

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

May 16, 2013

The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Folkema at 7:00 p.m. in Room 201 at the Rush City High School.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Scott Tryon, Carol Cook, Brian Anderson, Brenda Nessel, and Stefanie Folkema. Board Members absent: None. Others in attendance: Vern Koepp, Superintendent; Laureen Frost, Business Manager; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; Brent Stavig, High School Principal; Julie Thom, Early Childhood Coordinator; Mary Kurvers; representative of the East Central Post Review; and other interested persons.

New Member Oath of Office

Board Chair Folkema administered the Oath of Office to recently appointed Board Member Justin Wood.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion #07713 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion #07813 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the following Consent Agenda Items:

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 23, 2013 and Special Board Meeting of May 8, 2013.

Bills, obligations, and invoices totaling, \$720,182.62 for Rush City, and \$532,961.37 for SCRED.

Rush City Personnel:

Accept the resignation of Colleen Daniels – Paraprofessional effective June 5, 2013. Note: Boards members wish to thank her for her many years of service with Rush City Schools.

Accept the resignation of Chris Erbstoesser – Custodian effective May 3, 2013.

Employ Kathy Monster – Paraprofessional beginning April 24, 2013.

Employ Jayme Reichkitzer – Cook beginning 2013-14.

Renew a Memo of Understanding with Becky Maki – Community Education Director for 2013-14.

Renew administrative contract with Brent Stavig – High School Principal for 2013-14.

Note: The board is working on a transition plan for Lee Rood to assume the duties of Activity Director and Community Education Director beginning with 2014-15.

SCRED Personnel:

Accept the resignation of Sarah Brown – Unique Learner Manager effective the end of 2012-13.

Authorize an increase in days for Susan Witthuhn from 126 days to 158 days for 2013-14.

Authorize an increase up to 100 additional hours for Valorie Arrowsmith – English Language Learner for 2012-13.

Approve an individual contract with Nicole Jack – Unique Learner Manager for 2013-14.

Approve a contract with Cynthia Bruning – Collaborative Planner, Low Incidence: beginning July 1, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Item(s) Removed From Consent Agenda

None

Recognition/Policy Review

Board Chair presented retiring Paraprofessional Colleen Daniels with a plaque thanking her for her 23 years of service to Rush City Schools.

Board Chair presented retiring Teacher Deborah Guse with a plaque thanking her for her 22 years of service with Rush City Schools.

There were no policies for a first reading.

After a second reading and final board review of proposed changes Motion #07913 by Nessel seconded by Tryon approving the following policies: Policy #101 – Legal Status of the School District, Policy #306 – Administrator Code of Ethics, and Policy #404 – Employment Background Checks. Motion carried unanimously.

Board member Folkema asked visitors if they wished to address the Board. Michelle Anderson offered a parent's perspective regarding Mr. Mettling's impact on students. She wished there was more opportunity for parent input into the evaluation process and she encouraged the board to reconsider the decision to not renew Mr. Mettlings contract. Several other parents spoke in favor of Mr. Mettling and offered suggestions to improve communication. Board members thanked the visitors for sharing their thoughts.

Financial Topics

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported the district has \$2,196,361 invested as of 4/30/13.

Quarterly Investment Report: Frost reported that the district currently has \$1,286,000 invested in the Liquid Asset Fund Portfolio with an average interest rate of .76%.

Frost reviewed the quarterly report for the Pool Trust Fund, noting that the March 31 Fund Balance was \$512,572.54 and that the interest income earned for the 2012 Aquatic Center season was \$3,545 compared to \$2,965.00 the previous year.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Business Manager Frost reviewed the 2012-13 revenue and expenditure budget noting that the general fund revenues are running approximately \$200,000 less than expenditures to date, but that the gap is improving as the state catches up in state aid payments.

Communications

There were no items for consideration.

Reports

Positive Points

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

All of our testing is complete. Nancy Moulton, Melanie Hedberg, and Jill Erickson all take on extra efforts during the testing season and their efforts are appreciated.

Our sixth grade band did a very nice job with their spring concert. It is always so good to hear the improvements they make during the school year.

Last week we had the annual Academic Triathlon for second and third graders. The students work in teams through three challenging events: Mind sprints – activities that require good thinking skills, Face Off – a trivia competition, Creative Activity – a digital story writing and play performance event. Mary Kurvers and Melanie Hedberg coordinate this event and we thank them for their leadership. The first graders were darling in their music program, “Hats.” Mrs. Holmstrom, along with the teachers and support staff, worked hard to give the students this opportunity.

Last Friday, Mr. Henrich lead the first through third graders through there Track & Field events and tomorrow he will conduct the fourth through sixth grades’ Track & Field. Hope for good weather!

Please help us over the summer with our collecting. Don’t forget to save the Box Tops for Education and Land ‘O Lakes (however, the Land ‘O Lakes program is discontinued at the end of October, so turn in the proof of purchases early in the fall). The Kemps program is no longer available. We are starting the new program, Loves4Learning. These programs really add up and we thank you!

The fifth grade Spanish Club had a great time this year. They even did a virtual field trip and learned how to Salsa Dance!

Our hallways have been decorated this year by the “TWC.” What is the TWC? No one knows. But a group of folks have recognized all of us throughout the year with some very thoughtful displays. Thank you, TWC!

High School Principal Stavig shared the following positive points:

Spanish 3 enjoyed Salsa dance lessons this morning via a Video Conference.

55 students attended the Festival of Nations May 3rd in St. Paul.

Spanish 3 students from Rush City and Braham attended a play at the Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis that was done primarily in Spanish with English subtitles. They all enjoyed lunch at Acapulco Restaurante in Ham Lake.

Tiger Club Volleyball Clinic Presentation - The kids learned a lot and had a ton of fun!!!

Congratulations to the 8th graders for winning the School-Wide Contest with a total of 13,231 Box Tops, Pop Tabs, Campbell's Labels and Land o' Lakes Caps! A total of 34,944 items were brought in this year.

PLC's are making good progress. We are developing an improved process to identify struggling learners, provide the necessary intervention(s), and continuously monitor performance. (I'm proud of our staff)

Grand March and Prom were a huge success! Pictures were presented.

Students of Excellence were recognized

Preschool Coordinator Thom shared the following positive points:

1. This year's preschool classes will conclude next week. 3 year old class sections have a final day celebration planned and 4 & 5 year old classes have graduation ceremonies planned for their final day of class on May 23rd and May 24th. All are welcome!

2. Preschool data collection has concluded as well! Scores look great! We collected data in 2 areas as well as participated in a study with the U of M for the 2nd version of the IGDI measure. The final data for the study was collected this afternoon and sent back to the U for analysis.

3. MN Reading Corps member Sarah Nichols had the opportunity to participate in a pilot of the new data warehouse that MRC is switching to in the fall. She spent an afternoon learning the program at TIES and then entered data during the month of May. She just met again yesterday with program leaders. Sarah was specifically requested to participate in this pilot based on her past performance and knowledge of the program. She has gone above and beyond her regular duties as a community corps member! We are lucky to have her returning to our program in the fall as a full time MRC member.

4. Registration has been ongoing for 2013-2014 preschool classes. As of this afternoon, we have 68 students registered. There are currently 6 spots open program wide, 4 SPED and 2 Gen Edu. We are excited and nervous to see the program this full, this early!

Updates

Tiger Trail Walk Path

Superintendent Koepp reported that the district has received one quote for a walking path along Tiger Trail and that this concept will be included in the upcoming five year capital expenditure plan.

Meetings Attended

Board member Tryon reported on a recent SCRED Governing Board meeting which included personnel changes and a solution to the sidewalk concerns at the new SCRED building.

Board member Cook reported on a recent Board Advisory meeting during which a number of teachers discussed and demonstrated how they are integrating technology into their instruction.

Old Business

There were no topics for consideration.

New Business

Revise 2013-14 School Calendar

Koepp reported that homecoming is scheduled for October 4, 2013, a staff development day. The Staff Development Committee has reviewed this and recommends moving the staff development day to October 7, and keeping October 4 as a regular student day. Whereupon Motion #08013 by Anderson seconded by Nessel revising the 2013-14 School Calendar so October 4th is a regular student day and October 7th is a staff development day. Motion carried unanimously.

St. Croix River Education District Issues

There were no items to consider.

Calendar

Special Board Meeting	Room 201, High School	5/29/13	6:30 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg.	Room 201, High School	6/20/13	7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion #08113 by Tryon seconded by Nessel adjourning the Regular School Board meeting at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Anderson
Clerk

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