

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

January 16, 2014

The Organizational/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, Stefanie Folkema, Brenda Nessel, Scott Anderson, Matt Perreault, Teri Umbreit. Board Members absent: None. Others in attendance: Vern Koepp, Superintendent; Laureen Frost, Business Manager; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; Brent Stavig, High School Principal; Deb Meissner, Julie Thom, Sue Karvonen, Melissa Olson, Patrice DeGray, and other interested persons.

Oath of Office

Chair Folkema administered the Oath of Office to recently elected school board members; Scott Anderson, Teri Umbreit, and Matt Perreault.

Election of Officers/Committee Assignments

Chair: Chairperson Folkema called for nominations for Chairperson. Whereupon, Nessel nominated Folkema. Hearing no further nominations Chairperson Folkema called for a vote, and all board members voted in favor of Folkema as Chairperson of the School Board for the year 2014.

Vice Chair: Chairperson Folkema called for nominations for Vice Chair. Whereupon, Folkema nominated Tryon. Hearing no further nominations Chairperson Folkema called for a vote, and all board members voted in favor of Tryon as Vice Chair of the School Board for 2014.

Clerk: Chairperson Folkema called for nominations for Clerk. Whereupon, Tryon nominated Nessel. Hearing no further nominations Chairperson Folkema called for a vote, and all board members voted in favor of Nessel as Clerk of the School Board for 2014.

Treasurer: Chairperson Folkema called for nominations for Treasurer. Whereupon, Nessel nominated Umbreit. Hearing no further nominations Chairperson Folkema called for a vote, and all board members voted in favor of Umbreit as Treasurer of the School Board for 2014.

Directors: Tryon nominated Anderson and Perreault as Directors of the School Board for 2014. Chairperson Folkema called for a vote and all board members voted in favor of Anderson and Perreault as Directors of the School Board for 2014.

Committee Assignments

After discussion and review of the various committees of the school board, Motion # 00114 by Nessel seconded by Anderson approving the following committees and committee assignments for board members for the year 2014:

St. Croix River Education District	Scott Tryon, Brenda Nessel(alternate)
Community Education Advisory Representative	Stefanie Folkema, Brenda Nessel (alternate)
Early Childhood Committee	Matt Perreault, Scott Anderson (alternate)
Board Advisory Committee Representative	Stefanie Folkema and Teri Umbreit, Brenda Nessel (alternate)
Continuing Education Committee Representative	Matt Perreault, Brenda Nessel (alternate)
East Central MN Educational Cable Cooperative	Brenda Nessel, Scot Anderson (alternate)
Comparable Worth/ Insurance Committee	Stefanie Folkema, Scott Tryon (alternate)
East Central Regional Development Commission	Scott Anderson, Scott Tryon (alternate)
Negotiation committee	All Board members
MSBA Legislative Liaison Representative	Scott Anderson
INFINITY Governing Board	Matt Perreault, Brenda Nessel (alternate)
TIES Joint Board Rep.	Teri Umbreit, Stefanie Folkema (alternate)
Schools For Equity In Education	All Board members

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion #00214 by Tryon seconded by Nessel approving the Regular School Board Meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion #00314 by Nessel seconded by Perreault approving the following Consent Agenda items:
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 19, 2013.
Bills, obligations, and invoices totaling \$621,991.92 for Rush City, and \$341,085.96 for SCRED
Rush City ISD #139 Personnel
Ratify Teacher Master Agreement for 2013-15
Stefanie Lofgren-Teacher, FMLA Leave request 5/18/14 through 6/5/14
Kim Sarago-Clerical, FMLA Leave request 1/9/14 through 6/18/14
Linda Swanson-Clerical, add 40 hours for preschool data entry, 2013-14 only
Linda Swanson-Clerical, add 12 hours per week as needed for clerical sub, 2013-14 only
Judy Beck-Paraprofessional, increase to 40 hrs/wk as needed for office tasks, 2013-14 only
Authorize long-term sub paraprofessional 16.25 hrs/wk, 2013-14 only

SCRED Personnel
Employ Amber Andrews-Office Assistant, beginning 1/2/14

Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Item(s) Removed From Consent Agenda

None

Recognition/Policy Review

In a first reading the Board discussed the following policies: Policy #425-Staff Development; and Policy #509-Enrollment of Nonresident Students.

After a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes, Motion #00414 by Tryon seconded by Nessel approving the following policies: Policy #414-Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse; Policy #418-Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School; Policy #419-Tobacco-Free Environment; and Policy #422-Policies Incorporated by Reference.
Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Information

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported that the district has \$2,587,040 invested as of December 31, 2013.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Business Manager Frost reviewed the 2013-14 revenue and expenditure report noting that revenues are running approximately \$450,000 behind expenditures to date. Frost also noted that debt redemption revenue has largely been received at this point and debt payments during January will cause the investment balances to drop.

Communication

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

Reports

Positive Points

High School Principal Stavig shared the following positive points:

Student Council did a hats and mittens drive. The donated several boxes of hats and mittens to our elementary school.

Most teachers are wrapping up Eclipse mapping during their PLC time. The PLC's are doing a great job of emphasizing the ELA standards.

Two times a month I meet with the entire student body in the theater to discuss concerns and initiatives that effect the students. They have been going very well; the latest meeting students inquired about study skills and test taking strategies. We've also discussed kindness and compassion for others in recent meetings.

Tiger Pride put on an incredible Santa Days event at the fire hall. The class organized donations, sorted and setup gifts, and helped kids wrap presents for their families. This is a great way for our students to give back to our community.

In general the climate has been good around the school both with teachers and students. Everyone is working to ensure continuous improvement of academic achievement is a top priority.

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

Kristine Peterson did an excellent job of coordinating our annual Family Reading Night this past Tuesday evening. Kids and parents had a great time going to the different events!

Monday night, Carvel Kuehn and Jaime Holmstrom directed a band and choir concert for graded 5-8. We appreciate bringing their musical leadership to our students.

Pennies for Patients has started this month – join us if you would like to support our efforts of our fundraising for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

This week was Paraprofessional Week! We thank all these special people for the support each and every day!

Early Childhood Coordinator Thom shared the following positive points:

We applied for 3 MRC members for next year, that we are planning a family book night, but it's at the end of February and that our winter data collection is underway. Thom also showed 3 pictures, 2 were of "Santa" visiting our room before Christmas break, and one was a general picture of preschoolers.

Superintendent Koepp wished to recognize Kim Gibbons for receiving an award from the Minnesota School Psychology Association recognizing Administrators, Directors, and Supervisors who support the field of School Psychology.

Updates

Board Study Session 1/9/14: Superintendent Koepp provided a brief summary of the January 9th study session. The orientation process of new board members continued, negotiation information included updates regarding the tentative agreement with the Rush City Education Association, and the status of negotiations with the different Teamster groups. Board members identified potential meeting dates to continue negotiating. Board members discussed the retirement incentive and some general district updates as well.

Food Service Administrative Review

Board members noted receipt of information from the Minnesota Department of Education Food and Nutrition Service summarizing a recent Administrative Review of the food service program. In general the district received a very positive report. There were several minor findings that needed to be corrected and corrective action has been identified for each finding.

Meetings Attended

Board member Folkema reported on a recent Board Advisory Meeting. Science committee teachers summarized instruction and instructional strategies in Science. The committee identified and discussed strengths and weaknesses within the district as part of a review of the District Mission Statement and Goals.

Old Business

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

New Business

Common Core Standards

Melissa Olson and Patrice DeGray addressed the school board regarding some concerns related to Common Core Standards. Their concerns relate to a perceived loss of local control, a desire for greater parent input in the state process for adopting standards, and concerns related to materials used in some states to teach Common Core Standards. Board members acknowledged this community input but took no action at this time.

Head Lice Procedures

School Nurse, Deb Meissner, reviewed head lice procedures in district handbooks and procedures recommended by the medical community. After discussion, board members asked Koepp and Meissner to revise the proposed policy language to address issues raised during discussion and bring the revised proposal to the February School Board Meeting for consideration.

Sub Pay

Board members reviewed a proposed payroll procedure outlining substitute pay for teachers including long-term sub pay. Whereupon Motion #00514 by Tryon seconded by Nessel approving the substitute teachers payroll procedure as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Preschool Transportation for 2014-15

Board members reviewed financial information for the noon preschool bus route, preschool deficits for recent years, and preschool parent survey information. Whereupon, Motion #00614 by Folkema seconded by Perreault to continue to provide the noon bus route for preschool students. Motion carried unanimously.

St. Croix River Education District Issues

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

Calendar

Regular Board Mtg.

Room 201, High School

2/20/14

7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion #00714 by Nessel seconded by Anderson adjourning the Regular Board meeting at 9:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Nessel
Clerk

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