

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

December 15, 2011

The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tryon at 7:05 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; and a representative from the ECM Post Review.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion #19411 by Tastsides seconded by Nessel approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

Motion #19511 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of November 17, 2011. Motion unanimously carried.

Recognition/Policy Review

In a first reading the Board discussed the following policies: Policy #609-Religion, Policy #619-Staff Development for Standards, Policy #712-Video Surveillance other than on Buses, Policy #801-Equal Access to School Facilities, and Policy #904-Distribution of Materials on School District Property by Nonschool Persons.

After a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes, Motion #19611 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides approving the following policies: Policy #515-Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records, Policy #520-Student Surveys, Policy #523-Policies Incorporated by Reference, Policy #525-Violence Prevention, and Policy #605-Alternative Programs. Motion unanimously carried.

Financial Information

Following the Business Manager's review and Superintendent's certification, Motion #19711 by Cook seconded by Anderson approving the payment of invoices and obligations in the amount of \$619,629.50 for ISD#139, and \$346,752.85 for SCRED. Motion unanimously carried.

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported that the district has \$2,258,324 invested as of November 30, 2011.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Business Manager Frost reviewed the 2011-12 revenue and expenditure report, noting that revenues are running approximately \$500,000 behind expenditures to date, due to delays in state aid, but that the fund balance is sufficient to maintain cash flow at this time.

Communications

There were no items for discussion.

Reports

Positive Points

High School Principal Fuhs shared the following positive points:

The student council will be holding their annual Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest on Wednesday the 21st. Students really go all out to win this contest. Each grade level will have a winner chosen.

The new Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter is up and running at RCHS. Officers have been elected. President - Marissa Bealeu, Vice president - Jaz Kepler, Secretary - Terri Jungels, Treasurer - Adam Engel. Advisors are Colleen Daniels, Mark Bingham, John Nolte, Heidi Larson and Judi Cope. A big thanks goes to Melissa Dvrudney from Community Services for her support, work and consultation.

Congratulations to Mary Kurvers receiving the TIES Exceptional Teacher Award. Mary has done an amazing job in just a few short weeks to help teachers be better 21st century teachers.

Over half the students in the high school made the A or B honor roll for the first quarter. That is outstanding!

A big thank you to Travis Just, a former RCHS graduate, for an outstanding presentation to students on what it takes to stay positive and make good choices in life to overcome personal obstacles that everyone will face at different points in their lives.

A quick reminder on the Winter Concert coming up on Monday the 19th starting at 7:30 p.m. The music directors and students are excited to perform for everyone. Also, the public is welcome to come early to join in the holiday sing along as guests arrive.

On November 28 the following 16 students were inducted into the Rush City Chapter of the National Honor Society: Courtney Arvidson, Brandon Elmer, Dalton Folkema, Kayla Forcier, Molly Hjerpe, Theresa Jungels, Matthew Mallinger, Mitchell Mallinger, Cody Pals, Jacob Pauna, Taylor Schellbach, Abigail Scherer, Mackenzie Sherrill, Mitchell Siefert, Jennifer Tryon, and Morgan Twingstrom. Maureen Guentzel, NHS Advisor, would like to thank the two Board members, Stefanie Folkema and Scott Tryon, who participated in the ceremony. We appreciate the Board's continued support of academic achievement. Next year's ceremony will be held the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

Since our last meeting, second grade students had a very good learning experience with the traditional Colonial Days. The students learn about how life was like back in the days where America was discovered, learn about the foods they ate, and dress in appropriate apparel for the day. They also go in costume to the Golden Living Center and everyone there enjoys their visit from the second graders "from the past."

From Thanksgiving we went right to Christmas and again, second graders took the stage with their annual holiday program. This year, it was call, *Forty Winks til Christmas*. This program always brings the holiday spirit to life! Thanks go to Mrs. Holmstrom and all the staff who work in second grade to help organize this yearly event!

The AmeriCorps reading program has been very active this year! We have an American Girl reading club, All-Star Basketball Readers, a Breakfast Book Club, and we helped Read for the Record. In addition, over 19 volunteers have already read with students as part of the program.

Student Council again had a successful Food Shelf drive. This is always a good opportunity to take learning out of the classroom as we all work together to help the community.

Ms. Nelson directed the annual Fifth Grade Play and this year's production was, *Merchants of Venice* and *The Fairy Tale News*. Giving students the opportunity to shine on stage, or behind the curtains, at this early age helps to build confident young people. We thank Ms. Nelson and all the others who helped with this production.

Superintendent Koepp complimented Elementary Principal Tenhoff related to her efforts in getting the Targeted Services Program off to a smooth start.

Updates

SCRED Facility

Superintendent Koepp reported that the city has selected a company to demo the city building and SCRED has selected a company to demo the Creekside Pizza building. Both buildings were inspected for asbestos and a small amount of asbestos needs to be removed from the Creekside building. If warm weather continues the demo should be possible before winter freeze up. MLA architects have met with SCRED staff to develop conceptual drawings.

Meetings Attended

Board member Cook attended the December School Board Advisory Meeting at which math teachers grades K-12 discussed topics covered in each grade or course, strategies to improve proficiency, and recent test data that has been reviewed. The high school Guidance Counselor discussed a variety of credit options available to school students.

Board Member Cook also attended a December Infinity Governing Board Meeting and reported that Infinity is in good financial shape that enrollment remains steady, that Infinity is providing 58 courses with 48 teachers, and that Infinity remains a good option for some students.

Old Business

There were no items for consideration.

New Business

Personnel

Motion #19811 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides accepting the resignations of Kelly Fregien-Bus Driver, and Nancy Currie-Paraprofessional. Note: Board members wish to thank Kelly Fregien for providing safe transportation for our students for a number of years. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #19911 by Cook seconded by Nessel increasing the hourly time 15 minutes per day for each Food Service employee beginning January 3, 2012, and increasing the contract days for the Food Service Director 5 days for a total of 210 days per year. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #20011 by Cook seconded by Folkema extending the leave of absence for Sara Tramm for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #20111 by Anderson seconded by Cook ratifying the Teacher Master Agreement for 2011-12 with a total package increase of \$105,542 for 2011-12 and \$109,531 for 2012-13. Note: This represents a 1½% increase to the base salary each year of the contract. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #20211 by Cook seconded by Folkema approving the employment of Darcy Stransky-Paraprofessional beginning 12/16/11, and Bobbie Plante-Special Education Teacher .5 FTE beginning 12/19/11. Motion unanimously carried.

Truth in Taxation/Levy Adoption

Business Manager Frost provided information regarding the district's current budget, background information on school district property taxes, and information regarding the proposed tax levy for 2012. During the discussion Frost noted that the percentage of general fund revenue from the state is up slightly from the previous year and the percentage of the general fund revenue from federal sources is down due to reductions in federal stimulus dollars.

Public comment: No district residents were present to comment on the proposed tax levy. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Motion #20311 by Cook seconded by Nessel certifying the levy payable for 2012 for property taxes at \$1,871,244.64. Motion unanimously carried. Note: This is a decrease of \$164,514 or 8.08%.

Capital Expenditure – Five-Year Plan

Board members reviewed a recent report from Inspec that outlined a roof repair and replacement schedule. The roof work estimates were the only changes to the Five-Year Capital Expenditure Plan.

Seniority Lists Action

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and proper posting and review of seniority lists Motion #20411 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the following seniority lists for the 2011-12 school year: Rush City teachers, St. Croix River Education District teachers, Title I teachers, paraprofessionals, food service workers, custodians, and bus drivers. Motion unanimously carried.

District Improvement Plan

High School Principal Fuhs reviewed areas in which the District is not making adequate yearly progress and action plans to address those areas, Whereupon Motion #20511 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the District improvement plan. Motion unanimously carried.

C. E. Jacobson Improvement Plan

Elementary Principal Tenhoff reviewed areas in which elementary students are not making adequate yearly progress and action plans to address areas of concern, Whereupon Motion #20611 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides approving the C. E. Jacobson improvement plan. Motion unanimously carried.

St. Croix River Education District

Motion #20711 by Anderson seconded by Nessel terminating the employment of Anne Olson, Clerical effective 11/23/11. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #20811 by Tastsides seconded Anderson approving a Truancy Coordinator position. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #20911 by Cook seconded by Folkema approving the employment of Shannon Schlender for the Truancy Coordinator position beginning 12/1/11. Motion unanimously carried.

Calendar

Para/Cook Negotiations	HS Conference Room	12/19/11	5:30 p.m.
Legislative Forum	Hinckley Tobies	12/21/11	5:30 p.m.
Teamster Negotiations	HS Conference Room	1/11/12	5:30 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting	High School Room 201	1/20/11	7:00 p.m.
Teamster Negotiations	HS Conference Room	1/23/12	6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion #21011 by Tastsides seconded by Cook adjourning the Regular School Board meeting at 8:38 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.