

# RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

## Board of Education

Diane E. McBride, President  
Pamela J. Reinhardt, Vice President  
Robert C. Bower  
Jean M. Chaudari  
Rosie B. Mitchell  
Sue A. Smith  
Phyllis P. Wickerham

### Meeting Minutes For: APRIL 23, 2013

Ninth Grade Academy  
Diana "Dee" Strickland Conference Room  
2000 Lehigh Station Road  
Henrietta, New York

J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools  
Karen A. Flanigan, School District Clerk

*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

Board of Education members met at 5:30 p.m. for the Elmer Gordon Scholarship interviews. Mrs. Smith was absent from the interviews.

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

Mrs. McBride called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions were done. During agenda review Dr. Graham asked that an executive session be added at the end of the meeting to discuss the potential for a vacancy due to possible resignation of a school administrator and to inform the board as to litigation pending related to mandated state assessments. Mrs. McBride asked for a moment of silence for those in Boston and Texas, and announced that the board's presentation proposal for the state conference had been accepted. Mrs. McBride and Mr. Bower will discuss what needs to be done for the October presentation.

Call to Order

#### **2. Public Forum**

Public Forum

##### **Karrie and Amanda DiCesare (parent/daughter) 69 Hollybrook Road, Rochester, NY 14623**

The topic of conversation was the consequences for refusing to take the state tests. Mrs. DiCesare said she was very proud of Amanda for coming to the board meeting to speak and wanted to know why the district is punishing her daughter for following the request of her parents to not take the state tests. Mrs. DiCesare provided some explanation and then Amanda spoke about what happened during class and how she's unable to participate in any extracurricular activities or recess. Mrs. DiCesare said Amanda is being charged with insubordination when she is just following the request of her parents.

**Dorothy Genazzio (parent)**  
**729 Telephone Road, W. Henrietta, NY 14586**

Ms. Genazzio said she is here on the same subject as the DiCesare's. She has a third grader at Leary who refused to take the NYS tests on her parents' request. She provided an explanation of what took place. Ms. Genazzio refuses to believe her daughter is insubordinate.

**Cathy/Elise Browning (parent/daughter)**  
**6152 Rush-Lima Road, Rush, NY 14543**

Ms. Browning also spoke about the state testing. She said she has two daughters – one who took the test, and Elise who was forced into it. She provided an explanation. Elise said that even though she took part of the test, she is not taking the rest as she feels it is an unfair way to judge students. Rush-Henrietta is the only school district who is punishing students for not taking the tests. Their main concern is the student being punished.

**3. Consent Agenda Items for Routine Matters (Reference Appendices #3A-H, J-K)**

- A. Action pertaining to acceptance of the February treasurer's report and March budget transfers
- B. Action pertaining to the award of bids:
  - 1. Cooperative multimedia audio visual equipment
  - 2. Athletic uniforms
  - 3. Offset paper
  - 4. Printer cartridges
- C. Action pertaining to acceptance of the Monroe County Sheriff's refueling contract
- D. Action pertaining to approval of a donation
- E. Action pertaining to approval of a donation
- F. Action pertaining to appointment of the chairman for the May 21, 2013 election
- G. Action pertaining to appointment of election inspectors for the May 21, 2013 election
- H. Action pertaining to the resolution establishing the per diem stipend for election officials for the May 21, 2013 election
- I. Action pertaining to approval of July 9, 2013, as the date of the annual reorganizational meeting
- J. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- K. Action pertaining to approval of minutes of the Board of Education meeting(s):
  - 1. Minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2013

Consent Agenda

**MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE  
OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #3A-K)**

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

Dr. Graham said he replied to two e-mail questions – one regarding the refueling contract and one regarding the CSE/CPSE recommendation – but it was late so he provided the answers at the meeting.

**4. Action pertaining to approval of Personnel Actions (Reference Appendix #4)**

Personnel  
Actions

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL  
OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

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

## 5. Workshop – Budget Communication

### A. Tax Cap Report Card (**Reference Appendix #5A**)

Dr. Graham stated that the Tax Cap Report Card needs to be adopted by the board. Mr. Whitmore provided an update of the projected tax rates in Monroe County, saying the average projected tax rate is 2.68 percent and Rush-Henrietta is in the lower half.

### **MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF THE 2013-2014 PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD AS REQUIRED BY NEW YORK STATE**

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

### B. Budget Newsletter

Board members were provided with a draft of the *Budget Newsletter* to review. Mrs. Anthony highlighted a couple of items in the newsletter. She plans to go to print Thursday morning so any changes need to be to her by tomorrow.

## 6. Superintendent's Report

### A. Written Information (**Reference Appendices #6A, 1-2**)

#### 1. Student Satisfaction Survey - Findings

Dr. Graham said the surveys were completed at the secondary schools and a new format was being used. Mrs. Anselme said the survey was given a little earlier this year in an attempt to handle some things right away, to let students know that we do pay attention to their comments and are acting on them. She is very proud of the students as they are actually mentioning names of students who are bullying others and mentioning names of disruptive students on buses. Mrs. Anselme is very proud of the progress the district is making and said in order to keep the higher positive results, it takes a lot of work. She thanked staff for their work. Dr. Graham stated that the district looks for continuous improvement, where the highest rating is, and where the most positive ratings across the schools are. He said the survey data is used as a tool and as a focus for PBIS efforts.

#### 2. STEAM - Status Report

Mrs. Anthony provided highlights from the summary report. Mrs. Chaudari saw one of the parent presentations about some of the forthcoming changes. She said it was very exciting to see and hear. Dr. Graham said one of the concerns is looking beyond 8<sup>th</sup> grade exposure and how you sustain that? What are we doing to ensure that this opportunity will continue? He said, we're only six weeks into this, but there are some very good caveats to put on the table. Mrs. Wilson stated that we do have courses around science and engineering and that we need to continue to make the curriculum current. She said students are pleased with the courses we supply. She believes we're on the right path and said when staff and students are excited, learning comes naturally. Dr. Graham said periodic updates will be provided to board members.

### B. Oral Information

Dr. Graham was notified today that school report cards will be posted on April 30. He will e-mail board members with the link.

Dr. Graham provided an update on the state testing. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Wickerham said they liked the video Dr. Graham did.

Mrs. Wilson said kudos to the students who endured three days of tests and to staff. There is a higher level of reading being required on these tests and she provided an explanation of the test rigor. She said everything the state said tests were going to be

about held true. We still have a lot of work to do, but she is happy we did the things we did. Mrs. Wilson also talked about the scoring of the tests. She believes students will be able to do it, but we just have to stay the course.

## 7. New Business (Reference Appendices #7A, D)

- A. Board Budget Quarterly Report  
There were no questions or concerns.
- B. Elmer Gordon Scholarship  
Due to a sports commitment, the last candidate will be interviewed following the board meeting. A decision will be made and forwarded to Mrs. Flanigan afterward.
- C. Memorial Day Parade (May 19)  
Mrs. McBride, Mrs. Chaudari, Mrs. Wickerham, and Dr. Graham are planning to attend. Mrs. Reinhardt and Mrs. Smith are not available. Mr. Bower and Mrs. Mitchell will inform Mrs. Flanigan once they check their schedules.
- D. Review Board Goals  
The board goals were reviewed.

## 8. Board Member Reports

- A. MCSBA Legislative Committee (April 10)  
Mrs. Reinhardt forwarded the meeting notes. She said a highlight was that a number of things passed in the budget that weren't necessarily monetary things. There is discussion taking place about changing the dates we meet with legislators.
- B. NSBA Conference (April 13-15)  
Mrs. Wickerham enjoyed the conference. She attended sessions on creating character (embedding a lot of traits in the curriculum), governance, and social media. Her main goal was to look for board evaluation information, but did not find any tools. She mentioned a member handbook used by the Berlin board (had some interesting characteristics in it) and attended a good presentation on cultural awareness.

Mrs. Mitchell attended several workshops. She said there is a need for more scientists and engineers. She talked about STREAM (adding "Reading" to STEAM – Science Technology Engineering Arts Math initiative). She said there was talk of elementary teachers being mainly elementary education teachers and not science teachers, partnering with local colleges for summer courses ("It's cool to be smart" – new program started), and awards for STEAM and STEM programs similar to those for athletics. There was also talk of classroom flexible learning stations (team-type environment).

Mrs. McBride spoke of one session she attended on an early childhood liaison program. It was about staff from a school district reaching out to pre-K programs. She thought it was very interesting and that the liaison provided resources for the preschools. She will add more at the next meeting once she has a chance to review her notes.

Dr. Graham attended technology area and STEM sessions. He spoke of a new session/offering – a technology showcase – where five vendors were brought in to basically show their wares and bring you up-to-speed on some of the things that are out there. He thought it was a cool idea and talked about some of the vendor presentations. He also talked about a suburban Chicago high school which has moved to Chromebooks. Some of the highlights included how the district dealt with students who don't have a computer at home, bandwidth, getting to lessons faster, booting up faster, no set up or imaging, operating system updating every six weeks, no new technology staff, and phasing out labs. Gina Davis, a Navy commander, spoke about

New Business

Board Member Reports

how the Navy has developed a lot of tools for STEAM and that they're looking for schools to get students interested.

C. MCSBA Information Exchange Committee (April 17)

Mrs. Anthony attended. The committee did a recap of APPR and talked about what might be coming next. She mentioned another unfunded mandate coming within three years and said they talked about opt out pieces. MCSBA drafted a resolution regarding testing, which is on their website (resolution against high stakes testing). There are many different feelings from different school board members.

Mrs. Reinhardt received the MCSBA Annual Meeting notice and asked everyone to let Mrs. Flanigan know if they plan to attend.

**9. Board Meeting Recap**

- Read newsletter. Changes need to go to Mrs. Anthony tomorrow, Wednesday, April 24.
- April 30 – School report cards will be posted.
- The Elmer Gordon Scholarship winner will be added to the next agenda for approval.
- Need to finalize Henrietta Memorial Day Parade attendance with Mrs. Flanigan.
- Winslow's school board visit is Monday. Mrs. Smith will be out-of-town. Dr. Graham will forward the talking points to Mr. Bower.

Mrs. McBride called a recess at 8:46 p.m. to allow the board to complete the Elmer Gordon Scholarship interviews. The cabinet, with the exception of Mr. Barbeau, was excused. Mrs. McBride called the meeting back to order at 8:58 p.m.

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9 P.M. TO DISCUSS  
THE POTENTIAL FOR A VACANCY DUE TO POSSIBLE  
RESIGNATION OF A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR AND  
TO INFORM THE BOARD AS TO LITIGATION PENDING  
RELATED TO MANDATED STATE ASSESSMENTS**

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

**MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:28 P.M.**

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

**10. Adjournment**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:29 P.M.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan  
School District Clerk  
*Board Approved: May 14, 2013*

Meeting Recap

Adjournment