

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

**December 20, 2012**

The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tryon at 7:00 p.m. in Rush City High School Media Center.

**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; Julie Thom, Early Childhood Coordinator; Chisago County Sheriff Rick Duncan and several deputies; a representative from the ECM Post Review; and many other interested persons.

**Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda**

Motion #19312 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda with the following changes: III Reports –B Updates Item 1, Remove Outcomes Report and add School Safety Concerns. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion # 19412 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of November 15, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

**Recognition/Policy Review**

In a first reading the Board discussed the following policies: Policy #522-Student Sex Nondiscrimination, Policy #530-Immunization Requirements, and Policy #604-Instructional Curriculum.

After a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes, Motion # 19512 by Tastsides seconded by Anderson approving the following policies: Policy #301-School District Administration, Policy #302-Superintendent, Policy #515-Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records, and Policy #730 Post-Issuance Debt Compliance. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Information**

Following the Business Manager's review and Superintendent's certification, Motion #19612 by Tastsides seconded by Anderson approving the payment of invoices and obligations in the amount of \$820,847.99 for Rush City, and \$485,117.54 for SCRED. Motion carried unanimously.

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported that the district has \$2,589,246 invested as of November 30, 2012.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Business Manager Frost reviewed the 2012-13 revenue and expenditure report, noting that revenues are running approximately \$800,000 behind expenditures to date, due to delays in state aid. Frost reported a change in the State Aid payment schedule will improve our revenue expenditure imbalance and help maintain good cash flow.

**Communications**

Board members reviewed a thank you note from the Moulton family and a memorandum from the Minnesota Department of Education Finance Division stating that there would be a change in the state aid payment schedule.

**Reports**

**Positive Points**

High School Principal Stavig shared the following positive points:

On November 26 the following 12 students were inducted into the Rush City Chapter of the National Honor Society: Kiawana Forcier, Chase Grant, Josie Kent, Garrett Larson, Edward Luttrell, Maxwell Maher, Alissa Mell, Joey Mitchell, Samantha Oscarson, Garret Pearson, Linzy Potter, and Caleb Swanson. Maureen Guentzel, NHS Advisor, would like to thank the Board members who attended and participated in the ceremony—Brian Anderson, Stephanie Folkema, and Scott Tryon. NHS appreciates the Board's continued support.

The FOR club has started their first school wide project, creating an "act of kindness chain". The idea is that each time someone witnesses an act of kindness they write it on a piece of paper and make it a link on the chain. Currently the chain is stretching across the main office.

The cast and crew of Little Shop of Horrors put on two more fantastic shows since our last meeting. This was a talented bunch of students!

Monday night our music department put on a concert. Both the band and choir performed. Our students performed well and Mr. Kuehn even threw in a little comedy.

We once again have plenty of sports action going on with basketball, wrestling, and hockey well underway. Our athletes are training hard and performing well.

Julie Risland has started a cribbage club that meets Mondays and Wednesdays after school. Kids are having fun, learning the game, and using math skills and strategy to try and defeat their opponents. East Central Energy's Operation Roundup program made this possible with a \$600 donation.

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

Students collected \$452.78 through our *Make a Difference* jar program for the New York Public Schools as the rebuild after Hurricane Sandy. This was a good lesson in generosity!

Speaking of "good lessons," the Student Council raised \$138 with the selling of Compassion ribbons this fall. That money will go toward other compassion activities this school year.

Student Council has also been busy with sponsoring ACES (an after-school activity program), decorating the school for Christmas, and helping to gather food for the Food Shelf. Between the high school and elementary, we sent over 1,400 pounds of food! This year, Student Council provided a little classroom competition and Mrs. Lofgren's first grade class proudly accepted the honor of bringing in the most food.

A few weeks ago, we gathered together to acknowledge the winners of the Fire Safety Poster Contest. Austin and Kyle showed off their artistic ability and won first prize in their age groups. This contest, as well as the others we do periodically throughout the year, provides our students that have a flair of an artist to shine.

AmeriCorps volunteers provided 1,968 minutes of volunteer service to the students at Jacobson Elementary! That's a great deal of extra support for our students – thank you!

I am very proud to announce that at this year's TIES conference, Mrs. Sue Williams was honored with the District Technology Leader Award. She has provided great leadership with the iPad initiative, SmartBoard usage, and is always willing to share her expertise. A very deserving award!

We were very sad to have to postpone this year's production of A Christmas Carol due to illness. It has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. You won't want to miss this performance!

The second grade students, under the direction of Mrs. Holmstrom, provided a GREAT holiday program. Mrs. Holmstrom extends her appreciation to everyone who works with second grade students – it truly is a team effort to make a program like this happen!

Preschool Coordinator Thom shared the following positive points:

1. The second section of 3 year old preschool that was approved earlier this school year has been up and running since October. We have 12 students enrolled. The room that this section meets in has recently had a SMARTboard installed. The room is now a fully functioning SMART classroom! Teachers in the ECFE and Head Start program that also teach in this room will receive training on how to use the SMARTboard when school resumes in January. We are looking forward to bringing this technology to a whole new group of learners.

2. Our ECSE, or Early Childhood Special Education program, continues to grow. There are currently 26 students somewhere in the ECSE process. 17 students are receiving services, 4 have qualified for services and we are waiting for parent signatures and there are 5 additional students currently being evaluated for services.

3. Dawn Johnson and I, recently had the opportunity to share what we have been doing with technology in our early childhood classrooms at the TIES Education Technology Conference in Minneapolis. We estimate that about 50 people attended our session where we were able to highlight some of the tools we have available in our program and share how our students continue to make great gains in their early literacy fluency measures. We will again share this presentation along with Mr. Koepp, at the MSBA 2013 Leadership Conference in January.

Superintendent Koepp shared the following positive points:

Congratulations to Mary Kurvers, Julie Thom, and Dawn Johnson for being selected as presenters at the annual TIES technology conference in Minneapolis.

## Updates

### School Safety Concerns

A number of people were present to discuss concerns with school safety and school communication with parents. Superintendent Koepp provided a summary of the high school threat incident, how the threat was handled, and events following the incident.

Public comments addressed concerns with the security of school buildings and communication with parents when school safety is compromised. Suggestions and ideas for improved safety were shared.

Administration has begun a review of safety issues and the discussion will continue among appropriate committees, with parent input, and with the school board.

### Meetings Attended

Chairperson Tryon commented on the SCRED hosted legislative forum and that the new SCRED building is a huge improvement over previous office space.

Board member Cook reported on a recent Infinity Governing Board meeting noting that Infinity seems to be a healthy and growing organization providing good opportunities for our students.

### Old Business

There were no items for consideration.

### New Business

#### Personnel

Motion #19712 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides accepting the resignation of Candi Crippen, Physical Education/Health Teacher, and thanking her for many years of service to the Rush City Schools. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #19812 by Tastsides seconded by Anderson accepting the resignation of Adriane Wimmer, Paraprofessional. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #19912 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides authorizing a .5 FTE increase for a Certified Special Education Teacher and one additional paraprofessional. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #20012 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the FMLA leave request for Lee Ann Anderson, 4-6 weeks beginning January 7, 2013, and the FMLA leave request for Sue Mold beginning 12/17/12 through 2/28/13. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #20112 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides approving the addition of a JH Speech Asst. Coach for 2012-13 only and employing Colleen Daniels in that position. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #20212 by Cook seconded by Anderson approving the employment of Stephanie Hackel, Paraprofessional, and Sarah Anderson, Paraprofessional. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 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 2013. 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 slightly from the previous year.

Public comment: No district residents were present to comment on the proposed tax levy. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Motion #20312 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides certifying the levy payable for 2013 for property taxes at \$1,774,646.94. Motion carried unanimously. Note: This is a decrease of \$96,598 or 5.16%.

#### Capital Expenditure – Five-Year Plan

Board members reviewed an updated Capital Expenditure Plan and Superintendent Koepp identified the significant changes. Whereupon Motion #20412 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the Capital Expenditure Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Note: This plan is a working document.

#### Seniority Lists Action

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and following proper posting and review of seniority lists Motion #20512 by Tastsides seconded by Nessel approving the following seniority lists for the 2012-13 school year: Rush City teachers, St. Croix River Education District teachers, Title I teachers, paraprofessionals, food service workers, custodians, and bus drivers. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Authorization to Bid Copy Machines

Motion #20612 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides authorizing the District Office to seek bids for copy machines. Motion carried unanimously.

#### St. Croix River Education District

Motion #20712 by Cook seconded by Nessel accepting the resignation of Jaime Burnside, Clerical, effective November 30, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #20812 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides authorizing an FMLA leave request for Ann McCormick beginning 11/30/12 through June 30, 2013, and an FMLA leave request for Katherine Kauls beginning 3/3/13 through June 30, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #20912 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the employment of Alex Bernard, Clerical, 182 days per year, prorated to 872 hours for the remainder of 2012-13. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Study Session	High School Conf. Rm.	1/3/13	6:00 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting	High School Room 201	1/17/13	7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion #21012 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides adjourning the Regular School Board meeting at 10:00 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.*