

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #139**

February 16, 2012

The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tryon at 7:03 p.m. in Room 201 at the Rush City High School.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Scott Tryon, Carol Cook, Brian Anderson, Stefanie Folkema, Brenda Nessel, and Channa Tastsides. Board Members absent: None. Others in attendance: Vern Koepp, Superintendent; Laureen Frost, Business Manager; Stuart Fuhs, High School Principal; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; a representative from the Post Review.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion #01912 by Tastsides seconded by Nessel approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

Motion #02012 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of January 19, 2012. Motion unanimously carried.

Recognition/Policy Review

Superintendent Koepp noted that February 20th-24th is School Board Recognition Week, he thanked Board Members for their leadership and commitment to Rush City Schools. Koepp cited good District finances, good student achievement, and well maintained facilities as evidence of good School Board leadership.

In a first reading the Board discussed the following policies: Policy #414-Mandated Reporting Of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse, Policy #419-Tobacco-Free Environment, Policy #530-Immunization Requirements, Policy #902-Use Of School District Facilities and Equipment.

After a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes, Motion #02112 by Tastsides seconded by Nessel approving the following policies: Policy #206-Public Participation in School Board Meetings/Complaints about Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations, Policy #208-Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies, Policy #405-Veteran's Preference, and Policy #406-Public and Private Personnel Data. Motion unanimously carried.

Financial Information

Following the Business Manager's review and the Superintendent's certification, Motion # 02212 by Cook seconded by Anderson approving the payment of invoices and obligations in the amount of \$647,197.66 for ISD139 and \$373,313.96 for SCRED. Motion unanimously carried.

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported the district has \$1,576,598 in investments as of January 31, 2012.

Quarterly Investment Report: Frost reviewed liquid asset quarterly investment report showing that the District had \$490,000 invested as of December 31, 2011. The average rate of the fixed investments was 1.47%. Frost reviewed the quarterly report for the Swimming Pool Trust Fund for the quarter ending December 31, 2011. This report shows an account balance of \$514,904 and interest earnings of \$2,966 for the 2011 aquatic center season compared to interest earnings of \$8,117 for the 2010 season.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Business Manager Frost reviewed the current 2011-12 revenue and expenditure budget noting that General Fund revenues were running approximately \$860,000 behind expenditures to date, due to delays in state aid.

Communication

There were no items for consideration.

Reports

Positive Points

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

Ms. Nelson and Mrs. Karvonen lead a VERY successful Knowledge Bowl year! Of their three competitions, the teams brought home five trophies with one team taking first place in all three meets! We are all very proud of this year's team.

We had another successful drive for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society with their Pennies for Patients project. While a total is unknown at this time, we are positive that it will be a good year for we once again had a Hat Day (which students contributed \$1.00 in order to wear a hat) and in addition, the sixth grade this year had a friendly competition among home rooms.

The MCA testing season has begun with the first of two rounds for the math tests in grades 3-6. The third graders have started us off well with 72% meeting proficiency. We will have round two of these tests later in the spring.

The fifth and sixth graders, under the direction of Mrs. Holmstrom, put on a great program called, *The Hero in Us All*. The students did a great job and the lesson they taught through music was good for the students and all who had the opportunity to attend. The evening performance brought students' family members on stage who are community heroes, which was a very touching tribute.

We are starting a new parent involvement activity called, *Homework Club*. We sent home a survey to parents to get their input on a communication system we are looking to put into place. We will ascertain if blogging, tweeting, emails, or meetings will be the best mode of communication for helping parents support their child's work.

We have been very active with *I Love to Read Month*. The students are on target to way surpass this year's goal! We are looking forward to a great celebration should the reading minutes continue to keep pouring in. We also would like to send a sincere thank you to the voice of this year's reading drill podcast – he's our Mystery Voice!

The last week in February is the Minnesota School Board Association Week. We would like to thank all of the board members for your service and wish to give to everyone one of our Perseverance Dog Tags that we are sharing this year to award Perseverance. I'm sure the motto fits for all that you do!

High School Principal Fuhs shared the following positive points:

Congratulations to the Girls Gymnastics Team for winning the Section 4A Gymnastics Championship this past Tuesday night at Chisago Lakes. The gymnastics team will compete at the State Tournament on Friday, February 24th at 11:00 a.m. at the University of Minnesota Sports Pavilion on the University of Minnesota Campus. On Saturday, February 25th at 11:00 a.m. the individual competition will take place. Girls competing are Kayla Forcier, Bailey Mollberg, Bailey Murawski, Kylee Berube (PC), Cassidy Dunkley (HF), Taniel Schellbach, Katelyn Meier and Alecia Meier. Coaches: Dianne Meier & Jessica Miller.

Members of the Rush City Junior High Speech team ended another successful season with the Two Rivers Conference meet in Princeton on Thursday, February 9, 2012. At the Two Rivers Conference meet the team finished in third place for large teams behind Pine City and Princeton.

At the conference meet Krista Malchow finished 6th and Brittney Mollberg finished 5th in Serious Poetry. In Humorous Poetry, Sam Miller finished 5th. In Drama, Hannah Fleischhacker finished 4th. In Creative Expression, Collin Yaritz finished 4th. In Extemp Speaking, Devan Larson finished 5th and Emily Anderson finished 2nd. In Informative, Sara Johnson finished 2nd. In Duet Acting, Najhalie Williams and Sadie Graham finished 4th and Brittany Bergren and Shayla McKinney-Buck finished 1st.

35 students in grades 7-9 participated throughout the season. The ribbons and other awards they received are on display in the display case. Please stop and check them out before you leave the building tonight.

On Wednesday, Feb 15th the Rush City Jazz Band performed in the Braham Jazz Festival. In addition, our school was represented in the Conference Honors Jazz Band by seniors Justin Marty and Brooke Hein.

In Senior High Speech, Rush City came in 4th place at the Ogilvie Invitational. Marissa Belau Placed 5th in her category of Extemporaneous Reading. And Devan Larson Came in 3rd in his Category of Extemporaneous Speaking. The team as a whole did great improving scores across the board over last season! Go Tigers!

Rush City High School's art program now has 1472 artworks posted just this year on their artsonia museum gallery! Which can be seen at <http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=107793>. The students have been working really hard! Any fans or comments are MUCH appreciated.

Superintendent Koepp shared the following positive points provided by Julie Thom, Early Childhood Coordinator:
The 2011-2012 school year can be summarized in one word: BUSY! All preschool and ECCE sections are full. Current enrollment sits at 66 students between the 4 sections of preschool. There are current special education evaluations underway that may increase that number. ECCE classes for the winter/spring session began last week. There are currently no openings in either ECCE class.

Winter data collection concluded in the past week and scores reflect steady growth in all areas. Please see the attached sheet for percentages.

Technology is impacting the early childhood classroom on a daily basis. Students use the SMARTboard and iPads on a daily basis. In the last month, we have also incorporated the use of the SMART response system into our program. We are finding the resource to be quite valuable. Staff has found that having Mary Kurvers available as the technology integration specialist makes everything come together. Her knowledge and encouragement has made implementing these great teaching tools into our classroom seamless.

Additionally, our early childhood team – myself, Sarah Nichols (MRC member) and Dawn Johnson have been invited to speak at the MN – DEC conference in March on our use of technology in Early Childhood.

Early Childhood Special Education continues to see tremendous growth. So far in school year, there have been 8 initial assessments in early childhood. The current early childhood caseload sits at 18 students. 2 initial evaluations are currently underway. 15 students receive their services in center through ECFE or Preschool classes, while 3 receive home visits as they are too young for either class. 8 students are age eligible for Kindergarten in the fall.

Updates

Enrollment

Business Manager Frost provided an enrollment summary showing enrollment increases for 2010-11 and 2011-12, but a slight decline from September 2011 through January 2012.

Lunch Program Participation

Business Manager Frost provided a summary of food service participation showing that 24% of the students eat breakfast at school and 73% of the students eat school lunch. Both of those figures are consistent with recent participation levels.

Gymnastics Conference

Superintendent Koepp informed board members that Long Prairie has decided not to participate in the gymnastic conference with Rush City for the 2012-13 school year.

Meetings Attended

Board member Cook reported on a recent Board Advisory Meeting at which Melody Tenhoff presented information about 21st Century Learning Skills, and Mary Kurvers, Tech Integration Teacher, explained how she is assisting teachers in their efforts to integrate technology into instruction.

Board Chair Tryon reported that at the recent SCRED Governing Board Meeting the governing board reviewed the revised Agreement to Cooperate and discussed the floor plan of the proposed SCRED office building.

Old Business

Aquatic/Rec. Center Roof

Board members reviewed an estimate provided Garland for a 30 year warranty roof for an estimated cost of \$290,000. No action was taken.

New Business

Personnel

Motion #02312 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the leave request by Alissa Zeltinger beginning 4/30/12 for 6 weeks or until the end of the 2011-12 school year. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #02412 by Cook seconded by Folkema approving the compensation packages for the following groups and individuals:

Clerical/Clerk Typist Staff and Other Individuals (On Schedules) approve total package increases for clerical/clerk typist and other individuals (on schedules) of \$14,951 (5.23%) for the two-year period 2011-12 and 2012-13 and remove the 60 day waiting period for health insurance retroactive to 2/1/12. Transportation Staff, approve total package increases for transportation staff of \$9,955 (4.54%) for the two-year period 2011-12 and 2012-13. Other District Individuals (Not on Schedules), approve a market adjustment of \$6,000 for salary for the Technology Coordinator and approve total package increases for other District individuals (not on schedules) of \$23,634 (4.85%) for the two-year period 2011-12 and 2012-13. Principals' Contract, approve the Principal Master Agreement, with a total package increase of \$14,955 (4.87%) for the two-year contract 2011-12 and 2012-13. Activities Director, approve a one-year agreement with the Activities Director for 2012-13, with no increase to salary or benefits. Custodian Contract, approve the Custodian Contract (Teamster Local 320) with a total package increase of \$18,589 (5.41%) for the two-year contract 2011-12. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #02512 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the compensation package for Food Service/Paraprofessional Contract

Approve a Comparable Worth adjustment of \$19,611 to salaries and the District contribution to health insurance premiums. Approve the Food Service/Paraprofessional Contract (Teamster Local 320) with a total package increase of \$49,260 (5.48%) for the two-year contract 2011-12 and 2012-13. Voting for, Folkema, Cook, Tryon, Tastsides, and Nessel. Voting against none. Abstaining due to a potential conflict of interest, Anderson. Motion carried.

Rush City Softball Association Proposal

Darrin Stream and Joey Folkema, representing the Rush City Softball Association, reviewed with the school board plans for the association to remove the existing shed between the old softball fields and, in its place, build a shed that includes toilets, storage areas, and an open shelter. It was a consensus among board members to support this project and to have the softball association work with Athletic Director Schlagel, Facilities Coordinator Korf, and Superintendent Koepp.

Audit Quotes

Business Manager Frost provided a history of audit services including providers and prices. Frost recommended the District contract with Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Company for Fiscal years 2012-2014. Whereupon Motion #02612 by Tastsides seconded by Folkema accepting the three year quote proposal from MMKR. Motion unanimously carried.

HS Gym Audio System

Board members reviewed a report on the High School gym audio system provided by Electronic Design. The report included several upgrade options. Whereupon Motion #02712 by Tastsides seconded by Anderson to replace the equalizers and balance the different zones in the high school gym audio system for \$3,000. Motion unanimously carried.

School Calendar

Board members reviewed a draft of the 2012-13 school calendar but took no action at this time.

Reduction Resolution

Superintendent Koepp recommended that the school board direct the administration to evaluate programs and positions in the district for the 2012-13 school year. Whereupon, Motion #02812 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides directing administration to evaluate programs and positions and make recommendations to the school board regarding any reductions to programs or positions. Motion unanimously carried. Note: The complete resolution is available on the district website and in the district office.

St. Croix River Education District Issues

Motion #02912 by Cook seconded by Anderson approving the leave request by Jamie Nord for six weeks beginning 5/10/12 through 6/29/12. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #03012 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the employment of Dana Johnson, Clerical, 260 days per year. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #03112 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the position reassignment for Sandy Benson, decreasing clerical time to 166 days per year, and increasing her Outcomes Assistant time to 94 days per year beginning 2/17/12. Motion unanimously carried.

Agreement to Cooperate

Board members reviewed a revised SCRED Agreement to Cooperate with changes related to member responsibilities for the cost associated with building a new office facility in downtown Rush City. Whereupon Motion #03212 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides to approve the revised agreement. Motion unanimously carried.

Reimbursement Resolution

Board members reviewed a resolution that allows SCRED to reimburse funds used for the office building project if another funding source is secured. Whereupon Motion #03312 by Tastsides seconded by Anderson to adopt the resolution. Motion unanimously carried. Note: The complete resolution is available on the district website and in the district office.

Calendar

Regular Board Mtg.	Room 201, High School	3/15/12	7:00 p.m.
Strategic Planning Mtg.	High School Conference Rm	3/19/12	6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion #03412 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides adjourning the Regular Board meeting at 9:42 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Anderson
Clerk

Our mission is to provide each learner with appropriate educational opportunities to reach his or her potential.