



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

May 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM – Administration Building

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, May 17, 2021, in the Harrison Room as well as YouTube Live. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Shaner, Elizabeth Davis, Lori Grein, Cindy Lindner, Matt McDaniel, Cory Heitsch, Concetta Lewis, and approximately 135 visitors.

Communications

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Michelle Bueltel shared the 29 email communications received: John Pleasant emailed the Board to thank them for their service; Jackie Tull emailed the Board regarding the May 3rd BOE meeting; Meredith McCutcheon emailed the Board regarding Chat with the Board; Debbie DaDeppo emailed the Board and expressed her opinion on various topics; Deanna Harless sent three (3) emails to the Board regarding the May 3rd BOE meeting, an email communication and to confirm the May 17th work session; Lindsey Simonis emailed the Board regarding "Chat with the Board"; Laura Cox sent two (2) emails to the Board regarding the May 3rd BOE meeting; Michelle Chittick sent three (3) emails to the Board regarding the May 3rd BOE meeting, April accounts payable details and a date in the detailed report; Lori Baggot sent two (2) emails to the Board regarding the May 3rd BOE meeting and an article regarding quarantine guidelines; Jennifer Watson emailed the Board regarding the May 3rd BOE meeting; Taara Donley sent three (3) emails to the Board regarding Chat with the Board, the roof at Long Meadow, and ESSER funds.; Priscilla Gannon emailed the Board regarding a program for Autism; Julie Stalker sent three (3) emails the Board to clarify a comment that she made at the April 26th meeting regarding reading programs, the May 3rd BOE meeting and a question she asked at the meeting.; Jessica Opfer sent four (4) emails to the Board to inquire about a survey, the reporting of COVID cases, mitigation procedures, and questions regarding the purchase of the new administration building; and Michelle Greenwald sent two (2) emails to the board regarding the May 3rd Board meeting and expressed her opinion on various topics.

Additional emails that were received, though not through the RCS website: Andrew Weaver sent three (3) emails regarding the RCS logo, a FOIA request and an email he sent to all RCS employees; Michael Frans contacted the board regarding a roundtable discussion; Sarah Romain contacted the board regarding district concerns; Charles Blackwell contacted the board regarding a board member; Michele Chittick contacted the Board regarding a FOIA request; and Lori Baggot sent three (3) emails regarding Chat with the Board.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda

Jeff, Jenny and Hunter Doychich addressed the Board regarding wearing masks.

Andrew Weaver addressed the Board regarding an email communication from the District and made a comment about a liaison officer.

Jessica Opfer addressed the Board regarding a survey, the Virtual Campus, COVID case reporting, the purchase of new administration building, and dialogue between the Board, District and community.

Julie Stalker addressed the Board regarding evidence-based methods of reading.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Michelle Bueltel had a conversation with Jessica Opfer regarding the same items outlined above.

Work Session

A. Budgeting Process & Oversight

Christie Bueche, Director of Financial Services, and Kevin Kelley, CPA, Lewis & Knopf, presented an oversight on financial statements which included: the role of internal controls, the financial year-end process, the purpose of an audit and the role of the District and the audit firm, and reviewed the specific levels of financial statement oversight.

Board discussion included: timing of federal audit and confirmation on how many years the District has received an unmodified audit.

B. Budget Presentations

Matt McDaniel presented the 2020-2021 final budget for the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Debt Service Fund, Sinking Fund, Student/School Activity Fund, Food Service Fund, Bookstore Fund, and the Caring Steps Budget. Matt also reviewed enrollment history and projections; Oakland County student enrollment and FTE comparisons; pupil count; COVID-19 related funding and ESSER funds; Foundation Allowance history; state school funding; 2021-2022 initial budget for the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Debt Service Fund, Sinking Fund, Student/School Activity Fund, Food Service Fund, Bookstore Fund, and the Caring Steps Budget; Foundation Allowance proposals; school aid budget scenarios; General Fund history; future budget impacts and other considerations;

Board discussion included: clarification on the increase of pupil support for basic programs; COVID funding end date; process of spending down the Food Service Fund; enrollment in the 2014-15 school year; enrollment (FTE vs. students); FTE blend; enrollment changes; enrollment projection for virtual vs. in-person; demographer we utilize; TK/Kindergarten enrollment clarification; why certain district in the comparison saw greater loss in enrollment; lottery funds; ESSER funds allocations; ESSER period of availability and penalties; Title 1 population in other districts and how that impacts ESSER funds; approved

list of how ESSER funds may be spent; clarification of how much of ESSER II has been spent (and approval by MDE); clarification on whether or not the Board needs to approve items spent by ESSER II funds; the Oakland Response Fund and where the funds originate from; how many grants did the District apply for vs. how many were automatic; clarification why current budget assumptions illustrate a \$65 per pupil funding decrease; comparison of personnel expenditures; are there any changes the District is looking to make next year that is not included in the 2021-22 General Fund Budget expenditures; how would a quarterly evaluation of state budget impact school districts; repeal of Sec. 11 \$65 per pupil funding; rationale as to why the calculation of pupil membership changes and what the benefit of changing it is; appreciation for the overview of the complex budget considerations; staffing at Caring Steps to help reduce the waitlist; tuition increase at Caring Steps; and appreciation for a clearly communicated presentation and the use of conservative assumptions.

Additional Business

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting

Taara Donley addressed the Board regarding the roof at Long Meadow.

Leah Raymond addressed the Board regarding a plan for quarantined students.

Josh Raymond addressed the Board regarding the Open Meetings Act and the legacy of the Board.

Stephanie Van Daele addressed the Board regarding the recall.

Jessica Opfer addressed the Board regarding a written response to her many questions that were submitted and survey results.

Julie Stalker addressed the Board regarding improving literacy and increasing dyslexia awareness.

Deanna Harless addressed the Board regarding communication between the Board and community.

Dr. Sandy Fiaschetti addressed the Board and shared a story about probability theory.

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner shared the high schools had their senior walks today. He also shared that Long Meadow is on the sinking fund list for this summer. The air quality at Long Meadow has also been checked multiple times with an independent environmental consultant, with findings that the air quality indoors is better than outdoors. He reminded everyone that there are only 15 instructional days remaining in the school year and encouraged all to contact a teacher and express their appreciation and gratitude. Further, he shared that it is our hope that students return to normalcy in the fall, including a six-period day for secondary students. Finally, Dr. Shaner expressed his gratitude to the community, staff, administrators and Board.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Michelle Bueltel shared that the Rochester Area Youth Assistance (RAYA) held a presentation for parents of elementary students regarding anxiety and tools to help. On May 25, RAYA, in partnership with the Rochester Hills Public Library, will be hosting a mindfulness program in dealing with anxiety.

Kevin Beers asked Michelle to share the Board's gratitude for their commitment to the community during the past year.

Barb Anness attended the Excellence in Education Awards at the Schultz Campus as well as McGregor and also enjoyed the Honors Convocations.

Andrea Walker-Leidy thanked the audience members for attending/watching tonight's meeting.

Kristin Bull shared how much she enjoyed the AHS senior walk today and shared some of the remarks conveyed during the event.

Announcements

Proms are being held this week

May 22 – Sparkle Awards at SCHS, 4pm

May 24 - 28 – Authors in April Week

June 7 – Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7pm

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Moved by: Mike Zabat

Seconded by: Michelle Bueltel

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Secretary, Board of Education