



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
June 24, 2019

MINUTES

Call to Order

A Regular and Organizational Meeting, open to the public, of the Board of Education for Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Monday, June 24, 2019 in the Harrison Room. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members Present: Kristin Bull, Kevin Beers, Mike Zabat, Barb Anness, Sandy Fiaschetti and Andrea Walker-Leidy

Members Absent: Michelle Bueltel, with notice

Others Present: Dr. Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Dana Taylor, Elizabeth Davis, Carrie Lawler, Anne Evans, Lori Grein, Cindy Lindner, Matt McDaniel, Wendy Beitel, Lynn Newmyer and approximately 30 visitors.

Spotlight on Success

Debi Fragomeni introduced the Reading Recovery program and the teachers who not only have taught over 50 students this year but did so during the inaugural training class.

Communications

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Barb Anness shared that one communication has been received by Nina Brusseau.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda

None

C. Members of the Board of Education

Consent Agenda

- A. School Meal Price Recommendations for 2019-2020
- B. Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, June 10, 2019
- C. Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes, June 17, 2019
- D. Approval for Barb Anness to attend the OCSBA / MASB Awards Banquet and Dinner Meeting on June 19, 2019 in the amount of \$35 (Source of Funding – General Fund)

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

Moved by: Sandy Fiaschetti

Supported by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Vote: 6-0

Reports

Superintendent's Committee Reports (Informational Item) Dr. Shaner

Dr. Shaner reported on the June 17, 2019 Superintendent's Steering Committee meeting. Topics of discussion included sinking fund ballot language, a Branding Task Force update and succession planning.

Legislative Report (Informational Item) Dr. Shaner

Dr. Shaner thanked Governor Whitmer for hosting her town hall at Rochester High School. He reminded everyone that there is still no state budget.

New Business

A. Human Resource Report

Elizabeth Davis presented the following recommendations:

REA RESIGNATIONS

Kristin Dunneback, Business Teacher at Rochester High School, submitted her letter of resignation effective at the end of the school year. Ms. Dunneback has been with the district since September, 2010.

Elizabeth McConnell, Kindergarten Teacher at Hugger Elementary School, submitted her letter of resignation effective at the end of the school year. Ms. McConnell has been with the district since August, 2016.

Madelaine Reem, Social Studies Teacher at ACE High School, submitted her letter of resignation effective at the end of the school year. Ms. Reem has been with the district since September, 2017.

REA RETIREMENTS

Diane Heath, Art Teacher at Stoney Creek High School, submitted her letter of retirement effective at the end of the school year. Ms. Heath has been with the district since January, 1988.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT - Appointment of Executive Director of Special Education

After a final interview with Dr. Shaner, the Executive Staff and PAC representative, along with visits to buildings and meetings with the special education staff, we are recommending the appointment of Concetta Lewis to the position. Concetta comes to Rochester Community Schools from Ann Arbor Public Schools where she has served as Interim Executive Director and Assistant Director of Student Intervention and Support Services since 2015. She has also worked in Special Education administrative positions with Ypsilanti Community Schools and the Marvin L. Winans Academy of Performing Arts. She was a Special Education teacher in Ypsilanti, Southfield, Detroit and Lansing school districts. Ms. Lewis holds a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary and Special Education, a Master of Science in Human Resources from Central Michigan University, as well as an Education Specialist Degree from Saginaw Valley State University. The appointment will be effective on July 1, 2019.

NEW HIRES - REA – 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

Joshua Kibby, Social Worker, Meadow Brook Elementary School
Gillian Moss, Resource Room Teacher, Rochester High School
Nicholas Reed, Social Studies Teacher, Rochester High School
Angela Spuck, Social Worker, Reuther Middle School
Megan VanderVoord, ASD Teacher, Meadow Brook Elementary
September Wellams, 3rd Grade Teacher, Meadow Brook Elementary

Motion to approve the Human Resource Report, as presented.

Moved by: Kevin Beers

Supported by: Barb Anness

Barb shared her appreciation for retiree Diane Heath and the positive impact she has made at SCHS. Barb also thanked Anne for her years of service.

Vote: 6-0

B. 2019 Tax Rate Certification

Dana Taylor reported that the 2019 Tax Rate Request includes an 18 mill levy on non-homestead property for the general operations of the district, and 5.3 mills on all classes of property for debt service obligations. We recommend approval of the tax rates as presented for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Motion to approve the 2019 Tax Rate Certification, as presented.

Moved by: Kevin Beers

Supported by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 6-0

C. Approval of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget

Dana Taylor advised the Board that attached to the budget amendment resolutions they would find schedules of the proposed changes to the General Fund, Early Learning Center Fund, Bookstore, Food Service Fund, Student/School Activity Fund, Debt Service Fund and Capital Projects Fund budgets. All of the proposed amended budgets were reviewed in detail at the May 20, 2019, Board of Education work session as well as at the Truth and Budget Hearing this evening.

Motion to approve the Approval of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget, as presented

Moved by: Sandy Fiaschetti

Supported by: Kevin Beers

Vote: 6-0

D. Approval of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget Amendment

Dana Taylor advised the Board that attached to the budget amendment resolutions they would find schedules of proposed changes to the General Fund, Early Learning Center Fund, Bookstore Fund, Food Service Fund, Bookstore Fund, Debt Service Fund, and Capital Projects Fund budgets. All of the proposed amended budgets were reviewed in detail at the May 20, 2019 Board of Education work session.

The proposed General Fund amendment includes an increase in budgeted revenue of \$1,576,236 and an increase in budgeted expenditures of \$1,732,846. This is a result of increases in salary and benefits, facilities operations, and transportation costs. As a result, the General Fund will add \$987,571 to fund balance.

The Caring Steps Fund budget includes increases to revenue of \$67,000. This is a result of increased enrollment and an increase in the transfer from general fund. In addition, the Caring Steps Fund expenditures increased by \$67,000. This is a result of increased staffing needs and facilities costs. Budgeted revenues equal budgeted expenditures so there will be no addition to fund balance.

The Food Service Fund budget includes decreases to revenue of \$55,693. This is a result of a changes in local revenue projections. In addition, the Food Service Fund expenditures increased by \$599,754. This is a result of investments made in kitchens and server areas. As a result, the Food Service Fund will spend \$492,116 of fund balance.

The Bookstore Fund budget includes increases to revenue of \$13,136. This is a result of increased sales at the bookstores. In addition, the Bookstore Fund expenditures increased by \$16,972. This is a result of the additional supplies that were needed because of the increase in revenue. As a result, the Bookstore Fund will add \$214 to fund balance.

The Debt Service Fund budget includes decreases to revenue of \$305,102. This is a result of a decrease in tax collections. In addition, the Debt Service Fund expenditures decreased by \$962,325. This is a result of a decrease in bond interest. As a result, the Debt Service Fund will add \$1,314,000 to fund balance.

The Capital Projects Fund budget includes increases to revenue of \$57,975,098. This is a result of the issuance of the Series II bonds. In addition, the Capital Projects Fund expenditures increased by \$8,583,378. This is a result of updated projections to approved projects. As a result, the Capital Projects Fund will add \$11,717,169 to fund balance.

Motion to approve the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget Amendment, as presented.

Moved by: Mike Zabat

Supported by: Barb Anness

Vote: 6-0

E. Renewal of the district memberships to the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) \$0; the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) \$9,441.00; and the MASB Legal Trust Fund \$493

Dana Taylor stated that this resolution is to renew the district membership to the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Michigan Association of School Boards in the amount of \$9,441 and the MASB Legal Trust Fund in the amount of \$493.

Motion to approve the renewal of the district membership to the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) \$0; the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) \$9,441.00; and the MASB Legal Trust Fund \$493, as presented.

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Supported by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 6-0

F. Approval of Construction Project Bid Awards

Recommendation

Dana Taylor

Dana Taylor presented the Recommendation for Approval of PA System Enhancements: Strobe Lighting. This project continues our safety and security efforts by adding strobe lighting to the existing PA system. High capacity school building spaces will gain strobe lighting that activates when the PA system is engaged. These areas include main and auxiliary gymnasiums, media centers, cafeterias, auditoriums, natatoriums, middle and high school band rooms, middle and high school choir rooms, multi-purpose rooms and elementary school music rooms.

The recommendation was to award the contract total of \$130,276 with a contingency amount of \$13,027.60 for a total project cost not to exceed \$143,303.60.

Board discussion included clarification what the purpose of the strobe light is. Cindy Lindner addressed the Board to answer their questions.

Motion to approve Construction Project Bid Awards, as presented.

Moved by: Sandy Fiaschetti

Supported by: Kevin Beers

Vote: 6-0

G. Change Orders

Dana Taylor presented the Recommendation to Approve Bond Change Orders for Completed Projects and Projects in Progress in the amount of \$207,503. The Projects in Process are to the Transportation

Facility (installing concrete wheel strips in the parking lot to help ensure the weight of the buses don't cause the tires to sink into the asphalt) and to the Athletic Fields (to ensure equity between all players).

Board discussion included the timeline to the improvements to the athletic fields. Mike Gagnon addressed the Board to answer their question.

Motion to approve Change Orders, as presented.

Moved by: Barb Anness

Supported by: Kevin Beers

Vote: 6-0

H. Sinking Fund Resolution

Dana Taylor presented that on May 13, 2019, the Advanced Planning Committee met and discussed the need for creating a sinking fund as a sustainable way for the district to pay for capital improvements such as a facility repair and the purchase of capital equipment, including technology. The Committee's work was presented at the May 20, 2019, Board Work Session by Dr. Shaner, who explained how sinking funds work and that money from a sinking fund cannot be used to pay for employees' salary or benefits or maintenance costs. A sinking fund is a pay-as-you-go system that does not require the district to borrow money or pay interest.

Dana Taylor read the ballot language that states the following:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Revised School Code, MCL 380.1212, permits districts to create a sinking fund to fund certain enumerated activities, including capital improvements to school buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined it is in the best interests of education in the District to levy additional millage for a sinking fund to carry out the activities enumerated under MCL 380.1212.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The following proposal will be submitted to the electors of the District at an election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019:

MILLAGE PROPOSAL BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX LEVY

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be levied against all property in Rochester Community School District, Counties of Oakland and Macomb, State of Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 1.5000 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 (ten) years, 2020 to 2029, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the purpose of construction or repair of school buildings, the improvement and development of sites, security improvements, acquiring or upgrading technology, and for any other purpose which may be authorized by law? It is estimated that the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in the 2020 calendar year shall be approximately \$7,881,817; revenues from this millage will be disbursed to Rochester Community School District.

The Superintendent and/or his designee are hereby directed to take all measures to place the above listed ballot proposition on the ballot for said election.

2. The Secretary is directed to give the appropriate notices as required by law for the above listed ballot proposition.

3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution will be rescinded.

Board discussion included if the sinking fund will result in a tax increase, what the messaging will be with regards to the no-tax increase (and an expectation of a decrease), the origin of the phrase "sinking fund," examples of how funds from the sinking fund, the difference between a sinking fund and bonds, and how funds were spent with the passing of the bond. Dr. Shaner and Dana Taylor addressed the Board to answer their questions.

Motion to approve the Sinking Fund Resolution, as presented.

Moved by: Kevin Beers

Supported by: Sandy Fiaschetti

Vote: 6-0

I. 2019 – 2020 Organizational Items

All items remain the same from the 2018-2019 school year, with the following additions:

Page 1, Section 1

- Meeder Investment Management was added as a depository account and investment account for the 2019 bond issues

Pages 1 – 4

- Several district position title changes

Motion to approve the 2019-2020 Organizational Items, as presented.

Moved by: Mike Zabat

Supported by: Barb Anness

Vote: 6-0

J. Passage of State School Aid Resolution

Kristin Bull presented the Passage of State School Aid Resolution to the Board.

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 11 of the Michigan State Constitution establishes a state school aid fund, and provides that "payments from this fund shall be made in full on a scheduled basis, as provided by law;" and

WHEREAS, the State School Aid Act (the "Act"), being MCL 388.1601, *et al*, is an act to aid in the support of public institutions and provides for the funding of the state school aid, a process that results in provision of financial resources to the District so that it can support its operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that timely commitment of those financial resources to the District is imperative to the District's financial health; and

WHEREAS, the Board is aware that the Act provides for the state school aid fund to provide state aid to institutions that do not serve K-12 schools.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board urges the State to timely pass the budget for the state school aid so that the District can adequately plan for the future.
2. The Board urges the State to eliminate any state school aid fund diversions to meet other state budget needs.
3. The Board urges the State to pass a budget that fairly provides state school aid funds to K-12 schools.
4. All other resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

Board discussion included the Board's strong support of the passing of the budget.

Motion to approve Passage of State School Aid Resolution, as presented.

Moved by: Kevin Beers

Supported by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Vote: 6-0

Additional Business

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting - None

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner acknowledged our Reading Recovery Specialists and thanked them for their hard work, dedication and leadership. Dr. Shaner also thanked Oakland University for their partnership.

Dr. Shaner thanked Governor Whitmer for hosting her town hall at Rochester Community Schools and to the staff who worked collectively to ensure a successful event. Dr. Shaner went on to say that the Governor's security lead thanked him for making it so seamless for the Governor and her team to come in. Finally, Dr. Shaner thanked the community for attending the town hall.

Anne Evans expressed her gratitude and thanked the Board for their service over her past 12 years at Rochester Community Schools.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Sandy Fiaschetti addressed the Board and shared that as of July 1, 2019, she is resigning from the Board. Sandy is resigning because of a job opportunity out of state.

The Board and Administration thanked Sandy for her service, dedication and leadership. Kristin Bull outlined the steps of posting the open seat and the interview process.

Announcements

Upcoming RCS Events:

July 15 – 7:00 p.m. Board of Education, Regular Meeting, Admin. Center

August 19 – 7:00 p.m. Board of Education, Regular Meeting, Admin. Center

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Moved by: Sandy Fiaschetti

Seconded by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

Christina Whitmore
Recording Secretary


Barbara Cinner
Secretary, Board of Education