



Tuesday, October 13, 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
Mr. Andrew Whitmore, Assistant Superintendent, School Finance and Operations
Ms. Dina Wilson, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction
Dr. Patrick McCue, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources and Strategic Initiatives

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, October 13, 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 6:35 p.m. Mr. Bower was not in attendance at the start of the meeting.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. The board entered into executive session to discuss contract negotiations with the Rush-Henrietta Employees' Association Facilities & Mechanics Chapter and to review the first quarter Employee Grievance Report

**MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:35 P.M.
TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RHEA
FACILITIES & MECHANICS CHAPTER AND TO REVIEW
THE FIRST QUARTER EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE REPORT
MOVED: Mrs. Chaudari**

**SECONDED: Mrs. Wickerham
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:15 P.M.

**MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham
SECONDED: Mrs. Smith
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

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 7:19 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions were done. Mrs. McBride mentioned that Mr. Bower was currently tied up at work, but was hoping to be in attendance. During agenda review, the following items were added under New Business: (13B) resolution to rescind the ratification of the Rush-Henrietta Employees' Association, Facilities and Mechanics Chapter collective bargaining agreement of June 30, 2015, (13C) resolution to ratify the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the RHEA, Facilities and Mechanics Chapter of October 13, 2015, and (13D) resolution regarding a Memorandum of Agreement with the RHEA Teachers' Chapter. There were no announcements.

5. BOARD MEMBER REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)

The student representatives were not in attendance.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

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

Numerous bus drivers were in attendance to support speaker Joseph Bello.

Mr. Joseph M. Bello – 25 Overview Circle, Rochester, NY 14623

Re: Bus Drivers, Speaking as an employee of the district

Mr. Bellow, a 12-year employee of the district and president of the RHEA, Coalition Unit, Bus Drivers Chapter, thanked the board for the opportunity to speak. He said the bus drivers and monitors work hard. Though their job can be rewarding and inspiring, it is often frustrating, dangerous, and always challenging. There is more and more responsibility besides the primary job of driving the bus. He stated that no matter what the contract status is, bus drivers take their commitment to students and parents very seriously. Their goal is to give the highest level of professionalism they can. Drivers care about students – their safety and general educational experience. And, at the same time, they are just as committed to achieving a fair, equitable contract for bus drivers and monitors. They have a clear goal this time, what they believe to be a fair contract, and are always ready and eager to negotiate. He said there is time for one more negotiation session before the holidays and these negotiations need to be based on fairness and respect. Mr. Bello said his goal tonight was to say a few words to let the board know where the chapter stood and how they felt. He thanked board members for their time.

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

- A. Action pertaining to acceptance of the August treasurer's report
- B. Action pertaining to payment of a refund of taxes in the town of Henrietta due to an Order and Judgment with Stipulation of Settlement, which resulted in an assessment reduction for 300 Roswall Lane, Rush, NY, for tax years 2009-16, on tax account number 200.04-1-2
- C. Action pertaining to approval of the Shared Decision Making (SDM) Committee community representatives
- D. Action pertaining to approval of the revised list of CSE/CPSE members for the 2015-16 school year
- E. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – Office Max
- F. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Indoor Track & Field Meet, Staten Island, NY (December 19-21, 2015)

- G. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Girls Basketball – Hoops for Hospital, Syracuse, NY (December 28-29, 2015)
- H. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Girls Softball – Spring Games, Orlando, FL (March 24-30, 2016)
- I. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- J. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 9/22/15

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

8. PERSONNEL ACTIONS (Reference appendix #8A)

- A. Action pertaining to approval of personnel actions

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL
OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS
MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham
SECONDED: Mr. Cook
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

9. BOARDDOCS PRO (Reference appendix #9A)

A. BoardDocs LT and Pro Features

Mrs. Smith believes the board should make the move to BoardDocs Pro if the district can afford it. Dr. Graham explained that there will be a \$1-\$1.5 million gap between the tax cap and revenue growth, which may require some reductions, but we will not know until January/February. He also said the board needs to consider how they will be able to sustain the cost increase of BoardDocs Pro. Dr. Graham asked board members if they could wait to do the upgrade until they have a better read on the budget, which will hopefully be by the end of January. He said the governor’s budget should give us a pretty good idea of what the budget will be for the next couple of years. Mr. Cook suggested waiting to make the upgrade until the budget is better defined.

B. Action pertaining to approval of an upgrade to BoardDocs Pro

**MOTION TO TABLE ACTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL
OF AN UPGRADE TO BOARDDOCS PRO UNTIL
FEBRUARY 2016 PENDING FINANCES
MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham
SECONDED: Mr. Cook
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

10. WORKSHOP: KINDERGARTEN TRANSPORTATION (Reference appendix #10A)

A. Kindergarten Transportation

Shirley Smith-Gravanda, transportation director, and Mary Bloss, head bus driver, were in attendance. Dr. Graham provided background information that led to this workshop, which stemmed from a parent complaint about kindergarten transportation to the news media. Dr. Graham provided some parameters and asked Ms. Smith-Gravanda to investigate. After investigation, Ms. Smith-Gravanda said approximately 80 students who would be affected. Dr. Graham suggested a different walk/ride distance for K-3 students during the reconfiguration, which would take the 80 affected students down to just a few. This, however, would not include students living in cul-de-sacs and apartment complexes where buses cannot navigate safely. Dr. Graham said this also provided an opportunity for the district to look at its current transportation policy. The downside is that the bus will be stopping more frequently, which also could cause safety issues. Discussion ensued. Dr. Graham suggested a pilot on a case-by-case basis with a report to follow at a future board meeting.

MOTION THAT CIRCUMSTANCES AS PRESENTED JUSTIFY A TEMPORARY AMENDMENT TO POLICY ON A PILOT BASIS FOR K-5 STUDENTS
MOVED: Mr. Cook
SECONDED: Mr. McCormick
MOTION CARRIED: 5-1
NAY: Mrs. Chaudari

MOTION TO TEMPORARILY AMEND THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY FOR K-5 STUDENTS FROM .2 TO .1 MILE ON A PILOT BASIS IN RESPONSE TO THE DEMAND FOR THE 2015-16 YEAR
MOVED: Mr. Cook
SECONDED: Mr. McCormick
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

- 11. WORKSHOP: DISTRICT PRIORITIES – ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT** (Reference appendices #11A-C)
- A. District Priorities – Academic Achievement Plan of Work**
 - B. ISTE Standards**
 - C. ICT Scope and Sequence**

Dr. Graham stated that this was the first of five plans of work this year. He said there are three areas of student learning the district wants to see get stronger – English Language Arts, math, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Ms. Dina Wilson, assistant superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, introduced her staff members who were in attendance – Jeanette Cannioto, Literacy/ELA director; Jody Hoch, math director; and Brad Malone, Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA). She set the stage as to the theme for this year – align and upgrade, maximize, improve, and synthesize. She talked about academic program pillars – curriculum, instruction, assessment, intervention – and the addition of progress monitoring and said her staff would be highlighting items that were significant or new this year in ELA, math, and ICT.

Mr. Malone spoke about Information and Communication Technology. He said this is something students will use for the rest of their lives. He also talked about six standards for students – (1) creativity and innovation, (2) communication and collaboration, (3) research and information fluency, (4) critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making, (5) digital citizenship, and (6) technology operations and concepts. Scope and sequence was devised as a tool - most essential skills students need to teach these standards.

Ms. Cannioto spoke about the instruction piece. She said there was one significant component – the Wilson Foundations reading program, a way to address reading at the K-1 level. She also talked about how things are working at the primary and then secondary levels.

Ms. Hoch, stated that the correct use of vocabulary was very important in math. She provided an example of a game staff played to learn from. She said working on vocabulary development is not just at the kindergarten level, but all the way through. She talked about the things taking place in math to help students with their memory and in checking their answers.

Mr. Bower arrived at 8:31 p.m.

Ms. Hoch also talked about progress monitoring – learning assessments/benchmarks/skills the district is looking for our students to do. She said assessment is part of student instruction and the district will be focusing on students taking ownership. She talked about tools being used that will record data in a

number of ways, one tool to make sure teachers and students have accurate data and in a reasonable timeframe. Ms. Cannioto talked about a math assessment the district is continuing to use where reports can be run to see trend data of student strengths and needs. Ms. Hoch and Ms. Cannioto explained some of the new academic intervention strategies.

Ms. Wilson will work with the building principals so board members are able to see the work being done when they do their visits to the schools.

12. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (Reference appendix #12A)

A. Written: Event Supervision Report

There were no questions or comments.

B. Oral Information

- Dr. Graham provided an update on the district’s mission and vision, which is being reviewed as part of the school reconfiguration. He talked about how the feedback will be processed/used and the hot buttons that will pop up.
- The roll out plan for the childcare wrap around program is still being worked on.
- Comptroller’s Audit – Mr. Whitmore said the risk assessment is complete and provided a brief overview. He talked about items of focus and what areas we may receive comments on.
- APPR – Districts are submitting requests for delays/waivers. Dr. McCue is starting to sit down with RHEA to review the existing plan. There’s been good meetings/dialog. A lot of time in negotiations was spent on learning about new revisions to the law. Dr. McCue talked about the major changes. He said every district in Monroe County is applying for a hardship waiver. Rush-Henrietta is in the process now. Still a lot of unknowns. Negotiations are slow, but going well.
- Dr. Graham talked about vendor invitations received for the NYSSBA Conference.

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

A. Communications Outreach Advisory Council (COAC) Letter

Dr. Graham provided a brief overview. Discussion ensued. Board members agreed not to participate. Dr. Graham will explain at the next communications meeting the board’s reason for not taking action.

B. Resolution to Rescind the Ratification of the Rush-Henrietta Employees’ Association, Facilities and Mechanics Chapter Collective Bargaining Agreement of June 30, 2015

**MOTION TO RESCIND THE ACTION OF THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION TO RATIFY AND APPROVE A PROPOSED
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE
RHEA, FACILITIES AND MECHANICS CHAPTER**

TAKEN ON JUNE 30, 2015

MOVED: Mrs. Chaudari

SECONDED: Mrs. Smith

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

C. Resolution to Ratify the Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement with the RHEA, Facilities and Mechanics Chapter of October 13, 2015

**MOTON TO RATIFY AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH
THE RHEA, FACILITIES AND MECHANICS
CHAPTER OF OCTOBER 13, 2015**

MOVED: Mrs. Smith

SECONDED: Mrs. Wickerham

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

D. Resolution Regarding a Memorandum of Agreement with the RHEA Teachers’ Chapter

**MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION REGARDING
A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE
RHEA TEACHERS' CHAPTER
MOVED: Mr. Cook
SECONDED: Mr. McCormick
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

14. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. District Wellness Committee (Sept. 16)

Mr. Bower said this was an interesting committee, mainly made up of school nurse teachers. The committee is trying to put together a practice/policy regarding birthday treats in the classroom, including suggestions. The group also is trying to stimulate district employees to get more involved in the Chase Corporate Challenge. Mr. Bower encouraged board members to participate.

B. MCSBA/MCBA School Law Conference (Sept. 24)

Mr. Cook said it was a great conference. The education commissioner spoke. She was very dynamic and did a great job. She spoke about APPR and the common core. She is trying to bridge some of the gaps and get some solutions. Mr. Cook said she seemed very committed to doing this. Mrs. Smith said the new commissioner seemed to really hear what the audience was saying and asking and responded in a way that seemed to value their comments. Mr. McCormick said she talked about moving forward from where we currently are with the opt out. He was impressed with how she spent her time – spoke for 15 minutes and answered questions for the remainder of her time.

C. Multicultural Parent Advisory Council (MPAC) (Sept. 28)

Mrs. McBride said this was an interesting group. Tim Shafer, director of Academic Services, was there to help with keys to success and how to ask questions to dig more deeply into engaging with their children. They talked about the parent portal. Leadership is developing. The group is being more structured about their meetings and agendas. They are looking at possibly having speakers for their meetings. Ms. Anselme said the council is looking for ways to get more people involved. Mrs. McBride will try to help with their thought process.

D. MCSBA Labor Relations Committee (Sept. 30)

Mr. Bower said this meeting was about civil service and probably one of the best. Mike Leone, assistant superintendent of Human Resources at Pittsford Central School District, spoke. He discussed the history of civil service. There are a lot of do's and don'ts. It was a very good meeting.

E. MCSBA Board Presidents meeting (Sept. 30)

Mrs. McBride said Sherry Johnson, the new executive director, and her assistant, Beckie Schultz, started the meeting. Margaret Burns, West Irondequoit, announced that she will only serve one year as board president as she will be retiring. The group talked about the new education commissioner. There was no agenda, just a lot of miscellaneous topics. This year's group consists of a lot of new people who are getting adjusted to the style of the meeting.

F. District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) (Oct. 1)

Mrs. Wickerham apologized for missing the meeting. Dr. Graham said there was a meet and greet with the new district administrators. He said attendance was off as a fairly large number of DPAC representatives were attending the NGA open house this year (a calendar glitch). The group dealt with follow-up items from September. The bulk of the meeting was about guiding parents and the district mission/vision.

G. MCSBA Legislative Committee (Oct. 7)

Mr. Cook started by reporting briefly on the School Law Conference. He found the legal part in the morning to be pretty interesting, as well as the discussion about superintendent searches, especially as a new board member. There were a lot of questions about failed searches.

The Legislative Committee meeting consisted of a lot of discussion about APPR and different interpretations about things the education commissioner did/did not say and how the group should approach some of it. He forwarded the minutes. The committee also talked about position papers and what the MCSBA's take should be about APPR. Appointments are scheduled with the state legislators. There was discussion about the annual lobbying trip to Albany (Dec. 7).

District Safety Meeting

Mrs. Wickerham said Michael Paladino, district safety coordinator, manages meetings very well. Some of the discussions included EMS having trouble getting a gurney to the pool area, onsite interpreting for district staff members to use in order to communicate with parents, Addiction Awareness Night (Nov. 4), and parking/crossing problems at Leary Elementary School.

15. CLOSING OF MEETING

A. Board Meeting Recap

- Tabled BoardDocs Pro decision until February when the budget is clearer
- Plan set for activities while at the NYSSBA conference
- Kindergarten transportation pilot – report back in the spring
- Albany lobby day – December 7

B. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:46 P.M.

MOVED: Mr. Bower

SECONDED: Mr. McCormick

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

C. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 27, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk
Board Approved: November 10, 2015