



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
March 24, 2014

MINUTES

Call to Order

A Work Session, Open to the Public, of the Board of Education for the Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held on Monday, March 24, 2014, at Stoney Creek High School, 575 E. Tienken, Rochester Hills, MI 48306. President Lisa Nowak called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members Present: Lisa Nowak, Michael Zabat, Jane Pierobon, Jennifer Berwick, Pat Piskulich, Beth Talbert

Members Absent: Chuck Coutteau, with notice

Others Present: Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Dan Romzek, Beth Davis, Debbi Hartman, Michael Behrmann, Anne Evans, Lori Hartnell and approximately 65 visitors.

Mrs. Nowak read the following statement: *The Board of Education has received inquiries regarding the Rochester Education Association demonstrations and commentary at Board meetings regarding contract negotiations. Historically, it has not been unusual for labor unions to call attention to their expired contract through appearances at Board meetings and informational picketing. It is important to remember that negotiating involves two parties, each of whom presents proposals, followed by discussion and counter proposals, until both sides come to an agreement. The Board of Education is placing its trust in that process and is confident that those who are negotiating on behalf of the Board and those who are negotiating on behalf of the REA are working toward a resolved contract.*

The Board of Education will continue to be respectful in its approach to contract negotiations. We value the dedication and hard work of our teachers. At the same time, the Board takes seriously its responsibility to be good stewards of the district's resources and manage them with a commitment to sustainability.

Communications

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Mr. Zabat shared the following communications received by the Board of Education since the prior meeting: Mary Beth Johnson regarding the video archive of the Board of Education meetings; Kathleen Ford regarding the Spotlight on Success write-up in the Board Meeting Summary; Charles Polk provided the Board an update on the upcoming changes to the SAT; Julia Satterthwaite shared a link to an article regarding things that are obsolete in 21st century schools; Mike Reno regarding online learning classes; Ameet Singh regarding teacher negotiations; Albert Raschka regarding the Board's role to advocate for the public school systems and a healthy relationship between the school board and school staff; Lee Jensen-Muir regarding teacher negotiations; and Silva Howser regarding teacher negotiations.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda – None

C. Members of the Board of Education

Mrs. Talbert shared that she and Mr. Piskulich spoke with the following individuals at Chat with the Board this evening: Debabrat Sarkar and Josh Raymond regarding biology not being a mandatory class for freshman and the IA program.

Ms. Nowak received an email from Barb Rill inviting Board members to attend Long Meadow's PTA drama club's performance of Peter Pan.

Work Session

A. Budget Forecast and Planning

Mr. Romzek, Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, Mr. Romzek provided an overview of the impact of the senate's proposed budget compared to the governor's. Depending on which scenario is used, the ending district fund balance would be between 10.2% and 10.3%. The primary differences are in the one-time, hold harmless and best practice dollars. There is a \$20 difference in new per pupil dollars between the governor's budget proposal and the senate's budget proposal.

B. Millage Election

Mr. Romzek shared that the district's 18 mil operating levy expires at the end of the 2014 tax year. This is the property tax on non-primary resident property (business property and second homes). The 18 mils is assumed by the state in calculating the district's Foundation Allowance. The 18 mils was first approved when Proposal A was passed and again in 2005. In order to continue to collect the 18 mils, the district will need to present this as a ballot proposal to voters. Prior to 2014, this can be referred to as a renewal. If it is taken to voters after 2015, it must be called an increase because it has expired. The two dates in 2014 that are eligible for this ballot are the primary in August and the general election in November.

C. Common Core

Mrs. Fragomeni, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Mr. Behrmann, Executive Director for Elementary Education, provided an update on the district's progress in implementing the Common Core.

The Common Core standards are:

- Evidence and research-based
- Internationally benchmarked
- Designed by higher education, business, content area experts, and teachers for consistent, clear, rigorous, and relevant learning for all
- Not a curriculum

Changes that students and parents can expect in the classroom include:

- Students working on real-life applications and going more in-depth
- Students collaborating with each other yet accountable for their own learning
- More complex, multi-step, and interdisciplinary problems that mirror the critical thinking that is necessary in college and career
- Rich and challenging content that engages students to solve real world problems (inspires greater interest in math and language arts)
- Higher reading levels of text presented at each grade level
- More informational text introduced at higher grade levels

There are a variety of resources for parents on the district's Curriculum and Instruction portion of the website, including a short video and Curriculum Mapping that describe the standards by content and grade level.

Josh Raymond, parent, addressed the Board regarding Common Core State Standards and high ability students.

John Markel, resident, addressed the Board regarding Common Core concerns and what happens when you don't meet the standards.

Debabrat Sarkar, parent, addressed the Board regarding the millage and how to take care of variation in kids in class.

Deborah DeBacker addressed the Board regarding concerns with the Common Core State Standards.

Beth Markel, resident, addressed the Board regarding concerns with the Common Core State Standards.

D. Strategic Plan - Steering Committee Update

Mrs. Hartman, Director of Communication and RCS Foundation, shared that the co-chairs came together to discuss their research and to go through an exercise in preparing a 3 minute "elevator" speech that characterized their goal area.

Additional Information

- A. Citizens Present at the Meeting - None
- B. Members of the Administration – Dr. Shaner announced that Van Hoosen Middle School and Musson Elementary School have been asked to apply for National Blue Ribbon School Status by the Michigan Department of Education.
- C. Members of the Board of Education – Mr. Piskulich attended the Read-A-Latte at Reuther Middle School. Mrs. Talbert attended the PTA Council meeting which topics included volunteer recruitment and retention and the Authors In April presentations. Mrs. Talbert was a guest at the MPLP (Michigan Political Leadership Program) dinner and had the opportunity to discuss public schools. Mrs. Berwick attended the Sparkle Awards. Also, she attended the RHS PTSA meeting and shared information on the athletic captains' presence at the meeting. Mrs. Nowak, Mrs. Pierobon and Mr. Piskulich attended the Chorale concert at Stoney Creek High School in which all three high school choirs participated.

Announcements

Upcoming Events

March 25	Kindergarten Registration at Elementary Schools 6:30 p.m.
March 26	6:30 P.M., PTA Reflections Gallery Stroll, Stoney Creek High School
March 26	7:00 P.M., PTA Reflections Award Ceremony, Stoney Creek High School
April 4	No School K-12 & Post High, Teacher Records
April 7-11	No School, Spring Recess
April 14	7:00 P.M., Board of Education, Regular Meeting, Admin. Ctr.
April 16	Evening Parent Conferences, Gr. K-5
April 18	No School, Good Friday
April 24	Evening Parent Conferences, Gr. K-5
April 28	Authors In April Week
April 28	7:00 P.M., Board of Education, Work Session, Hamlin Elementary
April 29	7:00 P.M., Authors In April Benefit Dinner, Royal Park

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Moved by: Mrs. Pierobon

Supported by: Mr. Zabat

Vote: 6-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Keener
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Secretary, Board of Education