



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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION**  
February 24, 2014

**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, February 24, 2014, at Rochester High School, 180 S. Livernois, Rochester Hills, MI 48307. Vice President Chuck Coutteau called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Members Present: Chuck Coutteau, Jane Pierobon, Pat Piskulich, and Jennifer Berwick

Members Absent: Lisa Nowak, Mike Zabat, and Beth Talbert with notice

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

**Communications**

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Mrs. Pierobon shared the following communications received by the Board of Education since the prior meeting: Adambots Robotics shared information on a robotics event taking place at Adams High School on February 22, 2014; Chelsea Edwards regarding the negotiations with the Rochester Education Association (REA); Keith Warnick shared thoughts on public education reform; Valerie Warnick regarding the grading scale; and Jennifer Eliassen regarding the evening activities on Friday, February 21, 2014.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda – None

C. Members of the Board of Education – None

Mrs. Fragomeni, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, shared information on the upcoming Shaking Up Learning Conference that will be held on Friday and Saturday. Will Richardson will present to parents Friday morning, staff members Friday afternoon and teaching staff on Saturday.

## **Work Session**

### A. L.L.I. Kits

Mrs. Fragomeni, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, shared information about the L.L.I Kits which are used by the learning consultants to support learning in the elementary schools. This is an annual expense out of the 31A grant. The purchase approval will be placed on the Board of Education Regular meeting agenda on March 10, 2014.

Kelly Dessy, learning consultant, addressed the Board regarding the kits being highly engaging and a high quality product.

### B. Budget

Mr. Romzek, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, presented preliminary budget projections for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The projections included a number of revenue and expenditure assumptions including financial impact of the Governor's budget proposal which was presented earlier this month. The House and Senate have not yet presented a budget. Based on the Governor's budget, the district could expect to see a modest increase in the foundation allowance as well as an increase in one time revenues. The majority of the one-time revenues are for the MPSERS offset, which is a pass through.

Mr. Romzek provided details of the Governor's budget, which includes: increase in foundation between \$83 and \$111 per student using 2X formula; continuation of \$5 per student hold harmless funding; continuation of Performance Grant Funds of up to \$100 per student; continuation of \$52 per student Best Practice Funds; repurpose 147a MPSERS funds to offset MPSERS rate by 1.20 percentage points; additional \$379 million allocated to fund MPSERS unfunded liability; Section 31A allocation remains unchanged at \$309 million but repurposes funds to expand uses; and additional \$65 million funding statewide for Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP). There is still a lot of information to come from Lansing before we know what the final numbers will look like and what kind of revenues the district will receive.

### C. Olweus

Mr. Behrmann, Executive Director for Elementary Education, and Mrs. Fragomeni, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, shared information about the future implementation of anti-bullying programs in the district. The Olweus model is difficult to implement with fidelity. In cooperation with the Oakland Mediation Center (OMC), the district is exploring other options. The district will continue to have unrestricted access to the Olweus materials including the anti-bullying survey. OMC is also making other resources available including Peers Making Peace, which is currently used in one of our elementary schools. Several of our schools will be trained in this model at no additional cost.

Michelle Ferries, media specialist, addressed the Board regarding staff members support with peer mediation.

### D. Strategic Plan

Mrs. Hartman, Director of Communication and RCS Foundation, provided an update on the Strategic Plan. The implementation teams have all met at least two times and are in research mode and the steering committee is overseeing the work of the implementation teams to ensure alignment between the three goal areas.

Joshua Raymond, parent, addressed the Board regarding the composition of the Strategic Plan implementation teams.

E. 21f

Mrs. Carrie Lawler, Executive Director of Secondary Education, presented preliminary information regarding the district response to the new legislation which allows students in grades 5-12 to take two online courses per semester in place of regularly scheduled courses. The district has developed a draft letter for parents, an application, and FAQ which are being reviewed by legal counsel. Board members asked if the district would hold an informational meeting for parents to learn more about the process and protocol for online classes.

Joshua Raymond, parent, addressed the Board regarding the curriculum and the two courses per semester.

Debabrata Sarkar, parent, addressed the Board about the online course development.

**Additional Information**

- A. Citizens Present at the Meeting – None
- B. Members of the Administration – Dr. Shaner thanked Rochester High School for hosting the Work Session.
- C. Members of the Board of Education – Members of the Board attended the AdamBots, robotics team of Adams HS, presentation on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and were very impressed. University Hills is participating in Recycle Bank and anyone who has garbage service in Rochester Hills can donate their points. Board members wished the wrestling teams' good luck at the state competition.

**Announcements**

**Upcoming Events**

February 25	7:00 P.M., Founders Day, Rochester HS
February 26	High School Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 27	Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 10	7:00 P.M., Board of Education, Regular Mtg., Admin. Ctr.
March 19	7:00 P.M., Sparkle Awards, Stoney Creek HS
March 24	7:00 P.M., Board of Education, Work Session, Stoney Creek HS

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Moved by: Mr. Piskulich  
Supported by: Mrs. Berwick  
Vote: 4-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

Jane Piurobom  
Secretary, Board of Education