



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
October 30, 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 Monday, October 30, 2017 in the Harrison Room. President Sandy Fiaschetti called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Sandy Fiaschetti, Kristin Bull, Pat Piskulich, Mike Zabat, Kevin Beers, Michelle Buelteel and Barb Anness

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Beth Davis, Carrie Lawler, Michael Behrmann, Anne Evans, Cindy Lindner, Wendy Beitel, Pasquale Cusumano, Tracye Schwartz, Jean Bolinger, Wendy Darga, Rachael Mainero, Jeff Frankowiak, Lesley Signorello, Whitney Marshall, Kelly Craft, Victoria Righter and approximately 40 visitors

Communications

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Kevin Beers shared the following communications received by the Board of Education since the prior meeting: Jeni Barg regarding an enrollment concern, Mike Reno regarding substitute teachers for AP classes and Darlene Janulis congratulating the District on our three National Blue Ribbon Award schools.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda - None

C. Members of the Board of Education

Mike Zabat received an email from Josh Raymond on skipping grades.

Work Session

A. Transformation of Instructional Technology to RCS

Dr. Shaner opened the work session and thanked his team for their hard work on tonight's presentation.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Debi Fragomeni welcomed the RCS students and staff who will demonstrate the new innovative technology at use in our classrooms. Director of Technology and Strategic Initiatives Cindy Lindner provided an introduction to the presentation giving an overview of what is happening in the classrooms with a robust new wireless network, teacher and administrator laptops, mobile labs, SMART interactive flat panels (IFPs), phones, video cameras, new student assessment and business information systems. Tech Specialists, Principals, Instructors and students from Adams High School, Reuther Middle School and Long Meadow Elementary participated in technology exercises to demonstrate how instructional technology initiatives are transforming instruction for all students.

Jeff Frankowiak, Long Meadow Principal, Whitney Marshall, Information Literacy Specialist, Lesley Signorello, Third Grade Teacher, Kelly Craft, Kindergarten Teacher and students presented actual practices and technology that are taking place at Long Meadow. Whitney reviewed Digital Citizenship and online safety, the use of Google classroom that allows sharing school work with parents having the ability to log in from home. In addition, Nearpod, Brainpop and collaborative discussion are all used in the classrooms. Kelly introduced her kindergarten early elementary programs. Lesley discussed the opportunity to collaborate in classrooms, the use of Chromebook and Google Classroom. Third grade students demonstrated the online portfolios they are creating. Jeff discussed the professional development that takes advantage of the new technology as well as future opportunities that will allow collaboration between staff across the district, county and the world.

Board discussion included:

- If students were able to access google classroom at home
- Whether the portfolios will continue to follow students
- Are students collaborating on projects through google classroom and synergies across the elementary buildings
- If Long Meadow was an example of the synergies taking place across the district

Staff members responded to the Board inquiries.

Wendy Darga, Reuther Middle school Principal, Rachel Mainero, Information Literacy Specialist and seventh and eighth grade students demonstrated how they create their morning newscast. The eighteen students who make up the Reuther News Crew produce a daily Crusader Nation News program during their ten minute homeroom period. In order to overcome the problems with the current Dukane system the students switched to a YouTube solution. Students discussed the drawback of filming and editing the program 24 hours in advance along with the benefits of being able to archive and maintain ownership of the programming. Students showed a presentation: "Behind the Scene at Crusader Nation" highlighting what it takes to produce the daily episodes as well as an example of one of their featured segments. Students discussed the equipment used to record and edit their films and their goals for the program.

Board discussion included:

- Complimenting the students on what they are accomplishing in ten minutes each day
- How other homerooms access the YouTube program
- If the daily episodes are archived

Staff and students responded to the Board.

Pasquale Cusumano, Adams High School Principal, Teachers Jean Bolinger and Tracye Schwartz and students shared their collaboration using their smart phones through TodaysMeet.com. The TodaysMeet app allows a digital transcript of all posted comments to be shared between staff and students. Students

demonstrated how efficient and organized the Google Classroom platform is to use. Assignments can be turned in on the platform and students are able to work on a project at the same time adding their comments to the google doc. Teachers can review comments to guide discussion and analysis of the assignment. Genius Notebook allows students to find a document from a reputable source, analyze the documents and add their comments to the google doc as they work on the assignment. Teachers are able to review, grade and comment on student notebooks. Google slide files are also utilized as a part of Google Classroom.

Tracye discussed how her AP U. S. History students utilize Scribble apps to implement technology in the classroom. Students discussed how they are able to annotate on Scribble to share their thoughts and ideas. This allows collaboration with the entire class. Classroom discussion apps such as Socrative are also utilized showing all of the discussion questions. Jean Bollinger demonstrated an example of technology using smart phones to collect open responses to a question.

Board discussion included:

- Does this technology help distribute the load with group collaborations and projects
- How this collaboration will translate into real world jobs
- What steps are instructors taking to insure students are not publishing photos that might violate copyright laws
- What percent of classes are utilizing this technology
- Is Google becoming too dominating
- When editing shared documents how do student edits engage students in discussion and whether online discussion and comments shape students views on what they are learning
- How did the instructors learn about all of the apps they use
- Board members thanked the students and staff for sharing their experiences
- Board members shared that the presentation built on itself and was inspiring

Students and staff responded to the Board.

Additional Business

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting

Whitney Marshall, Information Literacy Specialist, at Long Meadow commented on how the increase in bandwidth has made a difference in teaching.

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner thanked Debi and the Team for a great presentation and stated that Board members are leaving a legacy in our community and thanked them for their volunteer service.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Michelle Bueltel would like to hear how we are going to continue to educate our staff to keep them up to date on technology applications as well as how the adoption of all of the new technologies are incorporated into lesson plans.

Sandy Fiaschetti would like to have a sense of how the adoption of all of the new technologies are rolling out district wide.

Announcements

Upcoming RCS Events:

November 7 No School for Students (K-12 and Post High)

November 13 Board of Education Regular Meeting, Admin Center, 7 p.m.

November 14 Evening Parent Conferences, K-5

November 16 Evening Parent Conferences, K-5

November 20 Evening Parent Conferences, K-5

November 22-24 No school for Students (K-12 and Post High)

November 27 Board of Education Work Session, Hampton Elementary, 7 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Moved by: Barb Anness

Seconded by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Nakonek
Recording Secretary

Approved by:



Secretary, Board of Education