



Tuesday, January 6, 2015
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

District No. 1 of the Towns of Rush, Henrietta, Pittsford, and Brighton

All appendices referenced to, herein, are incorporated into and made a part of the official minutes of this meeting to the same extent as if fully set forth.

In Attendance:

Board members: Diane E. McBride, President
Phyllis P. Wickerham, Vice president
Robert C. Bower
Jean M. Chaudari
Rosie B. Mitchell
Pamela J. Reinhardt
Sue A. Smith

Others: Dr. J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Superintendent of Schools
Mr. George DesMarteau, School Attorney
Mrs. Karen A. Flanigan, School District Clerk
Mrs. Nerlande Anselme, Assistant Superintendent, Student and Family Services
Dr. Patrick McCue, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources and Strategic Initiatives
Mr. Andrew Whitmore, Assistant Superintendent, School Finance and Operations
Mrs. Dina Wilson, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

1. BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – GENERAL

A. Board of Education Members, Superintendent of Schools, School Attorney, School District Clerk, Cabinet Members

See above attendance.

B. Meeting Information

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District was held Tuesday, January 6, 2015, in the Dee Strickland Conference Room at the Parker Administration Building, 2034 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta, NY 14467.

2. ANTICIPATED EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Call to Order

Mrs. McBride called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

B. Anticipated executive session to discuss the superintendent's mid-year review (Part I), an update on identifying candidates for the transportation director position, Section 75 process regarding a member of the Rush-Henrietta Employees' Association Coalition Unit, and contract impasse regarding the Rush-Henrietta Employees' Association Teachers' Chapter

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:18 P.M. TO
DISCUSS THE SUPERINTENDENT'S MID-YEAR REVIEW
(PART I), AN UPDATE ON IDENTIFYING CANDIDATES
FOR THE TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR POSITION,
SECTION 75 PROCESS REGARDING A MEMBER OF
THE RUSH-HENRIETTA EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION**

**COALITION UNIT, AND CONTRACT IMPASSE RE-
GARDING THE RUSH-HENRIETTA EMPLOYEES'
ASSOCIATION TEACHERS' CHAPTER**

**MOVED: Mr. Bower
SECONDED: Mrs. Reinhardt
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0
Mrs. Smith arrived at 6:30 p.m.**

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:07 P.M.

**MOVED: Mrs. Chaudari
SECONDED: Mrs. Reinhardt
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

3. OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

A. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions, Agenda Review, and Announcements

Mrs. McBride called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions done. During agenda review, Mrs. McBride asked to add New Business – Chairman of the Election following the superintendent's report. There were no announcements.

4. BOARD MEMBER REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)

Michael Slattery, student representative, was in attendance. He said there was not much to report as students just returned from vacation. He said flyers regarding PDAs, and issues with their use while in school, would be sent out tomorrow; midterms begin next week; and sports are still continuing.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

A. Audience Members May Address the Board of Education Regarding Items of Interest Not on the Agenda

There was no one in the attendance wishing to speak.

6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR ROUTINE MATTERS (Reference appendices #6A-T)

- A. Report of bills audited and paid during November 2014
- B. Action pertaining to acceptance of the November treasurer's report
- C. Action pertaining to the award/rejection of bids – New Outdoor Bleacher Safety Upgrade
- D. Action pertaining to acceptance of the report from the Assistant Superintendent of School Finance on corrections of errors on tax rolls and refunds of taxes based upon errors where the correction or refund does not exceed \$2,500 for 2014-15
- E. Action pertaining to acceptance of the 2014-15 Tax Collection Report
- F. Action to approve Capital Improvement Projects 2014 – Bid Recommendations
- G. Action to adopt resolution declaring Capital Improvement Projects 2015 are not subject to review under SEQRA and the regulations thereunder
- H. Action pertaining to acceptance of actual tuition rates for the 2013-14 school year and estimated tuition rates for the 2014-15 school year
- I. Action pertaining to acceptance of the Pel Apparel Licensing Agreement with Pel Industries, Inc.
- J. Action pertaining to appointment of a deputy claims auditor for the remainder of the 2014-15 school year
- K. Action pertaining to approval of the Medicaid Compliance Plan
- L. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – William A. Korn Memorial Scholarship Fund – 12/8/14
- M. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – William J. Welch Memorial Scholarship Fund – 12/8/14
- N. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Band and Orchestra Performance/Workshop – Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, FL
- O. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – NYS DECA Conference/Competition – Rochester, NY
- P. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Softball Team – Myrtle Beach, SC

- Q. Action pertaining to approval of an international field trip – Summer Enrichment – Berlin, Munich, Prague, Lucerne, and Paris
- R. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- S. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 12/2/14
- T. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 12/9/14 (Program & Service Review)

**MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE
OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #6A-T
MOVED: Mrs. Chaudari
SECONDED: Mrs. Mitchell
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

7. PERSONNEL ACTIONS (Reference appendix #7A)

- A. Action pertaining to approval of personnel actions

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL
OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS
MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham
SECONDED: Mr. Bower
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

There were questions regarding personnel actions #9 and #19. Answers were sent via e-mail. Dr. Graham provided explanations.

8. WORKSHOP – VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION (Reference appendix #8C)

A. Discussion of community input

Mrs. McBride provided the protocol for the workshop. She said this was the board’s opportunity to discuss their thoughts regarding the exemption. She thanked veterans for their input and said the board was not taking its decision lightly, but trying to do what it believes is best for the entire community. Each board member provided his/her thoughts.

Mrs. Chaudari – She said this decision is a tough one and wishes the government hadn’t thrown it on school districts. She believes it is a government issue. She said she appreciates the service our veterans have provided and that everyone is free because veterans keep us free. However, she’s here to serve the children in our district and is concerned that some parents will not be able to feed their children and some elderly people may not be able to afford medicine they need. She knows many people in our district who live at a poverty level.

Mrs. Smith – She said she received input from veterans and non-veterans who each expressed concern for both sides of the issue. She said she has some of the same issues as Mrs. Chaudari. As much as she supports our veterans, she feels there are many other people in our community who make it a safe place to work who also deserve an exemption. She said she has a hard time shifting the burden to people who cannot afford it.

Mrs. McBride apologized for not explaining earlier that there would be no comments from audience members tonight as a public forum had already been held.

Mrs. Mitchell – The Public Forum was very helpful, good input. She explained that she has a brother, nephew, father-in-law, and neighbor who are veterans and that she spoke with each of them to get input. She feels that veterans can never get enough support and believes the entire community would like to be part of acknowledging them. However, as a volunteer in the district (a high poverty district), when she hears people say even though it may be a small tax increase that that money could

be used to feed their children/provide lunch money, she does not believe this particular exemption is one for honor.

Mrs. Wickerham – She has had the exact same thoughts as Mrs. Mitchell. Her nephew is a ranger. She appreciates that veterans sacrifice their lives for us, but feels there are many other people in our district who also deserve recognition for the many things they do for our community. She doesn't feel that the veterans' exemption is totally appropriate.

Mr. Bower – He said to look at his mother and tell her we didn't do anything for the veterans, which helped his parents to stay in their house, is a tough one. He tried to take the money part out of the equation and said everyone would have to say thank you to the veterans. He's not sure where you draw the line, but said you can't give breaks to everyone. He feels the same as Mrs. Mitchell in that it is not an appropriate way to honor the veterans.

Mrs. Reinhardt – She agrees with everything everyone has said. She has spent a lot of time in the legislative arena. She said this is a huge unfunded mandate and takes offense that the government is not doing anything but pass it along. She explained that R-H has the lowest true value tax rate, the STAR program, and reduced rates for people. In fairness to the entire community, she doesn't know if this is the way to go.

Mrs. McBride – She explained that on the night of the public forum she had the same mindset as the rest of the board members. She mentioned one individual whose comment still sticks out in her mind as this person was worried about shifting this unfunded mandate to families who are struggling. She also talked about the fact that the district's population of veterans is dwindling, thus the benefit would dwindle. She said she does not believe the burden will be as great as we all think.

Miscellaneous Comments

- Mrs. Reinhardt said that she went back and forth on this. She said she went in with one mindset, read the e-mails, and said there were veterans and community members who were on both sides of the fence.
- Mrs. Smith said one thing that troubles her about the structure of the exemption is that it only affects some veterans. She also would've liked to have seen an income determination (for economic need). She said what troubles her is that those veterans who can afford to pay will pass the burden to people who cannot.
- Mr. Bower said he does not like the structure and we cannot change it.
- Mrs. Reinhardt stated that we've basically been told you do it or you don't.

B. Vote

**MOTION TO GRANT THE VETERANS'
PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION
MOVED: Mrs. Reinhardt
SECONDED: Mrs. Smith
MOTION DENIED: 0-7**

C. Potential Levels

There was no need to discuss the potential exemption tax levels as the motion to grant the exemption was denied.

9. WORKSHOP – INSTRUCTIONAL SPACE (Reference appendices #9B-C)

A. Full-Day Kindergarten Forum Feedback

Dr. Graham updated the board on what's been taking place on the capital project. He said the parent forums have begun and the communication plan is being followed. The school constituent meetings are going as planned, posters are up, handouts are available, and the district mailing has gone out.

B. Communication Plan

Dr. Graham said the communication plan is pretty much progressing as planned. He asked board members if there was anything they thought should be done that is not being done. Mrs. Reinhardt thought the district was doing fine with providing people with many different ways to know what the district is doing. Mrs. Wickerham thought the brochure was phenomenal. She also said it's not just about kindergartners, it's a district issue. Dr. Graham was planning to do a voicemail to parents of children who are not yet school age letting them know they are invited to attend the forums. He feels that as people are thinking it through, they basically feel it is a good plan. He said some people want specific details and guarantees and this cannot be done at this time.

C. Space Committee Report

Dr. Graham said the committee had completed its work this year and the report is included in the board packet. He said the district has enough space to get through 2017, but at that point it runs out of space at Leary and Winslow, and then two years later at all elementary schools. Since the board has a plan in place to rectify these issues, the committee decided not to make recommendations at this time. However, when the district goes to vote in February and if the proposed configuration is approved, Dr. Graham said the board may want to come back and look at the transition of special education at Leary. There were no comments or questions.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Reference appendices #10A-B)

A. Written: School Facilities Report (Part 155)

Dr. Graham said the district is in great shape and in compliance with everything.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SCHOOL FACILITIES REPORT (PART 155)

MOVED: Mrs. Smith

SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

B. Written: Event Supervision Payments – 2nd Quarter Report

There were no questions or concerns.

C. Oral Information

Dr. Graham said there was a water pipe break at the high school Friday night, which had to do with the Phase III reconstruction work. He explained. Mrs. Smith asked if the contractor who caused the problem to begin with would bear any of the financial burden. Mr. Whitmore explained and said the insurance company had been notified in the event there is damage we are not yet aware of.

Mr. Bower said he noticed the new sign in front of the high school. Mrs. Wickerham commented on the speed of the displayed text. Dr. Graham will see if the timing can be fixed.

NEW BUSINESS – CHAIRMAN OF THE ELECTION

Mrs. Flanigan provided an explanation as to why there was a need for a new chairman of the election. Mr. DesMarteau provided some Election Law information and said the election chairman position is really a figure head one. Mrs. McBride asked how the board felt about Mrs. Flanigan taking over the position or if they'd like to consider another person. All board members were in agreement with Mrs. Flanigan being the appointed chairman of the election. This will be brought to the next board meeting for approval.

11. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. MCSBA Legislative Committee (Dec. 3)

Mrs. Reinhardt sent the minutes. Dr. Graham went on the Albany trip and said there's really not a lot to report. The committee meets tomorrow. A date has been set for the legislative breakfast.

B. MCSBA Executive Committee (Dec. 3)

Mrs. McBride and Dr. Graham did not attend as they were at a parent forum.

C. District Health & Safety Committee (Dec. 4)

Mrs. Wickerham said it was a very good meeting. The main topic was safety week and the safety drills that were performed. She said good feedback was received from them. The Henrietta fire chief was especially impressed with how the high school handled the entire drill. The committee also discussed residency investigations and Michael Paladino, district safety coordinator, was asked by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office if the district would be interested in having more visibility on campus. Dr. Graham granted permission for this to take place when the sheriffs have some downtime. Protocols were discussed. Captain Wagner is very appreciative of this renewed commitment/collaboration. Dr. Griffin, student management director, talked with students and they have requested the use of rolls of toilet paper instead of small individual pieces. In addition, six of 13 narcotic boxes have been installed and the town of Henrietta finished its refresher courses. Mrs. Wickerham said it's a good group of people who work well together.

D. Budget Advisory Council (Dec. 15)

Mrs. Smith said it was basically a review of the Program & Service Review. Dr. Graham reviewed comments and enrollment projections. The first meeting in January is the important one (inclusion of budget proposals).

Mr. Bower said the MCSBA Labor Relations Committee meets at the end of the month and it is in need of a topic for April. Please let him know if you think of anything.

12. CLOSING OF MEETING

A. Board Meeting Recap

- After the February vote, may be looking at revising alterations regarding special education.
- There will be a memo in the next board packet regarding Mrs. Flanigan being the chairman of the election.
- Budget Advisory Council meeting – January 12, 2015
- Let Mr. Bower know if you think of any topics for the April MCSBA Labor Relations Committee meeting.

B. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:01 P.M.

MOVED: Mr. Bower

SECONDED: Mrs. Reinhardt

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

C. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk
Board Approved: January 20, 2015