



**ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

**BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION**  
September 24, 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, September 24, 2018 Brewster Elementary School. President Sandy Fiaschetti called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Dana Taylor, Elizabeth Davis, Carrie Lawler, Pamela Jones, Anne Evans, Lori Grein, Wendy Beitel, Todd Calcamuggio, Marnie Barker, Cathryn Skedel, Kelly Dessy, Wendy Darga and approximately 13 visitors.

**Communications**

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

Michelle Bueltel shared the following communications received by the Board of Education since the prior meeting. Samantha Simms, regarding an article she had read on cybersecurity. Sarah Bassett, regarding district transportation issues. Katelyn Cryderman, SCHS teacher, asking if Board members could help with student interviews for her Virtual Enterprise education classes.

**B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda - none**

**C. Members of the Board of Education**

Kevin Beers received a correspondence from Jerry Murphy regarding the tennis courts at RHS.

Andrea Walker-Leidy received a correspondence from the Parent Advisory Committee on a Dyslexia talk on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Principal Kelly Dessy welcomed the Board of Education to Brewster Elementary School and gave the Board an update on new staff and student initiatives taking place at Brewster. Four student members of Brewster's Community Service Kids project updated the Board their ongoing community service efforts.

## **Work Session**

### **A. AdvancED Visit Overview**

Karen Gelardi presented an overview of the District Accreditation process taking place September 30<sup>th</sup> through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. AdvancED will have a six member team visiting RCS looking for coherent themes running through all areas of our system. Dr. Shaner provided the background on the work that Karen has done to date, reporting that in the past each of our high schools went through the accreditation process separately. RCS Principals Kelly Dessy, Marnie Barker, Cathryn Skedel and Wendy Darga discussed how administrators developed plans at Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) meetings to look at systemness and show a coherent theme working with colleagues throughout all grade levels to prepare for the visit. Administrators looked at the Strategic Improvement Plan and the District Improvement Plan for guidance in developing their goals.

AdvancED team members will conduct interviews, spend time at selected schools observing classrooms and conduct focus groups with staff, students and building leadership teams. After the review the team will provide us with feedback, their report will be reviewed at the national level of AdvancED to determine if the 5 year accreditation will be awarded.

Board discussion included:

- Why we haven't applied for system accreditation before
- Will we have to apply for accreditation again in 5 years
- What other local districts are accredited
- Information that administrators will present to the accreditation team
- Supporting data that will be shared with the accreditation team to show school improvement

Karen Gelardi, Kelly Dessy, Marnie Barker, Wendy Darga and Cathryn Skedel responded to the Board.

### **B. Data Review**

#### **1. iReady Date and IRIP Process**

Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Equity & Inclusion Pamela Jones, reviewed Rochester's iReady Benchmark & Diagnostic Assessments. Testing includes all students K-5 with three testing windows per year. Reports include individualized student data which reflects "on grade level" results as well as curriculum and instructional data. iReady data is used to identify students who need individual help in meeting the requirements of the Read by Grade Three Law and assists with developing reading intervention services. iReady and M-STEP data allows for national comparisons on student growth. This data allows administrators and teachers to target students and curriculum data to meet building and district school improvement goals. M-Step and i-Ready data analysis shows RCS students achieving at a much higher level than county and state averages.

#### **2. M-STEP**

Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, Equity & Inclusion Carrie Lawler reviewed M-STEP data analysis for middle and high school mathematics and science programs. Mathematics scores have remained constant and we have implemented a comprehensive plan to improve science achievement with new science kits for K-5, a new science program for 6-8 along with a

new part time science consultant focusing on 6-8. Social studies standards are currently undergoing a review process.

### **3. PSAT / SAT**

Carrie Lawler reviewed 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade SAT/PSAT scores and discussed building and district improvement goals based on high school PSAT results. District goals remain focused on school-wide efforts to prepare students for the tests. Data rooms show individual student test results to assist with identifying students who perform below expectation. Beginning this year 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the PSAT test instead of the M-STEP.

Board discussion included:

- Clarification of iReady test results
- Individual student scores/growth
- Do the iReady and M-STEP results match
- Why are science and social studies scores lower across the board
- Clarification of test results per grade level
- What are we doing for students who are at the top of the grade level to challenge their growth

Pamela Jones, Carrie Lawler, Marnie Barker, Kelly Dessy, Wendy Darga and Cathryn Skedel responded to the Board and discussed working with select groups of identified students who may need extra support to achieve grade level results or who are ready for additional challenges in literacy.

### **C. Panel Discussion with Principals**

Principals who will be involved in district accreditation addressed the Board presenting the "Elevator pitch" speech they will present to the accreditation team.

#### **Additional Business**

##### **A. Citizens Present at the Meeting**

John VanOphem addressed the Board regarding traffic at Adams, cybersecurity at RCS and the related ongoing criminal investigation.

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

Dr. Shaner thanked Kelly Dessy for her hospitality and thanked Kelly, Karen Gelardi, Marnie Barker, Wendy Darga and Cathryn Skedel for participating in tonight's discussion.

Deputy Superintendent Debi Fragomeni announced that she attended Dr. Shaner's presentation at the MASA conference and reported on today's tour of the Dr. John Schultz Education Campus.

##### **C. Members of the Board of Education**

Barb Anness, Andrea Walker-Leidy and Michelle Buelteel attended the MASB legislative behind the scenes day in Lansing.

Barb Anness attended the MASB legislative priority meeting.

Michelle Bueltel attended a PTA meeting at North Hill Elementary.

Andrea Walker-Leidy talked about the lessons learned at the Lansing event.  
Sandy Fiaschetti and Kevin Beers will be at SCHS for interviews on Tuesday, September 25th.

**Announcements**

**Upcoming RCS Events:**

October 8, 2018      Board of Education Regular Meeting, Administration Building, 7 p.m.  
October 22, 2018    Board of Education Work Session, Rochester High School, 7 p.m.

**Adjournment**


A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Moved by: Michelle Bueltel  
Seconded by: Mike Zabat  
Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Nakonek  
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Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
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Secretary, Board of Education