

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

**January 17, 2013**

The Organizational/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; Laureen Frost, Business Manager; Melody Tenhoff, Elementary Principal; Brent Stavig, High School Principal; representative from the Post Review, and other interested persons.

**2012 Committee Assignments**

Chair: Chairperson Tryon called for nominations for Chairperson of the School Board for the year 2013. Tastsides nominated Tryon, but he declined the nomination. Whereupon, Motion #00113 by Nessel seconded by Cook nominating Stefanie Folkema as Chairperson of the School Board for the year 2013. Hearing no further nominations, Chairperson Tryon called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair: Chairperson Folkema called for nominations for Vice Chair. Whereupon, Motion #00213 by Cook seconded by Tastsides nominating Scott Tryon as Vice Chairperson of the School Board for the year 2013. Hearing no further nominations, Chairperson Folkema called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Clerk: Chairperson Folkema called for nominations for Clerk. Whereupon, Motion #00313 by Cook seconded by Tastsides nominating Brian Anderson as Clerk of the School Board for the year 2013. Hearing no further nominations, Chairperson Folkema called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Chairperson Folkema called for nominations for Treasurer. Whereupon, Motion #00413 by Tastsides seconded by Folkema nominating Brenda Nessel as Treasurer of the School Board for the year 2013. Hearing no further nominations, Chairperson Folkema called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Directors: Chairperson Folkema appointed Board Members, Carol Cook and Channa Tastsides as Directors of the School Board for the year 2013.

**Committee Assignments**

After discussion and review of the various committees of the school board, Motion # 00513 by Anderson seconded by Tryon approving the following committees and committee assignments for board members for the year 2013:

St. Croix River Education District	Scott Tryon, Brian Anderson(alternate)
Community Education Advisory Representative	Stefanie Folkema, Brenda Nessel (alternate)
Early Childhood Committee	Brian Anderson, Channa Tastsides (alternate)
Board Advisory Committee Representative	Carol Cook, Stefanie Folkema, Brenda Nessel (alternate)
Continuing Education Committee Representative	Channa Tastsides, Carol Cook (alternate)
East Central MN Educational Cable Cooperative	Brian Anderson, Scot Tryon (alternate)
Comparable Worth Committee	Stefanie Folkema, Scott Tryon (alternate)
East Central Regional Development Commission	Channa Tastsides, Scot Tryon (alternate)
Negotiation committee	All Board members
MSBA Legislative Liaison Representative	Brian Anderson
INFINITY Governing Board	Carol Cook, Channa Tastsides (alternate)
TIES Joint Board Rep.	Carol Cook, Channa Tastsides (alternate)

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda**

Motion #00613 by Nessel seconded by Anderson approving the Regular Board Meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Regular School Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion #00713 by Anderson seconded by Tastsides approving the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of December 20, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Recognition/Policy Review**

Chairperson Folkema presented Physical Education/Health teacher, Candi Crippin with a plaque, thanking her for 42½ years of service to Rush City Schools and wishing her well in her retirement.

In a first reading the Board discussed the following policies: Policy #615-Testing Accommodations, Modifications, and Exemptions for IEPS, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students, Policy #618-Assessment of Student Achievement and, Policy #701-Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget.

After a second reading and final Board review of proposed changes, Motion #00813 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides approving the following policies: Policy #522-Student Sex Nondiscrimination, Policy #530-Immunization Requirements, and Policy #604-Instructional Curriculum. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Financial Information**

Following the Business Manager's review and the Superintendent's certification, Motion #00913 by Anderson seconded by Nessel approving the payment of invoices and obligations in the amount of \$732,496.45 for Rush City and \$348,513.41 for SCRED. Motion carried unanimously.

Investments: Business Manager Frost reported that the district has \$3,052,812 invested as of December 31, 2012. She noted that this amount will drop significantly due to a large debt redemption payments made in January.

Revenue/Expenditure Update: Business Manager Frost reviewed the 2012-13 revenue and expenditure report noting that revenues are running approximately \$550,000 behind expenditures to date due to delays in state aid and the recent completion of the Aquatic/Recreation Center roof project.

### **Communication**

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

### **Reports**

#### **Positive Points**

High School Principal Stavig shared the following positive points:

The FOR club continues to meet monthly. Members are planning different things they would like to do to improve the climate in the building. Today students were asking if they could play music in the halls during passing time.

Rush City High School One Act will be presenting "Conflict" Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM in the High School Theatre.

The Triple "A" program was created in 1988 to recognize high school students who excel in academics, arts, and athletics. Seniors who have a "B" or higher grade point average and who participate in League-sponsored athletic and fine arts activities are eligible for nomination. Nominations are limited to two qualifying students per school—one male and one female. Triple "A" State Award recipients (four total) will receive a four-year \$1,000 scholarship.

- This year, Mackenzie Sherrill and Mitchell Siefert were selected to represent Rush City High School's Class of 2013.

Students from the Rush City School District collected their third million in pop tabs. One million two hundred thousand were turned in to National Recycling Inc of Cambridge. The tabs weighed 750 pounds and the check made out to the Ronald McDonald House Charities, Upper Midwest has been sent and it was for \$525. Ronald said that this would allow one family to stay one week at the Ronald McDonald House. The students who primarily were involved with this are from the classes of 2015, 2016, and 2017. After presenting the high school students with a certificate, Ronald went to the elementary to present an anti-bullying program.

- Ms. Bengtson plans to send a letter to the editor of the EC Post Review, Rush City Dateline, and the school news letter to thank the community for their help and support in achieving this goal. We will be asking for their continued support as we try to collect our fourth million. The only thing that we will be doing differently is that the pop tabs will be turned in periodically to avoid the storage problem of all the tabs. (This last time we filled 35 paper ream boxes, each weighing approximately 21.5 pounds.)
- Thank you Paula!

The High School students and staff have been through a lot lately, however, regardless of the distractions they have been very mature, working hard, well behaved, and focused on education. We've had turnover in our staff, staff on leave, security issues and concerns, and the end of the first semester. The bottom line it has been a demanding month and our students and staff rose to the challenges and stayed focused on education, I'm proud of them!

Other staff comments:

- The switch to having the doors locked has been going well. We're working to keep Kerri busy at the front doors and nutrition services has been a great asset to help with letting deliveries in the back door.
- As a new teacher, I have felt welcomed by the students and the staff. – Meghan Preissing

Elementary Principal Tenhoff shared the following positive points:

Twelve students earned a limo ride earlier this month for being top sellers with this fall's PTO fundraiser. They had a very good time in the Hummer Limo, showing off around town. Their trip concluded with cookies and cocoa at Creekside.

We are very proud of our Knowledge Bowl team who took 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place in the first competition of the season. They go to Pine City next week to continue the Knowledge Bowl season. Good luck team!

We have been busy with building our School Climate this year. We started a "Chain of Compassion," which we will be happy to join to the high school chain should it work to do so this spring during a celebration. In addition, Ronald McDonald was here last week and presented an Anti-Bullying message that was well received by the students. We will also ask Climb Theater to present one of their assemblies to our students either late winter or early spring.

Some 6th grade Science students went to St. Cloud State University on January 10th, and participated in the "Science Rocks" Workshops for elementary students. The students put together ECO-BOTS, learned about cows and their digestive system, visited the Planetarium and looked at the "new" solar system, they used maps to figure out how they would stop a Zombie invasion, they learned about habitats and niches with live tortoises and snakes, they learned about the wolves of MN, etc... It was an amazing day! Owen Weeks said, "There is no way that any Field Trip could ever top this!" The students filled out evaluations, and they were all glowing!

We recently deposited \$1,621.95 from the Kemps and Box Tops collection programs. Thank you all for saving and getting these to school – your efforts really add up!

Mr. Kuehn and Mrs. Holmstrom conducted their winter Band/Choir Concert this past week. We thank them for bringing music to our school!

February is right around the corner and that means that it is I Love to Read month! Please join us with your reading minutes – you can simply email your minutes to Jill Erickson at the media center.

Superintendent Koepp complimented Preschool Coordinator, Julie Thom, and Early Childhood Special Ed Teacher, Dawn Johnson for a very nice presentation related to technology in the preschool at the Minnesota School Boards Association Conference.

#### Updates

Annual Outcomes Report: Postponed until February meeting.

Study Session 1/3/13: Superintendent Koepp provided a brief summary of the session which included discussions of the Athletic Directors Contract, the Superintendents Contract, MSBA negotiations seminar scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> in Hinckley, negotiation issues and priorities, and the teacher and principal evaluation process.

School Security/Communication: Superintendent Koepp provided a summary of the meeting that occurred January 14<sup>th</sup> which included the purchase School Messenger, a mass communication tool, and meetings scheduled to investigate options for controlling access to school building entrances. A meeting is scheduled soon with Chisago County Sheriff Duncan to discuss School Resource Officers and a Deputy from the Chisago County Sheriffs Department is scheduled to speak to teachers on January 21st about school security strategies they can use at school.

#### Meetings Attended

School Board Advisory Meeting: Same as the January 14<sup>th</sup> School Security/Communication Meeting.

#### Old Business

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

#### New Business

##### Personnel

Motion #01013 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides accepting the resignation o Dewayne Schminkey, Bus Driver. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #01113 by Anderson seconded by Cook authorizing the hiring of additional paraprofessional, 5 hrs per week. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #01213 by Nessel seconded by Tastsides approving the recommendation to increase Bobbie Plante, Special Education Teacher to full time status effective 1/21/13. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion #01313 by Tryon seconded by Nessel approving the employment of Angela Houlahan, Physical Education/Health Teacher effective 1/21/13, and Motion #01413 by Cook seconded by Nessel approving the employment of Maricela Peterson, Spanish long-term sub effective 1/7/13. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Teacher Retirement Incentive

Board members reviewed Statute 122A.48 Teacher Early Retirement Incentive Program and an application which teachers may use to apply for the retirement incentive program offered by Rush City Schools. Whereupon Motion #01513 by Nessel seconded by Anderson approving the retirement incentive application, an incentive of \$10,000 per person available to teachers qualifying for the incentive under Statute 122A.48. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Authorize to get Bus Bids

After reviewing specifications for a new bus Motion #01613 by Cook seconded by Tryon authorizing bids for buses meeting those specifications. Motion carried unanimously.

#### St. Croix River Education District Issues

There were no items for consideration under this topic.

#### Calendar

Regular Board Mtg.	Room 201, High School	2/21/13	7:00 p.m.
--------------------	-----------------------	---------	-----------

#### Adjournment

Motion #01713 by Cook seconded by Nessel adjourning the Regular Board meeting at 8:14 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.*