



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT MEETING
January 27, 2018

MINUTES

Call to Order

A Retreat Meeting, open to the public, of the Board of Education for Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Saturday, January 27, 2018 in the Harrison Room. President Sandy Fiaschetti called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Elizabeth Davis, Carrie Lawler, Michael Behrmann, Anne Evans

Dr. Shaner welcomed the Board of Education members and recognized them for their continued support, leadership, and service to the district. Dr. Shaner reported on the MASA midwinter conference and the focus on literacy presented by Dr. Nell Duke of University of Michigan. Dr. Duke reported that the State of Michigan ranks 49th in literacy for children of poverty and color. Dr. Shaner shared some observations and concerns but felt overall invigorated by our continued focus on coherence, the work our District is doing with Diversity and Inclusion as well as what our Literacy Leadership group is accomplishing.

11 Things to Be Instead of Comfortable

Michael Behrmann introduced the connector activity to everyone. Michael reflected on things we are comfortable with and how do we step out of our comfort zone. Michael asked everyone to rank the following eleven priorities in order of what they want to be this year as a school district leader.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Passionate | Significant |
| Desperate | Creative |
| Daring | Extraordinary |
| Determined | Courageous |
| Committed | Curious |
| Brokenhearted | |

Board and Cabinet members shared their priorities in a debriefing exercise.

Governance

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Debi Fragomeni welcomed Mary Kerwin to the retreat.

(Cabinet members excused themselves from this portion of the meeting.)

Mary Kerwin, Senior Consultant for MASB, presented School Board Roles and Responsibilities. Mary discussed the four roles the Board of Education has:

- To create a shared vision
- To endure a structure that supports it
- To be accountable for the structure and vision
- To advocate for the shared vision and resources needed to achieve it

Mary defined the roles of the Board members and the Superintendent and the clear line between the two. Mary stressed the importance of effective oversight by the Board and how important trust and teamwork are between the Board and Administration. She outlined the authority entrusted to Board members and stressed that Board members must know the laws and duties, obey the law, serve the public with the highest fidelity, be diligent and conscientious, exercise discretion and display good faith, honesty and integrity.

Superintendent responsibilities:

- Implementing policy set by the Board
- Make recommendations to the Board based on his best educational knowledge regarding
 - Personnel
 - Curriculum
 - Budget
- Informing the Board of all vital matters pertaining to the school district
- Developing and maintaining an efficient and effective management system for the school district
- Delegating appropriate responsibilities and assigning duties to other employees of the district, but ultimately being accountable for their actions.

Board responsibilities:

- Policy Making
- Designating the Chief Executive Officer
- Planning, Goal Setting and Appraisal
- Financial Resources
- Staffing and Appraisal
- Instruction
- School Facilities
- Students
- Communication with Various Constituencies
- Advocacy
- Adjudication and Investigation
- Establishing Bylaws
- General
 - Hiring administrators
 - Approving contracts

- Conducting open meetings
- Overseeing requests for information

Mary reviewed the line between Board work and Superintendent work and led Board members in an exercise to identify how the process should ideally work.

Mary discusses social media best practices with the Board.

Sandy Fiaschetti thanked Mary Kerwin for her presentation.

(Cabinet members rejoined the meeting)

Thoughtexchange

Alan Miljkovic, Thoughtexchange Stakeholder Engagement Facilitator, provided a project overview of the first Thoughtexchange exercise conducted for RCS. Alan guided Board members through the Thoughtexchange Dashboard to view the summary themes, subthemes and charts and provided an explanation of how to navigate the site. He reviewed the number of participants, the participants who rated or shared ideas along with a demographic breakdown of participants: parents/guardians, staff, community resident, student, other. Alan reviewed the six themes and subthemes Thoughtexchange identified in reference to the Strategic Plan and clarified the ratings given along with the shared thoughts. He indicated that today's objective will be to categorize the six themes as a Strategic Priority/Action Item, More Information or Discussion Needed or is this Not a Strategic Priority at this time.

Board discussion included when a thought is shared are other people able to comment on the thought, the reason participants cannot skip thoughts and was there anything that stood out in Rochester as opposed to other school districts?

Alan, Dr. Shaner and Michael responded to the Board.

Carrie Lawler, Director of Secondary Education, led the Board in a workshop exercise to prioritize the six themes and subthemes. Debi Fragomeni shared the list of topics from the Board and how these topics might fit under the categories of the themes to explore in the exercise. She reminded the Board of the list of work session topics that have been discussed in the last year.

Board members met in two groups to review the Themes of Curriculum; Instruction and Assessment; Administration and Staff; Global Awareness; Student Support and Wellness; Experiential and Elective Learning; Technology and Infrastructure and all related subthemes. Board members prioritized their selections into the following three areas:

Strategic Priority/Action Item
More Information or Discussion Needed
Not a Strategic Priority at this time

Dr. Shaner and Board members debriefed and discussed the prioritizing exercise. Board and Cabinet members agreed to address the exercise and results at a future time. Results will be made available to Board members for further analyzation.

Alan rejoined the meeting to address questions from the debriefing exercise. Board members shared their reactions to the exchange observing the lack of comments from southern schools, topics that were hard to

process, comment repetition, if there is a technical paper on methodology and reliability and participation and response in comparison to other districts.

Alan responded to the Board and reviewed the next steps that will guide the dialogue and research moving forward. Anne Evans, Executive Director of Special Education read through the list of action items from the debriefing exercise. Dr. Shaner expressed that this exercise is a learning experience for everyone and future Thoughtexchange exercises can delve into topics to flush out more details. Dr. Shaner and Michael discussed how the Thoughtexchange information will be shared with RCS administrators and the community in the future. Dr. Shaner thanked everyone for attending the retreat.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Moved by: Kevin Beers

Seconded by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Nakonek
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Secretary, Board of Education