

**ROMULUS CENTRAL SCHOOL
ROMULUS, NY 14541
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024
5:30 PM BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
6:30 PM-BOARD OF EDUCATION CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Rachelle Bateman-President, Tenneille Brewer-Vice 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, BOCES Superintendent Search Group- Lynne Rutnik, Quinn Smith, Erin Fairben, Michele Sullivan, and Andrew Hyman, Jennifer Bartlett-Prati, Erika Parisian, MaryAnn Wingler, Piper Wingler, Kerilynn Wasney, Liz Houghton, Robin Tompkins, Lisa Freier, Nancy Leahy, Colleen Cook, Theresa MacCheyne, Becky Bennett, Shyanne Bennett, Andrew Bennett, Jeremiah Smith, Jennifer Salone, Lisa Racano, Christopher Ryan, Joseph Sapio, Tom Rath, Devon Welch, and Joe Kosiorek, Brian Barlow and Bill Christensen addressed the BOE through a google meet for the Capital project update.

1. OPENING AND MINUTES

1.1 Call to Order at 6:31pm by President Bateman

1.1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

1.1.2 Public Comment-Received letters which were read by President Bateman from Caelin Kordziel, Cathy Jordan, Megan Zanfordino, and Laura Feligno all containing the same positive sentiments and concern of the negativity being brought forward with the targeted aggression towards the faculty and staff. Each highlighted positive specific items witnessed personally. Colleen Cook read her letter to the BOE also positively in support of the District and its leadership, faculty and staff emphasizing that everyone here is here for the students she exhausted her 5 minute limit and gave printed copies to the BOE. Nancy Leahy addressed the board with her positive reflection on working in the district. Mr. Jeremiah Smith addressed the Board with his concerns on the negative social media articles and wanted to make his personal comment of the positive impact this school district and administration has had on his family. Liz Houghton was the last to address the Board with her emotional confirmation that she agrees that the negative concerns brought forward are valid and she can personally identify with those who may have had the same interactions and experiences. She has devoted the last 23 years working here in and out of the classroom and hopes that this current climate will be rectified. There were no other public comments 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 January 23, 2024.

Moved: Mr. Wilson

Seconded: Mrs. Rath

Approved Unanimously 7/0.

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 will be needed at the end of the meeting for the discussion of a particular personnel item as permissible under the Open Meetings Law

Moved: Mrs. Rath Seconded: Mr. Wilson

Approved Unanimously 7/0.

1.4 Announcements and Reports

1.4.1 The next regular meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 6:30pm in the Board of Education Conference Room

1.4.2 The Full Board will be meeting with the BOCES Superintendent Search Group on February 22, 2024 from 5:00-8:00pm at the Newark BOCES campus.

1.5 Other Items

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

1.5.1 Superintendent Search update by District Superintendent Lynne Rutnik- Mrs. Rutnik updated the board with the current events to date- the BOCES Superintendent Search Team was in district all day interview different focus groups and getting insight from them. The Public Forum was held prior to this meeting with a good turnout. The survey will be open through next week and they are pleased with the results to date. The Board asked if the survey could be extended for an additional week. There was not an issue to have that extension made. The vacancy postings have been made and the deadline to apply is March 8. The Board will be meeting with the BOCES Search team again on the 22nd of February.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

1.5.2 Google Meet with Joe Kosiorek of SWBR to provide the Executive Summary and the Capital Project update. Joe Kosiorek, Bill Christensen and Brian Barlow were all on this call. Joe outlined the upcoming solicitation for bid process and timeline. The Hazardous Survey has not been received yet and they are estimating the Asbestos Abatement will be around \$270K with the major portion being in the Auditorium area. The ads have been placed in the local papers with the bid opening scheduled for March 14 and contracts being awarded by March 26. February 29th there will be a Pre-Bid Contractor walk through the building on site at 11:00am. The team will be back with another project update for the Board at the March 26th meeting.

2. INTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

2.1 Romulus Student Forum

2.2 Resolutions

ACCEPTED WASHINGTON DC TRIP RFEO GRANT

2.2.1 Accepted the RFEO Washington DC trip grant up to an amount of \$9,520 in May 2024 as written by Mrs. Melissa Lilyea. The Foundation is asking for the approval that the district absorb the transportation cost of this trip (approximately \$1,400) which would lower the amount to \$8,120.

Moved: Mrs. Brewer Seconded: Mrs. Wolverton

Discussion: The Board was unanimous in the support of absorbing the transportation costs for this event.

Approved Unanimously 7/0.

2.3 Announcement and Reports

2.4 Other Items

MACDOUGALL SCHOOLHOUSE UPDATE

2.4.1 Lisa Freier update on MacDougall Schoolhouse project. Mrs. Freier has reached out to the Fayette Historical Society who is very interested in the possibility of taking over the schoolhouse- however they are unable to secure any grant funding since they do not own the building or the property. They are looking at the building is in desperate need of repairs and she fully understands the financial restraints. She will continue to work with Mr. Dale Freier Jr. in exploring different avenues for funding the schoolhouse repairs.

2.4.2 ~~Holly Stekl inquiry to the possibility of selling items branded with the RCS logo for personal fundraising. (See Policy #5001 Use of School district Trademarks and Service Marks)~~

This item was tabled to the next meeting on March 12th since Mrs. Stekl was not in attendance at this meeting.

3. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

3.1 Resolutions

3.2 Announcements and Reports

3.2.1 President's Report-President Bateman discussed the reduction in State Aid and the significant impact on our students. The Budget Committee is still working to reduce the gap and get a final budget amount. She reported that the district has spent approximately \$30K in legal fees and will have additional costs for the Superintendent contract work. There is currently a proposal to postpone the Electric Bus mandate until 2045.

3.2.2 Board Members Forum- Mrs. Wolverton congratulated the Bowling Team for their undefeated season and noted the nature trail is operational and the students have tapped some of the maple trees for syrup processing. Mr. Karlsen was more than pleased with the proposed delay in electric buses and would like to see natural gas options be made available.

3.2.3 Superintendent's Report – Mr. Rotz thanked the BOCES team for their work in the district. He reported back to the Board that there was limited information on refurbished buses and they are not available at this time.

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 January 2024

2024-2025 TAX CAP CALCULATION APPROVED

4.1.1.2 Approved the Tax Cap Calculation for the 2024-2025 school year.

AUDITORIUM SEATING BID ACCEPTED FOR WENGER CORP

4.1.1.3 Approved the cooperative bid contract for auditorium seating to Wenger Corp. on the recommendation of TAMCO and SWBR in the amount of \$135,586.38. (As part of the Capital Improvement Project)

Moved: Mr. Wilson Seconded: Mr. Karlsen

Approved Unanimously 7/0.

4.2 Announcements and Reports

4.2.1 Accounts "A" General Fund dated 1/01/24 to 1/31/24; Warrant No. 63 for Accounts "A" General Fund dated 1/11/24 in the amount of \$5,341.50; Warrant No. 64 for Accounts "A" General Tax Fund dated 1/11/24 in the amount of \$3,541.48; Warrant No. 67 for Accounts "A" General Fund dated 1/18/24 in the amount of \$7,375.46; Warrant No. 68 for Accounts "A" General Fund dated 1/25/24 in the amount of \$218,275.40.

4.2.2 Accounts "C" Cafeteria Fund dated 1/01/24 to 1/31/24; Warrant No. 19 for Accounts "C" Cafeteria Fund dated 1/18/24 in the amount of \$15,067.89; Warrant No. 20 for Accounts "C" Cafeteria Fund dated 1/25/24 in the amount of \$69383.

4.2.3 Accounts "F" Federal Funds dated 1/01/24 to 1/31/24; Warrant No. 22 for Accounts "F" Federal Fund dated 1/18/24 in the amount of \$1,120.63; Warrant No. 23 for Accounts "F" Federal Funds dated 1/25/24 in the amount of \$70,425.85.

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 To Act upon the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following:

~~6.1.1.1 To appoint Kerilynn Wasney as Modified Softball Coach at a stipend of \$1,605 for the 2023-2024 season.~~

~~6.1.1.2 To appoint Angela Fox as JV Softball Coach at a stipend of \$2,906 for the 2023-2024 season.~~

These two items were tabled to the next BOE meeting on March 12.

6.2 Resolutions in Regard to Support Staff

6.3 Resolutions, Other

6.3.1 To act upon the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following:

~~6.3.1.1 To appoint Jeff Newcomb as Modified Baseball Coach at a stipend of \$1,605 for the 2023-2024 season.~~ This item was table to the next BOE meeting on March 12.

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 January 17, 2024 (Student Numbers #67330, #67446 and #06688); from the meeting dated January 18, 2024 (Student Number #67524); from the meeting dated January 23, 2024 (Student Number #66839); from the meeting dated January 26, 2024 (Student Number #67585); from the meeting dated January 29, 2024 (Student Number #67137); from the meeting dated January 30, 2024 (Student Numbers #67049 and 67303); from the meeting dated February 2, 2024 (Student Number #66715).

7.1.1.2 ~~To approve the placement of the Committee on Preschool Special Education from the meeting dated~~ (no meetings held)

7.1.1.3 Approved the placement of the Section 504 Meeting Minutes- from the meeting dated January 19, 2024 (Student Number #06685); from the meeting dated January 30, 2024 (Student Number #67330).

Moved: Mrs. Brewer Seconded: Mrs. Rath

Approved Unanimously 7/0.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was requested by President Bateman at 8:13pm for the discussion particular personnel item as permissible under the Open Meetings Law with no further action being taken this evening.

Moved: Mr. Wilson Seconded: Mrs. Rath

Approved Unanimously 7/0.

Motion to adjourn the executive session and return to the regular meeting at 9:41pm.

Moved Mr. Karlsen Seconded: Mrs. Rath

11. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was offered to adjourn at 9:42pm

Moved: Mr. Wilson Seconded: Mrs. Rath

Approved Unanimously 7/0.

13. DISTRIBUTIONS

14. NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Nicholson

District Clerk