

**Minutes of the NORTH ROYALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting/Work Session
Held April 9, 2015
North Royalton High School Community Room**

SUMMARY

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. RESOLUTION 2015-106: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- VI. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
- VII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS
- VIII. RESOLUTION 2015-107: ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION
- IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- X. RESOLUTION 2015-108: Motion to Adjourn

I. CALL TO ORDER. President Anne Reinkober called the Regular Meeting of the North Royalton Board of Education to order at 6:30 PM, April 9, 2015, at the North Royalton High School Community 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 and Barbara Zindroski. Also present were Superintendent Gregory Gurka and Treasurer Biagio Sidoti.

IV. RESOLUTION 2015-106: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA. Resolve the Board of Education to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by Clark

Seconded by Arendt

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

Motion Carried

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: The public is invited to speak to any of the agenda items and other school topics at this time. Comments should be limited to five minutes. No speakers addressed the Board.

VI. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent's Update:

Substitute Services: Mr. Gurka discussed the district's substitute needs and the services that we currently use. Mr. Farrell, Director of Personnel, is analyzing our current service and researching another service to see the best way to move forward next school year.

High School Testing Schedule: The schedule for the first round of high school PARCC and AIR exams was as follows: freshmen with the last name A-L had testing in the morning and freshmen with the last name M-Z had testing in the afternoon. This was put into place so that the schedule for the entire student body was not disrupted. This caused the freshmen to miss class for several days in a row. Mr. Becerra, High School principal, has developed a schedule for the second round of testing so that the freshmen do not miss class again. This will involve two late arrival days for sophomores, juniors and seniors on April 21st and April 23rd. The May late arrival will be cancelled. The late arrival days have an adjusted bell schedule, allowing students to attend all classes and also get the second round of PARCC and AIR testing in.

Calamity Packets: Our calendar year has 180 days which allows for six snow days. We used all six snow days this year. Our 8th graders and 12th graders have a different calendar because of graduation and different programming for them. Mr. Gurka has communicated with Mr. Cicerchi, Middle School Principal and Mr. Becerra, High School Principal, that 8th grade and 12th grade students will have to complete a Blizzard Bag for the extra day they will miss in their calendar year.

Strategic Plan: Committees are meeting. The draft of the Strategic Plan will be ready soon for approval in June. Results of the community survey were handed out to Board members.

Board Goal - Paperless Cloud Based System: Mr. Gurka discussed the research being done and some ideas on how the district can move toward a cloud based system for board agendas and other board information.

Staffing: Mr. Gurka reported to the Board what our personnel department is working on in regards to staffing for the 2015-16 school year. He went over retirements, positions not being filled and three new positions.

OhioCheckbook.com: The Office of Josh Mandel, Treasurer of Ohio, has launched OhioCheckbook.com. This new website allows government entities to share state spending spanning the past seven years. The website was created to empower citizens to see how their tax dollars are being spent and to provide public officials with a tool to improve efficiency. Mr. Sidoti has filled out an application to list our district financial information on this website.

Community Engagement Taskforce: The taskforce has had a couple of meetings. A survey was conducted for district staff and the results were shared with the taskforce. The committee is currently working on a community survey. The community will get this information via a postcard mailed to every household. The postcards are at the printer now and should be mailed in the near future.

The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC): The OFCC came out for an initial meeting with our district. They are going to evaluate our buildings and give us a report. This information will be shared with the Community Engagement Task Force to assist in determining how to move forward with our facilities.

Treasurer Sidoti distributed financial packets for the month ending March 31, 2015 and the Suburban Health information. He also passed out an agreement for the State Auditor that will be on the agenda for Monday, April 13,

2015. Mr. Sidoti will have the tax rate information by the next board meeting. The Five Year Forecast should be ready for discussion in May.

Upcoming Meeting Agenda Review:

The board reviewed the April 13, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda and made changes where needed.

Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting March 18, 2015 minutes need to be amended before signature at the next meeting.

VII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

1. Recap of Boardmanship and Board Goals Discussion

As a recap of the Special Meeting on March 18, 2015, there was conversation amongst the Board members about the correct process of adding an item to the board agenda. The difference between adding an item to the agenda and discussing something in the Additional Business portion of the agenda was debated. Policy 165.1 states how the board agenda is put together and the process for a Board member to add an item to the agenda.

There was dialogue about Policy 0118 in relation to transparency and getting information at the last minute for discussion at a board meeting. As a rebuttal to the point of bringing discussion items to the board meetings at the last minute without all members receiving information prior, Mrs. Zindroski brought up a past executive session in which the interview process of the treasurer was discussed. She brought and read emails pertaining to this subject. There was a clerical error stating that Mrs. Zindroski was present and had a vote at this meeting when she in fact left early. This was rectified in amended minutes at the following board meeting. Mrs. Zindroski felt that she was not properly informed of the interview and hiring process of the treasurer. In continuing to make her point, she also brought and read emails between district administration and newspaper entities concerning incorrect information in a letter to the editor. Mrs. Zindroski, Dr. Kelly and Mr. Gurka debated the meaning behind the email exchange with differences of opinion. This led to talk about the Board's responsibility to the public. Mrs. Zindroski stated that she feels Board members have the responsibility to represent the public – even if they are not present at the meeting. The public participation portion of the agenda was brought up to reiterate that this is the portion of the meeting for community members to speak their opinions. Dr. Kelly discussed that he feels the Board of Education is there to represent everyone, not just people that complain. He believes that it is their job to educate the public that their opinions can be heard in during the public participation portion of the meeting without retaliation. To sum up the conversation, Mr. Gurka explained that the function of the Community Engagement Task Force is to gather the opinions of everyone. This task force will assemble the opinions of the community and staff to make the best decisions possible for the district.

Board Goal to Become More Knowledgeable about School Programs and Operations: Mr. Gurka brought a list of programs for the Board members to look at so that they can decide which items to discuss at future board meetings. The next discussion for the May meeting will be from our maintenance and custodial departments.

2. Legal Counsel Representation

The Board is in the process of gathering information on additional legal counsel candidates. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

VIII. RESOLUTION 2015-107: ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION. Adjourn to executive session at PM to discuss the employment of personnel and matters required to be kept confidential by law.

Moved by Kelly
Voting Aye: Kelly, Zindroski, Clark, Arendt, Reinkober
Motion Carried

Seconded by Zindroski

Meeting called back to order at 8:39 PM

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

PHNR Meeting	April 15, 2015	9:00 AM at NRHS Community Room
Financial Audit & Advisory Committee	April 16, 2015	7:00 PM at NR Board Office
N. R. Recreation Board Meeting	April 28, 2015	6:00 PM at NR City Hall
Curriculum Advisory Committee	April 29, 2015	9:00 AM at NRHS Community Room
Regular Board Meeting/Work Session	May 7, 2015	6:30 PM at NRHS Community Room
Regular Board Meeting	May 11, 2015	7:00 PM at NRHS Community Room

X. RESOLUTION 2015-108: Motion to Adjourn
Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:40 PM.

Moved by Kelly
Voting Aye: Kelly, Clark, Zindroski, Arendt, Reinkober
Motion Carried

Seconded by Clark

ATTEST:

Biagio Sidoti
TREASURER

Amir
BOARD PRESIDENT

May 11, 2015
DATE

5/11/2015
DATE