

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

September 17, 2015

Vice Chairperson Tryon called the Regular School Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 201 at the Rush City High School.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Scott Tryon, Brenda Nessel, Scott Anderson, Matt Perreault, and Teri Umbreit. Board Members absent: Stefanie Folkema due to work commitment. Others in attendance: Teresa Dupre, Superintendent; Laureen Frost, Business Manager; Brent Stavig, High School Principal; Jason Mielke, CE Jacobson Principal; a representative from the ECM Post Review, and Greg Crowe from Ehlers.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion #09015 by Nessel seconded by Umbreit approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Motion #09115 by Perreault seconded by Nessel approving the following Consent Agenda Items:

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 20, 2015.

Bills, obligations, and invoices totaling \$692,296.65 for Rush City, and \$489,599.36 for SCRED

Rush City

Employ Matthew Leshovsky, HS Physical Education Teacher beginning 2015-16 school year
Employ Jami Friday, HS Para professional (7 hours per day)
Employ Cheryl Stenmo, HS Para Professional (7 hours per day)
Employ Melody Kendrick, CE Jacobson Para Professional (6.75 hours per day)
Employ Holly Paul, CE Jacobson Para Professional (6.75 hours per day)
Resignation from Shannon Karnick as of August 31, 2015, HS Para Professional
Intermittent FMLA Leave Request Deb Carlson, CE Jacobson Para Professional
Long-term substitute CE Jacobson Para Professional Judy Armstrong (4 days/week) increase from 4.75 hours in her contract to 6.75 hours/day
Long-term substitute CE Jacobson Para Professional Hailey Luecken (4.75 hours/day)
Employ Sarah Nichols, CE Jacobson Para Professional
Termination Donna Zastera, HS Para Professional effective August 31, 2015

Approve Coaches

Head Wrestling - Michael Kelly
Head Gymnastics - Jessica Miller
C-team Boys Basketball - Jon Bosman
7th grade Volleyball - Kelly Birkholm
8th grade Volleyball - Jami Friday

SCRED

Employ Jami Kritzeck, Adult Basic Education Instructor beginning August 25, 2015

Approve Individual Transportation Contract with Peter Talberg
Approve Individual Transportation Contract with Darren & Linda Sedler
Approve Individual Transportation Contract with Ruth & William Tomcyk
Approve Individual Transportation Contract with Barb Galvez

Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Item(s) Removed From Consent Agenda

None

Recognition/Policy Review

Policy Review:

In a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes Motion #09215 by Nessel seconded by Anderson approving the following policies:

Policy 413 – Harassment and Violence

Policy 419 – Tobacco-Free Environment Policy

Policy 425 – Staff Development
Policy 427 – Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers
Policy 501 – School Weapons Policy

Final FY15 Enrollments and FY15 Fund Balance:

Business Manager Frost provided an enrollment summary for the 2014-15 school year. The student membership came in approximately 1 student stronger than budgeted. Frost reviewed the Rush City School District audited fund balance as of June 30, 2015. General fund revenue came in \$21,249 more than budgeted and expenditures came in \$88,111 less than budgeted thus resulting in \$109,361 more in fund balance than projected.

RUSH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #139, June 30, 2015

FUND NAME	ACTUAL FUND BAL. 6/30/2014	ACTUAL FD BALANCE 6/30/2015	BUDGET FUND BALANCE 6/30/2015
01-GENERAL	\$925,965.04	\$828,086.06	\$718,725.04
02 FOOD SERVICE	\$121,125.10	\$106,490.55	\$126,768.10
04-COMMUNITY SERV	\$35,028.93	\$59,772.07	\$52,075.93
07-DEBT REDEMPTION	\$302,128.12	\$307,266.59	\$307,540.12
08-SCHOLARSHIPS	\$155,038.57	\$158,234.34	\$155,538.57
10-TRUST/SWIM POOL	\$513,329.99	\$513,100.26	\$518,129.99
TOTAL #139 FUNDS	\$2,052,615.75	\$1,972,949.87	\$1,878,777.75

Current FY16 Student Enrollment: Business Manager Frost reviewed enrollment figures noting that at the conclusion of the 2014-15 school year the average daily membership was 841 students and that as of September 16, 2015 the average daily membership was approximately 867 students. An increase of 26 students. Frost also reminded Board that the FY16 budget was built on 853 students.

Current Financial Information:

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported that the district has \$2,284,668 invested as of August 31, 2015.

Revenue/Expenditures Update: As of August 31, 2015 General fund revenues are in at 14% of annual budget compared to expenditures at 13%.

Long Term Facility maintenance Plan: After the Board reviewed a 10 year plan, Motion #09515 by Perrault and Seconded by Nessel to adopt the 10 year Long Term Facility maintenance Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications

Superintendent Dupre will submit an article for publication to the Post Review at least one time per month and beginning next week will send Calendar Highlights (events occurring within the next two weeks) to Rush City families via SchoolMessenger at approximately 4:00 pm every Friday. Hard copy calendars featuring artwork from our High School students should be ready for distribution next week. An announcement to community members interested in obtaining a calendar will be shared. 150 calendars have been ordered and will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. Additional calendars will be printed at cost upon request. Board Members recommended we offer to sell calendars at cost to interested families and community members for the 2016/2017 school year.

New Drop off and Pick up process: Continues to go well with the exception of a few challenges. Change does take some time, yet for the most part we have extremely high support and adherence to the new drop off and pickup procedures. It is important to note the changes were made to increase the safety of our students during arrival and dismissal times. We thank all parents for their understanding and following the new procedures.

After School Care: Tiger Care will begin on Tuesday October 6th after school given we have a minimum of 12 registrations. Enrollment forms were sent home on Friday September 18th and posted on the CE Jacobson webpage

Change in World's Best Workforce posting date: Motion # 09615 by Nessel and seconded by Umbreit changed the publication date for the 2014/2015 World's Best Workforce annual report from October 1, 2015 to November 1, 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Positive Points: Principals Stavig and Mielke aligned their Positive Points reports with the Rush City School District Strategic Plan priority areas. The new format for reporting will be used from now on at School Board meetings. Highlights from CE Jacobson for Priority Area # 1: Achieve Academic Excellence included student benchmarking with a new assessment tool EdSpring, MAP testing and the consistently high use of technology in the classrooms. Priority Area #2: Foster a Safe and Positive Environment included successfully executed Fire Drill procedures inclusive of new radios and the positive impact of security cameras. Priority Area # 4: Strengthen Community Relationships included sharing with School Board members a copy of the weekly newsletter Principal Mielke will be sending to parents (Weekly Round-Up) the focus and purpose of Tiger Pride Fridays which will include opportunities for our High School students to talk with our younger learners as role models, and Tiger Care opportunities and advertisements.

Highlights from the High School for Priority Area # 1: Achieve Academic Excellence included an update on the successful role out of the Chrome Book initiative, college courses added for this year include chemistry, physics, Spanish 1 and Health & Disease in the Human Body, Mrs. Matzke Stoltz will continue personal learning plans, and PLC's are up and working well currently focused on ensuring all students are feeling welcomed and their social/ emotional needs are being met. Priority Area #2: Foster a Safe and Positive Environment included successfully executed Fire Drill procedures inclusive of new radios and the positive impact of security cameras. Priority Area # 3: Financial Stability included an update on the increase of students enrolling in concurrent college classes and reduction in PSEO. Priority Area # 4: Strengthen Community Relationships included sharing with School Board members commitment to focusing on learning and sharing experiences with our community through Twitter.

Updates

Test Results Summary

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests students in grades 2-10 each fall and spring to measure growth during the school year. The Rush City School Board set a goal of 60% of our students to meet their growth targets.

Reading: Grades 2-9 tested – Grades 2 and 3 met the goal of 60%. However, when the data is disaggregated, students in grades 2 through grade 6 met or exceeded typical growth in at least two quartiles. The top quartile only had one grade meet or exceed 60%. Students scoring in the lower quartile in grades 7 and 9 also met or exceeded the goal of 60%.

Math: Grades 2-10 tested - 6 of 9 grades tested met the rigorous school board goal of 60%. All grade levels exceeded the goal of 60% for students in the lowest quartile and 7 of the 9 grades met or exceeded the goal of 60% in two or more quartiles. The top quartile in grades 2, 4 and 5 all exceeded the goal of 60%.

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

Reading: Grades 3-8 and grade 10 are tested. Below are the proficiency percentages results for each grade

Grade	2014	2015	2015 State Average
03	68.1	77.6	58.7
04	57.1	55.2	57.9
05	75.8	62.9	66.7
06	54.4	69.7	63.9
07	53.0	41.2	55.6
08	38.6	47.1	56.0
10	61.0	47.5	57.0

Math: Grades 3-8 and grade 11 are tested. Below are the proficiency percentages results for each grade

Grade	2014	2015	2015 State Average
03	88.2	94.7	70.9
04	68.3	80.6	70.0
05	45.5	51.6	59.7
06	44.9	43.9	57.6
07	44.6	38.2	55.1
08	51.4	52.9	57.8
11	47.8	46.7	48.7

Dashboard key **Green** is improvement and above state average, **yellow** is improvement yet below the state average, **red** is decline and below state average.

It is important to use multiple measures to assess student achievement and look at trends and grade level data over several years. The usage of the dashboard is not to be evaluative, just a quick summary view for the school board. Red and yellow areas allow us to dig into the data deeper and perhaps set some specific instructional goals or curriculum alignment goals. 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 reported on a recent ECMECC Board meeting, which included strategic planning and financial review.

Old Business

Portable digital radios: Training from Granite Electronics occurred during workshop week and all members of the emergency response teams attended the meeting. The use of the radios during the first fire drill of the year contributed greatly to the success of the drill. The radios are multi functional and a meeting will be held during the first quarter of school to explore other agreed upon uses for the radios to enhance our security and communication.

Security cameras signage: Signage for both buildings is complete. The signs are very attractive and serve to inform our community and students.

New Business

Resolution for the sale of general bond obligation: Greg Crowe from Ehlers attended the meeting to present a pre-sale report for \$9,760,000 General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2015A. The proposed issue will finance a current refunding of the 2017 through 2026 maturities of the district's \$10,000,000 General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2006A. The existing bonds have an interest rate of 3.8% to 4.1%. Based on current market conditions, it is estimated that the new refunding bonds would have interest rates of 2.0% to 3.0%. Ehlers estimates that the refunding would reduce future net debt service payments by approximately \$1.0 million over fiscal years 2017 through 2026. A sale date is scheduled for October 15, 2015. Whereupon, a resolution was passed for Rush City School District to participate in the Minnesota School District Credit Enhancement program. Resolution for the sale of general Obligation School Building Bonds motion #09315 by Perreault seconded by Nessel. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Levy Pay 2016: Business Manager Frost reviewed components of the school levy for property taxes payable for 2016, producing a preliminary levy increase of 4.81%. This does not reflect the potential savings of the refunding bonds scheduled for October 15, 2015, these potential savings will be included in final levy for Pay16. Upon recommendation of Frost, Umbreit made a motion certifying the 2016 proposed levy at the maximum and seconded by Anderson. A portion of December 17, 2015 Regular School Board Meeting will be set aside for a review of the levy, public input regarding the levy, and final levy certification. Motion # 09415 by Umbreit seconded by Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

Increase HRA on \$2000.00 CMM Health Insurance Policy: Motion #09715 by Anderson seconded by Nessel to increase HRA on the CMM \$2000 plan from \$700 to \$900 effective retroactively to July 1, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

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 2015-16 school year.

St. Croix River Education District Updates: None

Election Judges: School district will invite the judges from 2013 requesting their services for the election November 3, 2015. If any of the former judges are not available, the board supports contacting other community members from the approved election judges list. Motion # 09815 by Nessel seconded by Umbreit to submit the Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election. Motion carried unanimously.

High School Staff Handbook: Presented to the School Board members, no action requested.

Approve School Board and Superintendent Essential Agreements: Motion # 09915 by Umbreit seconded by Nessel to approve the agreements generated at a special session in July 2015 between School Board Members and Superintendent Dupre. The agreements will be signed at the October School Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously

Calendar

Teacher Negotiations	District Office Conference Room	10/01/15	7:00 pm
Board Advisory Committee	Room 201 High School	10/12/ 15	7:00 pm
Teamster Negotiations	District Office Conference Room	10/13/15	6:00 pm
Regular Board Mtg.	Room 201, High School	10/15/15	7:00 pm

Adjournment

Motion #091015 by Perreault seconded by Umbreit adjourning the Regular Board meeting at 9:17 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.