

**Minutes of the NORTH ROYALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION Special Meeting**  
**Held September 17, 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 2015-312: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- VI. RESOLUTION 2015-313: RESOLUTION OPPOSING HB70 AS IT RELATES TO THE YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOLS AND ITS BOARD OF EDUCATION
- VII. REVIEW OF LEGAL COUNSEL RFPs (Request for Proposals).
- VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- IX. RESOLUTION 2015-314: ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION
- X. RESOLUTION 2015-315: MOTION TO ADJOURN

**I. CALL TO ORDER.** President Anne Reinkober called the special meeting of the North Royalton Board of Education to order at 6:30 PM, September 17, 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. John Kelly and Barbara Zindroski. Dr. Susan Clark was not in attendance. Also present were Superintendent Gregory Gurka and Treasurer Biagio Sidoti.

**IV. RESOLUTION 2015-312: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA.** Resolve the Board of Education to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by Kelly

Seconded by Arendt

Voting Aye: Kelly, Arendt, Zindroski, 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. RESOLUTION 2015-313: RESOLUTION OPPOSING HB70 AS IT RELATES TO THE YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOLS AND ITS BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

WHEREAS, public schools have been the hallmark of the American education system and the foundation of the nation's democracy; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's schools have traditionally been governed by an elected Board of Education whose members have been chosen by their fellow community members to make sound decisions about educating their community's children and to determine the most effective use of local tax dollars in pursuit of that goal; and

WHEREAS, those restructuring changes were contained in a last-minute amendment to House Bill 70, which the Ohio General Assembly passed without any serious input from the Youngstown City Board of Education or Youngstown community; and

WHEREAS, this amendment was adopted by Columbus-based legislators with little or no connection to the Youngstown community and without any genuine effort to engage those most affected by the action; and

WHEREAS, this legislation lays the groundwork for the same restructuring changes to take place in other districts across the state

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the elected members of the North Royalton City School District Board of Education, on behalf of the children and community we serve, do object and protest the manner in which this legislation was passed and question how district reforms and improvements can be achieved without involving and engaging the elected Board of Education and Youngstown community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we ask the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, as the manager of the academic distress commission process, to take appropriate steps to engage the elected Board of Education and community in the school improvement process prior to appointment of the new CEO; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we implore members of the Ohio General Assembly, the State Board of Education, and Governor John R. Kasich to seek amendments to House Bill 70 and the academic distress commission procedures that will preserve and enhance democracy and local control; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such amendments should embrace the original intent of House Bill 70: to foster community engagement and collaboration and to create community learning centers to better serve Youngstown's children and families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Royalton City Schools Board of Education hereby adopts this resolution and directs the District Treasurer to reflect this action in the Board of Education's meeting minutes and that copies be distributed to the Governor, members of the Ohio General Assembly, the State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Moved by Arendt

Seconded by Kelly

Voting Aye: Arendt, Kelly, Zindroski, Reinkober

Motion Carried

## VII. REVIEW OF LEGAL COUNSEL RFPs (Request for Proposals)

Mrs. Reinkober began the discussion by reviewing the purpose of the Request for Proposals (RFPs) as discussed at prior board meetings. Her understanding was for the board to get a clear view of all the legal firms available to us and evaluate if a change is needed. She then invited other interpretation of why we are going through this process to have a clear objective of the meeting.

Mrs. Arendt was of the same understanding.

Mrs. Zindroski's understanding of the process was to also see what legal firms were available to the board, to do a cost comparison, and issues raised with existing counsel.

Dr. Kelly commented that he recalls a conversation at a prior meeting that the board does not have issues with our current counsel and Mrs. Arendt agreed.

Mrs. Reinkober suggested that the board come to a general consensus given the disagreement as to why we are reviewing existing counsel and invited suggestions on how to proceed.

Mrs. Zindroski suggested to go by who we already selected, choose a few others and not go over four or five firms to interview.

Mrs. Reinkober shared that her review of the RFPs resulted in not seeing a difference between the attorneys that submitted RFPs and our existing attorney's RFPs.

Mrs. Arendt agreed the RFPs were similar.

Mrs. Zindroski's review of the RFPs and online research resulted in her choice of four firms she would like to interview.

Mrs. Arendt asked Mrs. Zindroski to share her research and decision making process of the firms she selected.

Mrs. Zindroski didn't recall her online research and also evaluated based on cost which she believes is very important. She gave examples of attorney fees being \$175 an hour while others were \$290 and some went as high as \$340 per hour. She tried to go between \$175 and \$290 per hour, but the selection was not all about money. She tried to look at the accomplishments and agreed with Mrs. Reinkober's statement about the RFPs being similar. She believes the board should interview the firms, find out what they are like, and see what they can contribute to the district and perhaps save a little money.

Dr. Kelly expressed his concern of not being comfortable with the idea of selecting an attorney based on cost and believes the board should consider who they think would best serve the district.

Mrs. Zindroski replied that she didn't include the lowest cost attorney who was between \$150 and \$180. She also understood these firms to be extra special with special education and some are special with other things so why are we limiting ourselves to one or two when we can possibly bring on a few at no extra cost to us.

Dr. Kelly reminded everyone of our current legal counsel of Riley; Ennis, Britton; and Smith, Peters & Kalail.

Mrs. Zindroski expressed her interest in bringing people in to interview and see what they have to say. She also suggested that we may veer away from the ones we have now and establish a better working relationship with others.

Mrs. Reinkober stated that she believes we have a good working relationship with existing counsel.

Mrs. Zindroski doesn't believe there is a good working relationship and mentioned current counsel not addressing the board with a case that was outstanding over a lawsuit that no one knew about. She also stated that she has called current counsel and has not received a return call because current counsel either doesn't want to talk to her or it's because she's not the board president. For these reasons, she is not pleased with current counsel. She also mentioned current counsel has taken single board members out of a room and didn't know why. For these reasons and others discussed in executive session, she doesn't feel comfortable with legal counsel.

Dr. Kelly requested Mrs. Zindroski's list of firms she would like to interview.

Mrs. Zindroski provided Brindza, McIntyre & Seed; Matt Markling; Pepple & Wagner; and Smith, Peters & Kalail.

Mrs. Arendt didn't agree with Matt Markling due to the request to be in-house counsel which does not fit our current structure.

Mrs. Arendt suggested interviewing Riley; Squires; and Ennis, Britton.

Dr. Kelly stated that he did not agree with Mrs. Zindroski's assessment of current counsel and talked to the last two superintendents and the last treasurer who gave rave reviews.

Mrs. Zindroski disagreed and brought up a lawsuit in Cleveland involving a young man or a couple of children going to a school for which we were not paying the school.

Mr. Gurka explained that we were not involved in a lawsuit and that we were working through student billing invoices for which we disagreed with. It was not a lawsuit and we were not involved in a lawsuit.

Dr. Kelly suggested to include Haverfield on the list to interview.

Mrs. Arendt agreed with the list to interview.

Mrs. Reinkober reviewed the list of firms to interview to include:

1. Brindza, McIntyre & Seed
2. Ennis & Britton
3. Pepple & Wagner
4. Riley
5. Smith, Peters & Kalail
6. Squire, Patton & Boggs
7. Walter Haverfield

Mrs. Reinkober also invited any other discussion as it relates to the RFP process and thanked everyone. She also reviewed the announcements and asked if there were any changes.

Mrs. Zindroski excused herself from the remainder of the meeting.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Community Engagement Task Force Mtg.	Sept. 22, 2015	7:00 PM NRMS
Rec. Board Meeting	Sept. 29, 2015	6:00 PM NRHS City Hall
Transportation Appeals Committee Meeting	Oct. 6, 2015	9:30 AM BOE Conference Rm.
Regular Board Meeting/Work Session	Oct. 8, 2015	6:30 PM NRHS Community Rm.
Regular Board Meeting	Oct. 12, 2015	7:00 PM NRHS Community Rm.

**IX. RESOLUTION 2015-314: ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Motion to go into executive session at 7:00 PM to consider matters required to be kept confidential by law.

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

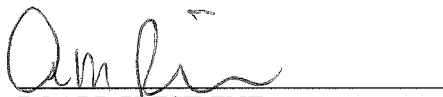
Called the meeting back to order at 7:11 PM.

**X. RESOLUTION 2015-315:** Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:12 PM.

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

ATTEST:

  
 TREASURER

  
 BOARD PRESIDENT

10/12/15  
 DATE

10/12/2015  
 DATE

