



**ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**  
November 9, 2020 ~ Virtual

**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 virtually on Monday, November 9, 2020. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Gibson Beers, McGregor Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grader, led Board members 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, Carrie Lawler, Cory Heitsch, Concetta Lewis, Lori Grein, Cindy Lindner, Matt McDaniel and approximately 200 visitors.

Dr. Shaner led a moment of silence in memory of a Van Hoosen student who passed away recently. He also honored all Veterans and Lori Grein recognized the Veterans who are employed by the District.

**Spotlight on Success**

**National Merit Scholars**

Carrie Lawler recognized our 24 district seniors who are National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. Kristin Bull, Michelle Bueltel, Scott Muska and Mike Zabat expressed their praises.

**Tenured Teachers**

Elizabeth Davis introduced the 20 Rochester Community Schools teachers who have earned tenure and presented the teachers with certificates in recognition of the State of Michigan tenure.

Kevin Beers congratulated the tenured teachers.

## **Communications**

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

Michelle Bueltel shared that 95 email communications have been received:

District parents Jayna Pyke, Melissa Hoffman, and Jodi Andrews shared their gratitude for the opportunity for students to return to in-person instruction.

District parents Deborah Curtis, Nina Ignaczak, Brenda McKenney, Heather Wilkins, Jennifer & Tolga Tuksal, Shannon Bamberg, Ron McKenney, Chad Bamberg, Gabrielle Zoldos-Sines, Hetal Patel, Pooja Agarwal, Jill Hill, Joelle Kekhoua, Deepa Mahishi, Abhijit Agarwal, Kerstin Arthurs, Shayna O'Connell, Debbie Olszewski, Timothy O'Connell, Liz Walsh, Amy Weghorst, Dr. Alyssa Mikulec, Kate Vollmayer, Gregory Bryen, Tamara Cremen, Scott Neiderheide, Christy Collins, Dan Collins, Melanie Sinka, Manling Kwok, Joseph Glaser, Sreelisha Kunhikrishnan, Christine Bennett, Kimberly Soderstrom, John Soderstrom, Alejandra Martinez, Linda Pompa, Rick Pompa, Beth Guest, Tracy Utech, Jacqueline Wood, Anne George, Kathleen Paden, Beth and Gordon Lang, Amy Asewe, Scott Hilliard, Jordon Geiger, Jamie Hilliard, Sherry Drainer, Ann Fraser, Dan Fraser, Deanne Grigg, Leticia McKay, Norma Begin, Jennifer O'Neil, Deric Wilkins, Cindy Hubbard, Helen Gappy, Rafed Gappy, and Anuja Krishnan shared concerns with allowing students to return to in-person instruction while our COVID numbers are increasing.

District parent Meredith McCutcheon addressed the board regarding a previous e-mail message sent about hybrid learning.

District parents Lauree Busch and Meredith McCutcheon addressed the board regarding learning options for students that need to be quarantined.

District parents Jill Hall, Brent Wither, Jennifer Watson, Tabatha Cronander, Stephanie Barnes, Elena Dinverno, Julie Denby, Dawn Pepoy, Brad Reeser, Lissa Bende, Wendi Smoke, Michele Jones, Laurie Madigan, Colleen Carney, Stephanie Van Daele, Gretchen Hebekeuser, Sharon Ryden, Sara VanWagoner, Dragi Popovski, Deanna Harless, Jill Schoch, and Steven Thoms asking for in-person learning.

District parent Heather Orlowsky thanked the board for their leadership.

District parent Alexandra Sviridova asking the board to keep the students in hybrid instruction.

District parents Jeanne Vargo addressed the board regarding the possibility of returning to remote instruction.

District parents Brent Wither, Susan Januszek, and Aimee Fugate shared COVID related data with the board.

District parent Colleen Carney addressed the board regarding the social and emotions wellness of elementary students.

Additional emails that were received, though not through the RCS website: District parents Lisa DeGriek, Andrew Weaver, Shannon Baumberg, Joelle Kekhoua, Melissa Larson, Julie Stalker, Jamie Moore, Matt Genord, Rob and Kerry Conley, Sarah Pogasic, Laura Cox, Crystal Wolny, and Michele Chittick.

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

Student representatives from Adams High School, Rochester High School, and Stoney Creek High School shared information since the October 26 meeting.

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

None

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

None

## **E. PTA Council Update**

Emily Stow, PTA Council Secretary, addressed the board to provide an update which included: staff appreciation days, events for students, continued support for staff and students, Reflections program, and an upcoming recycle workshop.

## **Consent Agenda**

A. Current Bills Payable for October 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020 in the amount of \$8,222,631.50

B. Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, October 26, 2020

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

Moved by: Mike Zabat

Supported by: Michelle Bueltel

Vote: 7-0

## **Reports**

### **A. Superintendent's Committee Reports**

Dr. Shaner reported on the November 4, 2020, Superintendent's Steering Committee meeting. Agenda items included the budget amendment and the audit.

Matt McDaniel reported on the November 5, 2020, Superintendent Business, Operations and Support Advisory Committee meeting. Agenda items included the budget amendment, September financials, custodial compensation, changes in Grounds Department and transportation.

Elizabeth Davis reported on the November 5, 2020, Superintendent Policy and Curriculum Committee meetings. Agenda items included the budget amendment, the audit and a review of the collaborative discussions of labor groups regarding the change in working conditions.

## **B. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Briefing**

Dr. Shaner provided a brief timeline update, a COVID-19 case count review, and schedule adjustments related to remote learning. Dr. Shaner indicated an extensive update will be presented to the board at the November 30 work session.

Board discussion included what medical professionals we are collaborating with and whether or not there is a matrix for parents to review while moving between remote and in-person learning as well as what medical experts the district continues to be in discussion with.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Human Resource Report**

Elizabeth Davis presented the following recommendations:

#### **REA RETIREMENTS**

Karen Kill, Spanish Teacher at Stoney Creek High School, submitted her letter of retirement effective November 6, 2020. Ms. Kill has been with the district since August 1999.

#### **NEW HIRES - REA – 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR**

Benjamin Garrison, Orchestra Teacher, Reuther / Van Hoosen Middle Schools  
Melissa Maurer, School Counselor, Hart Middle School and Rochester High School  
Katie Stephens, Art Teacher, Meadow Brook and McGregor Elementary Schools

#### **ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENTS**

Athletic Supervisor at Adams High School

We are recommending that Brian Hassler be appointed to the position of Athletic Supervisor at Adams High School. Brian comes to Rochester Community Schools with 23 years of experience in high school athletics. Brian has worked at Bishop Foley High School since 1997. For the past five years he has served as Athletic Director and Facilities Coordinator. Prior to that he was an athletic trainer and coach with the high school. Brian holds a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Detroit – Mercy in sports medicine and English. He has a Master's degree from Concordia University Irvine, in coaching and athletic administration.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR RESIGNATIONS**

Kristopher Rowe, Technology Coordinator, submitted his letter of resignation effective November 11, 2020. Mr. Rowe has been with the district since July 2014.

Board discussion included what the plan is to fill the position of the SCHS Spanish teacher.

Motion to approve the Human Resource Report, as presented.

Moved by: Barb Anness

Supported by: Michelle Bueltel

Vote: 7-0

## **B. Budget Amendment**

Matt McDaniel presented the Budget Amendment and shared the General Fund budget revenue increases of \$15,635,671 are related to adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These increases include updated state funding, additional federal funding through the CARES Act, and a reduction in charges for programs that are operating at a reduced capacity. The General Fund budget expenditures increase \$13,858,819 related to adjustments to staffing salary and benefit costs, technology, and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, fund balance is now projected to increase by \$100,885 to \$38,329,677.

The budget was reviewed in detail with the Board of Education at subcommittee meetings that occurred last week.

Motion to approve the Budget Amendment, as presented.

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Supported by: Barb Anness

Vote: 7-0

## **C. Approval to Purchase Buses**

Matt McDaniel presented the Approval to Purchase Buses. Currently the District owns and operates a fleet of 124 school buses. It is recommended that the District purchase a total of sixteen (16) school buses as detailed in the attached documents; of which ten (10) are 77-Passenger General Education buses, five (5) are 47-Passenger Special Education buses, and one (1) is a 65-Passenger Special Education bus to replace buses in the fleet that have reached their end of use. The amount for this purchase is \$1,492,253 as per the bid summary, and the cost of the MSBO Cooperative Bus Bid fee is \$1,250 for a total of \$1,493,503.

Board discussion included clarification on the current stock of buses, bus replacement schedule, and confirmation that outside of salary and benefits, transportation is one of the highest expenditures.

Motion to approve the Purchase of Buses, as presented.

Moved by: Mike Zabat

Supported by: Michelle Bueltel

Vote: 7-0

## **C. Approval of Construction Bid Awards**

Matt McDaniel presented the Recommendation for Award of Baseball and Softball Netting. The scope of the project includes installation of safety netting at two (2) baseball fields and three (3) softball fields at the district high schools. The amount for this purchase is \$36,000 with a contingency amount of \$1,800 for a total of \$37,800.

Board discussion included clarification on which schools will have safety netting installed.

Motion to approve the Construction Bid Awards, as presented.

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Supported by: Scott Muska

Vote: 7-0

**Additional Business**

**A. Citizens Present at the Meeting**

Kathleen Paden, Chris Reszewski, Caleb Leidy, Jessica Opfer, Andrew Weaver, Nina Ignaczak and Bin Chen addressed the Board regarding the decision to move to remote learning and the focus of returning to in-person learning.

**B. Members of the Administration**

Dr. Shaner expressed his gratitude to staff in their swift pivot to remote learning. He also expressed gratitude to the community and the Board.

Debi Fragomeni provided an update on the PSAT, Professional Development, and also recognized some of the challenges in remote and asynchronous learning.

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

Michelle Bueltel shared about the MASB Leadership Conference and RAYA will be having a "Courageous Conversations" workshop on December 3.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Moved by: Kevin Beers


Seconded by: Michelle Bueltel

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
Michelle Bueltel  
Secretary, Board of Education