



**Tuesday, October 8, 2013
Regular Meeting Minutes**

RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Ninth Grade Academy
Diana “Dee” Strickland Conference Room
2000 Lehigh Station Road
Henrietta, NY 14467

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, October 8, 2013, in the Dee Strickland Conference Room at the Ninth Grade Academy.

2. OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

Mrs. McBride called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Jody Hoch, math director, and Jeanette Cannioto, English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy director were in attendance for the workshop and introduced themselves to Michael Slattery, the new student representative. During agenda review, Mrs. Wickerham asked to have Henrietta Youth Board added to Board Member Reports. Mrs. McBride asked board members to let Mrs. Flanigan know if they planned to take their iPad/adapters home. She wished Dr. Graham a happy birthday.

3. BOARD MEMBER REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)

Ms. Harris was not in attendance. Mr. Slattery said there had not been a formal Student Council meeting yet. He provided information regarding homecoming week. He reported on the theme for dressing up each day of the week and provided dates for some of the other events - powder puff game (Oct. 9), dodgeball tournament (6 p.m. Oct. 10), and parade/football game (Oct. 12). He said the theme for the parade is “a tribute to uniformed service” and the junior class chose the police force. Mr. Slattery said Ms. Harris was trying to get regular council meetings set up. He also mentioned a

dance that was cancelled as there were too many people scheduled to attend, too many events already taking place, and not enough time to prepare for it.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

A. Audience Members May Address the Board of Education

There was no one in the audience requesting to speak.

5. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR ROUTINE MATTERS

- A. Report of bills audited and paid during September 2013
- B. Action pertaining to acceptance of the August treasurer's report and September budget transfers
- C. Action pertaining to approval of a Memorandum of Agreement among the district, the AARH, and an administrator
- D. Action pertaining to an updated resolution regarding designation of acting superintendent in the absence of the superintendent
- E. Action pertaining to an updated resolution regarding designation of acting principals for the various schools of the district in the absence of the principals
- F. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – Pathstone Corporation – 9/20/13
- G. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – musical instrument – 9/25/13
- H. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – printers – 9/25/13
- I. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – FIRSTATS, Inc. – 10/2/13
- J. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – Office Max – 10/2/13
- K. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – Walmart – 10/2/13
- L. Action pertaining to approval of an international day field trip – German exchange/host students – 10/20/13
- M. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- N. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – September 24, 2013

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

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

Dr. Graham received one question having to do with a budget transfer. He provided an explanation.

6. PERSONNEL ACTIONS

A. Action pertaining to approval of Personnel Actions

MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS

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

Dr. Graham provided answers to a couple of questions. Mr. Bower commented on the number of subs being removed from the payroll and being hired and asked if the district was ok. Dr. Graham said the sub pool was a little tight at the beginning of the year, but he's not overly concerned right now.

7. WORKSHOP

A. District Priorities – Academic Achievement

Dr. Graham said this is the first in a series of five workshops, giving the board time to reflect on the district priorities and provide them with information about what is being done to accomplish school improvement goals. The focus is on academic achievement and the two goals the board determined as priorities. Mrs. Wilson, assistant superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, will speak about the improvement plan and what the district is going to do to address achievement and goals in ELA and

math, and best practices. Dr. Graham said board members would hear a lot about this at the upcoming NYSSBA conference. Jody Hoch and Jeanette Cannioto were in attendance to offer assistance with the workshop.

Mrs. Wilson said it was all about college and career readiness. According to the New York state common core learning standards, if the district is teaching to these standards, students will be college and career ready. A 3-minute video was shown regarding the state standards and being competitive locally, as well as globally. Mrs. Wilson said the district is using its own curriculum maps, ELA and math are the priority, and she talked about the major pillars of the district's work – curriculum development, classroom instruction, assessment, and progress monitoring and intervention. Highlights included:

- Requiring teachers to use current curriculum maps as curriculum is continuously being revised based on students' achievement gaps and state standard expectations.
- Teachers designing their own lessons, but having to follow the state standards.
- Shifts in ELA/Literacy and math. The three areas being focused on as a district are setting instructional outcomes, establishing a culture of learning, and student engagement.
- Michael Slattery, student representative to the board, saying the "I Can Statements," which are posted at the high school, are really helpful.
- How important it is to make sure teachers have high expectations for their students and to make sure they are being actively involved.
- Standards of mathematical practice being very important – fluency, accuracy, concepts, and problem solving. Ms. Hoch said they want students to build on what they've already learned.
- Curriculum and assessment work going hand-in-hand – when you work on one, there's also work done on the other.
- Common ELA tasks are integrated in reading and writing tasks; students use evidence from text in their writing.
- North West Evaluation Association (NWEA), providing MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) reports, which provide teachers with information that takes them back to the major learning strands of the common core. Teachers look for growth by using this.
- Progress monitoring leading to intervention and enrichment.

Dr. Graham asked board members if the workshop helped them to gain more depth and understanding. He said the statement under Mathematics, Progress Monitoring and Intervention (These protocols will result in the identification of students needing additional instruction, appropriate instructional strategies, and a plan for monitoring student progress.) is very important.

Mrs. Smith said she sees the value of common assessments, but asked how they're presented to students (Do students feel like they're getting tested every time they turn around?). Mrs. Wilson believes it's all in how the teacher delivers it. Mrs. Smith hopes some of the work being done this year is helping those teachers who are not at this level yet. Mrs. Wilson said it's very important and needs to be addressed.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Written – District Priorities – Plan of Work

Dr. Graham asked board members to download a copy of the District Priorities-Plan of Work and bring it to meetings and school visits for taking notes. There were no questions or comments.

B. Written – Event Supervision Report

This is a quarterly report the board asks for. There were no questions.

C. Written – Assistant Superintendent Posting

Dr. Graham called attention to the back page of the document. He reviewed the timeline and said the notice was posted on time and was in the paper Sunday. He asked board members to identify two evenings in November, outside of board meeting nights, for interviews. He will look at his calendar and e-mail board members with some available dates first thing in the morning.

D. Oral

- Dr. Graham briefed the board on MCSPEAC (Monroe County Superintendents Public Education Advocacy Committee), a committee formed to counterbalance negativity about public education. The object is for everyone to be on the same page (consistent throughout the county) and to brand Monroe County public schools. He said there will be banners at the airport, which were paid for by corporate sponsors. The thought is if our schools are better, our community will be better.
- Guest wireless access is now available at every district building. Dr. Graham said the behind-the-scenes work done by Computer Services has been phenomenal.
- Dr. Graham was included in an article in the *Democrat and Chronicle* regarding BOCES services.
- Dr. Graham briefed the board on recent FOIL requests.

9. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. MCSBA Board Presidents Meeting (Sept. 25)

Mrs. McBride attended. There was a conversation about MCSPEAC and she was given proofs of the airport banners to view. She received an e-mail from the Penfield School District regarding a workshop on Oct. 16 to showcase what they're doing with online teaching in their district. Mrs. McBride is unable to attend. The event is from 8 a.m. to noon if anyone is available. The group agreed on an open forum format for this year. At the next meeting, Penfield would like to discuss pools. Mrs. McBride said she received an invitation from Jody Siegl, Monroe County School Boards Association executive director, for her to come to visit. All board members feel they are very involved with MCSBA and there's no need for a visit. Mrs. McBride will respond.

B. NYSSBA Board Presidents Institute (Sept. 26)

There were no board members in attendance.

C. MCSBA Legislative Committee (Oct. 2)

Mrs. Reinhardt will forward the minutes. She said the committee talked about some of the things they want to do during the year and worked on a new position paper. Dr. Graham said it's a good paper and had been pretty well thought through.

D. DPAC (Oct. 3)

Mrs. Chaudari said every school is reporting that attendance is up at parent group meetings, Facebook is now being used by Leary Elementary School and Roth Middle School parent groups, and October 21 is the first five-question survey. She also said the council is looking forward to seeing the feedback on the education videos.

E. MCSBA Finance Conference (Oct. 5)

Mrs. Reinhardt's presentation – part of the mandated fiscal training for new board members – was about the board's role in budgeting and setting district policy regarding financial matters. Mr. Whitmore's presentation was about how to read basic financial reports and Ray Wager, the district's external auditor, did a presentation on audits.

F. Henrietta Youth Board

Mrs. Wickerham reported that the Henrietta Youth board is redoing its mission/vision statement and trying to recruit new members. She mentioned an issue with the Town of Henrietta Halloween party being held at the Senior High School. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Wickerham asked about the expectation of the liaison. Dr. Graham said it is not necessary to attend the meetings; the liaison is just the contact should the youth board need one. She asked that the Health and Safety Committee be added to Board Member Reports on the Oct. 22 board meeting agenda.

10. CLOSING OF MEETING

A. Board Meeting Recap

- Penfield Futures Project – Check e-mail if interested in attending.
- Vacant Assistant Superintendent Position – Dr. Graham to set interview times tomorrow.
- Homecoming is this weekend. Mrs. Wickerham will bring the candy.
- An e-mail has been sent asking for volunteers at the MCSBA table at the NYSSBA Conference.
- Mrs. Reinhardt will forward the MCSBA Legislative Committee meeting minutes.
- Health and Safety Committee – Add to the next board meeting agenda.

- Homecoming Parade – Arrive by noon and bring hard hats.

B. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:02 P.M.

MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham

SECONDED: Mr. Bower

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

C. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan

School District Clerk

Board Approved: October 22, 2013