

ROCHESTER-STOCKBRIDGE UNIFIED DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
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REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018 – 6:30 PM
@ ROCHESTER CAMPUS - ELEMENTARY LIBRARY
APPROVED REVISED MINUTES

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1. Meeting called to order by Carl Groppe at 6:39 pm
 - 1.2. In attendance were school board members Carl Groppe, Jenny Austin, Janie Feinberg, Amy Wildt, Megan Payne, and Ethan Bowen; administration Bonnie Bourne and Lindy Stetson; supervisory representation Bruce Labs; and one member of the public.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda
 - 2.1. Executive session
 - 2.2. Request to support a Rochester trails grant – included in Other, 10.1
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3.1. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, November 6, 2018 (Regular)
 - 3.1.1. Ethan motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November 6, and Janie seconded. Minutes approved.
4. Board Comment – none
5. Action Item – Quitclaim Deed
 - 5.1. There was a prior question asking what the difference is between a warranty deed and a quit claim deed. Bruce noted a warranty deed gives the buyer a warranty on the property. This instance being a quit claim deed, the prior school boards are not giving a warranty to the current board. Bruce said the attorney noted this is standard protocol for this matter. It was briefly discussed whether at a later date a building use policy should be established to protect the current uses that use the building.
 - 5.2. Meeting separated into separate Stockbridge School Board and Rochester School Board meetings at 6:40pm.
 - 5.3. The Stockbridge School Board met to consider and possible approval of Quitclaim Deed Conveying the Stockbridge Central School property to the Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School District.
 - 5.3.1. The motion was made to authorize the conveyance of the Stockbridge Central School property to the Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School District by Quitclaim Deed and to authorize the Stockbridge Town School District board chair to sign the Quitclaim Deed, tax returns, permit transfer forms and any

other related closing documents. Janie made the motion to approve this motion, Jenny seconded. Motion approved.

5.3.2. Stockbridge School Board meeting closed at 6:46pm.

5.4. The Rochester School Board met to consider and possible approval of Quitclaim Deed Conveying the Rochester Elementary/High School property to the Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School District.

5.4.1. The motion was made to authorize the conveyance of the Rochester Elementary/High School property to the Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School District by Quitclaim Deed and to authorize the Stockbridge Town School District board chair to sign the Quitclaim Deed, tax returns, permit transfer forms and any other related closing documents. Jeff made the motion to approve this motion. The motion was seconded. Motion approved.

5.4.2. Rochester School Board meeting closed at 6:48pm.

5.5. The RSUD school board meeting reconvened at 6:48pm.

5.6. The Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School District met to consider acceptance of Quitclaim Deed conveying the Rochester Elementary/High School property to the Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School District.

5.6.1. Amy made the motion to accept the Quitclaim Deed conveying the Rochester Elementary/High School property to the Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School District. Ethan seconded the motion. Motion approved.

5.7. The Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School District met to consider acceptance of Quitclaim Deed conveying the Stockbridge Central School property to the Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School District.

5.7.1. Amy made the motion to accept the Quitclaim Deed conveying the Stockbridge Central School property to the Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School District. Ethan seconded the motion. Motion approved.

6. Public Comment

6.1. Patty – The Rochester Recreation Committee has been having trouble getting high enough numbers to have elementary school sport teams, in particular the basketball team available for grades 3 through 6. The new contact for the recreation committee is Caitlin Vasseur. Only four older kids in Rochester are interested in joining basketball. Patty wanted to make sure this information was getting out to Stockbridge families. It was suggested to Patty that they could put an ad in the paper to reach out to area families, such as Granville and Hancock as well. Amy will talk to Caitlin about getting the word out. Lindy noted that information has been sent out in student mail folders at SCS.

6.2. Patty – Seeing high schoolers waiting for rides in various places in Town. It was noted that the Stagecoach stop is designated to be by Mac's store. Patty asked if the park and ride in town can be designated as a bus stop, and, if so, whether a shelter should be placed there. It was questioned why the school buses don't stop at the Rochester school for middle/high school instead. Bonnie to call the middle/high schools that have

bus stops in Rochester as well as Stagecoach (bus service for The Sharon Academy) to see if they can have their bus stops at the school instead of at Mac's. If school is closed, the Town does not give priority to plowing the school. Therefore, if there is a middle/high school bus stop at Rochester school on a day when there is no school at Rochester, the school will need to discuss with the Town so that they will plow enough for a bus to make a loop for these buses and students.

- 6.3. On a similar topic, Bruce noted that there are buses intermingling across the SU. There was the notion at the SU wondering whether, on snow days, there should be a "close all or none" type of policy. There is varying weather across the SU, as well potential electricity and/or phone outages that can vary. Therefore, for White River Valley SU the decision of when to close school for a snow day is made by the principal. Most SUs across the state have the SU make the decision, as opposed to the principal.

7. Reports to the Board

7.1. Superintendent's Report

7.2. Principal's Report

- 7.2.1. At the next meeting there will be draft 2019-2020 budget numbers, including a draft tuition rate for next year.

- 7.2.2. Amy asked what format the numbers would be in, in regards to separate or together for the two campuses. Bonnie noted that they have been asked to send the numbers separately by campus. It has not been decided what the format will be for the final 2019-2020 budget.

- 7.2.3. Bruce noted that the current yield number is \$10,666. Last year this number was \$10,076. Bruce noted that what this means, essentially, is that when the number goes up, this results in taxes go down. It was noted this is not the final number for last year as the legislature can change the number over the legislative session.

- 7.2.4. Bonnie noted there is a benefit to having the budget meeting later than Town Meeting Day because then we are working with more "real" numbers for developing the budget. Carl noted that in Stockbridge this has been a benefit because the tuition rates are often set at middle/high schools before finalizing our own budget.

7.3. Business Manager's Report

- 7.3.1. The business manager, Ginger Maston, is away at a training with the AOE. An email was handed out from Ginger Maston regarding a financial update. The email states that the auditor's projected (projected, not final) fund balance for FY18 is forecast to be \$127,545 for Rochester and \$110,993 for Stockbridge, which is inclusive of asset/liability accounts.

8. Policy Adoption

8.1. Act to adopt Policy B5 - Preventing and Responding to Unlawful Harassment of Employees, Students, and Third Parties

- 8.1.1. Amy made the motion to accept the amended racial harassment policy as presented to us by Bruce. Janie seconded. Motion approved.

9. Discussion Items

9.1. Building RFP - Possible Action

- 9.1.1. Bonnie handed out a draft RFP for the building facilities assessment study, which had input from Jenny and Cricket McKusker. Bonnie noted that there needs to be someone available to answer questions during the RFP process. Jenny noted that she cannot be this contact due to a conflict of interest. There was brief discussion over the amount that the board can use to have available for an outside source to assist. Ethan Bowen made the motion to allow the administration to spend up to \$2,500 to have someone assist in this role. Jenny noted it is not anticipated that there will be much time needed to fulfill this role. Amy seconded, and the motion was approved. Bonnie will work on finalizing the schedule included in the RFP and will check with Cricket to see if she is interested in being this point of contact.
- 9.1.2. Ethan asked if we can do more than just a bid advertisement in the paper to get the word out about this study. Carl will talk to Martha at The Herald to give an overview of this next step.
- 9.1.3. Amy made a motion to approve the RFP provided by Bonnie, and authorizing Bonnie to move forward with finalizing the schedule to get the bid advertised. Janie seconded, and the motion was approved.

9.2. Stockbridge Generator

- 9.2.1. There was discussion regarding the need for a generator at SCS. Carl noted he has reached out to Jim Shands regarding trying to find prior plans for a potential SCS generator, as there has been discussion of this purchase in the past. Lindy has started to investigate what the cost would be for a generator for Stockbridge, as well as looking into grant opportunities. Carl to talk to Jim Shands to see if there is any information available from prior discussions.

9.3. Emergency Plans in case of no power

- 9.3.1. During the last storm the phone lines did not reset in Rochester, and Bonnie noted they are not sure why this happened. Bonnie and Lindy worked together during the last snow storm to come up with a plan for opening Rochester school and having cell phone coverage available for parents and others available to call the school. The plan would be that if electricity did not come back on at SCS the following day, students would go to Rochester school that day so that they could still have a school day, as opposed to another day off due to lack of electricity at SCS. However, by the time this plan was discussed and planned, the power came back on in Stockbridge and this back-up plan was not needed. Carl noted that any back-up emergency plan should make sure that the plan adheres to union contracts.
- 9.3.2. It was noted that the Rochester school was opened as an emergency shelter. There was the suggestion that prior to any major snow storms that information get distributed to the public to let them know that the school would be opened in an emergency situation, such as periods of prolonged power outage.

10. Other

10.1. Request to support a Rochester trails grant

10.1.1. Bonnie presented a letter supporting a grant application for a new trail project that Angus McKusker made her aware of. The grant application is to the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for a new trail extending from the Ranger Station to the village. Bonnie is looking for Board support, and noted that physical education programs at both schools could take advantage of the potential future trail. Carl Groppe signed the letter of support on behalf of the RSUD school board.

11. Next Meeting Date

11.1. Thursday, January 3, 2019, 6:30pm @ Stockbridge Central School – Note: this is rescheduled from the standard first Tuesday of the month date

12. Adjourn

12.1. The board went into executive session at 8:02pm.

12.2. The board came out of executive session at 8:13pm and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Austin