

**ROMULUS CENTRAL SCHOOL
ROMULUS, NY 14541
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
6:30 PM-BOARD OF EDUCATION CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Rachelle Bateman-President, Beth Bulkley, Erik Karlsen, Alicia Rath, Thomas Wilson and Kimberly Wolverton

OTHERS PRESENT: Suzanne Nicholson-District Clerk, Marty Rotz-Superintendent, Edward Ninestine-School District Treasurer

ABSENT: Tenneille Brewer- Vice President

1. OPENING AND MINUTES

1.1 Call to Order at 6:32pm by President Bateman

1.1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.1.2 Public Comment- none offered

1.1.3 Board of Education Members

1.2 Resolution to Approve Minutes

1.2.1 Approved the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of August 22, 2023.

Moved: Mrs. Rath Seconded: Mr. Wilson

Approved Unanimously 6/0.

1.3 Resolutions, Other

1.3.1 Acted upon the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following:

1.3.1.1 Approval of the Agenda

1.3.1.2 Executive Session- not needed

Moved: Mrs. Wolverton Seconded: Mrs. Bulkley

Approved Unanimously 6/0.

1.4 Announcements and Reports

1.4.1 The next regular meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 6:30pm in the Board of Education Conference Room with a negotiation committee meeting at 5:30pm

1.5 Other Items

2. INTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

2.1 Romulus Student Forum

2.2 Resolutions

ACCEPTED FINE ARTS RFEO GRANT

2.2.1 Accepted the Fine Arts Experience RFEO Grant as written by Mr. Christopher Puylara in the amount of \$4,800

APPROVED REVISIONS OF POLICY #5410 PURCHASING

2.2.2 First read of the Purchasing Policy #5410 as revised by Ferrara Law Firm.

Moved: Mr. Karlsen Seconded: Mrs. Bateman

Approved Unanimously 6/0.

2.3 Announcement and Reports

2.4 Other Items

3. **REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

3.1 Resolutions

3.2 Announcements and Reports

3.2.1 President's Report- President Bateman updated the Superintendent search status and has invited BOCES to come to a meeting to discuss their search process. She also requested Mrs. Nicholson to send out the RFP to the list of potential search consultants.

3.2.2 Board Members Forum- The Board reviewed the Social Media Lawsuit issue and after a lengthy discussion the board was in favor of in moving forward. President Bateman made the official motion to proceed.

SOCIAL MEDIA LAWSUIT

3.2.2.1 **WHEREAS**, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has issued an Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health which:

- “calls attention to the growing concerns about the effects of social media on youth mental health;”
- emphasized that “now is the time to act swiftly and decisively to protect children and adolescents from risk of harm;”
- “[t]he onus of mitigating the potential harms of social media should not be placed solely on the shoulders of parents and caregivers;” and
- “[t]echnology companies play a central role and have a fundamental responsibility in designing a safe online environment and in preventing, minimizing, and addressing the risks associated with social media.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has further concluded that:

- “Social media use by youth is nearly universal. Up to 95% of youth ages 13-17 report using a social media platform, with more than a third saying they use social media ‘almost constantly.’”
- “nearly 40% of children ages 8-12 use social media;”
- “in early adolescence ... brain development is especially susceptible to social pressures, peer opinions, and peer comparison;” • “[s]ocial media may ... perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls;”
- “[i]n a nationally representative survey of girls aged 11-15, one-third or more say they feel ‘addicted’ to a social media platform;”
- “[o]ver half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media;” and • [t]here is a consistent relationship between excessive social media use “depression among youth.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has specifically urged that it is “urgent that we take action.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that students, “[m]ore than ever, were glued to [their cellphones] during class.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that “a growing number of educators ... find themselves on the front lines of a fight to change how students use social media” and “there was been a push for more schools to ... develop programs to help educate students on the dangers of social media.”

WHEREAS, the Romulus School District (the “School District”) has and continues to experience significant problems with student use of social media, which use, among other things: (i) has created a substantial and ongoing interruption of and disturbance to its educational mission; (ii) has resulted in the diversion of substantial resources in an attempt to abate and prevent such use and its results harms; and (iii) poses a significant risk to the health and wellbeing of its students; and

WHEREAS, the School District is a leader in education excellence whose faculty and administrators care deeply about the education and well-being of its students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT: That the Board of Education authorizes the law firm of Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP and Ferrara Fiorenza PC to initiate litigation and file suit against any appropriate parties to seek compensation to the School District for damages suffered by the School District and its students as a result of the development, operation, and marketing of social media platforms, and to seek any other appropriate relief. The School District hereby authorizes its Superintendent of Schools or their designee to sign all appropriate documents and fee agreements on behalf of the School District.

3.2.2.2 To authorize the Superintendent to sign the Attorney-Client Agreement regarding the social media litigation

Moved: Mrs. Bateman Seconded: Mr. Wilson

Approved unanimously 6/0.

Mr. Wilson requested from the other BOE members if they had any concerns for the proposed NYSSBA Resolutions for the Annual Meeting. The Board agreed for him to cast favorable votes to all resolutions.

Mrs. Bulkeley requested that the BOE go back to utilizing the Chromebooks for the meetings to eliminate paper copies. Agendas will be the only documents printed unless otherwise requested.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM DISCONTINUED

3.2.3 Superintendent’s Report – Mr. Rotz discussed the SEVIS International Student Exchange Program and the lack of interest for host families in the district. The Board was not interested in continuing the program and agreed to discontinue the program. Mrs. McCusker will be paid accordingly for any time invested through September 12, 2023.

Mr. Rotz requested the approval from the BOE to remove the old brick marquee which will be done by our maintenance staff. He also discussed the possibility of changing classroom designs of the 6th grade which the Board was not in favor of adding additional costs for this proposal to the project. He announced that there will be a facilities committee meeting on October 10th by that time he shall have heard back from Syracuse Scenery regarding the sound board options.

Mr. Ninestine updated the BOE on the CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) program and thanked Kelly Updyke for her hard work in securing this program for the district. There

has been a 10% increase in participation so far. The Board appreciated the work done and wanted to know if more could be done to entice the students to eat breakfast and lunch.

3.3 Other Items

4. **BUSINESS OFFICE REPORTS**

4.1 Resolutions

4.1.1 Acted upon the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following:

4.1.1.1 ~~Accepted the Extra Class Monthly report for August 2023-~~ Tabled-no bank statement received at the time of the meeting.

4.2 Announcements and Reports

4.2.1 Accounts "A" General Fund dated 08/01/23 to 08/31/23; Warrant No. 11 for Accounts "A" General Fund dated 08/03/23 in the amount of \$54,106.82; Warrant No. 12 for Accounts "A" General Fund dated 08/09/23 in the amount of \$17,757.56; Warrant No. 13 for Accounts "A" General Fund dated 08/17/23 in the amount of \$35,923.25; Warrant No. 16 for Accounts "A" General Fund dated 08/24/23 in the amount of \$151,107.86.

4.2.2 Accounts "C" Cafeteria Fund dated 08/01/23 to 08/31/23; Warrant No. 4 for Accounts "C" Cafeteria Fund dated 08/09/23 in the amount of \$2,297.09; Warrant No. 5 for Accounts "C" Cafeteria Fund dated 08/17/23 in the amount of \$1,593.84.

4.2.3 Accounts "F" Federal Funds dated 08/01/23 to 08/31/23; Warrant No. 4 for Accounts "F" Federal Fund dated 08/03/23 in the amount of \$801.67; Warrant No. 5 for Accounts "F" Federal Funds dated 08/17/23 in the amount of \$702.93; Warrant No. 6 for Accounts "F" Federal Funds dated 08/24/23 in the amount of \$3,896.77.

4.2.4 Accounts "H" Capital Funds dated 08/01/23 to 08/31/23; Warrant No. 3 for Accounts "H" Capital Funds dated 08/03/23 in the amount of \$16,536.26; Warrant No. 4 for Accounts "H" Capital Funds dated 08/09/23 in the amount of \$276.00.

4.3 Other Items

5. **COMMUNICATIONS**

5.1 Resolutions

5.2 Announcements and Reports

5.3 Other Items

6. **PERSONNEL**

6.1 Resolutions in Regard to Administrators and Teachers

6.1.1 Acted upon the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following personnel issues:

ERICA MURRAY APPOINTED LTS MEDIA SPECIALIST

6.1.1.1 Approved the 1-year LOA as Itinerant Teacher (Building Substitute) and appointed Erica Murray of Ovid, NY as the Long-Term Media Specialist Teacher effective August 30, 2023 through June 30, 2024, she holds a Professional New York Certification that will permit her to teach as a Teacher Assistant in the public schools of New York State. Mrs. Murray will have a daily rate of \$170 and is eligible for all rights and benefits as per the RFA negotiated contract. (Previously tabled from August 22, 2023)

AFTER-HOURS OFFICE SECURITY COVERAGE STAFF APPROVED

6.1.1.2 Appointed the following faculty to after-hours office security coverage at a rate of \$17.75 per hour effective September 5, 2023 through June 25, 2024

6.1.1.2.1 Lisa Freier

6.1.1.2.2 Amanda Pundt

6.1.1.2.3 Darlene Werner

MELISSA LILYEA APPROVED AS TEACHER LEADER

6.1.1.3 Approved Melissa Lilyea as a Teacher Leader (Grades 7-12) at a stipend of \$3,000 for the 2023-2024 school year.

KATIE JORDAN APPROVED AS HS DRAMA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

6.1.1.4 Approved Katie Jordan as HS Drama Technical Director at a stipend of \$500 for the 2023-2024 Drama Production

KATE SMITH APPROVED AS ML MUSICAL HELPER

6.1.1.5 Approved Katie Smith as the ML Musical Helper at a stipend of \$375 for the 2023-2024 ML Musical Production

TARA DAVIS APPROVED AS PLANT BASE COACH

6.1.1.6 Approved Tara Davis as the Plant Base Coach (Through Excellus) at a stipend of \$400 for the 2023-2024 school year.

MELANIE SHOEBRIDGE-BLOOM APPROVED AS STUDIO ART CLASS MONITOR

6.1.1.7 Approved Melanie Shoebridge-Bloom as Studio Art Class Monitor extra duty at \$22.50 per class for the 2023-2024 school year for the added duties to her regular class schedule.

Moved: Mr. Karlsen Seconded: Mrs. Wolverton

Approved unanimously 6/0.

6.2 Resolutions in Regard to Support Staff

6.2.1 Acted upon the recommendation for the Superintendent to approve the following :

AFTER-HOURS OFFICE SECURITY COVERAGE STAFF APPROVED

6.2.1.1 Appointed the following faculty to after-hours office security coverage at a rate of \$17.75 per hour effective September 5, 2023 through June 25, 2024

6.2.1.1.1 Mary Ann Wingler

6.2.1.1.2 Jennifer Fowler

ACCEPTED THE RETIREMENT RESIGNATION OF TERRY MOORE AS SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

6.2.1.2 Accepted the irrevocable retirement resignation from Terry Moore effective June 30, 2024 as School Bus Driver. Mrs. Moore is eligible for the retirement provisions as written in the current CSEA Contract.

APPROVED KATHY CRAIG AS FRIDAY PICK UP ADVISOR

6.2.1.3 Approved Kathy Craig as the Friday Pick up Advisor for the 2023-2024 school year at a stipend of \$500.

APPROVED JENNIFER GILLAN AS COFFEE SHOP ADVISOR

6.2.1.4 Approved Jennifer Gillan as the Coffee Shop Advisor for the 2023-2024 school year at a stipend of \$500.

PERMANENT STATUS GRANTED TO CHARLES COSTELLO AS SCHOOL BUS ATTENDANT

6.2.1.5 Granted Civil Service Permanent Status to Charles Costello effective September 13, 2023 as School Bus Attendant.

Moved: Mr. Wilson Seconded: Mrs. Rath

Approved unanimously 6/0.

6.3 Resolutions, Other

6.4 Announcements and Reports

6.5 Other Items

7. CURRICULUM

7.1 Resolutions

7.1.1 Acted upon the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following placement/academic opportunities:

7.1.1.1 Approved the placement of the Committee on Special Education Minutes from the meeting dated August 29, 2023 (Student Number #67137); from the meeting dated August 30, 2023 (Student Numbers #67332 and #67330)

7.1.1.2 ~~To approve the placement of the Committee on Preschool Special Education -none~~

7.1.1.3 Approved the placement of the Section 504 Meeting Minutes- from the meeting dated August 29, 2023 (Student Numbers #67556 and #67546)

Moved: Mr. Wilson Seconded: Mrs. Wolverton

Approved unanimously 6/0.

7.2 Announcements and Reports

7.3 Other Items

8. BUILDING AND GROUNDS

8.1 Resolutions

8.2 Announcements and Reports

8.3 Other Items

9. TRANSPORTATION

9.1 Resolutions

9.2 Announcements and Reports

9.3 Other Items

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION – not needed

11. PUBLIC COMMENT 2nd Session- none offered

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered to adjourn at 8:15pm

Moved: Mr. Wilson Seconded: Mr. Karlsen

Approved unanimously 6/0.

13. DISTRIBUTIONS

13.1 Teacher's Handbook

13.2 Secondary Student Handbook

13.3 Elementary Student Handbook

13.4 Maintenance Handbook

13.5 Athletic Handbook

13.6 Special Education Handbook

BOE Mtg. 09/12/23

13.7 Food Service Handbook

13.8 Transportation Handbook

14. **NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**- not needed

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Nicholson

District Clerk