

Rochester School Board
Regular School Board Minutes
September 8, 2016
City Council Chambers

DRAFT

Members Present:

Mr. Paul Lynch, Chair
Ms. Nichole Guptel
Mr. Matthew Pappas
Mrs. Jennifer Bryant
Mr. Raymond Turner
Mrs. Audrey Stevens
Mr. Travis Allen
Mrs. Karen Stokes
Mr. Thomas O'Connor
Mr. Robert Watson
Ms. Julie Brown
Mrs. Amy Malone
Mr. Thomas J. Jean

Members Absent:

Also Present:

Mr. Michael Hopkins, Superintendent
Mr. Kyle Repucci, Asst. Superintendent
Ms. Linda Casey, Business Administrator
Attorney Jerome Grossman
Ms. Marilyn Martell
Guests & Public
Press

Mr. Lynch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on a roll call with a quorum present. Members participated in the pledge of allegiance.

Last Minutes Mr. Allen moved, second by Mrs. Bryant, the Board approve the minutes of the August 11, 2016 Regular School Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Student Spotlight Mr. Kyle Repucci, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, invited Mrs. Michele Halligan-Foley, SS/HS Project Director to recognize: Domonic Lynch, Raleigh Casey – Summer Institute Youth Strand – bridge between certified facilitators and new attendees. Displayed leadership qualities and passion towards getting involved in their school to make it the best it can be.

Staff Recognition Mr. Repucci introduced August employee of the month recipients: Ms. Michele Leahey, Special Education Teacher at Gonic School; Ms. Jennifer Andrews, Grade 7 ELA Teacher at Rochester Middle School; SMSgt. Joseph Kerrigan, ROTC Instructor at Spaulding High School; and the New Teacher Orientation Committee: Ms. Caitlen Madore, Ms. Deb Hoyt, Ms. Cheryl Hanscom, Ms. Maegan Jerr, Mr. Greg Riley, Ms. Jamie Thomas, Ms. Meghan Walkama

September 13th Mr. Hopkins offered a reminder that next Tuesday, September 13th is a Teacher Workshop Day; students will not be in school. This date is Primary voting day in Rochester; the East Rochester School and Gonic School will be polling locations.

Bus Incident Mr. Hopkins stated that there have been a couple transportation incidents similar to the first grader's incident covered in a recently published article . A recommendation will be brought to the Special Services Committee next week to not let students in grades K – 2 off the bus unless there is someone there to meet them, or specific arrangements have been made. Letters will be sent home to families explaining the change; we want to make sure we are not letting students get off the bus to go home alone. We have already been working with the bus company to start working on a new process; the bus company or driver was not at fault at all related to the incident with the first grade student.

Spaulding High School Student Senate Report

Ms. Emily Benson, Spaulding High School Student Senate Co-President, reported that fall sports are starting; there are 307 students involved - very impressive number. The High School summer retreat held on August 1st was a great experience; everyone is ready to make a difference. There is a focus on building school spirit, student and staff involvement, and looking at diversity - how to be accepting of others. The Retreat opened pathways for student leaders to communicate – set goals.

A Senior sponsored Color Run is scheduled for October 2nd, a great event to participate in; Business After Hours went well; the first home football game will be coming up – plan to attend to support the team. The Band is getting ready for their first Band Show, they have been working hard. The Freshman Orientation was a huge success; thanks to upper classroom, faculty and alumni pulling it all together.

Ms. Benson noted that as a senior, this has been one of the best beginnings of the school year that she has experienced. Everyone seems to be happy (even the teachers) and excited to be at Spaulding.

Public Comment

Mr. Greg DeNoble, Chesley Hill resident addressed concerns to the Board regarding items that recently appeared in the newspaper; the Dean of Students position and the new Transgender policy. He would like clarification of the work being done by the new position and feels that a new policy isn't warranted; changes to current policy would address concerns.

Mr. Lew Archambault, Chesley Hill resident expressed concerns with the Transgender Policy possibly subjecting himself and other taxpayers to other issues. He noted there is no law stating that the schools have to create a policy to address this matter; it is optional not required.

Ms. Terry Dwyer requested more detailed information regarding the Dean of Students position. She was not opposed to the position, but wants to know if the school is being proactive or reactive; what are the behavior trends and don't we have scientifically-based programs in place to help students deal with their problems?

Committee Reports

Building Committee:

No action required.

Instruction Committee:

No action required.

Personnel Committee:

Resignations

Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Mr. Pappas, the Board accept the following resignations:

- Denise Bondi Para-Educator
- Bethanie Downs Para-Educator
- Cherie Frid English as a Second Language Teacher
- Abigail Hood Assistant Principal
- Kevin Loranger Para-Educator
- Emmanuelle McGowan Para-Educator
- Tracy Taif Kindergarten Para-Educator

Justin Tardif Social Studies Teacher
 Nanette Vaughan..... Special Education Teacher
 Adam White..... Para-Educator
 Gina Norton Para-Educator
 Lauren McGuire..... Para-Educator
 Rebecca Stevens Para-Educator

The motion carried unanimously.

Nominations

Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Ms. Brown, the Board approve the nomination of Sarah Howard as Assistant Principal at Chamberlain Street School. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Mr. Pappas, the Board approve the following nominations:

Mary Ballard..... Para-Educator
 Heather Boucher Para-Educator
 Isak Bouffard Custodian
 John Bridle..... Social Studies Teacher
 Stacey Bubar Para-Educator
 Linda Corless Para-Educator
 Thomas Costanzo..... Custodian
 Catherine Dorfman Human Resources Secretary
 Peter Fraser Para-Educator
 Monica Gagne..... Para-Educator
 Nicole Gallagher Social Studies Teacher
 Laura Hainey Special Education Teacher
 Mandy Howerter Elementary Teacher
 Jane Keenan Para-Educator
 Amy Lemelin Library Para-Educator
 Brendan Mayo Special Education Teacher
 Katrina Mirasola Para-Educator
 Jade Perreault..... Para-Educator
 Hillary Sherretz..... Para-Educator
 Sonjia Tainter..... Para-Educator
 Catherine Tewell..... Para-Educator
 Michaela Thorson Para-Educator
 Amy Weeks-Coffield..... Title I Social Worker
 Meghan Gregoire Para-Educator
 Matthew Levins Second Cook/Cashier

The motion carried unanimously.

Department Head

Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Ms. Brown, the Board approve the nomination of Stacy Partridge as the Special Education Department Head. The motion carried unanimously.

Extra-Curricular

Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Ms. Brown, the Board approve the following Extra-Curricular nominations:

Sheila Colson Sophomore Class Advisor
 Sheila Colson Soccer, Varsity (G) Assistant Coach
 Macie Hatch..... Cheering, JV Fall Assistant Coach.
 Mark Sampson Infinite Campus Building Coach
 Eric Maserati..... Infinite Campus Building Coach
 Kristen Sturtevant Audio/Visual, MS

Gail NelsonStudent Council, MS
 Joseph MoneStudent Council, MS
 Sean Sullivan Intramural Coach
 Raymond Poliquin Intramural Coach
 David Colson Adventure Leader, MS

The motion carried unanimously.

Job Descriptions Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board for second reading and adoption the Dean of Students job description. The motion carried by majority vote.

The Committee recommends to the Board for first reading the Assistant Bookkeeper II – Purchasing job description as amended.

Special Services Committee:

Parent Appeal Mrs. Stokes moved, second by Mr. Pappas, the Board approve a parent’s school placement appeal for an elementary school student.

Discussion ensued regarding upholding the recently approved policy for student placement that was approved by the Board. Board members expressed that the decision to approve the request was based on the best interest of the student.

A roll call vote was requested:

YES: Mr. Pappas, Mrs. Malone, Mr. Allen, Mr. Lynch, Mrs. Stokes,
 Mr. O’Connor, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Bryant, Ms. Guptel,
 Mr. Jean, Ms. Brown

NO: Mr. Turner, Mr. Watson

The motion carried by a vote of 11:2

Finance Committee:

Para-Educators Mr. Lynch moved, second by Ms. Brown, the Board approve the request for twelve Para-Educator positions to support bringing Out-of-District students back into the District. The motion carried unanimously.

Dean of Students Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve funding the stipend for the Dean of Students at Spaulding High School.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the merit of the position and budget constraints that have been dealt with in previous and upcoming budgets. Mr. Hopkins clarified that it is not a new position being added; we are paying a stipend to a current teacher to provide support to the SHS Administration. The stipend will be discontinued after a proper trial period, if the position does not provide the support anticipated to administration.

The motion carried by majority vote.

Budget Surplus Mr. Lynch indicated that \$711,644 would be returned to the Fund Balance from the FY2016 School Department Budget. Thanks was extended to the City Council for support through the budget process and being receptive to the needs of the School Department. He noted that Mr. Hopkins and the District Administration are always working hard to provide the best education we can.

Discipline Committee:

Ms. Brown moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board accept the Committee's recommendations as set out in the backup* regarding the eight cases heard at the August 17 and 19, 2016 meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

**(In accordance with the federal FERPA, 20 U.S.C.§1232 (g) the backup materials are not part of the publicly available minutes.)*

Policy Committee:

Second Reading

Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mr. Watson, to recommend to the Board for second reading and adoption policy IGJDA, Athletic Rules and Regulations as amended. The motion carried by majority vote.

Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to recommend to the Board for second reading and adoption policy IGDJA-1, Co-Curricular Regulations as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to recommend to the Board for second reading and adoption policy BCD, Board-Superintendent Relationship. The motion carried unanimously.

First Reading

The Committee recommends to the Board for first reading the following policies:

- IGJDA-RMS, Middle School Athletic Rules and Regulations
- BCA, Board Organization and Meetings
- JBAB, Transgender and Gender Nonconforming

Committee Reports – Special Committees

No action required.

Old Business - None

New Business

Mr. Lynch encouraged Board members to get out in the community and participate with the James Foley Run and the SHS sponsored Color Run scheduled for October – walk, run or volunteer.

World Record

October 16th an attempt will be made to break the Guinness Book of World Records Frisbee toss. Dean Graziano and community members have been coordinating the attempt to gather more than 900 people in a line to throw the Frisbee more than 9m meters. Students, families and members of the community are encouraged to participate.

Other - None

Adjournment

Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael L. Hopkins
Board Secretary