

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

May 17, 2012

The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tryon at 7:06 p.m. in Room 201 at the Rush City High School.

Roll Call

Board Members present: Scott Tryon, Carol Cook, Brian Anderson, Brenda Nessel, and Stefanie Folkema. Board Members absent: Channa Tastsides. Others in attendance: Vern Koepp, Superintendent; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; Teachers Lee Ann Anderson, Mary Kurvers, Sue Williams, Lori Nelson, and Kim Erdman; Food Service Director, Donna Westman; Anna Kost, Brent Stavig, and a representative of the East Central Post Review.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion #06912 by Nessel seconded by Cook approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda with the following addition: V, New Business, item H, iPad Initiative. Motion carried unanimously.

Parent Concern

Parent Anna Kost spoke to Board members about concerns with student interactions, and bullying that occurs among students. Ms. Kost encouraged Board members to review the results of recent bullying surveys.

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

Motion # 07012 by Anderson seconded by Cook approving the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of April 19, 2012 and the Special School Board Meeting of May 9, 2012. Motion unanimously carried.

Recognition/Policy Review

Board member Anderson wished to recognize bus drivers for their extra efforts related to difficult road conditions throughout Rush City.

In the first reading the board discussed the following policies: Policy #533-Wellness, and Policy #807-Health and Safety Policy.

After a second reading and final board review of proposed changes Motion #07112 by Nessel seconded by Cook approving the following policies: Policy #413-Harassment and Violence, and Policy #526-Hazing Prohibition. Motion unanimously carried.

Financial Information

Following the Superintendent's review and certification Motion #07212 by Anderson seconded by Cook approving the payment of invoices and obligations in the amount of \$681,321.30 for ISD#139 and \$357,963.32 for SCRED. Motion unanimously carried.

Investments: Superintendent Koepp reported the district has \$1,650,613 invested as of 4/30/12.

Quarterly Investment Report: Board members reviewed the quarterly investment report showing an investment of \$490,000 in the Liquid Asset Fund portfolio.

Superintendent Koepp reviewed the quarterly report for the Pool Trust Fund, noting that the March 31 Fund Balance was \$512,580.12 and that the interest income earned for the 2011 Aquatic Center season was \$2,965 compared to \$8,116.00 the previous year.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Superintendent Koepp reviewed the 2011-12 revenue and expenditure budget noting that the general fund revenues are running approximately \$650,000 less than expenditures to date, due mainly to delays in state aid.

Communications

There were no items for consideration.

Reports

Positive Points

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

Testing is done! Wow! What a busy testing season it has been! We were able to give the math MCA tests up to three times this year and I really congratulate the teachers and students of working hard to make these testing opportunities successful.

The music program is always busy in the spring and this year is not exception. We have had a first grade program, a band/choir concert, and a choir recital since the last school board meeting. Both Mr. Kuehn and Mrs. Holmstrom are thanked for their extra efforts at this time of year.

At the beginning of the month, Mrs. Kurvers and Ms. Hedberg ran the annual Academic Triathlon for students in grades 1 and 2. Academic Triathlon is a series of events where students work in teams to complete several tasks including a trivia competition, cooperative problem solving events, and a mini-skit creation. These two after school events are always fun and certainly educational for the students!

On the last Friday in April, I was honored to accompany Julie Parent to Horizon Milling where they had a little program and handed ServeMinnesota a check for \$4,000. ServeMinnesota supports the AmeriCorps program. So, not only do they support our school with weekly volunteer service, but they also reach into pocketbooks!

In addition to the music program, Mr. Henrich has been very busy in physical education with two Track and Field events in May. Last week's events for the 1-3 graders went very well and I'm sure tomorrow events will be as equally successful!

Board members reviewed positive points provided by High School Principal Fuhs:

Congratulations to Marissa Belau, Sam Melin, John Roerig, Trista Sarago and Matt Strenke for receiving the Students of Excellence Award for their academic accomplishments. They were honored at a banquet in St. Cloud along with other area students.

Our Secret Garden was Rush City's theme for Prom 2012. Grand March was at 4:45 at the Theatre in the high school with 128 students attending. They then went to Chuckers for the dinner and dance. Firefly Bistro cantered a delicious meal. The dance went until midnight. The Rush City SADD chapter sponsored a post prom party at Chuckers. The theme was Prom Olympics. Thirty three students attended the party where they participated in a variety of games and enjoyed pizza and pop. At 3:30am the prizes were awarded for the 3 students with the highest points and a drawing for many other prizes. Special thanks to Carrie Kirchberg, Doreen Karlsson, and Bob Schlagel.

MCA testing is complete. The 10th grade science test was the last one completed today. I want to give a big thank you to all the staff that proctored the tests and to all the others that made the adjustments to their class schedules to make the testing run smoothly.

Congratulations to Taylor Schellbach and Dylan Fessenden who were named to the GRC All Conference Golf teams.

Spring Fling is scheduled for May 23rd. There will be free lunch, pop and ice cream at the high school. The afternoon starts at 1:00 with games and activities. Fun will be had by all! Come and watch the staff valiantly battle the seniors once again in the annual softball game.

Garret Pearson took home 2 honorable mentions in sculpture on Friday at the Conference for Visual arts. Congratulations to everyone who entered artwork! The judges said they'd never seen such a professional looking showing from high school students.

Rush City High School has currently posted over 2,000 artworks and around 300 artist's statements on the school's gallery at artsonia just this year! Everyone has put a lot of time and effort into this project and it's been a great success.

The Youtube Channel that RCHS Photography has built has over 500 views and it continues to grow this year. They've done a great job and put some high quality photography in some of their videos. <http://www.youtube.com/user/ArtSeePeople> Check it out!

We started a Rush City chapter of "Students Against Destructive Decisions November, 2011. Our officers are Marissa Beleau, Jazman Kepler, Shayla Buck-McKinney and Adam Engel. Under their leadership the Rush City chapter has offered more events and fund raising than other chapters over the past year. They have set the bar high for future years. The 2012/2013 SADD officers are: President-Adam Engel, Vice President-Sarah Gamache, Secretary-Camille Miller, and Treasurer-Tyler Engel.

The Rush City SADD chapter has: Provided a chemical free New Year's Eve party. Co-sponsored a Town Hall Meeting on under-aged drinking with 58 in attendance. Organized an Awareness Week campaign the week before PROM. They made ribbons, ran games and provided mini info sessions during school lunch times. The awareness topics were; distracted driving, tobacco use, safe relationships and alcohol use. Organized and ran a chemical free post PROM party with food, games, and prizes. On May 24th the team is organizing a "Sticker Shock" campaign in local liquor stores. Stickers will be placed on beer and wine coolers reminding adults it's illegal to serve minors alcohol.

For the first time in this state, two of our students went to a week long training on "Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Training" for which the two can apply for certification. Attendees were impressed with their participation. Adam Engel and Shayla Buck-McKinney are to be applauded.

A huge thanks goes to Melissa Vrudny from Chisago County Community Partnerships for her guidance and support of our efforts. We could not have done it without her. Thanks also to the co-sponsors of the SADD chapter Collen Daniels and Mark Bingham. I would encourage the school board to design a ceiling tile for the SADD room in support of their efforts to positively influence their classmates and community.

Chairperson Tryon complimented high school students and staff for a great Pops Concert noting that Julia Westman received the Vocal Music Award and Justin Marty received the John Phillips Sousa Band Award.

Chairperson Tryon also congratulated Kayla Nelson on being recognized at the Great River Conference MVP for track for 2012.

Spanish Teacher Lee Ann Anderson, and Spanish student Jake Trantanella provided a slideshow and comments related to the recent Costa Rica trip taken by a number of the Spanish students.

Updates

Bus Trade In

Superintendent Koepp informed board members that we have decided to trade in bus #19 instead of bus #12 for the same trade in value.

Meetings Attended

Board member Cook reported on the recent School Board Advisory Committee Meeting which included a review of the Bullying Survey results. She recommended that each board member review a copy of the survey results so that the board can have discussion on this topic.

Board member Tryon reported on a recent SCRED Governing Board Meeting, which included issues related to the SCRED facility project.

Old Business

There were no topics for consideration.

New Business

Personnel

Motion #07312 by Nessel seconded by Anderson accepting the resignation of Morris Engler – Instrumental Music Teacher, effective 5/1/12. Note: Board members wish to thank Morrie for is 25 years of service to the Rush City Schools. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #07412 by Cook seconded by Nessel reducing the workday for Jill Erickson – Paraprofessional by 30 minutes per day. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #07512 by Nessel seconded by Folkema approving a request by Katherine Johnson – High School Art Teacher to revise her previous leave of absence request to now include an FMLA leave of absence for the 2012-13 school year. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #07612 by Cook seconded by Folkema approving a leave request by Lila Bennett – Teacher, for an FMLA leave of absence from 10/3/12 – 11/19/12. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #07712 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the employment of Brent Stavig – High School Principal for the 2012-13 school year. Motion unanimously carried.

Minnesota School Buying Group Association Membership

Motion #07812 by Nessel seconded by Anderson approving membership in the Minnesota School Buying Group Association for the 2012-13 school year. Motion unanimously carried.

Meal Prices

Food Service Director Westman explained that according to USDA regulations Rush City, will need to increase meal prices by at least .09 in each building for the 2012-13 school year. Whereupon Motion #07912 by Anderson seconded by Nessel increasing lunch meal prices by .10 in the high school and elementary school for 2012-13. Motion unanimously carried.

Note: Lunch prices for 2012-13 will be \$2.10 for the Elementary and \$2.25 for the High School.

Tiger Trail Easement

Board Members reviewed a proposed easement with Chisago County allowing the county to extend culverts at the west end of Tiger Trail into a manhole which would allow the entrance to Tiger Trail to be widened. Whereupon Motion #08012 by Nessel seconded Cook approving a permanent utility and drainage easement at the southeast corner of the west entrance to Tiger Trail. Motion unanimously carried.

Antenna Agreement with City

Board members reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding between Rush City Schools and The City of Rush City that allows the school to maintain a radio antenna on top of the city water tower. Whereupon Motion #08112 by Cook seconded by Anderson extending the agreement with no specific end date but allowing either party to terminate the agreement with a 90 day written notice. Motion unanimously carried. Note: The City Council has approved this extension as well.

Local Literacy Plan

Elementary Principal Tenhoff summarized the Local Literacy Plan, which outlines efforts to ensure that all students become proficient readers. Whereupon Motion #08212 by Cook seconded by Anderson approving the Local Literacy Plan. Motion unanimously carried.

iPad Initiative

Technology Intragrationist, Mary Kurvers, and 5th grade teachers, Sue Williams, Lori Nelson, and Kim Erdman, did a presentation that included a recap of steps taken to increase student and staff access to technology for instruction. They went on to propose a one to one iPad implementation for grade 5 in 2012-13 and to encourage teachers to develop ways to integrate this technology into instruction. Since digital curriculum is becoming available rapidly, financing for iPads could come by reducing purchases of textbooks. Board members decided to discuss this further at a Special Board Meeting scheduled for May 24.

St. Croix River Education District Issues

Motion #08312 by Nessel seconded by Anderson accepting the resignations of Lolene Borsheim – Shared Curriculum Coordinator, effective 6/30/12; Pat Just – Clerical, effective end of 2011-12 school year, Susan Witthuhn – Physical Therapist effective 5/31/12, and Beth Steinleitner – Social Worker, effective end of 2011-12 school year. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #08412 by Nessel seconded by Cook authorizing Wendy Pikar – Physical Therapist an increase of hours up to 12 additional hours per week, an additional Full-Time ABE position, adding one Part-Time Job Experience Developer, and an additional School Psychologist Position. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #08512 by Cook seconded by Anderson approving the employment of Tiffany Everding – School Psychologist starting 8/6/12. Motion unanimously carried.

Calendar

Special Board Meeting	Room 201, High School	5/24/12	6:00 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg.	Room 201, High School	6/21/12	7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion #08612 by Cook seconded by Nessel adjourning the Regular School Board meeting at 9:28 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.