

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

January 19, 2012

The Organizational/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; Stuart Fuhs, High School Principal; and representative from the Post Review.

Oath of Office

Vice Chair Cook administered the Oath of Office to recently elected school board members; Scott Tryon, Stefanie Folkema, and Brenda Nessel.

Election of Officers/Committee Assignments

Chair: Chairperson Tryon called for nominations for Chairperson of the School Board for the year 2012. Whereupon, Motion #00112 by Tastsides seconded by Cook nominating Scott Tryon as Chairperson of the School Board for the year 2012. Hearing no further nominations, Chairperson Tryon called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair: Chairperson Tryon called for nominations for Vice Chair. Whereupon, Motion #00212 by Tastsides seconded by Nessel nominating Carol Cook as Vice Chairperson of the School Board for the year 2012. Hearing no further nominations, Chairperson Tryon called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Clerk: Chairperson Tryon called for nominations for Clerk. Whereupon, Motion #00312 by Cook seconded by Tastsides nominating Brian Anderson as Clerk of the School Board for the year 2012. Hearing no further nominations, Chairperson Tryon called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Chairperson Tryon called for nominations for Treasurer. Channa Tastsides and Stefanie Folkema were nominated but Folkema declined the nomination. Whereupon, Motion #00412 by Anderson seconded by Nessel nominating Channa Tastsides as Treasurer of the School Board for the year 2012. Hearing no further nominations, Chairperson Tryon called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Directors: Motion #00512 by Cook seconded by Anderson appointing Stefanie Folkema and Brenda Nessel as Directors of the School Board for the year 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Assignments

After discussion and review of the various committees of the school board, Motion #00612 by Tastsides seconded by Nessel approving the following committees and committee assignments for board members for the year 2012:

St. Croix River Education District	Scott Tryon, Brian Anderson(alternate)
Community Education Advisory Representative	Stefanie Folkema, Brenda Nessel (alternate)
Early Childhood Committee	Brian Anderson, Channa Tastsides (alternate)
Board Advisory Committee Representative	Carol Cook, Stefanie Folkema, Brenda Nessel (alternate)
Continuing Education Committee Representative	Channa Tastsides, Carol Cook (alternate)
East Central MN Educational Cable Cooperative	Brian Anderson, Scot Tryon (alternate)
Comparable Worth Committee	Scott Tryon, Carol Cook (alternate)
East Central Regional Development Commission	Channa Tastsides, Scot Tryon (alternate)
Negotiation committee	All Board members
MSBA Legislative Liaison Representative	Brian Anderson
INFINITY Governing Board	Carol Cook, Channa Tastsides (alternate)
TIES Joint Board Rep.	Carol Cook, Channa Tastsides (alternate)

Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion #00712 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

Motion # 00812 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of December 15, 2011. Motion unanimously carried.

Recognition/Policy Review

In a first reading the Board discussed 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.

After a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes, Motion #00912 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the following policies: Policy #609-Religion, Policy #619-Staff Development for Standards, Policy #712-Video Surveillance other than on Buses, Policy #801-Equal Access to School Facilities, and Policy #904-Distribution of Materials on School District Property by Nonschool Persons. Motion unanimously carried.

Financial Information

Following the Business Manager's review and the Superintendent's certification, Motion #01012 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the payment of invoices and obligations in the amount of \$691,225.81 for Rush City and \$602,425.15 for SCRED. Motion unanimously carried.

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported that the district has \$2,726,930 in investments as of December 31, 2011. She noted that this amount will drop significantly due to a large dept redemption payment will be made in January.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Business Manager Frost reviewed the 2011-12 revenue and expenditure report noting that revenues are running approximately \$600,000 behind expenditures to date due to delays in state aid. Frost also noted that in the SCRED budget the large difference between expenditures and revenues to date is due to the purchase of the pizza building downtown for the SCRED building project.

Communication

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

Reports

Positive Points

High School Principal Fuhs shared the following positive points:

Mrs. Larson has successfully made RCHS an ACT testing site. Testing dates are April 14th and June 9th. She hopes to have four dates next school year. We are set to accommodate up to 100 students. RCHS students will have priority to register for the test here. Surrounding schools will be invited to register their students.

This semester, Rush City High School art students posted over 1,000 pictures to Artsonia. Jacob Pauna was placed in the Artsonia "Hall of Fame" for the quality and quantity of his portfolio, as well as being a popular artist on the site with rave reviews. He's won all of the ribbons the website offers in acclaim for his work.

Every student that was working with Mrs. Bennett to meet the GRAD reading test requirement for graduation has passed the test. 71% of the students that took the recent grad reading retest passed it.

In December, Rush City High School teacher, Mrs. Thill, launched a junior high math league that is similar to the high school math league. They meet once a month and students come in to work on five story problems either before school or after school, whichever works best. The problems are then scored and the top five 7th and 8th graders get their names displayed in the hall for the month. 28 students participated last month and 46 this month. The high school has been participating in the MN Math League since the mid to late eighties. There are six contests a year. Each contest has six questions that progressively get more difficult. The problems are unique and require careful reading and thinking outside of the box. They are rich in vocabulary and cover all areas of mathematics. The half hour contests are held once a month from October through March before school. Rush City High School competes against approximately 30 other high schools in the state. The goal of active participants is to get six out of six questions right. Three out of six is an average score. The contest challenges our best students. During the last twenty-five years 5-6 students have met that goal once or twice. The challenge is good and provides an opportunity for growth and understanding in mathematics.

Congratulations to Marissa Belau and Justin Marty for being selected as Rush City High School's representative for the 5A subsection Triple A (academics, arts, athletics) Award. They were honored at an awards banquet in St. Cloud.

Rush City High School has received two Vex robotic kits from Pine Technical College. Students in Mr. Olson's Tech Ed classes are building robots to compete against other area schools. The students are excited with the challenges it has created in design, building and testing.

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

Before break, we were very honored to be the recipient of Wal-Mart's Teacher Award Program. Ten teachers were randomly selected to receive a \$100.00 Wal-Mart Gift Card for purchasing of classroom supplies. Sales associates pick from surrounding schools and their support to the teachers and to education in general is very appreciated.

Mr. Kuehn and Mrs. Holmstrom were busy right after break with getting their band and choir students ready to perform. The concert went well and the students' hard work shows.

With the new testing changes that are allowed by the state for the MCA tests in Math, we will be testing students twice this year, with the better of the two tests being recorded. These tests are computer-based and students will test within their math groups.

This week we were delighted to have Janae (Opatz) Bower, a former Rush City resident, visit our students. She gave a very inspirational and supportive message to our students regarding staying focused on their dreams and making good choices. In addition, she met with staff after school where she honored her very first teacher, Mrs. Sybrant. All students and adults in the building received one of her books.

Knowledge Bowl students took first place! Wow! Congratulations to these fifth and sixth graders who are giving up their free time to become this successful!

Science Rocks! Ms. Nelson brought our top 9 science students to SCSU for a great workshop opportunity. In the mini-sessions, they had students dissecting a cow's knee, a squid (and eating it), in the Planetarium discussing life on other planets, building robots with Legos, learning the physics of projectiles (angry birds), experimenting with Cryogenics, examining a pig's heart, being an Archeologist for a day, examining water pollution and much more!!!! A wonderful opportunity!

Superintendent Koepp noted that January 16th through 20th has been declared Paraprofessional Recognition Week by Governor Dayton and Superintendent Koepp wished to thank Paraprofessionals for the services they provide for our students in Rush City Schools.

Updates

None

Meetings Attended

Board member Cook reported that the recent Board Advisory Committee meeting included a review of the physical education health curriculum, a review of the school improvement plans, and a review of the MLK Day staff development activities.

Old Business

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

New Business

Personnel

Motion #01112 by Nessel seconded by Cook accepting the resignation of David Stevens, resigning from One Act Play Director and Declam Coach. Motion unanimously carried

Motion #01212 by Cook seconded Folkema authorizing an FMLA Leave of Absence for Paraprofessional Amie Shockman for up to 12 weeks beginning 3/2/12. Motion unanimously carried

Motion #01312 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides authorizing a Junior High Declam Assistant Position for 2011-12 only, and employing Colleen Daniels in that position. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #01412 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the employment of Paul Sommerfeld-Bus Driver; Kristine Peterson-One Act Play Director; Katherine Johnson-Declam Coach; Charlotte Thill-Junior High Golf; and Lee Rood-Girl's Softball Assistant. Motion unanimously carried.

Gymnastics Conference

Board members reviewed a list of schools wishing to informally act as a gymnastics conference for the 2012-13 school year including: Becker, Howard Lake-Waverly, Little Falls, Long Prairie, Maple Lake, Princeton, Rockford, and Rush City/Pine City/Hinckley-Finlayson. Athletic Director Schlagel recommends we participate on a trial basis for the 2012-13 school year and he plans to schedule triangular meets to minimize transportation expenses and schedule Friday meets when a long trip is involved. Whereupon, Motion #01512 by Cook seconded by Anderson approving participation in the Granite Ridge Conference on a trial basis for 2012-13 school year. Motion unanimously carried.

Authorize Bus Purchase

Board members reviewed a summary of the age and odometer readings for the District buses and specifications for a new 71 passenger diesel bus through the Minnesota State School Bus Cooperative Purchasing Group. Whereupon, Motion #01612 by Anderson seconded by Cook approving the purchase of a school bus meeting the specifications presented for \$93,530.43 minus a trade in allowance of \$1,400. Motion unanimously carried. Note: North Central Sales from St. Cloud will provide the bus.

Pay Equity Report

Business Manager Frost provided a summary of the 2012 District Pay Equity Report provided by the Minnesota Management and Budget Office. Although final approval has not been received the report indicates that the District is in compliance with the local government Pay Equity Act. Whereupon, Motion #01712 by Cook seconded by Tastsides accepting the Pay Equity Report. Motion unanimously carried.

St. Croix River Education District Issues

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

Calendar

Teamster Negotiations	HS Conference Room	1/23/12	5:30 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg.	Room 201, High School	2/16/12	7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion # 01812 by Tastsides seconded by Nessel adjourning the Regular Board meeting at 8:07 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.