



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
March 9, 2015

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, March 9, 2015 at the Harrison Room. President Jennifer Berwick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jennifer Berwick, Jane Pierobon, Mike Zabat, Pat Piskulich, Beth Talbert, Sandy Fiaschetti and Kristin Bull.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Daniel Romzek, Elizabeth Davis, Lori Grein, Michael Behrmann, Carrie Lawler, Anne Evans and approximately 40 visitors.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

1. Blue Ribbon Schools

Van Hoosen Middle School and Musson Elementary School have been designated as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2014 by the U.S. Department of Education based on their overall academic excellence. The schools are among 337 public and private schools nationally, and eight Michigan schools to receive this honor.

Director of Community Relations Lori Grein welcomed the Honorable Mayor Bryan Barnett of Rochester Hills to present the Van Hoosen Resolution.

Van Hoosen Elementary Principal Dan Mooney thanked Mayor Barnett and addressed the Board accepting the Blue Ribbon Schools honor.

Lori Grein welcomed The Honorable Terry Gonser, Oakland Township Supervisor to present the Musson Elementary Resolution.

Musson Elementary Principal Victoria Righter thanked Supervisor Gonser and addressed the Board accepting the Blue Ribbon Schools honor.

Board President Jennifer Berwick thanked Mayor Barnett and Supervisor Gonser for presenting the Blue Ribbon Plaques and congratulated Dan Mooney and Victoria Righter for earning the Blue Ribbon Schools designation.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. Secretary to the Board of Education

Board Secretary Mike Zabat shared the following communications received by the Board of Education since the previous meeting; Carol Mannino Kachmar regarding the Class of 1955's sixtieth reunion, Arshia Ali regarding IB curriculum and advanced placement classes and Emily Sommer sharing an article on *The Life of a Teacher*.

B. Student Representatives to the Board

Student Representatives from Rochester, Adams, Stoney Creek, and ACE High Schools shared information regarding activities taking place at their schools this past month.

C. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda – *None*

D. Members of the Board of Education

Jennifer Berwick shared that she received an email communication from Joshua Raymond regarding middle school electives.

Jennifer also received an invitation from Reuther Middle School Teacher Erin Holden to attend the upcoming All City Band Concert.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Current Bills Payable for January 31, 2015 through February 27, 2015 in the amount of \$10,495,062.63.
- B. Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2015
- C. Board Policy 3410.02 - Guest Teacher Compensation (Second Reading) Elizabeth Davis
- D. Human Resource Report – Elizabeth Davis

A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda items, as presented.

Moved by: Beth Talbert
Supported by: Mike Zabat
Vote: 7-0

REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Committee Reports (Informational Item) Dr. Shaner, Daniel Romzek and Elizabeth Davis

Dr. Shaner shared information regarding the Superintendent's Steering Committee Meeting that took place on February 11, 2015. Topics of discussion included the budget review process, staffing, the Strategic Plan and the Facilities Committee. The Steering Committee met again on March 4, 2015. Topics of discussion included budget reporting for the Superintendent's Business and Operations Committee, Facilities Committee and the Strategic Plan, the upcoming election on May 5, 2015 and the Board of Education goals.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs Daniel Romzek shared information from the Superintendent's Business and Operations Committee meeting that took place on February 16, 2015. Topics of discussion included the monthly budgeting reporting process, the facility and technology processing that is underway and ongoing discussions with GCA Services Group and Durham School Transportation regarding their contracts.

Chief Human Resource Office Elizabeth Davis reported that the Superintendent's Policy and Curriculum Committee met on February 18, 2015. Topics of discussion included the review and revision of the 2000 series of Curriculum. The curriculum department has begun an extensive review of each policy in the 2000 series. Curriculum staff is reviewing current Board Policy along with the policy recommended by Attorney Bob Lusk from Lusk & Albertson Law Firm which has been retained by the district to assist with policy review. The committee reviewed several policies looking at proposed new policy revision and deletion within the curriculum series.

It was decided that the Curriculum Department and the Superintendent's Policy and Curriculum Committee will continue to review the policy and wait until there is a complete recommendation before bringing changes to the Board for approval, with the exception of a few policies that must be revised before next school year: Co-Curricular Activities and Graduation Requirements. Those policies will be brought to the Board within the next few months for approval.

The SPCC also reviewed the required changes to the Bullying Policy as a result of recent law changes requiring the addition of policy regarding cyber-bullying; therefore, revision of Policy 5566 will be brought to the Board for a first reading this evening.

B. Superintendent's Report (Informational Item) Dr. Shaner – *None*

C. Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Committee Update (Informational Item) – Dr. Shaner

Dr. Shaner introduced Executive Director of Elementary Education Michael Behrmann to lead the discussion on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). The co-chairs of the committee include Assistant Director of Special Education Sandy Turner, McGregor Elementary Principal Dave Pontzious, Brooklands Elementary Principal Teresa Simonetti and Long Meadow Elementary Principal Kelly Dessy. Tonight's update includes progress made towards implementing research-based systems consistently across the district at each level so the needs of all learners are met academically, emotionally and socially.

Kelly Dessy recognized and applauded other MTSS Committee members that were in attendance and congratulated Musson and Van Hoosen on their Blue Ribbon Schools recognition.

Board President Jennifer Berwick recognized the MTSS Committee members for their work and emphasized the importance of consistency throughout the district.

Board discussion included clarification on the “shifting the focus on admiring the problem to solution focus”, and the timeline for full implementation of MTSS is in line with the Strategic Plan 2020.

Dr. Shaner elaborated on MTSS and how it involves all learners.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Board of Education Work Session Minutes of February 23, 2015

Beth Talbert and Jane Pierobon were absent, with notice.

A motion was made to approve the Board of Education Work Session Minutes of February 23, 2015, as presented.

Moved by: Kristin Bull
Supported by: Pat Piskulich
Abstentions: Beth Talbert and Jane Pierobon
Vote: 5-0-2

B. Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2015

Beth Talbert and Sandy Fiaschetti were absent, with notice.

A motion was made to approve the Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2015, as presented:

Moved by: Pat Piskulich
Supported by: Mike Zabat
Abstentions: Beth Talbert and Sandy Fiaschetti
Vote: 5-0-2

C. Board Policy 5566 Revised - Student Bullying (Action Item, First Reading) Elizabeth Davis

A motion was made to approve the first reading of the proposed Board Policy 5566 Revised - Student Bullying, as presented.

Moved by: Jane Pierobon
Supported by: Beth Talbert

Chief Human Resource Officer Elizabeth Davis shared that in December of 2014, cyber-bullying was added as an official type of bullying under Michigan Law. Public Act 478 adds cyber-bullying to Matt's Safe School Law. With the help of Lusk & Albertson, and the Superintendent's Policy

Review Committee we are proposing to delete the current Anti-Bullying Policy 5566 and replace it with the new Student Bullying Policy.

A motion was made to table the item until the next regular meeting.

Moved by: Jane Pierobon
Supported by: Mike Zabat
Vote: 7-0

D. Approval of New Secondary Courses (Action Item) Carrie Lawler

Executive Director of Secondary Education Carrie Lawler presented information regarding the restructuring of sixth grade electives as well as alignment in the social studies department.

1. STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
2. Global Digital Leadership
3. World Geography 6

A motion was made to approve the New Secondary Courses, as presented.

Moved by: Sandy Fiaschetti
Supported by: Beth Talbert

Beth Talbert asked for clarification of “authentic audience” for the STEM class.

Jennifer Berwick remarked that the classes are very exciting and it’s great to give our sixth graders a choice. Jennifer also asked Carrie Lawler to share the qualifications for those teaching these classes.

Mike Zabat inquired if we are removing classes since we are adding these classes. Carrie Lawler verified that the following classes will no longer be offered: Leadership, at Hart Middle School, Tools for Success and Design and Technology. Mike Zabat also inquired if the Board usually votes on curriculum. Dr. Shaner answered that because there are resources attached to curriculum, that it’s very important to ask the Board for their support. Mike Zabat applauded the aspect of experimentation with courses, that we are willing to fail and try something else and that our team is pouring their hearts into the development of these courses.

Pat Piskulich supports standardization across the middle schools but doesn’t want to get involved in the curriculum aspects.

Vote: 7-0

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting

Joshua Raymond, citizen, addressed the Board regarding gifted students and ability versus achievement.

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner applauded the efforts of the MTSS Committee.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Jane Pierobon congratulated the wrestlers on their tournament last weekend. Jane also shared that she had conversation with Michelle Bueltel during Chat with the Board regarding music classes.

Pat Piskulich spent Saturday at a Forensic Meet for the International Academy as a judge and recommended that someone step up to start a Forensic team at the building levels.

Jennifer Berwick received an invitation from the Rochester Area Youth Assistance to the Youth Recognition Banquet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Upcoming Events

March 12 PTA Founders Day, RHS Mall, 7:00 p.m.

March 16 PTA District Reflections Award Ceremony, SCHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

March 18 Special Education Appreciation Evening, SCHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

March 23 Board of Education Work Session, Hugger Elementary, 7:00 p.m.

April 2 End of the 3rd Marking Period

April 3-12 Spring Break

April 13 Board of Education, Regular Meeting, Administration Center, Harrison Room, 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Moved by: Beth Talbert

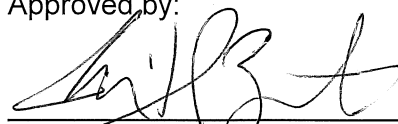
Supported by: Pat Piskulich

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina McWilliams
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Secretary, Board of Education