

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

**July 18, 2013**

The Regular/Organizational School Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Folkema 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 Justin Wood. Board Members absent: None. Others in attendance: Vern Koepp, Superintendent; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; Brent Stavig, High School Principal; Laureen Frost, Business Manager, a representative from the ECM Post Review, and other interested persons.

**Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda**

Motion #10313 by Tryon seconded by Nessel approving the Regular School Board Meeting agenda with the following additions: II Communications – A. Thank you note from American Red Cross, and IV Old Business – A. Elementary School Security. Motion carried unanimously.

**Board Organization Fiscal Year 2014**

Note: Election of Board Officers and Committee Assignments occur annually during the month of January. School Board Organization during July is an organization of fiscal, financial, and legal matters.

Motion #10413 by Anderson seconded by Wood establishing the regular board meeting day as the third Thursday of the month at the Rush City High School, Room 201, at 7:00 p.m., and adopting Robert's Rules of Order for school board meetings, and approving board member compensation at \$45.00 per meeting with the exception of all day meetings, which will be paid at a rate of \$90.00 per day, Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #10513 by Cook seconded by Wood designating the East Central Minnesota Post Review as the district's official newspaper for legal publications, and establishing the Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund, PMA Trust Fund, Northwoods Bank-Rush City, Unity Bank East-Rush City, and Ehlers Investment Partners LLC as the official depositories for the district's financial resources, and designating the Business Manager and Superintendent for making electronic fund transfers for the district, and designating the Accounts Payable position to coordinate credit card use. Motion carried unanimously

Motion #10613 by Anderson seconded by Nessel designating the Superintendent to work with Ratwick, Roszak, Maloney or Knutson, Flynn, et. al, or Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger legal firms in conducting the school's legal business. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #10713 by Tryon seconded by Cook adopting the following resolution regarding adoption of school policies:

**RESOLUTION REGARDING ADOPTION OF SCHOOL POLICIES**

At a Regular Meeting of the School Board of Independent School District 139, Rush City, Minnesota, held on the 18th day of July 2013, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District 139 that the district policies, having been duly reviewed by the Board, are hereby adopted as the official policies of Independent School District 139.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the policies adopted herein supersede and take precedence over any and all policies of the school district, and, further, that any policies, practices, regulations or rules inconsistent with these provisions are hereby rescinded and repealed.

And the same motion included approving membership in the following organizations: Minnesota School Board Association, Resource Training and Solutions-Membership, Resource Training and Solutions-Mgmt Asst Prgm, Resource Training and Solutions-Health & Safety, CMERDC, MSHSL, Schools for Equity in Education, Infinity Online Learning, and TIES. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Motion #10813 by Nessel seconded by Wood approving the following Consent Agenda Items:

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 20, 2013.

Bills, obligations, and invoices totaling \$1,038,685.84 for Rush City, and \$617,709.96 for SCRED.

Approve Elementary School Handbooks

Approve Tiger Club Handbooks (Note: Remove security code as discussed)

Approve iPad Handbook

#### **Rush City Personnel:**

Accept the resignation of Meghan Preissing, Special Education Teacher, effective immediately

Accept the resignation of Stan Iskierka, Bus Driver, effective 7/31/13

Accept recommendation for Extracurricular position for 2013-14

#### **SCRED Personnel:**

Accept the resignation of Sam Sabaka, School Psychologist, effective end of 2012-13 school year

Employ Adam Lekwa, Instructional Services Coordinator, beginning 7/8/13

Employ Lauren Jackley, School Psychologist, beginning 8/6/13

Employ Tiffany Richards, School Psychologist, beginning 8/6/13

Employ Bethany Almos, School Social Worker, beginning 8/14/13

Increase hours for Julie Hakinson, ABE Teacher, from 910 hours to 1110 hours

Decrease days for Stephanie Bellinger-Bushard, Job Developer, from 106 days to 98 days

Increase hours for Valorie Arrowsmith, ESL Teacher, from 890 hours to 1010 hours

Increase hours for Sara Rydberg, ABE Teacher, from 1125.25 hours to 1604.25 hours

Increase hours for Wendy Pikar, Physical Therapist, from 76 days to 88 days

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Consideration of Item(s) Removed From Consent Agenda**

None

#### **Recognition/Policy Review**

In a first reading the Board discussed the following policies: Policy #203.5 – School Board Meeting Agenda, Policy #205 – Open Meetings and Closed Meetings, and Policy #624 – Online Learning Options.

After a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes Motion #10913 by Nessel seconded by Anderson approving the following policies: Policy #620 – Credit for Learning, and Policy #623 – Summer School Instruction. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Financial Information**

District Office staff are preparing for the annual financial audit. They have met with auditors several days during June for preliminary Audit. Auditors will be on site again in August for field work of final audit.

#### **Communications**

Board members noted receiving thank you note from the American Red Cross related to the recent Blood Drive, which occurred at the Rush City High School.

#### **Reports**

##### **Positive Points**

Principals Tenhoff and Stavig thanked the parent teacher organization and volunteers for a great job installing new playground equipment at the elementary school, and a thank you to custodians in both buildings for the progress they have made preparing for summer school and other summer events.

##### **Updates**

##### **Bus Inspections**

Superintendent Koepp provided a brief summary of a recent bus inspection noting that all items identified during inspection had been corrected during the inspection and that all vehicles were certified for the coming school year.

##### **Meetings Attended**

Board member Cook reported attending an Infinity Online Governing Board meeting, and that Infinity continues to have growth in enrollment, that they are offering a number of classes that continue to be good supplemental opportunities for students, and the successful completion rate continues to be very high.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Elementary School Security**

Board members reviewed three options to modify the elementary entrance to improve building security. There were problems associated with the option approved by the board earlier. Whereupon Motion #11013 by Nessel seconded by Wood approving Option #1 to remove and reinstall the aluminum entry at an angle with a cost of \$21,300. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **New Business**

##### **Lunch/Breakfast Prices 2013-14**

Board members reviewed a memo from the United States Department of Agriculture-Food and Nutrition Service, which discusses school lunch prices. Whereupon Motion #11113 by Anderson seconded by Cook setting the Elementary lunch price at \$2.25 per meal and the High School lunch price at \$2.40 per meal. Motion carried unanimously.

### High School Handbooks

Principal Stavig summarized recommended changes to the High School Student/Parent Handbook and Faculty Handbook, and Superintendent Koepp summarized suggested changes for the Coaching Handbook, and Transportation Handbook. Whereupon Motion #11213 by Nessel seconded by Anderson approving the High School Handbooks, Coaching Handbook, and Transportation Handbook for the 2013-14 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

### System Accountability Report/School Calendar

After review with specific attention to the Improvement Progress Report, the Improvement Plan Report, and Staff Development Plan for 2013-14. Motion #11313 by Cook seconded by Wood approving the Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement as discussed for the 2012-13 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

### Health and Safety Three Year Budget

Superintendent Koepp briefly reviewed the district Health and Safety program and related projects in the 2013, 2014, and 2015 budget years. Whereupon, Motion #11413 by Nessel seconded by Anderson approving the Health and Safety Three Year Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

### Fundraisers-Annual Review

After reviewing a comprehensive list of fundraisers conducted by school groups throughout the school year, Motion #11513 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the fundraisers on this list for 2013-14 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

### Levy Options for 2014-15

Board members reviewed financial information prepared by financial consultants Ehlers & Associates, showing the projected impact of a \$300 per student levy on various property values and the revenue this levy would produce for district expenses. A \$300 per student levy would provide revenue of \$301,980, and it would increase property taxes by \$58 per year for property valued at \$150,000. Residential and commercial property would be taxed at the same rate and agricultural property taxes would be based on the value of the house, garage, and one acre.

The 2013 legislature gave local school boards the authority to levy up to \$300 per student, and the legislature included a formula to reduce the tax impact to property owners in property poor districts. For the Rush City School District, Ehlers & Associates project the state aid will cover 57% of this levy and residents will cover the remaining 43%. Whereupon Motion #11613 by Tryon seconded by Anderson to adopt a resolution authorizing a board approved levy of \$300 per adjusted pupil unit for five years beginning with taxes payable in 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Note: A full copy of the resolution is available in the District Office and on the district website.

### St. Croix River Education District

None

### Calendar

Teamster Negotiations	High School Conf Rm	7/22/13	6:00 p.m.
RCEA Negotiations	High School Conf Rm	7/29/13	6:00 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg	Room 201, High School	8/15/13	7:00 p.m.

### Adjournment

Motion #11713 by Cook seconded by Wood adjourning the Regular Board meeting at 8:57 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.*