

Rochester School Board
Regular School Board Minutes
School Department Boardroom/Virtual
January 14, 2021

DRAFT

Members Present Remotely:

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

Members Absent:

Also Present Remotely:

Mr. Kyle Repucci, Superintendent
Dr. Sandie MacDonald (remotely)
Atty. Jerome Grossman
Mrs. Linda Bartlett (remotely)
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.

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mr. O'Connor, to amend the agenda and move the topic of last week's meeting to be presented under Old Business. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Last Minutes Mr. O'Connor moved, second by Mr. Beaulieu, the Board approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 Regular School Board meeting. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Kyle Repucci presented employee recognitions for December. Spaulding High School – Gary McGarghan, Para-Educator; Rochester Middle School – Curt Lalonde, Social Studies Teacher; Elementary – Carol Schrier, Para-Educator at McClelland Elementary School.

Public Comment

Ms. Lisa Forsley, elementary art teacher, expressed her concern about returning to the classroom. She travels to two different schools and teaches many classes each week and would experience more exposure than a grade level teacher. She asked the Board to make the safest decision for all staff and students and to extend the remote learning time.

Ms. Nicole Palmer, elementary music teacher, expressed her concern about the district only allowing teachers to teach remotely when exposed to COVID-19 at work and not when exposed outside of work. She also expressed her concern about the exposure experience by unified arts teachers who travel to more than one building and asked the Board to consider an alternative method of teaching for those teachers to limit their exposure.

Ms. Sarah Wormstead, kindergarten teacher, expressed concern for bringing students back into the classrooms and urged the Board to continue remote learning until the numbers show that it is safe to return to the classrooms.

Ms. Ellen Rolfs, RMS teacher, expressed concerns about students returning to school now when the weather is cold.

Ms. Elizabeth Lampron, parent and RMS teacher, asked the Board to consider extending the duration of remote learning until the number of cases are down to a safer level. She also asked the Board to consider making January 15th or 19th a teacher prep day to allow teachers to assemble more work to be sent home.

Mr. Connor McGowan, shared that he would like any differences in HVAC configuration for the winter season vs. the previous summer/fall season addressed. He also requested that the Board or Superintendent acknowledge the loss of instruction time associated with the in person learning model with COVID precautions in place.

Ms. Sheena Robbins, RMS counselor, expressed concern for families struggling with the unintended consequences that the remote learning model poses. She also shared that she is concerned about the social-emotional and mental health of our students and asked the Board to consider sending all students back to school.

Ms. Emily Pelletier, parent and RMS Speech-Language Pathologist, expressed her concern about students returning to school and urged the Board to consider remaining in a fully remote model until the numbers decrease and more people within our community have had the opportunity to receive vaccinations.

Ms. Kimberly Wheeler, special education teacher, asked the Board to consider extending the remote learning model until after February break.

Ms. Marcey Buchakjian, parent and elementary art teacher, shared that based on the current rate of community spread of COVID-19, she feels that this is not the time to return to in-person instruction. She urged the Board to extend the remote learning model that is in place until there is clear evidence of decreased community spread of the virus.

Committee Reports

Building Committee:

No action required.

Instruction Committee:

Mr. Watson moved, second by Mrs. Grassie, to approve the addition of the Botany class and the Regional Foods of the United States class as electives to the high school curriculum.

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Watson moved, second by Mrs. Grassie, to approve the modification of the ROTC program as presented.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Watson provided clarification.
The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Personnel Committee:

Mr. Beaulieu moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to approve the end of school year retirement resignation of Nancy Wachowiak, Speech Pathologist.

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Beaulieu moved, second by Mrs. Harrington, to approve the following resignations:

Catherine Allen Pre-school Para-Educator
Jennifer McClearn..... Para-Educator
Samantha Renner Para-Educator

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Beaulieu moved, second by Mr. Munn, to approve the following nominations:

Nicholas Carleton..... Para-Educator
Lucy Wackman ESOL Teacher

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Beaulieu moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to approve the following extra-curricular nominations:

Kevin NicholsBasketball, JV (B)
Chris Proulx Basketball, Freshman (B)
Chris SchoonmakerBasketball, JV (B)
Nichole DanforthCheering, JV-Winter
David Colson Hockey, JV

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Beaulieu moved, second by Mr. Pappas, to approve the request for twenty-five (25) sick days on behalf of Teacher D.S.

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Special Services Committee:

No action required.

Finance Committee:

Mr. Beaulieu moved, second by Mrs. Stevens, to approve Sherwin-Williams of Manchester, NH in the amount of \$22,056.60 for the Bud Carlson Academy Cafeteria Floor Project.

The motion carried by majority on a roll call vote as follows with Mr. Lynch abstaining:

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

NO: Mr. Watson

Discipline Committee:

Mr. Beaulieu moved, second by Mr. O'Connor, the Board accept the Committee's recommendation as set out in the backup* regarding the cases heard at the December 21, 2020 meeting.

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

**(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:

Mr. Beaulieu moved, second by Mrs. Harrington, the Board approve second reading and adoption of the following policies:

- BEA-2 – Broadcasting/Taping of Board Meetings Televising Rochester School Board Meetings *(formerly BDA-1)*
- BEA-1 – School Board Meeting Cancellations *(formerly BEAB)*
- BEDJ – Public Participation at Board Meetings *(formerly BDDH)*

The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Committee Report – Special Committees

5-Year Strategic Plan No action required.

Old Business

Mr. Kyle Repucci gave a presentation capturing questions asked by the Board at the last meeting including attendance and academic data, impact on instruction (in person and remote), available slots, nursing data and medical guidance.

Lengthy discussion ensued and questions were answered. Mr. O'Connor shared the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths from the DHHS COVID-19 dashboard on the state's website which is updated daily.

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mr. Watson, to have the students return to school on January 25th. The motion failed 3-10 on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Grassie

NO: Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Munn, Mr. Pappas, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Camire, Mr. Nicholson, Mrs. Stokes, Mrs. Harrington, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Lynch

Mr. Pappas moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to have the high school students return to school on February 1st. Discussion ensued. The motion passed 9-4 on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: Mr. Camire, Mr. Munn, Mrs. Grassie, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Watson, Mr. Pappas, Mr. Nicholson, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Stokes

NO: Mr. Beaulieu, Mrs. Harrington, Mr. Byrne, Mr. O'Connor

Mr. Watson moved, second by Mrs. Stokes, to have the elementary and middle school student return on January 25th. Discussion ensued. The motion failed 3-10 on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: Mrs. Grassie, Mr. Lynch, Mrs. Stevens

NO: Mr. Watson, Mr. Pappas, Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Munn, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Camire, Mrs. Harrington

Mr. Lynch asked Mr. Repucci to bring to the next scheduled Board meeting a solution for the teachers who travel to more than one building. The Board gave Mr. Repucci and the RFT the authority to implement a solution.

It was decided to have a non-instructional day for K-8 students on January 15th to give K-8 teachers a day to prep their classroom to return on January 19th as planned.

New Business

Mr. Lynch was asked by the Mayor to sign a letter asking for help with support. He will forward it to all members by email for their review and asked that each School Board member let him know whether or not they approve.

Other

None.

Non-Public

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mr. Beaulieu, to enter non-public session at 9:24 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (a) to discuss the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee. The motion passed on a roll call vote as follows:

YES: Mr. Munn, Mrs. Grassie, Mr. Camire, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Pappas, Mr. O'Connor, Mrs. Stokes, Mrs. Stevens

NO:

Public Session

Mr. Byrne moved, second by Mrs. Harrington, the Board enter Public Session at 10:02 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mrs. Harrington, to approve the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent contracts as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Lynch moved, second by Mrs. Harrington, to approve the Business Administrator's contract with revisions as approved by the Board prior to signing. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Adjournment

Mrs. Harrington moved, second by Mr. Beaulieu, to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 p.m. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle M. Repucci
Board Secretary