



Tuesday, December 2, 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
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, December 2, 2014, in the Dee Strickland Conference Room at the Parker Administration Building, 2034 Lehigh Station Road, Henrietta, NY 14467.

2. ANTICIPATED EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Call to Order

Mrs. McBride called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

B. Anticipated Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matters

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT
6:32 P.M. TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS**

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

MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:04 P.M.

**MOVED: Mrs. Reinhardt
SECONDED: Mrs. Smith**

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 7:06 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions done. There were no additions to the agenda and no announcements.

4. BOARD MEMBER REPORT FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The student representative was not in attendance.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

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

Mr. Brian Usselman – 985 Rabbit Ear Pass, Victor, NY 14564

Mr. Usselman began by thanking the veterans in attendance for their service to our country. He is the president of RHEA, Teachers Chapter, and went on to talk about the many successes of R-H staff (e.g. nationally-recognized music program, excellent science program, dedicated teachers, shared efforts from the community, and student care and respect attained through the PBIS program). He said that despite these accomplishments, he stands as a concerned leader. He stated that negotiations had gone to impasse as the board feels the teachers' proposal is very unreasonable. He talked about the meaning of the "R-H Advantage" logo on the teachers' T-shirts. He voiced his concern about the proposal to restructure the district and questioned how it will affect the music program, lack of teaming, and the reduction in physical education staff. He would like to work hand-in-hand to keep things going and would like to be included in the decisions being made, not just notified of what's taking place. He feels that teachers are the best source of information when it comes to changes that may come down the road. He closed by saying R-H is a great place to learn and work.

Mr. Christian Dietz – 32 Kathrene Court, Webster, NY 14580

Mr. Dietz read a statement from the eighth grade science teachers regarding the successes of the Earth Science Program and the many changes the science teachers have been through. He said they are mindful of the structures in place to help students (e.g. small class size, teaming) and they have pride in their students. They appreciate the positive feedback received by the school board, leaders in the district, and parents. They are proud of their accomplishments and look forward to continued success.

6. PUBLIC HEARING – VETERANS SCHOOL TAX EXEMPTION (Reference appendix #6A)

A. Veterans Exemption Presentation

Mrs. McBride shared the procedure for the public hearing and said statements regarding the veterans school tax exemption also had been submitted via e-mail and the district website. All comments will be taken into consideration. Mr. Whitmore, Assistant Superintendent for School Finance and Operations, provided an overview of the topic and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation. There were no questions from the board.

B. Community Residents' Comments

Nick DeLeo – 1 Yarrow Hill, West Henrietta, NY 14586

Mr. DeLeo read a prepared statement. He said he's been a resident of the district for 34 years and a veterans advocate for 38 years. He is a dedicated volunteer for veterans and would like R-H to honor the veterans school tax exemption. He stated that the exemption would be for a very special class of citizens in Henrietta and asked the board to please take it into consideration.

Cheryl Ellsworth – 1256 Calkins Road, Rochester, NY 14623

Ms. Ellsworth thanked all veterans in attendance. She said her grandparents and father served, an important thing she believes in, and that her daughter slept outside in a cardboard box to raise funds for veterans. However, she believes the government has put the board in a tough place. She

understands the exemption is a small amount, but as it goes up and builds, there are many people who live below poverty level who will not be able to afford it. She was in attendance to speak about children of struggling families. She provided examples of people who, every day, don't know how they will feed their children and having to glue shoes back together and that although it may be a small amount that's being requested, this would mean a lot to these families. She ended by saying it doesn't seem right to have your neighbor getting another exemption and asked if it is really honoring the veterans if you have to take from others to do it.

Lynda Garner Goldstein – 260 Danbury Circle North, Rochester, NY 14618

Ms. Goldstein said if you're going to allow military recruiters into the high school and ask seniors to put their lives at risk, you should be consistent and reward the same people when they return to our community as tax paying citizens.

Richard Griffith – 87 Derrick Drive, West Henrietta, NY 14586

Mr. Griffith said he is a veteran and that he would like the board to carefully consider approving this exemption. He believes the people who enter the service, return home, and need help deserve the exemption. He knows it is a tax increase and asked what price do you pay to the people who allow you to live the life you do.

Ron Regoord – 71 Thunder Ridge Drive, Rush, NY 14543

Mr. Regoord said he is a Vietnam era veteran. He talked about questions regarding eligibility for the exemption. He would appreciate the board considering granting the exemption to veterans.

Joe Rodibaugh – 71 Cape Henry Trail, West Henrietta, NY 14586

Mr. Rodibaugh said he's your neighbor, has two students in the district, is 36 years old, a two war veteran, and would like to provide his support for the exemption. He said some people are concerned that the state did not want to fund this. He initially heard about the exemption from the article in the Henrietta Post and was concerned that the overall tone of the article expressed that a decision had already been made. The article made it seem like all veterans would receive an exemption, which is not necessarily true. He stated that it's been less than a month since Veterans Day and support is already waning. He said grandpa is not the face of veterans anymore and asked that the rest of the veterans – Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Granada, etc. – not be forgotten. He said only about 3.7 percent of the people living in Henrietta are veterans, a small minority. He commended Mr. Whitmore on his presentation, asked that board members not let the politics behind this exemption deter their decision, and thanked the board for its consideration.

David Sluberski – 69 Rush West Rush Road, Rush, NY 14543

Mr. Sluberski proposed the district adopt this resolution. He said he was concerned how the information in the newspaper was worded. He commended Mr. Whitmore on his presentation. He talked about his son joining the service and said the school is a conduit to the service in a roundabout way, another incentive to help veterans in a small way. He said he attends Rush board meetings regularly and talked about having the Rush board offer the exemption. He thanked the board for listening and said he's in favor of the exemption to help district students who join the service and then return to the community.

Michael Itterman - 220 Hollybrook Road, Rochester, NY 14623

Mr. Itterman said for the cost of a cup of coffee each month, that's all the increase would be. He agreed with Mr. Rodibaugh's statement about the website and that most of the benefits listed do not apply to either of them. He sent an e-mail to the district asking for the location of where the information came from. He thought the information seemed negative. During the last budget increase, there was nothing mentioned about it being a tax burden. He provided an explanation as to how some of the veterans' benefits were not as good as for a basic civilian. He said veterans go overseas, fight in war zones, and if you're a civilian, you're going to get benefits too. Everybody is going to get benefits. There's nothing special about the benefits they get.

Mrs. McBride reiterated the process for the public hearing and said a decision would be made at the Jan. 6 meeting.

Mrs. McBride called for a five-minute recess at 7:55 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:04 p.m. Mr. Whitmore left following the public hearing to travel out-of-town for a conference.

- 7. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR ROUTINE MATTERS** (Reference appendices #7A-J)
- A. Report of bills audited and paid during September 2014
 - B. Action pertaining to acceptance of the September treasurer's report
 - C. Action pertaining to payment of a refund of taxes in the town of Henrietta due to a Judgment and Order, which resulted in an assessment reduction for ESA P Portfolio LLC for tax year 2014-15 on tax account number 162.10-1-71
 - D. Action pertaining to approval of the revised Single Permanent Agreement with the Child Nutrition Program Administration
 - E. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – Senior High School Marquee
 - F. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
 - G. Action pertaining to approval of Board of Education meeting minutes – 11/18/14
 - H. Action pertaining to approval of a donation – Science and technology equipment
 - I. Action pertaining to approval of an overnight field trip – Jan. 9, 2015
 - J. Action pertaining to approval of an international field trip – Feb. 26, 2015

**MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE
OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #7A-J
MOVED: Mrs. Chaudari
SECONDED: Mr. Bower
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

- 8. PERSONNEL ACTIONS** (Reference appendix #8A)
- A. Action pertaining to approval of personnel actions

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL
OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS
MOVED: Mrs. Mitchell
SECONDED: Mrs. Smith
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

- 9. DISTRICT POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND EXHIBITS (SECOND READ)** (Reference appendix #9A)
- A. 4526, 4526.1, 4526.1-R.1, 4526.1-E.1, 4526.1-E.2, 4526.1-E.3, 4526.1-E.4, 4526.1-E.5, 4526.1-E.6, 6680, 6690, 6700, 6700-R, 6710, 6720, 6720-R, 6731, 6740, 6741, 6741-R, 6741-E.1, 6830, 6831-R, 6832, 6832-R, 6833, 6833-R, and 7500-E

The second read of the above policies, regulations, and exhibits was completed. Minor changes were made to 6700, 6741, 6830, and 6832-R.

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF
DISTRICT POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND
EXHIBITS (SECOND READ), #9A WITH
CHANGES TO 6700, 6741, 6830, AND 6832-R
MOVED: Mrs. Chaudari
SECONDED: Mrs. Reinhardt
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

10. DISTRICT POLICY QUARTERLY REVIEW (Reference appendix #10A)

A. Board members will review Support Services policies 8100-8135

The Support Services policies were reviewed. The following policies were designated to go to Policy Committee – 8100, 8100-R, 8110, 8110-R, 8111-R, 8120, 8121, 8130, 8130-R, 8133-R, and 8133-E. Minor changes will be made to 8120.2, 8123-R, 8123.1, 8123.1-R, and 8133.

11. WORKSHOP – FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN AND ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT (PART XI) (Reference appendices #11A-C)

A. Stakeholder Meeting Script

Dr. Graham provided an overview of what took place at the last meeting when the board adopted his recommendation for full-day kindergarten and agreed with the suggested financing and communication plans. Tonight's discussion will be about the board's upcoming building presentations. Discussion followed regarding the script that will be used for these.

B. Stakeholder Handout

Dr. Graham reviewed the stakeholder handout, including an additional sheet he introduced. He said he met with the architects this morning and firmed up plans for the construction of Sherman, Vollmer, and Burger and that he will have larger maps at each school presentation. Following discussion regarding the handout, board members decided to use the newly introduced document, "The Advantages of Full-Day Kindergarten and School Reconfiguration," for the four-page handout. Fyle's presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 3. Dr. Graham will prepare the handout. He believes the presentation should take approximately 20 minutes, with the remaining time used for questions.

C. Stakeholder Meeting Schedule - Updated

Dr. Graham asked board members to please download the updated Communication Plan. He highlighted the changes from the previous version. He also noted that a video would be posted to the district website Jan. 3. He is planning to meet with Supervisor Moore, town of Henrietta, to give a briefing and look for his input on what he might like to do in regards to a town presentation. Dr. Graham reminded board members that they are welcome to join him at any of his presentations (e.g. Rotary) and recommended they read the frequently asked questions posted on the district website before making each of their presentations.

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

A. Written: Enrollment Projections

Dr. Graham reported that these projections do not include adjustments for full-day kindergarten. He said there is regular Space Committee work to do now. He talked about projected enrollment and said these are the projections he will use for staffing.

B. Written: Demographic Trends

Dr. Graham thought the board should be alerted to these numbers. He reviewed the document.

C. Written: Interscholastic Sports Report – Fall

Board members asked for this report. There were no questions.

D. Written: NYSSBA Lever Voting Survey

Dr. Graham thought the board might be interested in this information. There were no questions.

E. Oral Information

There were no oral information items to report.

13. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A. MCSBA Labor Relations Committee (Nov. 19)

Mr. Bower attended the meeting. He said he met Karlee Bolanos from Harris Beach who spoke about costing out contracts. She was very good. He said there are so many things you wouldn't even think about. It was one of the better presentations.

Mrs. Reinhardt asked if anyone will be going on the Albany lobbying trip Monday. Dr. Graham is planning to go.

14. CLOSING OF MEETING

A. Board Meeting Recap

- District Policies, Regulations, and Exhibits (Second Read)
 - Minor changes will be made to 6700, 6741, 6830, and 6832-R.
- District Policy Quarterly Review
 - Policies going to Policy Committee – 8100, 8100-R, 8110, 8110-R, 8111-R, 8120, 8121, 8130, 8130-R, 8133-R, and 8133-E.
 - Minor changes will be made to 8120.2, 8123-R, 8123.1, 8123.1-R, and 8133.
- Full-Day Kindergarten parent presentations begin at 6 p.m. tomorrow at Fyle Elementary School. Dr. Graham will e-mail board members with material and also bring it with him.
- Mrs. Flanigan will e-mail Computer Services (cc: Dr. Graham) regarding issues some board members are having opening documents on the iPads. This is the second meeting where this has happened.

B. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:01 P.M.

MOVED: Mr. Bower

SECONDED: Mrs. Reinhardt

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

C. Next Board of Education Meeting

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 9, 2014 (Program & Service Review).

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk
Board Approved: