Evaluation System, and the Core Curriculum

Board Retreat Group Norms

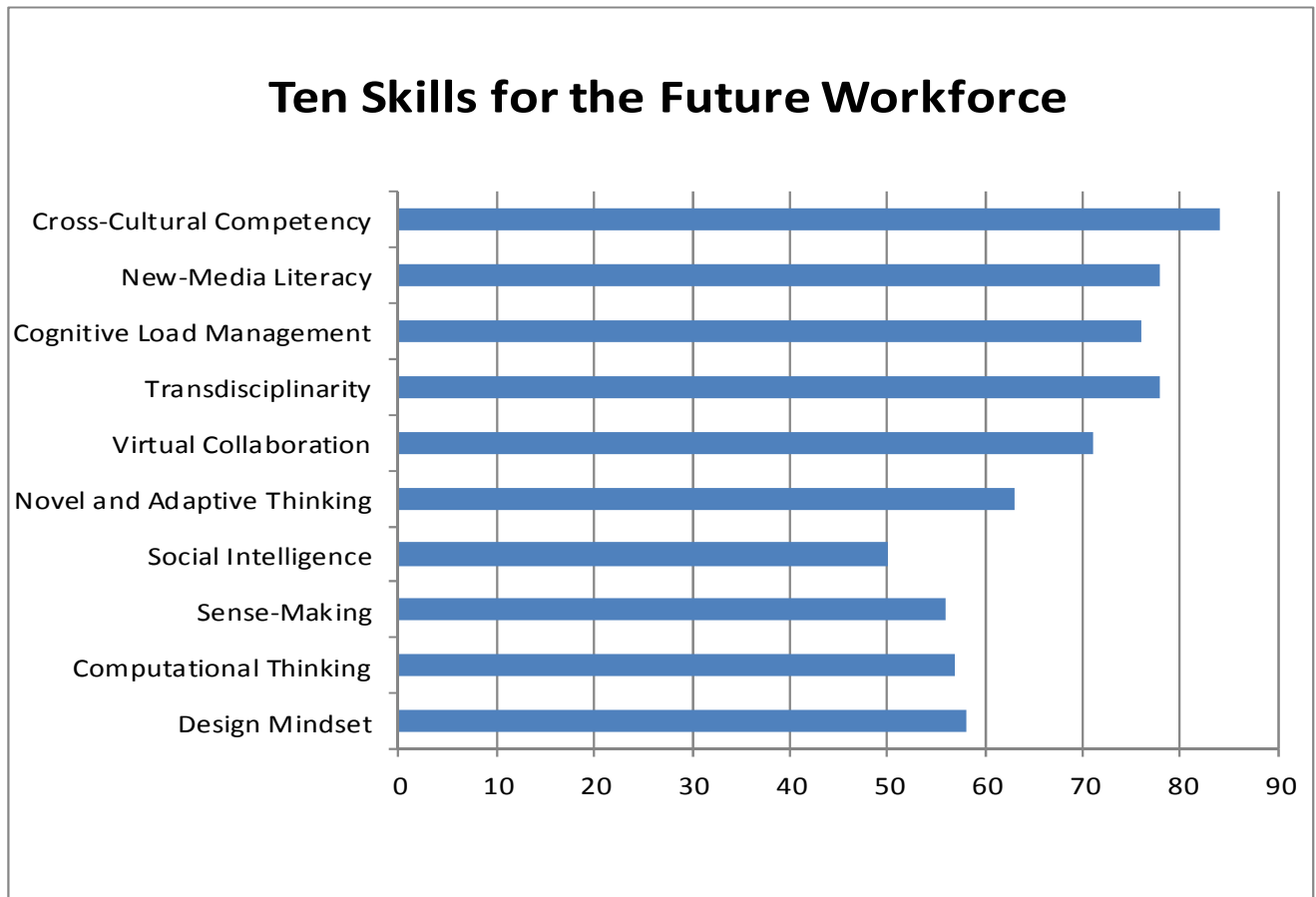
1. Listen attentively, avoid sidebar conversations.
2. Dare to Dream the possibilities without political or financial limitations.
3. Respect views of all stakeholders.
4. Avoid use of cell phones and checking emails.
5. Be a possibilitarian.

Larry Thomas, Director of School Quality from Oakland School, worked with the RCS students on a visionary activity (called a fishbowl dialogue) where they were asked their opinions about how well they feel our schools are doing to prepare them for the future, what ideas they have for using technology in school and their ideas for schools in the future. Each student that participated in the Board Retreat introduced him or herself and shared their goals, values and something about themselves.

A video was shown that showcased social skills, technology, the way we teach creative thinking, and analytical thinking for the future. Also, a video was shown showcasing the 2025 RCS graduates to make you think about what the district can do for these kindergarten students to have a successful life and a successful career.

Students Voices

Mr. Thomas discussion with the students included what gifts they could leave for the district to make it a better place for the future and the Ten Skills for the Future Workforce. The students rated, from their perception, these four areas that they believed are the highest rating of the collective representative group from their education in Rochester.



Cross-Cultural Competency: ability to operate in different cultural settings.

New-Media Literacy: ability to critically assess and develop content that uses new media forms, and to leverage media forms, and to leverage these media for persuasive communication

Cognitive Load Management: ability to discriminate and filter information for importance and to maximize cognitive functioning using a variety of tools and techniques.

Transdisciplinarity: literacy in and ability to understand concepts across multiple disciplines.

Virtual Collaboration: ability to work productively, drive engagement, and demonstrate presence as a member of a virtual team.

Novel and Adaptive Thinking: proficiency at thinking and coming up with solutions and responses beyond that which is note or rule-based.

Social Intelligence: ability to connect to others in a deep and direct way, to sense and stimulate reactions and desired interactions.

Sense-Making: ability to determine the deeper meaning or significance of what is being expressed.

Computational Thinking: ability to translate vast amounts of data into abstract concepts and to understand data-based reasoning.

Design Mindset: ability to represent and develop tasks and work processes for desired outcomes.

The Board and administrators discussion with the students included design mind set, global economy/competition, AP classes, role models, tutors, college readiness, grade level meetings with counselors, college nights, structure in the students learning, job shadow, job fairs, leadership, and media canters availability.

What words came to mind as you listened to what the students had to say about their future?

The Board members and administrators came up with the below Word Cloud based off what came to their minds as they listened to what the students had to stay about their future.



Review charge of the 2008 Restructuring Committee (Jig Saw Activity)

Dr. Zumsteg asked each table to discuss the following questions:

- Do these ideas and suggestions still align with what we know students need to be successful?
- Are there new ideas we should consider?
- Identify ideas and suggestions we should be implementing for our preferred future.

Report out and summarize ideas and vision

Discussion revolved around these ideas: expanding learning opportunities for students, the difficulty of students changing teachers at semesters, students being the least liked student by a teacher, teaming concept, the importance of the students and staff relationships, creating the smallness in the bigness, restructuring of the media center or meeting groups, virtual chat rooms, collaboration in smaller groups of students, virtual collaboration, the invisible student, less connected students, advisory program, menu of choices that students need, chill time, cultural and diversity, social economics, students owning the relationship with their teachers, there are different perceptions, cross-cultural understanding, and have a different group of students participate this in a similar event.

Dr. Zumsteg asked the tables to design a school right now for the kindergarten class of 2025 with money not being an object or politics – what kind of ideal school would you design for the children?

Discussion revolved around these ideas: project based instruction that mixes up grades at the elementary level, looking at structuring teaming and blocking at the middle school level including alternative schedules, technology and booster social skills, kid centered environments, mind body connection that schools is just more than studying, open – not the four walls gave the example of *The Magic School Bus*, building community relationships and working with Universities and business to have classes out in these industries, students will need to be efficient in global language and cultures, developing EDP for every student that is not tied to age or grade level but tied to the skills and the proficiency that they need to have (example a 6 year old working with a 10 year old), occupations exploration, teaching the life experiences, looking at the school day and year round concept, integration of other languages earlier on, and more of that pod structure/family feel, the one room school house (mixing grades, ages, and interests) and use the 6th hour at the high school level to take care of the needs of the students.

Additional discussion included the importance of the instructional leadership having dialog with the Board, listening to students, sharing these ideas with the new Superintendent, and involving community leadership's commitment and passion towards education.

ADJOURNMENT

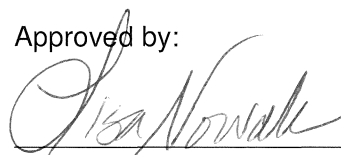
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Moved by: Ms. Nowak
Supported by: Mrs. Talbert
Vote: 5-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Lisa Nowak
Secretary, Board of Education