

**Minutes of the NORTH ROYALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting/Work Session  
Held May 7, 2015  
North Royalton High School Community Room**

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**SUMMARY**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. RESOLUTION 2015-133: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- VI. CVCC UPDATE
- VII. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
- VIII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS
- IX. RESOLUTION 2015-134: ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION
- X. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- XI. RESOLUTION 2015-135: 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, May 7, 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, and Dr. John Kelly. Dr. Susan Clark was not present. Barbara Zindroski arrived at 6:45 PM. Also present were Superintendent Gregory Gurka, Treasurer Biagio Sidoti and Assistant Superintendent Jim Presot.

**IV. RESOLUTION 2015-133: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA.** Resolve the Board of Education to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by Kelly

Seconded by Arendt

Voting Aye: Kelly, Arendt, Reinkober

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. CVCC UPDATE:** Mr. Russ Wells reported to the Board on the happenings at CVCC.

- The CVCC has approximately 100 students that are continuing on to national competitions in their area of study.
- CVCC is entering into negotiations and should wrap up by the end of the month.
- End of the year award ceremonies are currently in progress.
- The CVCC treasurer presented the five year forecast at the last meeting.
- The new high school assistant principal, Josh Hayes was board approved.

Mrs. Zindroski arrived at 6:45 PM.

**VII. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Superintendent's Update:**

*Staffing:* This year alone, we have 19.5 retirements/resignations. We determined that 7.5 of those positions can be reduced, restructured, or eliminated. We need to create four new positions, so there is a net loss of 3.5 positions. These staff changes, coupled with the closing of the ECC, will yield a savings to the district of a little more than \$1 million.

This is not accidental and takes a lot of effort and dedication. Mr. Gurka thanked Treasurer, Biagio Sidoti, and the administrative team and staff for their efforts to provide a top-notch educational program that is valued by our community at one of the lowest costs per pupil in Cuyahoga County.

*Strategic Plan:* The Board received copies of the draft Strategic Plan. The administrative team previously reviewed it with some minor changes. There is a District Leadership Team meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> to review the plan. It will be finalized and put on the June board meeting agenda for approval.

*Spring Crystal Starfish Awards:* The spring Crystal Starfish Awards will be presented on May 21, 2015.

*Substitute Services:* Mr. Patrick Farrell, Director of Personnel, is continuing to research our substitute services. The fill rates with the ESC seem to be a little better than what we are currently getting. While there is a cost increase associated with changing services, Mr. Farrell is researching if the fill rate would actually reduce our costs in the long run. It is more cost effective to have a substitute fill a vacancy than to period sub the position. Another factor of consideration is the quality of substitutes. The ESC has a two day extensive training program for their non-certified substitutes before they assign them to work. Our staff will be surveyed to see how they feel about our current services. We hope to have a decision by June.

*Curriculum Facilitator:* Mrs. Ann Radefeld will continue in this role for the next two years.

Commencement is scheduled for May 29, 2015.

*Community Engagement Taskforce:* The most recent meeting started the touring of the school buildings. One of the main things the committee learned is that there are many long term things that need fixing. The number one response in the staff survey seemed to be the health and safety of the students. The results of this survey are posted on the district website. The community survey was completed on May 4, 2015.

Mr. Jim Presot, Assistant Superintendent reported on several items:

*Land Sale:* Earlier this year, the district had a parcel of land that was for sale. At the time of the auction, no parties expressed an interest, however Mr. Sam Petros later put in a bid of \$200,000 which the board approved at the February 9, 2015 board meeting. The current Board resolution with Petros Homes is set to expire on Monday, May 14, 2015.

*Safety:* We are working with a company called Navigate that will make our district Safety Plans much easier to use. There is a one-time fee associated with this service and an annual per building fee after the initial start-up cost. This will be further discussed at a board meeting this summer with Officer Jon Karl and a representative of Navigate.

*Albion Cell Tower:* We were contacted by the carrier of our Albion cell tower and they would like to renegotiate the ground lease. The district currently receives revenues/royalties from this cell tower agreement and these funds are earmarked for technology.

*Food Services Department:* The revenues from this department have gone down for several reasons. Student participation in the school lunch program has gone down. There were two staff retirements that we pay severance to. The cost of healthier food choices has increased prices in food. The food services department loses approximately \$1,100 a day when there is a snow day. The department put out a survey to some of our students to examine how they feel about the current lunch program offerings. The lunch prices may need to be increased by approximately \$.25. Mr. Presot researched other districts and many of the lunch prices are more expensive than ours.

*Enrollment:* Mr. Presot distributed enrollment projections to the Board. The trend is that our population has tapered off and is projected to go down. There are other factors that contribute to our projections such as: private schools that offer all-day kindergarten, typical peers in our pre-school program are no longer counted in our pre-k totals and there has been a decrease in the live birth rate.

*Discussion:* Dr. Kelly requested to have a future executive session to review the new Navigate system.

Treasurer Sidoti distributed financial documents for the month ending April 30, 2015, the Suburban health information and the Five Year Forecast. He reviewed several parts of the Five Year Forecast with the Board.

#### **Upcoming Meeting Agenda Review:**

The board reviewed the May 11, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda and made changes where needed.

### **VIII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

1. *Length of Administrative Contract:* Mr. Gurka spoke about the length of administrative contracts per a request from Mrs. Zindroski. The contracts and salaries of administrators have previously been board approved. The district does not negotiate the salary of the administrative contract. The initial length of an administrative contract is two years. If the administrator performs satisfactorily during this time period, they then get a three year contract. In response to the possibility of going to a one year contract, Mr. Gurka explained that teachers considering going into administration already have continuing contracts. As an administrator, you don't get a continuing contract until after two years. If we only offer a one year contract, there is no incentive to entice someone to leave a continuing teacher contract.
2. *Legal Counsel Representation:* this discussion will be postponed until the June work session when Dr. Clark will be present to give her findings
3. *Ohio Checkbook.com:* Mrs. Zindroski would like to have a resolution to consider posting our district's financial documents with Ohiocheckbook.com. The Board discussed this and it was decided to postpone the resolution until the State Auditor's office is ready to launch this program. The Board was updated by administration that an application has been completed to participate in the Ohiocheckbook.com program.

- IX. RESOLUTION 2015-134: ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Adjourn to executive session at 8:25 PM to for the purpose of considering the employment of a District employee, to consider the dismissal of a District employee, and to consider a matter that state and federal law requires to be kept confidential.

Moved by Kelly

Seconded by Zindroski

Voting Aye: Kelly, Zindroski, Arendt, Reinkober

Motion Carried

Meeting called back to order at 9:10 PM

### **X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PHNR Meeting	May 20, 2015	9:00 AM at NRHS Community Room
N. R. Recreation Board Meeting	May 26, 2015	6:00 PM at N. R. City Hall
Policy Committee Meeting	May 27, 2015	5:30 PM at NR Board Office
Regular Board Meeting/Work Session	June 4, 2015	6:30 PM at NRHS Community Room
Regular Board Meeting	June 8, 2015	7:00 PM at NRHS Community Room
Special Appropriation Board Meeting	June 25, 2015	6:30 PM at NR Admin. Conf. Rm

- XI. RESOLUTION 2015-135:** Motion to Adjourn  
Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:10 PM.

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

Seconded by Arendt

ATTEST:

Bryan Sidot  
TREASURER

Ampin  
BOARD PRESIDENT

June 8, 2015  
DATE

6/8/2015  
DATE