



September 23, 2009

Call to Order: The business meeting was called to order at 7:25pm by Chairman Eric Johnson. Members present were Viki Draper, Eric Johnson, John Mortenson, and Connie Smejkal. Jim Anderson, Superintendent, and Katie White, student representative, were also present.

Approval of Minutes:

John Mortenson made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 26, 2009 business meeting and the September 9, 2009 special board meeting. Viki Draper seconded and the motion passed.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:

Consent Agenda

ADDITIONS -

e) Approve Hiring of Employees

Julie Harness – RMS Temporary EA – Special Ed

CORRECTIONS – (Bold)

e) Approve Hiring of Employees

David Corentto – Returning **RPS** Temporary EA – Special Ed

Public Input:

Eric Johnson moved the public input to earlier in the evening to accommodate members of the public who were attending with young children.

- The Board recognized the attendance of Craig Brown and Boy Scout Troop 100.
- Jeff Grimm, a parent of children in the Rochester School District, addressed the board regarding bus schedules and transportation cost savings.

Communications to the Board: There were no communications to the Board.

Consent Agenda: Viki Draper made a motion to accept the consent agenda as submitted with the additions and corrections. Connie Smejkal seconded and the motion passed. The consent agenda was as follows:

- September Payroll & Vouchers
- Approve Revision to Fall Sports Contracts
- Approve Revision to Extended Day Contracts
- Approve Contracts with ESD 113 for School Nurse Corps Program
- Approve Hiring of Employees:
 - David Corentto – Returning RPS Temporary EA – Special Ed
 - Eileen Selleck – RMS EA – LAP
 - Annette Moore – RHS Temporary EA – Special Ed
 - Jeanne Griffin – GMES EA – In School Suspension
 - Julie Harness – RMS Temporary EA – Special Ed

Reports:

Buildings

RPS – Teachers are using the Reading Street Program and are reporting that it is a wonderful program. Teachers are beginning to get into the rhythm of the program. They are really excited about the program's ability to pinpoint the exact reading challenges of their students. It not only has many instructional components, but it also has resources to help teachers not only teach the curriculum, but also address issues that arise. The school's first fundraiser kick-off just happened. We are selling cookie dough. FAST parent group has been busy planning interesting and fun assemblies. Class sizes are in the mid-twenties.

GMES – Enrollment is 534, which is higher than last year. Class sizes are great even with the additional students. Teachers are using the Reading Street program and it is a great curriculum. The school had a presentation from Joan Halverstadt about AYP. The Booster Club held a school fundraiser and raised \$21,000. The Missoula Children’s Theater is back and is holding auditions September 28 from 3:00-5:00pm at Grand Mound. There will be 2 performances on October 3rd. Bus schedules are getting smoother. Movie Night had more than 200 people in attendance. Accelerated readers will receive a book and lunch with the principal when they reach their 100, 200, and 300 point goals. Powerful Teaching and Learning will be focused on during this school year.

RMS – Staff are preparing for early conferences. Scheduling the conferences earlier in the year allows teachers to meet with parents during the first quarter. Having them earlier also helps parents and teachers to work with students while there is still time during the quarter. 6th grade enrollment is higher than anticipated, class sizes are at 30+ kids. The school will be hiring a 6th grade teacher to bring class sizes back down to normal sizes. A Walk-a-Thon was held and raised \$9,000.

RHS – Enrollment is at 560. The school held department meetings on the in-service day and was well received. There has been a shift to alignment between staff to staff and it is having a positive impact on the school. Katie White, student representative, reported that FFA had its open house. The first dance of the year was held after the football game last Friday. FBLA and FCCLA had their first meetings with many freshmen joining. The school is going “green” and has many new recycling bins. The fall play will be held at the end of October. The car wash for Band went well last weekend. Sports are all doing well.

MLHS – The first in-service of the school year was held and the staff concentrated on our School Improvement Plan. Taking into consideration the uncertainty of school closures, the plan was still done through 2013. Enrollment is approximately 190 students and challenges with student population are minimal.

Special Services – The number of Special Ed Students has increased; ELL students have decreased; LAP students have increased significantly; and Title 1 has increased slightly. The greatest amount of time has been spent with supplemental services in Title 1. Joan Halverstadt has been working with GMES on AYP. The Sidewalks Reading Street was purchased with stimulus money and is now available at the schools.

Maintenance – The temporary occupancy permit for new the district office will be received next week. The permit for the new high school portable that has been issued and now inspections can be set up.

Transportation – No Report

Assistant Superintendent – Building and Program administrators have been doing an amazing job this fall getting the school up and running and moving in a forward direction towards building and district goals. The district will be providing a new service to families called School Messenger. The service will make parent notification of many items automated. The new system will be used for attendance, late school starts, emergency closures, and winter delays. It will also be used for food service notifications when a child’s account balance reaches a predetermined amount. It can be used for surveys, reach specific groups of children ie...bus routes that flood frequently to notify parents that bus schedules have changed due to the flooding. Parents will have the option of how information is sent to them ie...cell phone, land line, or text message. 50% of the cost of the program will be covered by food services. Each school will manage their own site. The new system also will translate notifications into several languages; Rochester School District will be using Spanish as well as English. The notification system can be accessed remotely in the event staff cannot reach the school due to severe weather.

Superintendent – Transportation is settling down with the many changes that have been made to schedules and how and where buses pick-up and drop-off children. School start times have created challenges for parents, but they are being worked through. The Food to Flowers program is being piloted at the high school and will be introduced at the middle school and GMES/RPS when all the bugs have been worked out.

Financial Report: Jill Pratt reported the month end account balances for August: General Fund \$2,560,637; Capital Projects Fund \$1,632,985; Debt Service Fund \$2,215,884; ASB Fund \$250,120; and Transportation Vehicle Fund \$94,918.

Enrollment Report: The FTE count for September 9 was 1993 students with a head count of 2109 students. The enrollment will change next month when we count running start students. We are very close to budget.

Old Business:

Board Retreat:

The board retreat will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009, at the new district office. Board members need to contact Kim with any specific requests needed for their part of the meeting.

New Business:

a) Approve Essential Policies/Procedures:

Policy No. 4215 (Revision) – Use of Tobacco on School Property. In the best interest of the district, John Mortenson made a motion to immediately approve Policy 4215 as revised. Connie Smejkal seconded and the motion passed.

Policy No. 5005 (Revision) and Procedure (New) – Employment: Disclosures, Certification Requirements, Assurances and Approval. In the best interest of the district, Viki Draper made a motion to immediately approve Policy 5005 and accept the new Procedure as revised. Connie Smejkal seconded and the motion passed.

Policy No. 5050 (Revision) – Contracts. In the best interest of the district, John Mortenson made a motion to immediately approve Policy 5050 as revised. Viki Draper seconded and the motion passed.

Policy No. 5404 (Revision) – Family Leave. In the best interest of the district, John Mortenson made a motion to immediately approve Policy 4215 as revised. Viki Draper seconded and the motion passed.

b) Approve Priority Policies/Procedures:

Policy No. 5407 (Revision) – Military Leave. In the best interest of the district, John Mortenson made a motion to immediately approve Policy 4215 as revised. Viki Draper seconded and the motion passed.

c) Approve Resolution No. 08-09 – VEBA III Sick Leave Conversion Medical Reimbursement Plan for District Office Employees:

Viki Draper made a motion to approve Resolution No.08-09 with correction to August 30, 2010. Connie Smejkal seconded and the motion passed.

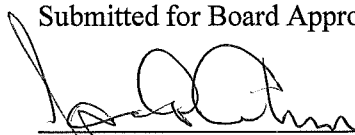
d) Levy Organizational Meeting: Thursday, October 1 @ RMS 7:00pm. Informational, the board is invited to attend.

Public Input: There was no public input.

Executive Session: There was no executive session.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted for Board Approval by:



James D. Anderson
Secretary to the Board

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Rochester School District #401

