



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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION**  
February 23, 2015

**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 23, 2015 at the Adams High School. President Jennifer Berwick called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Members Present: Jennifer Berwick, Jane Pierobon, Michael Zabat, Pat Piskulich, Kristin Bull, Sandy Fiaschetti

Members Absent: Jane Pierobon and Beth Talbert, with notice

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Dan Romzek, Elizabeth Davis, Carrie Lawler, Michael Behrmann, Anne Evans and approximately six (6) visitors.

**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: Melissa Brecht regarding collaborative learning opportunities for RCS teachers, Mary Beth Johnson regarding weighted grading, Brian Dalton regarding an invitation to a fundraiser for Rhetts Syndrome, and Suzanne Wolfe regarding weighted grading.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda – None

C. Members of the Board of Education

Pat Piskulich met with Joshua Raymond during Chat with the Board and discussed weighted grading.

## **Work Session**

### A. Facility & Technology Infrastructure Planning Update

Administrative System Manager Cindy Lindner and Delta Kelly Elementary Principal Todd Bidlack presented an update on the Facility and Technology Infrastructure process. They've been using Visible Thinking Routines to help guide the development of the technology enhancement plans.

High school principals have collectively put together student volunteer groups to give their feedback on what they would like to see with the technology enhancements. This group of students have received speaking prompts to guide the discussion.

There will be a Special Board Meeting on Monday, March 2, 2015 to tour some of the school buildings and discuss the committee's feedback.

### B. Financing Capital Needs

Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs Daniel Romzek introduced Attorney Beverly Bonning from Thrun Law Firm and Financial Advisory Paul Stauder from Stauder, Barch and Associates.

Paul Stauder presented information on Financing Capital Needs; including, Current Outstanding Bonded Debt, Current Projected Debt Millage, Examples of Bond Financing and Examples of Sinking Fund Millage.

Beverly Bonning presented the appropriate ways to use bond proceeds. A comparison of financing options of Sinking Fund vs. Voted Bonds was presented along with Qualified vs. Non-Qualified Bonds. Beverly Bonning also itemized the forbidden uses of Sinking Funds and Legislative Potential for Sinking Funds. It was noted that the district has never used a School Loan Revolving Fund.

There was extensive discussion from board members regarding clarification on the use of Sinking Funds for Technology and Infrastructure, the benefits of using the School Loan Revolving Fund, and the use of Bond Proceeds vs. Sinking Funds.

#### Election Dates for 2015:

- February 24, 2015
- May 5, 2015
- August 4, 2015
- November 3, 2015

#### Election Dates for 2016:

- March 8, 2016 (Moved from February 23, 2016 under Public Act 2 of 2015.)
- May 3, 2016
- August 2, 2016
- November 8, 2016

### C. Middle School Electives Structure

Executive Director of Secondary Education Carrie Lawler presented current class offerings and proposed elective choices for sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) grade students. Currently, we are not aligned with our Strategic Plan 2020. Each middle school offers electives differently (5.5 weeks, 8 weeks, and 10 weeks) with different rotations. Our goal is to be consistent at all middle schools and transition to two semesters instead of rotations. Band and Choir would now be year-long courses.

Handouts included proposed sixth grade course descriptions for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Global Digital Leadership and Sixth Grade Art.

Michelle Bueltel, citizen addressed the Board regarding middle school electives and band/choir being year-long courses.

Board discussion included the rationale of why band/choir are year-long classes and not the other electives. Band and choir used to rotate every-other-day with Physical Education. Now they are every day, year-long classes and the curriculum will need to be expanded.

Doug Hill, REA President addressed the board regarding MEAP, sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) grade rotations and scheduling.

Additional board discussed included clarification of the Global Digital Leadership, the possibility of adding language classes, the possibility of needing a lottery for the STEM class and if the electives would be graded now that they are a full semester; the current rotations receive credit only for completing the rotations. This is still being discussed.

Joshua Raymond, citizen, addressed the board regarding class sizes; splitting one semester of band and one semester of choir.

### **Additional Information**

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting – None

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner thanked Principal Cummings and Adams High School for hosting the Work Session.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Jennifer Berwick stated that Robotics is down the hall this evening and everyone was invited to stop by. Jennifer Berwick also invited everyone present to ride the “tour” bus on March 2, 2015 to tour some of the district facilities.

**Announcements**

A. Upcoming Events

March 2 7:00 p.m., Board of Education, Special Meeting, Administration Center  
March 9 7:00 p.m., Board of Education, Regular Meeting, Administration Center  
March 23 7:00 p.m., Board of Education Work Session, Hugger Elementary

**Adjournment**

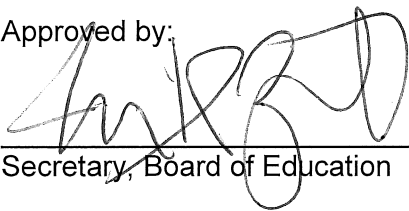
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Moved by: Kristin Bull  
Supported by: Mike Zabat  
Vote: 5-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina McWilliams  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
Secretary, Board of Education