

**ROCHESTER-STOCKBRIDGE UNIFIED DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018  
6:30 PM  
STOCKBRIDGE CENTRAL 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. Review
  - 2.1. WRVSU originally had 10 districts, and through various mergers this has reduced to 6.
  - 2.2. Community surveys by both Rochester and Stockbridge – both valued having a local elementary school, choice matters, maintaining communities, quality education and equal opportunities, understand 21<sup>st</sup> century economy and the need to do “more with less”.
  - 2.3. Reasons to support merger – educational and/or fiscally responsible, equal voice for each town on the merged board, reduces costs positively affect tax rate
  - 2.4. Merger articles included that are important for both Towns
  - 2.5. Achieving Act 46 goals
    - 2.5.1. financially – cost control in year 1, opportunities for additional efficiencies over time, Direct financial benefits – merger incentives, tax rate stability
    - 2.5.2. educationally – integrated faculty which share experiences, coordinated curricular, more opportunity for after school programming and potential for sports teams, more opportunities for planned activities (field trips), integrated support system
3. Narrative presentation
  - 3.1. budget goals are transitional goals –
    - 3.1.1. align educational and operational: work towards being consistent between schools
    - 3.1.2. understand infrastructure needs: example, Stockbridge is 911 “ready” and Rochester is not. Need to understand what goes into facilities, land, utilities, technology
    - 3.1.3. develop Rochester transition blueprint – previous Rochester administration thought all of pre-K through 6 could be in one building. Current Rochester principal thinks they need more space than just being in the
    - 3.1.4. determine Stockbridge space configuration – in the past few years discussed adding space to SCS. Need to understand what the space needs are and how to best expand

to reach those goals.

- 3.1.5. create educational “strategic plan” – A way to get to the goals we talk about with STEM, art, etc. Look at what we are good at and where we want to grow.
- 3.1.6. Plan for worst scenario and bring surplus home at the end of the year instead of not proper planning.
- 3.2. Administration model – 2 full time administrators, collaborative leadership team, cross campus rotation, responsibilities delegated / shared (vs. locational), hiring process underway.
- 3.3. Staffing
  - 3.3.1. 2 preK & 2 preK paraeducators
  - 3.3.2. 6.8 Rochester (5 classrooms) 4.2 K-6 and 1 paraeducator in Stockbridge
  - 3.3.3. Music .6 Rochester (down .4), .4 Stockbridge (up .2) – combined music teacher between schools
  - 3.3.4. Art .5 Rochester (down .5), .2 Stockbridge
  - 3.3.5. PE .4 Rochester, .22 Stockbridge
  - 3.3.6. Library .3 Rochester, .2 Stockbridge
  - 3.3.7. Guidance 1.0 Rochester, .4 Stockbridge (up .2)
  - 3.3.8. Support staff down 1.5 in Rochester, up .05 in Stockbridge
- 3.4. Stockbridge – classrooms stay the same
- 3.5. Rochester – pre-K, K, 1, 2/3, 4/5, 5/6. High School is broken into 3 zones. Based on recommendation of Rochester principal, going to decommission zones 1 and 2 during winter. Adding a partition door to close off zone 2. Art room to move to zone 1 with One Planet. Utilizing auditorium, music. In the winter going to lower heating zones 2 and 3 because of active sprinkler system (live with water circling in it). There will be a committee to focus on Rochester facilities to decide long-term plan.
- 3.6. Buildings – no elegant / obvious solutions, create facilities committee to develop long-term plan, develop infrastructure inventory/understand true cost, analyze space needs, create accurate maintenance schedule
- 3.7. Curriculum & school programming – communities want to see greater focus on STEM, wellness and outdoor learning, exposure to world languages, increased exposure to the arts. Looking to create a Lego league, Science Fridays, joint activities. Forest Fridays in Rochester and farm-to-school in Stockbridge.
- 3.8. This budget – adds money for special programming opportunities; add money for intercampus transportation, creates savings by planning for joint experiences, reducing expenses; reduces local PTO fundraising by formalizing expenditures; and supports community engagement through larger all-district events.

- 3.9. Opportunities ahead:
  - 3.9.1. Build a new elementary education model that is both visionary and sustainable
  - 3.9.2. STEAM / maker collaborative learning
  - 3.9.3. Intensive arts cross campus
  - 3.9.4. Enhance farm to school / outdoor education
  - 3.9.5. Increase big adventures capability
  - 3.9.6. Leveraging both facilities and location to exploit opportunities
  - 3.9.7. Become the school that attracts families
- 3.10. Two communities by the numbers
  - 3.10.1. Population 66/34
  - 3.10.2. Grand list – 60/40
  - 3.10.3. Enrollment – 64/36
  - 3.10.4. Expenditure – 59/41
- 3.11. Tuition
  - 3.11.1. Average cost - \$16,500 per tuitioned student
4. Budget presentation
  - 4.1. Did not allocate money to Trustee of Public Funds – want to make sure that we are not jeopardizing funds.
  - 4.2. Small schools grant – now officially a merger support grant. As the law is currently configured this grant will remain.
  - 4.3. General state support – this is the money that Montpelier is collecting on our behalf.
  - 4.4. Music will be a shared staff between Rochester and Stockbridge.
  - 4.5. Added special programming monies.
  - 4.6. Repairs and maintenance – Rochester \$49K: \$20K heating system repairs, elementary roof, heating and plumbing issues.
  - 4.7. \$5400 for Intercampus transportation for combined programming
  - 4.8. Education spending per pupil cost is \$17644, excess spending threshold is 17,816 per pupil.
  - 4.9. Preliminary equalized tax rate 1.7127
  - 4.10. 3.75 cents in Stockbridge and 4.72 cents in Rochester. Considering the number of phantom students that were removed from Rochester school, the board is pleased with where this number ends up.
5. Community Q & A
  - 5.1. Fuel discrepancy between Rochester and Stockbridge – this is the information that the business manager put forward. Stockbridge is an accurate number. The Rochester number – we don't know how much heat goes into building A and B so we put in a conservative number than put in a number that isn't enough.

- 5.2. Office manager in Rochester versus Stockbridge. 1.5 FTE vs 1.0 FTE. Cut it down 0.5 FTE. This is based on the principal's recommendation. There is an additional 10 days for the Stockbridge administration for before and after school. Rochester admin works full year (Suzuki programming, etc.)
- 5.3. Observation – School tax rate increased about 3.1 percent historically. Commend Stockbridge for coming in the same as historically. 2/3 of residents pay school tax by their income through income sensitivity. Average increase 0.8% increase for income sensitive payment. Bill recommends that we be able to speak to this number. Look towards Sandy Haas to be able to get that number. The State doesn't have a final number but State should have a rough estimate that can be provided. Commented that the increase at least in Stockbridge has been a reasonable increase historically.
- 5.4. How many students in each school? 57 in Stockbridge and approximately 94 in Rochester. There are different ways to "count" students: equalized pupils, actual enrollment, "one-day" count, etc.
- 5.5. There was a question why there isn't a chance to vote in both Towns? This will be a floor vote so it has to be in one location. In this meeting type, people can make motions from the floor and people also have a chance to ask questions. In the past, for Stockbridge annual meetings these have been held in the evening to give those that work the opportunity to attend.
- 5.6. Building reserve fund article – there is an existing reserve fund in Stockbridge. The article to be voted on will be to create a building reserve fund for both towns.
- 5.7. Volunteers – Opportunity for volunteers to assist with painting parties, etc. In the past these have typically been organized by the PTO.
- 5.8. Acoustic panels for Stockbridge multi-purpose room are included in the budget.
6. Confirm Next Meeting Date(s)
  - 6.1. Thursday, May 17, 2018 @ 6:30 to 7:30 PM – Informational Meeting @ Rochester
  - 6.2. Tuesday, May 22, 2018 @ 7:00 PM - Annual Meeting @ Rochester
  - 6.3. Tuesday, June 5, 2018 - 6:30 PM @ Stockbridge
7. Public Comment – *see #5 above*
8. Adjourn – adjourned at 7:30 pm

*Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Jenny Austin*