

**ROCHESTER-STOCKBRIDGE UNIFIED DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018
6:30 PM
STOCKBRIDGE CENTRAL SCHOOL
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

PRIOR TO STARTING THE MEETING, THE BOARD WILL BE
TAKING A TOUR OF THE STOCKBRIDGE CAMPUS

1. Call to order @ 6:54pm
 - 1.1. Attendees. Administration: Bruce Labs, Bonnie Bourne. Board: Carl Groppe, Amy Wildt, Janie Feinberg, Megan Payne, Ethan Bowen, Jenny Austin. Public: Frank Russell.

2. Additions / Changes to the Agenda
 - 2.1. Move the executive session to #3
 - 2.2. Elect principal – see #4
 - 2.3. Bids on tax anticipation notes – see #7
 - 2.4. Board communications – see #9
 - 2.5. Board retreat – see #10

3. Executive Session
 - 3.1. Carl made the motion to entertain executive session. Amy seconded. The Board went into executive session at 6:57pm.
 - 3.2. Return to public session at 7:47pm.

4. Staffing
 - 4.1. Need to hire 2nd principal position. Interview committee recommending Lindy Stetson. Bruce noted a pay of \$83,500 for a 220-day contract. Carl made a motion to accept hiring Lindy Stetson at a salary of \$83,500, Ethan seconded. Motion approved.
 - 4.2. SU and administration planning an ad for the grade 2/3 teacher at Rochester. Bonnie passed around a draft posting for School Spring. Bonnie feels strongly about requesting resume, transcript, and 3 letters of reference.

5. Minutes

- 5.1. Approve Tuesday, May 1 2018 Minutes (Regular)
- 5.2. Approve May 15, 2018 Minutes (Informational Meeting)
- 5.3. Approve May 17, 2018 Minutes (Informational Meeting)
- 5.4. Approve Tuesday, May 22, 2018 Minutes (Annual Mtg)
- 5.5. Amy made the motion to approve the above meeting minutes. Janie seconded. Motion approved.
- 5.6. In reference to the Annual Meeting on May 22, the RSUD Board would like to recognize Dan McKinley for moderating and Joanne McDonnell for taking and submitting minutes.

6. Adoption of new required policies (25)

- 6.1. These policies are all required by law. There is one additional policy that will need to be developed. Carl noted that if approved the board can, at a later date, change them if needed. Janie was on the policy committee and noted that the group working on the policies worked really hard on developing the wording and they were all reviewed by the lawyer. Carl noted a lot of the text in the policies is required wording. Janie made the motion to accept all 25 policies, Jenny seconded. The 25 policies were approved.

7. Bids on tax anticipation notes

- 7.1. The SU received bids for tax anticipation notes (as needed to finance current operations prior to receiving funds for covering such operations). David Larcoumbe recommends going forward with Mascoma Bank. Carl entertained a motion to accept the Mascoma Bank bid, as recommended by the business manager, to be used for tax anticipation notes. Amy seconded. Motion approved.

8. Insurance policies

- 8.1. Carl noted that VEHI (Vermont Education Health Initiative) is the standard for school staff insurance policies.
- 8.2. Dental benefits. Carl made the motion to approve use of the VEHI dental benefits program. Amy seconded. Motion approved.
- 8.3. Medical insurance. Carl entertained the motion to accept this policy. Janie made a motion to approve use of the VEHI medical insurance program. Amy seconded. Motion approved.
- 8.4. Vermont School Boards' insurance trust is a State group that manages unemployment compensation program. Janie made a motion to approve the use of

the Vermont School Boards' insurance trust program for the RSUD unemployment compensation program. Jenny seconded. Motion approved.

9. Board Communications

- 9.1. Amy received an email from the RTCC board welcoming a RSUD member to attend quarterly RTCC board meetings. It was unclear whether this invitation was looking for someone to be on the board or just to attend meetings. It was noted that the Board will keep this in mind for the future.

10. Board retreat

- 10.1. There was discussion of having a board retreat to discuss school matters and big-picture items. There was discussion of when would be the most appropriate time for this, whether it is best to have over the summer before school starts or after the new principal has been on board for a short time. No date was formalized. However, the Board will tentatively keep their schedules open for July 20th, 12-6pm for such an event.

11. Public Comment – No public Comment

12. Other

- 12.1. Carl discussed a School Safety Grant in the amount of \$25,000 per school. The money needs to be used to address safety needs and could include equipment, software, training, etc. Ethan asked what kind of communication there is between the two Rochester buildings. Bonnie noted that Rochester can talk between the two buildings. Bonnie noted in the past that there have been recommendations to not park bus(es) close to the school, advising to park further away from the building as possible for safety purposes. Grant to be discussed further at a later date.
- 12.2. At the last meeting there was a question regarding whether a utility project would impact the area being used at the Rochester campus for Forest Friday. Amy noted it has been confirmed that the area used for Forest Friday will not be disturbed.
- 12.3. In reference to State Act 46 happenings, it was noted that 24 of the 34 districts that applied for independent districts were being recommended to merge. The State is allowing Strafford and Sharon to remain as independent districts. It was noted that these two schools have different school grade structures. The next round of State "action" is anticipated to be November 2019 where there could be additional mergers.
- 12.4. The Health Hub came to Rochester for a dental cleaning program; open to both kids and the community. Bonnie noted there were a couple Stockbridge students that

came to it, as well as members of the community that attended.

- 12.5. School Calendar – The SU-wide school calendar has been finalized. Bonnie to distribute the final version. Bruce noted that the SU is trying to get consistency among WRVSU districts. The standard is a minimum of 90 minutes of literacy and 60 minutes math. Bonnie noted that a State report is recommending 120 minutes of literacy, and 75 minutes of math per day. Bruce noted the SU goal is for students to be at grade level by the end of third grade, and the SU is working towards dissecting the steps needed to reach this goal.

13. Confirm Next Meeting Date(s)

- 13.1 Wednesday, June 20, 2018 - 6:00 PM @ Whitcomb Jr/Sr High School

- 13.1.1. Wagon-wheel meeting to approve labor contracts. Boards from each district in the WNWSU to be in attendance. There will be a presentation to the boards. The matter is then tabled at the SU level while individual boards meet to approve. Needs to be ratified by existing Rochester and Stockbridge boards. The attendees as a whole then come together as an SU to vote as a unified body. Bruce noted this has been a huge effort at the SU level to get consistency between districts.

- 13.2. No July Meeting

- 13.3. Tuesday, August 7, 2018 - 6:30 PM @ Rochester

14. Future Topics

- 14.1 Ethan would like to discuss homework philosophy at a later date. Bruce noted that this topic could include a presentation to the board from the SU. There was general consensus that this is something that would be of interest.

15. Adjourn

- 15.1. Carl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Janie seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Austin