



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

May 20, 2019 at 7:00 PM ~ Baldwin Elementary School

MINUTES

Call to Order

A Work Session, open to the public, of the Board of Education for Rochester Community Schools, was held on Monday, May 20, 2019, at Baldwin Elementary School. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Kristin Bull, Kevin Beers, Barb Anness, Mike Zabat, Sandy Fiaschetti, Michelle Bueltel and Andrea Walker-Leidy

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Elizabeth Davis, Dana Taylor, Lori Grein, Carrie Lawler, Anne Evans, Jessica Thomas, Cindy Linder, Laura Walsh, Amy DiCresce, Mandy Lyons, Seth Berg, Kelly Dessy, Amanda McKay, Dave Pontzious, Anne Evans, Wendy Bietel and approximately five visitors

Principal Cathy Kochanski welcomed the Board of Education and presented some upcoming events also shared that this summer Baldwin will be hosting a summer literacy program every Thursday from 10am – 12pm in the library.

Communications

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

None at this time.

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda

None at this time.

C. Members of the Board of Education

None at this time.

Work Session

A. Transitional Kindergarten

Debi Fragomeni introduced the Transitional Kindergarten leaders - Mandy Lyons, Amanda McKay and Seth Berg. Seth presented certificates to committee members, which includes Marcie Carlson, Marisa Jakubiak, Elizabeth Lang, CJ Loney, Mandy Lyons, Amanda McKay, Judy Pulte, Paula Suddon and Seth Berg.

Mandy Lyons presented the background on Council for Teaching and Learning which provides teachers with input at the decision making process through action research. Action research synthesis includes: programming five full days; students are counted as kindergartners and part of the elementary school community; Transitional Kindergarten has a modified kindergarten curriculum that is play based, developmentally appropriate for younger, less school-experienced learners; consists of smaller teacher to student ratio; and transportation was parent-dependent. Additional research showed that Transitional Kindergarten is the bridge between preschool and kindergarten, students had stronger skill sets and showed more engagement, EL learners and low-income students showed an increased benefit and supports the difference between a child's chronological age and their developmental age.

Amanda McKay shared the statistics of family interest in the Transitional Kindergarten program through surveys completed via online (344 responses), phone calls (86 responses) and informational nights (133 in attendance). Of all of these interested families, 101 have qualifying aged children. Of those students currently enrolled in Rochester Community Schools, 269 students qualify for this program based on the proposed date of birth range.

Seth Berg explained that Transitional Kindergarten is just that – a transitional year between preschool and kindergarten. Some of the students currently enrolled in kindergarten, while academically ready, are not socially and/or emotionally ready. Transitional kindergarten gives students the gift of time through play, creativity and social skills development.

Mandy Lyons presented the Transitional Kindergarten proposal that includes: a no cost, two-year commitment; full five days per week; students must meet the qualifying age requirement of (currently) June 1, 2014 – December 1, 2014; program is play-based and inspired by Reggio Emilia curriculum; the location for these programs will be determined based on available space in buildings and final enrollment numbers; transportation is parent-dependent unless child lives within their home school boundaries, then standard transportation rules apply; each classroom will consist of one REA certified teacher and one RPEA para-educator.

Next steps include position postings the week of June 16 and interviews begin June 20, program enrollment will take place June 16-18, the location will be identified June 19-20 based on final enrollments, and offer placement to families the week of June 23.

Board discussion included clarification on enrollment, screening, busing, school-age care availability and class size. Seth, Amanda and Mandy addressed the Board to answer their questions.

B. Final Budget Amendment for 2018-2019

Matt McDaniel presented the Final Budget Amendment for the 2018-2019 school year. The objective is to develop a budget recommendation that contains a balanced and equitable spending plan that is sustainable and promotes growth, minimizes the impact on student programs, uses a team-based approach and provides ongoing communication to promote transparency and openness.

Adjustments to the 2018-2019 budget include \$228,947 for local revenue, \$1,222,595 for state revenue, \$14,090 for federal revenue and \$110,604 for transfers in (CTE Transportation).

Matt reviewed General Fund expenditures for instruction, support services, community services, building improvement services and debt service for a total adjustment of \$1,732,846. Additionally, he explained the amendments to the Caring Steps Fund, the Bookstore Fund, Food Service Fund, Debt Service Fund and the Capital Projects Fund.

C. Draft Budget for 2019-2020

Matt McDaniel presented the Draft Budget for 2019-2020. While there is currently no state budget, the district is making revenue assumptions and will remain conservative with a foundation allowance increase of \$50 per student and an increase of 22 students overall. This increase equates to approximately \$955,000 in revenue for the year. General Fund expenditure assumptions includes a retirement increase from 38.39% to 39.91%, a healthcare increase of 4%, a transportation increase (related to construction) and a decrease in transfer to Caring Steps going forward. These changes equate to approximately \$1.2M in expenses to the General Fund balance. Also reviewed were the Caring Steps Fund, Bookstore Fund, Food Service Fund, Debt Service Fund, Capital Projects Fund and the Student/School Activity Fund.

Matt and Dana addressed the Board to answer their questions.

D. Sinking Fund Update

Dr. Shaner commended the Board for their diligence and support over the past few years and supporting what is right for our students and staff. He went on to share how over the course of these last few years we have dramatically changed the financial outlook of the district. Recently, during a credit call, the district was upgraded from AA- with a positive outlook to AA with a stable outlook and we were able to sell the bonds on the district's own credit rating.

Dr. Shaner gave an example of how, in the past, the district has used General Fund to make repairs or replace items such as when a new roof was put on Brooklands Elementary in the amount of \$900,000. Had the district had another option to pay for this, such as a sinking fund, we would not have had to pay for the roof out of the General Fund. The three funding mechanisms districts may use for capital improvements are General Fund, building and site bonds and a sinking fund. The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the district and accounts for everything it takes to teach a child in a classroom. It supports the maintenance of buildings and equipment as well as the unplanned costs that may be incurred in a school year. Building and site bonds are typically issued by a district to finance a building project or other capital improvements. A sinking fund is a sustainable way for a district to pay for improvement projects (repair, replace or buy new), acquire or upgrade technology equipment (except computers) and the acquisition of real estate; it cannot be used for salaries and benefits or maintenance costs. It is a pay-as-you-go system that does not require the district to borrow money or pay interest.

Dana Taylor spoke of the district's outstanding debt as it relates to the millage rate and bonds sold.

Dr. Shaner and Dana addressed the Board to answer their questions.

Additional Business

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting

None.

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner thanked everyone for being in attendance as well as all of the presenters as well as Baldwin Elementary for their hospitality.

C. Members of the Board of Education

Barb and Michelle attended ACE High School's Senior Celebration.

Kristin reminded the Board and Cabinet members to take some time to take care of themselves during this busy time – and to remember our compelling why.

Announcements

Upcoming RCS Events:

June 4 - 7:00 P.M., Rochester HS Graduation, Oakland University O'Rena

June 5 - 7:00 P.M., Adams HS Graduation, Oakland University O'Rena

June 6 - 7:00 P.M., Stoney Creek HS Graduation, Oakland University O'Rena

June 10 - 7:00 P.M., Board of Education Regular Mtg., Admin. Ctr.

June 13 - 7:00 P.M., RACE Graduation, Dr. John M. Schultz Educational Campus

June 14 - Last Day of School

June 17 - 6:45 P.M., Board of Education Truth in Budget Hearing

June 17 - 7:00 P.M., Board of Education Regular/Organizational Mtg.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Moved by: Michelle Bueltel

Seconded by: Andrea Walker-Leidy

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Acting Secretary, Board of Education