

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

August 16, 2012

The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tryon at 7:09 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; Brent Stavig, High School Principal; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; and a representative from the ECM Post Review.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion #13212 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda with the following additions, Updates, Item 2 - Rush City Educational Foundation, Item 3 - MCA and AYP Results, New Business, Item B – Preschool - Additional 3 year old section. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

Motion #13312 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of July 19, 2012. Motion unanimously carried.

Recognition/Policy Review

In a first reading the Board discussed Policy #205-Open Meetings and Closed Meetings, Policy #416-Drug and Alcohol Testing, Policy #430-Contract Releases after Resignation Deadline, and Policy #509-Enrollment of Nonresident Students.

Financial Information

Following the Business Manager's review and Superintendent's certification, Motion #13412 by Tastsides seconded by Anderson approving the payment of invoices and obligations in the amount of \$717,283.45 for Rush City and \$457,292.29 for SCRED. Motion unanimously carried.

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported that the district has \$1,149,035 invested as of July 31, 2012.

Swimming Pool Trust Fund: Business Manager Frost reviewed the Swimming Pool Trust Fund, noting that the fund balance was \$513,481.62 as of June 30, 2012.

Communications

Reports

Positive Points

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

Our Summer School Program ended last week and I would like to report that it went very well with approximately 74 students attending. Our summer school teachers, Mary Kurvers, Linda Lindeman, Laura Nelson, Kelly Gunderson, Jen Theilen, Meghan Preissig, Dawn Johnson, and Julie Thom are all to be commended for working hard to meet the needs of these students.

The other summer program that we have in the building this summer is Tiger Club and that too went well – in fact, for the second year in a row, we have had better and more stable attendance.

Teachers are already back in their rooms getting settled in for the upcoming year. The back-to-school excitement is here!

High School Principal Stavig shared the following positive points:

Summer league volleyball concluded with an exciting tournament at Pine City High School. The JV team won their tournament; the varsity fought extremely hard against Braham and took it to the final match but Braham came out on top.

Just this week practice started up for fall sports. Turnout was great for girls volleyball, the team very large. They are training and practicing extremely hard, this is sure to be an extremely competitive and exciting season. Football and cross-country are also underway. Like the volleyball athletes they are training hard and excited for the season.

Teachers are working hard to implement advanced technology into their curriculum and instruction. Many participated in the iPad training, Smart Board training, and Language! training.

I have made a point to get out in the community and meet as many people as possible. So far this has gone very well, I've met great people and learned a lot about the community. I believe these relationships will be instrumental in meeting the needs of the community and of our students and staff. I am very impressed with Rush City!

Updates

SCRED Facility

Superintendent Koepp reported that the foundation is in, block work has begun and that preparation is under way for pouring the floor and putting up the walls.

Rush City Education Foundation

Scott Friday, Chairperson of the Rush City Education Foundation, informed board members that the foundation now has a Board of Directors and Officers and Bylaws in place. The foundation is holding its first fundraiser on October 6th at Chuckers. It will include comedians and a meal. The foundation is also planning an all school reunion for August of 2013.

MCA and AYP Results

Superintendent Koepp provided a brief summary of Spring 2012 MCA results and the AYP report, both of which were recently made available by the Minnesota Department of Education. In 2011 Rush City had a total of seven areas identified as needing improvement, in 2012 Rush City had a total of three areas identified as needing improvement, all of them under the heading of Reading-White not of Hispanic Origin.

Prior years have indicated a concern with math and a team of teachers, parents, and consultants developed an improvement plan that reduced the gap between Rush City and state MCA math scores and exceeded state averages in two grades. Based on the 2012 AYP report we exceeded the math target for all students by 7 index points as a district, by 11 index points at Jacobson Elementary, and by 3 index points at the High School. We are pleased with the progress in math but will continue our efforts to achieve math achievement.

2011 and 2012 MCA scores indicate more of a concern in reading. We developed an improvement plan for reading last year and our scores improved in 4 of 7 grades compared to the previous year. We exceeded the reading target for All Students by 1 index point as a district, and by 5 index points at Jacobson Elementary. We scored right at the target for All Students in the High School. We are pleased with the progress in reading but need to focus more resources and energy on continued reading improvement.

Because we value multiple measures and trend data the board also reviewed recent Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) results. MAP reading tests are given to all students in grades 2 through 9 and MAP math tests are given to all students in grades 2 through 10. Nationwide 50% of the students meet their growth target and 50% do not. The Rush City School Board academic goal states that at least 60% of our students will meet their MAP growth target for reading and math.

MAP test data shows that 8 of 9 grades tested for math exceeded the national average and 6 of 9 grades met the more rigorous School Board goal. MAP reading data shows that 7 of 8 grades tested exceeded the national average and 3 of 8 grades met the more rigorous School Board goal.

Meetings Attended

None to report.

Old Business

There were no topics for consideration.

New Business

Personnel

Motion #13512 by Anderson seconded by Cook approving an FMLA request by Jeanette Aleshire for a reduced schedule through September, pending further medical certification. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #13612 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides approving the employment of Joesph Lattimore – Elementary Teacher. Motion unanimously carried.

Preschool – Additional 3 year old section

Preschool coordinator, Julie Thom, informed Superintendent Koepp that there was a large waiting list for an additional preschool section. Board members considered a request by Julie Thom and Superintendent Koepp to consider adding another section. Board members reviewed estimated expenses and revenues noting that the program would likely run at a loss. After considering advantages to students and the potential impact to district finances, Motion #13712 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides to add an additional preschool section with a minimum of 12 students. Motion unanimously carried.

Individual Transportation Contract

Motion #13812 by Tastsides seconded by Nessel approving a transportation contract for Ruth and William Tomczyk family for 26 miles per day. Motion unanimously carried.

St. Croix River Education District Issues

Motion #13912 by Nessel seconded by Anderson approving an FMLA request for Sarah Rydberg for 7 weeks beginning 8/10/12 and an FMLA request for Kerry Bollman for 12 weeks beginning 10/23/12. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #14012 by Tastsides seconded by Nessel increasing contract days to 260 days per year for Joyce Johnson – Accounting Technician. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #14112 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the employment of Sue Witthuhn – Physical Therapist beginning 8/15/12. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #14212 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides approving an individual contract for Nicole Jack – Unique Learner Manager beginning 7/31/12. Motion unanimously carried.

Calendar

Regular Board Mtg.	Room 201, High School	9/20/12	7:00 p.m.
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Adjournment

Motion #14312 by Tastsides seconded by Anderson adjourning the Regular Board meeting at 8:30 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.