

Rush-Henrietta Central School District
District No. 1 of the Towns of Rush, Henrietta, Pittsford, and Brighton

Board of Education

Susan E. Banker
President

Pamela J. Reinhardt
Vice President

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

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk

Robert C. Bower
Jean M. Chaudari
Diane E. McBride
Sue A. Smith
Phyllis P. Wickerham

**Board of Education Meeting
Rush-Henrietta Central School District
Ninth Grade Academy
Diana "Dee" Strickland Conference Room
February 14, 2012
MINUTES**

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:

Mrs. Nerlande Anselme, Executive Director, Student and Family Services
Mrs. Denise Anthony, Assistant Superintendent, Quality Assurance and Community Relations
Mr. Stephen Barbeau, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources and School Operations
Mr. George DesMarteau, School Attorney
Dr. J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Andrew Whitmore, Executive Director, School Finance
Mrs. Dina Wilson, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

I. Call to Order

Mrs. Banker called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Call to Order

II. Executive Session for Personnel Matters and Negotiations

Executive Session

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:03 P.M.
FOR PERSONNEL MATTERS AND NEGOTIATIONS**

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

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:09 P.M.

**MOVED: Mr. Bower
SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

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

Mrs. Banker reconvened the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Mrs. Reinhardt was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions done. Agenda review: Mrs. Wickerham asked to have the second item under Personnel Actions voted on separately due to a conflict of interest. Mrs. Banker provided an update on Mrs. Reinhardt who is in the hospital and asked that everyone keep her in their thoughts and prayers as she recuperates.

Reconvene Meeting

2. Board Member Report from Student Representative(s)

Mr. Sorber reported that Link Crew was planning a pasta dinner from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, March 11, at the high school to benefit a student who was in a car accident in the fall and is still out of school. He also asked if the district was planning to add SMART Boards in the future as part of classroom technology integration. Dr. Graham said there have been lengthy conversations regarding SMART Boards and the district decided to use mobile labs instead. The district did not see SMART Boards as critical to student learning, but noted they are in all elementary school libraries. Ms. Campbell invited the board to attend the African American Heritage celebration from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16. She said it would include music, poetry, and dancing and show how the school community has come together. She also reported on the Pluta Cancer fundraiser basketball game being held at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8; the Yellow Jackets performing at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at Burger Middle School; and Link Crew providing hot cocoa for students on Valentine's Day.

Student
Representative(s)

3. Public Forum

Richard J. Gerbino, 2324 Pinnacle Road, Rush, NY 14543

Mr. Gerbino is a parent of two children in the district and is here to revisit a topic – modified sports – that he brought to the board about a month ago. He presented a handout containing signatures he had obtained and noted that other parents were collecting signatures as well. He made the comment that our district is stated to be about 30 percent in the poverty level and if there's such a high poverty level that we cannot afford to lose those children who may participate in athletics at the school level as it may be their only opportunity to do so. He said it's not so much about decisions that were made regarding modified sports as it is about keeping students, especially those in the poverty level, involved at the school level. He also feels that allowing younger students to tryout and play for older teams creates some bad situations and stressed that athletics was just as important as music and theatre. He said we need to keep our children safe and active. He would like to petition the board to bring back ninth grade/modified sports. He suggested having juniors and seniors become leaders to the younger students. He would like to get back to the basics of students playing grade-level sports versus forcing students into positions of having to play up. He feels the district is doing ninth grade students an injustice of having to play sports at a higher level.

Public Forum

4. Consent Agenda Items for Routine Matters (Reference Appendices #4A-L)

- A. Report of bills audited and paid during January 2012
- B. Action pertaining to acceptance of the December treasurer's report and January budget transfers
- C. Action pertaining to the award of bids:
 - 1. Play programs
 - 2. Printer cartridges
 - 3. Cooperative chassis parts
- D. Action pertaining to acceptance of the proposed contract with St. John Fisher College for the use of rooms for Advanced Placement exams
- E. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip
- F. Action pertaining to approval of a donation
- G. Action pertaining to approval of a donation
- H. Action pertaining to approval of a donation
- I. Action pertaining to approval of a donation
- J. Action pertaining to approval of a donation
- K. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- L. Action pertaining to approval of minutes of the Board of Education meeting:
 - 1. Minutes of the meeting of January 24, 2012

Consent Agenda

**MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE
OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #4A-L
MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham
SECONDED: Mr. Bower
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

5. Action pertaining to approval of Personnel Actions (Reference Appendix #5)

Personnel
Actions

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL
OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS #1, 3-20
MOVED: Mrs. Smith
SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

**ACTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL
OF PERSONNEL ACTION #2
MOVED: Mrs. Smith
SECONDED: Mrs. McBride
MOTION CARRIED: 5-0
*Mrs. Wickerham abstained
due to a conflict of interest.***

6. Workshop – School-based Inquiry Teams (Reference Appendix #6)

Workshop – School-
based Inquiry Teams

Dr. Graham prefaced the workshop by saying this was the third of three workshops focusing on Race-to-the-Top, a new statewide school improvement initiative. Mrs. Wilson presented the workshop. She began by reviewing the prior workshops – the first, how the district is addressing common core learning standards; and the second, Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) requirements. She said this workshop will address how the district is implementing new State Education Department requirements relating to data driven instruction – the key driver moving students through progress. The ultimate goal is that teachers are going to own their data to create their instruction. Mrs. Wilson explained how staff is using common assessments and collaborative progress monitoring to better instruction to provide students with the right academic support. She also explained how the school-based inquiry process works – teams used to improve the use of assessment data for monitoring academic progress and planning instruction. She reiterated that this is not just a one-year initiative, and that the process will continue next year. At the conclusion of this year, there is a plan to review how students did as data is knowledge and leads to improving instruction.

7. Workshop – Budget Development (Reference Appendix #7)

Workshop – Budget
Development

Dr. Graham highlighted some of the changes to his budget document and said the base budget would remain the same with a tax rate increase of 1.9 percent. He said the tax rate increase cannot exceed 2 percent. The big change following the governor's budget is that the district will receive approximately \$200,000 less than expected. Two highlights since the last workshop are the teacher retirement system is now going to be a 6.5 percent increase versus a 12.5 percent increase, and that this will provide the flexibility of having different staff available to do AIS training, which is key - no diminished services, it will just be able to be done with less teaching resources invested in it. He said the same thing would be done with classroom sizes, making sure they remain at capacity at the end of the course, not just at the beginning. He also mentioned the possibility of \$50,000-\$100,000 in additional unfunded mandates.

8. Action pertaining to modification of Extended Day Services at the Ninth Grade Academy (Reference Appendix #8)

Dr. Graham reviewed the discussion had at a recent board meeting. He is asking for permission to drop the entire fifth block as a requirement.

Extended Day
Services at the
NGA

**ACTION PERTAINING TO MODIFICATION OF EXTENDED
DAY SERVICES AT THE NINTH GRADE ACADEMY**

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

9. Superintendent's Report

A. Written Information (Reference Appendices #9A, 1-2)

1. School Facilities Report (Part 155)

This is a mandated report the board needs to receive. There were no questions or concerns.

2. Athletics Report – Academic Achievement

Dr. Graham thought this would be interesting information for the board to receive.

B. Oral Information

1. College and Career Partnership with MCC

Monroe Community College has been successful in securing a grant of which we are a partner. Mrs. Anthony will be working with them, along with nine high school teachers who have volunteered to be part of the grant.

2. Secondary Grading Practices – Midyear Report

Mrs. Wilson said in an effort to become standards based, they are monitoring teacher grade books and closely monitoring student performance. She said the number one concern was to make sure students were not negatively impacted by this. Mrs. Wilson was happy to report there was no change in high honor roll students at the Senior High School. At the middle school level, there was roughly a 10 percent drop in honor/high honor roll, but discrepancies were found in some courses. She said they were pretty much on target as to where they want to be. Dr. Graham said he will continue to report on this. He also said parents accessing the online grade book at the Ninth Grade Academy was up about 20 percent.

3. Senior High School – Midyear Exam Schedule

Dr. Graham provided a follow-up to a student who spoke at the last board meeting and said things were in the works to address the student's concerns. Mrs. Wilson said the student had a conversation with Mrs. Patton. She also explained why so many exams were taking place during class time instead of during exam week. She said some classes no longer require midterm 3-hour exams and that some are just common assessments that happen to fall during class time. Mrs. Wilson reported that the district is transitioning out of using midterm exams and moving more toward the use of common assessments. She said as we move forward, we will be a little more sensitive to this.

4. District Music Festival – Status Report

Dr. Graham reported that enough money could not be raised to continue to have the festival at the Dome Arena. Mrs. Watts, art, music, and technology director, spoke with staff of the Dome Arena and was informed if she could be flexible with dates (change from March 13 to March 20), then the festival could be held there at no cost. It was agreed.

Superintendent's
Report

Nerlande Anselme reported that a lot of PBIS work had been posted on the district website for the community to access. She provided examples of building-level happenings.

Dr. Graham reported that the Parent Satisfaction Survey was completed and the results were about the same as last year. The board will be sent the full package on Monday, Feb. 27. He also said this was the time of year when he is asked to inform the board about fellowship leads. He did have a request this year and is not questioning the value, but feels that it is not financially the time for it. Mr. Barbeau informed the teacher. The teacher asked for an unpaid leave of absence. Dr. Graham asked board members if this was acceptable. The board was in agreement.

10. New Business

A. Board Recognition Program

Mrs. Banker explained suggestions Dr. Graham has for the athletic portion of the recognition program. Dr. Graham would like the board's permission to have Tom Stewart, physical education/athletics director, develop a new approach where the board can participate at events during the school day instead of having a separate event at board meetings. He would like the board to go to the students instead of them coming to the board – more accessible for students. There may be other opportunities, but Dr. Graham thought Mr. Stewart could explore options. The board was in agreement.

11. Board Member Reports

A. MCSBA Labor Relations Committee (Jan. 25)

Mr. Barbeau reported that Harris Beach did a presentation on how to factor in ERS/TRS in negotiations. He explained that Rush-Henrietta has three units that it plays with, where other districts have multiples units they play with. Mrs. Wickerham also attended.

B. MCSBA Legislative Committee (Feb. 1)

Dr. Graham and Mrs. Reinhardt attended. Dr. Graham said there were two major agendas – preparing for the legislative breakfast and a lot of dialogue for a need for a communications committee. What they really are talking about is the Monroe County Speaks effort that's going on – how do we advocate the role of public education in the community. Bottom line, the committee is looking for a community advocacy/education committee.

C. MCSBA Executive Committee (Feb. 1)

Mrs. Banker and Dr. Graham attended. The executive director's evaluation was done by a committee of the officers.

D. DPAC (Feb. 2)

Mrs. Chaudari reported that the council looked at the preliminary districtwide survey results. They will go in depth at the upcoming forum.

E. MCSBA Legislative Breakfast (Feb. 4)

Mr. Bower, Mrs. Wickerham, and Dr. Graham attended. Mr. Bower reported that it was interesting and frustrating at the same time. He said you talk to people who can't or profess they can't get anything done. Mrs. Wickerham said Senator Robach was there for about five minutes. Dr. Graham said the assembly was represented, but not the senate.

F. MCSBA Information Exchange Committee (Feb. 8)

Mrs. Wickerham and Dr. Graham were in attendance, along with Travis Anderson and Dolores Talarico from the district's Community Relations office. Mrs.

New Business

Board Member Reports

Wickerham said they talked about policies and procedures and making sure they are in order in regard to media. At the March 14 meeting, the discussion will be on how school districts and BOCES can work together to change the environment together.

G. BAC (Feb. 13)

There was no report.

H. Greece Retreat

Mrs. Banker, Mrs. McBride, and Dr. Graham attended. Mrs. Banker received a thank you note, which she read. She said the presentation went well. The Greece board found it to be an excellent and very informative presentation.

- Mrs. Banker said that minutes had been sent for most of the above board member reports.
- Mrs. Anselme reported that the district Family and Wellness Fair would be held March 8, at the Dome Arena. It is a free event. Mrs. Banker asked her to forward the information. Mrs. Anselme said she would send a follow-up letter to participants.
- Mrs. McBride recognized the certificates received by board members for completing training programs through the New York State School Boards Association.
- Mrs. Wickerham and Mrs. McBride attended the Fyle Elementary School parent meeting and did a presentation on the things they do as board members, advocating for the board. They said parents want to help, but are not sure how to go about it. They are looking for specific data, perhaps a form letter they can use to write to legislators. Mrs. Wickerham asked if she could get school-specific data. Dr. Graham explained that the district budgets district wide. Dr. Graham provided some thoughts and said that Mr. Whitmore prepared a document that might be helpful.

12. Board Meeting Recap

- The board will continue to receive updates on grading practices
- Parent Partnership Forum – March 1
- Board Recognition Program (athletic portion) – Tom Stewart to look into
- Upcoming events per student reps: African American Heritage Celebration (Feb. 16), Pluta Cancer fundraiser basketball game (March 8), Link Crew pasta dinner (March 11), and Yellow Jackets performance (March 13).
- District Wellness Fair – March 8
- District Band Festival – date/location change – March 20, Dome Arena
- Parent Survey results – superintendent to e-mail

13. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:33 P.M.

MOVED: Mrs. McBride

SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari

MOTION CARRIED: 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk

Board Approved: March 13, 2012

Meeting Recap

Adjournment