



Tuesday, October 21, 2014
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: Diane E. McBride, President
Phyllis P. Wickerham, Vice President
Robert C. Bower
Jean M. Chaudari
Rosie B. Mitchell
Pamela J. Reinhardt
Sue A. Smith
- Others: Dr. J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Superintendent of Schools
Mr. George DesMarteau, School Attorney
Mrs. Karen A. Flanigan, School District Clerk
Mrs. 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
- Absent: Mrs. Dina Wilson, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction
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1. 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, October 21, 2014, in the Dee Strickland Conference Room at the Parker Administration Building, 2034 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta, NY 14467.

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 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Introductions were not necessary. There were no changes to the agenda and no announcements.

3. BOARD RECOGNITION

In honor of School Board Recognition Week, Oct. 27-31, Dr. Graham read the below proclamation from Governor Cuomo. He recognized each board member with a small token of appreciation and thanked them for the many hours they donate to the school district.

Whereas, each year, School Board Recognition Week is observed by the more than 700 school boards in school districts throughout the Empire State; and

Whereas, the men and women serving as members of school boards are dedicated to children, learning, and community, and devote many hours of service to elementary and secondary public education as they continually strive for improvement, excellence, and progress in education; and

Whereas, the members of New York’s local school boards respond to the educational needs of the communities they serve and, in doing so, these leaders help strengthen our state’s educational system and improve future prospects for our children; and

Whereas, during October 27-31, 2014, special activities and programs will be held in communities across New York State in observance of School Board Recognition Week and it is fitting to join in acknowledging the commitment and contributions of members of local school boards;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 27-31, 2014 as **SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK** in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capital in the City of Albany this nineteenth
day of August in the year two thousand fourteen.

Andrew Cuomo
Governor

4. PUBLIC FORUM

A. Audience Members May Address the Board of Education Regarding Items of Interest Not on the Agenda

There were no audience members in attendance wishing to speak.

5. EXTERNAL AUDITOR – ANNUAL REPORT (Reference appendices #5A-B)

A. Annual Report Provided by Raymond F. Wager, CPA, P.C.

Mr. Ray Wager reviewed the annual report. He said he’s done approximately 20 presentations to boards and they’ve been getting more difficult as there are a lot of issues. Rush-Henrietta is not in this category. He said the district continues to be in excellent financial condition. The district is spending money to make money, which is unique in this environment, and is able to “ride the ship out” because it’s in excellent financial shape and continues to have a great plan. There were no questions.

B. Audit Corrective Action Plan

During the Audit Corrective Action Plan review, discussion ensued regarding Mrs. Smith’s question about 1099’s being issued to the school attorney prior to last year. Mr. Whitmore said one has not been issued. This was an auditor discovery. A 1099 is needed for attorneys and medical providers.

6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR ROUTINE MATTERS (Reference appendices #6A-M)

- A. Action pertaining to acceptance of the external auditor’s “Basic Financial Statements for Year Ended June 30, 2014,” the Letter of Communication, and the “Communicating Internal Control Related Matters Identified in an Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2014,” prepared by Raymond F. Wager, CPA, P.C.
- B. Action pertaining to acceptance of the Rush-Henrietta Central School District Audit Corrective Action Plan for Year Ended June 30, 2014
- C. Action pertaining to the award of bids
- D. Action pertaining to authorization of an increase to general and capital fund budgets as a result of Phase III water damage
- E. Action pertaining to agreement of the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) Plan updates
- F. Action pertaining to authorization of a cell tower lease with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC
- G. Action pertaining to approval of the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) coordinators
- H. Action pertaining to approval of an updated list of members of CSE/CPSE for the 2014-15 school year
- I. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – Dee Strickland Scholarship Fund – FirstStats, Inc.
- J. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – Musical instrument – 10/16/14
- K. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- L. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 10/7/14
- M. Action pertaining to acceptance of Finance & Audit Committee meeting minutes – 10/17/14

MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE

OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #6A-M
MOVED: Mr. Bower
SECONDED: Mrs. Reinhardt
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Mr. Whitmore provided an explanation for agenda item #6F.

7. PERSONNEL ACTIONS (Reference appendix #7A)

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

8. WORKSHOP – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BOOK (Reference appendix #8A)

A. Proposed 2015-16 Rush-Henrietta High School “Course Descriptions” book

Dr. Graham explained the reason for Mrs. Wilson’s absence. He said there was a question regarding the last bullet of Mrs. Wilson’s letter. Dr. Graham e-mailed a late response and provided the explanation for those who had not yet seen it. There were no further questions. Mrs. Reinhardt said she thought it was very well done.

B. Action pertaining to approval of the 2015-16 Rush-Henrietta High School “Course Descriptions” book

MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF THE
2015-16 RUSH-HENRIETTA HIGH SCHOOL
“COURSE DESCRIPTIONS” BOOK
MOVED: Mrs. Mitchell
SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

9. WORKSHOP – NYSSBA Resolutions (Reference appendix #9A)

A. NYSSBA Resolutions Discussion

Mrs. Reinhardt reviewed resolutions 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 with board members, wanting to know how they would like her to vote at the convention. Board members decided to vote yes on all resolutions. Resolution #11 was pulled so there was no need to consider it.

10. WORKSHOP – FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN (PART VIII) (Reference appendix #10A)

A. Full-day Kindergarten (Part VIII)

Dr. Graham provided a working handout to board members which he reviewed. He would like to get board members to make some decisions tonight in an effort to continue to move forward. Key questions are: (1) Does the district change classroom sizes or not? (2) What discretion does Dr. Graham have on the class size? and (3) Is the K-3, 4-6, and 7-9 plan going to provide the benefits currently in place in schools? Discussion ensued. Dr. Graham explained that tonight’s documents are taking the board through a series of reports that will lead to its decision on Nov. 4. Dr. Graham also discussed transportation. Dr. McCue reviewed the 7-9 Staffing for “Alternative 2” Restructuring documents and Dr. Graham reviewed the Full Day Kindergarten Space Plan Decision Criteria document. Mrs. Smith clarified that the K-3, 4-6, and 7-9 option will reflect a class size of 15 for grades K-3, 18 for grades 4-6, and 24 for grades 7-9.

11. DISTRICT POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND EXHIBITS (SECOND READ) (Reference appendix #11A)

A. 4430, 4430-R, 5311.1, 5400, 5405, 5406-R, 5420, 5420-R, 5450.1, 5455, 5460, 5460-R, 5465,

5465-R, 5500, 5500-R, 5680, 6135, 6135-R, 6240-E, 6254, 6300, 6410, 6500, 8635, 8635-R

The policies, regulations, and exhibits were reviewed. Mrs. Flanigan will make changes to 4430, 5311.1, 5420, and 5465-R, and then finalize all second reads and post to the website.

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF
DISTRICT POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND
EXHIBITS (SECOND READ), #11A,
INCLUDING CHANGES TO 4430,
5311.1, 5420 AND 5465-R
MOVED: Mrs. Smith
SECONDED: Mrs. Reinhardt
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Reference appendices #12A-D)

A. Written: Student Enrollment Summary (BEDS)

There were no questions or comments.

B. Written: Out-of-District Placements Report

Dr. Graham stated that there was nothing significant to be concerned about.

C. Written: Elementary Class Sizes – Annual Report

Dr. Graham said the board asked for this report. He will look at Sherman parameters.

D. Written: School Report Cards – School Accountability Status Report

Dr. Graham stated that all schools are in compliance with the exception of Sherman. Dr. McCue provided an explanation. He said it's important to remember that it's the state's accountability for 2012-13 and a lot of the students have significant learning disabilities. Mrs. Smith said she's upset with the length of time it takes to get information needed to improve. We're working two years behind. Mrs. Mitchell asked what group of students we were speaking about. Dr. McCue said they were third graders who are currently in fifth grade and some of those students are no longer at the school. Dr. McCue stated that teachers are being accountable for all of their students.

E. Oral Information

- School Improvement Plans were posted to the district website on Oct. 15.
- Ebola incidents – Mrs. Anselme has been doing some preliminary prep work and provided an explanation as to all things being done to ensure the health and safety of everyone. She wants to make sure parents feel comfortable knowing the district is on top of it. Some basic Ebola facts have been posted to the district website.
- The veterans property tax exemption topic is starting to pick up again. There will be a workshop at the next meeting. Monroe County School Boards Association will host an informational meeting from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Brooks Ave Grill, located in the Holiday Inn Airport. Dr. Graham and Mr. Whitmore plan to attend.
- Smart School Technology Bond Act, Proposition 3 – Dr. Graham is being asked what we're going to do with the money (\$2.9 million) if we receive it. No decisions have been made and the district is still not sure it will take place.
- NYSSBA Convention – Dr. Graham reviewed the schedule of evening events. Mrs. Wilson made arrangements for Drs. Graham and McCue to visit Google. If anyone would like to join them, please e-mail Dr. Graham.

13. OLD BUSINESS

A. Board Member Report: MCSBA Board Presidents Meeting (Sept. 17)

Mrs. McBride said it was a good meeting. Mark Kokanovich, MCSBA president and Brighton Central School District board president, is still trying to meet with each of the board presidents in the county, which is taking longer than anticipated. She said there's a big push regarding the urban/suburban transfer program. Dr. Graham explained that Rush-Henrietta has a policy of having other district students come here and pay tuition. A lot of schools do not have this policy. We are a de facto urban/suburban, we're just not affiliated with the program.

B. Board Member Report: MCSBA Labor Relations Committee (Sept. 24)

Mr. Bower reported that the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources from East Irondequoit talked about things to be aware of and prepare for negotiations. He forwarded the minutes.

C. Board Member Report: MCSBA Legislative Committee (Oct. 1)

Mrs. Mitchell said the topics of discussion included a position paper and the smart bond.

D. Board Member Report: DPAC (Oct. 2)

Mrs. Wickerham said there was nothing to add as this topic was discussed during the full-day kindergarten workshop.

E. Board Member Report: District Health & Safety Committee (Oct. 2)

Mrs. Wickerham reported. She said the conversation was good and all members were in attendance (a good group of people). The district has a good relationship with all safety people in our community and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office is pleased with the relationship. There is a plan to practice one of our safety procedures districtwide. Dr. Bridgitte Griffin, Student Management director, will talk with students regarding concerns they may have about district health and safety and report back to the committee.

F. Board Member Report: GVSBI

Mrs. Smith said the group continues to run its usual staff opportunities. She said there is talk about offering training for school board members as there are few opportunities available for some to get their training.

14. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Budget Quarterly Report

There were no comments or questions.

B. Claims Auditor Quarterly Report

There were no comments or questions.

C. Elmer Gordon Scholarship – Application and Timeline Drafts

Board members approved the application and timeline.

15. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. MCSBA Information Exchange Committee (Oct. 8)

Mrs. Mitchell said the topic was about federal nutrition requirements and costs. She will forward the minutes. She said there was a presentation by the Pittsford Central School District and once you saw it, you knew it was a business decision for them not to go with the program.

B. MCSBA Executive Committee (Oct. 8)

Mrs. McBride and Dr. Graham attended. It was an organizational meeting. Mrs. McBride said the committee talked about the member survey and the state needing to honor its constitutional obligation to fund public education.

C. MCSBA Labor Relations Committee (Oct. 15)

Mr. Bower reported that Ron Mendrick, attorney from Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, talked about tenure. He forwarded the presentation and also included a packet of news articles.

16. CLOSING OF MEETING

A. Board Meeting Recap

- School Improvement Plans have been posted on the district website.
- Communicable diseases – The district has a handle on it.
- Let Dr. Graham know if you have any thoughts regarding full-day kindergarten.

B. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:09 P.M.

MOVED: Mrs. Reinhardt

SECONDED: Mr. Bower

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

C. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk
Board Approved: November 4, 2014