

**ROCHESTER-STOCKBRIDGE UNIFIED DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018
6:30 PM
ROCHESTER SCHOOL
APPROVED MINUTES**

1. Call to order
 - 1.1. Attendees: Administration: Bruce Labs. Board: Ethan Bowen, Megan Payne, Amy Wildt, Carl Groppe, Jenny Austin, Janie Feinberg. Members of the public present.
2. Additions / Changes to the Agenda
 - 2.1. Added 4.1 and 6.1 (*see below*).
3. Minutes
 - 3.1. Approve Tuesday, April 3, 2018 Minutes
 - 3.2. Approve Thursday, April 12, 2018 Minutes
 - 3.3. Approve Tuesday, April 17, 2018 Minutes
 - 3.4. Ethan made the motion to approve meeting minutes, Janie seconded. Minutes approved.
4. Discussion Items
 - 4.1. Community Engagement Technical Assistance Grant, a planning guide for communities.
 - 4.1.1. Carl indicated he forwarded a link to Board members regarding this document and recommended we take a look at the document for ideas about how to engage the community and what kind of outreach we can do moving forward. There is currently a grant for assistance which is due the date of this meeting, but if it is a reoccurring grant it is something to follow in subsequent years.
 - 4.2. Gather / Review information for Informational Meetings
 - 4.2.1. The need was identified to get information from Bonnie regarding what the \$49K for maintenance / repairs is in the proposed budget.
 - 4.2.2. Things to discuss at informational meeting: birds eye of the budget (big numbers), talk about positive items at the schools, talk about the Rochester facilities, administration model, space utilization at Stockbridge, curriculum changes and how they are happening and how it relates to Town survey results.
 - 4.2.3. It was noted that there are concerns in Rochester regarding how the facility is going to be reduced.
 - 4.3. RSUD First Report
 - 4.3.1. Include "one-page" of points similar to prior mailing. "What does the budget mean

for our school?” handout. Frank: bumper sticker phrase could be “getting more for less”. Positive points, what are going to be the questions and concerns asked by the community – board to send around thoughts to each other by Thursday for Carl to incorporate into the report. Frank has given Spaulding a heads up that this is coming. Carl to take the lead for the write-up. Jenny to review both Towns survey results as it relates to the curriculum and send bullet points to the board.

4.3.2. Megan to take a picture for the cover.

4.4. Update on things happening with Rochester Board (Dandelion and Forestry Property)

4.4.1. Amy summarized the status to date on selling the Dandelion Daycare. The property needs to be subdivided. The Town of Rochester requires a 0.5 acre parcel minimum. In order to finalize the sale there needs to be an easement as the bus lane is in the Dandelion Daycare parcel. The preschool playground, fence, greenhouse, and flower bed need to be moved. There is a potential buyer whom has agreed to leave playground equipment where it is for the remaining of the school year. There is a memorial tree that will be going with the property. All these items need to get worked out prior to the sale of the property.

4.4.2. Forest Property. It is not owned by the Rochester School. It is a trust that is administered by the principal and high school students. To go about to change the language of the trust it has to go to probate court, which could cost anywhere between approximately \$3K and \$10K depending on whether it is contested or not. The parcel is approximately 12 acres, with a good portion of this being sloped areas. It was noted that a portion of the forest area as part of “forest Friday” may be disturbed with a new septic project for Town septic project. This could impact where “forest Friday” occurs next year. Amy to inquire about plans, dates, and location of septic project.

4.4.3. Interim principal at Stockbridge is going well. He has a visible presence in school, attended the PTO Bingo event, went on the all-school hike, and have heard only positive comments so far.

4.5. Rochester items

4.5.1. Ethan to check with Bonnie regarding the following: what is included in the \$49K for Rochester school repairs, input on the septic system project, status of the engineering report for the building, and the status of Plouffe heating review over April vacation.

5. Public Comment

5.1. Question regarding administration model for RSUD district. There will be two principals for the district that rotate back and forth to engage the children to seeing both. The strengths

of the candidate may dictate assignments functionally. For example, if there is one that has a strength in a certain area they may take the lead on certain assignments (i.e. 504 coordinator, curriculum, etc.). Bruce mentioned that Bethel and South Royalton are going in the same direction as they are looking to have two principals that work as a team.

- 5.2. Has there been any preconceived ideas about where the money would go to with the sale of Dandelion Daycare? Carl noted that there was a thought that this could go towards the debt at Rochester. There was public comment that it could go into the building reserve fund.

6. Other / New Business

6.1. Stockbridge Principal search

6.1.1. There are eleven candidates for the principal position. Need to figure out a committee and timeframe for the process. Needs to be a combined committee, from both Towns. Janie and Ethan are interested from the board, Bruce, Bonnie (as her and the candidate will be working as a team next year), and to include a community member, teacher, parent to be on the committee, to get to a point where there are between 6-8 people total on the committee. The board voted to establish a committee for the search of and interview process for an interview search committee. Ethan nominated Janie Feinberg to be on the committee. Janie Feinberg nominated Ethan Bowen. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to create an ad hoc interview search committee for a full-time principal position.

- 6.2. Amy discussed the Rochester Board's discussion at their latest board meeting for the potential to create an educational enrichment fund. The thought was to potentially put money from the sale of Dandelion Daycare into this fund to be used later by Rochester school for educational purposes. Ethan asked why it isn't "unified". Carl questioned what the sale of Dandelion Daycare would have for costs and that a lot of the costs such as moving the playground equipment, etc. can be put in the building reserve fund. Bruce suggested that if such a fund is created that it should be for both campuses. There was public comment from Frank Russell that agreed that there should be site specific funds. Jenny questioned that we are trying to move into the merger and combining resources and this would be contradictory to becoming a unified district. The next meeting for the RSUD Board is June 5th and if this was something the board wanted to pursue there would need to have legal language with special warning. Janie asked if paying down the debt was considered, and Amy noted that it was not discussed at the meeting. Amy also noted that this was the first time the concept was discussed. Amy noted that \$75,000 is the potential sale price for Dandelion Daycare. Not sure how much of the money will be left after moving the playground equipment, altering entryways, etc. Carl noted that the current Board could offer to put the money into the board of public trustees fund.

7. Confirm Next Meeting Date(s)
 - 7.1. Tuesday, May 15, 2018 – 6:00 to 7:30 PM – Informational Meeting @ Stockbridge (currently not on WRVSU website schedule)
 - 7.2. Thursday, May 17, 2018 – 6:00 to 7:30 PM – Informational Meeting @ Rochester
 - 7.3. Tuesday, May 22, 2018 - 7:00 PM - Annual Meeting @ Rochester
 - 7.4. Tuesday, June 5, 2018 - 6:30 PM @ Stockbridge
8. Adjourn – adjourned at 9:03pm

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Jenny Austin