

**Rochester School Board**  
**Regular School Board Minutes**  
September 14, 2017  
City Council Chambers

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

**Also Present:**

Mr. Michael Hopkins, Superintendent  
Mr. Kyle Repucci, Asst. Superintendent  
Ms. Linda Casey, Business Administrator  
Mrs. Robin Despina  
Atty. Jerome Grossman  
Guests & Public  
Press

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

Last Minutes                      Ms. Brown moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board approve the minutes of the August 10, 2017 regular School Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Superintendent's Report**

Awards                              Mr. Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools reported that Employee of the Month and Student Awards will begin next month. The awards from September will be presented at the October Board meeting.

Board Resignation                Mr. Hopkins also reported he was in receipt of a letter from Nicole Danforth officially resigning as a member of the School Board. The Board accepted the letter with regrets, wishing her well in her role as Counselor at the William Allen School. The Board recommended forwarding the letter to the City Manager to see what the recommendation might be for the opening.

Enrollment Report                Mr. Hopkins reviewed the September Enrollment Report which shows enrollment at 9 students higher than the enrollment in October of last year. Elementary enrollment is down by 40 students which is largely due to the difference in kindergarten enrollment. The district typically gains enrollments during the month of September and we have had 15 elementary enrollments in just the last week. High School and Middle School enrollments are up and are where we projected them to be. Where state wide enrollments are declining, we are experiencing stable or slightly increased enrollments.

Mr. Lynch                            Mr. Lynch spoke about the recent news of Mr. Chris Foleys' diagnosis of incurable cancer. Chris was an Assistant Principal at the Rochester Middle School from 2007 to 2010 and Elementary Principal at William Allen from 2010-2013. He was described as a powerful light with a magnetic personality. He bonded with parents, staff and students in a way that made them feel needed, important and part of something bigger. He is a great man and we are saddened by this report of his health. Chris has had an immense impact on the schools and children of Rochester. Mr. Lynch asked the Board for their support in planning a "Chris Foley Day". He

would like Mr. Hopkins to include staff from the schools where Chris worked to design a proposal and find a way for all of us to preserve Chris's memory which could include a proclamation from Mayor McCarley. Mr. Jean concurred, noting the impact that Chris has had on the district. He supports involving staff who worked closely with Chris, noting it has hit them hard. Mr. Jean whole heartedly endorses and supports this. Mr. Lynch states that the Board, collectively, sends their best to Chris and his family.

### **Spaulding High School Student Senate Report**

Corin Moninaro, President of Student Senate, reported that they had their first meeting of the school year and will be focusing on policies including the Cellphone, Dress Code and Senior Parking policies. The school year started off very well-Freshman Orientation was attended by 410 freshman and included a barbeque. She noted, impressively, that for the first time ever, no trash was left on the field after the event. The Freshman Class Council has started with 19 members. Red Raider cards are currently being sold. Volleyball is going well with a 3-1 record- the team is playing Dover next week. To show their support in all sports, the Senate is hoping to increase attendance in the student section. ROTC recently volunteered at the soup kitchen & served over 100 people. The ROTC Drill Team and Color Guard are off to a promising start with the Color Guard performing at a local farmers market. Some of the members participated in a tanker flight where a plane was refueled mid-air. The Spanish Honor Society has a carwash this Saturday from 9-1. The Bedford Band will be attending Homecoming on September 22 and will perform with the SHS Band at the halftime show. Spirit week starts next week. Corin noted that students have been excited about the updates at SHS including healthy vending machines that accept credit cards, the red and white stair treads, repainted walls in the stairway and water fountains that fill water bottles. The Student Leadership team worked hard to choose the paint and find volunteers to repaint the gym walls. She encouraged all to see these improvements and to attend the SHS Open House on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Comment:**

Mrs. Doris Gates read a statement regarding the Maple Street Magnet School and her work for over seven years with Save Our Students (SOS) in support of student with disabilities. She stated that there are four elementary schools that are ADA compliant but the MSMS with 200 school days is considered a special school and is required to be ADA compliant. She believes this requirement was overlooked when the MSMS was in the planning process and the NHDOE, in support of the Magnet School, never thought to ask about the compliancy. As SOS advocates over the last seven years, she reported that they often discussed the MSMS, and in their opinion, it had discriminated against children with disabilities. Therefore, they decided to file an official complaint with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) in December of 2015 with 180 pages of documentation. She stated they said nothing about the complaint since they believed they should have filed long before. In May of 2016 they were advised that OCR would investigate the complaint and as of Sept 2017 they have yet to resolve this. She stated that the entrance to the MSMS is not ADA accessible. She felt this may have discouraged a parent with a student with disabilities from filling out an application. She mentions that French was to be part of the curriculum and focus of the Magnet School but it does not show on the report cards she has seen. She stated that the test scores she has seen

give no indication that the Magnet School is any better than the other 7 elementary schools and that the extra 20 days seem to make no appreciable difference. She stated that the 200 day calendar was started at the MSMS and that the district eventually wanted it for every elementary school. She stated that this 200 school day may be another school fad like open concept classrooms. She suggested changing the Magnet School calendar back to 180 days and then taking the programs with merit and share them with other elementary schools. Mrs. Gates discussed the Building and Finance Committee minutes of the School Board as compared to the article in Fosters. The School Board minutes are very short. She believes that it should be known who votes yes and who votes no when it comes to dollars. She compared information in the Building Committee minutes with what was reported in Fosters. She stated that as advocates for student with disabilities, she stands for the students with mobility issues and asked the Board to do the right thing, make the Maple Street Magnet School 180 days.

Mr. Steve Beaudoin also addressed the Board regarding the MSMS. He referred to 2010 fire escapes that were installed in response to the 2009 Life Safety and Fire Safety Code. Since newer versions of the Life Safety Code have been adopted and if the newer version of the Fire Safety Code are passed, he believes that they will impose many new regulations on the school system. He asked when the last fire safety inspection was done on the building and who is responsible for them. His suggestion to the Board is to hire a Fire Safety Engineer to address the needs of all the schools in regards to fire safety and compliance issues, and so that taxpayers wouldn't be surprised with the cost of implementing any new regulations.

Mr. Robert Gates spoke about the MSMS and asked who is culpable for the OCR complaint. He stated that he believes that culpability is shared with the NHDOE, any Attorney who advised that a Magnet School could be held in a non ADA compliant building, the Superintendent and any member of the School Board who voted for the Magnet School at that time. He stated they filed the complaint because they saw a systemic inherent discrimination occurring regarding students with disabilities. He suggested moving the Magnet School to an ADA compliant building or make it 180 days like a regular elementary school.

**Committee Reports**

***Building Committee:*** No action required.

***Instruction Committee:*** No action required.

***Personnel Committee:***

Retirement Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Ms. Brown, the Board approve the retirement resignation of Mary Cynthia Dodge-Hobson, Speech Pathologist. The motion carried unanimously

Resignations Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Ms. Brown, the Board accept the following resignations:

- Geraldine Cook.....Para Educator
- Megan O’Leary.....Para Educator
- Shelley Price.....Secretary
- Margaret Richards.....Para Educator
- Hillary Sherretz.....Para Educator
- Catherine Tewell.....Para Educator

The motion carried unanimously.

Admin Resignation Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board accept Administrator resignation of Chad Strout, Assistant Principal. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Mr. O'Connor, the Board accept the following resignations:

- Lisa Fieldsend ..... Para Educator
- Cassandra Johnson ..... Second Cook/Cashier
- Judith Johnson ..... Second Cook/Cashier
- Catherine Levesque..... Licensed Nursing Assistant

Admin Nomination Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board approve Administrator nomination of David Totty, Facilities Director. The motion carried unanimously.

Nominations Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Mr. O'Connor, the Board approve the following nominations:

- Mark Archambeault ..... Precision Machining Teacher
- Susan Boisvert ..... Para-Educator
- Nichole Danforth ..... School Counselor
- Carissa Foley ..... Para-Educator
- Nicole Hall..... Para-Educator
- Sommer Hall..... Para-Educator
- Anna LaLonde ..... Para-Educator
- Alison Lemoyne..... Para-Educator
- Noel Lyones-Baker ..... Para-Educator
- Deborah Mailhoyt..... Second Cook/Cashier
- Lorianne Martel ..... Para Educator
- Raenya Morann..... Para-Educator
- Jennifer Murphy..... Para-Educator
- Sheila O'Neill ..... Speech Pathologist
- Amy Rothwell..... Para -Educator
- Deborah Savage ..... Second Cook/Cashier
- Susan Willson ..... Para-Educator
- Nicole Young ..... Para-Educator
- Lorraine Lanoie..... Para Educator

The motion carried unanimously.

Curriculum Advisor Mrs. Bryan moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board approve the nomination of Eric Maserati, Grade 7 English Curriculum Advisor. The motion carried unanimously.

Department Head Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Ms. Brown, the Board approve the nomination of Abra Andrews as High School Art Department Head. The motion carried unanimously.

Co/Extra Curricular Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Mr. Allen, the Board approve the following co/extra curricular nominations:

- Ashley Monetta..... Soccer (G) Varsity Assistant Coach
- Patrick Costin..... Football, Freshmen Assistant Coach
- Tanya Meyers ..... Cheering, Junior Varsity Assistant Coach-Fall

The motion carried unanimously

**Job Description** The Committee recommends the Board approve the first reading, the Systems Engineer job description.

**Leave of Absence** Mrs. Bryant moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board approve the request for a leave of absence for Marisa Reed. The motion carried unanimously.

***Special Services Committee:***

No action required. Mr. Watson thanked Frisbee Memorial Hospital for partnering with the district on the Student Attendance Incentive Program.

***Finance Committee:***

**Stipend** Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mr. Pappas, the Board approve the stipend for Karen Coutreau in the amount of \$1,000 for additional work with Special Education teachers. The motion carried unanimously.

**Maple ADA Compliance Plan**

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mr. Watson, the Board approve the proposed plan for the ADA compliance project for the Maple Street Magnet School. The roll call vote as follows:

YES: Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Malone, Mr. Watson, Mr. Jean, Mr. Pappas, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Brown, Mr. Allen.

NO: Mrs. Bryant, Mrs. Stokes Mr. Turner

***Discipline Committee:*** Ms. Brown moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board accept the Committee's recommendations as set out in the backup\* regarding the six cases heard at the August 21, August 23 and August 29, 2017 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 Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve second reading and review of policy, BDC, Non-Public Sessions. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve second reading and review of policy, BEAB, School Board Meeting Cancellations. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve second reading and review of policy, BF, Board Policy Development. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mr. Allen, the Board approve second reading and review of policy, BFCA, Board Review of Regulations. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve second reading and review of policy, BFE, Administration in Policy Absence. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve second reading and review of policy, BFG, Policy Review and Evaluation. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve second reading and review of policy, BH, Issuance of High School Diplomas. The motion carried unanimously.

First Reading                      The Committee recommends to the Board for first reading and review, the following policies:

- BHB, Board Member Development Opportunities
- BHE, Board Member Insurance
- BI, School Board Legislative Program
- BJ, School Board Memberships
- BJA, Liaison with School Board Associations

**Committee Report – Special Committees**

5 Year Strategic Plan - No action required.

CTE Joint Building Committee - No action required

**Old Business**                      None

**New Business**

Board Resignation                Mr. Watson moved, second by Mrs. Stokes the Board accept the resignation of School Board member, Mrs. Nicole Danforth. The motion carried unanimously.

Donation of Paint                Mr. Jean asked if local businesses donated the paint used to repaint the SHS gym walls. It was confirmed that Lowes and Sherwin Williams had donated the paint. Mr. Jean applauded support of local businesses that supported this effort.

**Other**                                      None.

**Non-Public Session**

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mr. Pappas, the Board enter non-public session at 7:52 pm in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss the dismissal, promotion, compensation or disciplining of any public employee; and thereafter move to a Non-Meeting in accordance with RSA 91-A2 I (a) to discuss strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining. The roll call vote as follows:

YES: Ms. Brown, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Turner, Mrs. Malone, Mr. Jean, O'Connor, Mrs. Stevens, Mr. Pappas, Mr. Watson, Mrs. Bryant,

Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Allen

NO: None

**Public Session** Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mr. O'Connor, the Board re-enter public session at 8:22. The motion carried unanimously.

Tentative Agreement Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board approve the Tentative Agreement with the AFSCME Bargaining Unit as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment** Mr. Allen moved, second by Mrs. Bryant, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael L. Hopkins, Board Secretary