



**ROCHESTER**  
**COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

## **ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**

February 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM ~ Harrison Room

## **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, February 10, 2020, in the Harrison Room. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call**

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

Members Absent: Michelle Buelstel and Scott Muska, with notice

Others Present: Dr. Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Elizabeth Davis, Dana Taylor, Lori Grein, Carrie Lawler, Cory Heitsch, Concetta Lewis, Matt McDaniel, Doug Hill, Pete Muscio, Cindy Lindner, Karen Gelardi, Robin Carter, Jennifer Fickel, Wendy Beitel, Lisa Fosnaugh, Dan Mooney, Kristin Patrona, Dave Murphy, Seth Berg, Amy Grande, Kelly Dessy, Wendy Darga, Dave Pontzious, Marco Marando, Bryan Lindstrom, Jeff Fosnaugh, and approximately 40 visitors.

Dr. Shaner held a moment of silence in memory of Jonah Kraniak, 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Reuther.

### **Spotlight on Success**

#### **A. VFW State of Michigan Teacher of the Year**

Lori Grein introduced Bryan Lindstrom who was selected as the VFW's state winner for the Teacher of the Year award for grades 9-12 for citizenship education.

Dr. Shaner congratulated Bryan and explained more about the Yellow Ribbon Fund, which is the selected recipient of this year's high school charity week.

#### **B. Orchestra Program Update**

Lori Grein introduced Erin Holden, who welcomed the Hart Middle School Orchestra.

## **Communications**

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

Andrea Walker-Leidy shared two communications were received by the Board of Education since the prior meeting: Meredith McCutcheon regarding the attendance incentive and Leah Raymond regarding combining the ELA 6 and Advanced ELA 6 classes.

### **B. Student Representatives to the Board**

Student representatives from ACE, Adams High School, Rochester High School, and Stoney Creek High School shared information about activities that took place in the school since the last board meeting.

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

Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner, discussed the Oakland County Financial Literacy Art Contest. The contest is open to all 9-12 grade students throughout Oakland County. The goal of this contest is to let students explore the theme of financial literacy through the power of the arts.

### **D. PTA Council Update**

PTA Council Treasurer Aarthi Rangarajan updated the Board on recent and upcoming PTA district events. Some of the events included: Founders Day is on February 27, 6-9pm at RHS; next PTA council meeting will be held on February 20, 9:30am at Hampton Elementary; Operation Medicine Cabinet will be held during middle and high school conferences March 4-5.

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

None.

## **Consent Agenda**

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

- A.** Current Bills Payable for January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2020 in the amount of \$4,332,378.42
- B.** Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2020
- C.** Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes, January 27, 2020
- D.** Board of Education Work Session Minutes, January 27, 2020
- E.** Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes, January 28, 2020

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Supported by: Barb Anness

Vote: 5-0

## **Reports**

Dr. Shaner reported on his Superintendent Steering Committee held earlier this evening. Agenda items included capital needs of the district and the strategic planning process.

Dana Taylor reported on the January 27, 2020, Superintendent Business and Operations Committee meeting. Agenda items included: November and December 2019 financial information, the Series I Bond audit requirements, pupil accounting internal control process, state aid changes and various facility issues.

Elizabeth Davis reported on the January 27, 2020, Superintendent Policy and Curriculum Committee meeting. The committee visited all of the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classrooms at McGregor Elementary, followed by a presentation by the TK teachers and principals regarding the upcoming screening process.

## **Legislative Update**

Dr. Shaner provided a legislative update which included the state budget. Dr. Shaner also shared that he attended the National School Board Association Advocacy Institute (Advocacy Day) where he met with Senators and Representatives that represent the Rochester area and was a very productive visit. Lastly, Dr. Shaner thanked Rep. Michael Webber for inviting him to be his guest at the State of the State Address.

## **Summary of Student Achievement, Instructional Practices, and Student Well-Being**

Carrie Lawler, Cory Heitsch, Karen Gelardi and Robin Carter summarized the extensive presentation of the January 27, 2020 work session.

Dr. Shaner shared that a communication was sent to the RCS community regarding an event that took place at Baldwin Elementary and he urged the community to utilize the resources that were provided in the communication piece and talk with their kids. This is a community issue and the way RCS will work through this is continued dialogue and camaraderie. Dr. Shaner shared his regret for the experience the Baldwin family is having. We pride ourselves on engagement and if anyone in the community has anything to share or has anything to discuss, Dr. Shaner urged them to contact him.

## **New Business**

### **A. Human Resources Report**

Chief Human Resources Officer Elizabeth Davis presented the following recommendations:

#### **REA RESIGNATIONS**

Kathleen Brown, Social Worker at Hamlin Elementary, submitted her letter of resignation effective February 28, 2020. She has been with the District since August 2014.

Sheila Wolsker, Language Arts teacher at Hart Middle School, submitted her letter of resignation effective February 28, 2020. She has been with the District since August 2017.



REA NEW HIRES

Aimee Monticello, Social Worker, at Hampton Elementary and Musson Elementary

ADMINISTRATOR RESIGNATIONS

Glen Sedam, District Technology Manager, submitted his letter of resignation effective January 21, 2020. He has been with the District since April 9, 2019.

Motion to approve the Human Resources Report, as presented.

Moved by: Mike Zabat

Supported by: Barb Anness

Vote: 5-0

**B. General Fund Bid Awards**

**Recommendation for Approval of String Instruments**

Dana Taylor presented the General Fund Bid Awards for approval of string instruments. This purchase is for eight (8) cellos and sixteen (16) basses for our middle school music programs. The recommendation was to award the contract in the sum of \$31,352.00.

Board discussion included clarification on if this is being awarded to the same company that we initially purchased instruments from, which it is not. Carrie Lawler addressed the board to answer their question.

Motion to approve the General Fund Bid Awards, as presented.

Moved by: Barb Anness

Supported by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Vote: 5-0

**C. Amendment of Superintendent Contract**

Kristin Bull highlighted the amendment to the Superintendent contract, which includes: an automatic extension for five years; it brings Dr. Shaner's salary to one that is competitive with other districts in Michigan of our size; it requires Dr. Shaner to obtain a medical exam paid for by the District; and it supports professional development. Kristin went on to say that this contract is a representation of the board's gratitude for Dr. Shaner's service, their trust in his leadership and their strong desire for stability across the District.

Board discussion included full and complete appreciation and support from each board member.

Dr. Shaner thanked the board for their kind words of appreciation and support and reminded everyone of one of his first commitments as Superintendent, "I will work to exceed your expectations."

Motion to approve Amendment of Superintendent Contract, as presented.

Moved by: Mike Zabat

Supported by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Vote: 5-0

### **Additional Business**

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

Paris and Cynthia Wells spoke about an issue their son is experiencing at Baldwin Elementary.

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

Dr. Shaner reminded everyone that we are legally mandated not to share the discipline of other students outside of what the privacy law allows. He urged people, once again, to speak with their children and to utilize the resources that were outlined in the communication. He went on to apologize to the Wells' for what they and their son are experiencing.

Dr. Shaner also thanked Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin for spending time with the RHS Robotics team. He also thanked Mr. and Mrs. Gupta and all parent volunteers for their hard work with the robotics program. RCS houses the largest robotics program in the state of Michigan.

Dr. Shaner shared that we had our strategic plan kickoff this past Saturday. It was an outstanding event and he thanked the entire team who made it possible.

Debi Fragomeni shared that since last week's Superintendent Policy and Curriculum meeting, RCS has screened additional TK candidates and we are working to complete the assessment review as well as securing a location. Debi went on to thank our administrators who were in attendance.

Debi also shared that Kindergarten Information Night is February 19 from 7-8pm at SCHS. On March 10, we will be having a professional development day for all staff members, focusing on safety and security. Time will also be dedicated for the emotional security of our students around the topic of resilience.

Finally, Debi expressed the District's sympathy to Reuther and the Kraniak family.

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

Barb wants to ensure the resources that were outlined in the letter sent (regarding the Baldwin incident) also be shared on our website and via social media.

Andrea shared that the \$75,000 donation to Shelter Box during last year's charity week was the single largest project donation Shelter Box had ever received.

### **Announcements**

February 17 – No school for students, Mid-Winter Break

February 24 – Board of Education Work Session, 7pm, Hampton Elementary

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Moved by: Barb Anness

Seconded by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 5-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
Secretary, Board of Education