

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

**October 16, 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, Teri Umbreit. Board Members absent: Matt Perreault. Others in attendance: Vern Koepp, Superintendent; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; Lauren Frost, Business Manager; Deb Meissner, Matt Meissner, Scott Friday, Lee Rood; and a representative from the ECM Post Review.

**Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda**

Motion #09914 by Tryon seconded by Umbreit approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Motion #10014 by Tryon seconded by Nessel approving the following Consent Agenda Items:  
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 18, 2014.

Bills, obligations, and invoices totaling \$646,666.63 for Rush City, and \$532,542.49 for SCRED

Rush City Personnel:

Resignation Melissa Martin - Paraprofessional

Employ Melissa Martin – Bus Driver

Resignation Kimberly Funes – Custodian effective 10/03/14

Employ Melody Kendrick – Paraprofessional beginning 10/20/14

Employ Maricella Peterson – Paraprofessional beginning 10/20/14

Employ Elizabeth Hernandez-Rojas – Paraprofessional beginning 10/20/14

Employ Bethany Hauner – Paraprofessional beginning 10/27/14

Employ Mark Henrich – JH Girls Basketball

Ashley Fitcher – FMLA Leave Request, 12 weeks beginning 12/23/14

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 #615 – Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students; Policy #619 – Staff Development for Standards; and Policy #710 – Extracurricular Transportation.

In a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes Motion #10114 by Tryon seconded by Anderson approving the following policies: Policy #506 – Student Discipline; and Policy #802 – Disposition of Obsolete Equipment and Material. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Information**

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported the district has \$2,018,434 invested as of 9/30/14.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Business Manager Frost reported that the General Fund Revenue is about \$140,000 greater than General Fund Expenditures to date.

Tiger Club Final Report: Board members reviewed the Tiger Club financial report showing a deficit of \$2,888.77. Whereupon Motion #10214 by Nessel seconded by Umbreit transferring \$2,888.77 from Community Education Program to cover this deficit. Motion carried unanimously.

Quarterly Investment Report – Pool Trust Fund: Business Manager Frost reviewed the Swimming Pool Trust Fund noting that the Fund Balance was \$514,158.85 as of September 2014 and that interest earnings for the 2014 Aquatic Center season totaled \$3,158.85.

**Communications**

None

## **Reports**

### **Positive Points**

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

Thanks go to Stefanie Lofgren for helping coordinate with Creekside Pizza again this year for our Book Pizzazz program!

Congratulations to Jill Erickson and Beth Sybrant who were nominated for Resource Trainings and Solutions' Educational Support Staff Recognition!

We are starting a new Redemption Program – save your Rush City Foods receipts – we will get points for dollars spent and then can “purchase” items with those points.

PTO is active with the annual fundraiser starting and the planning of the Book Fair that will be held over Parent/Teacher Conferences. Sixth grade students will be participating in the annual Community Partnership survey next week and their program, Youth First, starts on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

And we had fun at Homecoming! Thanks, High School, for inviting us to the Pep Fest!

Superintendent Koepp shared the following positive points provided by High School Principal Stavig:

**Academic Eligibility** There have been several students coming to the morning session the past week, they are working hard to improve their grades. The process has been successful in keeping students eligible in their extra-curricular activities, with only 2 that have been ineligible for an event during their activity.

**MN Math League:** Charlotte Thill had 20 high school students participate in the Minnesota Mathematics League Contest this last week.

**Homecoming:** School spirit was greatly improved. Class advisors have been reassigned, they met with their classes, got kids excited about building floats and the dress up days. Participation on the dress up days was fantastic, we had over 120 kids working on floats, the pig roast was a great success - Tiger Pride brought in about 40 volunteers. It was a great week!

**Support Staff:** Beth Sybrant was recognized as the support staff of excellence from RCHS.

**Climate and Behavior:** Things have been pretty calm; we're off to a great start. Kids are excited, teachers are motivated, the whole system seems to be running well.

### **Updates**

#### **Rush City Education Foundation**

Foundation President Matt Meissner provided a summary of grants and scholarships awarded during the 2013-14 school year and he reviewed upcoming Foundation events.

### **Strategic Planning Process**

Superintendent Koepp summarized staff, community, and business community meetings to date. After the student meeting the school board, administration, and staff meeting facilitators will work with Bruce Miles to review all information gathered, identify themes and priorities, set goals, and report back to the community.

### **Meetings Attended**

Board members Umbreit and Folkema reported that the recent School Board Advisory meeting included a review of district curriculum review cycle and testing plans and a discussion of the results from the Chisago County Student Surveys and the Minnesota State Student Surveys.

Board member Umbreit and Superintendent Koepp reported on a recent Schools for Equity and Education Meeting which included a question and answer session with Representative Paul Thissen and Representative Kurt Daudt. The meeting also included a presentation and discussion with Tom Melcher, MDE Finance Specialist, regarding school facilities financing.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Fundraiser Request – Trip to France**

Deb Messiner discussed several proposals for fund raising related to the 2016 art trip to France. Whereupon Motion #10314 by Tryon seconded by Nessel approving the fund raising ideas presented. Gifted Education, Donors Choose, Pottery Sale Dinner, Pottery Sale, and Garage Sale. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Aquatic Center- 2014 Summary**

Lee Rood provided an overview of the Aquatic Center operation for the 2014 season. The facility was scheduled to be open 78 days but weather issues caused the pool to be closed 6 days and close early an additional 11 days. Trust Fund interest earnings for 2014 were \$3,159, down slightly from the previous year. Revenues were down about \$14,000 from the previous year and expenditures were down approximately \$27,000 from the previous year. Producing a deficit of \$30,800 compared to a deficit of \$44,000 the previous year. The City of Rush City and Rush City Schools Community Service Fund will need to contribute to the Aquatic Center operation expenses for the summer of 2014. Mr. Rood stated that approximately 13,000 people used the pool during the 2014 season including approximately 425 who participated in swimming lessons.

Transfer Pool Trust Fund Interest

Motion #10414 by Nessel seconded by Tryon accepting the 2014 season summary and transferring annual interest earnings of \$3,158.85 from the Pool Trust Fund to the Community Service Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

New Pool Feature – Lee Rood informed the school board that a slide for young children would be installed at the pool thanks to donations received from Rush City Lions, Rock Creek Lions, Rush City Sno-bugs, and Don and Sandy Vaughan.

Worlds Best Workforce Report

Board members reviewed the District Worlds Best Workforce Report that will be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education. The report summarizes various sources of data, how data is used to monitor progress toward goals, and how Rush City Schools address each of the five main goals set by the Minnesota Department of Education. Whereupon Motion #10514 by Nessel seconded by Tryon approving the Worlds Best Workforce Report. Motion carried unanimously.

St. Croix River Education District Issues

None

Calendar

Strategic Planning Mtg.	High School Media Center	10/28/14	4:00 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg.	High School Rm 201	11/20/14	7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion #10614 by Tryon seconded by Nessel adjourning the Regular School Board meeting at 8:10 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.*