



Tuesday, November 10, 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, November 10, 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 6:13 p.m.

3. ANTICIPATED EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Anticipated executive session to discuss a district administrative personnel matter

**MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:13 P.M. TO
DISCUSS A DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL MATTER**

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

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

MOVED: Mrs. Smith

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 7:09 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions were done. There were no changes to the agenda and 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

One person signed up to speak. There were many others in attendance to support her.

Karen Arthmann, 4 Lightfoot Street, Rochester, NY 14623

Speaking as an employee of the district (paraprofessional) regarding the coalition contract.

Ms. Arthmann introduced herself. She said she's been a youth assistant at the high school for 30 years, a resident of the district for 38 years, has two daughters that went to school at R-H, and currently has six grandchildren in the district. Tonight, she is representing the paraprofessionals, as well as the entire coalition. She explained that collectively, the coalition represents hundreds of years in service to this district and each one has chosen to do it willingly. They would also choose to have a fair contract and she knows it's obtainable. Ms. Arthmann stated that many of the coalition members and their families live in the R-H school district, help to pass school budgets, and put the money they earn back into the district. She said members were supportive when the economy was bad and took lower wages, but they cannot afford exorbitant increases in health care costs. She said she knows we have a fiscally responsible district, but said the coalition needs support and understanding in recognizing the support coalition members provide to the district. She thanked board members for their work as she knows it's done on a volunteer basis, but said this is our careers and livelihood.

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

- A. Report of bills audited and paid during September 2015
- B. Action pertaining to acceptance of the September treasurer's report
- C. Action pertaining to the award of bids – Cooperative electricity supply, Xerographic paper, Athletic supplies
- D. Action pertaining to acceptance of change order #EC-004 – Kyle R. Lawrence Electric – CIP 2014 - \$1,514
- E. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – Dee Strickland Scholarship Fund
- F. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Dartmouth Relays, Hanover, NH (January 8-10, 2016)
- G. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- H. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 10/13/15
- I. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 10/27/15

**MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE
OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #7A-I**

**MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham
SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari
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. Wickerham

SECONDED: Mr. Bower

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

9. WORKSHOP: BUDGET DEVELOPMENT (Reference appendix #9A)

A. Budget Development Overview (2016-17)

Dr. Graham said the goal is to recommend a budget that is educationally sound and fiscally responsible. He talked about educationally sound meaning to continue current programs and services, and to advance school improvement priorities. Fiscally responsible would mean a reasonable budget-to-budget increase (reasonable relative to enrollment changes, inflation, state and federal mandates, and the state of the economy) and a property tax levy increase that does not exceed the state's property tax levy cap. Dr. Graham stated that there will be a systemic gap of \$1.2 million this year that will need to be closed. He said job growth is positive and inflation is near zero, but the political climate is still problematic for the district. He talked about budget development considerations and the indicators of success. His hope is to have the budget pass by more than the required 50 percent. He would prefer to see it pass by more than 60 percent voter approval.

10. WORKSHOP: HEALTH INSURANCE TRENDS (Reference appendix #10A)

A. Health Insurance Cost Presentation

Mr. Whitmore, assistant superintendent, School Finance and Operations, and Dr. McCue, assistant superintendent, Human Resources and Strategic Initiatives, presented the workshop. Mr. Whitmore explained that the document stemmed from an inquiry from News10NBC. While talking about budget component growth he said a lot of the cost increase is inflation and employee benefits. He also said the one thing that has not stabilized is health insurance, which is not just a district problem. He said the numbers noted are just estimates. Mr. Whitmore spoke about the estimated 2016-17 budget gap and reviewed the health insurance cost trends. He said being a member of the Rochester Area Schools Health Plan (RASHP) has been worthwhile. RASHP will become self-insured by the first of 2016 (if approved by the state), which will make it exempt from Affordable Care Act taxes.

Dr. McCue talked about the Percent of Excellus BluePoint2 Value Plan Paid chart and what the district can do to try to mitigate some of these costs. He said being part of RASHP has helped, yet the district is still facing pretty significant increases. He stated that Rush-Henrietta has a pretty significant history of providing generous benefits. He talked about the development of a high deductible plan and said it's not for everyone, but a nice option for some employees. He said it was advantageous to the district to get people off the Select plan and onto the Value plan and that other districts also are negotiating the higher deductible plans.

11. WORKSHOP: DISTRICT PRIORITIES – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (Reference appendix #11A)

A. District Priorities – Resource Management Plan of Work

Dr. Graham said this is the third of five district priorities workshops, focusing on two priorities in the area of resource management, (1) information management system upgrade (SchoolTool) and (2) implementation of the school reconfiguration project for full-day kindergarten and enrollment management. Karen Milburn, Information Technology Services director, spoke about SchoolTool. She provided an update on what's been done, the highlights of things that have gone well, and some of the challenges. She said there's been quite a bit of training taking place, which started in February, and is still continuing. She also said that a SchoolTool support website has been developed. The next big project will be implementing the district's in-house transcript system into SchoolTool. Ms. Milburn said the response has been very positive, in spite of some issues with the elementary report card component. She said we are continuing to work with the vendor to make improvements.

Ken Nelson, Facilities director, and David Kaye, district architect, spoke about the implementation of the school reconfiguration project for full-day kindergarten and enrollment management. Mr. Kaye

reviewed the full-day kindergarten milestone schedule timeline. He said SED has increased the queue from seven to 10 months and the bottleneck is the engineering review. He's waiting to see how fast SED can implement procedures to reduce the backlog. He spoke of some possibilities and said he would monitor SED's progress. He stated that the district wants to spend its money wisely without adding costs. There will be serious issues if SED does not resolve this, but we have until March before it becomes a real problem. Mr. Kaye also provided a renovation update regarding Good Shepherd. Dr. Graham shared some of the office changes and provided highlights on some other areas of the reconfiguration.

Dr. Graham stated that the mission/vision reviews are done and the school schedule reviews would take place in December. He has been contacted by various parent groups asking for his help in regard to the equitable transfer of money from one parent group to another and the division of playground equipment. Ms. Anselme is working on wrap around childcare and is hoping to have something to Dr. Graham for review in December. Dr. Graham said all elements are moving along fine.

12. WORKSHOP: VIDEO STREAMING (Reference appendix #12A)

A. Video Streaming Report

Travis Anderson, senior information specialist, was in attendance and summarized the report provided to the board. He said there are basically two options and not a lot in between. He explained. He said it all comes down to a cost analysis and if there's a demand for it. Dr. Graham asked if the benefits of video streaming justify the costs and, if so, at what level. Also, how will it get funded? Discussion ensued. Mrs. Smith believes we should do some work with our community members to see if there's interest. Mrs. McBride heard that some boards currently using video streaming are starting to question its worth and how they will continue to fund it. Board members tabled a decision to a later time to see how the budget goes and what the level of community support might be.

13. DISTRICT POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND EXHIBITS (FIRST READ) (Reference appendix #13A)

A. 0102-R, 0150, 0150-R, 0150-E.1, 0160, 0330, 0340, 1120, 1120-R, 1120-E.1, 1120-E.2, 1230, 1420, 1420-R

Mrs. Smith noted that the following policies had been slated for Policy Committee from the September 22, 2015, district policy quarterly review, but that no changes were made to them: 0102, 0150-E.2, 0150-E.3, 0160-R, 0160-E.1, 0160-E.2, and 0160-E.3. Also, there were no changes to 1120 so there is no need for it to come back for a second read. Additional changes will be made to: 0102-R, 0150-R, 0150-E.1, 0330, 0340, 1120-R, and 1230.

14. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Reference appendix #14A)

A. Written: Referendum Change Orders

Dr. Graham stated that this information was requested by the board. There were no questions.

15. NEW BUSINESS (Reference appendix #15A)

A. Claims Auditor Quarterly Report

There were no questions.

16. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. MCSBA Steering Committee (Oct. 28)

Dr. Graham said the committee reviewed MCSBA survey responses, looked into video streaming, will shift some of its meetings to 4 p.m. in an attempt to accommodate more people's schedules, and approved a position paper.

B. MCSBA Legislative Committee (Nov. 4)

Mr. Cook said he forwarded the minutes to board members along with a copy of the flyer regarding the Dec. 7 lobbying trip. He asked board members to contact MCSBA if they are interested in attending. The plan is to meet with SED and key legislative people. The list is not fully developed yet. The fall appointments with legislators have begun. Mr. Cook had a good conversation with

representatives from Assemblyman Bronson's office. He said the federal role position paper was approved and gone onto the executive committee. The APPR paper was sent back to committee. He also reported that the March lobbying trip was changed to February 28 and 29 in the hopes of having more of an impact on the budget process. Dr. Graham plans to attend.

C. MCSBA Board Presidents Meeting (Nov. 4)

Mrs. McBride reported that there was a lot of conversation on superintendent searches and how certain groups have facilitated that. There also was a lot of conversation about boards having new members and the orientation process. Mrs. McBride said there are a lot of new board presidents this year and she feels that some are struggling as to what their role is. Per an e-mail request from Mark Kokanovich (Brighton), she will forward him Rush-Henrietta's board handbook. She said all boards of education expect to see changes on their boards in the next few years.

D. DPAC (Nov. 5)

Mrs. Wickerham reported that there was a lot of talk about the mission/vision statement. She said Dr. Graham had asked parents to review it and bring back thoughts/suggestions. She said that the Multicultural Parent Advisory Council (MPAC) was going to have a presentation regarding the urban/suburban program at its next meeting. Dr. McCue will be in attendance. There will be a parent survey coming out in late February/early March. Discussion also took place regarding the parent education initiative around common core. Dr. Graham shared outlines of the two letters he is preparing with Ms. Wilson.

- Mrs. McBride stated that Sherry Johnson, MCSBA executive director, requested a few minutes to speak at one of our board meetings. She will be on the January 12 agenda.
- Mrs. Smith attended the opening of the Faculty Art Show and encouraged everyone to visit it to see the really talented work of district faculty and staff. "Great stuff."
- Mrs. Wickerham attended Addiction Awareness Night. She was disappointed in the turnout, but impressed with the panel of speakers, especially with the fact that Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley was in attendance the night after the election. Mrs. Wickerham said the different viewpoints from the speakers were very good. There were not a lot of questions, but Mrs. Wickerham believes people were trying to absorb the information. She said it was a good night and she hopes the event continues on a regular basis.

17. CLOSING OF MEETING

A. Board Meeting Recap

- Dec. 7 – MCSBA lobbying trip. RSVP to Mary Talbot (MCSBA) or Mrs. Flanigan.
- March lobbying trip has been changed to February 28 and 29.
- Policies, Regulations, and Exhibits will be brought back for a second read at the next meeting.
- A decision regarding video streaming board meetings was tabled to a later date.
- Sherry Johnson, MCSBA, will be at the January 12 board meeting to speak for a few minutes.

B. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:03 P.M.

MOVED: Mr. Bower

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, November 17, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan

School District Clerk

Board Approved: November 17, 2015