

**ROCHESTER-STOCKBRIDGE UNIFIED DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018
6:30 PM
ROCHESTER SCHOOL
APPROVED MINUTES**

1. Call to order
 - 1.1. Attendees: Administration – Bruce Labs, David Larcombe, Bonnie Bourne. Board – Carl Groppe, Amy Wildt, Janie Feinberg, Ethan Bowen, Megan Payne. Several members of the public.
2. Additions / changes to the agenda
 - 2.1. Bingo Deed conference call tabled for a later meeting.
3. Bingo Deed – Conference Call with Lawyer 6:45 PM
 - 3.1. To be discussed at a future meeting
4. Minutes
 - 4.1. Approve Thursday, March 15, 2018 Minutes
 - 4.2. Approve Thursday, March 22, 2018 Minutes
 - 4.3. Approve Wednesday, March 28, 2018 Minutes
 - 4.4. A motion was made and seconded to approve above referenced meeting minutes. Meeting minutes approved.
5. FY 18/19 Budget Discussion (*summarized below by line item*)
 - 5.1. Question as to where the Stockbridge 0.6 FTE math teacher is incorporated into the budget. It was noted that it is within the remedial section. This should be in the direct instruction section.
 - 5.2. Megan questioned whether the Winter Wellness program is in the budget. Bonnie noted that it is in for Rochester. Needs to be added for Stockbridge.
 - 5.3. The music FTE for Stockbridge went up to 0.4, but the salary only went up by \$300 from last time. The SU will check into this.
 - 5.4. Stockbridge would like to increase guidance FTE to 0.5. There was the question whether the Rochester and Stockbridge guidance personnel could be the same person. It was noted that both schools are fond of their guidance staff.
 - 5.5. The need to add a line for OT services to the 504 program listing was discussed, and will be added.
 - 5.6. Jenny commented that there should be efficiencies in admin and again questioned the 1.5 FTE in Rochester. It was noted that as time moves forward there may be additional efficiencies realized.
 - 5.7. Bruce noted that the admin assistant time for Stockbridge would be increased by 10 days. The salary needs to be updated to reflect such.
 - 5.8. There was comment regarding the significant cost for electricity and fuel at the Rochester campus. It was noted that what is shown is “worst case”. Bonnie noted that there are separate meters for the Rochester meetings and will look into this information.

- 5.9. It was noted to split transport field trips 60/40, keeping same total RSUD number.
- 5.10. There was a question whether there should be an additional Stockbridge tuitioned grade 7-12 student on the tuitioned student list; a student that currently goes to another school for grade 6.
- 5.11. Need to add a line for intercampus travel.
- 5.12. Interest in adding a line for "special programs". Jenny noted that it would be a shame for the educational steering committee to come up with great ways for the two schools to work together, but there is no money to pay for these (i.e. STEM, artist in residency, circus, etc.).

6. Buildings

- 6.1. Jerry Plouffe visited Rochester School campus and will be coming back over vacation. Rochester facility buildings have not benefitted well from routine preventative maintenance plan. Control systems are 1970s. Modern systems are not in place for either buildings. Bonnie noted that she feels it is not practical to shut down either building completely. The high school building has 3 zones for heating. There is a water charged system over zone 1 only. Plouffe recommends if we are not using any of the zones that the temperature in those zone(s) be reduced to 55 degrees and to closely and have regular inspections due to Vermont climate. The addition on the end of elementary building has radiant heating on the floor. Bonnie noted that when Plouffe comes back over vacation he is going to check to see if glycol is added to the system. If so, this needs to be maintained. Once the plan for facilities is decided for next year, then Plouffe can come up with the associated costs. Which building is more efficient? Would likely save more money turning down the high school building because it is larger. Long term need to think about energy efficiencies.
- 6.2. Janie commented that Bonnie had made the point of raising the bar and not lowering it. She commented there are so many changes going on. Stockbridge was promised that the high school was going to close. We might find that certain areas of the Rochester facilities are more critical than others. We need to first about curriculum to find out what the needs are. Janie commented that curriculum can exist anywhere. Jenny Austin commented that we need to be creatively thinking about the Rochester elementary school space and how it can be reconfigured, especially currently underutilized areas.

7. Public Comment

- 7.1. We don't want to cut things at Stockbridge, but add to Stockbridge: farm to table, media center, add one-time costs now. Last year the Stockbridge talked about expanding space. At the time there was discussion of a modular unit to be the preschool space. This would need to have a bathroom and overall it was decided not to pursue any further.
- 7.2. Stockbridge has an elderly population. Let's get great ideas going. Stockbridge residents are trusting the board to talk about money and how it is going to be spent. Board and budget needs to be fiscally responsible moving forward.
- 7.3. Can we get an itemized cost for opening and closing each section? What are costs to open and close for portions of the year so that we can be strategic on when things are open. Bonnie noted she thought this would be cost prohibitive. Carl asked why lines need to be drained if maintaining a temperature of 55 degrees.
- 7.4. There are lots of different options. Rochester has an ethical responsibility to look at the fuel and electricity to see where this number is coming from.
- 7.5. Doesn't believe Act 46 was designed to take educational opportunities away from students and worried about "art on a cart". Megan noted that she would like to continue to use the auditorium space and maintain art in a classroom.

- 7.6. Ethan noted that it should be a priority to evaluate space needs at Rochester – is potential extra space at Stockbridge the quid pro-quo for allowing a section of the Rochester space to stay open? He commented he would feel bad about keeping a portion of the high school building open if Stockbridge doesn't get equality.
- 7.7. The budget reflecting an "empty building" at Rochester is worst case. Take the year to consider what we can do at the Rochester High School. There are grievances with closing of the middle and high school. Resident noted it is premature to close building. Ethan commented that the things that Rochester is afraid of losing are things that Stockbridge has been doing without for many years, and understands how this does not play over well for Stockbridge residents.
- 7.8. Carl noted we do not have information from the SU on what additional space at Stockbridge would cost.
- 7.9. Next meeting – talk about what we can do at Stockbridge (language, maker space, STEM program, etc.).
- 7.10. Carl pointed out that this meeting is to come up with the big picture number for the total budget amount. We don't have to decide whether money will be spent on particulars by the time the total gets finalized. The warning needs to be done 30 days in advance of the budget meeting. Need to come up with a warning that is reasonable and prudent to taxpayers and kids. At this time we do not have all the knowledge that we need to make a decision. Carl noted he was hoping that we would have costs from Plouffe on costing of one building versus the other.
- 7.11. Bruce noted that the South Royalton and Bethel merger took advantage of adding money to the budget because of limitations of decreasing or increasing tax rates from one year to the next. They are utilizing approximately \$500K in up-front costs (i.e. capital improvements). This is a loophole in the funding formula that could potentially be taken back if the legislative rules change.
- 7.12. There was public comment whether there should be a building committee to further look into this matter.
- 7.13. There was a comment regarding the potential for combined sports at the schools. It was noted that Rochester sports are currently Town sponsored.
- 7.14. Bruce noted that another school district is looking into the potential for interactive video equipment where both campuses could participate in things at the same time from each school.
- 7.15. The board should look into the Community Engagement Lab in Montpelier to assist with engaging parents and communities with the schools.

8. Other

Enter into executive session 9:58 pm. No action is anticipated to occur.

9. Adjourn – a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn at 10:20 pm.