

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

September 18, 2014

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, Stefanie Folkema, Brenda Nessel, Scott Anderson, Matt Perreault, Teri Umbreit. Board Members absent: None. Others in attendance: Vern Koepp, Superintendent; Laureen Frost, Business Manager; Brent Stavig, High School Principal; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; Mary Kurvers; a representative from the ECM Post Review, and other interested persons.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Board member Tryon wished to add kindergarten as a topic under old business. Whereupon Motion #09314 by Anderson seconded by Tryon approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda with the following addition, Old Business, Item A - Kindergarten. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion #09414 by Nessel seconded by Umbreit approving the following Consent Agenda Items:
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 21, 2014 and Special Board Meeting of September 10, 2014.
Bills, obligations, and invoices totaling \$700,189.45 for Rush City, and \$462,642.75 for SCRED
Rush City
Di Toupal, Bus Driver resignation as of 8/29/14
Melissa Wiener – Increase hours from 7 hrs/day to 7.25 hrs/day
SCRED
Employ Stephanie Windschill, Nurse – Long term sub from 8/25/14 through 10/15/14
Employ Gary Nissalke, School Psychologist beginning 9/2/2014
Approve Individual Transportation Contract with Peter Talberg
Approve Individual Transportation Contract with Darren & Linda Sedler
Approve Individual Transportation Contract with Maureen Kavanagh
Approve Individual Transportation Contract with Brenda & Grant Wilsey
Approve Individual Transportation Contract with Ruth & William Tomcyk

Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Item(s) Removed From Consent Agenda

None

Recognition/Policy Review

A number of new teachers and their mentors were present and principals and mentors introduced the following new teachers to the school board:

Ben Montzka - High School Vocal Music
Kelly Birkholm – Grade 3
Amanda Grell – Grade 4
Brody Bakken – Grade 4
Sara Sieling – Early Childhood

Policy Review:

In a first reading the board discussed the following policies: Policy #506 – Student Discipline; and Policy #802 – Disposition of Obsolete Equipment and Material.

In a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes Motion #09514 by Umbreit seconded by Nessel approving the following policies: Policy #613 – Graduation Requirements, Policy #614 – School District Testing Plan and Procedure, Policy #616 – School District System Accountability, and Policy #618 – Assessment of Student Achievement.

Final FY14 Enrollments and FY14 Fund Balance

Business Manager Frost provided an enrollment summary for the 2013-14 school year with a reduction of 21 students compared to the budgeted enrollment. Frost reviewed the Rush City Schools, ISD139 Audited Fund Balance numbers as of 6/30/14. General Fund Revenue was \$176,541 less than projected while General Fund Expenditures were \$198,133 less than projected. The General Fund Balance decreased \$797,660 compared to 6/30/13. These amounts include transfers out of the General Fund to the Community Service

Fund to cover deficits of \$47,087 for the Early Childhood Program and \$15,241 for the Recreation Center. The Community Service Fund Balance decreased \$17,606 and the Food Service Fund Balance increased \$7,496. Below are the actual Fund Balance amounts for 6/30/13, actual Fund Balance for 6/30/14 and the Budgeted Fund Balance amounts for 6/30/14.

RUSH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #139, June 30, 2014

FUND NAME	ACTUAL FUND BALANCE 6/30/13	ACTUAL FUND BALANCE 6/30/14	BUDGET FUND BALANCE 6/30/14
01-GENERAL	\$1,723,625.73	\$925,965.04	\$904,373.73
02 FOOD SERVICE	\$113,629.19	\$121,125.10	\$101,672.19
04-COMMUNITY SERV	\$52,635.11	\$35,028.93	\$57,098.11
07-DEBT REDEMPTION	\$284,514.71	\$302,128.12	\$334,967.71
08-SCHOLARSHIPS	\$148,999.45	\$155,038.57	\$147,699.45
10-TRUST/AQUATIC CENTER	\$513,405.34	\$513,329.99	\$516,460.34
TOTAL #139 FUNDS	\$2,836,809.53	\$2,052,615.75	\$2,062,271.53

Current Enrollment: Business Manager Frost reviewed enrollment figures noting that at the conclusion of the 2013-14 school year the average daily membership was 884 students and that as of 9/09/14 the average daily membership was approximately 843 students. Frost also reminded the board that the budget for FY15 was built on the projected enrollment of 900 students.

Frost did not present reports related to Revenue/Expenditures for FY15 or Investments

Communications

There were no items for consideration.

Reports

Positive Points

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

We welcome the new staff members: AmeriCorps - Amie Yerke and Justyne Feigum; Custodians – Kerry Neurer and Javan Parker;

Early Childhood – Sara Sieling; Teachers – Kelly Birkholm, Rachel Nelson, Amanda Grell, and Bordy Bakken

The first day of school started well and we honored 70 Students who brought in their “5 Over Summer” reading sheets.

We have already been busy with Bus Safety, School Pictures, and Vision and Hearing screening.

MAP testing has gone well and we are about half done. We are using a different format this year with the help of the High School loaning us a cart of Chromebooks. With the extra computers, we are able to test two entire grade levels each day. This really helps with the schedule and is far better for the classrooms.

We thank Rush City Fairview Clinic and First Lutheran for their donation of school supplies.

Our new theme this year is “Tiger Pride.” We are defining Tiger Pride with focusing on our previous themes over the past eight years: Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, and Compassion.

One of our staff members is dealing with medical issues, and since she is a Twins fan, we all dressed up last Friday in Twins apparel in her honor. She’ll be getting all these smiling pictures.

Preschool Coordinator Thom shared the following positive points:

Preschool classes are off to a great start. We are in our second week of classes and are busy getting to know everyone. Right now, we have 70 students across the 5 class sections, with 3 or 4 more families working on some logistics that will allow their child to attend. As we begin Early Childhood Screenings for the year, we expect that number to grow. Our new teacher, Sara Sieling is doing a wonderful job so far. She is proving to be a great addition to our team.

We have a returning full time MRC member this year. Sarah Nichols has returned for her fourth year with our program!! The Reading Corps program gets better every year, offering training and support for best practice in early literacy instruction. Our students continue to make incredible gains each year, which is no accident. We truly value what MRC brings to our program.

ECFE classes will begin in the next 2 weeks. We are planning 2 sections of ECFE, as well as a new Parent Education class that will be facilitated by Rob Benner, the Early Childhood Family Support Resource Provider at SCRED. This is a grant position, and written into his contract this year, was a 6 week parent education class for each of the 3 school districts in Chisago County.

High School Principal Stavig shared the following positive points:

RCHS is off to a smooth start. Routines have been established, climate is good, handbook changes are implemented, and the new teachers are off to a good start.

New technologies include Kahoot.it and Remind.

MAP testing going well; completed Math and Reading will be next week. Using a new format with the Chromebooks and testing in class.

Futures Prep - New 8th grade class. Satisfies the Post Secondary Pathways requirements. Helping students with post secondary decision making.

Sports - Football - (1-2) tailgating before games. Cross Country - two students made it into the RC top ten of all time - Elena Herberg and Kaylyn Bowen. Volleyball (7-2) undefeated in the conference.

New academic eligibility regulation working well. Five students were identified; two attended directed studies, one fixed the failing grade, one may become ineligible. Directed studies looked great! Kids working hard on coursework.

Updates

Strategic Planning Process

Superintendent Koepp provided a summary of activity related to the Strategic Planning Process and upcoming meetings scheduled for staff and community.

Test Results Summary

Mary Kurvers provided a brief summary of the spring 2014 MCA and MAP test results.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests students in grades 2-10 each fall and spring to measure growth during the school year. Progress toward growth targets is calculated for each student and nation wide 50% of the students meet their growth target and 50% do not. The Rush City School Board set a goal of 60% of our students to meet their growth targets.

Reading: Grades 2-9 tested - 6 of 8 grades tested were above the national average and 4 grades met the more rigorous school board goal of 60%.

Math: Grades 2-10 tested - 6 of 9 grades tested were above the national average and 5 grades met the more rigorous school board goal of 60%.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) test students in grades 3-11 each spring.

Reading: Grades 3-8 and grade 10 are tested. For Rush City 59.1% of all students tested in reading tested as proficient, a gain of 8.2% from the previous year. For the state 59.1% of all students tested in reading tested as proficient, a gain of 1.3% compared to the previous year.

Math: Grades 3-8 and grade 11 are tested. For Rush City 55.8% of all students tested for math tested as proficient a gain of .88% compared to the previous year. For the state 61.4% of all students tested for math tested as proficient a decrease of 1.2% compared to the previous year.

Kurvers pointed out a number of areas where Rush City students have exceeded the School Board goal by a significant amount or made significant gains compared to state averages. Kurvers also identified areas where Rush City is below the state average.

It is important to use multiple measures to assess student achievement and look at trends in individual and group achievement over several years. Administration and teachers have been engaged in a process to align curriculum and instruction with state academic standards and that process will continue.

Meetings Attended

Board member Nessel and Superintendent Koepp reported on a recent ECMECC meeting, which included a review of the digital curriculum project that ECMECC is engaged with, video conference results for ECMECC members, and a financial review.

Board member Tryon reported on a recent Governing Board meeting for SCRED, which included his reelection as chair and he reported that everything is going well at this time.

Old Business

Kindergarten – Board members discussed new enrollment information and the resulting reduction to revenue for 2014-15.

Superintendent summarized a meeting of kindergarten teachers, first grade teachers, early childhood coordinator, Elementary Principal Tenhoff, and Superintendent Koepp. This group reviewed several options to address the larger than expected kindergarten enrollment, if the board wished to address this concern without adding staff. Koepp and Elementary Principal Tenhoff explained this option.

Whereupon Motion #09614 by Perreault seconded by Tryon to rescind Motion #09014 on September 10, 2014 to hire a teacher and paraprofessional for another kindergarten position. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Proposed Levy Pay 2015

Business Manager Frost reviewed components of the school levy for property taxes payable for 2015, producing a preliminary levy increase of 12.37%. Board members reviewed information showing a levy increase of 3% the prior year and reductions of 5% and 8%

the two preceding years. Upon the recommendation of Frost and Superintendent Koepp Motion #09714 by Tryon seconded by Nessel certifying the 2015 levy at the maximum. Voting for: Umbreit, Nessel, Folkema, Tryon, Anderson. Voting against: Perreault Motion carried. Note: Due to state adjustments and limitations the status of the levy may vary. A portion of the December 18, 2014 Regular School Board Meeting will be set aside for a review of the levy, public input regarding the levy, and final levy certification.

Board Advisory Nominees

Board members were encouraged to submit names of parents and community members who may be interested in serving on the School Board Advisory Community for the 2014-15 school year.

St. Croix River Education District Issues

There were no issues to discuss

Calendar

Regular Board Mtg.	Room 201, High School	10/16/14	7:00 pm
Strategic Planning Meeting	HS Media Center	10/28/14	4:00 pm

Adjournment

Motion #09814 by Tryon seconded by Anderson adjourning the Regular Board meeting at 9:16 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.