



**ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**  
March 8, 2021 ~ 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 and in person on Monday, March 8, 2021. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Ashlyn May, Long Meadow Elementary 2<sup>nd</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: Debi Fragomeni, Dana Taylor, Elizabeth Davis, Carrie Lawler, Cory Heitsch, Concetta Lewis, Lori Grein, Cindy Lindner, Matt McDaniel, and approximately 130 visitors.

Kristin Bull shared that due to gathering limitations imposed by the March 5, 2021 order from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, members of the public may not physically attend board meetings at this time.

**Spotlight on Success**

Patti Galuszka, Hampton Elementary Learning Consultant, Lori Dupuis, McGregor Elementary Learning Consultant, and Tiffany Goliday, Interim Director of Equity, Inclusion & Belonging, highlighted the elementary literacy programs.

RHS graduate and author, Holly Mihelic, who shared her educational experience while enrolled in RCS, which included her passion of literacy.

**Communications**

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

Michelle Bueltel shared that 10 email communications have been received through the RCS website:

District parents Ronald David, Aletha Frei, Jenet Bazzell, and Peggy Baros contacted the Board regarding full-time in-person learning; Community member Ed McDonald contacted the Board regarding March is Reading Month; District parents Jessica Walters and Carol Dospil contacted the Board regarding the Class of 2021 celebration; District parent Aimee Symington contacted the Board regarding courses offered during Summer Learning Program; District parent Steve Dowd contacted the Board regarding the District's quarantine policy; District parent Meredith McCutcheon contacted the Board requesting the move to remote learning for one week following spring break.

Additional emails that were received, though not through the RCS website: Tabatha Cronander regarding graduation; five (5) were received from Andrew Weaver regarding various subjects including a recall petition, copied on a letter sent to a lawyer, a facebook group, and requests for clarifications on past BOE meetings; Rob and Kerry Conley regarding plans for quarantined students; two (2) from Shanna Fischer regarding quarantine guidelines; the Mead Family regarding quarantine guidelines; two (2) from Michele Chittick regarding the finance update from the last board meeting and vendor selection policies and procedures.

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

Student representatives from Adams High School, Rochester High School, and Stoney Creek High School shared information since the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

Andrew Weaver addressed the Board regarding the District's quarantine policy.

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

Barb Anness received an email from Jessica Opfer and Elise Faroute.

Michelle Bueltel received one email from Andrew Weaver.

Andrea Walker-Leidy received an email from Meredith McCutcheon and a Facebook private message from Laura Cox.

Kristin Bull received an email from Amy Chermside, Molly Corombos and Kerry and Rob Conley.

#### **E. PTA Council Update**

Niki Stringer, PTA Council Treasurer, addressed the board to provide an update which included: "Get Outside Challenges," STEAM YouTube Channel, Legislative Committee virtual event on April 20, virtual health and wellness fair for 4<sup>th</sup> graders, Virtual Campus Advisory Committee, Authors in April and a virtual Reflections ceremony on April 29.

#### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Current Bills Payable for February 1, 2021 through February 28, 2021 in the amount of \$9,954,599.72
- B. Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes, February 8, 2021
- C. Board of Education Work Session Minutes, February 22, 2021



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

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Supported by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 7-0

## **Reports**

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

Debi Fragomeni reported on the February 18, 2021, and March 5, 2021, Superintendent's Steering Committee meeting. February agenda items included: budget amendments, enrollment, 2021-2022 Virtual Campus options, and the Return to Learn Plan. March agenda items included: district communications and operational update.

Matt McDaniel reported on the February 19, 2021, Superintendent Business, Operations and Support Advisory Committee meeting. Agenda items included budget amendments, enrollment, 2021-2022 Virtual Campus options, December financial statements, and the Return to Learn Plan.

Elizabeth Davis reported on the February 19, 2021, and March 8, 2021, Superintendent Policy and Curriculum Committee meetings. February agenda items included budget amendments, enrollment, 2021-2022 Virtual Campus options. March agenda items included: district communications and operational update.

## **New Business**

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

Kristin Bull reiterated this plan approves the learning environment students may be learning from.

Debi Fragomeni thanked the community, students, families, Board of Education, administrators and staff for their partnership and support this past year. She went on to review the timeline of the phased-in approach to in-person learning.

Carrie Lawler provided an example of how the District will support those students who are quarantining.

Cory Heitsch shared the District is invited to participate in a pilot COVID-19 testing program in partnership with the MDHHS and we anticipate further collaboration before and after spring break.

Matt McDaniel reviewed the transportation safety protocols and that the Transportation Department is in the process of documenting seating charts in order to assist with contact tracing. He went on to share that bus driver recruitment and retention remains a challenge. Matt reiterated the in-person learning safety protocols. Finally, he shared the participation rates from February 3 – March 2.

Lori Grein provided an update on communicating COVID-19 cases within the District, which will outline students and staff at each level who are either positive or are in quarantine. This report will be shared with the community every Friday that reflects information from the previous day.

Board discussion included appreciation for the COVID-19 chart that is being shared with the community; who parents should reach out to with feedback; who should parents notify at the District if their child is told to quarantine; clarification on how many bus drivers we need; COVID-19 testing pilot; clarification if students and staff are allowed to test out of quarantine; how the District is mitigating contact within buildings and where do we see needed areas of improvement; appreciation of perspectives from parents and community members as well as appreciation of teachers; how many additional cases confirmed since the COVID chart was published; and the hope to eventually be able to test out of quarantine.

Public comments received from:

Renee Lamothe regarding the quarantine process.

Andrew Weaver regarding connecting with districts and businesses who have a successful quarantine process.

Laurie Madigan addressed the Board regarding the quarantine process.

Brent Raymond addressed the Board regarding his opinion of the District.

Jamie Moore shared her appreciation for full in-person learning.

Iris Vedar addressed the Board regarding the quarantine process.

Brad Scott addressed the Board regarding whether the District is gathering data from students who have been quarantined and subsequent test results.

Michelle Bueltel reiterated that the District is required to follow the MDHHS quarantine guidelines. Legally, the District is currently not allowed to follow the quarantine guidelines from the CDC.

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

Moved by: Kevin Beers

Supported by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Vote: 7-0

## **B. International Academy Consortium Agreement Amendment**

District Attorney Gary Collins presented the International Academy Consortium Agreement Amendment. The Agreement provides the following: Rochester Community Schools has been elected as one of the five members of the governing board; fiscal agent capital costs cannot be passed on to the other districts in the consortium; and the fiscal agents can engage in student discipline as it occurs on their campus. This Agreement is supported by all 13 consortium districts.

Board discussion included building clarification of maintenance for the IA campuses do not come from consortium districts, it comes from the fiscal agent; clarification as to why Agreement is being rewritten; confirmation that the five members of the governing board will aide in resolving issues that arise on an ongoing basis; and further clarification on how costs cannot be passed on to consortium districts without their approval.



Motion to approve the International Academy Consortium Agreement Amendment, as presented.

Moved by: Barb Anness

Supported by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Vote: 7-0

### **C. Human Resource Report**

Elizabeth Davis presented the following recommendations:

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

Megan Kaufman, ASD Teacher, Musson Elementary School

#### **ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENTS**

##### **Accountant**

We are recommending the appointment of Stephanie Plummer to an Accountant in the Business Office. Ms. Plummer comes to RCS from Genesee Intermediate School District where she was a Business Office Support Specialist for the last four years. Earlier in her career, she was a Cost Accountant for Brass Craft Manufacturing. Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from University of Michigan – Flint with a major in Accounting.

##### **System Administrator**

We are recommending the appointment of Michael Wood to the position of Systems Administrator with Rochester Community Schools. Michael has worked for many years in IT, most recently as Jr. IT Systems Engineer for Mackevision Corporation. Prior to that, he worked for BlueRock Technologies as Service Desk Manager/Systems Administrator. Michael holds an Associates of Applied Science, Computer Networking Technology – Cisco option from Baker College.

Motion to approve the Human Resource Report, as presented.

Moved by: Mike Zabat

Supported by: Barb Anness

Vote: 7-0

### **D. Chartwells Contract**

Matt McDaniel presented the Recommendation for Renewal of the Chartwells Contract. The District is completing its eleventh year with Chartwells Dining Services for the operation and management of its food service program. The original 2020/2021 contract is a one-year agreement that provides up to four successive one-year renewals, upon approval by the MDE. This recommendation would approve a one-year contract renewal for food service management with Chartwells Dining Services and authorizes the administration to execute the contract renewal documents for the 2021/2022 fiscal year.

Board discussion included appreciation for the food service staff and for the partnership with Chartwells.

Motion to approve the Chartwells Contract, as presented.

Moved by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Supported by: Kevin Beers

Vote: 7-0

#### **E. Approval of Budget Amendment**

Matt McDaniel presented the Approval of a Budget Amendment to the General Fund, Food Service Fund, and Early Learning Center Fund for the 2020-2021 school year.

The General Fund budget revenue increased \$213,940 related to revised local, state, and federal funding expectations. The General Fund budget expenditures increased \$163,593 due to current staffing projections. As a result, fund balance is projected to increase by \$151,232 to \$38,680,026.

The Food Service Fund budget revenue decreased \$1,607,684 due to reduction in local revenue. The Food Service Fund budget expenditures decreased by \$1,215,359 due to reductions in staffing and food costs. As a result, fund balance is projected to decrease by \$764,338 to \$782,101.

The Early Learning Center Fund budget revenue decreased by \$199,817 due to decreased enrollment. The Early Learning Center budget expenditures decrease by \$199,817 due to lower staffing levels. As a result, fund balance is not projected to change.

The budget was discussed with the Board of Education at subcommittee meetings that occurred on February 18 and 19. At the February 22, 2021 Board of Education, each budget amendment was reviewed in detail.

Based on this information, we recommend that the Rochester Board of Education adopt the following resolutions for the General Fund, Food Service Fund, and Early Learning Center Fund.

Board discussion included confirmation that the food service fund (which is a non-profit fund) typically has a surplus in this fund. The reduction is due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the reduction in operating costs. Additional discussion included the Early Learning Center future plans to support the community in childcare needs, staffing needs and desire to see a county-wide competitor analysis to review best practices.

Motion to approve the Budget Amendment, as presented.

Moved by: Scott Muska

Supported by: Barb Anness

Vote: 7-0

**Additional Business**

**A. Citizens Present at the Meeting**

Andrew Weaver addressed the Board regarding the 2019 Board member appointment.

**B. Members of the Administration**

Debi Fragomeni shared that a group of students, parents, teachers and administrators will be meeting to discuss options and venues for celebrating the Class of 2021.

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

Andrea Walker-Leidy met with the PTA Council and provided clarity on the Board's role and expressed her appreciation for the Council's partnership and collaboration.

**Announcements**

March 19 – End of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter; half-day of school (6-12 and post high)

March 22 – BOE Work Session, 7pm

March 27 – April 4 – Spring Recess (classes resume April 5)

**Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Moved by: Mike Zabat

Seconded by: Barb Anness

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore  
Recording Secretary

Approved by:

  
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Secretary, Board of Education