

Rochester School Board
Regular School Board Minutes
School Department Boardroom
August 13, 2020

DRAFT

Members Present:

Mr. Paul Lynch, Chair
Mr. Matthew Pappas
Mrs. Sarah Harrington
Mr. Brian Nicholson
Mrs. Audrey Stevens
Mr. Matthew Munn
Mr. Nathaniel Byrne
Mr. Thomas O'Connor
Mrs. Karen Stokes
Mrs. Anne Grassie
Mr. David Camire
Mr. Robert Watson

Members Absent:

Mrs. Anne Grassie
Mr. Matthew Beaulieu

Also Present:

Mr. Kyle Repucci, Superintendent
Dr. Sandie MacDonald
Atty. Jerome Grossman
Mrs. Linda Bartlett
Ms. Cherie Mann

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

Mrs. Stevens moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, the Board approve the minutes of the July 9, 2020 Regular School Board meeting and as amended the July 30, 2020 Special School Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Repucci, Superintendent of Schools, thanked everyone for their input and questions since the last meeting. A presentation was given reviewing survey results, the Governor's update and changes in the School Reopening Plan. The survey will be extended until August 21st. Information can be found on our website, blog and twitter. School Board members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mr. O'Connor, to proceed with the previously approved 30 day plan, amending the start of the school year for all schools except Maple Street Magnet School to Wednesday, September 9th. This motion will allow district administrators to work with the Teacher's Association and will allow for needed planning due to recent events surrounding VLACS enrollment. This motion will not increase teacher work days. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch asked Mr. Repucci and Dr. MacDonald to look at the process for teachers if they are exposed to COVID-19 by a student and to bring that information to the August Instruction Committee meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mrs. Harrington, to extend public comment by an additional 30 minutes. Mr. Watson amended the motion, second by Mrs. Stokes,

to allow unlimited time for public comment. The amended motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Lynch read public comment that was submitted for the July meeting from Shauni McGowan, RMS teacher, expressing concern with the back to school plan.

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mrs. Harrington, for the Board to take a five minute recess. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Susan Dromey-Heeter, Spaulding High School teacher, expressed concern about the safety of students and colleagues in returning to school buildings. She asked the Board to reconsider the plan and find alternative solutions.

Ms. Annalise Veno, Rochester resident and parent, expressed concern with students going back into school buildings and with the process. She urged the Board to consider more remote options.

Ms. Meredith Tansey, Rochester elementary school teacher, spoke in support of the back to school plan as presented. She stated “Children learn what we teach them.”

Ms. Tabatha Davis, Rochester resident and parent, expressed concern with the back to school plan and provisions not being made for students with IEP’s. She asked the Board to reconsider the plan.

Ms. Daphne, Rochester resident and parent, expressed concern with the back to school plan and not having a translator for her as she speaks Spanish.

Ms. Laura, Gonic resident and parent, expressed concern with the back to school plan.

Ms. Amy Malone, Rochester resident and parent, expressed support of the back to school plan but concerns with IEP’s being met. She also shared that Bud Carlson Academy shares a public restroom and feels that they should have their own restroom just for BCA students.

Ms. McKenzie, Wakefield resident and parent, expressed support of the back to school plan.

Mr. Matthew Frederickson, Rochester resident and parent, stated that he respects the changes in the back to school plan but has concerns with VLACS as a virtual option; he feels that Rochester students should be taught by Rochester School District teachers.

Ms. Amanda Weeden, Rochester resident and home educators’ advocate, expressed concern that home-schooled students and charter school students do not have equal access to curricular and co-curricular activities per RSA 193:1c.

Rochester resident and parent, expressed concern with the back to school plan and feels that teachers were not part of the equation. He stated he is very supportive of the teachers.

Mr. Matt Mowry, Rochester resident and parent, expressed concerns with the back to school plan.

Ms. Lori McLaughlin, Rochester resident, parent and paraprofessional at RMS; expressed concern with the back to school plan and would like a remote option to be considered. She also stated that VLACS students should be allowed to take curricular and co-curricular classes.

Mr. Michael McSheehan, Rochester resident, expressed concern with the back to school plan and VLACS as a virtual option; would like the Board to reconsider their plan.

Mr. Mike Fitzpatrick, Rochester resident, expressed concern that there isn't a plan in place if someone should have a positive case of COVID-19 and also that teachers were not allowed to have input into the back to school plan. He asked the Board to reconsider the plan for elementary school students.

Ms. Beth Napolitano, Rochester resident and parent of four home-schooled children, expressed that home-schooled students need to have equal access to curricular and co-curricular classes. She also expressed concern that teachers' feelings and opinions were not considered in the back to school plan.

Ms. Rachel Bratter, Rochester teacher, expressed concern with the back to school plan and that teachers' opinions were not considered.

Ms. Nicole Palmer, Rochester resident and teacher, expressed concern with the back to school plan; lack of substitutes and also subs moving from school to school, hot classrooms and being unable to use fans, different kinds of masks not being effective and the 3-6 ft. distancing. She stated that she would like a different plan considered.

Ms. Leanne Meiman, Rochester elementary teacher, expressed concern with the back to school plan and would like the plan to be reconsidered.

Mr. Al Spader, Rochester Middle School teacher, expressed concern with the two options on the survey.

Ms. Katie Taylor, Rochester resident and teacher, expressed concern with the back to school plan; substitute teacher shortage, and teachers not being able to enforce all the rules/processes. She stated that she would like the plan to be reconsidered.

Ms. Michelle Shaw, Rochester resident, parent and RMS employee, expressed concern regarding the back to school plan.

Ms. Elizabeth Lampron, Rochester resident and RMS teacher, expressed concern with the back to school plan and urged the Board to reconsider the plan. She also expressed a concern with a lack of substitute teachers.

Ms. Corinne Baita, Rochester resident and teacher, expressed concern that the teachers' safety wasn't considered.

Ms. Carrie Feyler, RFT President, expressed concern that the RFT was not part of the decision and many concerns with the back to school plan.

Melena Lugo, Rochester resident and parent, expressed concern with the back to school plan.

Committee Reports

Building Committee:

No action required.

Instruction Committee:

No action required.

Personnel Committee:

Mrs. Stevens moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to approve the Extra-Curricular nomination of Abby Harte as the Junior Varsity (G) Volleyball Coach.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Stevens moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to approve the request to increase two part-time Custodian positions to full-time and to add one full-time Custodian position.

The motion carried unanimously.

Special Services Committee:

No action required.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to approve the LPN position be increased to 40 hours per week for the 2020-2021 school year.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to approve Skyline Roofing of Manchester, NH to complete the high roof at McClland School in the amount of \$23,400.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mr. Camire, to accept a student from SAU #44 (Strafford) to attend Spaulding High School as a tuition student.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discipline Committee:

No action required.

Policy Committee:

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mr. Watson, the Board approve second reading and adoption of the following policies:

- JED – Student Absences and Excuses
- JLDBB – Suicide Prevention and Response (*new*)

The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Report – Special Committees

5-Year Strategic Plan No action required.

CTE/JBC No action required.

Old Business

Mr. Pappas shared that he has researched COVID-19 and also that he has worked with high school students for 22 years. He expressed concern about SHS students passing in the hallway. He stated that the RMS and elementary school plan is good and workable but suggested a hybrid model for SHS.

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mr. O’Connor, to have Mr. Repucci work with SHS Administration on creating a hybrid plan and present that plan at a Special School Board meeting. Discussion ensued. The motion failed 3-8 on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: Mr. Pappas, Mr. O’Connor, Mrs. Stokes

NO: Mr. Byrne, Mrs. Harrington, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Watson, Mr. Munn, Mr. Camire, Mr. Lynch, Mrs. Stevens

Mr. O’Connor expressed that he felt the survey was misleading and guidance was not provided in making a decision.

Mrs. Stokes expressed concern that the Task Force Committee did not include paras or parents, that teachers only represented 13% and that it was mostly made up of administrators and board members.

New Business

None.

Other

None.

Non-Public

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mr. Watson, to enter non-public session at 11:53 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (c) to discuss matters which, if discussed

in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of an individual. The roll call vote as follows:

YES: Mr. Watson, Mr. Pappas, Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Munn, Mr. Lynch, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Camire, Mrs. Harrington, Mrs. Stevens

NO:

Public Session

Mrs. Stokes moved, second by Mr. Watson, the Board enter Public Session at 12:32 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mr. Camire, to approve the agreement with the AFSCME Bargaining Unit as presented and forward it to City Council for approval.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to approve the agreement with the Para-Educator Bargaining Unit as presented and forward it to City Council for approval.

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mrs. Stokes moved, second by Mr. Watson, to adjourn the meeting at 12:34 a.m. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle M. Repucci
Board Secretary