

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  
November 8, 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  
Mr. George DesMarteau, School Attorney  
Dr. J. Kenneth Graham Jr., Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Andrew Whitmore, Executive Director, School Finance

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

Mrs. Banker called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. Mrs. Anthony, Mr. Barbeau, and Mrs. Wilson were absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions done. There were no revisions to the agenda.

Call to Order

**2. Board Member Report from Student Representative(s)**

Both student representatives were in attendance. Mr. Sorber reported that auditions for the dance and vocal workshops for the spring musical (*Xanadu*) had started. He also stated that Link Crew was hosting McDonald’s McCare night, from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the West Henrietta Road McDonald’s and student council was hosting a food drive for the Rush-Henrietta Area Food Terminal. Ms. Campbell reported that the African American Leadership League (AALL), a newly formed organization at the Senior High School to aid students in developing skills necessary for the future, held its first meeting. She stated that Feb. 16 would be the date for the AALL black history month celebration. She also reported on how well some of the fall sports teams had done.

Student Representative(s)

**3. Public Forum**

No one came forward to address the board.

Public Forum

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

- A. Report of bills audited and paid during October 2011
- B. Action pertaining to acceptance of the September treasurer’s report
- C. Action pertaining to acceptance of a resolution regarding designation of staff to accept service on behalf of the district in the absence of the school district clerk
- D. Action pertaining to approval of a donation
- E. Action pertaining to approval of a donation
- F. Action pertaining to approval of CSE/CPSE recommendations

Consent Agenda

- G. Action pertaining to approval of minutes of the Board of Education meeting:  
1. Minutes of the meeting of October 25, 2011

**MOTION PERTAINING TO ACCEPTANCE  
OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #4A-G**

**MOVED: Mr. Bower**  
**SECONDED: Mrs. Wickerham**  
**MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

*Mrs. Smith abstained as she was on vacation  
and unable to cast an informed vote*

Mrs. Wickerham suggested adding Item #4C to the annual meeting agenda.

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

**MOTION PERTAINING TO APPROVAL  
OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

**MOVED: Mrs. Wickerham**  
**SECONDED: Mrs. McBride**  
**MOTION CARRIED: 6-0**

*Mrs. Smith abstained as she was on vacation  
and unable to cast an informed vote*

**6. Workshop: Parent Connect Demonstration (Reference Appendix #6)**

Dr. Graham provided an introduction to the workshop, saying that ParentCONNECT would provide an opportunity for parents to access classroom assignments and grades on a more timely basis. Karen Milburn, director of information systems, and Mary Wu, senior applications specialist, were in attendance to present the workshop. Mrs. Milburn explained the process of implementing the new tool and provided an overview of the handouts in the board packet. She said Ninth Grade Academy parents are currently the only ones using ParentCONNECT, but high school parents would be up and running by the end of November. Mrs. Milburn mentioned that at least half of the parents logged in last year, there were hardly any calls regarding technical issues, and feedback thus far has been great. She also mentioned that there were no additional fees for the new tool as it is part of our current software package. Mrs. Wu demonstrated the new tool. Mrs. Milburn ended by saying that although this tool is a parent portal, parents and students are encouraged to sit together and discuss the information. She also said there is a video for parents posted to the district website and that the district is planning to do more videos for other tools that will be offered this year.

**7. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Written Information (Reference Appendix #7A-1)**

**1. Enrollment Projections**

Dr. Graham stated that the enrollment projections were basically pretty flat for the next five years.

**B. Oral Information**

**1. Pit Band Appointments**

Dr. Graham reported that he checked web guidelines and found that Burger and Roth middle schools each would have two pit band appointments and the Senior High School would have four. Once names are associated with the positions, they will be brought to a board meeting for approval.

Personnel  
Actions

Workshop –  
Parent Connect  
Demonstration

Superintendent's  
Report

Dr. Graham also mentioned the following upcoming events: Budget Advisory Council meeting, Monday, Nov. 14; Faculty Art Show Opening, Wednesday, Nov. 16; Space Committee meeting, Thursday, Nov. 17; and Parent-Teacher conferences, Monday-Tuesday, Nov. 28-29. He said at the end of the first marking period and during parent-teacher conferences he expected to receive more feedback regarding the 80/20 grading rule. As the district continues to review this new grading rule, Dr. Graham plans to provide a quarterly report to the board. He also mentioned the western regional championship football game versus Orchard Park at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at Sahlen's stadium.

## **8. New Business (Reference Appendix #8A)**

### **A. Letter from a community resident**

A letter was received from community resident Wayne Burdett of 2 Pine Tree Circle, Rush, NY 14543, regarding the lack of continuous sidewalks on the south side of Lehigh Station Road between the high school and Pinnacle Road. Discussion amongst board members ensued. Mr. DesMarteau will draft a response letter.

## **9. Board Member Reports**

### **A. NYSSBA Annual Convention (Oct. 27-30)**

Mr. Bower, Mrs. Chaudari, Mrs. McBride, Mrs. Reinhardt, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Wickerham, and Dr. Graham attended this year's convention. The overall feeling is that it was a good conference, one of the better ones. Some of the sessions attended included information on:

- Social media (Facebook, Google alerts, YouTube, LinkedIn)
- Online learning
- Obesity (connection between exercise and brain function, learning and establishing lifelong habits)
- Auctions International (getting money for used buses)
- Multiple teams of teachers (effectiveness of teachers and bouncing things off of each other)
- Instructional technology (social networking, cyberbullying; making sure you have policies in place)
- Regional labor negotiations
- Being culturally responsive (very heavy on the accountability piece)
- Achievement gap
- Tax cap

Mrs. Smith reported that the majority of the law conference was very good. Mrs. Reinhardt and Mrs. McBride reported that their presentation went well. Mrs. Flanigan will post the presentation to the Outlook board room. Dr. Graham will download a presentation on "What Boards of Education Should Do," as he believes it will make for a good board workshop.

### **B. MCSBA Legislative Committee (Nov. 2)**

Mrs. Reinhardt posted the meeting notes. She also sent an e-mail to everyone regarding a common position paper regarding unfunded mandates (Let NY Work: A Common Agenda for the Common Good) that has been developed. She pointed out the many participating organizations listed on the front page of the document.

Mrs. Reinhardt said she received an e-mail from Mike Ellis, president of the Bloomfield Central School District Board of Education, looking for a nomination for the NYSSBA Area 2 director position. He needs to be nominated by Nov. 30 to get on the ballot. Mrs.

New Business

Board Member Reports

Banker will ask about the process at the MCSBA presidents meeting. This will be added to the Nov. 22 board agenda. Mrs. Reinhardt will ask Mr. Ellis for a resume.

C. DPAC (Nov. 3)

Mrs. Chaudari reported that Mrs. Anselme gave a college and career readiness presentation. Dr. Graham stated he was looking for advice on parent education programs and said he was given numerous suggestions. He also received suggestions on how to fine tune the classroom web pages.

**10. Board Meeting Recap**

- SHS McDonald's McCare Night – 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9 (West Henrietta Road)
- Reorganizational meeting agenda – add: resolution regarding designation of staff to accept service on behalf of the district in the absence of the school district clerk
- Community resident letter – Mr. DesMarteau to draft a response letter
- Nov. 22 agenda – add: possible nomination for NYSSBA Area 2 director
- Mrs. Flanigan to post NYSSBA convention presentation to the Outlook board room

Meeting Recap

**11. Adjournment**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:35 P.M.  
MOVED: Mrs. McBride  
SECONDED: Mr. Bower  
MOTION CARRIED: 7-0**

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Flanigan  
School District Clerk  
*Board Approved: November 22, 2011*