



**ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**  
September 14, 2020

**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, September 14, 2020. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 7:05 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, Carrie Lawler, Cory Heitsch, Concetta Lewis, Lori Grein, Cindy Lindner, Matt McDaniel and approximately 850 visitors.

Dr. Shaner led a moment of silence in honor of the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

**Spotlight on Success**

**Excellence in Education Award Recipients**

The Excellence in Education Award was created to recognize exemplary performance throughout the district. Award dollars are used by the recipients to purchase materials or services which will enhance a school classroom or facility.

Joann Beydoun announced the award winners: Mary Jane Cosgrove, Shelby DesJardins, Aaron Mize, Andrea Piejak, David Uhrig, and Amy Wu.

**MSBO Meridian Award of Excellence**

The Michigan School Business Officials (MSBO) presented the prestigious Meridian Award of Excellence to Pete Muscio, RCS Director of Capital Projects and Facilities. The MSBO Meridian Award of Excellence is a special recognition award acknowledging successful practices in all areas of school management and education. Presenting the award were Scott Little, MSBO Associate Executive Director, and Brian Marcel, CFO, MSBO Board Member, and Assistant Superintendent, Administrative & Support Services, for the

Washtenaw ISD. MSBO provided a check for \$500 in Pete's honor to be used toward the Rochester Community Schools scholarship fund.

### **Communications**

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

Michelle Bueltel shared that 72 email communications have been received:

District parent Pranit Birje addressed the board regarding the Virtual Campus course content.

District parents, student or community members Ana Quinn, Chemaine Hamelin, Amy Ferrara, Jessica Black, Patrick Butcher, Jr., William Zielonka, Michelle Charron, Silvia Operti Considine, Wayne Freeman, Brittany Frede, Chad Lambert, Jeanne Vargo, Lori Baggot, Shereen Forry, Laurie Madigan, Eric Engblom, Julie Denby, Julie Doelle, Ronald David, Tina Schafrick, Sarah Pogasic, Gretchen Hebekeuser, Deanna Harless, Kimberly De Chazal, Marco Pierobon, Rene Evans, Katherine McLaughlin, Grace Burns, Julie Parks, Elizabeth Barkham, Alicia Cerqua, Annalee Lori Paul, Danielle Flores, Elena Dinverno, Dr. Chad Kovala, Melissa Kovala, Amie Ackerman, Hillary Warner, Priscila Albro, Adam Burns, Colleen Mestdagh, Stephanie Barnes, Marty Pavlick, Gina Chase, Tracey Jewell, Aaron Arnaiz, Aryn Bussard, Dawn Blanchet, Kathryn Shepard, Liane de Chazal, David Anason, Jamie Moore, Robert Silaghi, Amie Ackerman, Natacha Elzerman, Jamie Freeman, Clark Skinner, Cindy Branoff and Amy Irish addressed the board regarding return to school.

District parents Rima Alahmadi and Lara Dawood addressed the board regarding registration for the Virtual Campus.

District students Connor Hicks and Kylie Ward addressed the board regarding closing ACE for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

Lori Baggot addressed the board regarding in-person learning.

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

None

#### **D. PTA Council Update**

Lisa Roscoe, PTA Council President, addressed the board to provide an update which included: naming the 2020-21 council board members; PTSA Strong; and upcoming council meeting dates.

### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Current Bills Payable for July 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020
- B. Current Bills Payable for August 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020
- C. Board of Education Hearing Minutes, June 15, 2020
- D. Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2020

E. Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes, July 27, 2020

F. Board of Education Work Session Minutes, August 10, 2020

G. Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2020

H. Districtwide Professional Development Advisory Committee

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

Moved by: Kevin Beers

Supported by: Barb Anness

Vote: 7-0

## **Reports**

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

Dr. Shaner reported on the August 20, 2020, and September 10, 2020, Superintendent's Steering Committee meeting. Topics of discussion included: (August 20) District's budget; (September 10) District's budget, back to school plans and public health.

Matt McDaniel reported on the August 18, 2020, Superintendent Business, Operations and Support Advisory Committee meeting. Agenda item included possible assumptions for the first amendment budget to the current fiscal year.

Elizabeth Davis reported on the August 18, 2020, Superintendent Policy and Curriculum Committee meetings. Topic of discussion was the District's budget and back to school plans.

### **B. Bond Construction Update**

Pete Muscio provided a bond construction project update which included the Brewster Elementary School, University Hills Elementary School, Stoney Creek High School, Reuther Middle School and Van Hoosen Middle School projects. Pete also provided an update to the Administration Building assessment that was completed in July 2019.

Board discussion included clarification on capacity of the Administration Building and the cost to address suggested repairs versus the value of land.

### **C. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Update**

Concetta Lewis provided an update to the Special Education program and the services our students and families are receiving which included Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), Contingency Learning Plans, support for students enrolled in the RCA Virtual Campus and in-person evaluations.

Cory Heitsch provided an elementary update which included building visits, material distribution, Curriculum Night and assessments.

Carrie Lawler provided a secondary update which included the RCS Virtual Campus, student enrollment, material distribution, Curriculum Night, assessments, SAT/PSAT testing, and the return of fall sports.

Cindy Lindner provided a technology update which included the 1:1 device deployment, reengineering solutions, training, and an infrastructure scale up in preparation for returning to in-person instruction.

Dr. Shaner provided a public health update and expressed his gratitude to the staff and entire community.

## **New Business**

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

Elizabeth Davis presented the following recommendation:

#### **REA RESIGNATIONS**

Angela Esshaki, Art Teacher at McGregor and Long Meadow Elementary, submitted her letter of resignation effective July 27, 2020. Ms. Esshaki has been with the district since August 2017.

Daniel Fershtman, Spanish Teacher at West Middle School and Virtual Campus, submitted his letter of resignation effective September 11, 2020. Mr. Fershtman has been with the district since October 2019.

Heather Konik, American Sign Language Teacher at Stoney Creek and Adams High Schools, submitted her letter of resignation effective August 24, 2020. Ms. Konik has been with the district since August 2014.

Nicole Lashar, Art Teacher at Stoney Creek High School, submitted her letter of resignation effective August 24, 2020. Ms. Lashar has been with the district since September 2017.

Andrea Lazar, Art Teacher at Stoney Creek High School, submitted her letter of resignation effective immediately. Ms. Lazar has been with the district since August 2019.

Melissa Mathie, Family Consumer Science Teacher at Stoney Creek High School, submitted her letter of resignation effective September 11, 2020. Ms. Mathie has been with the district since August 2002.

Alexis Schwarz, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at Delta Kelly Elementary School, submitted her letter of resignation effective immediately. Ms. Schwarz has been with the district since August 2005.

David Tulppo, Math Teacher at Adams High School, submitted his letter of resignation effective immediately. Mr. Tulppo has been with the district since September 2009.

#### **REA RETIREMENTS**

Joyce Bayma, Kindergarten Teacher at Delta Kelly Elementary School, submitted her letter of retirement effective August 31, 2020. Ms. Bayma has been with the district since August 1991.

Dawn Blackburn, CI Teacher at Delta Kelly Elementary School, on August 20, 2020 submitted her letter of retirement effective July 1, 2020. Ms. Blackburn has been with the district since August 2006.

Linda Hynes, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Baldwin Elementary School, submitted her letter of retirement effective August 31, 2020. Ms. Hynes has been with the district since August 1995.

Marcia Puertas, First Grade Teacher at Delta Kelly Elementary School, on July 16, 2020 submitted her letter of retirement effective immediately. Ms. Puertas has been with the district since September 1987.

Judy Pulte, Kindergarten Teacher at Delta Kelly Elementary School, submitted her letter of retirement effective August 31, 2020. Ms. Pulte has been with the district since August 1991.

Maureen Sherry, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at University Hills Elementary School, submitted her letter of retirement effective August 31, 2020. Ms. Sherry has been with the district since August 2002.

Michelle Thoms, Resource Room Teacher at Hamlin Elementary School, submitted her letter of retirement effective September 30, 2020. Ms. Thoms has been with the district since August 2001.

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

Nichole Allen, School Counselor, Stoney Creek High School  
Haley Beamish, Elementary Teacher, Virtual Campus  
Christie DeSano, ASL Teacher, Adams and Stoney Creek High Schools  
Laurisa Gould, Elementary Teacher, Virtual Campus  
Julia Hogan, Elementary Teacher, Virtual Campus  
Dawn Klemp, Elementary Teacher, Virtual Campus  
Elizabeth Nichols, Elementary Teacher, Virtual Campus  
Katie Woolsey, Elementary Teacher, Virtual Campus

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RESIGNATIONS**

Christopher Brown, Application Coordinator, submitted his letter of resignation effective August 21, 2020. Mr. Brown has been with the district since May 2000.

Jason Rapp, Athletic Supervisor, submitted his letter of resignation effective November 6, 2020. Mr. Rapp has been with the district since March 1995.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE RETIREMENTS**

Katie Allen, Principal at Hamlin Elementary, submitted her letter of retirement effective August 31, 2020. Ms. Allen has been with the district since August 2004.

Gary Dennis, District Facility Manager, submitted his letter of retirement effective September 30, 2020. Mr. Dennis has been with the district since May 2000.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS**

##### Appointment of IT Manager

We are recommending the appointment of **Paul Tranchida** to the position of IT Manager. Paul comes to RCS with over 15 years of IT experience. Currently he is a Senior IT Consultant for ATMP Solutions. Prior to that position he held IT Director positions with the Flint Group in Compliance, Security and Development, as well as Global IT Service. Mr. Tranchida holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Information Systems and Computer Science from Oakland University and a Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in Management Information Systems from Wayne State University.

##### Appointment of Director of Financial Services

We are recommending the appointment of **Christie Bueche** to the position of Director of Financial Services. Christie served as Property Accountant at Uptown Reinvestment Corporation and prior to working at Uptown Reinvestment Corporation, she worked as the Assurance Senior Associate at Rehmann Robson, LLC. Christie worked as a Senior Staff Accountant at Lewis & Knopf CPAS. She holds a Bachelor

of Science in Accounting from the Baker College and a Master's in Finance from Walsh College. Christie's experience as a Government Auditor, experience with GASB, GAAS, GAAP, OMB and MDE will be an asset to Rochester Community Schools.

We are recommending the appointment of **Dan Amore** to serve as an interim Assistant Principal at Rochester High School. Mr. Amore comes from teaching social studies at Van Hoosen Middle School. He completed an internship with the RHS administrative team during the second semester of last year. Mr. Amore has participated in the Oakland Schools' Aspiring Principals Academy, and has a B.A. from Oakland University in History, and a M.A. from U of M Flint in Public Administration.

We are recommending the appointment of **Tiffany Goliday** to serve as the interim Director of Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. Mrs. Goliday has been a valued member of the RCS team for more than 15 years, serving as a classroom teacher, literacy interventionist, and learning consultant at Hamlin Elementary School. She has extensive training in diversity, equity, and culturally responsive teaching and has participated in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Parent Network, while serving on several district diversity committees to promote social justice opportunities. As a mother of three daughters, Mrs. Goliday is deeply committed to the work around equity, inclusion, and belonging.

We are recommending the appointment of **Jeff Frankowiak** as the principal of the RCS Virtual Campus. Mr. Frankowiak is entering his 16th year of service in K-12 and higher education. For the past three years, he has served as the principal at Long Meadow Elementary School. Previous positions included serving as a high-school principal, high-school assistant principal, elementary teacher, guidance counselor, and a residence education director at the university level. Mr. Frankowiak earned an education specialist degree in K-12 administrative leadership, a master's degree in the art of counseling, and a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education, all from Oakland University. Mr. Frankowiak and his family live in Rochester Hills. He has been an integral leader in the creation of our RCS Virtual Campus, and although he will miss his Long Meadow family, he is excited to begin the process of transitioning to his new role within our district.

We are recommending the appointment of **Bryan Lindstrom** to serve as the interim assistant principal for the RCS Virtual Campus. Mr. Lindstrom has been a social studies teacher at Adams High School for the past 15 years, where he also served as a beloved student council advisor and activities director. For the past 8 years, Mr. Lindstrom has served as the RCS curriculum consultant for the middle school and high school social studies department. Mr. Lindstrom earned a master's degree in the art of teaching from Marygrove College and a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan. He is currently finishing his education specialist degree in educational leadership. Mr. Lindstrom and his family reside in the RCS district, where his three children attend Brooklands Elementary and Reuther Middle School.

We are recommending the appointment of **Mandy Lyons** to serve as the interim principal at Hamlin Elementary School. Ms. Lyons has been a treasured educator in our district for more than 15 years. She most recently served as the learning consultant at Meadow Brook Elementary. Previous positions included teaching various grades at the elementary level. Ms. Lyons earned an education specialist degree, a master's degree in reading and language arts, and a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a minor in language arts and mathematics, all from Oakland University.

We are recommending the appointment of **Laura Matthews** to the position of assistant principal of Stoney Creek High School. Most recently Laura has served as the interim principal for the last half of the 2019-20 school year. She has become very familiar with Stoney Creek and is excited about the opportunity to become a permanent part of the team. Ms. Matthews graduated from Rochester Adams High School and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees at Michigan State University. She then started her career as a teacher in Lapeer Community Schools and has taught AP Government and Politics courses at

Rochester High School. She has a total of 13 years in education. Ms. Matthews has served at Rochester High School as the Instructional Leadership team chair, as well as the Professional Development chair. She stepped out of the classroom last year to become an administrative intern at Rochester High School and then was transferred to Stoney Creek to finish the school year.

We are recommending the appointment of **Kristin Patrona** as the interim principal of Delta Kelly. Ms. Patrona brings a wealth of experience as an educator and administrator. Ms. Patrona previously served as an assistant principal at Hart Middle School, an associate principal at L'Anse Creuse Middle School Central, the intern elementary principal at L'Anse Creuse Carkenord Elementary School, as well as an elementary teacher for 14 years.

We are recommending the appointment of **Brian Shelson** as the Stoney Creek High School Principal. Brian is an experienced leader who started his administrative career in Grosse Pointe as an AP/AD and has served as Stoney Creek's assistant principal, and then most recently as the interim principal at Stoney Creek during the 19-20 school year. Brian has provided exceptional leadership during unprecedented times to preserve the continuity of excellence at RCS, and he finished the year strong serving students, staff and families with the rich Stoney Creek traditions including a legacy commencement ceremony for the Class of 2020.

We are recommending the appointment of **Casey Wescott** as the principal of Long Meadow Elementary School. Earlier this summer, we had announced Mr. Wescott's movement to Stoney Creek High School from Rochester High School as an assistant principal. Given the dynamic environment, we had to change course to meet the needs of our school community. Mr. Wescott earned an education specialist degree from Oakland University, a master's degree from Marygrove College, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Michigan University. He has been a part of RCS for 18 years. For the past six years, Mr. Wescott has served as a well-respected assistant principal at Rochester and Stoney Creek High Schools. His prior position within the district includes serving as a social studies teacher at Rochester Adams High School, where he was also involved with coaching, clubs, and student activities.

Board discussion included clarification of whether or not we are fully staffed or if we are hiring and whether the ASL teacher is a replacement.

Motion to approve the Human Resource Report, as presented.

Moved by: Michelle Bueltel

Supported by: Scott Muska

Vote: 7-0

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

### Transportation Center Exterior Stairs

Matt McDaniel presented the Recommendation for Award of Contracts for Transportation Center Exterior Stairs. The recommendation is to award the contract total of \$39,926 plus allowances and construction management fees in the amount of \$31,380 for a total project cost of \$71,306.

Board discussion included clarification on how many steps will be completed. Pete Muscio addressed the board to answer their question.

Motion to approve the Construction Bid Awards, as presented.

Moved by: Kevin Beers

Supported by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 7-0

Bond Change Orders for Completed Projects and Projects in Progress

Matt McDaniel presented the Recommendation to Approve Bond Change Orders for Completed Projects in Progress. The recommendation is to approve change orders for bond projects in the amount of a reduction of \$84,412.

Motion to approve the Bond Change Orders for Completed Projects and Projects in Progress, as presented.

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Supported by: Michelle Bueltel

Vote: 7-0

**Additional Business**

**A. Citizens Present at the Meeting**

Amy Ackerman, Kimberly Bailiff, Andrew Weaver, Rosemary Hannan, Barb Rill, Julie Hoops, Janice Suchan, Laurie Madigan, Maria Miceli, Tracy Wagner addressed the Board regarding in-person learning.

**B. Members of the Administration**

Dr. Shaner expressed his gratitude and reminded the community that we continue to work in a very fluid situation. He also shared that the governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives have agreed on budget targets and hopefully this means we have a budget soon.

Debi Fragomeni acknowledged the incredible RCS staff and thanked the community and Board for their support.

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

Kristin Bull addressed the community about an accusation made about her in an email, and clarified return to school plan study performed by the MDE in August.

Scott Muska addressed the community to reiterate his level of confidence in RCS and as a board member, to encourage support and togetherness from the community.

Barb Anness asked for takeaways from Cory Heitsch and Concetta Lewis from their visit to West Bloomfield who are in person (hybrid). Barb also asked for clarification on protocols for outbreak as well as broadcasting athletics.

Michelle Bueltel thanked the teachers for their effort, hard work and dedication. She also acknowledged RCS and the Board realize remote learning has been challenging for some students and our goal is to get back to full in-person learning once safe to do so.

Andrea Walker-Leidy thanked the parents who addressed the Board at tonight's meeting. She also asked Dr. Shaner to speak to what parents can expect over the next couple weeks and what parents can do to help the process of returning. Andrea also shared her personal perspective on how she and her family are navigating through remote learning as well as how she will continue to advocate for all learners.

Mike Zabat thanked the teachers, administrators and staff for everything they are doing.

### **Announcements**

#### **Upcoming RCS Events:**

September 28 – 7:00 p.m. Board of Education Work Session and Special Meeting  
October 12 – 7:00 p.m. Board of Education Regular Meeting  
October 26 – 7:00 p.m. Board of Education Work Session  
Hometown Hustle – still accepting sign ups through October 18

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

Moved by: Michelle Bueltel

Seconded by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
Secretary, Board of Education