



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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT MEETING**  
February 2, 2019

**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, February 2, 2019 in the Harrison Room. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Elizabeth Davis, Jessica Thomas, Carrie Lawler, Lori Grein and Wendy Beitel.

Dr. Shaner welcomed the Board of Education members and recognized them for their continued support, leadership, and service to the district. Dr. Shaner communicated this will be facilitated by BOE members, supported by Cabinet. Debi thanked the team for their effort in putting on a successful Retreat as well as outlining to the Board about Cabinet's purpose during the Retreat - to listen and engage.

Kristin spoke about the article Mike shared and the complexity in "everyday life" as a parent in the district as well as her role on the Board. She now practices "the pause" before reacting to things, such as the Adams traffic situation.

Mike Zabat kicked off the Retreat with a TedTalk - My Journey on the BOE.

Bob also gave a TedTalk – the impact of our work, how important it is, the impact on others as leaders and how you create meaning out of it. All Means All.

**Vision Letter**

Sandy facilitated a vision letter/lesson in creativity with Cabinet and the Board. The letter, dated 2023, was written to someone of personal meaning and was to include what each Board Member wanted them to know about their legacy: what are the 3-5 key successes that happened between 2019-2023, how do you know if they are successful, what is the reputation of the district and how do you know that, what roles did the Board and Admin play and how did they look different, who is there, what did you/we feel most proud of what we saw?

The group had 20 minutes to complete this exercise. Each BOE Member shared their letter.

The common ideas shared were: mental health and wellness; diversity & inclusion; mindfulness; critical thinking; complexity; developing key relationships; partnerships with local businesses; innovative learning; financially sound district; collaboration; and listening to our kids, community and Board of Education.

Bob thanked Sandy for facilitating the exercise. Debi voiced how the exercise relates to the Ted Talks and Bob's transparency.

Wonderful reminder from Debi: Excellence does not mean perfection. "Systemness" is critical, clarity is essential.

### **Thoughtexchange**

Wendy Beitel facilitated the next exercise using Thoughtexchange. The question we are reflecting on today is: Reflecting on the Feb 2, 2023 letters and our understanding of complex systems, what are the big topics to consider for strategic planning?

Top five thoughts (based on rating): caring about the whole child; literacy still matters until 100%; mental health – focus on stigma busting and wellness; continuing to work toward equity and inclusion across the district; and critical thinking over rote.

The Retreat came to a close with a Student Ted Talk.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Moved by:

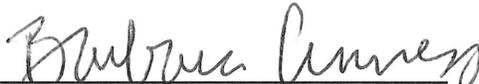
Seconded by:

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
Barbara Amey  
Secretary, Board of Education