

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

October 20, 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; and a representative from the ECM Post Review.

Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda

Motion #16811 by Nessel seconded by Cook approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda with the following addition: V. New Business, Item E. Spanish Fund Raiser Requests. Motion unanimously carried.

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

Motion #16911 by Tastsides seconded by Anderson approving the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of September 15, 2011 and the Special School Board Meeting of September 28, 2011. Motion unanimously carried.

Recognition/Policy Review

In a first reading Board members reviewed Policy #201-Legal Status of the School Board, Policy #514-Bullying Prohibition Policy, Policy #532-Use of Peace Officers And Crisis Teams To Remove Students With IEPs From School Grounds, and Policy #806-Crisis Management Policy.

After a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes, Motion #17011 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the following policies: #707-Transportation Of Public School Students, Policy #709-Student Transportation Safety Policy, and Policy #711-Video Recording On School Buses. Motion unanimously carried.

Financial Information

Following the Superintendent's review and certification, Motion #17111 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the payment of invoices and obligations in the amount of \$697,887.87 for Rush City and \$386,676.72 for SCRED. Motion unanimously carried.

Investments: Superintendent Koepp reported the district has \$2,000,618 invested as of 9/30/11, down slightly from previous years.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Superintendent Koepp reviewed the 2011-12 revenue/expenditure budget noting that revenues are running behind expenditures due to delays in state aid.

Communications

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

Reports

Positive Points

Board members reviewed positive points provided by Elementary Principal Tenhoff.

Last month, I introduced you to our new staff members that were hired over the summer. Now, I'd like to formally introduce Stefanie Lofgren (first grade teacher) and Ashley Weis (sixth grade teacher) as our new staff members pending board approval. Both teachers report that all is going well and are settling in well.

We will be having our first family involvement night on Friday, November 4th, and would be happy to have you join the festivities! The annual Book Fair will be on display, a Pizza Pub dinner is available, and we will be showing the movie *Cars2*.

We have conducted our Fire Safety awareness with the usual poster contests, trips to the Fire Station, a visit from the Smoke House, and Dave Schroeder did his annual presentation to the kindergarten students. In the past, some of our families have been greatly affected by house fires, let's all hope that this year goes without incident.

On Monday we will be starting another year of the Youth First Club, which is an after-school program for students in grades 4-6. They meet weekly throughout most of the year with fun activities that focus on making smart choices. This program is brought to us by the Community Partnership program.

Congratulations to Alissa Zeltinger for being chosen this year to receive the Leaders in Educational Excellence award, which is sponsored by Resource Trainings and Solutions. We will be attending the ceremony in St. Cloud next Wednesday.

Our fall MAP scores have been delivered and teams of folks have already started assessing the data. Outside of one small technological glitch, the testing procedures went very well.

We wish to thank the High School again for inviting us to the Homecoming Pep Fest. It is such a great opportunity for our students to begin to see what options they might be interested in pursuing when they get older. Hearing the band play and see the sport players get recognized are good things for the elementary students.

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

Congratulations to Marissa Belau for being named a *Commended Student* for the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended students placed in the top 5% of 1.5 million students who entered the 2012 competition by taking the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test).

Congratulations to Mike Saari for being selected for the Leadership in Education Excellence Award. He will be honored at a banquet in St. Cloud on the 26th sponsored by Resource and Training Solutions.

Congratulations to Coach Smith for being selected as the Great Rivers Conference Coach of the Year for Cross Country.

Boys Cross Country are Conference Champions. 5 All-Conference Boys: Daniel Taylor, Dan Weber, Ike Johnson, Garrett Larson, Kevin Nelson. All Conference: Girls - Ashley Swanson, Honorable Mention All- Conference: Sammi Oscarson, Payton Ramberg.

RCHS has been selected as a pilot school for MN College Application Week. Erika Matzke and Heidi Larson will implement this program November 14-18. This is an exciting opportunity for students at RCHS as it will allow us to work with each student as they explore post high school options. Lynne Bossart also will be volunteering her time to help with this event.

The "free yearbook" fundraiser had great success this year. 36 free yearbooks were earned and the yearbook account made about \$1000. We can purchase a new digital SLR camera and put autograph pages back into the yearbook. Previously they were a \$3.00 add-on.

The concert choir is going to be performing in a 1,200 student ensemble at St. Olaf College on Sunday, November 6th. They rehearse all day and perform in the concert at 4:00 p.m. It is going to be a wonderful experience.

The Art Department has 229 Artworks posted thus far this year on Artsonia (our online art gallery). Overall Rush city has over 2,300 artworks posted. For our efforts last year on the gallery we won 10 awards!

Congratulations to the members of our Rush City Wind Ensemble who have been selected to participate in the University of Minnesota Duluth Honor Band on November 4th and 5th. Rush City will be represented by Justin Marty, Dan Weber, Sam Melin, Lucas Lindgren, and Cody Pals.

Updates

AYP Report

The District recently received results from the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments completed by students last spring. The 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress Report (AYP) indicates we are making adequate progress in math for all areas except Special Education Students at the district level. We need to improve in reading for Special Education students and Free/Reduced Lunch Students at Jacobson Elementary, for White Students at the High School, and for All Students, White Students, and Special Education Students as a district. While the 2011 AYP Reports indicates a need to improve in reading it is worth noting the Rush City exceeded the State reading averages in five of seven grades tested. The groups that did not make adequate progress were usually within one to three index points of making adequate progress. We have had strong reading performance in recent years and hope to make adjustments needed to meet or surpass the state targets.

SCRED Facility

Superintendent Koepp and Board Chair Tryon reported that ICS Consulting, Inc. from Mounds View Minnesota has been hired to represent SCRED as a construction management firm and that negotiations are in progress to purchase additional property from a downtown business owner. Representatives from the City Council seemed willing to demo the city owned building downtown and sell it to SCRED for a nominal amount.

Meetings Attended

Board member Cook provided an update of the recent School Board Advisory Committee during which Adequate Yearly Progress results were discussed and MAP Testing was discussed.

Board member Cook summarized the TIES annual meeting during which members discussed TIES technology plan to support schools and barriers to technology integration within schools.

Old Business

There were no topics to consider.

New Business

Personnel

Motion #17211 by Cook seconded by Nessel accepting the resignation of David Engstrom, Paraprofessional, last day 9/20/11. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #17311 by Cook seconded by Nessel authorizing an additional Paraprofessional position and increasing the hours from eight hours per week to 14 hours per week for 2011-12 only for Kari Phillippi, Early Childhood Instructor. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #17411 by Anderson seconded by Folkema approving the employment of Ashley Weis, Elementary Teacher, with a start date of 10/3/11; and Stefanie Lofgren, Elementary Teacher, with a start date of 10/3/11. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion #17511 by Cook seconded by Anderson reassigning Mary Kurvers as a Teacher on Special Assignment status for 2011-12, as a K-12 Technology Integrationist. Motion unanimously carried.

Review District Mission Statement and Goals

Board members reviewed the current District Mission Statement and District Goals noting that they have been in place for a number of years. It was a consensus among Board Members to review these at a strategic planning meeting sometime later this school year.

Individual Transportation Contract

Motion #17611 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving an individual transportation contract with Bonnie Long for 13.2 miles per day, beginning 9/14/11 and ending 6/1/12. Motion unanimously carried.

St. Croix River Education District Issues

No items for consideration.

Spanish Fund Raiser Requests

Superintendent Koepp and Board members reviewed a list of ideas provided by Mrs. Anderson and the students in Spanish IV related to the Costa Rica trip. Whereupon Motion #17711 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides approving the fund raising ideas presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Calendar

RCEA Negotiations	High School Conf. Rm.	10/24/11	6:30 p.m.
Special Board Meeting	High School Rm. 201	11/8/11	8:30 p.m.
Teamster Negotiations	High School Conf. Rm	11/15/11	6:00 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg	High School Rm. 201	11/17/11	7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion #17811 by Anderson seconded by Nessel adjourning the Regular Board meeting at 8:07 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.