

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

October 18, 2012

The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tryon 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, Stefanie Folkema, Brenda Nessel, and Channa Tastsides. Board Members absent: None. Others in attendance: Vern Koepp, Superintendent; Laureen Frost, Business Manager; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; Donna Westman, Food Service Director; Gary Olsen, Ehlers & Associates; and a representative from the ECM Post Review.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion #16312 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Minutes and Special School Board Meeting Minutes

Motion #16412 by Tastsides seconded by Anderson approving the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of September 20, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognition/Policy Review

In a first reading Board members reviewed Policy #202-School Board Officers, Policy #206-Public Participation in School Board Meetings/Complaints about Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations, and Policy #511-Student Fundraising.

After a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes, Motion #16512 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the following policies: Policy #532-Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds, Policy #603-Curriculum Development, and Policy #430-Contract Releases After Resignation Deadline. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Information

Following the Business Manager's review and the Superintendent's certification, Motion #16612 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the payment of invoices and obligations in the amount of \$696,972.48 for Rush City and \$369,452.82 for SCRED. Motion carried unanimously.

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported the district has \$2,316,963 invested as of 9/30/12.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Business Manager Frost reported that General Fund Revenues received to date are running slightly ahead of expenditures to date.

Communications

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

Reports

Positive Points

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

As always, the fall is a very busy time of year. One of fall's highlights is the annual Homecoming celebration. The elementary would like to extend its "thank you" to the high school for inviting us to the Pep Fest. This has only been a tradition for a couple of years, and it is good for our students to see high school role models.

Congratulations to Melanie Hedberg and Donna Zastera, both of whom were chosen to represent Rush City School's this year as Education Support Award Winners. This is the second year that Resource Trainings and Solutions has offered this recognition program to local area schools and we are happy to be acknowledging the hard work done by our support staff.

Mrs. Lofgren has started a new program at the elementary school called, Book Pizzazz. It is modeled after the Pizza Hut reading program, but we were happy to work with our local Creekside Pizza instead. Students will be reading at home and returning slips that document how much they have read. Creekside Pizza will be acknowledging their efforts with a pizza. What a great way to support reading and we thank our local Creekside Pizza!

We are done with the MAP testing for this fall and are getting used to the new web-based system. Being web-based, we should now be able to access data and reports faster and that timely information will be very important to our teachers. As with all new systems, we have a few learning curves, but I'm confident that we will like this new system once we have had time to put all the pieces together.

Our annual fire safety is in full swing: kindergartners have gone to the fire hall, the smoke house has been here for its annual visit, and students are working on their fire safety posters. I know our efforts have proven to be beneficial to families in the past and we hope that in the future none of our families ever have to face a house fire.

Our character word this year is Compassion. Obviously, this fits right in the district's increased "anti-bullying" efforts. On Monday, October 22, we will start implementing the program *Character Counts* where each week teachers will review a lesson or two on the word of the week. In addition, we will be building a Chain of Compassion that will wrap its way around the school. If it works and the high school also decides to work on a chain with their *Rachel's Challenge* efforts, we would like our chain to join theirs. And lastly, since October is National Anti-Bullying month, they are selling teal ribbons in support of this cause. Money raised by their efforts will go toward additional school-wide compassion efforts.

AmeriCorps again supported the national program, Read for the Record. This year the book was Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad and we had 217 students participate to read for the record. AmeriCorps and Foster Grandparents are also teaming up again this year to implement reading support for fourth and fifth grade students. We hope to be able to start this program soon.

Superintendent Koepp shared the following positive points provided by High School Principal Stavig: The October 12th professional development day was a success. Our teachers and a few clerical staff participated in either Google, iPad, or SmartBoard training. Thank you Mr. Koepp and board members for changing the calendar. I did not hear a single complaint and this allowed us to get this training in early, therefore allowing it to be implemented in the classroom earlier.

Rachel's Challenge was a great success. Our students are now meeting regularly carrying on Rachel's Challenge. The group is called the Friends Of Rachel (FOR) Club. Although there are staff leaders, this is a student lead effort. The following are the members; please watch for their events and activities.

- Staff Leaders: Heidi Larson, Shawn Chinn, Adriane Wimmer, Colleen Daniels, Mike Vaughan, Erika Matzke, John Nolte, Carvel Kuehn, Brent Stavig
- Ambassadors: Jenny Tyron, Adam Engel
- Club Leaders: Robbie Suloff, Keanna Belau, Nick Kost, Alissa Mell, Mitch Siefert, Josie Kent
- Historians: Carlie Mell, Viola Manske

We will be offering the ACT at RCHS again this year (October, December, February, April).

MN College Application Week is coming up, November 12-16. RCHS will be participating for the 2nd consecutive year. Our expectation is that every senior will submit 3 applications during the week (the state goal is 1 application per student).

The fall sports season is wrapping up, our teams did great and the post season is just around the corner. Go Tigers!!!

Board Member Tryon wished to thank all individuals involved in the planning and building of the new shed at the softball fields.

Updates

SCRED Facility

Superintendent Koepp reported that brick work has been completed on two sides and the third side should be completed the following week. Walls are going up, plumbing and electricity are largely done on the interior, sheet rocking has begun, sidewalks should be poured soon, and roof work should be completed as soon as the brick work is complete.

Meetings Attended

Board member Cook reported that the recent Board Advisory meeting included discussion about the committee purpose, Rachel's Challenge in the High School, and the calendar change which allowed for staff development on October 12th. She also wanted to note that there was a great parent and teacher turnout for this meeting.

Old Business

Resolution to Refund Building Bonds

Gary Olsen of Ehlers & Associates reported that Raymond James & Associates, Inc. from Memphis, TN had the most favorable bid for refunding \$2,270,000 of general building bonds. Old interest rates for these bonds varied between 3.7 and 4.2 percent and the new interest rate will be .7083 percent. Whereupon Motion #16712 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides to approve the resolution awarding the sale of general obligation bonds to Raymond James & Associates, Inc. Voting for: Nessel, Tastsides, Anderson, Tryon, Cook, Folkema. Voting against: None. Motion carried unanimously.

Note: This refunding will save District taxpayers about \$190,000 over the next five years. A complete copy of the resolution is available at the District Office or on the District Website.

New Business

Personnel

Motion #16812 by Nessel seconded by Anderson accepting the resignation of Christopher Darst, Custodian, 4 days/wk, 9 months/yr. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #16912 by Cook seconded by Folkema authorizing additional Paraprofessional time Monday-Thursday mornings, 12 hrs/wk. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #17012 by Nessel seconded by Folkema approving the employment of Cindy Schlangen, Paraprofessional, 6 hrs/wk. Motion carried unanimously.

Lunch Program Changes

Food Service Director Westman compared old Federal Guidelines for school meals with new guidelines. New Federal Guidelines reduce the amount of fats, salt, and certain carbohydrates and increase the amount of fruits and vegetables. Students are allowed to purchase an additional entrée as they have in the past.

Westman and Board members reviewed information from area schools regarding pricing for additional entrées, and practices related to negative Food Service accounts. Whereupon Motion #17112 by Cook seconded by Anderson as of January 1, 2013 no meals will be provided for Food Service accounts that have a deficit of \$10.00 or more. A sandwich and milk will be offered to students with accounts showing a \$10.00 deficit or more. Motion carried unanimously.

Review District Mission Statement and Goals

Board members briefly reviewed the District Mission Statement and Goals and it was a consensus among board members that this should be a topic of discussion for the School Board Advisory Meeting on December 10, 2012.

All School Reunion Support

Board members discussed a request from the Rush City Education Foundation make school facilities available to alumni during the All School Reunion in August of 2013, and to cover postage to contact alumni for the All School Reunion. It was a consensus among board members that facilities will be available for alumni during the All School Reunion and that the Education Foundation Leadership should provide a more specific request for postage to the school board.

Tiger Club – Morning Program

Elementary Principal Tenhoff informed board members that enough parents had indicated an interest in a Morning Tiger Club Program to make it financially viable. Whereupon Motion #17212 by Tastsides seconded by Cook to reinstate the Morning Tiger Club Program. Motion carried unanimously.

MSBA Legislative Resolution

Board members reviewed an MSBA Legislative Resolution drafted by North Branch Area Schools which would attempt to decrease the disparity in educational funding. Whereupon Motion #17312 by Tastsides seconded by Anderson endorsing the MSBA Legislative Resolution as drafted by North Branch Area Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

Individual Transportation Contract

Motion #17412 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving an individual transportation contract with Bonnie Long for 13.2 miles per day, beginning 9/4/12 and ending 5/31/13. Motion carried unanimously.

St. Croix River Education District Issues

Motion #17512 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides authorizing an increase in hours for the Outcomes Assistant creating a full-time 260 day per year position effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #17612 by Tastsides seconded by Cook approving an FMLA leave request for Emily Griffith, 6 weeks, beginning 12/16/12. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Regular Board Mtg

High School Rm. 201

11/15/12

7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion #17712 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides adjourning the Regular School Board meeting at 9:08 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.