



**ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**  
November 13, 2017

**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, November 13, 2017 in the Harrison Room. President Sandy Fiaschetti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Shaner requested a moment of silence for the victims in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

**Roll Call**

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

Members Absent: Kevin Beers, with notice

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Elizabeth Davis, Dana Taylor, Lori Grein, Carrie Lawler, Michael Behrmann, Anne Evans, Pete Muscio, Matt McDaniel, Pat Calvin, Wendy Beitel, Doug Hill and approximately 40 visitors

**Spotlight on Success**

**A. Robotics**

Rick Drummer, Team Mentors and members of the AHS, RHS, SCHS and Middle School Robotics teams presented a demonstration of their projects prior to the meeting. Rick presented the history of the Robotics programs in Rochester Community Schools. He spoke about volunteer team mentors and the various industries they represent along with the program goals of teaching business, technology, engineering, programming, presentation skills, teamwork, problem solving, collaboration and marketing to students. Rick invited everyone to attend the April 25-28, 2018 Robotics World Championships in Detroit and closed the presentation with a video showcasing the RCS Robotics Teams.

**B. Plickers Technology to Teach and Learn**

Adams High School Mathematics Teacher Elizabeth Ward demonstrated how Plickers Technology is used in the classroom with utilizing a mobile phone app to track and record student answers by reading cards. This technology allows assessment of both group and individual student mastery of the subject matter.

## **Communications**

### **A. Secretary of the Board of Education**

Kristin Bull shared the following communications received by the Board of Education since the prior meeting: Request from RHS English Teacher, Ashley Painter, to have a member of the Board assist with judging the December 12, 2017 Poetry Out Loud competition at Stoney Creek High School.

### **B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda - None**

### **C. Student Representatives to the Board**

Student representatives from Adams High School, Rochester High School, Stoney Creek High School, and ACE shared information about activities that took place in the school since the start of the school year.

### **D. PTA Council Update**

PTA Council Treasurer Angela Amman updated the Board on recent and upcoming PTA district events.

### **E. Members of the Board of Education - None**

## **Consent Agenda**

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

- A. Current Bills Payable for October 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017 in the amount of \$34,749,085.26
- B. Annual Summer Tax Resolution
- C. Approval of Mike Zabat, Michelle Bueltel and Barb Anness attending the OSCBA Dinner Meeting on November 8, 2017, in the amount of \$90. Source of Funding: General Fund
- D. Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes, October 16, 2017
- E. Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes, October 30, 2017
- F. Board of Education Work Session Minutes, October 30, 2017

Moved by: Michelle Bueltel  
Supported by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 6-0

## **Reports**

**Superintendent's Committee Reports** (Informational Item) Dr. Shaner, Dana Taylor, Elizabeth Davis and Debi Fragomeni

Dr. Shaner reported on the Superintendent Steering Committee meeting held on October 30, 2017. Topics of discussion included the upcoming presentation of the District Audit, Governance and Pre-K programs.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs Dana Taylor reported on her Superintendent Business and Operations Committee meeting held on October 16, 2017. The committee was joined by Beth Davis and Amy Gora from HR as well as Dave Hoisington with the Marsh & McLennan Agency. Dave works in an advisory capacity to the district in matters related to medical insurance plans. Dave reviewed regulatory requirements and current plan benefit levels as well as how the current self-funded plan works. After Dave left the meeting, the committee reviewed first quarter financial information.

Chief Human Resources Officer Elizabeth Davis reported on the Superintendent Policy and Curriculum Committee meeting held on October 16, 2017. Topics of discussion included the Cultural Proficiency book study including the work being done with Dr. Jay Marks from Oakland Schools, cell phone policy revision and Cindy Linder spoke on the Transformation of Instructional Technology to RCS.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Human Resources Report**

Elizabeth Davis presented the following recommendations:

#### **REA RESIGNATIONS**

Amanda Carleton, teacher at Hart Middle School, submitted her letter of resignation effective November 3, 2017.

#### **NEW HIRES**

Jing Bao, Chinese Language Teacher, District wide  
Alejandra Diaz, Third Grade Teacher, Hampton Elementary School  
Madeline Reem, Teacher, Alternative Center for Education

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RESIGNATION**

Renata Milton, Accountant, submitted her letter of resignation effective October 27, 2017.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RETIREMENT**

Patricia Calvin, Purchasing Supervisor, submitted her letter of retirement effective December 31, 2017.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT**

We are recommending the appointment of two Business Services Accountants, Edyee Stocks and Tingrui (Rena) Sun.

A motion was made to approve the Human Resources Report, as presented.

Board discussion included thanking Pat Calvin for her contribution to RCS.

Moved by: Pat Piskulich  
Supported by: Barb Anness

Vote: 6-0

## **B. Proposed Revision of Policy 5607 – Personal Electronic Devices – First Reading**

Elizabeth Davis outlined the proposed revisions to the Board policy on Personal Electronic Devices.

The School District reserves the right to prohibit the possession of use of personal electronic devices on School District property or at School District-related functions. For the purposes of this Policy, “personal electronic devices” means a privately owned device that is used for audio, video or text communications. Students are permitted to use personal electronic devices only as follows:

- Before and after the regular school day.
- At the high school, ~~D~~during the student’s scheduled lunch time and passing time.
- As directed or permitted by a teacher or other professional staff member for educational purposes.

Students may possess personal electronic devices on their person but the devices must be powered off and kept out of sight in backpacks/purses or lockers except during the times, above.

The Superintendent may develop regulations to further control student possession and use of personal electronic devices.

A motion was made to approve the first reading of Board Policy 5607, as presented.

Board discussion included clarification on phone policy at middle schools, and if this change is realistic at the Middle School level.

Elizabeth Davis responded to the Board.

Moved by: Barb Anness  
Supported by: Kristin Bull

Dr. Shaner respectfully requested that the Board table this item for discussion at a later time.

A motion was made to table the Proposed Revision of Policy 5607 – Personal Electronic Devices.

Moved by: Mike Zabat  
Supported by: Pat Piskulich

Vote: 6-0

## **C. Bond Construction Contracts**

### **Recommendation for Award of Contract for Landscape Improvements – Rochester High School**

Dana Taylor reviewed the contracts for Rochester High School landscaping.

Requests for bids were issued and four bids were received for the Rochester High School landscaping project. The request for bids was advertised on the district’s Purchasing Department website, on the State of Michigan SIGMA website, and in the Rochester Post. All bids were reviewed and evaluated by the District’s landscape architect and the Director of Capital Projects. All of the accepted bids were found to be initially compliant with the required specifications per the detail in the bid summary and were analyzed on bid content, completeness, inclusion of required submittals, and compliance with required specifications. Interviews with the two lowest bidders in each category included an in-depth evaluation of

each bid.

The Request for Bids included a Base bid and four alternates. The Base bid includes landscaping in the area around the main entrance, the area around the Performing Arts addition, and the area around the Band and Choir addition (which includes the reinstallation of the Band Booster pavers). The bid alternates include (1) adding a sidewalk area by the Performing Arts entrance, (2) adding trees along the entrance on Livernois, (3) adding trees in the tennis court area, and (4) providing 15' evergreen trees instead of 10' trees along the side of the existing Performing Arts wing, where a number of overgrown trees have been removed.

The district is recommending that Landscape Services be awarded the Base bid and bid alternate #1 (adding a sidewalk area by the Performing Arts entrance, and bid alternate #4 (providing 15' trees instead of 10' trees along the side of the Performing Arts wing) for a total contract sum of \$82,580.

A motion was made to approve the Bond Construction Contracts, as presented.

Board discussion included clarification of bid and costs, if the funds are coming out of bond funds and location and size of trees.

Pete Muscio responded to Board questions.

Moved by: Pat Piskulich  
Supported by: Michelle Buettel

Vote: 6-0

**D. To approve the purchase of Third Grade Literacy Textbooks from Pioneer Valley Books in the amount of \$80,190.00**

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Debi Fragomeni reviewed the contract for the purchase of Literacy Footprints Third Grade Textbooks.

Danielle Smith, Elementary Program Consultant for Rochester Community Schools, has worked with teachers since last summer when RCS hosted Camp Literacy, to use and evaluate new high quality literacy textbooks for third grade, which are critical to meet the Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy, K-3, and as a response to the Third Grade Reading legislation in Michigan. Previous purchases of literacy textbooks were for K-2 classrooms.

Literacy Footprints was initially chosen as an integral component for instruction during Camp Literacy as a high quality textbook to use on a daily basis. Afterward, the textbooks became part of the professional discussions around text complexity, small-group instruction, and text selection for the third grade. As a result of the embedded professional learning and high-quality text, the teachers chose Literacy Footprints as the textbook that gave the highest value of the available textbooks for essential instructional practice for third grade.

Literacy Footprints, published by Pioneer Valley Books, is also the vendor with the lowest cost per textbook in their proposals.

A final quote of \$80,190.00 was received from Pioneer Valley Books, publisher of Literacy Footprints Third Grade Kits, inclusive of free shipping.

Based on this information, we recommend that the Board of Education approves the purchase in FY 2017-2018, of the Literacy Footprints Third Grade Textbooks from Pioneer Valley Books in the amount of \$80,190.00, as presented.

A motion was made to approve the purchase of Third Grade Literacy Textbooks from Pioneer Valley Books in the amount of \$80,190.00, as presented.

Board discussion included if the purchase would cover all third grade students, if something similar is being done at first and second grade levels, if the K-2 text books were from the same publisher, a clarification on the amount of books ordered and if there is a plan to replace fourth grade text books.

Debi Fragomeni, Wendy Beitel and Michael Behrmann responded to the Board.

Moved by: Barb Anness  
Supported by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 6-0

#### **E. Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, October 9, 2017**

Sandy Fiaschetti and Kristin Bull were absent from the Board Meeting and will need to refrain from the vote.

Moved by: Pat Piskulich  
Supported by: Mike Zabat  
Abstentions: Sandy Fiaschetti and Kristin Bull

Vote: 4-0-2

#### **Additional Business**

**A. Citizens Present at the Meeting** – Khary Mason, West Middle School parent, addressed issues of bullying and racism that have happened over the past few years in the schools and in the community.

Sandy commented that there has been ongoing dialogue with Dr. Shaner. Mr. Mason thanked Dr. Shaner for the ongoing dialogue.

#### **B. Members of the Administration**

Dr. Shaner discussed the trip to Washington D. C. for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony, the tour of the Capitol with Mike Bishop, and he thanked all of the students and staff involved in Veteran's Day observances throughout the district.

Debi Fragomeni thanked the Board for the approval of the third grade books on behalf of the third grade teachers and the Curriculum Department. She shared the following Curriculum Department events:

- Elementary ELL Department held a family literacy event
- On October 27<sup>th</sup> eighty special education pre-school students and their families participated in a Halloween activity
- Elementary Curriculum Department issued a revised field trip plan including a trip to Dutton Farms.

**Members of the Board of Education**

Michelle Bueltel reported on the following:

- Attended the Social Emotional Awareness planning meeting
- Cross town show down junior event at Rochester College
- Attended the Oakland County School Board Association dinner meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup> with Mike Zabat and Barb Anness
- MASB Annual Leadership Conference
- RAYA annual meeting

Barb Anness attended the MASB Annual Leadership Conference and CBA classes.

Sandy Fiaschetti shared that each Board member received a copy of the book Cultural Proficiency that is currently being used for a District wide book study and commented on the importance of the issues of cultural diversities in our schools.

**Announcements**

**Upcoming RCS Events:**

**November 20 – Board of Education Closed Session, 5:30 p.m., Administration Center**

November 22-24 – No School for Students (k-12 and Post High)

**November 27 – Board of Education Closed Session, 5:30 p.m., Hampton Elementary**

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

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

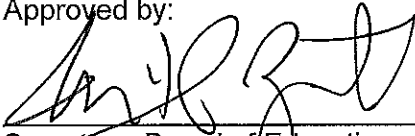
Moved by: Barb Anness

Seconded by: Michelle Bueltel

Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Nakonek  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:  
  
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Secretary, Board of Education  
TREASURER