



## **ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION (VIRTUAL) SPECIAL MEETING**

August 10, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

### **MINUTES**

#### **Call to Order**

A Special Meeting, open to the public, of the Board of Education for Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Monday, August 10, 2020, via Zoom webinar and YouTube Live. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **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, Karen Gelardi, Tanya Regmont and approximately 240 visitors.

Dr. Shaner led a moment of silence in honor of Caleb and Kyler Kiessling and Sophia Harris.

#### **New Business**

##### **A. COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan**

Dr. Shaner reminded the audience that we reviewed this plan in detail at the July 27 work session and that it is available for viewing on our website.

Cory Heitsch explained that we used the required template provided by Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators General Education Leadership Network and how we will meet the requirements laid out in Executive Order 2020-142. The areas that are covered in the preparedness and response plan are as follows: continuity of learning, face coverings, hygiene, cleaning, athletics, screening, testing and transportation. Additional considerations include: RCS will continue to monitor the recommended/strongly recommended measures in the Return to School Roadmap to implement when logically feasible or when guidance is given by the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD); while in-person instruction is permitted with required safety protocols in phase 4, schools can consider the judgement of local health conditions of the sub-region; Great Start Readiness Program must follow the district's K-12 plan; and other Pre-K programming and licensed child care operations may be impacted by constantly update guidance between the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the Return to School Roadmap.

Tanya Regmont reviewed the evolving scientific understanding of COVID-19. Items of discussion included review of the five goals the state needs to move to phase 5: 1) ensure less than 10 cases per million, per day; 2) decrease positive tests below 3% with steady maintenance; 3) maintain a low hospitalization rate; 4) maintain low death rate; and 5) ensure testing capacity is what it needs to be to keep cases under control. Tanya also explained that districts are required to use guidance from the OCHD in an effort to minimize risk and safely open schools. She went on to explain that the OCHD indicated that our community risk level is currently moderate to high and infection spread is imminent. Tanya highlighted Executive Order 2020-164 that outlines universal face coverings in childcare and summer camp programs and the actions taken by RCS for safe operations.

Board discussion included clarification on whether or not this preparedness plan will be updated with input from the OCHD, clarification on whether the state will receive tonight's presentation, availability for community to review the preparedness plan, and board appreciation of Dr. Shaner's leadership and the entire RCS team hard work and dedication.

Motion to approve the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, as presented.

Moved by: Kevin Beers

Supported by: Barb Anness

Vote: 7-0

#### **B. Proposal for Remote/Learning Instruction: Pupil Accounting Non-Conventional Membership**

Karen Gelardi gave an overview of pupil accounting updates which included these key points: a district's state aid is based on the membership counts of eligible pupils legally enrolled on or before the specified count day; a pupil's eligibility for membership purposes is based on enrollment, age, residency, class schedule and attendance; and the Return to School Roadmap requires we be prepared to offer alternative modes of instruction other than in-person (temporary remote instruction and/or RCS Virtual Campus).

Board discussion included clarification on seat time waivers.

Motion to approve the Proposal for Remote/Learning Instruction: Pupil Accounting Non-Conventional Membership, as presented.

Moved by: Michelle Bueltel

Supported by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 7-0

### **Additional Business**

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

Elizabeth Witten thanked the district for clear communication being sent by the district, expressed her disappointment in decision to start school remotely, asked for clarification on reality or returning October 1, asked for clarification on the SEL component, and how the district is going to support those families who are not able to stay home with children during remote learning or if they are ill.

Marcus DeGraw thanked the district and the board for their hard work and shared his perspective of the risk children pose as it relates to the spread of COVID-19.

Courtney & Patrick Butcher addressed the board regarding whether or not the board will be responding to the questions asked at tonight's meeting.

Andrew Weaver expressed his frustration with the decision to begin school remotely and wanted metrics for in-person.

Lori Baggot addressed the board asking for the list of items needed in order to return to school in person.

Patrick Bell inquired about learning in a remote setting on electronic devices.

Sugasthan Ragunathan commented on a hybrid option.

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

Dr. Shaner expressed his gratitude to the entire RCS team.

Debi Fragomeni acknowledged the feelings of our families, social-emotional learning, and how we are equally prioritizing the diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging work.

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

Barb Anness thanked the board for their efforts.

Michelle Bueltel shared that she is the liaison for the Rochester Area Youth Assistance (RAYA) and the various areas in which they assist youth. Additionally, she shared that RAYA is looking for a board treasurer.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Moved by: Michelle Bueltel

Seconded by: Kevin Beers

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
Secretary, Board of Education