



## **ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION**

April 22, 2019 at 7:00 PM ~ Brooklands Elementary

## **MINUTES**

### **Call to Order**

A Work Session, open to the public, of the Board of Education for Rochester Community Schools, was held on Monday, April 22, 2019, at Brooklands Elementary School. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

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

Members Absent: Sandy Fiaschetti, with notice

Others Present: Dr. Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Lori Grein, Carrie Lawler, Jessica Thomas, Kelly Dessy, Amy Grande, Karen Gelardi, Doug Hill, Mandy Lyons, Wendy Beitel, Danielle Smith, Mary Webster, Lynn Newmyer, Lisa Hall and approximately two visitors.

Teresa Simonetti welcomed the Board of Education and briefly shared Brooklands' journey from reading recovery to literacy.

### **Communications**

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

Barb Anness shared one communication has been received from Lisa Trudell regarding Academic Recognition.

#### **B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda**

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

## **Work Session**

### **A. Literacy Update**

Debi Fragomeni introduced the district's "literacy leaders" which includes Wendy Beitel, Danielle Smith, Mary Webster, Lynn Newmyer, Lisa Hall and Karen Gelardi.

Wendy Beitel presented the district's literacy beliefs which include:

- Literacy is an inalienable right for all people in a democratic society.
- Literacy is a community initiative.
- Continuous, high-quality professional learning is vital for all staff within a world-class literacy system.
- Early literacy intervention is an economic, social and moral imperative.
- Choice in a variety of rich, authentic texts promotes student engagement.
- Teachers change their teaching to match how students learn.
- Positive relationships are the foundation of a learning community.
- Reading and writing inspire joy.

Additionally, Wendy shared diagnostic results of a fall and winter comparison, performance and growth by grade, typical growth by placement and performance and growth by school. All of our schools are above average in terms of growth.

Danielle Smith presented the components of the Rochester Community Schools literacy plan that include:

- Align core literacy curriculum and professional development
- Increase literacy expertise and expand research-based interventions
- Establish a sustainable district coaching model
- Grow district literacy leadership

Danielle also gave an overview of the implementation for Units of Study.

Mary Webster shared information on the Teachers College of Reading and Writing Project Labsites and the importance of collaboration.

Lynn Newmyer presented the district's Reading Recovery program and explained the early literacy collaborative component associated with this program. Rochester Community Schools established a Reading Recovery site in the 2018-2019 school year and we will be fully implemented in the 2020-2021 school year. Ideally, Reading Recovery is a 20 week or less program.

Lisa Hall spoke about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Literacy Summit that will be held on May 21, 2019, as well as the Home Grown Reading Institute that will be held from August 19-22, 2019.

Karen Gelardi reviewed the district's next steps that include: phonics institute for literacy coaches (in May); professional learning opportunities (using grant dollars); Summer Academy (held at Brooklands and Long Meadow, for students ending grades 2-4) will cover literacy, math and STEAM; EL Summer Program; eight staff members will be trained in Reading Recovery in 2019-2020; and a multi-year professional learning plan.

The literacy team addressed the Board to answer their questions.

**Additional Business**

**A. Citizens Present at the Meeting**

None.

**B. Members of the Administration**

Dr. Shaner thanked all of the presenters for presenting tonight as well as for taking this leap of faith and for their dedication.

Thank you to Congresswoman Slotkin for visiting the district today and to Governor Whitmer for the personal invitation to join her at her residence to discuss the budget.

Debi read Mrs. Mestdagh's "Dear Students" letter (Dear Students, I believe in you, I trust in you, you are listened to, you are cared for, you are important and you will succeed). Tomorrow at Caring Steps is the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual diversity meeting with parents. Wednesday is the next Diversity & Inclusion Parent Meeting. Thursday PTA Council at Brooklands.

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

Michelle commented the "Dear Students" letter could also be applied to staff.

**Announcements**

**Upcoming RCS Events:**

April 26 - Half Day for Students AM (K-12 and Post High)

April 29 to May 3 - Authors in April Week

**May 6 - Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Harrison Room**

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Moved by: Michelle Bueltel

Seconded by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
Acting Secretary, Board of Education