

ROCHESTER-STOCKBRIDGE UNIFIED DISTRICT

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018 – 6:30 PM

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ROCHESTER SCHOOL

APPROVED Minutes

1. Call to Order-Carl called the meeting to order at 6:37. In attendance: Megan Payne, Amy Wildt, Janie Feinberg, Carl Groppe, Ethan Bowen, Superintendent Bruce Labs, and Co-Principals' Bonnie Bourne and Lindy Stetson
2. Adjustments to the Agenda-Bruce added to action items 7.3 - Vote to be in Group A of VMERS. This is for Staff and is where they currently are. 7.4 - Sign Promissory Note. Amy added to discussion items, 8.6 - Choice student busing.
3. Public Comment - None
4. Consent Agenda
 - 4.1 Approve Minutes of Tuesday, June 5, 2018 (Regular) - No copies of these minutes were provided so this was tabled.
5. Board Comment
6. Principals Report - A report was handed out. The highlights; The Governor made \$4,000,000.00 available for schools for safety projects, all project that were submitted by our schools were excepted and we will receive grants for those projects. The safety plans in both our buildings have been neglected for a while, this will be one initiative taken on this year. It was noted that Jordan Swank from Stockbridge food service as resigned. It was also noted that Stockbridge Pre-K full day begins at 7:45am and ends at 3:00pm. Rochester school will open at 7:45am and the day begins at 8:15am-3:00pm.

Superintendents Report - Bruce noted that most of the hiring is done for the SU. Overall the SU has hired around 40 people. We are still looking for a Music Teacher in our schools. The administrators are going to a retreat for two days to work through the new teachers contracts, and the new evaluation system, and other issues to be addressed. Bruce anticipates it to be a full two days. Steve Dale will be giving School Board trainings this September in Bethel. The first is Sept 6th, 5:30-7:30, topic - Understanding the context of school board service in 2018, Second is Sept 24, following a full board meeting, 6:00-8:00, topic - Serving on the school board within the Supervisory union, Oct 4th, 5:30-7:00 Decoding how WRVSU district and boards best function going forward. These are ruff topic outlines.
7. Action Items
 - 7.1 Vote to approve Cathy Brown as Treasurer - The Treasure that we voted in at the annual meeting no longer wants the position. This automatically reverts back to the town treasurer. Amy mentioned Jessica Arsenault had expressed interest in being treasurer. It was noted that Cathy has experience being treasurer and could possibly train Jessica if she

was still interested. Amy will discuss further with Jessica. Janie made a motion to approve Cathy Brown as Treasurer, Megan seconded, so moved

7.2 School Directors Order - Tabled

7.3 Vote to be in the Group A of VMERS - Carl asked for a motion that the school board votes to continue participation in VMERS Group A for the employees for the current year. Janie moved, Megan seconded.

7.4 Sign Promissory note in anticipation of taxes - Everyone signed

8. Discussion Items

8.1 RSUD New Name - The Board really feels this is a good opportunity to build community engagement and ownership of our new school. Discussion ensued on how to involve the whole community. A committee is to be formed, engaging the kids specially the 5th and 6th graders. The Co-Principals plan to come back to the board the end of Oct with idea's.

8.2 Building Evaluation - Discussion ensued on possible people or groups who could evaluate our building, Efficiency Vermont, Federal Button Up programs, possibly getting a Civil Engineer in to help get on track. Plouff Plumbing will be coming in to discuss how to "button" the High School building up for the current school year. The Board and a committee need to discuss how they want to use the building in the future. The Co-Principals will look through the archives for any information pertaining to the systems within the buildings, maintenance and repair work that has happened. The business office will be tracking the per building cost, for such things as oil and electricity and any other places we can break out

8.3 VAST Tuition Request - A parent of a VAST enrolled student is asking the Board to pay for the non-tuition fee's associated with the VAST program. Bruce handed out an email from our School Board lawyer dated last Oct that states "VAST students are considered enrolled at the institution providing the early college program and not enrolled in the district school that pays tuition on student's behalf. Therefore if a district assists VAST students, it would mean dollars were being taken out of the budget to assist non-enrolled students with non-tuition expenses. It is unclear if the district would even have this authority."

8.1 PK Program - possible changes (action may be taken) - Vermont has made 10 hours of preschool available to 3 and 4 year olds. Bonnie presented to the board an expanded preschool program. The 4 year olds would attend full time, 5 day's a week, full day's. The 3 year olds would attend 3 day's a week for half days. The proposal asks that family's commit to the full program and not just use it on a drop in basis. Megan expressed some concerns with the full time commitment requirement. Bonnie feels this program would help us reach some of the family's with the most need. Research show's that regular attendance in the younger grades directly translates to a students attendance in the upper grades. This expanded program comes with extra grant money, and the program is similar to the program in Stockbridge. Janie asked for more structured Language in the new program, as there was a study done by Hart and Risley that found there is a 30 million word gap for children at age 4 between a welfare family and a profession family.

8.2 Music Position - The music ad had been reworded and we currently have 2 new applicants.

8.3 Choice Student Busing - Sharon is using the Stagecoach for their bus service to our communities. Bethel/Royalton school will pick up kids in Stockbridge continue to Rochester to Bethel to Royalton. Woodstock have bus stops in Barnard and Pittsfield, Randolph RTCC will provide a bus from Rochester.++

9. Public Comment

10.Other

11.Next Meeting Date

11.1 Tuesday, September 4, 2018 @ Stockbridge

12.Adjourn. 8:37pm

Respectful Submitted,

Amy Wildt