

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

**March 21, 2013**

The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Folkema at 7:02 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; Brent Stavig, High School Principal; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; Mary Kurvers, Sue Williams, Kim Erdman, Rick Olseen, Sue Karvonen, Erin Waters, Ashley Lakeberg, Jennifer Henthorn, a representative of the Post Review, and other interested persons.

**Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda**

Motion #03613 by Tastsides seconded by Nessel approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda with the following additions: V – New Business – Item H – Board Member Resignation, and Item I – Tiger Trail Overlay. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion #03713 by Anderson seconded by Tryon approving the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of February 21, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

**Recognition/Policy Review**

**Policy Review**

In a first reading the Board discussed the following policies: Policy #707-Transportation of Public School Students, and Policy #805-Waste Reduction and Recycling.

After a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes, Motion #03813 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving policy: #613-Graduation Requirements. Motion carried unanimously.

Note: Policy #203.2-Order of the Regular School Board Meeting, and Policy #203.6-Consent Agendas were carried over for further discussion at an upcoming board meeting.

**Financial Information**

Following the Business Manager's review and the Superintendent's certification, Motion #03913 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the payment of invoices and obligations in the amount of \$775,470.95 for Rush City, and \$351,121.29 for SCRED. Motion carried unanimously.

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported the district has \$1,720,333 invested as of 2/28/13.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Business Manager Frost reviewed the current 2012-13 revenue and expenditure budget. Expenditures have been higher than revenues to date due mainly to delays in state aid, but this difference has been improving as the state catches up in delayed payments to Districts.

**Communications**

**MDE School Finance Memo**

Board members reviewed a memo from the Department of Education stating that the percentage of state aids paid during the school year has been increased from 82.5% to 86.4% as a result of an improvement in the state budget outlook.

**Reports**

**Positive Points**

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points for the elementary and preschool:

Mrs. Holmstrom, with the support of the fifth and sixth grade teams, presented an excellent program this past month. The show was called *School Daze* and was a perfect match for our older students.

Sixth graders recently enjoyed two field trips: Pine Tech for the girls and the Mill City Museum for the boys. Both were very beneficial.

We are in the middle of MAP testing and are preparing for MCA testing. The MCA Science test for 5<sup>th</sup> graders is complete. Reading and math MCA tests will be in April.

The Inventors' Fair is Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stop by if you are able and view all the great ideas!

Two innovative technology examples were shared – the new Sixth Grade School News iMovie, which is emailed to staff to share with their classes and a fourth grade Research Project done on Google presentation. Both of which are excellent examples of using technology to enhance learning.

AmeriCorps tracked 9,851 minutes of volunteer service to our school in the month of February. This was done among 49 volunteers.

Preschoolers participated in the Hop for Leukemia this past month. At last month's meeting I did not have a total yet. This month, I am very proud to report that preschoolers raised \$1,108! That is one of the highest totals we have reached in the 12 years we have participated in the hop.

Rush City Early Childhood has also received word from MN Reading Corps that we have been awarded an additional member for the 2013-2014 school year. We will have one full time member and one part time member. This is a great opportunity for our students and entire program, to receive additional support with early literacy.

Preschool registration is underway as of this week. We have many families taking advantage of "early registration" this week before information is mailed out to the general public.

Last month, you were able to view some amazing portraits drawn by high school art students. We also feel that we have some amazing artists in our preschool program.

High School Principal Stavig shared the following positive points:

1. Students are attending a free ACT test prep class
2. 7&8<sup>th</sup> graders are attending Junior High Math League
3. Trans Math students feel the program is working well
4. Peer tutors are helping students with disabilities manage their coursework
5. History students are creating WWII music videos

#### Updates

##### Rick Olseen for Congressman Rick Nolan

Rick Olseen spoke briefly to board members about his current job as an assistant to Congressman Rick Nolan. Olseen encouraged Board Members to communicate concerns related to various issues especially concerns related to Special Education funding.

#### iPad Initiative

Grade 5 teachers Sue Williams and Kim Erdman discussed the one-to-one iPad initiative in grade 5. They spoke about the impact iPads have had on instruction, student engagement, and families of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Williams and Erdman reported many positive outcomes and some of the challenges related to the iPad implementation. Mary Kurvers discussed the use of iPads by Elementary and High School teachers.

#### Meetings Attended

Board member Cook reported on the recent School Board Advisory Committee meeting during which the High School Guidance Counselor discussed the High School Guidance Program, and the committee reviews of student performance data.

Board member Cook reported on a recent MSBA Negotiations Conference during which a model agreement and the Affordable Care Act were discussed.

Board member Tryon reported on a recent SCRED Governing Board meeting during which the budget was reviewed and SCRED sidewalk issues were discussed.

#### Old Business

There were no topics for discussion.

#### New Business

##### Personnel

Motion #04013 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides accepting the resignations of Tricia Williams – Paraprofessional – effective 3/15/13. Motion carried unanimously.

##### PTO Playground Improvements

PTO rep. Jennifer Henthorn discussed efforts to raise funds to replace the primary grades playground at Jacobson Elementary. She discussed funds raised to date, noting that the PTO is approximately \$6,000 short of their \$30,000 goal. Henthorn will meet with

Elementary Principal Tenhoff and Facilities Director Korf to review plans for the playground and determine funds needed to complete the project.

#### School Security

Board members reviewed a list of potential improvements to school security and related costs. There was extensive discussion related to changing locks on interior doors and options related to this item. No action was taken regarding that item.

Motion #04113 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides to keep door monitors in place at the main entrance of each building until the end of the 2012-13 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Copy Machine/Printer Bids

Business Manager Frost explained bid results for leasing copy machines, noting that the low bid was about \$8,000 less per year than the current lease agreement. Whereupon Motion #04213 by Tryon seconded by Anderson accepting the bid from Loffler Consulting Services Group for a 63 month lease agreement and the related management software. The annual lease is \$35,761.00, the management software purchase price is \$5,439.00, and the annual fee to maintain software is \$868. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Budget Revision FY13

Business Manager Frost and Superintendent Koepp reviewed the preliminary budget for the school year 2012-13 and the proposed revised budget. The revised budget shows an increase in General Fund revenue of \$211,936 due mainly to an enrollment increase. The revised budget shows an increase in General Fund Expenditures of \$162,587 due to additional staff that were added in the year, the EPA Compliance upgrade for the generator at the elementary school, and costs to remodel the main entrance at both the elementary school and high school. The revised budget shows a General Fund deficit of \$546,225, which will decrease fund balances. Whereupon Motion #04313 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the revised budget as follows:

<b>FY-13 REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY</b>					<b>March 2013</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>
FUND NAME	Actual FUND BAL. 6/30/12	2012-13 REVENUE BUDGET	2012-13 EXPENDITURE BUDGET	FY-12 BUDGET ONLY	Estimated FUND BAL. 6/30/13
01-GENERAL	\$2,123,747.42	\$7,707,950.00	\$8,254,175.00	(\$546,225.00)	\$1,577,522.42
<i>(Appropriated-incl.above)</i>	<i>\$24,000.00</i>				<i>\$15,000.00</i>
02 FOOD SERVICE	\$137,126.99	\$420,000.00	\$463,740.00	(\$43,740.00)	\$93,386.99
04-COMMUNITY SERV	\$68,561.94	\$431,896.00	\$428,921.00	\$2,975.00	\$71,536.94
<i>(Appropriated-incl.above)</i>	<i>\$110.00</i>				<i>\$352.00</i>
07-DEBT REDEMPTION	\$280,785.30	\$3,773,548.00	\$3,766,825.00	\$6,723.00	\$287,508.30
08-SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$156,011.46	\$16,500.00	\$18,000.00	(\$1,500.00)	\$154,511.46
10-TRUST FUND(aquatic)	\$511,960.65	\$7,000.00	\$3,560.00	\$3,440.00	\$515,400.95
<b>TOTAL</b>					
<b>#139 FUNDS</b>	<b>\$3,278,194.06</b>	<b>\$12,356,894.00</b>	<b>\$12,935,221.00</b>	<b>(\$578,327.00)</b>	<b>\$2,699,867.06</b>

Motion carried unanimously.

#### Transportation Individual Contract

Motion #04413 by Anderson seconded by Cook approving a transportation contract for the 2012-13 school year for the Tim Maring family, 6.4 miles per day for March 2013 through June 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

#### St. Croix River Education District Issues

Motion #04513 by Tryon seconded by Anderson accepting the resignations of Rachel Heppner – School Nurse, at the end of 2012-13 school year, and Dean Fokken – School Psychologist, at the end of 2012-13 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #04613 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving an FMLA leave request for Ann McCormick for the 2013-14 school year.

Motion #04713 by Tryon seconded by Tastsides approving the employment of Britta Fiksdal – School Psychologist, as a long-term substitute for Katherine Kauls from 2/28/13-6/30/13. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Board Member Resignation

Board members reviewed a letter of resignation from board member Tastsides. Whereupon Motion #04813 by Cook seconded by Nessel accepting the resignation and declaring the Tastsides position vacant at the conclusion of the April 18, 2013 Board Meeting. Voting in favor: Tryon, Cook, Anderson, Folkema, Nessel. Voting against: None. Abstaining due to a potential conflict of interest: Tastsides. Motion carried. Board members wished to thank Tastsides for her service on the School Board.

#### Tiger Trail

Superintendent Koepp reminded board members that an overlay of Tiger Trail was tentatively scheduled for the upcoming summer and bids should be secured soon if the board wished to do this project. Whereupon Motion #04913 by Cook seconded by Tryon authorizing the paving of Tiger Trail and the small parking lot behind the high school. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Calendar

Regular Board Mtg.	Room 201, High School	4/18/13	7:00 p.m.
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#### Adjournment

Motion #05013 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides adjourning the Regular Board meeting at 10:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Anderson  
Clerk

*Our mission is to provide each learner with appropriate educational opportunities to reach his or her potential.*