



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan
BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT MEETING
January 24, 2015

MINUTES

Call to Order

A Retreat Meeting, Open to the Public, of the Board of Education for the Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Saturday, January 24, 2015 at the Harrison Room. President Jennifer Berwick called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members Present: Jennifer Berwick, Jane Pierobon, Michael Zabat, Beth Talbert, Kristin Bull, Sandra Fiaschetti

Members Absent: Pat Piskulich, with notice

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Daniel Romzek, Elizabeth Davis, Carrie Lawler, Michael Behrmann, Anne Evans and Lori Grein. No community members were present.

Retreat

Superintendent Dr. Shaner began the meeting by reviewing the agenda for the day.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Debi Fragomeni introduced a leadership team building activity, accompanied by an inspirational video.

A. Leadership Styles

Executive Director of Special Education Anne Evans led the Leadership Styles presentation. The group took a quiz titled, *What's My Leadership Style?* The group then assembled into smaller groups of like leadership styles and charted their characteristics, the positives and the negatives. Each group shared their findings and then participated in a Visible Thinking Routine, *The Micro-Lab Protocol*. Groups then shared how their leadership style impacts their role as a board member / cabinet member.

At 9:20 a.m. the Board recessed for 10 minutes.

B. Strategic Plan

Executive Director of Secondary Education Carrie Lawler presented information on the six (6) strategies of the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment goal area of the Strategic Plan.

Executive Director of Elementary Education Michael Behrmann presented information on the six (6) strategies of the Global Awareness goal area of the Strategic Plan.

Board discussion included nurturing our relationships with the Confucius Institute and Oakland University.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs Daniel Romzek presented information on the six (6) strategies of the Technology and Infrastructure goal area of the Strategic Plan.

Paul Theriault and Greg VanKirk from Plante Moran CRESA shared the Facility and Technology Planning Process.

Board discussion included safety and traffic flow near walkways, facility structural issues, classroom size equality (square footage), the effectiveness of portable units being used as classrooms, funding mechanisms and dissemination of information.

At 11:40 a.m. the Board recessed for 52 minutes.

Dialogue continued regarding the Facility and Technology Planning Process. Board discussion included early childhood education facilities, a board member field trip to each building to aid their efforts in advocating the plan, secure classrooms, bandwidth, online testing, maintaining consistent PTA structure for purchasing technology, restructuring the ACE building, requests from the state to expand the Great Start Program, the Finnish School System and communication strategies.

Mrs. Fragomeni led the group in a Visible Thinking Routine, *Compass Points*. The exercise addressed Excitements, Worries, Needs and Stance or Suggestions regarding the Facility and Technology Planning Process.

C. Curriculum

Mrs. Lawler reported on the graduation requirement changes set in place by the MI Department of Education. The law now states that a district "can" offer a Physical Education Waiver through a Personal Curriculum. Each district will decide if they will allow the waiver. Proposed changes would allow students the option to count sports / extracurricular activities to suffice for .5 PE credit toward high school graduation and discontinuing high school credit for students completing the Physical Education requirement in 8th grade.

Board discussion included which sports would be eligible for credit, push back from parents due to eligible sports, pay-to-play sports, tracking the PE Waivers and entering waivers on transcripts to properly reflect that graduation requirements have been met.

D. Budget

Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs Daniel Romzek presented the proposed mid-year amendment for the 2014/2015 General Fund Budget. The proposed budget amendment will be recommended for adoption at the Regular Board Meeting on February 9, 2015.

Taylor & Morgan CPAs are working with the Rochester Community Schools business staff to improve processes, procedures and workflow, reduce redundancies, and operate efficient and sound business practices. Mr. Romzek shared the key dates for the 2015-2016 Budget Calendar and emphasized that budget amendments should be done regularly throughout the year.

Mr. Romzek also reported on Financing Capital Needs, Bonds vs. Sinking Funds, Types of Bonds, Qualified vs. Non-Qualified Bonds and the District Debt Structure.

Board discussion included the possibility of voting for a bond and sinking funds simultaneously for different projects and clarification on projected taxable values.

E. Goals

Mrs. Berwick presented the proposed board goals for the year ending June 30, 2015. Board members reviewed and discussed the proposed changes.

Mrs. Berwick addressed the Board regarding communication practices via email, referencing the Board of Education calendar and having Board representation at all district-wide and community events, having a board member volunteer to take over the board "card" fund, removing "titles" from the board meeting tent cards using only first and last name and submitting board member profiles to Mrs. Berwick by January 30, 2015 to update the Rochester Community Schools website.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the retreat at 3:00 p.m.

Moved by: Michael Zabat

Supported by: Jane Pierobon

Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina McWilliams
Recording Secretary

Approved by


Secretary, Board of Education