



ROCHESTER
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
February 5, 2018

MINUTES

Call to Order

A Work Session, open to the public, of the Board of Education for Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Monday, February 5, 2018 at Hampton Elementary School. President Sandy Fiaschetti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members Present: Sandy Fiaschetti, Mike Zabat, Michelle Bueltel and Barb Anness

Members Absent: Kristin Bull, Pat Piskulich and Kevin Beers with notice

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Dana Taylor, Lori Grein, Carrie Lawler, Michael Behrmann, Anne Evans, David Murphy, Pete Muscio, Cindy Lindner, Paul Hartzell, Cheryl Ogonowski and approximately 5 visitors

Principal David Murphy welcomed the Board of Education to North Hill Elementary School. Mr. Murphy gave the Board an update on student initiatives taking place at North Hill and shared a video highlighting curriculum, instruction, assessment and the growth mindset of North Hill students.

Communications

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Michelle Bueltel shared the following communications received by the Board of Education since the prior meeting: Jennifer Smith and Lynne Dieterle regarding the results of the Transportation Study; Alexis Smith inquiry about a potential weather related school closing.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda - None

C. Members of the Board of Education

Sandy Fiaschetti received a communication from a student regarding the Advanced Placement Government class at Stoney Creek High School.

Mike Zabat received a communication from Vlad Labedintsev regarding Teachers in Industry.

Michelle Bueltel and Mike Zabat spoke with Michelle Glazier during Chat with the Board regarding the policy for a grade change request.

Work Session

A. Transportation Study

Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Dana Taylor introduced Andrew Ceifetz, the OPUS International expert in charge of the Transportation Study. The Transportation study was conducted as a result of the June 12, 2017 Transportation Hearing when Board members directed the District to analyze the walker boundary policy. As a result of that direction, the district engaged Andrew Ceifetz, with Opus International Consultants, Inc., to analyze current Board transportation policy and district practices including current walking routes and paths. Opus International Consultants has more than 90 offices globally, and the Michigan office specializes in transportation and highway planning and engineering; road safety engineering; sustainable transportation; and traffic operations. Opus focuses on providing services to the public sector, and more than 80 percent of their work is performed for national, state, regional and municipal government agencies.

Andrew is here with us tonight to give a detailed presentation about how the study was conducted and the study findings and recommendations. You will notice that the report is in draft form because there are a couple of residential areas where the roads are configured in a way that makes it difficult to determine walker routes. The data is needed to finalize the report but will not change the findings or recommendations.

Andrew reviewed his qualifications to conduct the study. He is a Civil Engineer with experience in transportation, design, construction and has worked with several school districts to review transportation. Andrew discusses the decision to review transportation policies and walking boundaries. The key findings from the study are that RCS transportation policies are consistent with other districts reviewed, current legislation and state guidelines. The study compared over a dozen other districts in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. All districts reviewed follow 1.0 and 1.5 walking limits for elementary and secondary students. Andrew reported that no routes were identified that should be changed because of safety concerns.

In conducting the study, Andrew and his team looked at all RCS schools with the exception of Hugger and Baldwin because all students are bussed due to the rural nature of their boundaries. All routes were reviewed, school access points were identified, crossing restrictions were applied to routes and sidewalk and walking paths were checked for impediments and traffic lighting. In addition, Andrew and his team reviewed five years of crash data along walking routes. Boundary maps were then completed for each school that detail walking routes.

The study identified areas where sidewalks and walking paths could be completed to allow additional walkers. Students with no current impediment to a contiguous walking route should be restored to the walking routes and isolated locations should be added to bus routes. The study recommends a review of the walking maps on a defined schedule; creation of a policy for gravel roads; a process for adding new streets; a reconsideration of the prohibition regarding crossing at roundabouts and identify opportunities to infill walking routes.

Andrew summarized the key findings that transportation policies are consistent with other districts reviewed. The current walker boundaries are consistent with the associated legislation. No routes were identified that should be changed because of safety concerns.

Board Discussion included:

- How Opus was chosen to conduct the study. (Paul Hartzell reached out to Safe Routes to Schools and conferred with MSU to select companies to interview.)
- Questions on previously approved and pending transportation appeals
- Sidewalk gap locations and who would be responsible for filling in the sidewalks
- Safety items such as crash data, marked crossing locations and lighting at crossing points
- Variances and exceptions to our current policy
- Crossing at roundabouts and six lane and larger crossings
- Timing for the recommendations and next steps
- If the Transportation Study will be posted to the website and included in the February 12th Board packet

Dana, Andrew and Paul Hartzell responded to the Board. Dana confirmed that the Transportation Study will be posted to the Transportation page of the RCS website once the Board approves the final study. Dana and Paul will work on implementing the recommendations from the report.

Board members thanked Andrew for his work.

B. Phase 1 Bond Close Out

Dana Taylor stated that Pete Muscio and Mike Gagnon are here tonight to present the final costs for completed construction projects and change order detail on the Phase II projects. As you know, change orders are an inevitable part of construction and are issued for a variety of reasons. Unexpected site conditions can require additional work and scope revisions in design plans are common reasons for change orders. Some change orders result in savings (actual costs were less than projected), and conversely, some change orders result in additional costs. The change orders will be presented for approval at the regular Board meeting on February 12.

Pete Muscio, Director of Capital Projects and Facilities, and Mike Gagnon, Rewold and Sons, reviewed the eight projects that are being closed out at Hugger, Musson, Baldwin, Hamlin, West, Adams roofing and skylights, pool repairs and timing systems, and security systems at 6 schools. Three schools have projects still in progress and will not be closed out at this time. These projects include Rochester High School, BAS investigations at three schools and the ACE kitchen.

Board discussion included questions on the BAS – Building Automation Systems and a clarification on the initial bond estimates.

Dana, Mike and Pete responded to the Board. Dana confirmed that the additional costs for the ACE kitchen will come out of the Food Service Budget with the result that all projects to date will come in under budget.

C. Orchestra

Executive Director of Secondary Education Carrie Lawler and Executive Director of Elementary Education Michael Behrmann presented the RCS Orchestra Implementation Plan 2018-19 and presented the chronological history of discussion on the topic:

- Winter 2016: Conversations between the Curriculum Department and community members regarding an orchestra/strings program
- Spring 2016: Orchestra Task Force formed

- May 2016: Presentations to Board Sub-committees
- Fall 2016: Orchestra implementation study
- Winter 2017: Report finalized and presented to Curriculum Department and Orchestra Task Force
- Winter 2017: Cost analysis revised and sent to Business Department
- Spring 2017: Presentation at BOE Work Session
- Fall 2017: Continued implementation and budget analysis by Curriculum Department
- Winter 2018: Cabinet recommends moving forward with implementation

Carrie reviewed the plan for implementation for incoming sixth grade students along with the plan to add a grade each year to the program.

Board discussion included: Presentation of mini-performances to the elementary schools, if strings students would be taught separately from band, who from the RCS staff would teach strings, timing for spring scheduling for middle schools, discussion of Valerie Palmieri's report to the BOE in early 2017, criteria for cost analysis, is there a minimum and maximum number of students needed to make the program viable. Board members requested that financial information be included in next week's packet. Sandy requested that the two parents who first requested the strings program be invited to next week's meeting.

Carrie and Michael responded to the Board.

Additional Business

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting - None

B. Members of the Administration

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Debi Fragomeni thanked the Board members for their work during the retreat and reported that the Thoughtexchange data will be introduced to RCS administrators this Wednesday. Debi invited Board members to a 6:30 p.m. reception before the February 12th BOE meeting honoring the Saudi educators who participated in the Oakland University Galileo program at RCS.

Michael Behrmann thanked Dave Murphy for his hospitality.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Barb Anness attended the PTA meeting at Delta Kelly; she will be attending a listening tour there later this month.

Barb Anness, Michelle Bueltel and Kevin Beers attended the International Academy meeting with Doug Hill and Dr. Shaner.

Announcements

Upcoming RCS Events:

February 12 - Board of Education Regular Meeting, Admin Center, 7 p.m.

February 19-20 – Midwinter Recess

February 26 – Board of Education Special Meeting, Admin Center, 7 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Moved by: Michelle Buettel

Seconded by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 4-0

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Nakonek
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Secretary, Board of Education