



Tuesday, September 8, 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: Mrs. Diane E. McBride, President
Mrs. Sue A. Smith, Vice president
Mr. Robert C. Bower
Mrs. Jean M. Chaudari
Mr. Robert L. Cook
Mr. Sean P. McCormick
Mrs. Phyllis P. Wickerham
- 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, September 8, 2015, in the Dee Strickland Conference Room at the John W. Parker Administration Building, 2034 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta, NY 14467.

2. OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

A. Call to Order

Mrs. McBride called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. The board entered into executive session to discuss a memorandum of agreement with the Administrators' Association of Rush-Henrietta, the athletic trainer's contract, and contract negotiations with the Rush-Henrietta Employees' Association Coalition Unit and Facilities & Mechanics Chapter

**MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:30 P.M.
TO DISCUSS A MOA WITH THE AARH, THE ATHLETIC
TRAINER'S CONTRACT, AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE RHEA COALITION UNIT AND
FACILITIES & MECHANICS CHAPTER**

MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham
SECONDED: Mr. Bower
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0
Mr. McCormick arrived at 6:47 p.m.

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:59 P.M.

MOVED: Mr. Cook
SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

4. RETURN TO PUBLIC MEETING

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

Mrs. McBride recalled the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions were done. During agenda review the following items were added: (1) MOA vote (New Business), (2) update on information received about the state audit process (Superintendent's Report - Oral), (3) letter from new MCSBA executive director (New Business), and (4) Board Member Report from Student Representative (after Public Forum). There were no announcements.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

A. Audience members may address the Board of Education regarding items of interest not on the agenda

There was one person in the audience wishing to speak.

Mr. Chris Kirchbaum – 144 Glen Iris Drive, Rochester, NY 14623

Mrs. McBride provided Mr. Kirchbaum with an overview of how the Public Forum works. Mr. Kirchbaum explained that his oldest daughter started in elementary school this year and his first concern was regarding bussing. He spoke with the Transportation director and Assistant Superintendent of School Finance and Operations, who both explained that there was not enough money to pick each child up at their home. Mr. Kirchbaum said he cannot see the stop from his home as it is four houses down, there are no sidewalks, and his wife watches two other children. He said there is a problem with bussing, a safety issue that no one wants to address, and there are a lot more parents upset about it. His second concern is regarding the common core. Mr. Kirchbaum said he has known teachers in the district for years and they've lost enthusiasm for teaching due to it and feel the want/need for extra funding is irrelevant. The common core is already being pushed on his daughter and she's five. His third concern is regarding school taxes. He said he had an interesting conversation with the town assessor today. He stated that his taxes went up, but not his wages. His fourth concern was regarding the Pledge of Allegiance. He found it amazing that Board of Education members say it, but that we don't make the students say it. He would like to see it brought back. He is hoping for some community support regarding the bussing issue and that someone can make something happen. When plows come through and the snow is tall, it really becomes a safety issue and he's not thrilled with having his daughter or wife, with the two infants she watches, be out in it. He also mentioned a comment that was said by someone in the district that he was not pleased with, but did not care to mention any names. He said bussing was his biggest concern.

BOARD MEMBER REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)

Ms. Lorriel Thomas, senior student representative, reported on sophomore orientation (students are finding it more helpful), a welcome video done by Link leaders, the sophomore dance Friday, snack lines opening today, junior assembly Friday and senior assembly Monday, the opening of the senior lounge, and homecoming next weekend. She also talked about some of the major events taking place during the week leading up to homecoming – dodgeball tournament, powderpuff football game, open house, and the pep rally.

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

A. Action pertaining to acceptance of the July treasurer's report and budget transfers

- B. Action pertaining to acceptance of change order #EC-001 – Kyle R. Lawrence Electric – CIP 2014 - \$753.57
- C. Action pertaining to acceptance of the emergency repair resolution
- D. Action pertaining to acceptance of an increase to the high school petty cash fund
- E. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- F. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 8/11/15
- G. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education special meeting minutes – 8/31/15

**MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE
OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #6A-G
MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham
SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari
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: Mr. Bower
SECONDED: Mr. McCormick
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

- 8. WORKSHOP: STRATEGIC PLANNING – MISSION/VISION REVIEW (PART III)**
(Reference appendices #8A-B)

- A. Mission/Vision Review**

Dr. Graham explained that he found some areas of redundancy and some areas that were missed. He reviewed the document and talked about some possible changes. Discussion ensued. He reviewed the changes he plans to make and said the finalized document will go to stakeholders for review.

- B. Stakeholder Feedback Report**

Dr. Graham said the review is now complete and the stakeholder forums will begin. He reviewed the status report and timeline. The goal is to bring information back to the board at the end of December/beginning of January. Board members were fine with this.

- 9. WORKSHOP: DISTRICT PRIORITIES** (Reference appendices #9A-C)

- A. End-of-Year Report**

Dr. Graham provided an overview of the end-of-year report. He stated that there will be ample time to discuss this as we do our district priorities workshops. There were no questions.

- B. Student Assessment Overview**

Dr. Graham provided a brief history of the document. He reviewed it and provided explanations of the rankings. He said the district is doing pretty good in math, but it's not right where we want to be. ELA continues to have gaps at many grade levels. These will continue to be a district priority. We are now in quartile three for several grade levels, and at the cusp of quartile two for many, indicative of showing our progress. However, there are still too many gaps in ELA and mathematics, which still need to be of district concern to the board. The district still needs to do more work to be college and career ready. The district also is paying attention to U.S. History. It has passing rates, but not college and career readiness rates. He explained. There were no questions.

- C. Action pertaining to acceptance of the proposed 2015-16 district priorities**

Dr. Graham stated that the district priorities were a compilation of work that was done at the Strategic Planning Forum. He reviewed the document, explained some of the changes that were made to it, and talked about the areas of concern in each category. He said the plan is to basically stay the course. Dr. Graham said he received an e-mail from Mr. Cook regarding common core and stated that the district does not have a problem with common core, but with the design and use of the assessments. Dr. Graham said the board will need to revisit the position paper from last year and readopt it. Mr. Cook

feels that in order to build parent support regarding common core, there needs to be more of an understanding as to what it is as there are a lot of people without a fundamental understanding of it. He believes verbiage should be included in the plan-of-work. Dr. Graham said the district needs to put together an educational program to better explain the common core. Board members were ok with adding this part. There were no further questions.

**MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE
PROPOSED 2015-16 DISTRICT PRIORITIES**

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

10. DISTRICT POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND EXHIBITS (SECOND READ) (Reference appendix #10A)

A. 5150, 5280, 5330, 9110.4, 9110.4-R, 9120.1, 9160, 9230, 9230-E.1, 9230-E.2, 9230-E.3, 9230-E.4, 9260-R, 9310, 9460, 9520.2-R, 9720

The second read of the policies was completed.

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF DISTRICT
POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND EXHIBITS**

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

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Reference appendices #11A-E)

A. Written: School Transition Plan

This is a final copy for the board's records. There were no questions.

B. Written: School Transition Report

This report was prepared by Ms. Anselme. She contacted approximately 300 families. Dr. Graham explained that letters were sent and Ms. Anselme followed up with telephone calls. He said the district did not come close to touching its worst-case scenario.

C. Written: Student Referrals – End-of-Year Report

Ms. Anselme provided a summary of the report, which includes Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting (VADIR) and the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) information. She said things did not really change much. She provided an explanation about the intimidation/harassment piece going up. She said a good thing is that parents are reporting all incidents and when reported, the district has an obligation to follow through. It might be one time and not necessarily redundant incidents. An incident also may be both VADIR and DASA reportable. She said the district needs to do an update to refresh staff.

D. Written: Title I – Notification of Parent Meeting

Dr. Graham reported that the district is required by federal law to provide notification. He stated that instead of one district meeting, the district now has to have a meeting in each Title I school. This will be incorporated into the parent group meetings this year.

E. Written: Probationary Faculty List with Tenure Appointment Date

This is for information only per the board's request.

F. Oral: Opening of Schools Report

Dr. Graham said school opened on September 2 with a little less than 5,350 students. He talked about class sizes and said staffing is in pretty good shape. There are no major concerns with buildings and grounds. Everything looks to be in great shape with only a few small things. There were two surprises – a bee infestation in the Fyle gym and not being alerted to the painting of road lines on the first day of school, which caused traffic delays. He noted the summer capital projects and a parent mention of there being no American flag at last Thursday's girls' soccer game. The district took care of this. There were no major concerns with Transportation although there were two major changes with the opening of schools this year – new formation of routing sheets and the transition options with new

times (rerouting buses). There are a couple of pending problems – transfer bus at Winslow (looking at alternatives) and bus stop changes. Ms. Anselme talked about the bus stop changes. She said it is generally due to first-time kindergarten parents who do not understand that the bus does not stop at each home to pick up students and that once the rationale is explained, they are generally ok. Dr. Graham has asked the Transportation Department to identify how many households have kindergarten children that are not being picked up at their house who do not have older siblings that can escort them to the bus stop. Ms. Anselme said when someone says there's a safety concern, it is checked out. The district responsibility begins when the child enters the bus. It is the parent's responsibility to watch the child at the bus stop. She said sight lines are also taken into consideration and that this is not a new topic, it happens every year. There were no major concerns with Food Service and 2,100 computers were installed over the summer with the infrastructure being updated to accommodate the new equipment. Dr. Graham said basically, school opened up pretty soundly.

G. Oral: Homecoming

Homecoming will be held Saturday, September 19. The parade line-up will take place at 12 noon at the NGA. The parade begins at 12:30 p.m. Dr. Graham said the district will be recognizing Assemblyman Harry Bronson as part of homecoming. He plans to provide Assemblyman Bronson with a brief tour of the district work that was able to be accomplished due to money he secured for us. Board members are welcome to meet up with Dr. Graham around 11:45 a.m. for the high school portion of the tour. Following the parade, they will meet at 1:15 p.m. at the alumni tent for the 1:30 p.m. Hall-of-Fame introductions. All board members will be in attendance with the exception of Mrs. Smith. Mr. McCormick will try to attend.

H. Oral: New York State Comptroller's Audit

Dr. Graham reported that after seven years, the New York State Office of the Comptroller is in district for another audit. They are unable to inform us what they're looking for. Mr. Whitmore predicts they will do a risk assessment and then decide what they will audit. Mrs. McBride said the process will be different from the last time in that there will not be an exit interview with all members of the board in order to avoid violating the open meetings law. The exit interview will be with only the board president, Dr. Graham, and Mr. Whitmore. If any board member has a concern, Mrs. McBride asked that they let her, Dr. Graham, or Mr. Whitmore know and they will address it.

I. Oral: APPR Scores

Dr. Graham said that the state released the APPR scores in the last 24 hours and they need to be released to staff by end of this week. Dr. McCue said it was supposed to be by September 1, but the state had not given them to us yet. Dr. Graham talked about some forthcoming issues. Dr. McCue explained that each year the state releases the state growth score and principal APPR score so the district can calculate the 100-point composite score for each teacher. Dr. Graham said he's seen a decline in state growth scores this year. A system issue is that they do not make apparent the methodology to derive the score. This year the district will have a handful of teachers that will be rated as developing due to low growth scores at the elementary level. Dr. Graham said this information will be shared with Sheila Buck, president of the RHEA Teachers' Chapter. He said, overall, the rating of developing does not put the teacher's job in jeopardy. He provided explanations as to some of the questions board members may be asked and talked about the new APPR law. He said the district *can* do a 3020-a after two years of an unsatisfactory rating, but *must* do it after three years (dismissal). Dr. McCue told Dr. Graham that the district will not have to do anything detrimental to a teacher for at least three years. Dr. Graham said we have good people doing good work who will be confronted with this information next week.

12. OLD BUSINESS (Reference appendices #12A-C)

A. Board of Education Henrietta Post Columns

Mrs. Smith suggested adding a column about common core. Dr. Graham will work on this with Mr. Anderson, Office of Community Relations.

B. Board Goals and Objectives

Under Policy and Governance, add 7 – Review common core learning standards position paper.

C. Board Workshops

Under Policy Development, add Common Core Learning Standards Position Paper.

13. NEW BUSINESS (Reference appendices #13A-C)

A. NYSSBA Resolutions

Mrs. McBride explained the process and said Mrs. Wickerham will be the representative at the conference. Mrs. Wickerham asked for the resolutions worksheet to be returned by the September 22 meeting.

B. NSBA Conference Attendance - April

Mrs. McBride explained that there are typically three board members that attend. If driving, perhaps four. Mrs. Chaudari and Mrs. Wickerham are not planning to attend. Mrs. McBride explained the protocol for attending the conference – if you're not running again, then you cannot attend. Mrs. McBride asked board members to have an idea of who is planning to go by the next meeting.

C. Memorandum of Agreement Vote (Reference appendix #13C)

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF A
MOA DATED SEPTEMBER 8, 2015, WITH
THE ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION
OF RUSH-HENRIETTA
MOVED: Mrs. Chaudari
SECONDED: Mrs. Smith
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

D. Letter from MCSBA Executive Director

Dr. Graham explained that Sherry Johnson, the new executive director of the Monroe County School Boards Association, is looking to visit each of the Monroe County school boards in an effort to meet each member. There will be no presentation. Board members are ok with this.

14. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. GVSBI Social Media Workshop (August 6)

Mrs. Smith reported that GVSBI is looking to do some things for school board members. As a pilot, this workshop focused on social media (e.g. Pinterest, Twitter, and Facebook). Mrs. Smith said there was a demonstration using education links for parents and teachers. Mr. McCormick said it was very informative, but felt it was too short for what they were trying to do. Mrs. Smith said the workshop was similar to those at the state conference.

B. MCSBA Steering Committee (August 26)

Dr. Graham said this was basically an organizational meeting. Some of the things the committee talked about were MCSBA goals for the year, the use of a survey for development, and a thorough review of all position papers. He said there will be two surveys (everyone and just board members) instead of one. They talked about the Law Conference on September 24. The new commissioner was invited and has agreed to attend. If you sign up to attend, you've got to pay even if you don't show up. Mr. Cook, Mr. McCormick, and Mrs. Smith will attend.

15. CLOSING OF MEETING

A. Board Meeting Recap

- Dr. Graham will update the Vision statement with suggested changes.
- Revisit the common core position paper
- Homecoming parade – Saturday, Sept. 19 – Line up at 12 p.m. at the NGA. The high school tour will begin at 11:45 a.m. with Assemblyman Bronson.
- Decision as to NSBA Conference attendance needs to be made by the Sept. 22 meeting.
- The resolutions worksheet needs to be returned by the Sept. 22 board meeting.
- Response to Mr. Kirchbaum – Mrs. McBride said she could do this. Mrs. Smith thinks it's important to respond, especially regarding the tax portion of it (town, not district). Discussion ensued as to how to respond regarding the remaining comments made by Mr. Kirchbaum. Dr. Graham will check with the school principal regarding the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Channel 13 Common Core Forum – Anyone planning to attend? The regent is no longer coming.

B. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:17 P.M.

MOVED: Mr. McCormick

SECONDED: Mr. Cook

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

C. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk
Board Approved: September 22, 2015