



**Tuesday, January 28, 2014
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. Patrick McCue, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources and Strategic Initiatives
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, January 28, 2014, 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 6:35 p.m.

B. Anticipated Executive Session to Discuss the Superintendent's Mid-year Review and the Second Quarter Employee Grievances Report

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:35 P.M.
TO DISCUSS THE SUPERINTENDENT'S MID-YEAR
REVIEW AND THE SECOND QUARTER
EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCES REPORT**

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

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:48 P.M.

**MOVED: Mrs. Mitchell
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 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions were done. Mrs. McBride welcomed Mr. McCue to his first board meeting. During agenda review, Mrs. Smith asked to have the Budget Advisory Council report (#12C) deleted from the agenda as there was no meeting held. Mrs. McBride presented Mrs. Mitchell with a School Board U Board Achievement Award certificate for participation in New York State School Boards Association leadership development training totaling 75 points.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

A. Audience Members May Address the Board of Education

There was no one in the audience wishing to speak.

5. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR ROUTINE MATTERS (Reference appendices #5A-L)

- A. Action pertaining to a school calendar change for the Senior High School
- B. Action pertaining to the award of bids – Cooperative Chassis Parts
- C. Action pertaining to acceptance of a change order - #HVAC-004 – Bell Mechanical Contractors, Inc. – CIP 2011 Phase 3 - \$1,234
- D. Action pertaining to acceptance of change orders - #GC-0015 (\$6,409), #GC-0016 (\$6,072), #GC-0017 (\$10,151), #GC-0018 (\$7,150), and #GC-0019 (\$9,044) – Allied Builders, Inc. – CIP 2011 Phase 3
- E. Action pertaining to an increase in daycare fees effective June 23, 2014
- F. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – William A. Korn Memorial Scholarship Fund
- G. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – Wegmans
- H. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – Exxon Mobil Corporation
- I. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Bel Canto Singers
- J. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- K. Action pertaining to acceptance of Finance & Audit Committee meeting minutes – 1/10/14
- L. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 1/14/14

MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #5A-L

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

6. PERSONNEL ACTIONS (Reference appendix #6A)

- A. Action pertaining to approval of Personnel Actions

MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS

MOVED: Mrs. Chaudari
SECONDED: Mrs. Smith
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

7. DISTRICT POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND EXHIBITS – INSTRUCTION (FIRST READ) (Reference appendices #7A-G)

- A. 4710 – Grading Systems
- B. 4710-R.1 – Middle School and High School Grading
- C. 4750 – Promotion and Retention of Students
- D. 4750-R – Promotion and Retention of Students Regulation
- E. 4760 – Make-up Opportunities
- F. 4770 – Graduation Requirements, Awarding of Diplomas and Credentials, and Participation in Graduation Ceremony

G. 4771 – Early Graduation

A change will be made to Policy 4760 (#7E) – invert the words “missed” and “assignments” in the first line of text. All policies will be brought back to the next meeting as a second read.

8. DISTRICT POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND EXHIBITS – DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT (FIRST READ) (Reference appendices #8A-D)

- A. 0100 – Equal Opportunity
- B. 5303 – Intimidation, Harassment, and Bullying Prevention
- C. 5303-R – Intimidation, Harassment, and Bullying Prevention
- D. 5312 – Prohibited Student Conduct

A change will be made to Policy 5312 (#8D) – second set of bullets, the bullet beginning with “truant.” Mrs. Anselme will review this and make the necessary changes. All policies will be brought back to the next meeting as a second read.

9. WORKSHOPS

A. Budget Development (Reference appendix #9A)

Dr. Graham reported on the status of the budget development process. He shared modifications to revenue projections using the governor’s proposed budget. Mr. Whitmore added a few comments regarding the governor’s budget and how it will affect the district’s budget.

B. Veterans Tax Exemption (Reference appendix #9B)

Dr. Graham and Mr. Whitmore explained recent state legislation that allows boards of education to grant property tax exemptions to veterans. He said no action needs to be taken tonight, but he would ask for the board’s guidance on how to proceed following a discussion of the alternative actions that can be taken by the board and some of the pros and cons of these actions. Although official notification has not been received by the district, Dr. Graham shared some of the guidelines provided by NYSSBA, including the fact that a public hearing must be held. There were comments from three members of the audience.

Mr. Ray McCormick, 6 Gate House Trail, Henrietta, NY

Mr. McCormick asked a question of Mr. Whitmore regarding possibly getting information from the towns, not the county. Mr. Whitmore explained that he did receive a detailed listing, but not one that is useable, which is what he used for tonight’s estimates. The county provided a one-line answer for the total value for the district. The towns were able to provide a full listing (report only), but the material cannot be exported into a useable database.

Bill Gaffney, 24 Farmcrest Drive, Rush, NY

Mr. Gaffney said he was representing members of the Stevens Connor Post and that he finds both the town and county to have excellent records/exact numbers. Mr. Whitmore explained that the information is there, but he needs time to decipher it. Dr. Graham said the district has a pretty good guesstimate of numbers, but until it has been officially notified, no action can be taken. Mr. Whitmore also explained a difficulty with the veterans’ exemption taking precedence over the STAR exemption. Mr. Gaffney agreed with Mr. Whitmore that there’s work to be done and suggested they meet with the town assessors together. Dr. Graham reiterated the need for official notification before it can proceed and that tonight was for briefing the board only. He did say that it was something the district would like to get done before its budget is presented. Mrs. Smith stated that the district needs to get exact numbers so the community can be informed before any decisions are made.

Ron Regoord, 71 Thunder Ridge Drive, Rush

Mr. Regoord supports the veterans exemption, but agrees everyone should understand the minimal extra burden that will need to be picked up by other community residents not qualifying for the exemption if it gets passed.

Dr. Graham said the district's intent is to move as quickly as possible to get factual information, but there's a political portion in how to share the burden along with helping those that have served our country. Dr. Graham's suggestion for a public hearing is to tie it in with the budget hearing.

C. Instruction Technology Plan (Reference appendix #9C)

Dina Wilson, assistant superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction; Karen Milburn, Information Systems director, and Brad Malone, Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), provided board members with an overview of a five-year plan for improving district students' use of instructional technology for their learning. Dr. Graham stated that no decision needed to be made at this meeting. Mrs. Wilson said the plan is to look for a seamless integration of technology devices in every R-H classroom. The essence behind this is a 1:1 learning environment. Mrs. Milburn spoke about the behind-the-scenes work involved to obtain on-demand access and Mr. Malone spoke of Google Applications, a learning management system for students. Mrs. Wilson spoke of the ability to expand the district's inventory of devices and the two new devices that will be introduced to R-H – Chromebooks and LearnPads. She also talked about the need for professional development. Dr. Graham provided a recap and asked board members if they were interested in adopting this plan and if they saw it as a vision of the future. Discussion ensued. The board is willing to embrace it. Dr. Graham will speak to other stakeholder groups and work out financial details with Mr. Whitmore. His plan is to ask for a definitive commitment from the board at the March 11 board meeting.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Written: Parent Engagement – Mid-year Report (Reference appendix #10A)

This is a more detailed version of the district priority. Dr. Graham reviewed the document.

B. Written: Policy Development Protocol (Reference appendix #10B)

This is an administrative guideline Dr. Graham created for the district policy development process. He reviewed the protocol. Mrs. Smith stated that Policy Committee needs to review the policy/regulation regarding policy development to make sure the protocol and policies agree.

C. Written: Monroe County Public Schools Engagement Communication Plan (Reference appendix #10C)

This is being passed along from the district superintendents regarding MCSPEAC (Monroe County Superintendents Public Education Advocacy Committee). Dr. Graham provided an overview of the plan, the goal of which is to garner a more positive image of public schools in Monroe County.

D. Written: School Districts in Fiscal Stress Report (Reference appendix #10D)

This is a new report on school districts in fiscal stress. Mr. Whitmore provided an overview. He said the district has very healthy reserves and we were penalized for how we use them. Dr. Graham encouraged board members to read the "On Board" article that came out today.

E. Oral Information

Dr. Graham thanked board members for their willingness to change the Burger school board visit to Tuesday, Feb. 11 in order to see the STEAM classes.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. NYSSBA Presentation Proposal

Mrs. McBride asked if board members were interested in submitting a proposal and, if so, asked what they would like to submit. Dr. Graham said Mr. DesMarteau suggested "Know Your Schools" and Mrs. Wickerham suggested submitting Mrs. Wilson's Jan. 14 board workshop regarding what the district was able to do with grant monies it had received. Mrs. McBride said the submission deadline is Feb. 21. She asked who would like to submit the information and who would like to present. Mrs. Smith will work on a submission outline for the next board packet. Mrs. McBride will submit it.

B. Review Board Goals (Reference appendix #11B)

The board reviewed its goals. Mr. Bower mentioned that a question was raised during a parent group meeting as to why a person would run for the board when there are no board members leaving.

12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. MCSBA Steering Committee (Jan. 15)

Mrs. Reinhardt will forward the minutes when she receives them. She said the group talked about MCSPEAC.

B. MCSBA Information Exchange Committee (Jan. 22)

Mrs. Mitchell forwarded notes to the board. She said the topic was Opting Out. The meeting was well attended. They talked about issues, concerns, and hot topics, some of which included the Title I fund, concerns about NCLB, Race to the Top monies, and different options to enforce when students opt out of state testing.

C. Budget Advisory Council (Jan. 27)

Mrs. Smith deleted this report during agenda review as there was no meeting held.

13. CLOSING OF MEETING

A. Board Meeting Recap

- There will be more information at the next meeting regarding the veterans tax exemption.
- March 11 – budget proposition on the Instruction Technology Plan
- February 11 – Board school visit to Burger Middle School
- Mrs. Flanigan to make updates to the board goals
- Mrs. Reinhardt to forward Steering Committee meeting minutes
- Mrs. Smith will work on a proposal outline for NYSSBA
- Refer Board Goal B-1 to Policy Committee
- Review the policies/regulations having to do with policy development to make sure they agree with the administrative guideline (Policy Development Protocol) Dr. Graham created.

B. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:57 P.M.

MOVED: Mrs. Smith

SECONDED: Mrs. Mitchell

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

C. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 11, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk

Board Approved: February 11, 2014