

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

Board of Education

Susan E. Banker
President

Pamela J. Reinhardt
Vice President

J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk

Robert C. Bower
Jean M. Chaudari
Diane E. McBride
Sue A. Smith
Phyllis P. Wickerham

**Board of Education Meeting
Rush-Henrietta Central School District
Ninth Grade Academy
Diana “Dee” Strickland Conference Room
October 11, 2011
MINUTES**

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

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

Mrs. Banker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mrs. Banker introduced herself to the student representatives as she was absent from their first meeting. The agenda was revised to reflect the below changes:

- #4F – should be an “international” field trip
- The addition of item #4I – Action pertaining to approval of an international field trip
- #5-1 – Mrs. Wickerham asked to have the item voted on separately as she has a conflict of interest.
- #5 – the tabling of all pit band actions

Mrs. Banker reminded everyone that homecoming is this week and the parade would be on Saturday.

2. Board Member Report from Student Representatives

Both student representatives –Naomi Campbell and Luke Sorber – were in attendance. Mr. Sorber reported that all classes are working on their homecoming floats and that there’s a lot of dressing up for spirit week. He stated that students are bitter about the new grading policies. They are afraid if they fail one test they will not make the honor/high honor roll. Everyone is pretty happy with homecoming. Ms. Campbell spoke about the carnival Saturday at the Senior High School, followed by the homecoming parade, and then the football game at 2 p.m. She also said that spirit points are awarded to each class during homecoming week and that the spirit jug (containing money) will be awarded to the class with the most spirit.

3. Public Forum

No one came forward to address the board.

Call to Order

Student
Representatives

Public Forum

4. Consent Agenda Items for Routine Matters (Reference Appendices #4A-I)

- A. Report of bills audited and paid during September 2011
- B. Action pertaining to acceptance of the August Cash Report and September budget transfers
- C. Action pertaining to the award of bids:
 - 1. Printer cartridges
- D. Action pertaining to acceptance of the following change orders:
 - 1. HVAC-001 – Unified Mechanical Contractors, Inc., CIP 2010 Winslow, \$3,023.00
 - 2. GC-001 – Building Innovation Group, Inc., CIP 2011 Fyle, \$2,163.00
 - 3. GC-002 – Building Innovation Group, Inc., CIP 2011 Leary, \$4,719.00
 - 4. E-001 – Blackmon-Farrell Electric, Inc., CIP 2011 Sperry, \$3,140.00
- E. Action pertaining to approval of the Academic Intervention Services Plan (2011-2013)
- F. Action pertaining to approval of an international field trip
- G. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations
- H. Action pertaining to approval of minutes of the Board of Education meeting:
 - 1. Minutes of the meeting of September 27, 2011
- I. Action pertaining to approval of an international field trip

**MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT
AGENDA ITEMS #4A-G, I, AND H AS AMENDED
MOVED: Mrs. Reinhardt
SECONDED: Mrs. Wickerham
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

Dr. Graham explained that the initials CAP in the Academic Intervention Services Plan stood for Concepts About Print. He also provided an explanation for why item #4I was walked in to the meeting.

5. Action pertaining to approval of Personnel Actions (Reference Appendix #5)

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF
PERSONNEL ACTION #5-1
MOVED: Mrs. Smith
SECONDED: Mrs. McBride
MOTION CARRIED: 6-0
ABSTAINED: Mrs. Wickerham**

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL
ACTIONS #5, 2-17 WITH THE ELIMINATION OF ALL
TBA DESIGNATIONS AND THE TWO NAMES
FOR THE BURGER PIT BAND
MOVED: Mrs. Reinhardt
SECONDED: Mrs. Chaudari
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

Dr. Graham mentioned the question Mr. Bower had about the pit bands. He will do a little more research and report back to the board.

6. District Policies, Regulations, and Exhibits (Reference Appendix #6A)

Third Read:

- A. Policy 4821 – School Ceremonies and Observances

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF DISTRICT
POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND EXHIBITS #6A**

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

Dr. Graham reported that when he provided the revision of the policy to the school administrators they felt it contained a clearer articulation of intent which would be easier to implement.

7. District Policies, Regulations, and Exhibits (Reference Appendices #7A-G)

Second Read:

- A. Policy 9110.4 – Employees with HIV-Related Illness
- B. Policy 9160 – Personnel Records
- C. Regulation 9211-R – Staffing Changes Request Regulation
- D. Policy 9301 – Death of a Staff Member
- E. Policy 9320 – Drug-Free Workplace
- F. Policy 9520.3 – Military Leave
- G. Policy 9531 – Staff Supplemental Income

District Policies –
Second Read

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL OF DISTRICT
POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND EXHIBITS #7A-B, D-F,
AND #7C AND G AS AMENDED**

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

Mr. Barbeau stated that he will send another e-mail with possible dates for the next Policy Committee meeting as the last set of suggested dates did not work out.

8. Workshop: Common Core Learning Standards/Curriculum Maps (Reference Appendix #8)

Dr. Graham gave a brief overview of what the workshop would entail. Mrs. Wilson, assistant superintendent for instruction, provided an updated handout and then explained the state's new Common Core State Standards and how these learning standards will impact Rush-Henrietta curriculum and instruction. She spoke of readings being broken into two sections – literature and informational text – and the common core standards reinforcing reading, writing, and thinking and how important that is. She said the main theme for math is mathematical practices. Mrs. Wilson stated that the biggest take away from the State Education Department is the instructional shifts and that this is at the heart of the changes coming down the pike in two years. She said this is how we're going to teach. She said the state has come out with benchmarks for fluency at different grade levels and that there is definitely instructional learning occurring in the district classrooms. This year, time is being spent trying to figure out what to teach, how to teach it, and how to check for understanding.

Workshop

Ms. Watts, director of art, music, and technology, then reviewed the curriculum map template. She stated that this is where a teacher will go to see exactly what they should be following – what students need to know, understand, and do. She then went to the Rubicon Atlas website (the district's new web-based curriculum mapping system) and highlighted some of its features, including the capability to do a lot of analytical work. She explained that

the transition includes rewriting curriculum to a new template and then adding it to the Rubicon website.

9. Superintendent's Report

A. Written Information (Reference Appendices #9A, 1-5)

1. Secondary Grading Practices – Frequently Asked Questions

This document was prepared by Mrs. Wilson to be used as a resource for Board of Education members. Mrs. Wickerham would like to make sure students understand the practices. Mrs. Wilson will investigate and make sure the practices are presented with a positive spin. Some discussion ensued. Mrs. Smith suggested that Policy Committee may need to look at the grading policy to make sure it aligns with the practices.

2. Physical Education Grading Guidelines

Dr. Graham explained that Tom Stewart, director of physical education and athletics, would be providing an explanation of the physical education grading guidelines at secondary schools. He said the key to the confusion is the physical fitness score and the point of contention is the high school physical education grading rubric. Dr. Graham provided a preface to the discussion and said the objective is trying to provide a more individualized physical education plan for students.

Mr. Stewart provided some history. He said 10 years ago when the district brought assessment (looking at physical skill) back into physical education the main point was to teach students how important physical fitness is for life. The athletic director and his staff feel that the improvement piece (for grades 6-12) needs to be included in a student's grade. The plan is to be consistent in every building. There should not be bonus points or projects, but the grade should be connected to fitness – all standards based. Mr. Stewart feels that it's an excellent plan, but there are still items that can be improved on. Dr. Graham summarized the grading aspect, stating that it's not so much of what a student is going to do, but a growth model.

Mrs. Chaudari questioned why the plan was implemented if it was still a work-in-progress. Dr. Graham explained that it's already been implemented and that the district is just trying to introduce a fairness component. Mrs. Chaudari questioned gym being a grade or a pass/fail. Dr. Graham stated that if it's a pass/fail, most colleges translate that as a "C." Mrs. Chaudari questioned core versus non-core standards. Mrs. Banker stated that physical education is a requirement to graduate. Dr. Graham said there are still communication issues that need to be worked out as there are inconsistencies.

3. Event Supervision Report – First Quarter

There were no questions.

4. Violent and Disruptive Incident Report – Summary

Mrs. Wickerham asked if anyone thought PBIS has had an impact. Mrs. Anselme said yes and explained.

5. Course Offering Book – Proposed Changes

There were no questions, comments, or concerns. The final book will be brought to another meeting for board approval. Mrs. Wilson will see if it's possible to post it online for viewing instead of having to copy it.

B. Oral Information

1. Middle School Academic Eligibility – Enforcement

Dr. Graham reported that middle school academic eligibility is being enforced at the middle schools, but not the same way as at the high school. Middle schools use their 5- and 10-week reports.

2. School Improvement Plans – Posting Notification

Dr. Graham explained that the school improvement plans are posted online and that a couple of the plans currently have draft material included in them. He said typically after year-end evaluations there are some updates.

10. Board Member Reports

A. MCSBA Legislative Committee (Oct. 5)

Mrs. Reinhardt forwarded her notes. She said it is somewhat imperative that we are all a little aware of the connection we have to our legislators, how much they impact us, and to be aware of what they do for us. Mrs. Banker stated that she received a letter from Senator Schumer’s office and asked Mrs. Flanigan to contact the office to inform them of the change in presidents.

B. MCSBA Executive Committee (Oct. 5)

Mrs. Banker and Dr. Graham attended the meeting. Mrs. Banker forwarded the minutes. Dr. Graham said the meeting was basically the adoption of goals for the year. There was some question as to the difference between the Executive Committee versus the Steering Committee bylaws. Mrs. Reinhardt said she would pull information on the difference between the two committees.

Mrs. Wickerham informed the board that Mr. Bower would be attending the Information Exchange meeting for her tomorrow. She said the group still does a bring-and-share and asked the board to keep this in mind if they ever have anything they would like to know or share.

C. DPAC (Oct. 6)

Mrs. Chaudari said there were the same concerns about grading and physical education.

D. NYSSBA Conference Presentation

Mrs. Banker announced that she would be unable to attend the NYSSBA conference this year. She said the presentation is ready and that she planned to meet with Mrs. McBride to go over it. She was looking for someone to present with Mrs. McBride at 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29. She also will need someone to cover the business meeting on Saturday. Mrs. Smith agreed to cover the business meeting. Mrs. Reinhardt will check her schedule to see if she can help Mrs. McBride. Mrs. Banker is a presider at the conference, but will call NYSSBA so they can get a replacement.

11. Board Meeting Recap

- Policy Committee to review grading policy to make sure it aligns with practices
- Mrs. Reinhardt to provide a comparison/contrast of MCSBA Executive Committee versus Steering Committee bylaws
- Mrs. Reinhardt will get all NYSSBA conference voting information to Mrs. Banker
- The NYSSBA presentation will be done by Mrs. McBride and Mrs. Reinhardt, providing Mrs. Reinhardt does not have a scheduling conflict
- Dr. Graham will get answers to Mr. Bower’s questions about the pit band
- CAP (Concepts About Print) added to acronym list

Board Member
Reports

Meeting Recap

12. Adjournment

Adjournment

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:23 P.M.
MOVED: Mrs. McBride
SECONDED: Mr. Bower
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan
School District Clerk
Board Approved: October 25, 2011