

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
November 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, November 24, 2014 at Brooklands Elementary. President Lisa Nowak called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Dan Romzek, Carrie Lawler, Michael Behrmann, Anne Evans and approximately 15 visitors.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS - Brooklands Elementary Principal Teresa Simonetti

Elementary Principal Teresa Simonetti shared a video presentation highlighting a Visible Thinking Routine regarding Veteran's Day. Three Brooklands Elementary students exhibited their individual projects and their thoughts behind their Veteran's Day Visible Thinking Routine.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Mr. Zabat shared the following communications that the Board of Education received since the prior meeting: Alysia Kue regarding high school sign language classes; Charles Slattery regarding coyotes sighted in Tienken Park and the safety of our students walking to school; Katie Mason regarding the Summer Music Theatre Program location; Nancy Benedettini regarding weighting AP classes on transcripts; Debabrat Sarkar regarding the science curriculum; Brian Dalton regarding a Rett Syndrome Awareness Fundraiser; and, Carol Schram regarding the Wilderness Survival trip.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda – None

C. Members of the Board of Education - None

WORK SESSION

A. Budget

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Debi Fragomeni began the discussion by addressing the financial impact of decreased enrollment. Projected Fall 2014 Enrollment was 15,136. Final Actual Fall Enrollment is 14,982 which results in a Full Time Equivalency (FTE) difference of 154. The 2014/2015 budget was based on projected enrollment. Actual enrollment will result in \$1.2 million less state aid revenue than what was budgeted based on foundation allowance of \$7,972. Based on an enrollment projection research conducted by Plante Moran CRESA, overall enrollment is projected to decline over the next five years due to demographic changes.

Executive Director of Elementary Education Michael Behrmann presented the planned elementary adjustments.

Executive Director of Secondary Education Carrie Lawler presented the planned secondary adjustments.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs Dan Romzek reported the planned Athletic Fund Subsidy adjustments.

Executive Director of Special Education Anne Evans reported the planned adjustments for the Special Education Department.

Mr. Romzek reported the planned adjustments for technology, facilities and operations including support service contracts with current vendors.

Mrs. Talbert stated that she would like to see awareness communications to the staff since they will be the ones to feel the effect of the budget.

Dr. Shaner stated that the mission of our organization is children, and it will stay children.

Ms. Nowak shared that this is the first budget cut due to enrollment. With the projections decreasing over the next five years, we will experience more cuts. We need to restructure / adjust our organization to prepare for these cuts.

Mr. Coutteau stated that the \$1.2 million in adjustments were made because we were forced to make them.

Dr. Shaner stated that this is a reactive measure and we need to be proactive.

Mr. Zabat proposed that we consider investing in some areas to help market our district to increase enrollment.

Ms. Nowak stated that we need to stay on top of the budget repairs due to the decreased enrollment projections for the next few years.

Mrs. Berwick commended the group on their hard work to find solutions to the budget.

Dr. Shaner stated that the intent tonight was to inform the Board and the next step will be to talk to the

union representatives for each group.

Jeff Louth, citizen, addressed the board regarding the budget.

Board members agreed that the group was heading in the right direction and would support the adjustments.

B. M-STEP: Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress

Mr. Behrmann introduced the M-STEP test which is replacing the 44-year-old MEAP test. The M-STEP test is a Michigan-developed assessment of online, fixed-form, multiple-choice based items.

Mrs. Fragomeni reported that in June 2014, the legislature required MDE to develop a new test for spring 2015. The M-STEP consists of content in ELA/Math from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. M-STEP will also include Michigan-developed content in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies.

Mr. Behrmann shared the elementary portions of the M-STEP which includes: Computer Adaptive Test, Classroom Activity, and Performance Task for Math and ELA. The Science and Social Studies portions include a combination of online, fixed-form and multiple-choice based items which will be completed in two-50 minute sessions.

Mrs. Lawler shared the secondary portions of the M-STEP; eleventh graders were hit the hardest. The state mandated date for the ACT is March 3, 2015 with the Work Keys half-day portion taking place on March 4, 2015. AP testing is the first two weeks of May and the M-STEP will take place the third week of May after AP testing is complete.

Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT): The test adjusts to a student's performance; provides more accurate measurement of student achievement; the number of items will vary on the CAT portion of each student's test.

Board discussion included the cost of the assessment system, technology infrastructure requirements, testing capabilities and the ability for the test to auto-save without the student having to start over if they do not finish in time.

Joshua Raymond, citizen, addressed the board regarding the adaptability and reporting of the M-STEP test.

Doug Hill, President of the Rochester Education Association, addressed the board regarding the M-STEP test.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting – None

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner wished everyone a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving and thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication.

Mrs. Fragomeni thanked the board for challenging administration to the canned food drive. All items should be brought to the December 8, 2014 board meeting.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Mr. Coutteau and Mr. Zabat attending the high school musical *Grease* at Rochester High School.

Mrs. Talbert attended the PTSA meeting at Reuther Elementary School.

Mrs. Pierobon attended and judged the engineering competition at Reuther and also attended their play. In addition, Mrs. Pierobon attended the PTSA meeting at Van Hoosen.

Mr. Zabat shared that the more we educate our parents on new teaching techniques, the more they will understand be able to help their children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Upcoming Events

November 26, 2014: No school for students
November 27, 2014: **Thanksgiving Day**, No school for students
November 28, 2014: No school for students
December 1, 2014: Board of Education Closed Session, 7:00 pm, Supt.'s Conference Room
December 8, 2014: Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm, Harrison Room
December 22, 2014: Winter break through January 1, 2015
January 5, 2015: School Resumes

ADJOURNMENT


A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Christina McWilliams
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Secretary, Board of Education