



Tuesday, March 8, 2016
Board of Education 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.

In Attendance:

- Board members: Mrs. Diane E. McBride, President
Mrs. Sue A. Smith, Vice president
Mr. Robert C. Bower
Mrs. Jean M. Chaudari
Mr. Robert L. Cook
Mr. Sean P. McCormick
Mrs. Phyllis P. Wickerham
- Others: Dr. J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Superintendent of Schools
Mr. George DesMarteau, School Attorney
Mrs. Karen A. Flanigan, School District Clerk
Ms. Nerlande Anselme, Assistant Superintendent, Student and Family Services
Dr. Patrick McCue, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources and Strategic Initiatives
Mr. Andrew Whitmore, Assistant Superintendent, School Finance and Operations
Ms. Dina Wilson, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction
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1. ELMER GORDON SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEWS

Board of Education members conducted interviews for the Elmer Gordon Scholarship.

2. BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – GENERAL

A. Board of Education Members, Superintendent of Schools, School Attorney, School District Clerk, Cabinet Members

See above attendance.

B. Meeting Information

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District was held Tuesday, March 8, 2016, in the Dee Strickland Conference Room at the John W. Parker Administration Building, 2034 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta, NY 14467.

3. OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

Mrs. McBride called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions were done. Mrs. McBride noted that Mr. Bower would be late to the meeting due to work obligations. There were no changes to the agenda and no announcements.

4. BOARD MEMBER REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE(S)

The student representatives were not in attendance.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

A. Audience members may address the Board of Education regarding items of interest not on the agenda

There was no one in the audience wishing to speak.

- 6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR ROUTINE MATTERS** (Reference appendices #6A-J)
- A. Action pertaining to acceptance of the January treasurer’s report
 - B. Action pertaining to acceptance of the town of Henrietta Rush-Henrietta Athletic Association (RHAA) lease
 - C. Action pertaining to acceptance of the St. John Fisher contract for AP exams
 - D. Action pertaining to the award/rejection of bids – Nurse supplies
 - E. Action pertaining to approval of the selection committee and scholarship award of \$500 for the 2016 Arts Alive, the Raymond R. Delaney Arts Recognition Award
 - F. Action pertaining to approval of the 2016-17 school calendar
 - G. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Penn Relays, Philadelphia, PA (April 27-30, 2016)
 - H. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Glenn D. Loucks Games, White Plains, NY (May 12-14, 2016)
 - I. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
 - J. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 2/23/16

**MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE
OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #6A-J
MOVED: Mrs. Chaudari
SECONDED: Mr. Cook
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

Questions regarding items #6A and #6B were answered by Mr. Whitmore and Dr. Graham.

- 7. PERSONNEL ACTIONS** (Reference appendix #7A)
- A. Action pertaining to approval of personnel actions

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL
OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS
MOVED: Mrs. Smith
SECONDED: Mr. McCormick
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

8. WORKSHOP: PUPIL TRANSPORTATION (Reference appendix #8A)

A. Elementary pilot and recommendation for reconfiguration

Dr. Graham explained that this is a follow-up to a workshop that took place last fall. He provided an overview of that workshop, which ended with the implementation of a pilot being put into place. He said Shirley Smith-Gravanda, transportation director, and Mary Bloss, head bus driver, would provide a pilot status report, ask for permission to continue with the pilot next year, and then report on the district’s practice of transporting children outside of their attendance area for childcare. He said no action is needed tonight.

Ms. Smith-Gravanda reported on the status of the pilot, which was implemented approximately six months ago. She explained the changes implemented in the pilot: walk distance lowered from five to three homes; if no other student at stop then stop at student’s home; otherwise, stop placed so all students approach from front. The result was that they did not see much impact with the bus or routes. The recommendation is to continue the pilot for 2016 with changes being made upon request. Transportation would like to adopt the pilot guidelines permanently for the 2017-18 school year. Discussion ensued. The decision was to continue with the pilot and report back in the fall.

Ms. Smith-Gravanda, Mrs. Bloss, and Mr. Whitmore then reported on the district’s practice of transporting students outside of their attendance area for childcare. They spoke about the additional constraints placed upon the Transportation Department, that current capacity is already constrained, proposed guidelines to enable support of the reconfiguration, concerns, and reservations. Ms. Smith-

Gravanda explained some of the suggested transportation proposals. Dr. Graham asked about any legal parameters. Mr. Whitmore explained and said they are still exploring. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cook asked about the magnitude of this. Mr. Whitmore said the total cost for out-of-area daycare support is approximately \$660,000 per year. The capacity to support the new configuration and the difficulty to get drivers is more of a problem than the cost. Discussion ensued. Mr. Whitmore asked if there were any concerns or thoughts. Dr. Graham is looking for the least expensive way to continue with the current practice and to see what tweaks could be made to limit the number of daycare choices (i.e. limit the number of drop-off locations, consolidate runs, transfer options, time changes).

9. WORKSHOP: BUDGET DEVELOPMENT (Reference appendices #9A-F)

A. Recommended Budget and Detailed Revenue Budget

There were no questions on the recommended budget or detailed revenue budget.

B. Proposed Propositions – Draft (Budget Proposition, Bus Expenditures, 2016 Capital Reserve Fund)

Mr. Whitmore explained the 2016 Capital Reserve Fund proposition. Mrs. Smith asked if we could get by without having one this year. Mr. Whitmore said we could wait another year, but Dr. Graham explained the need to project out what needs to be done as down the road, the district will be facing some very difficult times. If he felt it was a risky venture then he would wait, but does not believe it is and feels the district should get it done. Dr. Graham explained that we would be setting up the savings account, not spending any money. It has a 10-year life and this should set us up for that. He would like to keep it on the list of proposed propositions. No vote is needed tonight.

C. Tax Rate Impact

There will be a 2.35 percent tax levy. The average senior citizen has kept up with where we are on our tax levy. This year is a little out of whack, but the average over 10 years is ok. This would amount to a \$24 increase for the average tax payer.

D. County Tax Rates Comparison

Dr. Graham said Rush-Henrietta had the lowest tax rate in Monroe County this year, but it's too early to tell for next year. He said a few districts are contemplating breaking the tax cap (doing an override) or using all of their reserve funds. If they don't get GEA, there will be a lot of districts with gaps needing to be closed. The district should have closer numbers in about three weeks. Everything is contingent on what the Legislature decides to do with GEA.

E. Community Forum Handout

Dr. Graham summarized the handout. He decided not to provide more details as most people just want to know what you're getting for your money.

F. 2016 Budget Presentations Schedule – Draft

There were no questions, comments, or changes.

10. WORKSHOP: NAMING OF SCHOOLS (Reference appendix #10A)

A. Naming of schools discussion

Dr. Graham said David Kaye, district architect, needs decisions as to any school name changes due to the reconfiguration so signage can be ordered. Dr. Graham reviewed his recommendations, stating the full name of the school would be used. Discussion ensued. Dr. Graham needs to know what the action is that needs to be brought back to the next meeting. The decision was to go with the new recommendations. He will prepare a strike/bold of the current policy to reflect the two new junior high schools and the Webster Learning Center.

11. WORKSHOP: ROCHESTER AREA SCHOOL HEALTH PLAN (RASHP) (Reference appendix #11A)

A. Self-funding Initiative

Mr. Whitmore provided an overview of the RASHPII Plan, types of funding arrangements, self-insured attributes, self-funding timeline, why self-funding, the plan performance, and financial status. He talked about the pros and cons and said this is the direction the consortium is headed.

Mr. Bower arrived at 8:23 p.m.

Mr. Whitmore said the consortium is hoping to be self-insured as of January 1, 2017, but as of last week the state was still sitting on the application. The consortium will continue to use Excellus as the plan administrator. For the state to approve us under their guidelines we need \$55.5 million in reserves and the consortium has \$59.9 million. Mr. Whitmore said the consortium is pretty confident it will get approved. There were no questions.

12. DISTRICT POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND EXHIBITS (THIRD READ) (Reference appendix #12A)

A. 4220

Policy 4220 was reviewed. There were no additional changes.

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF
DISTRICT POLICIES, REGULATIONS,
AND EXHIBITS (THIRD READ)**

MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham

SECONDED: Mr. McCormick

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

13. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (Reference appendices #13A-B)

A. Written: Student Disciplinary Referrals Report – 1st Semester

Ms. Anselme said there was nothing out of the ordinary. Mr. Barker, student management director, has met with each of the secondary assistant principals to look at data and sift through it. Mrs. Smith inquired into a comparison document from the previous year. Dr. Graham said one would be provided at the end of the year. Ms. Anselme explained.

B. Written: State Report Card Posting Notification

Dr. McCue reported that district schools remain in good standing. There are a few subgroup measures where AYP was not met, but it does not jeopardize successful AYP for each building or for the district overall. The format of School Report Cards has changed and he provided an explanation. He said participation rates were affected by the increase in student test opt outs. A new change in the upcoming year will be in federal authorization as AYP is going away and states will have to develop their own determinations.

C. Oral Information

- Parent Leadership Forum - Dr. Graham thanked board members for attending. He thought the evening went well. He just received reports from the two facilitators and said parents are generally satisfied with the work that is being done. Dr. Graham was a little surprised that people aren't using the School Tool app as much as he would have thought. He believes links need to be on the school pages, as well as on the district page of the website.
- Urban-Suburban Program – Rush-Henrietta is in a holding pattern as the district needs clarification on whether we would incur transportation costs for students who may need to be transported more than 15 miles from home to R-H. The district has been given general information and Dr. McCue is waiting to hear from Dan White, Monroe #1 BOCES superintendent. Things are progressing, but the district does not have definitive answers in order to proceed.
- School Reconfiguration Update – Dr. Graham talked about the transportation and facilities side of the reconfiguration and said bids are in the process of being vetted. He also provided an update on the program advisory teams. There's so much concern with the 4-6 team that he has tried to slow down a bit to put a little more of a thought process in place and spoke with the sixth grade teachers two weeks ago. At the last team meeting, he presented the idea of a study group to work through next January, taking a thorough look at possible 4-6 teaming models. He will include his proposal in the next board packet.
- Student Transition – Ms. Anselme is happy to report that most individuals have responded to her inquiry. A survey was done and approximately 1,200 people are indicating an interest in wrap around daycare at all K-6 schools. She is in the process of devising a name/logo, talked about the budget which will include security and nursing care, and explained that the program needs to be

able to run itself. Ms. Anselme said Bonnie Coddington, Continuing Education coordinator, has been an amazing addition to the team. There will be a board presentation prior to year's end. She also mentioned the need for a lot of staffing and said they plan to work with our high school teachers who work in child development to recruit high school students, and will need to recruit part-time people as well.

14. NEW BUSINESS (Reference appendices #14A-B)

A. Rush-Henrietta Scholarship Fund Guidelines

Mrs. McBride said the guidelines, put together by her and Mrs. Smith, would have to be put into policy format (a regulation) and asked if there were any questions. Mrs. Smith shared some thoughts. Mrs. Wickerham asked how we let people know who might want to donate to the scholarship fund. Mrs. Smith explained that the intent was never to solicit donations, just to have a spot available for those who may not want to set up their own fund and to eliminate the set-up of so many miscellaneous accounts. She suggested posting an article to the website once it is adopted and perhaps creating a brochure. Currently, there really isn't any money to distribute. The guidelines will be sent to Dr. McCue for the next Policy Committee meeting.

B. Nomination of candidate to the BOCES Board of Education

**MOTION PERTAINING TO THE NOMINATION OF D. BRYAN
BUTTRAM, RESIDING IN THE RUSH-HENRIETTA
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS A CANDIDATE
FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE MONROE #1 BOCES
BOARD FOR A TERM OF OFFICE FROM
JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2019
MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham
SECONDED: Mr. Bower
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

15. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. MCSBA Labor Relations Committee (Feb. 24)

Mr. Bower reported that it was an interesting meeting about a superintendent evaluation tool. It was very useful and done in a workshop type format. He explained. It is posted on the MCSBA website.

B. Multicultural Parent Advisory Council (MPAC) (Feb. 29)

Mrs. McBride said she was asked not to attend the meeting as the council wanted to have a frank dialog with parents about how they can communicate with teachers and staff when they have issues and don't know what to do. Ms. Anselme said three people showed up and the council plans to put the topic on the agenda again. She said people form assumptions because they don't know how to approach teachers or staff to obtain information nor do they realize there are other people you can call before making assumptions, getting angry, and responding.

C. MCSBA Legislative Committee (March 2)

Mr. Cook said the main topics included debriefing from the legislative breakfast and Albany lobbying trip. He said most participants felt that both events went quite well, especially with local legislators. He forwarded the minutes. Sherry Johnson, MCSBA executive director, talked about a new bill being introduced in the assembly and senate that would exempt senior citizens 100 percent from school taxes. There is a great deal of concern with this. The district will need to keep an eye on this.

D. MCSBA Board Presidents Meeting (March 2)

Mrs. McBride said it is a casual group that talks about many topics. A couple of topics at this meeting included the tax exemption for seniors and the Friday letter (weekly communication between the board and superintendent). Mrs. McBride explained, saying it is a communication from the superintendent to update board members about district business for the week. Dr. Graham gives a comprehensive report at each meeting and we do not utilize a weekly letter. Additionally, there was discussion regarding board member reports at each districts' regular meetings.

E. District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) (March 3)

Mrs. Wickerham had nothing more to report. This topic was covered earlier in the meeting.

18. CLOSING OF MEETING

A. Board Meeting Recap

The board meeting recap was done prior to entering into executive session.

- Additional information will be provided on transportation options for the reconfiguration, including financial information.
- Mrs. Flanigan will submit the Monroe #1 BOCES board nomination for Rush-Henrietta.
- Next meeting – Dr. Graham will bring a proposal for the 4-6 study team.
- In the fall – There will be a transportation pilot report.
- Next meeting – A resolution regarding changes to the naming of school buildings policy.
- End of school year – There will be a presentation regarding wrap around daycare.
- End of school year – There will be a fall/spring comparison of student behavior as we've switched types of reporting.
- The district policy quarterly review scheduled for the next meeting will be postponed to April 12.

16. ANTICIPATED EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Anticipated executive session to discuss the tentative collective bargaining agreement with the Rush-Henrietta Employees' Association Coalition Unit

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:18 P.M.
TO DISCUSS THE TENTATIVE COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH
THE RHEA COALITION UNIT
MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham
SECONDED: Mr. McCormick
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

**MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:45 P.M.
MOVED: Mr. Cook
SECONDED: Mr. McCormick
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

17. RETURN TO PUBLIC MEETING

A. Recall to Order

Mrs. McBride recalled the meeting to order at 9:47 p.m.

18. CLOSING OF MEETING

B. Adjournment

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:47 P.M.
MOVED: Mr. Bower
SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

C. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk
Board Approved: March 22, 2016