

Minutes

Board of Education of the Rocky River City School District

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution to Adopt Agenda

#97-10

Resolution to Adjourn

#98-10

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Board of Education of the Rocky River City School District

The Board of Education of the Rocky River City School District, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, met in committee session on May 12, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the Curriculum Library at the Board of Education Offices. A digital recording was made of this meeting and is on file in the Office of the Treasurer.

President Jean Rounds presiding

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

PRESENT – Dr. Fancher, Ms. Goepfert, Mr. Milano, Mrs. Rounds, Mr. Swartz

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AGENDA

Resolution No. 97-10

Dr. Fancher moved the adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Rocky River City School District that it hereby adopts this Agenda, including any addendum attached hereto, for its Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting, May 12, 2010.

Ms. Goepfert seconded the resolution and the roll was called:

ROLL CALL

AYES – Dr. Fancher, Ms. Goepfert, Mr. Milano, Mrs. Rounds, Mr. Swartz

The resolution was adopted 5 – 0.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The committees of the Board met.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE - Mrs. Rounds

Discussion was held on the following items:

CAC Report

Mrs. Rounds announced that the last Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting (CAC) for the school year was held on 5/4/10. Ms. Anderson invited the Kensington Intermediate students who participated in Destination Imagination to present to the CAC. Destination Imagination is a program that builds on participants' creativity, problem solving and teamwork. This particular team learned about robotic technology and created a DI-Bot that performed a team-designed motion or task. The team also had to create an original story that integrated the DI-Bot and told how the changes created by robotic technology affected a character's life.

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Guidance Update

Ms. Anderson announced that a new Guidance Brochure will be in place for the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year. Also, summer reading lists have been completed and are posted on the webpage. We are very excited about the 8th grade all-class read *Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland* by Sally M. Walker.

Family and Civic Engagement Team

Rocky River City Schools is set to submit its Family and Civic Engagement Plan and all other required documents after the May business meeting at which the board adopts the Family and Civic Engagement Team resolution. The Curriculum Advisory Committee will serve as the FCE.

Courses of Study

The following courses of study will be on the May business agenda for approval: Introduction to Differential Calculus and Statistics; Freshman Mentoring Program; Technology 6-8. These are all available to view in Ms. Anderson's office.

8th Grade Summer Reading

Goldwood Bus Names

Next year, the Goldwood buses will have new names that refer to local, state or national symbols and are tied to Ohio Academic Content Standards. Examples are Carnation, Stars and Stripes and Buckeye.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE – Mr. Milano

Discussion was held on the following items:

Bond Issue

Attorney Rick Manoloff and financial advisor Mike Sudsina discussed the options available in today's market for issuing school construction bonds. Qualified School Construction Bonds and Build America Bonds are new available options as well as standard issue bonds. The term, current interest rates and timing of issuance were discussed. The Board of Education has applied for Qualified School Construction Bond Funds and is waiting the results of the application to determine the most cost effective plan for issuing Rocky River's construction bonds.

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SCHOOL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE - Ms. Goepfert

Discussion was held on the following items:

Other

Ms. Catherine Manzo has been selected as Library Trustee for the term of 7/1/10 – 6/30/17

The PTA Council Luncheon was held on 5/11/10. The outgoing gifts provided by the Board of Education were very much appreciated. The following are our new PTA Officers for the 2010-2011 school year

Ann Coyne – PTA Council President
Ann Stemen – RRHS PTA President
Sandy Muny – RRMS PTA President
Margie Hackett – Kensington PTA President
Deb DeCarlo – Goldwood PTA President

POLICY AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - Dr. Fancher

Discussion was held on the following items:

Guideline 7510

The changes made in Guideline 7510 included adding custodial costs for snow removal and other activities where custodians are needed. The quality of signage was discussed including the length of time it can be posted. The drafts have been sent to NEOLA. The new guideline will be enforced as of 8/1/10.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Mr. Swartz

Discussion was held on the following items:

List of Bills

Five Year Forecast

Mr. Markus and Mr. Swartz also reviewed the draft five-year forecast with the entire Board, focusing on the fact that the ending estimated unencumbered balance as of June 30, 2011 is only \$63,000 and then negative balances are being predicted going forward unless additional revenue and/or cost reductions are made on top of the ones already anticipated. Mr. Markus explained that revenue is still a major concern, especially real property tax revenues since they are subject to reductions from Board of Revisions and/or Board of Tax Appeals decisions as well as delinquent accounts. Also, there is still a question regarding the contingent premium calculation for health insurance that will be due in fiscal year 2011 since our current plan year does not end until June 30, 2010, but that it may come in lower than the expected \$600,000 which will help the ending balance a bit. Also, Mr. Markus noted

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that the recently passed bond issue did not factor into this draft of the forecast in the way of salary allocations, additional investment earnings and further capital expenditure allocations since the financing plan and project details have not been finalized as of yet; but it did take into account that the major capital needs of the District going forward throughout the forecast will not be assumed to be covered from the District's General Fund on account of the bond issue passing. As details of the construction project and the financing plan are finalized over the next few months, these items will be factored into the next five-year forecast update for October 2010.

Other

Greg Markus, Treasurer, provided a financial update for the month and fiscal year-to-date April, 2010. He noted that the first the District received its first half real property and public utility tangible settlement in April. Based on the settlement amounts received, the related homestead and rollback credit to be received in May that will be \$42,000 below estimate, and the tangible personal property tax received so far this fiscal year, the District is running just about even with annual projections at this point in time taking into account the \$250,000 we are estimating from delinquents to be received through a special advance of delinquent taxes in May. However, because of the earlier March delinquent advance, the May advance be smaller than anticipated. At this point we could see a shortfall of \$100,000 - \$150,000 in that May advance, but there is hope that some additional delinquent collections will be made between now and then that would bridge the gap. Mr. Markus also reported that the District still has delinquent accounts that total approximately \$255,000 as of April 18 as well as cash that has been collected by the County on the District's behalf of approximately \$353,000 of which they are currently holding as a "reserve" and for future advances, fees and Board of Revisions rebates.

Expenditures for the month came in slightly below estimates in total and are still tracking lower for the fiscal YTD due to a few factors. One was that the salary line came back closer to fiscal year-to-date estimates as expected. Also, due to the three-pay month in April, our retirement system expenditures were lower in comparison to salaries since we pay these on a semi-monthly estimate. This amount will move up a bit over the next two months as we close out the fiscal year. We also were under spent in the purchased services area as well due to continued lower than expected rates for natural gas. This was in spite of the Other Objects line coming in significantly above estimates due to the timing of our fees related to the real and public utility tangible property tax settlement hitting our books a month later than expected. When taking into account the fees we were charged by the County for the land bank and tax anticipation notes expense, this pushed us significantly over our fiscal year-to-date estimates in this area. Because of this and the anticipated expense from the State related to our homestead and rollback payment expected in May, the FY 10 and forward estimates have been increased for this area on the updated five-year forecast draft that the Board will be reviewing.

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Another major point still contributing to the positive variance for the fiscal year-to-date was the fact that we have agreed to spread our contingent premium due to Medical Mutual of \$752,000 over three months. Once we are finished paying this bill, we will actually be running moderately above estimates in the employee benefits line and, consequently, possibly in total since our contingent premium came in at \$126,000 over our initial estimate. We owe one more payment of \$250,000 that we are holding off on paying, but the plan is still to pay this by June 30. If we absolutely have to, we have the option to defer the \$250,000 until July of 2010 as a measure to insure that we can accommodate any budgetary concerns if our tax collections end up below estimates and/or we have unforeseen expenditures in other areas between now and June 30.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Residents, students, staff, and others invited by the President of the Board or the Superintendent may address the Board at this time.

None

REVIEW OF AGENDA FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 20, 2010

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN

Resolution No. 98-10

Dr. Fancher moved the adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Rocky River City School District that it hereby adjourn.

Ms. Goepfert seconded the resolution and the roll was called:

ROLL CALL

AYES – Dr. Fancher, Ms. Goepfert, Mr. Milano, Mrs. Rounds, Mr. Swartz

The resolution was adopted 5 – 0.

President

Treasurer