

**Minutes of the NORTH ROYALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION Special Meeting**  
**Held March 18, 2015 7:30 AM**  
**North Royalton Board of Education Administrative Conference Room**

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**SUMMARY**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
  - II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  - III. ROLL CALL
  - IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
  - V. BOARD DISCUSSION
  - VI. RESOLUTION 2015-105: Motion to Adjourn
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- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** President Anne Reinkober called the Regular Meeting of the North Royalton Board of Education to order at 6:30 PM, March 18, 2015, at the North Royalton Board of Education Administrative Conference Room.
  - II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** President Anne Reinkober requested all present to join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
  - III. **ROLL CALL.** Present: President Anne Reinkober, Vice-President Jacquelyn Arendt, Dr. Susan Clark and Dr. John Kelly. Barbara Zindroski arrived at 7:00 PM. Also present were Superintendent Gregory Gurka and Treasurer Biagio Sidoti.
  - IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.** The public is invited to speak to any of the agenda items. Comments should be limited to five minutes. No speakers addressed the board.
  - V. **BOARD DISCUSSION.**
    - a. Boardmanship  
Topics to Include (from December 2014 Board Meeting):
      - a. Governing Rules (as listed on the board page of the district website)
      - b. Transparency
      - c. Robert's Rules of Order
      - d. Policy Sections 123 Code of Ethics, 148 Public Expression of Board Members and 149 Access to Records

**No Surprises Rule:** Mrs. Reinkober explained that Board members who wish to introduce an agenda item give other Board members the common courtesy of providing the information prior to the meeting. Mrs. Arendt and Dr. Clark agreed with this and both expressed that getting information to review in a timely matter is appreciated. Dr. Kelly talked about the fact that there is at least a week and a half between the time Board members receive meeting agenda drafts and the meeting. He feels that this gives everyone ample time to research and introduce any concerns they wish to discuss. He also explained that if something does come to a Board member at the last minute that they feel cannot wait until the next meeting, then it is probably a matter that should be brought up immediately to the Superintendent and not at a Board meeting. Dr. Clark and Dr. Kelly both agreed that Board members should all have the same information to go over before a discussion so that they are all prepared and can have intelligent conversations. It was discussed among everyone present that the purpose of handing out the agenda the Friday before a work session was to have adequate time to review it.

**Procedures of Placing and Item on the Board Agenda:** Dr. Kelly talked about the *Finalization of Agenda* portion of the board meeting. That time of the board meeting is the opportunity to add something or take something away from the agenda. Any Board member can make a motion to change, add or delete an item. If another member agrees, they second the motion. The Board then votes on adding the item to the agenda. There is also a time at the Thursday meeting to ask questions or add things. If for any reason at a meeting, an item is added to the agenda after the *Finalization of Agenda* section, a 2/3 majority vote is required to make any change at the Additional Business section.

Mrs. Reinkober brought up Robert's Rules of Order in response to a discussion at the January Organizational Meeting. She explained that Robert's Rules of Order would come into play when there is a conflict with the policy. Our policy states that the board agenda is put together by the Superintendent and Treasurer in conjunction with the Board President. She confirmed that everyone needs to work together to provide information to one another in order to add items to the agenda.

**One Decision, One Board:** Mrs. Reinkober asked the Board if when an issue is voted upon, should all Board members support the issue, even if there is a dissenting vote? She believes that comments should be reserved for the meeting. Everyone should feel that they can speak their mind at the meeting and have their opinions expressed. Dr. Clark noted that there will be times when the Board is not in full agreement on a matter. One party may try to persuade the other parties to agree with their point of view. If the argument is unpersuasive, then the person needs to accept it.

Mrs. Reinkober believes the following: *"The meetings are our forum. Comments, questions and discussions are important to our decision making and the public has the right to expect that the discussion takes place at the meeting - not in emails, Facebook posts, letters to the editor or newspaper articles."* The other Board members present agreed that this is part of the duties and ethics of being a Board member. The Board discussed that they agree conversations should take place at meetings. If something is placed in the newspaper, it is one person's point of view instead of the Board's view as a whole. Dr. Kelly expressed that it can be difficult when you don't agree with the vote to have to accept it and be quiet, but it is how things should be run.

There was a question from John Kohl. He asked what "speak as one voice" meant. He questioned if it meant that the dissenting person go out and advocate for the Board's decision or should they just remain silent on the issue they did not agree with? The Board discussed and agreed that the meeting is the place for Board members to express their opinions. If they are asked outside of a meeting why they voted against a particular item, they should respond that their comments were made at the meeting. The board meetings are all taped and available

on the website if any member of the community wishes to hear the discussions that took place at a meeting. After board meetings are over, the decisions are final, and all Board members should be done commenting on these decisions.

Dr. Clark explained that other public officials do not speak in the same way a Board of Education speaks. A Board of Education does not want to create factions within itself because it's divisive and harmful to the community and to school districts. To family and children, it creates uncertainty. We do not want acrimony among our policy makers because it sends a message to the school administration and to the families that there is a lack of support and unity for the direction of the school district. It is very important that we debate, reason, and have a heads up on information so that we can accurately prepare our arguments or positions. Once the majority has made their decision – that is one decision. Board members then support the actions of the Board. Dr. Clark is in favor of heated debates that are civil, but once the decision is made, she accepts the possibility of her position not being supported.

Mrs. Arendt has been involved in other organizations and boards. She believes that she has the duty to carry the voice of the Board forward and in the best interest of the district.

Mrs. Zindroski arrived at 7:00 PM

b. Board Goals

- Mrs. Arendt would like to have more discussion about programs that are offered in the district. It was decided that Mr. Gurka would come up with a list of district programs for the next work session. The Board can decide which programs they would like to learn more about and schedule them for the remainder of the year. This will be advantageous to both the Board and the community. *The final goal is to become more knowledgeable about school programs and operations through presentations by members of the administration on a monthly basis.*
- Dr. Kelly would like to see the district use a Cloud based program. The Board determined that Superintendent Gurka will gather information from the company, Board Docs, and also research Google Docs to see how we can utilize a cloud based program.

*It was established that the goal to have a Cloud based program for board meetings and board material be implemented by October of 2015. This gives several months for research and professional development to put this into place.*

VI. RESOLUTION 2015-105: Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:30 PM.

Moved by Kelly

Seconded by Clark

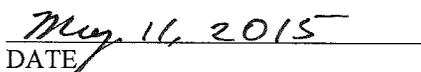
Voting Aye: Kelly, Clark, Arendt, Reinkober, Zindroski

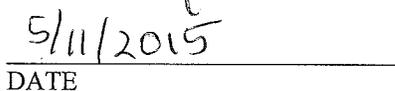
Motion Carried

ATTEST:

  
TREASURER

  
BOARD PRESIDENT

  
DATE

  
DATE