



**Tuesday, December 10, 2013
Regular 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.

Others Present:

Dr. J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Superintendent of Schools

Mr. George DesMarteau, School Attorney

Mrs. Nerlande Anselme, Assistant Superintendent, Student and Family Services

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

Diane E. McBride, president; Pamela J. Reinhardt, vice president; Robert C. Bower;

Jean M. Chaudari; Rosie B. Mitchell; Sue A. Smith; and Phyllis P. Wickerham

Superintendent of Schools – J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Ph.D.

School District Clerk – Karen A. Flanigan

B. Meeting Information

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District was held Tuesday, December 10, 2013, in the Dee Strickland Conference Room at the Ninth Grade Academy, 2000 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta, NY 14467.

2. ANTICIPATED EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Call to Order

Mrs. McBride called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

B. Anticipated Executive Session to Discuss Stakeholder Feedback Regarding Candidates for the Position of Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Strategic Initiatives

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:32 P.M.
TO DISCUSS STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK REGARDING
CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

MOVED: Mrs. Mitchell

SECONDED: Mr. Bower

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:06 P.M.

MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham

SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

3. OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

The meeting resumed at 7:09 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Introductions were not necessary as there was no one in the audience. There was an addition to the personnel actions and Mrs. McBride wished everyone happy holidays.

4. BOARD MEMBER REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)

Student representative Natalia Harris was not in attendance. Student representative Michael Slattery reported on the first official Student Council meeting, held Dec. 4, and on a couple of upcoming sporting events. During the Student Council meeting, WiFi being blocked on Twitter was discussed. Mr. Slattery provided some comments as to the pros and cons of this. The end result was the denial of a vote to pursue this. The second item that came up for discussion was the opening of the courtyard doors so students could eat lunch in the courtyard. Pros and cons were discussed and it was decided to pursue this topic. Dr. Graham explained that he'd been in contact with Principal Patton regarding the opening of the courtyard doors and would leave the decision up to Mrs. Patton. He believes school security may be a problem.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

A. Audience Members May Address the Board of Education

There was no one in the audience.

6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR ROUTINE MATTERS

- A. Report of bills audited and paid during November 2013
- B. Action pertaining to acceptance of the October treasurer's report and November budget transfers
- C. Action pertaining to the award of bids – Cooperative school lunch paper supply, Equipment sale, Electric supplies, Floor tile
- 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 2013-14
- E. Action pertaining to acceptance of the 2013-14 Tax Collection Report
- F. Action pertaining to approval to enter into final negotiations regarding leasing of the existing radio tower and a proposed utility building for use as a cell tower
- G. Action pertaining to acceptance of change orders: #GC-010, #GC-011, #GC-012, #GC-013, and #GC-014 – Allied Builders, Inc. – CIP 2011 Phase 3
- H. Action pertaining to acceptance of the report on Phase III Sperry High School contractor and change orders
- I. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Varsity wrestling
- J. Action pertaining to approval of an international field trip – Quebec
- K. Action pertaining to acceptance of the proposed licensing agreement with Pel Industries, Inc. for the right to produce and sell apparel with the Rush-Henrietta logo
- L. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- M. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 11/19/13
- N. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Nike Cross Country Nationals
- O. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Foot Locker Cross Country Nationals

MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #6A-O

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

Mrs. McBride stated that there were a couple of questions that had been e-mailed to the superintendent. Dr. Graham and Mr. Whitmore provided answers. Mrs. Smith asked for context as to where the cell tower would be located. Dr. Graham provided an explanation.

7. PERSONNEL ACTIONS

A. Action pertaining to approval of Personnel Actions

MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS

MOVED: Mr. Bower

SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

8. WORKSHOPS

A. District Priorities – School Management

Dr. Graham said this workshop was the last in a series of five and explained what is being done to accomplish school improvement goals deemed by the board as district priorities. He provided an updated handout, which also will be posted to BoardDocs, and said he worked with Dina Wilson, assistant superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, to make the document clearer and more precise. He reviewed the document with the board. Dr. Graham stated that professional development and staff supervision are two human resource management practices that will be priorities for the coming year and explained how they are being addressed. He said he doesn't want teacher observations to be a task, but a process, which will make school administrators more knowledgeable about what's taking place in classrooms. Michael Slattery, the district's student representative to the board, commented that he's able to see the benefits of the observations. He believes teachers are seeing it as more of an opportunity to be a better teacher. Discussion ensued. Dr. Graham feels that the work being done will take three to five years and will make a huge difference in the district.

Mrs. Wilson provided an explanation of the five items under Culturally Responsive Education and reviewed the Organizational Development chart (an added handout) with the board. She stated that one of the most intensive professional development opportunities for teachers is embedded coaching and mentoring and that if the right energy is put into being crystal clear as to expectations in the classroom, the follow-up is powerful.

Mrs. Anselme talked about a culturally responsive education. She said the poverty issue is being worked on – some buildings are still in the awareness phase and some have moved beyond. She said at the end of the day, we need to make sure all students are engaged in learning and headed to achievement. It's important to bring awareness to the forefront.

Dr. Graham stated that there is a lot of detail provided in this report, which usually is not provided, but he wanted everyone to see the work going on behind the scenes. January's mid-year report is where you'll see the impact statement start to fill in.

B. Interventions for Students Refusing to Complete State Exams

Dr. Graham provided some background information saying there is no "opt-out" provision for these exams. Over summer reflection, conversation took place as to what would be a reasonable way to move forward. Mrs. Nerlande reviewed the document. She said we want to provide principals with some guidelines as she truly believes there is power in communication and reaching out. Dr. Graham said no vote was necessary as the document is an administrative guideline. There were no concerns regarding moving forward with the document.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Oral: Program & Service Review Follow-up

Dr. Graham had four follow-up items. He took care of three of them and Mr. Anderson, senior information specialist, is taking care of one of them. The Office of Instruction will have a principals meeting on Dec. 18, where Dr. Graham will check with the principals regarding the supply line decrease and their ability to work with this decrease.

B. Oral: Pending COMIDA Hearing

Discussion ensued regarding a Marketplace Project COMIDA Proposal. Dr. Graham said he was mainly looking for guidance before attending the upcoming hearing. Mr. Whitmore shared his concerns. It was decided that a response letter would be drafted, sent to COMIDA, and shared with any inquiring media after receipt by COMIDA.

Mrs. Wilson departed at 8:48 p.m. due to illness.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Presentation at January DPAC Meeting

Mrs. Chaudari said she's mainly looking at what board members are planning to attend the meeting. Mrs. McBride, Mrs. Chaudari, and Mrs. Wickerham will attend. Mrs. Mitchell will consider it.

11. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. MCSBA Labor Relations Committee (Nov. 20)

Mr. Bower said the meeting was interesting. He forwarded the minutes and the presentation to board members. Kevin Casey, Executive Director of School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS) and Tom Gillett, Regional Staff Director of New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), spoke about NYSUT material. Mr. Whitmore thought Mr. Casey did a good job. He said both gentlemen talked about their advocacy roles. Mr. Gillett also spoke about the history of where unions came from and why to join/not join. It was already known material, but a good recap.

B. Space Committee (Dec. 2)

Mrs. Reinhardt said the report will be presented to the board in January. She said the district is ok for a year or so, but if it stays on the track it is now, it will have to look at Leary. A couple of recommendations are in the report. Mrs. Wickerham inquired about the new housing on Clay/Brighton-Henrietta TL roads. She wants to make sure it will not impact the district. Mrs. McBride believes it is senior living. Dr. Graham will check with the town. This new housing is not included on the space plan.

C. MCSBA Legislative Committee (Dec. 4)

Mrs. Reinhardt reported that the meeting was used to prepare for the Dec. 9 Albany Advocacy trip. She provided an overview of the trip saying there were a lot of meetings with no gaps and that it was a very good day, time well spent. Some of the highlights included:

- No definite news regarding the budget.
- Everyone is waiting for the Education Committee report. No one knows when it is coming out. Expect the district's aid to be 3.1 to 3.4 percent including the Efficiencies Grants, which will have to be pulled out.
- A meeting with Deborah Nusbaum, aide to Catherine Nolan, chair of the Assembly Education Committee, who was very smart/intelligent. She said the elections are going to drive the budget process.
- There is a push to eliminate K-2 testing.
- Legislation will be introduced regarding mental health issues. Mrs. Reinhardt said we will have to look at social services as they affect students as well. Ms. Nusbaum recognizes that resources have not been provided in order to do it right.
- An interesting take on mandate relief provided by Deborah Nusbaum.
- A lot of conversations on tax credits. Mrs. Reinhardt explained.
- A huge amount of support for property tax credits downstate, which is going to cost the state a lot of money. Mrs. Reinhardt said this is huge and explained.

Mrs. Reinhardt will not be able to attend the March lobby trip and asked for the other board members to keep it in mind. She reminded everyone that it is an overnight trip and these meetings focus on the people who get the work done.

D. MCSBA Executive Committee (Dec. 4)

Mrs. McBride and Dr. Graham did not attend.

E. MCSBA Albany Advocacy Trip (Dec. 9)

Refer to the report provided under #11C.

12. CLOSING OF MEETING

A. Board Meeting Recap

- DPAC meeting – Jan. 9 – Mrs. McBride, Mrs. Chaudari, and Mrs. Wickerham will attend. Mrs. Mitchell will consider it.
- Dr. Graham will check with the town regarding the new housing on Clay/Brighton-Henrietta TL roads.
- Mrs. Reinhardt is looking for a board member(s) to attend the MCSBA Albany Advocacy trip March 17-18 as she is unable to go.
- Mrs. Smith made a comment as a sidebar on unexcused absences. She said Principal Jenn Tomalty had a really great December letter to parents regarding this.
- There is a board school visit Monday, Dec. 16, at Winslow.

B. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:15 P.M.

MOVED: Mrs. Mitchell

SECONDED: Mr. Bower

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

C. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk
Board Approved: January 14, 2014