



ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

501 West University Drive, Rochester, Michigan

BOARD OF EDUCATION (VIRTUAL) WORK SESSION

July 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

A Work Session, open to the public, of the Board of Education for Rochester Community Schools, Rochester, Michigan was held virtually on Monday, July 27, 2020 via Zoom Webinar and YouTube Live. President Kristin Bull called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Robert Shaner, Debi Fragomeni, Elizabeth Davis, Dana Taylor, Lori Grein, Carrie Lawler, Cory Heitsch, Concetta Lewis, Cindy Lindner, Matt McDaniel, Tanya Regmont, Josh Wrinkle, Lisa Fosnaugh, Dave Pontzious, Marnie Barker, Laura Walsh, Katie Allen, Rob Byrd and over 900 visitors.

Communications

A. Secretary of the Board of Education

Michelle Bueltel shared the three email communications received:

1. Drake Herz – wanting to discuss the installation of an air purification system
2. Gus Aguinaga – regarding the purchase of PPE from his company
3. Kim Davis – regarding virtual learning
4. Jim Johnson – regarding cleaning equipment his company sells

B. Citizens Requesting Placement on the Agenda

None

C. Members of the Board of Education

Kristin Bull received email form letters from the following people regarding return to school: Fabio Souza, Elizabeth Olsen, Marta Cappato, Meredith McCutcheon, Marisa Garcia, Diksha Kapoor, Jen Colarossi, Colleen Dykstra, Melissa Rambow, Vanees Evink, Michael Douglas, Mary Sterling, Shannon Bamberg, Kate Fraser, and Greg Bryen.

Michelle Bueltel received an email from Elizabeth Witten regarding SAT testing dates.

Work Session

A. Learning Forward: Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year

Dr. Shaner introduced our first iterative process of returning to school and began with stating that if we need to shift from the plan and move to a remote setting, we will do so. He went on to provide background of the RCS Pandemic Task Force; walked through a timeline of events from June through August; reiterated the safety and wellness of students and staff remains at the forefront; and areas of focus.

Tanya Regmont, District Nurse, explained the science of COVID-19 highlighting the current status of COVID-19, decision-making, status of community spread, community mitigation framework, risk mitigation, and the lag in test results.

(Due to a technical issue, the board took a brief recess at 7:54pm and resumed the meeting at 8:17pm.)

Dana Taylor, Matt McDaniel and Tanya Regmont went on to discuss the MI Safe Schools: Return to School Roadmap – Operations Safe Start Phases (Phase 4): requirements as it relates to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); complexities of the PPE systems impact related to face coverings and pediatric considerations for face coverings; hygiene and the complexities of the hygiene systems impact; screening and testing for students and staff; food service cafeteria model highlights and complexities, gatherings, and extracurricular activities; food allergy management; MHSAA and athletic guidelines and complexities; cleaning requirements (and model, logistics and complexities associated); busing and student transportation (and complexities associated).

It is important to note that we are still waiting for guidance from the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) on responding to positive cases.

Dana Taylor also reviewed the General Fund preliminary financial forecast, including the many material components that are still unknown and the items needing emphasis. She also discussed the seat time waiver that expires September 30.

Cory Heitsch, Carrie Lawler and Concetta Lewis introduced the various learning options available to students: in person instruction/remote learning and RCS Virtual Campus. The 1:1 technology model was also discussed. Josh Wrinkle and Dave Pontzious highlighted the in-person learning plans and procedures, which included: goals of traditional learning; overview of subcommittee timeline of events; virus status; school operating status; major safety protocols; staff and student requirements; RCS entrances/exits, office spaces and clinic rooms; emergency drills; elementary classroom, bathroom and lunchroom protocols; Early Childhood Special Education classroom protocols; post-secondary schedule/community schedule; secondary and adult transition classroom protocols; example of secondary schedule; and secondary and post-secondary common space, hallway, bathroom and lunchroom protocols.

Lisa Fosnaugh, Marnie Barker and Rob Byrd reviewed the remote learning contingency research and planning which included: goals; remote learning components, surveys and feedback; elementary and secondary remote learning schedules and student support plans; attendance, grading, daily activities and communication; and childcare during remote learning.

Laura Walsh and Katie Allen reviewed the RCS Virtual Campus (RCSVC). Highlights included an overview of the RCSVC; in-person/remote learning and RCSVC comparison; registration information; elementary and secondary features; sample schedules; and special populations within RCSVC.

Beth Davis provided continued focus areas for staff which included education/training, professional development and social-emotional wellness.

Debi Fragomeni closed the presentation highlighting the RCS Pride in Excellence and our commitment to our families.

Dr. Shaner reminded the community that on Tuesday, July 28 we will have four town halls to answer questions from our community.

Board discussion included whether or not the lag in test results can be improved; clarification on whether there is a procedure on sanitizing at a set number of minutes/hours; cleaning protocols every four hours; clarification on contact tracing and the reiteration of waiting for guidance from the OCHD; spectator limits at sporting events; clarification on the decision to not use a hybrid model; remote learning during Phase 4; rationale from other districts who are electing remote learning; clarification on health screening for students and whether there will be a designated area of mask-free zone (brief break).

Additional Business

A. Citizens Present at the Meeting

Lianara Garcia inquiring about AP courses.

Kate Bruno made the suggestion of using hand sanitizer, shared appreciation of remote learning and made the suggestion of live instruction during block schedule.

Vasan Ramani asked for clarification on remote learning and AP math during remote learning.

Pedro Garcia asked for clarification on offering AP classes at the RCS Virtual Campus.

B. Members of the Administration

Dr. Shaner acknowledged how much the RCS staff love the students and the complex legacy work they are performing.

C. Members of the Board of Education

All board members expressed their appreciation for the in-depth presentation.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Moved by: Michelle Bueltel

Seconded by: Mike Zabat

Vote: 7-0

Respectfully submitted:

Christina Whitmore
Recording Secretary

Approved by:


Secretary, Board of Education