



# ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE

## ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

### BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

January 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM - Virtual

## MINUTES

### Call to Order

A Regular Meeting, open to the public, of the Board of Education for Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan, was held virtually on Monday, January 11, 2021, 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.

Beth Talbert, Debi Fragomeni and Kristin Bull led in three respective moments of silence.

### 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: Debi Fragomeni, Elizabeth Davis, Dana Taylor, Carrie Lawler, Cory Heitsch, Concetta Lewis, Cindy Lindner, Matt McDaniel, Dave Murphy, Josh Wrinkle, Dave Pontziuous, and approximately 315 visitors.

### Election of Officer

#### **A. Election of President of the Board of Education**

Moved by Mike Zabat and supported by Barb Anness to open the nominations for President.

Mike Zabat nominated Kristin Bull for the position of President of the Board of Education.

Moved by Kevin Beers and supported by Andrea Walker-Leidy to close nominations for President.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Kristin Bull remains President of the Board of Education.

**B. Election of Vice President of the Board of Education**

Moved by Scott Muska and supported by Michelle Bueltel to open the nominations for Vice President.

Scott Muska nominated Kevin Beers for the position of Vice President of the Board of Education.

Moved by Michelle Bueltel and supported by Andrea Walker-Leidy to close nominations for Vice President.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Kevin Beers remains Vice President of the Board of Education.

**C. Election of Secretary of the Board of Education**

Moved by Barb Anness and supported by Mike Zabat to open the nominations for Secretary.

Barb Anness nominated Michelle Bueltel for the position of Secretary of the Board of Education.

Moved by Kevin Beers and supported by Barb Anness to close nominations for Secretary.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Michelle Bueltel remains Secretary of the Board of Education.

**D. Election of Treasurer of the Board of Education**

Moved by Michelle Bueltel and supported by Kevin Beers to open the nominations for Treasurer.

Andrea Walker-Leidy nominated Mike Zabat for the position of Treasurer of the Board of the Education.

Moved by Kevin Beers and supported by Michelle Bueltel to close nominations for Treasurer.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried: 7-0

Mike Zabat remains Treasurer of the Board of Education.

## **Code of Cooperation**

### **A. Code of Cooperation for Conduct Among Board Members and Code of Cooperation for Conduct with Administrators**

Board of Education Secretary Michelle Bueltel read the Code of Cooperation for Conduct among Board Members and Code of Cooperation for Board Conduct with Administrators. Board members were sent the agreements for signature.

## **Communications**

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

Michelle Bueltel shared the 11 email communications received: Deanna Harless, Amie Ackerman (2), and Jill Schoch contacted the Board regarding their desire for in-person instruction; Elena Dinverno contacted the Board regarding 1) her support for in-person instruction and 2) communication from Board members; Meredith McCutcheon contacted the Board summarizing her comments from the December 14, 2020, Board of Education meeting; District employee Kathleen Paden, parent Colleen Farley, and grandparents Paul and Mary Ann Kerstein contacted the Board regarding their support of remote learning until safe to return to in-person instruction; Community leader Frank Rewold contacted the Board expressing gratitude for the Board's dedication to Rochester Community Schools.

Additional emails that were received, though not through the RCS website: Andrew Weaver, David Recknagel, Meredith McCutcheon, Elena Dinverno, Kathy Nitz, Debbie Olshefsky, Stacey Wolfe, and Julie Parks.

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

None

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

None

## **Consent Agenda**

- A. Current Bills Payable for December 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 in the amount of \$18,224,608.74
- B. Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, December 14, 2020
- C. Board of Education Closed Meeting Minutes, January 7, 2021
- D. Title IX Policy Revisions

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

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Supported by: Kevin Beers

Vote: 7-0

## **Reports**

Matt McDaniel reported on the January 7, 2021, Superintendent Business, Operations and Support Advisory Committee meeting. Agenda item included the return to school plan.

Elizabeth Davis reported on the January 7, 2021, Superintendent Policy and Curriculum Committee meetings. Agenda items included the return to school plan and a new course proposal.

## **New Business**

### **A. Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Recertification**

Debi Fragomeni provided a brief timeline update, reviewed the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) guidance for in-person instruction, COVID-19 summary for Oakland County, OCHD Weekly Report, vaccine update, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHSS) infection control recommendations, and RCS proposed return to in-person learning timeline.

Cory Heitsch, Carrie Lawler and Concetta Lewis reviewed updates and improvements to the hybrid plan for elementary, secondary and special education students. Cory went on to discuss benchmark assessments.

Matt McDaniel reported on the preliminary participation rates.

Board discussion included the recertification of the plan originally approved in October, improvements to the plan, new guidance from the county/state, rationale for phase-in process, how quarantined students are being supported, vaccine distribution, points of discussion of moving from full-remote to full in-person, how staff/teachers are feeling with the plan to return to in-person, potential hybrid schedule changes

Cabinet members addressed the Board to answer their questions.

David Recknagel addressed the Board suggesting the Board visit an OEM plant to review their mitigation plan and the timing of returning to full in-person learning.

Nina Ignaczak addressed the Board regarding what are the options for parents who are concerned about their children returning to in-person learning.

Andrew Weaver addressed the Board regarding an option for learning that is not full in-person or the Virtual Campus.

Elena Dinverno addressed the Board regarding an option for learning that is not full in-person or the Virtual Campus. She also addressed the email she submitted to the Board.

Libby Hoenig addressed the Board regarding the Virtual Campus.

Jamie Moore addressed the Board regarding the timing of returning to full in-person learning and an email included in the Board packet.

Lori Baggot addressed the Board regarding changes that are allowing students to be brought back full-time.

Barbara Lindeblad addressed the Board regarding re-assessment dates, her desire for a survey, frustration over why fall sports were allowed before full in-person instruction, and students included in the focus groups.

Kristin Bull addressed the inaccurate rumor on social media that Board members are calling employers of parents in district. At no time did this ever happen.

Motion to approve the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Recertification, as presented.

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Supported by: Kevin Beers

Vote: 7-0

## **B. Human Resources Report**

Elizabeth Davis presented the following recommendations:

### **REA RETIREMENT**

Larry Adams, Social Studies Teacher at Rochester High School, submitted his letter of retirement effective January 29, 2021. Mr. Adams has been with the district since December 1989.

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

Charlotte Oliver, Business Teacher, Stoney Creek High School  
Amy Wetzel, Resource Room Teacher, Delta Kelly Elementary School

### **ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENTS**

Technology Specialist

We are recommending the appointment of Ms. Cathy Evans to the Technology Services Specialist position. Cathy has been in many roles over her 30 years with RCS with the last five years in technology, as the Secretary to the Executive Director of Technology and Strategic Initiatives. In her role she will be the lead on coordinating projects, office operations, vendor relations, and customer service along with supporting budget, bond, sinking fund, e-rate, and other programs.

Motion to approve the Human Resource Report, as presented.

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Supported by: Michelle Bueltel

Vote: 7-0

## **C. Construction Contracts**

**Recommendation for Award of Contracts for AHS Athletics and Long Meadow Elementary Playground**

Matt McDaniel presented the Recommendation for Award of Contracts for AHS Athletics and Long Meadow Elementary Playground.

The amount for this project is \$335,817 with a contingency amount of \$146,597 for a total of \$482,414.

**Recommendation for Award of Contracts for AHS Courtyards**

Matt McDaniel presented the Recommendation for Award of Contracts for AHS Courtyards.

The amount for this project is \$285,560 with a contingency amount of \$143,758 for a total of \$428,758.

**Recommendation for Award of Contracts for SCHS Concession Renovation and Expansion**

Matt McDaniel presented the Recommendation for Award of Contracts for SCHS Concession Renovation and Expansion.

The amount for this project is \$113,798 with a contingency amount of \$90,158 for a total of \$203,956.

**Recommendation for Award of Contracts for Doors, Lockers, Operable Partitions Replacement**

Matt McDaniel presented the Recommendation for Doors, Lockers, Operable Partitions Replacement

The amount for this project is \$1,017,154 with a contingency amount of \$234,258 for a total of \$1,251,412.

**Recommendation for MEP Projects – Equipment Purchase**

Matt McDaniel presented the Recommendation for MEP Projects – Equipment Purchase

The amount for this project is \$2,011,150 with a contingency amount of \$217,577 for a total of \$2,228,727.

The source of funding for all projects outlined above is the Sinking Fund.

Board discussion included clarification on the projects being accomplished at all locations and verification that these projects are being completed now with funds from the Sinking Fund as there was not enough funds available previously from the Bond Fund. Mike Gagnon and Matt McDaniel addressed the Board to answer their questions.

Motion to approve the Construction Contracts, as presented.

Moved by: Kevin Beers

Supported by: Michelle Bueltel

Vote: 7-0

**D. Change Orders**

Matt McDaniel presented the Recommendation to approve Bond Change Orders for Completed Projects and Projects in Process.

Projects in Process include Caring Steps flooring, University Hills Elementary, Brewster Elementary, Van Hoosen Middle School, Hart Middle School, Stoney Creek High School, and the Facilities Operations Center.

The amount for these change orders is a net reduction of \$14,153.

Board discussion included clarification on the removal of a portable unit at Baldwin and parking lot soil at Van Hoosen Middle School.

Motion to approve the Change Orders, as presented.

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Supported by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 7-0

### **Additional Business**

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

David Vrtachnik addressed the Board regarding the District's pass/fail grading policy.

Andrew Weaver addressed the Board regarding comments made by the Board.

Dave Recknagel addressed the Board regarding his child's engagement with sports and mask usage as well as his professional experience with mask usage.

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

Debi Fragomeni shared the District will be hosting a variety of virtual learning opportunities honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Debi also thanked the members of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

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

Kristin reminded the community that Board meetings are not a forum for personal attacks – it is a place for everyone to work together, respectfully. The feedback from the community is greatly appreciated.

### **Announcements**

January 15 – Full day of school; end of first trimester for grades 6-12

January 18 – MLK holiday; no school for students and staff

January 19 – No school for students

January 20 – Classes resume; second semester begins for grades 6-12

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Seconded by: Kevin Beers

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

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Secretary, Board of Education

DRAFT