



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

April 26, 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, April 26, 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, Mike Zabat, Michelle Bueltel, Barb Anness, Andrea Walker-Leidy

Members Absent: Kevin Beers and Scott Muska, with notice

Others Present: Dr. Shaner, Elizabeth Davis, Lori Grein, Cindy Lindner, Matt McDaniel, Cory Heitsch, Concetta Lewis, and approximately 145 visitors.

President Kristin Bull read Board Bylaw 0153.

Communications

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Michelle Bueltel shared the 29 email communications received: District parent Michelle Greenwald, contacted the Board regarding testing student athletes for COVID-19; District parent Kristin Reilly, contacted the Board regarding testing student athletes for COVID-19; District parent Beth Webb, contacted the Board regarding the continuation of in person learning and high school sports; District parent Meredith McCutcheon, contacted the Board regarding the plan for quarantined students; District parent Jan Joye, contacted the Board regarding the continuation of in person learning and high school sports; Community member Jana Yezak, contacted the Board regarding the Administration Building; District parent Deanna Harless, contacted the Board in three separate e-mails regarding in person Board of Education meetings, Caring Steps operating budget and the tax credits to repair the current Administration Building; District parent Taara Donley, contacted the Board in three separate e-mails regarding in person Board of Education meetings, the Caring Steps Operating Budget and the Oakland County COVID-19 Relief Fund; District parent Kristen Sandison, contacted the Board regarding enrollment for her child for the 2021-22 school year; Contractor Frederick Schetrompf, contacted the Board regarding Ultra-Violet Disinfection Machines; District parent Janet Rajcevski, contacted the Board regarding in person learning; District parent Jamie Hilliard, contacted the Board regarding the RCS COVID-19 data; District parent Joshua Raymond, contacted the Board in two separate e-mails regarding educating students who are quarantined and funding for the new Administration Building; District parent Jessica Opfer, contacted the Board in four separate e-mails regarding email correspondence to the Board

of Education, remote public comments at Board meetings, the purchase of a new administration building, Caring Steps operating budget, General and Sinking funds, live-streaming instruction for quarantined students and social distancing and masks in school buildings; District parent Julie Stalker, contacted the Board in two separate e-mails regarding excess IDEA funding and in person Board of Education Meetings; District parent Lissa Bande, contacted the Board regarding the testing of student athletes for COVID-19; District parent Stephanie Morita, contacted the Board to commend them and the RCS Administration their passion to educate children; District parent Michelle Chittick, contacted the Board in two separate e-mails regarding district funds and funding for RCS school libraries; and District parent Jason Strobel contacted the Board regarding Caring Steps.

Additional emails that were received, though not through the RCS website: Andrew Weaver sent eight (8) emails regarding various subjects including two FOIA requests, the date change to the April regular Board meeting, attendance at Board of Education meetings, social media accounts, comments made about the Rochester Avon Historical Society, an invoice, questions about payments and salaries, and district priorities; Jessica Opfer sent four (4) emails regarding various subjects including encouraging the district to allow virtual comments, requesting more transparency and community input on decisions and implementing surveys to parents. Additionally, she had questions about the new Administration Building, requested more transparent COVID case reporting and expressed concern about mask usage. Julie Stalker sent an email regarding middle school learning options for students with compromised immune systems.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda

Andrew Weaver addressed the Board regarding the Virtual Campus and paid invoices.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Barb Anness received a text message from Jessica Opfer regarding the purchase of the new Administration Building.

Michelle Bueltel received an email from Elizabeth Witten regarding senior activities.

Andrea Walker-Leidy received an email from prior to the last meeting from Cathy Shelton regarding quarantine guidelines and wanting more information.

Kristin Bull had a phone call with Rochester Hills City Council President Ryan Deel, who shared his appreciation for the Board and administration; phone call with Rochester City Councilmember Mark Albrecht regarding his appreciation for the Board and administration; and various exchanges with State Rep. Mark Tisdell regarding clarification on things happening within the community.

Work Session

A. Early Childhood Update

Cory Heitsch provided an Early Childhood Education update which included:

- Pre-Kindergarten
 - Program overview
 - Impact from the pandemic
 - 2021-22 school year
- RCS Caring Steps Children's Center
 - Program overview

- Impact from the pandemic
- Revenue (presented by Matt McDaniel)
- Enrollment

Concetta Lewis provide an Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) update which included:

- Program and Services overview
- Classrooms
- ECSE Team

Board discussion included: clarification on how children are identified for the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP); how many GSRP classrooms the district has; how staffing (or lack thereof) impacts enrollment at Caring Steps; disaster relief grants/funding; breakeven FTE; comparison survey of other centers; demographics; average salary for childcare workers and tuition comparison; breakeven profit; how students are chosen to be in either a blended or traditional classroom and respective class sizes; appreciation for these programs that allow opportunities for a quality education; and success kids have from these early programs.

B. MTSS and Learning Pathways

Karen Gelardi and Tiffany Goliday provided an overview on the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) which included:

- MTSS focus
- MTSS committee
- Pyramid of intervention and explanation of graphic
- New diamond-shape graphic which represents both intervention and enrichment for students

Neil DeLuca introduced a video from Dr. Bill Daggett from the February 2020 strategic plan kickoff event regarding future-focused schools.

Jeff Frankowiak reviewed priorities to activate deep learning as well as an overview of Tiers 1-3 at the secondary level.

Rachel Mainero provided an overview on how leveraging digital learning supports MTSS.

Bryan Lindstrom reviewed learning pathways at the Virtual Campus at the secondary level.

Pasquale Cusumano and Brian Shelson further reviewed Tier 1, highlighting the high-quality teachers, world-class instruction and innovative learning environments.

Neil DeLuca, Tracye Schwartz, and Christy Clement went on to discuss Tier 2 indicators and interventions.

Jeff Fosnaugh shared his passion as an educator, particularly for those in Tier 3.

Adrean Bedard and Paul Kennedy reviewed the Virtual Campus' online platform levels of support as well as personal ways they have supported students.

Board discussion included parental input on tiered support for their child; clarification on whether or not students know what tier they are in; reading recovery; the purpose of changing the graphic of different tiers of support; clarification on whether or not RCS created the graphic; (for Paul Kennedy) challenge on the transition to teaching virtually and takeaway; acknowledgement of the 702 teachers with master's degrees;

personal connections with students in Tier 3 at the Virtual Campus; support for students enrolled at OTech; support for students in Tier 2 and applicable student examples; support for students transitioning from virtual to in-person; summer school opportunities; and appreciation for the future-focused presentation.

Additional Business

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting

Margaret Symons addressed the Board regarding masks and COVID testing.

Chris Monette addressed the Board regarding his appreciation of staff, administrators and the Board.

Josh Raymond addressed the Board regarding advanced learners.

Jessica Opfer addressed the Board regarding the Administration Building.

Julie Stalker addressed the Board regarding elementary reading support, mask policies and livestreaming.

Barb Rill addressed the Board regarding her appreciation of staff, administrators and the Board.

Allan Schneck addressed the Board regarding his appreciation of staff, administrators and the Board.

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner expressed his gratitude for the entire team and reminded everyone to not let pandemic fog get in the way of celebrating our kids.

C. Members of the Board of Education

None

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Moved by: Mike Zabat

Seconded by: Michelle Bueltel

Vote: 5-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Secretary, Board of Education