



**Tuesday, May 5, 2015**  
**Board of Education Meeting Minutes**

**RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

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*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: Mrs. Diane E. McBride, President  
Mrs. Phyllis P. Wickerham, Vice president  
Mr. Robert C. Bower  
Mrs. Jean M. Chaudari  
Mrs. Rosie B. Mitchell  
Mrs. Pamela J. Reinhardt  
Mrs. Sue A. Smith
- Others: Dr. J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. George DesMarteau, School Attorney  
Mrs. Karen A. Flanigan, School District Clerk  
Ms. 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  
Ms. Dina Wilson, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction
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**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, May 5, 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 6:30 p.m.

**B. Anticipated executive session to discuss staff on performance improvement plans and personnel matters**

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:30 P.M. TO  
DISCUSS STAFF ON PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT  
PLANS AND PERSONNEL MATTERS**

**MOVED: Mr. Bower  
SECONDED: Mrs. Smith  
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

**MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7 P.M.**

**MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham**

**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 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions done. There were no additions to the agenda and no announcements. Mrs. McBride asked board members to please complete the end-of-year events list and return it to Mrs. Flanigan as soon as possible.

**4. BOARD MEMBER REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)**

The student representatives were not in attendance.

**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 audience wishing to speak.

**6. FINAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2015-16 BUDGET**

**A. Audience members may address the Board of Education regarding the proposed 2015-16 budget**

There was no one in the audience wishing to speak.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR ROUTINE MATTERS (Reference appendices #7A-F)**

- A. Report of bills audited and paid during March 2015
- B. Action pertaining to acceptance of the March treasurer's report and budget transfers
- C. Action pertaining to the award of bids – Electrical supplies, Plumbing supplies, Wood and metal technology, Custodial supplies, Cooperative bread and bread products, Cooperative beverage, Cooperative ice cream and frozen desserts, Cooperative milk and juice
- D. Action pertaining to acceptance of a donation – R-H bus drivers (Mike Bell Scholarship Fund)
- E. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- F. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 4/21/15

**MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE  
OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #7A-F  
MOVED: Mrs. Chaudari  
SECONDED: Mr. Bower  
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

**8. PERSONNEL ACTIONS (Reference appendix #8A)**

- A. Action pertaining to approval of personnel actions

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL  
OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS  
MOVED: Mrs. Reinhardt  
SECONDED: Mrs. Smith  
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

**9. DISTRICT POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND EXHIBITS (FIRST READ) (Reference appendix #9A)**

- A. **5311.5, 6700-R.2, 8136, 8212, 8410, 8411-E, 8414, 8414.4, 8414.4-R, 8414.5-R, 8416, 8635-R**
  - Policy 5311.5 will be returned for a first read at the June 2 board meeting.
  - Corrections will be made to 6700-R.2 and 8410 and then returned at the May 26 meeting for the second read.

- Policies 8136, 8411-E, 8414.4, 8414.4-R, 8416, and 8635-R will be returned as is for a second read.
- Policies 8212 and 8414.5-R are to go to Policy Committee.
- Policy 8414 should not have been included in the first reads.

## **10. WORKSHOP: TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION INITIATIVE**

Dr. Graham provided an overview of the workshop and then turned it over to Ms. Dina Wilson, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Ms. Wilson offered some general thoughts on capturing the digital learning day. She was assisted by teachers Ami DiGiulio, Kristin Mancari-Koppers, and Charlie Bielinski; Brad Malone, teacher on special assignment (TOSA); and Joanne Mattiucci, director of professional development, who played a big part in planning the digital learning day. This team of colleagues worked very closely with the library media specialists to make this day such a successful one.

Mr. Malone explained how the team set up the digital learning day. He talked about how the library media specialists designed the digital learning day website which included a page for registration and more than 100 sessions, the meat of the learning day. He said this day was a real highlight for him. He thanked the board, cabinet members, and Dr. Graham for the opportunity to be involved in the planning. He stated that principals and paraprofessionals also were a big part of the input and design for the day.

Mr. Bielinski explained how Mr. Malone used a Storify web application so that tweeting could be done during the learning day. He used #RHDL, which received more than 500 tweets during the day from staff, who are still tweeting about what they're using now and providing their resources. He talked about the day beginning and ending with keynote speakers. He said he was amazed that Jaime Casap, the opening keynote speaker and a Google Education evangelist, would take the time out of his schedule to participate on his own. He shared some quotes of the day.

Ms. DiGiulio talked about the sessions. She said the team looked at all R-H employees in an attempt to tailor sessions for all staff and at all levels, which was a bit challenging. She said there were a variety of presenters from within and outside the district. She reported that social media classes filled quickly and that there's a need to continue targeting beginners to make sure there's not a widening gap between all staff. She said the demand is still there for beginner workshops and technology is constantly evolving. Posters will be made and shared with all schools. She also gave kudos to District Publishing Services (DPS) for doing an excellent job.

Ms. Mancari-Koppers talked about the poster sessions. She explained that students (second through fifth graders) came in and gave presentations and how excited they were to present. She talked about how well the students did with presenting and that students were teaching their teachers.

Mrs. Mattiucci talked about bringing closure to the day and how to continue it. She said the day was planned with the idea of having lasting value. There were more than 500 people who completed the exit survey, which was fantastic. She said the team debriefed and there are plans in the works to take what has been learned and continue on. She feels that this day was a tremendous boost and stated what tremendous capacity we have in our staff – they are teaching each other. She said it's not about the fancy tools, but solid good instruction. Technology is a tool to help teachers own their learning and engagement – students really thinking for themselves.

Mrs. Wilson said there are three main goals – (1) student empowerment, (2) 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, and (3) assessment (in a broad perspective). She said Rush-Henrietta is teaching these goals. She said everyone really participated in this day. It was a highlight in her Rush-Henrietta life and in her 25 years of education. She is proud, thankful, and so excited that this will be the beginning of many more years of wonderful learning for our students.

Some of the comments from board members included: well organized, kids and teachers were excited, having students teach some of the sessions was great, you could feel the energy in the whole building, we empowered our students, there was a culture shift that day with staff and students, very powerful day, workshops and tech playground were great, phenomenal that those resources were available, poster sessions were great, and you guys did a phenomenal job organizing the day.

## **11. WORKSHOP: URBAN-SUBURBAN STUDENT TRANSFER PROGRAM** (Reference appendix #11A)

### **A. Urban-Suburban Inter-District Transfer Program**

Dr. Graham provided a brief overview and then turned it over to Dr. McCue who said there are two questions tonight: (1) To what extent does the program's mission align with the district's strategic goals, philosophy and rationale for participation, and community values and (2) If the board moves forward with the program, what are some options in terms of a scope and timeline for participation? He reviewed the program overview and talked about urban-suburban myths and facts. He said it's important to keep in mind that this is a voluntary program, which is administered through Monroe #1 BOCES. He also added that both students and parents need to be invested.

Dr. Graham asked board members if this program was something they were interested in participating in. He said the real issue is to what extent does R-H have a moral part to play to provide city students with opportunities for post-secondary educational experiences that would prepare them better for the future. He said the program can begin at different grade levels, it does not have to start at kindergarten, and from an economic perspective believes there's merit to look at this. Discussion ensued. Following discussion, Mrs. Smith proposed the board move forward with the program for the Fall of 2016, but before then would like feedback from principals as to the burden this would put on them (wouldn't want to stretch resources beyond what they can handle), and that a public forum would have to be held. Dr. Graham said a resolution would need to be adopted prior to the community forum and he agrees with the board in that we should start at the elementary level, but not until we get our full-day kindergarten implementation instituted. Dr. McCue will take the lead on drafting a position paper for action at the next meeting. The board would like to develop a document containing the district's terms of engagement. When its conditions are met, the district would then be ready to go to the community.

## **12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** (Reference appendix #12A)

### **A. Written: R-H Alumni Council Report**

There were no questions or comments.

### **B. Oral Information**

- Final statement on state assessments. Approximately one out of four parents, 25%, encouraged their students not to take the assessments. The district tried to educate the community and will continue to do so. Race-to-the-top is raising the trouble, not the state assessments. More of a proactive process will begin in the fall.
- Each year, about a month after state assessments, the district is required to do field testing. Because of all opting out and logistical concerns, Dr. Graham asked if this is something we really want to participate in and do we have a choice. He said the bottom line is the state is silent on if we do the field testing, but believes it would not be in the district's best interest to refuse to administer the test. The district's position will be to give the assessments and not administer it to students who opted out. Dr. Graham will draft a letter to principals. He does not believe field testing will become an issue.
- The bleacher renovation project has been completed (all handrails are up, piece is up that eliminates the gap in seats). This was a big safety issue and believes parents will be pleased with the renovation project.

## **13. NEW BUSINESS** (Reference appendix #13A)

### **A. 2015-16 Calendar – Board meeting dates, text pages**

Board members will let Mrs. Flanigan know if they have any questions or concerns.

## **14. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

### **A. MCSBA Labor Relations Committee (April 22)**

Mr. Bower said Attorney Ron Mendrick and Mr. Howard Maffucci, a negotiator with the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS), talked about relations and negotiations with the administrative unit. He said it was a very good presentation. He forwarded the minutes.

### **B. MCSBA Executive Committee (April 22)**

Mrs. McBride and Dr. Graham attended. Dr. Graham said the committee talked about the year-end budget, election of officers for next year, and held an executive session to discuss where they are with the executive director position. Seven applications were received and there are three finalists. No names or backgrounds were discussed. The executive committee will do the interviewing and hiring.

### **C. District Health & Safety Committee (April 23)**

Mrs. Wickerham said it was a very good meeting. She said the Monroe County Sheriff's Department is very appreciative to have undersheriffs allowed on campus. They are open to talking at assemblies or with health office staff and are appreciative of the opportunity to build relationships with students. Ms. Shirley Smith-Gravanda, transportation director, said a team of drivers has been put together to be mentors to new or substitute drives and to work with them with PBIS. There will be safety videos for drivers who might miss the training. A transportation concern is that once the reconfiguration is done that safety plans and a drill checklist be uniform throughout the district. Mrs. Anselme explained that currently the forms are similar, but some buildings tweak them a bit. Dr. Graham would like to get this done next year. Mrs. Wickerham did not understand the topic of an outhouse on school property that came up. Mrs. Anselme explained and said the issue had already been resolved. Dr. Graham suggested some type of guidelines be set up and that he would look into the situation.

Mrs. Reinhardt reported that she's been working on a Legislative Committee subcommittee and there's a possibility that some of the work the subcommittee has been doing will turn into a position paper.

## **15. CLOSING OF MEETING**

### **A. Board Meeting Recap**

- Dr. McCue, along with Dr. Graham and Mr. DesMarteau will draft a position paper regarding the urban-suburban program.
- Dr. Graham will make sure the board gets numbers information and feedback regarding the urban-suburban program from principals.
- Field tests are coming up. Principals will send letters to parents.
- Bleacher renovations are done.
- Policy 5311.5 will be held until the first meeting in June.
- Policies 8212 and 8414.5-R need to go to Policy Committee.
- Send completed end-of-year list of event sheets to Mrs. Flanigan.
- Changes regarding the 2015-16 calendar information should be sent to Mrs. Flanigan.

### **B. Adjournment**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:16 P.M.**

**MOVED: Mrs. Mitchell**

**SECONDED: Mrs. Smith**

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

### **C. Next Board of Education Meeting**

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan  
School District Clerk  
*Board Approved: June 2, 2015*