

ROCHESTER-STOCKBRIDGE UNIFIED DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019 – 6:30 PM
@ STOCKBRIDGE CAMPUS
MINUTES - APPROVED

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1. Meeting called to order at 6:36pm by Carl Groppe. Attendees include administration Lindy Stetson, Bonnie Bourne, and Bruce Labs; school board members Carl Groppe, Ethan Bowen, Janie Feinberg, Amy Wildt, and Jenny Austin; several members of the public; and Orca Media representative and community member Mason Wade.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda
 - 2.1. Action item – buildings air tested and fuel tank tested and investigations (10.2.2)
 - 2.2. Executive session for student matter - add after Public Comment
 - 2.3. Change “Literacy Presentation” to “Literacy Framework”
3. Assign Times/Time Keeper – Ethan Bowen
4. Public Comment (15 minutes)
 - 4.1. Mason would like an update on the marquee sign in Rochester. Carl noted that this will be discussed at the December meeting.
 - 4.2. Katelynne McKinstry – Can we get a second-hand generator for SCS? She is aware of one that may be available that she believes may be large enough and may be possible to have it donated. Carl suggested she pass along the information to the administration.
 - 4.3. Katelynne – Have we looked at getting new tanks above ground so that there is less likelihood for potential future environmental issues? Carl noted that there is a grant program in Vermont that may help pay for this. We want to get this information to help with budgeting. Katelynne noted that the companies retain ownership of the tanks if they remain above ground and help with setting the tank up. Carl noted that the next building committee is this coming Tuesday in Rochester at 6pm, and encouraged Katelynne to attend.
 - 4.4. Katelynne – Asked about security at the SCS campus in regards to the doors. Lindy noted that the administration is going to a safety workshop in December.
 - 4.5. Katelynne – In regards to the building committee, it would be valuable to spread the word of what is being looked at and what is not being looked at. Carl noted that the building committee will be looking at various options, such as what would it take to operate two campuses, close both campuses and offer school choice for all grades,

different options at the Rochester campus, etc. Katelynne noted that this incinuates that it is an option to close a school campus. Carl noted that the committee is working on getting the options flushed out. The committee is looking at what the study says, and to be fair to the analysis you have to look at all options.

- 4.6. A representative from The Sharon Academy submitted a letter to the Board.
5. Move into executive session at 6:54pm
 - 5.1. Moved out of executive session at 8:03pm
6. Action Items
 - 6.1. Jenny made a motion that the tuition request be approved for the student based upon her individual needs for retention, as were discussed during executive session.
7. Consent Agenda
 - 7.1. Approve the minutes of Tuesday, October 1, 2019 (Regular)
 - 7.1.1. Amy made a motion to accept the minutes, Ethan seconded. Motion approved.
8. Board Comment – none
9. Literacy Framework (changed from Literacy Presentation)
 - 9.1. Overview of Implementation of F and P Materials (60 min)
 - 9.1.1. Mary Ellen presented on the literacy initiative that the entire SU is focusing on to improve literacy and reading. This includes, among other items, professional development, coaching, and new materials that are consistent across the SU. A focus of the SU is to have students reading at grade level by grade 3 in order to set them up to be successful students in higher grades. Mary Ellen noted that the SU is expanding our resources and teachers are working together. If we want to change what results we get, we know we need to work together to achieve this. Over 40 teachers in the SU have taken professional development classes for this initiative. In Stockbridge all the teachers that have guided reading groups have taken the class, and Bonnie noted that one teacher is taking the class, and others are on board.
 - 9.1.2. Mary Ellen noted that Aimee Toth is the person that is doing the coaching. All teachers have had more than one session with Amy Toth. Bonnie noted that during the next ½ school day, tomorrow, staff will be doing a combined literacy coaching. Mary Ellen noted that previously the staff had various programs and materials, but now both schools have the same program for all teachers.
 - 9.1.3. Lindy said that teachers are now looking at the data and based on the data in each reading group the teachers adjust accordingly. Bonnie said that teaching at tier 1 is getting more explicit. Mary Ellen said that teachers are reaching out

to each other and are more reflective. Bonnie said it can be hard for some teachers with the change, but they are all on board. Bonnie suggested as we move along that there should be community outreach to show what we are doing.

- 9.1.4. Aimee gives monthly posters on what we are working on. Lindy noted that at the SCS open house kids showed the routine of what goes on in school to parents. Jenny noted that with November I Love to Read Month information that comes home in students mail folders at Stockbridge that information has been going home with information about I Love to Read Month and school reading challenges. Bonnie noted that the Book Fair was very successful and kids were very excited about it. Mary Ellen also noted that kids are more engaged. Mary Ellen said they are working with the school's librarians as well. Ethan noted that this is the type of work that he gets excited about is the literacy initiatives.
- 9.1.5. Lindy referred to "odds and ends" emails around direct instruction. Everything that Aimee Toth is doing with our literacy framework has complete buy in for the Tier 1. There are still a handful of kids in Tier 2 and 3. Janie is willing to help with a pilot program for direct instruction for 8 kids that have shown little to no growth with direct instruction, including 6 in tier 2 and 2 in tier 3/special ed. Deb Matthews opened this up to other special educators in the SU. This aims to look at figuring out how we can help youngsters in tiers 2 and 3 be successful students. Janie will be providing 3 days of training. This is planned to get started in December. Ethan asked what "pilot" means. Bonnie noted that pilot meaning we took a small group of students to see how much of an effect this will have on youngsters. We don't have the alignment in our Tier 3 materials that we would like to have. Janie noted that this is based on direct instruction. Bonnie noted that in the past that kids in tier 2 and 3 doesn't have a separate way to help them.
- 9.1.6. Janie noted that she has been concerned with the F&P program, but appreciates our two principals and Bruce for their desire for successful students. Each student will be assessed individually, and will get an explicit approach to literacy with direct instruction. Janie noted that she has worked successfully with children in the area. Regardless of her feelings about F&P, having the strengthened level of support for literacy by the SU is appreciated. Ethan asked about students at the higher level of reading and how are they addressed and assessed? Lindy noted that they are reading at the appropriate level as well, and that there are various levels in each classroom.
- 9.1.7. Bonnie noted that administrators are taking place in the training with Janie as well so that they know what is being taught. It is important that they know what is happening so that they can help other teachers.

9.2. Student Assessment Presentations (45 min)

- 9.2.1. Two standardized tests include SBAC testing and STAR360. SBAC is a computer testing programming done once a year. Lindy noted that in the handouts that “percent at 3 or above” is where “3” is considered “proficient”. It was also noted that one needs to be cautious with reporting of small class size numbers because one student is a large percentage of a small class and if one student performs higher or lower than the standard this can make a big change in the percentage shown. Carl noted it is important to know where we stand now as a baseline so that we can produce measurable outcomes of data.
- 9.2.2. Carl – We will want to see what the trends are as the year goes by. By February we should have the next round of STAR360 results.
- 9.2.3. Ethan – because of the small data pool, is this information useful? Lindy noted that yes, this is very helpful. In the past the schools haven’t kept track of this data. Even though there are limitations in reporting results for small class sizes, this is very helpful for following and help students be successful. Mary Ellen noted that as we look at this all together as an SU this will be a significant number for tracking progress.
- 9.2.4. Ethan – what are we doing to unify writing, mathematics, and other classes? Carl – what is our STEM progress? Bonnie noted that the schools are starting with the subject level that makes gains across the most subjects. Lindy noted that during the ½ day tomorrow there are also math topics as well.
- 9.2.5. Bonnie noted that there are fewer in-service days than other SDs. Bonnie noted some schools have 7.5-8 hours of instruction day. Bruce noted that the contract says “up to 8 hours”. Bruce noted that we want our teachers to experience success and they realize if they work together that they will start to attack other areas. Janie noted that once the culture of the teachers is collaborative then the students are more collaborative as well.

10. Reports to the Board

10.1. Superintendent – none

10.2. Principal (7 minutes)

- 10.2.1. Bonnie noted that every time Rochester gets any significant amount of rain that there are leaks in the elementary building. She has concerns about the roof’s current status over the winter. Carl noted that at the last building committee meeting three items that need to be looked at are: (1) figure out the air quality tested for all buildings and what it would cost to fix, (2) no idea what condition the tanks are and finding someone that can give a recommendation on tanks, and (3) roof leaks at the Rochester elementary building. Bonnie has additional information about the tanks, and noted that two tanks need to be permitted. Bonnie noted it would be good to have some

sort of funds that can be used to investigate the above. She has spoken to people at the State and has been given the names of two contacts. Bonnie noted that she believes the short term is repair work to get through the winter, but long-term thinks that we will need a new roof soon. Amy noted that if we proceed with pressure tank testing that we could end up with degradation or causing leaking. There was general discussion regarding how much money to authorize at this time for administration to investigate the above.

10.2.2. Action Item – Carl made a motion that administration investigate the roof, air quality and tanks and authorize the administration to spend up to \$3,000 on these initiatives to start getting some answers on these issues.

11. Policy Review (5 minutes) – tabled for next meeting

11.1. Bruce to send around the original policies so the board can see the before and after versions to review.

11.2. Bruce noted there will be more policies to follow at a later time.

12. Discussion Items (5 minutes)

12.1. December Meeting Agenda Items – tabled

12.2. Budget Discussion – tabled

13. Action Items (15 minutes)

13.1. Corporate resolution to add treasurer

13.1.1. Amy made a motion to remove Joanne McDonnell and add Rebecca Klein name in regards to the treasurer role and the Rochester funds that were carried over into the merged school district. Janie seconded. Motion approved.

13.1.2. Amy made a motion to remove Cathy Brown and add Rebecca Klein to our accounts. Janie seconded. Motion approved.

13.2. Finalize February Retreat Date

13.2.1. Tabled. Carl to send out a Survey Monkey to the Board.

14. Public Comment – none

15. Executive Session (personnel) – 9:00 pm to 9:15 pm

16. Other – none

17. Future Agenda Items – no discussion

17.1. December – budget discussion

18. Next Meeting Date

18.1. Tuesday, December 3, 2019 @ Rochester Campus – Regular Meeting

18.2. Tuesday, November 11, 2019 @ Rochester Campus – Building Committee Meeting

19. Adjourn at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Austin