



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
April 25, 2017

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 Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at Delta Kelly Elementary School. President Sandy Fiaschetti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Sandy Fiaschetti, Kristin Bull, Beth Talbert, Pat Piskulich, Michael Zabat, and Michelle Bueltel

Members Absent: Kevin Beers with notice

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Elizabeth Davis, Michael Behrmann, Anne Evans, Lori Grein, Laura Walsh, Wendy Campbell, Julie Rains, Cheryl Ogonowski, Erin Holden, Valerie Palmieri, Wendy Beitel, Brandon Ulrich, Kelsey Chinn, Nicole Shogren, Clarke Bonten, Barb Rill, Paul Wills and 3 visitors

Interim Principal Laura Walsh welcomed the Board of Education to Delta Kelly and along with fellow staff members Wendy Campbell and Julie Rains shared examples of the Global Awareness Literacy program that is ongoing at Delta Kelly.

Communications

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Beth Talbert shared the following communications received by the Board of Education since the prior meeting: Jennifer Woliung and Karen Bejin emailed the board to express their appreciation of a field trip experience offered by Herr Faase, West Middle School German Teacher that they participated in over spring break

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda - None

C. Members of the Board of Education - None

Work Session

A. Mock Up Furniture

Interim Principal Laura Walsh invited the Board and Cabinet members to preview the furniture on display in the media center. She encouraged everyone to complete the available google survey and give their feedback on the new tables, chairs, stools, mobile shelving units, lighting, and bookcases keeping in mind how it can impact learning.

B. Orchestra Committee Report

Dr. Shaner gave the Board an overview on how the investigative process for developing a strings program came about and thanked the task force for their work. Michael Behrmann, Executive Director for Elementary Education introduced the members of the task force and introduced Valerie Palmieri, the Director of Orchestra and Orchestral Studies at Adrian College. Ms. Palmieri presented the Board with an overview on the benefits and costs for implementation of an orchestra (strings) program to the music curriculum at RCS. Ms. Palmieri reviewed the current thinking that supports starting a strings program at the sixth grade level which provides more frequent instruction and a strong retention rate for students in the program. Ms. Palmieri reviewed the program costs from year one through year eight for equipment, instruments and staffing.

Board discussion included questions about instruments, classroom space, staffing, scheduling issues, loss of students from the Band, curriculum development and opportunities for students in the 7th and 8th grade when the strings program is implemented. The discussion concluded with an inquiry on what the next steps in the process will be.

Dr. Shaner, Michael Behrmann and Ms. Palmieri addressed the Board to answer their questions. Dr. Shaner stated that he would like to give the Board members time to process the report from the task force and schedule a public meeting on the topic in the future. Michael Behrmann thanked Ms. Palmieri and the committee for their work.

C. Student Enrollment

Dr. Shaner introduced Paul Wills of Plante Moran CRESA, who will take the Board through some enrollment projections. Mr. Wills presented a Pupil Enrollment and Demographic Update that details enrollment projections for K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 through 2021. The report included individual enrollment projections for each elementary and middle school in the district. Mr. Wills discussed birth rates in Michigan, State of Michigan funding of school districts, homeowner data, and public/private school enrollment percentages. Key findings of the report include an increase in capture rate and housing along with an increased percentage of students attending public schools.

Board discussion included questions on student population trends, enrollment projections comparisons, data analysis, budget projections, capture rates for public and private schools, what is the best indicator for our projected enrollment and how to successfully market our schools to parents.

Mr. Wills addressed the Board to answer their questions.

Dr. Shaner addressed the issue of expatriate data as it relates to our enrollment.

Deb Jones, RCS parent, inquired about current middle school enrollments and issues facing West Middle School students transitioning to two different high schools.

Additional Business

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting

Lisa Kelley, Rochester Community Schools K-12 Media Curriculum Coordinator, informed the Board that April is National School Library Month and thanked both the Board and Cabinet members for their support.

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner announced that we would be welcoming Lt. Governor Brian Calley to Meadow Brook Elementary School on Thursday as part of Authors in April month. Dr. Shaner thanked Interim Principal Laura Walsh for her hospitality.

Debi Fragomeni, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, encouraged everyone to pass the word on the furniture surveys and thanked Delta Kelly staff for their hospitality.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Michelle Bueltel attended the Scholarship Awards Ceremony at Adams High School, the Authors in April Benefit Dinner and the Michigan state level Robotics Competition. She will attend the National Robotics Competition in St. Louis later this week and reported that the Adams High Robotics Team is in the running for the Chairman's Award. Michelle Bueltel also attended a Reuther PTA meeting and the Adams High School Physics Olympics.

Announcements

Upcoming RCS Events:

May 8 - Board of Education Meeting, Harrison Room, Admin. Center 7 p.m.

May 22 - Board of Education Work Session, Meadow Brook Elem. 7 p.m.

May 29 - No School for Students (K-12 and Post High) Memorial Day Holiday

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Moved by: Michelle Bueltel
Supported by: Michael Zabat

Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Nakonek
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Secretary, Board of Education