

ROCHESTER-STOCKBRIDGE UNIFIED DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019 – 5:30 PM
@ STOCKBRIDGE CAMPUS
APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1. Meeting called to order by Carl Groppe at 5:35 pm
 - 1.2. In attendance were school board members Carl Groppe, Megan Payne, Amy Wildt, Ethan Bowen and Jenny Austin; administration Lindy Stetson; SU representation Tara Weatherell; and no members of the public.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda – none
3. Public Comment – none
4. Action Items
 - 4.1. School Budget Discussion
 - 4.1.1. Why aren't the exceptions included into the cost per spending? Tara noted that the State requires the schools to report the actual spending per pupil, but are not penalized because the exclusions bring the spending down below the threshold.
 - 4.1.2. Amy asked about what the major differences are between the last budget and current one. Tara and Lindy went through some of the differences. There is an \$80K reduction in revenue (likely approx. 5 less students), \$57K added for HRA (budgeted \$0 last year), 11% increase in health insurance premium, \$25K for teachers retirement (1 teacher this is there last year FY20, 1 teacher with 2 more years left); and in FY19 the 504 para-educator wasn't in the budget because the student was formerly on an IEP and therefore was previously paid for by the SU special education assessment. Carl noted we also added \$40K for food service spending because these are realistically what the anticipated cost will be. Tara noted we are not alone with the food deficits, and that other school districts are seeing this as well. Tara noticed it is important for families to fill out the free and reduced lunch form because this could help towards getting subsidies. Amy asked if we qualify for any State programs for overall funding for free/reduced lunch. With our current numbers of forms filled out Tara noted that our schools do not qualify. Lindy noted sometimes parents don't want to fill out the form, but Tara mentioned it would be good to have families fill out the forms, even if they don't end up qualifying.

- 4.1.3. Act 60 related transportation is money we get from the State for bussing. We are getting more money back than last year for transportation services. When the two SUs merged the SU went with contracted transportation services.
- 4.1.4. The question was asked what other Towns per pupil spending is for next year and how we compare. Tara noted Granville/Hancock is \$17,976 (no schools in school district), \$17,317 for Chelsea/Tunbridge, and \$18304 for Royalton/Bethel (before a potential revote). Megan noted that for a school district with a small student population that our budget feels reasonable.
- 4.2. Warning Discussion
 - 4.2.1. Carl asked why Article 4 is needed. He noted that State statute states this is not indicated as a “shall” include item and suggests taking out this article.
 - 4.2.2. There was the question regarding who would be the incoming treasurer. Amy noted Desiree was interested but did not hear back from the SU about what the job entails. Tara noted there will be hands on training with the SU as there has been an issue with this at several school districts.
- 4.3. General Discussion
 - 4.3.1. Carl noted about trying to attract students to come to our schools. Lindy noted there will be an Arts and Literacy Night with Jeh Kulu at SCS and they are hoping to invite Pittsfield families.
 - 4.3.2. Amy noted that the Rochester school newsletter is available at the Post Office for the community.
- 4.4. Act to accept FY20 Budget
 - 4.4.1. Amy made a motion to accept the budget of \$4,408,562 which is \$18,427.32 per equalized pupil. Ethan seconded, and motion approved.
- 4.6. Act to finalize Annual Meeting Warning
 - 4.6.1. Include text to move next year’s annual meeting to the first Tuesday of April.
 - 4.6.2. Ethan made a motion to approve the Annual Meeting Warning for the obligations of the school district for the next year as well as the change to the annual meeting date for future annual meetings. Amy seconded, and the warning is approved.
- 4.7. Act to adopt 21 Policies from Phase II
 - 4.7.1. Carl noted that the policies are implemented by all the schools in the SU.
 - 4.7.2. Carl noted policy C38 states that students will be able to use the bathroom stalls of the gender they identify with.
 - 4.7.3. Discussion regarding the school use policy. Ethan asked who sets the price for renting the buildings. Carl noted that it is left up to the schools. Lindy noted that the building use policy states that there is wording where it states the “Superintendent” shall do such and such, when in reality it is something that the school principal or a designee would do. There was general discussion regarding policies E20 and E31 in reference to Lindy’s discussion item. Ethan made a motion to approve the policies presented with an amendment to

policies E20 and E31 such that instead of referring to the “superintendent” in certain references to refer to “superintendent and his/her designee” instead. Megan seconded, and policies approved with the above referenced change.

5. Other – none

6. Next Meeting Date

6.1. Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 6:30 pm @ Stockbridge Campus

7. Adjourn

7.1. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Austin