

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

September 15, 2011

The 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; Stuart Fuhs, High School Principal; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; Mary Kurvers; several high school students, and a representative from the East Central Minnesota Post Review.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion #14811 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the Regular Board Meeting Agenda with the following additions: III Reports, B Updates, Item 4 MCA Results and, V - New Business, Item F - Spanish trip to Costa Rica. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Minutes and Special School Board Meetings Minutes

Motion #14911 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 18, 2011 and Special School Board Meeting of August 24, 2011. Motion unanimously carried.

Recognition/Policy Review

In a first reading the Board members reviewed Policy #707-Transportation of Public School Students, Policy #709-Student Transportation Safety Policy, and Policy #711-Video Recording on School Buses.

After a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes, Motion #15011 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the following policies: Policy #701-Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget, Policy #704-Development and Maintenance of an Inventory of Fixed Assets and a Fixed Asset Accounting System, and Policy #705-Investments. Motion unanimously carried.

Financial Information

Following the Business Manager's review and Superintendent's certification, Motion #15111 by Nessel seconded by Anderson approving the payment of invoices and obligations in the amount of \$676,672.85 for Rush City and \$557,469.42 for SCRED. Motion unanimously carried.

FY11 Fund Balance Review: Business Manager Frost reviewed the Rush City Schools ISD #139 preliminary audited fund balance numbers as of 6/30/11. General Fund revenue was \$85,107 more than projected while General Fund expenditures were \$291,371 less than projected. The General Fund balance increased \$105,898 compared to 6/30/10. These amounts include transfers out of the General Fund to the Community Service Fund to cover deficits of \$12,164 for the early childhood program and \$4,170 for the Recreation Center. The Community Service Fund balance increased \$14,548 and the Food Service Fund balance increased \$44,957. Below are the actual fund balance amounts for 6/30/10, the budgeted fund balance amounts for 6/30/11, and the preliminary fund balance for 6/30/11.

JUNE 30, 2011

RUSH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #139 AND SCRED

A	B	E	I
FUND NAME	ACTUAL FUND BAL. 6/30/10	ACTUAL FD BALANCE 6/30/11	BUDGET FUND BALANCE 6/30/11
RUSH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #139			
01-GENERAL	\$1,868,711.19	\$1,974,609.55	\$1,598,132.19
02 FOOD SERVICE	\$65,236.49	\$110,193.31	\$64,190.49
04-COMMUNITY SERV	\$41,165.44	\$55,713.01	\$41,750.44
07-DEBT REDEMPTION	\$306,631.65	\$239,841.26	\$295,627.65
08SCHOLARSHIPS	\$151,134.28	\$152,252.77	\$150,634.28
10-TRUST/AQUATIC CENTER	\$508,962.82	\$512,771.52	\$512,842.82
TOTAL #139 FUNDS	\$2,941,841.87	\$3,045,381.42	\$2,663,177.87
07-DEBT REFINANCING	\$10,033,344.99	\$12,414,046.99	\$10,033,344.99

Proposed Levy Pay 2012: The summer state shutdown has delayed information schools need to calculate proposed levy statements. The Board will act on a proposed levy for 2012 at a Special Board Meeting late in September or early in October.

Current Enrollment: Business Manager Frost reviewed enrollment figures noting that at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year the average daily membership was 881 students and that as of 9/14/11 the average daily membership was approximately 904 students. Frost also reminded the Board that the budget for 2011-12 was built on the projected enrollment of 872 students.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Business Manager Frost reviewed the 2011-12 revenue and expenditure budget, noting that there has not been much activity to date, but cash flow remains good at this time.

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported the district has \$2,060,986 invested as of 8/31/11. This figure is down approximately \$500,000 from previous years.

Communications

Board Members noted receiving Thank You notes from the family of Michael Frost and the family Jean Yaroscak.

Reports

Positive Points

Elementary Principal Melody Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

We are starting out the school year with five new people working among us: Erin Waters, 4th grade teacher; Kristine Moore, Reading Interventionist; Angie Bohnart, Special Education; and Julia Parent and Jennifer Wankat as AmeriCorps members. Two of these new people are returning to Jacobson Elementary, which is always a good commentary when people want to return to a work site.

Our school year has started out well due to all the extensive efforts that it takes to start up a school year. We thank the custodian staff for getting the building ship-shape for us, the teachers have put in countless hours organizing and planning for the new year, and the office staff continues to be of support to us all.

MAP testing has begun already and while we had a little computer glitch, things are working now to assure that we provide all students with a good testing opportunity to do their best with the fall tests.

We had a very enjoyable evening last night when we joined Resource Training and Solutions for their inaugural Educational Support Staff Recognition Event. KC Brown from the high school and Annette Hanson-Sias from the elementary were chosen to represent Rush City Schools.

Please join us for Perseverance at 212°! With one more degree, water goes from hot to boiling and with one more degree of effort, it will be amazing what we will accomplish this school year!

High School Principal Stuart Fuhs shared the following positive points:

Over 80 students have now joined the cast and crew of Annie. It's going to be entirely run and performed by the students, under Mr. Stevens' guidance making sure everyone has what they need to succeed, and making sure managers and supervisors have the cooperation of the students--truly a student production. The talent pool is large, and it has been difficult to select people for management and lead roles in the cast, but the difficulty has been because there are 5-6 people who could play any of the lead roles with great skill, or manage a portion of the production with great poise. Mr. Stevens is grateful to be working with such a group of incredible students.

The high school's new mobile lab is up and running. The teachers have been trained on its use and guidelines are in place to ensure the laptops stay productive. So far, Science and Spanish classes have used them extensively. I would like to thank Jim Hatz for researching the best laptops to buy for our needs, getting them ordered and setting them up!

Congratulations to KC Brown for being recognized as Rush City High School's Educational Support Staff outstanding paraprofessional. She received her award, sponsored by Resource Training and Solutions, at a regional banquet Wednesday night in St. Cloud. Rush City High School staff and administration feel that this award is long overdue and applaud KC for all of her efforts to help Rush City students achieve success.

The new special education classes as part of the special ed department restructuring are up and running. So far, English and Social Communication classes have been implemented. Next school year will include math classes as well. Mrs. Bennett's (formally Ms. Willmus) Reading classes are also implemented and running smoothly. We hope to see great gains in student reading abilities as the school year progresses.

MCA preliminary test results are in. It is a bit of a mixed bag of positive and negative results. While 7th math and 8th & 10th Reading were down from the previous year, 7th Reading and 8th & 11th math were up. Congratulations to the 7 seniors who passed the MCA Math Grad Test and the 6 juniors who passed the MCA Reading Grad Test over the summer. A special thanks to Mr. Smith and Mrs. Guentzel for providing instruction to the students that contributed to their success.

Student numbers for Art classes are outstanding. 191 students are enrolled in Ms. Johnson's classes for the school year. Spanish 4 also has a good number of students enrolled – 19.

Congratulations to Mr. Telander for a successful fundraising event at the Rush City Musical Festival for the new rain garden his classes will be constructing on school grounds. Construction begins on Monday!!!! Planting will begin at the end of next week or early on in the following week.

Finally, I would like to thank all the parents, staff, students and the citizens of the Rush City School District for a great start to the school year! GO TIGERS!

Superintendent Koepp thanked Tenhoff and Fuhs for the extra time they have put in during the summer months to oversee Summer School, Tiger Club, MCA retest dates, etc., and the High School and Elementary School office staff for their efforts related to the TIES student information system.

Board member Tryon congratulated the volleyball team on their recent success at the Ogilvie tournament and the successful start to the volleyball season.

Updates

SCRED Facility

Superintendent Koepp stated that the St. Croix River Education District Facility Subcommittee would be interviewing several construction firms on September 20th, 2011. The group is reviewing options to renovate or construct space to keep SCRED offices in Rush City.

Capital Improvements

Board members reviewed a summary of capital improvements from the Spring and Summer of 2011. They include chip seal for the high school parking lot, culverts under the east elementary parking lot exit, replacing cracked and uneven concrete sidewalks at both the Elementary and High School, a wireless network at the Elementary School and upgraded wireless network at the High School, purchasing and installing a second mobile computer lab in the High School, purchasing and installing additional Smart Boards in the Elementary School and High School, and the purchase of eight I-pads for Preschool student instruction and several I-pads for Elementary School instruction. Board members were eager to see how recent technology improvements would impact classroom instruction and student achievement.

Meetings Attended

Board member Cook reported on a recent TIES orientation session regarding various services offered by TIES. Board member Tryon reported on the recent SCRED Governing Board Meeting at which the SCRED facility issue was discussed and numerous personnel changes were reviewed.

MCA Results

Superintendent Koepp provided a brief summary of Spring 2011 MCA results, which were recently made available by the Minnesota Department of Education. Statewide reading scores improved in five of seven grades tested and stayed the same in the other two grades. Rush City reading scores were higher than state averages in five of seven grades tested. Statewide math scores declined, usually by more than 10 percentage points, in six of seven grades tested. Statewide math proficiency for grade 11 increased by 5%. Rush City math scores were lower than state averages in six of seven grades tested.

Because MCA results are usually slow getting to schools, Rush City uses other tests that provide almost immediate feedback and more detail about individual student progress. Rush City uses Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), DIBELS, and other "General Outcome Measures" to assess student growth several times during the school year. It is interesting to note that, based on the MAP math results Rush City students exceeded the national average by a big margin in all nine grades tested. Based on the MAP reading results, Rush City students exceeded the national average in seven of eight grades tested usually by a good margin. A more thorough report regarding student achievement is expected at the October or November School Board meeting.

Old Business

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

New Business

Personnel

At the request of Custodian Christopher Darst, Motion #15211 by Anderson seconded by Nessel reducing Darst's days from 4 days a week to two days per week in nine position beginning 9/19/11 through 6/1/11. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #15311 by Nessel seconded by Folkema approving the medical leave of absence under FMLA for Tracie Kuhlman, Cook beginning 8/30/11 through 10/7/11. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #15411 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the addition of a noon kindergarten route and approving Steve Ansell as the additional driver. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #15511 by Nessel seconded by Cook approving an increase for Barb Theis, Paraprofessional from 2.75 hours per day to 3.75 hours per day for the 2011-12 school year only. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #15611 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving an increase for Judy Anderson, Paraprofessional from 32 hours per week to 35 hours per week. Voting for: Tryon, Cook, Folkema, Tastsides and Nessel. Voting against: None. Abstaining due to a conflict of interest: Anderson. Motion carried.

Since the preliminary audit numbers look favorable and fall enrollment has increased compared to last spring, administration discussed several additions to staff for the 2011-12 school year. Whereupon, Motion #15711 by Cook seconded by Nessel adding an additional Elementary teacher for grade 1, adding a full-time Technology Intragation position preK-12, and restoring the summer marching band program, and increasing Band Director Carvel Kuehn's summer days from 12 days to 20 days. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #15811 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the employment of Kari Phillippin, Early Childhood Instructor, eight hours a week beginning 10/4/11; Mark Galloway, Custodian, nine month position, 2 days per week beginning 9/19/11 through 6/1/12; and Colleen Schumacher, Tiger Club Coordinator, up to 20 hours per week. Motion unanimously carried.

Board Election Resolution

Motion #15911 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the following resolution:

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND CALLING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL ELECTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 139, State of Minnesota as follows:

1. It is necessary for the school district to hold its general election for the purpose of electing three school board members for terms of years each.

The clerk shall include on the ballot the names of the individuals who file affidavits of candidacy on said general election during the period filing such affidavits, as though they had been included by name in this resolution.

The clerk shall not include on the ballot the names of individuals who file timely affidavits of withdrawal in the manner specified by law

2. The general election is hereby called and directed to be held on Tuesday, the 8th day of November, 2011, between the hours of 12 o'clock and 8:00 o'clock p.m. at the Rush City High School.

3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the school district combined polling places and the precincts served by those polling places as previously established and designated by school board resolution for school district elections not held on the day of a statewide election, are hereby designated for said general election.

4. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said general election to be provided to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, at least fifty-three (53) days before the date of said election. The notice shall include the date of said general election and the office or offices to be voted on at said general election.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said general election to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least ten (10) days before the date of said general election.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least ten (10) days before the date of said general election and to cause a sample ballot to be posted in each polling place on election day. The sample ballot shall be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot. The sample ballot for a polling place must reflect the offices, candidates and rotation sequence.

the ballots used in that polling place.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said general election to be published in the official newspaper of the school for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of said election.

The notice of election so posted and published shall state the offices to be filled set forth in the form of ballot below, and shall include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

The clerk is authorized and directed to cause the rules and instructions for use of the optical scan voting system to be posted in each polling place on election day.

5. The clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this election and generally to cooperate with election authorities conducting other elections on that date. The clerk and members of the administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections, including entering into agreements or understandings with appropriate election officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration and cost sharing.

6. The clerk is further authorized and directed to cause or to cooperate with the proper election officials to cause ballots to be prepared for said election in substantially the following form, with such changes in form, color and instructions as may be necessary to accommodate an optical scan voting system.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 139
RUSH CITY SCHOOLS
GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 8, 2011

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, completely fill in the ovals(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
VOTE FOR UP TO THREE

☐ SCOTT G. TRYON

☐ TONY R. CARLSON

☐ STEFANIE FOLKEMA

☐ _____
write-in, if any

☐ _____
write-in, if any

☐ _____
write-in, if any

Optical scan ballots must be printed in black ink on white material, except that marks to be read by the automatic tabulating equipment may be printed in another color ink. The name of the precinct and machine-readable identification must be printed on each ballot. Voting instructions must be printed on the back of each ballot.

printed at the top of the ballot on each side that includes ballot information. The instructions must include an illustration of the proper mark to indicate a vote. Lines for initials of at least two election judges must be printed on one side of the ballot so that the judges' initials are visible w ballots are enclosed in a secrecy sleeve.

7. The name of each candidate for office at this election shall be rotated with the names of the other candidates for the same office in the specified in Minnesota law.

8. If the school district will be contracting to print the ballots for this election, the clerk is hereby authorized and directed to prepare instr the printer for layout of the ballot. Before a contract in excess of \$1,000 is awarded for printing ballots, the printer shall furnish, in accordance v Minnesota Statutes, Section 204D.04, a sufficient bond, letter of credit, or certified check acceptable to the clerk in an amount not less than \$1,0 conditioned on printing the ballots in conformity with the Minnesota election law and the instructions delivered. The clerk shall set the amount o bond, letter of credit, or certified check in an amount equal to the value of the purchase.

9. The following individuals, each of whom is qualified to serve as an election judge, are hereby appointed as judges of election, to act a the respective polling places listed below:

Polling Place

Election Judges

Rush City High School

Head Election Judge - Rodney Swanson

Millie Peters

Albert Petschl

A. Jim. Thorn

The election judges shall act as clerks of election, count the ballots cast and submit the results to the school board for canvass in the manner pro other school district elections.

Motion unanimously carried.

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 Committee for the 2011-12 school year.

Individual Transportation Contract

Motion #16011 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides approving the following transportation contracts during the 2011-12 school year: Tim Maring for 6.4 miles per day beginning August 2011 through June of 2012, and Darrin and Linda Sedler for 5 miles per day beginning September 6, 2011 and ending June 1, 2012. Motion unanimously carried.

St. Croix River Education District Issues

Motion #16111 by Anderson seconded by Nessel accepting the resignation of Katie Engel, School Psychologist and approving the employment of Katherine Kauls, School Social Worker beginning 9/15/11. Motion unanimously carried.

Spanish Trip to Costa Rica

High School Principal Fuhs and several high school Spanish students provided information about a proposed trip to Costa Rica during April 2012. Students would pay their own expenses, the travel agency would cover most of the sub costs for the teacher, and students would miss about four days of school. Students discussed some fund raising ideas they were considering. Whereupon, Motion #16211 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving a Spring 2012 trip to Costa Rica for students in Spanish 4. Motion unanimously carried.

Calendar

Special Board Meeting	High School Conf. Rm	9/28/11	6:00 p.m.
RCEA Negotiations	High School Conf. Rm	9/28/11	6:15 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg	Room 201, High School	10/20/11	7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion #16311 by Cook seconded by Nessel adjourning the Regular Board meeting at 8:40 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.