

Rochester School Board
Regular School Board Minutes
February 08, 2018
City Council Chambers

Members Present:

Mr. Matthew Pappas, Vice Chair
Mr. Nathaniel Byrne
Mrs. Anne Grassie
Mr. Raymond Turner
Mrs. Audrey Stevens
Mr. Joseph Devine
Mrs. Amy Malone
Mrs. Karen Stokes
Mr. Matthew Beaulieu
Mr. Robert Watson

Members Absent:

Mr. Paul Lynch, Chair
Ms. Julie Brown

Also Present:

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

Mr. Pappas 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. Mr. Pappas welcomed Mr. Nathaniel Byrne to the School Board.

Last Minutes Mrs. Grassie moved, second by Mrs. Stokes the Board approve the minutes of the January 8, 2018 Organizational Board Meeting and the January 25, 2018 Special School Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Volunteer Recognition Mr. Kyle Repucci, Assistant Superintendent, along with Ms. Christine Hebert, Principal of East Rochester School introduced Mr. Ralph DiBernardo a business owner and resident of East Rochester. Mr. DiBernardo was recognized for his support his support of schools and events not only in Rochester but also in schools across the country.

Staff Recognition Presentations were made for both December and January Employee of the Month recipients. Mr. Kyle Repucci, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, introduced Elementary employee of the month recipients: Ms. Lynda Gemas, Para-Educator at William Allen School and Ms. Lena Folsom, Para-Educator at Chamberlain Street School; Middle School employee of the month recipients: Ms. Mary Else, Guidance Counselor and Elizabeth MacMillian, Grade 8 Math Teacher at Rochester Middle School; High School employee of the month recipients-Ms. Kara Burton, English Teacher and Ms. Rita Ciambra, Science Teacher at Spaulding High School; District employee of the month recipient- Mrs. Jennifer McLain, District Truant Officer.

Meeting Schedule Mr. Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, noted that it was suggested at the last Committee meetings to post the start time for Policy, Special Services, Instruction and 5 Year Strategic Planning meetings at 6:00 p.m.

FY 2019 Budget Mr. Hopkins stated that the FY 2019 Budget Presentation would occur during new business.

Spaulding High School Student Senate Report

Ms. Corin Molinaro presented the SHS Student Senate Report.

Sports -Swim and Gymnastic States are scheduled for February 10th. The Bowling team is 2nd in the State with team finals scheduled for February 17th. The record for the Basketball team currently stands at 5-6. Two Spaulding students have qualified for the New England's in Indoor Track to be held on March 3rd in Boston and two other Spaulding Students will be representing New Hampshire Track and Field in the Down Under Sports Tournament in Australia this summer.

Fundraising – Both the Interact Club and the Culinary Club are holding Valentine's Day fundraisers.

School Spirit – With assistance from Mr. Jason Bushway, the Student Athlete Leadership Team recently held a successful New England Patriots themed tailgate in the gym. Thanks were extended to the Rochester Police Department for donating materials and prizes. Spaulding High School was represented at the Penguin Plunge, which benefits the New Hampshire Special Olympics. Approximately \$1800 was raised by the SHS team.

Guidance - Several events have been scheduled by the SHS Guidance Department including an Early College Planning night and 8th Grade Parent night on February 12th; a Mock SAT Exam for February 17th and finally the SAT & PSAT 10 exam which is scheduled for March 21.

Music – Rehearsals are currently being held for Fiddler on the Roof. Performances are scheduled for March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24th.

ROTC – The Drill Banquet for ROTC is planned for February 10th. A multi-school Military Ball, hosted by Pinkerton Academy, is scheduled for March 10th in Manchester. ROTC will be taking a field trip to Washington D.C from March 22nd-March 25th.

Richard W Creteau Technology Center – A logo contest is currently underway for students to design a tech center logo. Students will vote on designs and prizes will be given awarded to the top three choices. The winning design will be used throughout the renovated tech center.

Public Comment

Ms. Jessica Chase addressed the Board regarding a situation involving her niece for whom she has guardianship. She stated her concerns with the attempts for a modification of a restraining order for another student to potentially enroll at Bud Carlson Academy. She stated that her niece and another student have a restraining order against this student and feels modification of the order would put her niece & others at risk. She provided other details of the situation and asked for the School Board stance on the matter. In closing, she asked for a meeting with Attorney Grossman and the Superintendent.

Committee Reports

Building Committee:

Mrs. Stevens moved, second by Mr. Turner the Board approve the Middle School trusses be include in truss testing and inspection. The motion carried unanimously.

Instruction Committee:

Mr. Watson moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve the change from the Accuplacer test to the SAT for Spaulding High School juniors for course placement; college readiness. The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee:

Retirement Mrs. Stevens, moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board accept the following resignations for retirement purposes:

- Kenneth Chadwick..... Custodian
- Steven Comita..... Graphic Arts Teacher
- Linda Durant..... Guidance Counselor
- Nancy Ferguson..... Elementary Teacher
- Elizabeth Gaudette..... Elementary Teacher
- Shelly Gingras..... Guidance Counselor
- James Knowles..... Social Studies Teacher
- Gwen Morrison..... Elementary Teacher
- Andrea Pastelis..... Mathematics Teacher
- Robert Plaisted, Jr..... Custodian
- Susan Picard..... Secretary
- Thomas Power..... English Teacher
- Carleen Riordan..... Computer Teacher
- Laura Smith..... Pre-School Teacher
- Lynn Vail..... Elementary Teacher

The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations Mrs. Stevens moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board accept the following resignations:

- Shana Hanley..... Para-Educator
- Meghan Sawyer..... Para-Educator
- Megan Tanguay..... Para-Educator
- Jordan Towle..... Para-Educator
- John Waters..... Social Studies Teacher
- Cheryl Wisminiti..... Special Education Teacher
- Martin Wintje..... French Teacher

The motion carried unanimously.

Termination Mrs. Stevens moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve the termination of employment for K.C. The motion carried unanimously

Nominations Mrs. Stevens moved, second by Mr. Watson, the Board approve the following nominations:

- Leah Chabot..... Para-Educator
- Nicole Dale..... Student Assistance Program Coordinator
- Carissa Foley..... Special Education Teacher
- Norris Gerry..... Part-time Custodian
- Molly Hatch..... Para-Educator
- Rosario Jimenez Concepcion..... Custodian
- Herenia Jose De Agramonte..... Custodian
- Justin Keays..... Custodian
- William McCarthy..... Part-time Custodian
- Suzanne Orr..... Part-time Custodian
- Christian Phillips..... Part-time Custodian

The motion carried unanimously.

Job Descriptions Mrs. Stevens moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve the second reading and approval, the following job descriptions and evaluations: Cook Manager, Driver/Delivery Worker, Second Cook/Cashier. The motion carried unanimously.

Special Services Committee:

No action required. Mrs. Stokes reviewed the minutes of the meeting and reminded that all Committee meetings will be posted to begin at 6:00 pm.

Finance Committee:

Supplemental Appropriation

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board authorize the Superintendent to submit a request for a Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$1,200, 880 from the City Council. The motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Bid

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mr. Watson, the Board accept the five year bid for In District Special Education Transportation Services with no vehicle greater than 10 years old from Durham School Services. The motion carried unanimously.

Position Change

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board approve the High School Para-Educator position change from two part-time positions to one full-time position. The motion carried unanimously.

Stipends

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board approve the following Title II-A Grant Funded stipend requests:

- Melissa Marcotte..... (\$1,500) Elementary Mentor Coordinator
- Adam Black (\$1,500) Middle School Mentor Coordinator
- Caitlen Madore (\$750) High School Mentor Co-Coordinator
- Jennifer Ford..... (\$750) High School Mentor Co-Coordinator

The motion carried unanimously.

Sick Leave Donation

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board approve the RFT request for the donation of twenty-five (25) sick days for Para-Educator D.C. and up to thirty (30) sick days for Cook Manager E.W. The motion carried unanimously.

Gonic Roof Trusses

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mr. Watson, the Board approve the Gonic Roof Truss Project and authorize the Superintendent to submit a request for a bonded CIP from the City Council in the amount of \$1,419,835. The motion carried unanimously.

MSMS ADA

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board approve the Maple Street Magnet School ADA project to be funded from Cash CIP lines as outlined in the attachment.

Mr. Turner asked if this funding ensured that all hurdles had been cleared as required by the Office of Civil Rights. Mr. Hopkins confirmed they had and added that a request had been submitted for a Community Development Block Grant for a lift to the second floor but that OCR approval was not dependent on the lift.

After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Discipline Committee:

No action required.

Policy Committee:

Second Reading Mrs. Malone moved, second by Mr. Watson, the Board approve second reading and adoption of the following policies:

- IMBC- Alternative Credit Option
- DB – Annual Budget
- DBB – Fiscal Year
- DBD – Budget Planning
- DBJ – Budget Implementation

The motion carried unanimously.

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

- DD Funding Proposals and Applications
- DFE – Gate Receipts and Admissions as amended
- DFG – Income from the RW Creteau Technology Center Sales and Service
- DH – Bonded Employees and Office
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Committee Report – Special Committees

5 Year Strategic Plan Mr. Hopkins reported that over 200 responses have been collected for the Strategic Plan Survey through Infinite Campus and another 200 collected from the Google Survey. He will bring an analysis to the next meeting.

No action required

CTE Joint Building Committee

A brief summary on the renovation project was given. The Committee viewed a presentation of what the interior of the building would look like. The next meeting has been scheduled for February 19, 2018

No action required

Old Business

Mr. Pappas spoke about Senate Bill 193, the School Voucher Bill. He reported that the Rochester City Council recently tabled the discussion about whether they were going to support or not support the bill without having discussion. Mr. Pappas provided information from a Bipartisan group, Reaching Higher NH, showing which NH school districts would lose money as a result of this bill. Approximately \$164,000 is projected to be lost in public funding for Rochester with an estimated \$6 million to be lost for public schools statewide. Mr. Pappas reported that Dover approved and submitted a letter in opposition of this bill and it was signed jointly by the Dover School Board and the Dover City Council. He encouraged all to contact their City Counselors to begin the discussion on this bill.

Mr. James Gray, Rochester City Council member and Rochester State Senator requested that the Board suspend their rules so he could speak to the matter.

Mrs. Malone moved and second by Mr. Turner, that the rules be suspended. The motion failed by a 5 to 4 vote.

New Business

FY 2019 Budget Presentation

Mr. Hopkins reviewed information shared via a PowerPoint presentation on the FY 2019 proposed budget. A budget book was provided each of the Board members and the sections of the book were explained along with the role of the Committees in the budget process.

FY 2019 Proposed Budget – The proposed operating budget reflects a 4.7% increase from the current operating budget. Local revenue is going down by \$1,178,469 (this includes the one time fund balance transfer from the trustees). The FY 2018 and 2019 budgets were compared. There are areas of significant increase and decrease reflected in the proposed budget. The CPI increase is only on local tax dollars rather than the full budget. The final slide illustrated how the cost per pupil in Rochester has declined in the last four years as compared with the state average. The differential between the spending has increased for elementary, middle and high school students and highlighted the need for a long term consistent revenue stream. Mr. Hopkins answered questions on the Safe Schools grant and reimbursement for eligible student Medicaid services. He stressed this was just a preliminary introduction and that there would be continued discussion ahead.

Other

None.

Non-Public

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mr. Devine, the Board enter non-public session at 8:11 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (c) to discuss the dismissal, promotion, compensation, disciplining, or investigation of changes of a public employee; negotiations. The roll call vote as follows:

YES: Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Malone, Mr. Watson, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Pappas, Mrs. Grassie, Mr. Devine, Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Turner

NO: None

Public Session

Mr. Turner moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, the Board enter Public Session at 8:41 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mrs. Stevens moved, second by Mrs. Malone to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael L. Hopkins
Board Secretary