



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
December 9, 2013

MINUTES

Call to Order

A Regular Meeting, Open to the Public, of the Board of Education for the Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Monday, December 9, 2013, at RCS Administration Center, 501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan 48307. President Beth Talbert called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members Present: Beth Talbert, Lisa Nowak, Pat Piskulich, Jennifer Berwick, Chuck Coutteau, Jane Pierobon, Michael Zabat

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Dan Romzek, Beth Davis, Debbi Hartman, Carrie Lawler, Michael Behrmann, Anne Evans, John Stoner, Jeff Mozdierz, and approximately 250 visitors.

Mrs. Talbert read the following statement: *The Rochester Community Schools Board of Education continues to receive inquiries regarding the status of negotiations with the Rochester Education Association.*

The Board and the REA have been negotiating since May 2013 according to a mutually agreed upon calendar and to date have met 22 times, most recently on December 6, 2013.

The REA contract expired August 15, 2013. Since that time REA members have been working under all provisions of the expired contract including salary and benefits within the parameters of PA 54, which prohibits the district from paying increases in health care costs and step increases to those REA members who would be eligible.

The Board of Education has heard from many REA members who have questions about the use of the district's fund balance. On November 11, Mr. Romzek presented the district's audit report, which showed a fund balance of \$15.9 million at the end of the 2013/14 year. This represents 10% of the budgeted expenditures for the year. As Mr. Romzek explained, the fund balance is used by the district to cover expenditures during the period of time that the district does not receive a foundation allowance payment

from the state. Auditing firms recommend that the district maintain a fund balance of 10% to avoid having to pay interest on borrowing to cover these expenditures. In prior years, the fund balance has also been used to close the gap between revenues and expenditures in order to balance the budget.

The Board of Education values the dedication and hard work of our teachers. Please be assured that the Board's goal is to come to a mutual labor agreement with the REA that aligns expenses with revenues, is mindful of current economic conditions and preserves educational opportunity for all students.

Communications

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Mr. Piskulich shared that the Board of Education received communications regarding the teacher contract from the following individuals: Ingrida Knueppel, Mila Murray, Darnell Velilla, Jon Kesman, Grant Davis, Kristin Powals, Julie Lezotte, Wendy Waldrep, Allison, Tracey Pierce, Stephanie Foster, Sarah Slusher, Anne Wright, Richard A. White Jr., Jennifer C. Thor, Karen Pfeffer, James P. Campbell, Edwin, Amy DiCresce, Laura Schneider, Jason Hartsig, Kynda Myers, Debbie Kesman, Jenny Zavadil, Jennifer and Eric Hatchett, Melissa Hirvela, Cheryl Bromley, Lisa (Hayes) Ksoll, Lisa Ogiemwonyi, and Leslie Doran.

Additional communications that the Board of Education received since the prior Board meeting included: Anne Edwards regarding the location of the Board Work Sessions; Kate Bailey, Lane McLeod, and Youyang (Mona) Li, RCS Alumni, shared their appreciation toward former teachers and staff.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda

Brian Dalton, teacher, addressed the Board regarding the teacher contract negotiations.

Michael Lazzo, teacher, addressed the Board regarding the high quality teachers in RCS.

Ashton Prasatek, former student, addressed the Board regarding his gratitude toward former teachers.

Ronald A. Teasley, spouse of REA member, addressed the Board regarding the teacher contract negotiations.

Lynnette Teller, teacher, addressed the Board regarding the teacher contract negotiations.

Doug Hill, president of the Rochester Education Association (REA), addressed the Board regarding the teacher, the secretarial union, and the para-professionals contract negotiations.

Katie Antrup, teacher, addressed the Board regarding the teacher contract negotiations.

Diane Heath, teacher, addressed the Board regarding the teacher contract negotiations.

C. Student Representatives to the Board

Student Representatives from Stoney Creek, Adams, Rochester, and ACE high schools shared information about activities taking place at their schools since the previous Board meeting.

D. Members of the Board of Education

Mr. Coutteau shared that he and Mr. Zabat spoke with the following individuals at Chat with the Board this evening: Heather Poirier, Jessica Buchheister, James Campbell and Diane Heath regarding teachers, teaching, and class size but overall the Board members did a lot of listening.

Mrs. Talbert shared that she received correspondence from Max Neville, Aameek Sodhi, Joe Bolewitz, and Desta Gebregiorgis regarding the teacher contract; and Jay and Paula Byrd regarding the Student Code of Conduct, Board Policies and Bylaws.

Spotlight on Success

A. Staff and Student Recognitions (Informational Item) Mrs. Hartman

Mrs. Hartman introduced and recognized the following staff and students for their accomplishments:

- Cherie Welch, McGregor Elementary – 2013 MAHPERD Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year
- Julia Satterthwaite, Rochester High School – National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker Award
 - Camille Douglas, RHS student – National Scholastic Press Association, News Story of the Year, Honorary Mention Feature Writing
 - Zach Libby, RHS student – National Scholastic Press Association, Honorary Mention, Sports Writing
 - Emberly Skaggs, RHS student – National Scholastic Press Association, Honorary Mention Review Writing
- Lisa Kelley, University Hills Elementary – National Board Certification, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- Sharen Howard, McGregor Elementary – Reading Recovery Council of Michigan Award

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Current Bills Payable for November 1, 2013 through November 22, 2013 in the amount of \$6,720,739.32.
- B. Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, November 11, 2013
- C. Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes, November 18, 2013
- D. Board of Education Work Session Minutes, November 25, 2013
- E. Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes, November 25, 2013
- F. Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes, December 2, 2013
- G. Second reading of Board Bylaw 0160 and 0170
- H. Resolution Authorizing Summer Tax Levy for 2014

Moved by: Mrs. Berwick
Supported by: Mr. Zabat
Vote: 7-0

Reports

A. Superintendent's Committee Reports (Information Item) Dr. Shaner and Mr. Romzek

Dr. Shaner shared information from the Superintendent's Steering Committee (SSC) meeting that took place on December 5, 2013. Discussion included the transition of the January Board officers, Strategic Plan Update and Board Bylaws.

Mr. Romzek shared information from the Superintendent's Business and Operations Committee meeting that took place on December 9, 2013. Discussion included the monthly budget report, bond refunding opportunities, facility operations, an engineering study at Adams High School, the school bus purchase, and an update regarding the RFP process in place for county wide finance software.

Ms. Davis shared information from the Superintendent Policy / Curriculum Committee meeting that took place on November 18, 2013. Discussion included the health material, Board Policies and Bylaw revisions.

B. Superintendent's Report (Informational Item) Dr. Shaner

Dr. Shaner thanked the Strategic Planning Committee members and announced that the committee has finished their work and will be presenting to the Board of Education in January or February.

New Business

A. Resolution to Recommend the District purchase four (4) 77-Passenger General Education Buses (Action Item) Mr. Romzek

A motion was made to approve the Resolution to Recommend the District purchase four (4) 77-Passenger General Education Buses, in cooperation with the MSBO Bus Bid Program, from Capital City International Trucks in the not to exceed amount of \$369,008.00, as presented.

Moved by: Mr. Piskulich

Supported by: Mrs. Berwick

Board discussion and questions included maintaining the districts fleet of busses, replacement busses, retired busses, the vendor, video and radio systems, and usage fees.

Debabrata Sarkar, parent, addressed the Board regarding renting buses versus purchasing buses.

Vote: 7-0

B. Health Material Presentation (Informational Item) Mrs. Fragomeni

Mrs. Crowder, District Health Coordinator, presented the health material rational and recommendations to the Board of Education. The Health Advisory Committee went through to update the materials used in fourth grade, fifth grade and high school. These materials are replacing very old, outdated resource material. There will be a second public hearing on Monday, December 16, for anyone interested in viewing the material. This hearing will be publicized through SchoolMessenger.

Board discussion and questions included parent viewing access, the licensing agreement, communication of access date, the material being available at the public library, the length of each video, and gender specific videos.

Suzette Costew, parent, addressed the Board regarding Pam Stenzel's videos being added and adopted as part of the district's health material.

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. Pierobon
Supported by: Mr. Coutteau

Mr. Romzek introduced Bev Bonning from Thrun Law and Paul Stauder from Stauder, Barch and Associates who explained the process and purpose for refunding bonds. This is a means of saving tax payer dollars by reducing the interest rates on the bonds through refunding. The refunding doesn't extend the bond term it simply reduces the interest paid on the bonds.

Vote: 7-0

D. Recommendation to expel Student No. 1 - 2013 from Rochester Community Schools (Action Item)
Mrs. Fragomeni

A motion was made to approve the recommendation to expel Student No. 1 - 2013 from Rochester Community Schools.

Moved by: Ms. Nowak
Supported by: Mrs. Berwick
Vote: 7-0

E. Recommendation to expel Student No. 2 - 2013 from Rochester Community Schools (Action Item)
Mrs. Fragomeni

A motion was made to approve the recommendation to expel Student No. 2 - 2013 from Rochester Community Schools.

Moved by: Mr. Piskulich
Supported by: Mr. Coutteau
Vote: 7-0

F. Superintendent Evaluation and Effectiveness Rating (Action Item) Mrs. Talbert

A motion was made to approve the Superintendent Evaluation and Effectiveness Rating as presented.

Moved by: Mr. Zabat
Supported by: Mrs. Pierobon

Mrs. Talbert shared the following portion of the Superintendent Evaluation and Effectiveness Rating: *“As you know, by law we are required to include student achievement measures in your evaluation. We support the intent of this law but find ourselves challenged. Without the benefit of standard guidelines or requirements, we agreed that the only reasonable measure by which to judge your impact in 2013 was on the development of student achievement measures for 2014. As noted in your evaluation, we believe your team approach, methodical deliberation, and commitment to research-based outcomes has produced an aggressive set of targets for 2014 for our consideration and approval in January. We believe your work has been guided by your unwavering focus on student achievement.*

Furthermore, we recognize that you have been with the District for less than one calendar year. In reflecting back on 2013 and your goals, we find ourselves impressed by what you have accomplished in this short span of time. We could not have asked for more. Throughout this evaluation we have found evidence that the impact of your leadership has been palpable. That said; we also know you have set a high bar for yourself and for our district in 2014. In no way do we mean to imply that the work to set new targets that was already undertaken was in any way easy or lacking in significance. Indeed, it was some of the most thoughtful work we have seen from a district leader. However, we acknowledge that there is still much heavy lifting to do. Achieving these new outcome targets will be difficult. The strategic plan needs to be completed and actualized, our financial outlook remains uncertain, and the political landscape remains challenging. We are confident that we have a Superintendent in place with the commitment, focus and tenacity to carry out this important work. As we move forward to establish new goals in January, please know we extend to you our trust and full support.

Lastly, and most importantly, through this evaluation the Board has endeavored to be clear about how deeply we value your leadership and integrity. We are committed to working closely with you in order to create a district where the bar for student learning and achievement is set high and viewed as a “moral imperative” by all, and where all of our employees are energized by the knowledge that their dedication, professionalism, and commitment is both valued, and essential in the lives of our students.”

The complete Superintendent Evaluation and Effectiveness Rating is available in the Board of Education December 9, 2013 Agenda Packet. The Board of Education rated Dr. Shaner as Highly Effective.

Vote: 7-0

Additional Business

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting

Sarah MacBeth, community member and teacher, addressed the Board regarding valuing teachers.

Denise Tayloe, parent and teacher, addressed the Board regarding the REA contract.

Becky Campbell, teacher, addressed the Board regarding the REA contract.

James Campbell, spouse of employee, addressed the Board regarding the REA contract and the impact.

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Mrs. Berwick attended the Spanish chapter induction at Rochester High School. She also thanked the members of the strategic planning committee for all their hard work.

Mrs. Pierobon attended the Rochester Parade and also the production of Harvey at Stoney Creek High School.

Mr. Zabat announced that all Board of Education members are now fully certified by the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB).

Mrs. Talbert shared her recent visit to Adams High School and noted how high school classrooms have changed over the years.

Announcements

Upcoming Events

December 12	ACE Conferences
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	No School - Winter Recess
January 13	7:00 P.M., Board of Education Regular Mtg., Admin. Ctr.
January 20	No School - Martin Luther King Day
January 22	Half Day, Gr. 6-12 & Post High - A.M. Exams
January 23	Half Day, Gr. 6-12 & Post High - A.M. Exams
January 24	Half Day, Gr. 6-12 & Post High - A.M. Exams
January 24	No School, Gr. K-5
January 25	8:00 A.M., Board of Education Retreat, Admin. Ctr.
January 27	7:00 P.M., Board of Education, Work Session, Van Hoosen MS

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Moved by: Ms. Nowak

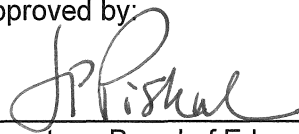
Supported by: Mr. Coutteau

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Secretary, Board of Education