



**ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

**BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION**  
November 25, 2013

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

A Work Session, Open to the Public, of the Board of Education for the Rochester Community Schools., Rochester, Michigan was held on Monday, November 25, 2013 at Reuther MS, 1430 E. Auburn, Rochester, MI 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, and Michael Zabat

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Debbi Hartman, Michael Behrmann, Carrie Lawler, Anne Evans, and approximately 140 visitors.

**Communications**

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Mr. Piskulich shared that the Board of Education received 40 communications regarding the teacher contract from the following people: Julie Adams, Emily Murphy, Eric Thuma, Diane and Steve Glinski, Yondo Martinez, Darius Hodgeman, Ameer Singh, Dean MacKenzie, Karen Knaack, Cara K. Loughed, Ken Belote, Lana Krowicki, Tate Clever, Brenna Monaghan, Gayle Martin, Karen Ye, Stephen Niemiec, Katrina Han, Devin Olmack, Amanda Coe, Andrew Waszak, Ulka Dandekar, Nick Lionas, Kelsey Young, Alex Chivescu, Lizzy Kobs, Barb Anness, Amy DiCresce, and Claudia Vogel.

Additional communications that the Board of Education received since the prior Board meeting included: Ryan Fishman regarding discussing educational issues with the district's educational leaders; Joe Zelmanski thanked the Board for the Veterans Day recognition; Kenneth Summers shared concerns about the financial future of the district; Nicholas Diamond regarding sending a letter to Board members by email; Rabia Hamid regarding the dedication of the staff at his children's buildings; a current 5th grade student regarding appreciation for the teachers at Hampton Elementary; and the following 11 Rochester Community Schools Alumni regarding their appreciation towards former teachers and staff at the district:

Rebecca Thomas, Sonia Henao, Shanjana Joarder, Maureen McBride, Kimberly Seyferth, Alexander Sheu, Dianna Dekker, Greg Hodges, Anthony Pecchia, Tanya Salman, and Andrew Zaccagnini.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda – None

C. Members of the Board of Education – None

Dr. Shaner, Superintendent, requested a moment of silence in memory of Amy Jenkins, Special Education Para at Stoney Creek High School, who passed away this fall.

## **Work Session**

### **Informational**

#### Operating Mileage Renewal Election Information

Mr. Romzek, Assistant Superintendent for Business, was not able to attend the meeting to make this presentation as he and Ms. Davis, Chief Human Resource Officer, were still negotiating with the REA. In his absence, Dr. Shaner, Superintendent, shared the information contained in a memo from Mr. Romzek relating to the possible dates for the renewal election. We will try to piggy back with a local election. It will probably be placed on a Board agenda the first of the year. If it expires, it has to be put on the ballot as an increase.

### **Discussion**

#### RCS: Academic Recognition

Mrs. Fragomeni, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, and Mrs. Lawler, Executive Director of Secondary Education, presented the Academic Recognition PowerPoint. The presentation included the RCS Vision Statement, historical perspective, grading subcommittee, old system including Regulation 5440 – Academic Recognition, Policy 5430 – Class Rank, communication of the new system, impact of advanced placement (AP), the number of 12<sup>th</sup> grade students currently eligible for new recognition in 2014, the initial impression, review of the process, and the method of recognition.

Rochester Community Schools will be recognizing Scholars of Achievement, Scholars of Distinction and Scholars of Great Distinction for the first time with the class of 2014.

The Board asked for average number of AP courses taken, how we will monitor their success in college, how the ACT scores have changed over time, how students are doing on the AP tests and how many credits our students are getting in college. Colleges are not consistent in how they view GPA, ACT and how they honor AP test scores in granting credit. Generally a 3 on the AP test is equivalent to a college credit. The Board would also like to know anecdotally what students gave up in order to take more AP courses. The Board wanted to know why our students don't take the exam when they have taken the course and how colleges are viewing weighting AP grades. This will be one task for the Grading Committee.

Joshua Raymond, parent, addressed the Board regarding Valedictorians and AP / Honors classes.

Debabrata Sarkar, parent, addressed the Board regarding the correlation between grading and AP

grading, and the Valedictorian structure.

**Additional Information**

- A. Citizens Present at the Meeting – None
- B. Members of the Administration – Dr. Shaner thanked Reuther MS for hosting the Work Session.
- C. Members of the Board of Education – Mrs. Pierobon got to see a photo of the plow that Reuther students painted and Mr. Piskulich shared that Hamlin had conference participation of 95%.

**Announcements**

**Upcoming Events**

November 27	No School - Professional Development
November 28-29	No School - Thanksgiving Recess
December 2	5:30 P.M., Board of Education Closed Mtg., Admin. Ctr.
December 3	7:00 P.M., PTA Substance Abuse Parent Forum, Adams HS
December 9	7:00 P.M., Board of Education Regular Mtg., Admin. Ctr.
December 12	ACE Conferences
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	No School - Winter Recess

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
Secretary, Board of Education