



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION (VIRTUAL) WORK SESSION

April 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

A Regular Meeting, open to the public, of the Board of Education for Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held virtually on Monday, April 27, 2020 via Zoom Webinar and YouTube Live. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Elizabeth Davis, Dana Taylor, Lori Grein, Carrie Lawler, Cory Heitsch, Concetta Lewis, Matt McDaniel, Doug Hill, Cindy Lindner, and approximately 25 visitors.

Communications

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Michelle Bueltel shared one communication was received by the Board of Education since the prior meeting from Karen Ferguson Young regarding her appreciation of RCS.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda

None

C. Members of the Board of Education

Michelle Bueltel received correspondence from Amy Hochkammer.

Kristin Bull received email correspondence from the following people: Anthony Reeves, Teresa Kennedy, Lisa Smith, Kelsey Skelton, Kylie Wood, Frances Jacob, Heide Mituta, Kristen Fox, Michelle Pickard, Rosalie Hoener, Teri Myers, Jennifer Haselhuhn, Mary Beth Lang, Lindsey Lewis, Sarah Guadalupe, Holly Ortiz, Jacqueline Nowicki, Michele and Jeffrey Covert, Kevin Price, Becky Culver, Brooklin Healy, Wendy Holt, Johanna Byrd, Michelle Kitchen, Jessica and Chris Geottes, Kathleen Michałków, Nina Kelly, Wendy Weaver, Julia Zimmerman, Heather Angel, Alyson Scanlon, Lacy Seely, Shaun and Amanda Green, Lauren Rider, Laura Cox, Jennifer Dombrowski, Joanna McCree, Kristen Mahfet, Betsy Machowiak, Melissa Garrett, Michele Manhire, Melissa Wood, Molly Dallman, Nina Frost, Carrie Seabolt, Alicia Posetti

Glover, Manali Phatak, Emily Menczywor, Lee Jensen-Muir, Aimee Vito, Erika Samulak, Anthony Reeves, Maria Thomas, Greg Shaefer, Leigh Chism and Amanda and Nick Lionas.

Work Session

Distance Learning

Dr. Shaner started by expressing his gratitude for the entire RCS community. Debi Fragomeni introduced the first iteration of our remote learning journey here at the six week mark, highlighting our goals:

1. Learner before Learning – focusing on social emotional learning (SEL)
 - a. Connections with students and parents is our top priority
 - b. RCS continues to offer SEL webinars hosted by the Center for Trauma Resilient Communities for our students and community
2. RCS uses learning platforms that students and teachers are comfortable with
3. RCS maintains continuity with resources already in place
4. Students are held harmless (no negative impact on grades)
5. Understand and respect that remote learning takes longer

Debi went on to share the history of how we got here:

1. Started discussion regarding distance learning in February
2. Modified attendance incentives across the district
3. Held a Think Tank with all stakeholders to brainstorm needs for remote learning
4. Made the decision on March 11 to have staff only on March 12-13 to prepare
5. Examined different models of remote learning
6. Created versions A-F of the schedule for online learning for secondary
7. Created several versions of the schedule for elementary
8. Deployed devices to approximately 2,000 families
9. Asked teachers to touch base with their students by March 18
10. Began the remote learning schedule on March 20
11. Tweaked grading and attendance beginning April 13

Cory Heitsch shared highlights on what remote learning looks like at the birth-5th grade levels, which include read alouds, Zoom conversations, parent engagement, connections and age-appropriate activities. Cory went on to explain the schedule for elementary remote learning and shared examples from classrooms as well as some feedback from students on what they like best about remote learning.

Carrie Lawler shared highlights on what remote learning looks like at the secondary level, including the schedule, resources, student support process and showed examples from classrooms as well as some feedback from students on what they like best about remote learning.

Concetta Lewis shared how special education teachers are working with their students, which include: connections with students based on the needs of the student and the services documented in the IEP or IFSP; provide learning materials, packets or video activities (using various platforms) to facilitate learning opportunities; consult with IFP and IFSP teams and convene virtual IEPs and IFSPs; and elementary resource teacher support with access to i-Ready and other supplemental instructional platforms.

Lori Grein shared feedback from staff that was taken from a ThoughtExchange, which includes the following statements:

Teachers did a great job moving curriculum to online platforms with minimal time.

The district is putting the social and emotional needs of teachers and students first and is a leader in the state and country on this. During these times taking care of each other's mental health is key to long term success.

I want to celebrate RCS putting student and staff social emotional well-being at the center of decision making. Everyone is struggling in different ways. RCS acknowledges that our challenges are valid, no matter what they are- both students and staff.

Thank you RCS!! Especially to our leadership who has placed an emphasis on self-care of everyone in the community. This is not business as usual and I am so proud to serve with a district that recognizes this and is giving everyone the grace to process everything.

How our entire district came together to figure this out in such a short time! Students and staff at the forefront of all decisions! It's important to continue to work together as ONE district and to not compete with one another!

Our biggest celebration is the RCS community's flexibility and initiatives in remote learning! This is important as we navigate these uncharted experiences together.

Carrie Lawler outlined the various ways technology has been used and supported throughout the district.

Cory Heitsch highlighted some of the future needs considerations as we finish out the school year, which included: training for teachers; condensing platforms being used; streamlined information for parents; robust updates for computers to operate virtually; supporting students with complex/severe disabilities; evaluating students for special education and 504 eligibility; and consideration to extend remote learning opportunities.

Board discussion included; what steps are being taken to capture what students have potentially missed this year; what the plan looks like if students can't return in-person in the fall; what feedback have received from parents and caregivers on how the transition has been going; what are the 1-2 top things we have learned along the way that can be carried with us as we continue to plan; what are the ongoing challenges for teachers; what is a success story; how is the adaptability changing teachers in the way they view education and connections; is there something you wish you could do or have that would make instruction easier; and is this district saving any money while learning remotely?

Dr. Shaner, Debi Fragomeni and RCS Learning Consultants addressed the Board to answer their questions.

Lori Grein reminded everyone that Dr. Shaner will be hosting a community town hall on Thursday, April 30, at 2pm.

Additional Business

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting

Jim Skrobosinski inquired about parent feedback as we continue to plan and suggested a survey be sent.

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner thanked the Learning Consultants for joining the work session. He shared that RCS is in the process of planning to re-open Caring Steps as a disaster relief childcare center. Dr. Shaner thanked our community partners that participated in Authors in April. Dr. Shaner also shared that on Monday, April 27,

27, he participated in a youth town hall with Lt. Gov. Gilchrist, Sen. McMorrow, Teacher of the Year Cara Lougheed and seven students from around the county.

Debi Fragomeni shared we will be hosting a Class of 2020 town hall on Wednesday, April 29, and another town hall for the community on Thursday, April 30. Also on Thursday is a webinar for middle school students hosted by Center for Trauma Resilient Communities. Debi also shared that we will have additional town halls for our 5th graders moving to 6th grade as well as 8th graders moving to 9th grade.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Michelle Bueltel attended the Reuther PTA and had a number of 5th grade parents attend and shared Reuther is looking at ways to recognize their graduating 8th graders.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Moved by: Kevin Beers

Seconded by: Barb Anness

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Michelle Bueltel
Secretary, Board of Education