

**Minutes of PTA Council Meeting
May 21, 2015
Musson Elementary School**

Meeting Called to Order at 9:36am.

Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance by Samantha Phillips & Musson Principal, Victoria Righter.

Business Member presentation

Classic Lanes, Chris Murray

- *Kids Bowl Free* summer program runs each year from April 15th - October 31st.
https://www.kidsbowlfree.com/center.php?alley_id=1998
- Many other programs including after school bowling, Rock 'n Bowl and Open Night Mic.
- If your school has any program ideas, please ask.

Representative Reports

Superintendent Report, Dr. Robert Shaner (absent)

Foundation, Lori Grein (absent)

Board of Education, submitted by Jane Pierobon, read by Nancy Benedettini

Since your last April 23rd meeting the BOE has met twice: May 11, and May 18. On May 11th, Regular Board meeting we recognized staff on awards they received. Passed Board Policy 2430 on Co-Curricular Activities. Had an update on TI 2020. Renewed Chartwell's contract for food service and passed a resolution to apply for a line of credit. On May 18th, Special Board meeting we had a recap of TI 2020 and passed a resolution for bond proposal at the tune of 185 million dollars. There's some exciting stuff coming down the line and it's a great time of the year with all the senior celebrations! Take care and have a great summer!

Rochester Education Association, submitted by Doug Hill, read by Nancy Benedettini

Once again thank you for the opportunity to present to the parent leadership in our district. I sincerely appreciate the forum and value the feedback the members of the REA are able to receive from our monthly dialogues.

PTSA Council Secretary Nancy Benedettini had mentioned to me at a function earlier this month that there were some questions regarding the 2015-16 academic calendar; the two-day exam schedule at the secondary level in particular. I'll take a crack at explaining it here (though fair warning, calendar tends to be the most complex part of the collective bargaining process ... and not for the reasons you might think):

To begin, it's important to understand there are minimums imposed by our state legislators regarding public school instruction. First, public schools must start after Labor Day; second, students must be in for a minimum of 175 days of instruction; third, students must receive a minimum of 1,098 hours of instruction; finally, school districts are required to provide a minimum of 30 hours of staff professional development annually.

With that as a framework, next year's calendar was especially challenging when one considers Labor Day occurs as late as it possibly can (September 7th); therefore the earliest our first day of school could be is September 8th. That puts us a week behind where we have been the past several years before anything else was considered.

During previous calendars, secondary students received 175 days of instruction. Elementary students received 173. During the bargaining process, the RCS Board of Ed had a desire to increase the number of days of instruction. Ultimately, 177 days was agreed upon. That's an increase of four days at the elementary level and two at the secondary level. The challenge was finding four days to add and not move into the fourth week in June (generally frowned upon by all parties).

During prior contracts, the state allowed 38 hours of staff professional development that occurred during normal school hours to count as instructional hours (remember the 1,098 hours?). RCS utilized this exemption. That law also changed prior to our current agreement so it was necessary for us to recoup 38 hours of instructional time during the 2014-15 school year – and moving forward as well. Both the REA and the RCS administration believe the most effective professional development is ongoing throughout the school year (not all packed in before school begins) and as such we had a desire to maintain PD days in August, October, November, March, and May.

Further complicating matters for 2015-16 is the fact that Easter Sunday is extremely early, March 27th, and does not coordinate with the Oakland County Common Calendar's Spring Break (the first full week in April or the end of our third quarter, for that matter. As RCS had a desire to not have students in session on Good Friday we lost another potential day of instruction and six hours, fifteen minutes.

All of that is to say we were challenged to find the additional days of instruction – at both levels – as well as generating 1,098 hours. The decision was made, after receiving input from teaching staff as well as building administration, that three days for exams were not necessary in a significant number of courses at the secondary level. Many either had common assessments completed before this day, had multiple days of "exams," or were more project-based in nature (including presentations). Collectively we felt this was a good place to gain six hours of secondary instruction and the decision was made to go this route.

Fair warning, state laws require 180 days of student instruction beginning in 2016-17 and we will have to relook at the current calendar for 16/17 and revise it to infuse three additional days of instruction.

Finally, House Bill 4396 – a bipartisan piece of legislation co-sponsored by 17 state reps, including Rochester's Michael Webber – was introduced last month and would allow for local school districts to choose their start date so long as school is NOT in session the Friday before Labor Day. This would do wonders to free up the constraints of the current calendar in terms of the state-required minimums we are required to meet. If you're so inclined, a note to Rep. Webber of support on this would be a good thing. If this were pass, we could potentially see a return to first semester concluding before the winter break in December and thus not have two weeks off just before mid-terms.

And Speaking of Breaks

It's nearly summer and I'll once again encourage you to encourage your colleagues back in your home buildings to engage in some summer reading, writing, and basic computation with your children. Summer learning loss is a very real thing – at least in the estimation of the classroom teachers! – and anything you're able to do educationally in nature is a positive. The key, I firmly believe, is modeling and making it a family event. You could have a Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) half hour three days per week for example or you could all write daily journals during a summer trip or any outing you embark on. If your child sees mom, dad, and big brother/sister participating they're far more likely to participate. In terms of math, something as simple as providing your child with a budget during the grocery store trip down an aisle that includes their favorite dishes could be an excellent math in the real world example. (OK, Suzy, you have \$6 to spend in this aisle and we'll buy whatever you'd like ...)

Remember, it isn't so much that things are done correctly, it's that they are practicing the craft of reading, writing, storytelling, and computing. It shows implications to real life and affords you an opportunity to model your uses of same during daily activities.

One Final Summer Thought

I think I leave you with this each year, but I feel compelled to honor a mentor of mine who used to say the same thing to staff every year about this time.

While summer is a time of great joy for many children, it's also a time of sadness for many others. The structure, safety, and camaraderie that occurs 177 times during the school year are not options for many students in our community during these months. It does take a village to raise a child and I would encourage you, if you're able, to keep an eye out for those in your local community who may be challenged by this time away from school and do something kind for them: include them on a trip to the pool, for ice cream, the library, picnic, Van Hoosen Farms' activities, etc.

Officer Reports

President, Samantha Phillips

- Hot Topics & follow-up - discussed suggested topics for leadership training and for parent informational topics. Shawn Grant to work on creating parent evening enrichments on: school funding, TETO (Talk Early Talk Often) conversation starters about sex, and student mental health (ie. drugs, cutting, stress).
 - Why PTA? - one page flyer to be shared with schools
 - New schedule with two ½ days for Exams - discussed in letter from Doug Hill, REA
 - New District "Talk to Me" website button - please use it for good, bad, informational comments. This will be closely monitored by the district.
 - OK2Say Program - received support of the district and age appropriate programs will be brought to all buildings.
 - Preliminary 2015-16 Calendar - a few changes needed to be made. A revised calendar will be emailed.
 - Communication - District Administration to Council. A discussion regarding improved communication to the parent population is needed. Example of good communication was the weighted grading scale change. Examples of bad communications were the bond proposal and curriculum changes. Do we need to define our expectations in terms of working relationship and partnership with the RCS administration?
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- On 5/18/15, the RCS Board of Education approved a resolution to prepare a district bond proposal in the amount of \$185 million, to be put onto the November 2015 ballot.
 - Bond Proposal basics, presentation by Lisa Kowalski, district parent.
 - How is RCS able to raise funds to educate our children? What will we get for our money in the expected November 2015 bond proposal? Operating funds compared to bond funds. What items are critical in the next 5 years, and which in the next 10 years? What will happen if the bond doesn't pass? These important topics and more were addressed as understood by Lisa Kowalski, Barb Rill and Lisa Wattai, who have all served on recent district committees.
 - Our last bond was in 2004. There will be another set of bonds expiring in 4 years.
 - No tax increase to raise \$185 million.
 - District Technology & Infrastructure (TI2020) strategic plan, with its building by building plan is available on the district website.
 - The district will be holding a Bond Proposal discussion meeting on Thursday, June 4 at 9:30am in the Harrison Room of the Administration Building. Be ready to bring your questions.
 - PTA Council will need to pass a resolution to support (or not) the bond proposal. All school PTAs in the district can then support the bond based on the Council resolution. This will be discussed in September.

Vice President, Kristen Phillips (absent)

Vice President - Membership, Mandy MacNeil (absent)

Secretary, Nancy Benedettini

- Meeting Minutes of 4/23/15 were approved as corrected.
- **Update PTA Council Directory as officers/chairs are known, Google Docs Link:**
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1_bI9XLGsgy7NxBwu41Ins8wj2m2C8s88A9PgG9r5YDY&authuser=0

Treasurer, Marlena Radabaugh

- Treasurer's Report: April & May transactions presented.
- Send all 2014-15 year expenses needing reimbursement to Marlena by June 15th.
- Proposed budget for 2015-16 school year presented. This budget is presented with a deficit balance. Council has a sizable surplus and this deficit would help to offset surplus.
- Lisa Kowalski provided information regarding 501(c)3 non profit organizations, stating 3-5% of their total budget could be used to support a bond proposal. Estimated budget of \$12,000 x 5% = \$600. This would be the maximum PTA Council could spend to support the bond proposal.

A motion was made by Lisa Kowalski, and seconded by Barb Anness, to amend the budget as presented to add a one time expense item of \$600 to support the 2015 bond ballot proposal. This expense would be dependent upon Council passing a Resolution to support the bond. Council plans to create this Resolution in September. Motion was approved with one NO vote.

A motion was made by Marlena Radabaugh, and seconded by Michelle Bueltel, to approve the budget as amended. Motion was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Reflections – Monika Babiak

- Showcase of artwork
- 2 national winners, 35 state winners
- Next year theme: *Let Your Imagination Fly*
- Next year new ideas - selling notecards with artwork & partnership with PCCA for Arts & Apples festival, profits to Reflections program
- Looking for Council level volunteers

STEAM - Michelle Bueltel

Follow-up & Recap of STEAM Career Exploration Fair held on 5/2/15.

- 500 people attended, including 275 students. Received great feedback.
- Reminder that schools who have not already claimed their \$200 grant can still apply next year. As of now, this is a one time grant.
- Need volunteers to be on the committee next year and looking for a company to donate funds toward our event. Would like 1 liaison per school for committee.
- Please support STEAM initiatives.

Nominating Committee – Mandy MacNeil, Nominating Committee Chair, presented by Mary Jo Cloutier

Presentation of Slate:

President – Samantha Phillips
VP – Barb Rill
VP Membership – Diane Glinski
Treasurer – open
Secretary - Nancy Benedettini

After opening to nominations from the floor, Tracy Gruber was nominated for Treasurer by Jenni Glaspie.

Tracy accepted the position prior to the meeting with Jenni Glaspie, Lori Salyer & Nancy Benedettini.

A motion was made by Barb Anness, and seconded by Monika Babiak, to approve the slate as presented with the addition of Tracy Gruber as Treasurer. Motion was unanimously approved.

Legislative - Barb Anness

Upcoming Important Dates:

Representative Mike Webber's community coffee
Friday, May 22nd, 9-10:30 am, Panera (corner of Walton & Livernois)

PTA Council Legislative Mtg.

Friday, June 5th, 9:30-11 am, RCS Admin. Bldg, Parker Rm on the 2nd floor

Current Education Legislation in Lansing.....

• Michigan House passes schools budget - The total amount of funding in all three budgets is \$15.8 billion, with \$13.9 billion of that in the School Aid Fund budget, which goes toward K-12 schools. The community college budget accounts for \$392.6 million and the higher education budget is \$1.53 billion. - The House budget increases the per pupil foundation allowance between \$137 per student for the highest-funded districts and \$299 per student for the lowest-funded districts. - House Democrats criticized the plan, saying budget gives many charter and cyber schools the full \$299 per pupil increase. "These for-profit cyber schools educate kids on the cheap and pocket the difference between the state revenue and their very low and low quality education," Minority Leader Tim Greimel said. -The elimination of certain categories of funding — such as at-risk, best practices and the distressed districts rehabilitation fund — means some local districts will see a net increase of just \$25 per pupil. - The House eliminated Snyder's proposed an across-the-board \$75 per pupil increase in funding for every school district. Other programs Snyder proposed — such as an increase in funding for career technical education, \$100 million in funding for at risk students and a third-grade reading initiative — were not funded in the House budget. - Full breakdown of the House budget here: <file:///localhost/%3Bhttp://legislature.mi.gov/documents/2015-2016:billanalysis:House:pdf:2015-HLA-4115-1BEEDC8A.pdf> Source: http://www.mlive.com/lansingnews/index.ssf/2015/04/michigan_house_passes_record_s.html - incart_story_package

• House Bill 4390: Michigan House votes to allow personal economics class to be part of high school requirements - House Bill 4390 would amend the Revised School Code to allow high school students to take a half-credit course in personal economics or financial literacy to satisfy their economics graduation requirement. A half-credit of

economics is required to graduate from Michigan high schools. Source:

http://www.mlive.com/lansingnews/index.ssf/2015/05/michigan_house_votes_to_allow.html - incart_story_package

- Senate Bill 103 passes in the Senate: Changes the way teachers are evaluated. The bill decreases in the percentage student growth will play into a teacher's evaluation. - In the first year, 25 percent of a teacher's evaluation will be based on student growth and, in the years after that, that percentage would increase to 40 percent. The bill is scheduled to take effect for the 2017-18 school year. - The rest of the teacher's evaluation would be based on the teacher's evaluation as measured by a model chosen by their school district. - The bill also requires at least two in-classroom observations of teachers, with at least one required to be unscheduled and at least one required to be done by the school's principal. - Teachers must receive feedback on their observations within 30 school days. - The Department of Technology, Management and Budget keeping a list of effective evaluation tools for districts to implement; school administrators' evaluations are not based on a random sampling of teachers but instead on proficiency of using evaluation tools; requiring research-based frameworks for administrator evaluations and including parent, student and teacher feedback in evaluations where available. - The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, or M-STEP, would not play into teacher evaluations until the 2018-19 school year. - Sen. Phil Pavlov, R-St. Clair Township, is the primary sponsor of the bill and he said this would allow more local control. - State Sen. David Knezek, D- Dearborn Heights, voted against the bill in committee and did the same on the floor. Keeping the ability to fire teachers after three years of "ineffective" ratings means evaluations are simply punitive measures, he said. He said the bill gets away from many of the proposals proposed in teacher evaluation reform last year, despite the fact groups from all over the political spectrum agreed on it. "That legislation was created through many hours of what we sometimes refer to as a four-letter word in this chamber, and that's compromise," Knezek said. He said that legislation was the work of the Michigan Council on Educator Effectiveness, and Pavlov's proposal threw away many of the best ideas in that report. "Senate Bill 103 was developed behind closed doors with little input from these very same stakeholders," he said. Source:

http://www.mlive.com/lansingnews/index.ssf/2015/05/changes_to_the_way_teachers_ar.html - incart_story_package

- Senate Bill 209: Would emphasize the teaching of the U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Michigan Constitution in schools. - Sponsored by State Sens. Patrick Colbeck, R- Canton, this bill is meant to require the reading of the actual documents. He's concerned too many students are being taught interpretations of the documents instead of what they actually say. - This bill would encourage age- and grade- level appropriate education for all students in K-12 districts. It would also require the Michigan Department of Education to come up with standards for model curriculum and standards. - The curriculum and standards would then be tested on the social studies portion of the state assessment, currently the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress.

- Senate Bill 211: Would prohibit school boards or school officials from censoring any religious references in the original texts of the U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Michigan Constitution. - Sponsored by Mike Shirkey, R- Clarklake, this is a companion bill to SB 209. - Shirkey told the committee teachers may feel uncomfortable teaching about the religious beliefs of the writers of these documents. He said the religious context of the documents are important and teachers should not be afraid to talk about the religious beliefs of early American leaders in school. Source: http://www.mlive.com/lansingnews/index.ssf/2015/05/michigan_senators_propose_bill.html - incart_story_package

- Senate Bill 139: which would make Michigan exempt from the ban on bake sales in the federal Smart Snacks in School standards. - Passed the Michigan House of Representatives 66-43 Wednesday. The bill now goes back to the Michigan Senate for a concurrence vote and, should it pass the upper chamber as it previously did, it will head to the desk of Gov. Rick Snyder to become law. - The House version of the bill would allow schools to have two, and possibly more, bake sales in a week. The Senate version makes that level three, and possibly more, bake sales per week. - The Senate bill would consider a fundraiser that is scheduled to take place at more than one time during a school day -- say before class and during lunch -- as one fundraiser. If the same bake sale continued over multiple days that would also be considered one fundraiser. - The House version of the bill says a single bake sale fundraiser must take place within one school day. - The bill is now sent back to the Senate to vote on the changes made by the House. Source:

http://www.mlive.com/lansingnews/index.ssf/2015/05/the_great_bake_sale_debate_nea.html

Authors In April - Lisa Wattai

- Showcase of AIA
- Next year: Authors In April Week - April 18 - 22, 2016. Banquet, Monday, April 18, 2016.

New Business

- Thank you to all.
- Gifts given to Council chairs.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:51am.

Quorum was present. Per the Rochester PTA Council Bylaws Approved in 2013; a quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of at least two officers and one delegate from a majority of the member PTA/PTSAs.

Minutes:

Approved as written: X Date: 9/24/2015

Approved as corrected: Date:

Minutes taken by Nancy Benedettini, Secretary