

ROCHESTER-STOCKBRIDGE UNIFIED DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019 – 5:00 PM
@ STOCKBRIDGE CAMPUS
APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1. Meeting called to order by Amy Wildt at 5:05pm
 - 1.2. In attendance were school board members Amy Wildt, Janie Feinberg, Ethan Bowen, Megan Payne, and Jenny Austin; administration Lindy Stetson; SU representation Bruce Labs and Mary Ellen Simmons; and no members of the public.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda – none
3. Public Comment – no public present
4. Discussion Items
 - 4.1. Strategies for Literacy Improvement
 - 4.1.1. Mary Ellen Simmons: Why Reading By Grade 3 presentation
 - 4.1.2. It is part of the SU's strategic plan to get students reading by the end of grade three. Strategic Plan section 2.2.1 emphasizes focused literacy instruction. There is also research to show that if we improve our reading scores that student's math scores will typically improve as well.
 - 4.1.3. The testing system include SBAC, Star 360, Benchmark Assessments, and Otis Data System. It was noted that Otis is starting to be implemented this year, and both SBAC and Star 360 have already been implemented in the last few years. The data is managed by Mark Kline, with others putting data into system.
 - 4.1.4. Janie asked if the data gives recommendations per student. It does not.
 - 4.1.5. Bruce noted there needs to be training for teachers to have consistency.
 - 4.1.6. Students need effective reading instruction. Data shows us that there is a need to improve reading instruction in our schools. Professional development (PD) is needed to have efficient practices in the classroom.
 - 4.1.7. An outside consultant, Amy Toth, conducted a survey of all the SU staff. SU wide themes became apparent such as not being consistent within schools, the need for updating classroom libraries, lack of purpose and priority around direct instruction, need for clear learning targets, need for collaborative professional development, not enough time for reading, and the need to shift to identified literacy framework.
 - 4.1.8. Instead of purchasing a program, instead the SU is adopting a literacy framework and integrating with PD.

- 4.1.9. PD to change practices include coaching in the classroom, SU in-service time dedicated to reading, graduate level coursework.
- 4.1.10. Rochester and Stockbridge staff attendees to recent training included Deb Rice, Stephanie Colton, Melanie King, and Linda Gendreau.
- 4.1.11. Amy Toth is the consultant that worked on the above consulting work across the SU. She is a principal that is retiring at the end of the year. Bruce noted that he would like to bring Amy into the SU as a part-time interventionist as Deb Rice has just put in her intent to resign (see 4.2) at the end of the school year. Bruce is interested in seeing if Amy would be available to the SU for the remainder of the work-week. Janie commented that she has talked to Amy and thought that she was right-on in her evaluation. She could provide student instruction in the framework of what she is teaching the teachers. Lindy noted that in Stockbridge they are planning on making some adjustments next year. Janie is concerned about tier 2. If the classroom instruction improves then this should improve the quality of the teachers, and this will be more beneficial for all kids. Lindy noted coaching is needed in both buildings. Lindy noted part of a potential plan would be for Amy to provide training during faculty meeting as part of her time. Ethan expressed concerned that it sounds like Amy's schedule could be spread out. Bruce noted that he would like to propose Amy work as a part-time interventionist for RSUD and the remainder of the time would be a SU employee. Lindy noted that her role at Rochester and Stockbridge would be working with both staff and directly with students in the role that Deb Rice has, and her role as an SU employee would be to work just with staff in a coaching role. The SU portion of the role would be paid for using SU Medicaid funds.
- 4.1.12. All schools have a reading specialist. Janie commented that Amy could help to organize the group of interventionists. Janie commended Bruce and the SU for having such a strong focus on improving literacy. She noted including coaching of the other interventionist and teachers as part of the PD is important. Bruce noted that she will be improving the quality of the teachers.
- 4.1.13. Amy noted that she would like to see how much of the funding for Amy Toth as interventionist would come from Title 1 grant funding and how much would be paid for by the school budget.
- 4.1.14. Megan noted she had met Amy at one of the executive sessions, and thought was very passionate and was impressed with her presentation to the executive board. Ethan commented on getting parents on board with reading. Mary Ellen noted that librarians have been included in the initiative to supplement reading outside the classroom.
- 4.1.15. The Board provided Bruce with support to discuss this opportunity with Amy Toth based on the resignation of Deb Rice.

4.2. Deb Rice resignation

4.2.1. Janie made a motion to accept Deb Rice's resignation. Ethan seconded. The motion was approved to accept Deb Rice's resignation with regret and deep appreciation

5. Possible Executive Session – none

6. Other

6.1. Bruce won't be available for the next RSUD board meeting. Tara, the new business manager, will be present on behalf of the SU.

6.2. The Board will go through the warrant for the Annual Meeting at the April meeting. Dina is working on the wording of the warrant with Bruce. Tara will bring the warrant with her to the meeting.

6.3. Lindy noted that the administration and SU are finishing up on revising the school budget. They have made some adjustments, and they are trying to work out the food service numbers.

7. Next Meeting Date

7.1. Tuesday, April 2, 2019 @ Rochester Campus-Elementary Library

8. Adjourn

8.1. Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Austin