

**Minutes of the NORTH ROYALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting/Work Session  
Held February 5, 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 2015-50: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA
- V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- VI. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
- VII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS
- VIII. RESOLUTION 2015-51: ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION
- IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- X. RESOLUTION 2015-52: 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, February 5, 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. Barbara Zindroski was not in attendance. Also present were Superintendent Gregory Gurka, Assistant Superintendent Jim Presot, and Treasurer Biagio Sidoti.

**IV. RESOLUTION 2015-50: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA.** Resolve the Board of Education to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by Kelly

Seconded by Clark

Voting Aye: Kelly, Clark, 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. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**1. Superintendent's Update:**

Mr. Gurka discussed the Facilities Task Force and invited Mr. Weimer, head of the task force, and Mr. Callaghan, consultant for the task force, to speak to the board.

Mr. Weimer introduced Mr. O'Callaghan and explained to the board that Mr. O'Callaghan's method of engaging the community is something that we have not done as a district. Mr. Callaghan has successfully worked with many districts in this area. He is also a published author of books on community engagement. Mr. O'Callaghan addressed the board and discussed some of his strategies for addressing our community and figuring out solutions to our current facility issues.

Mr. Weimer also talked about this as not being a means to another bond issue. It's about finding out what is right for the community and letting them decide when the right time is for another bond issue. Once people understand the problem and the severity of it, then they can help decide what the options are. The task force can educate the public of what some of the viable solutions are. He has made a conscious effort to balance the people on the task force to include all different views.

Mr. Gurka discussed the district's Strategic Plan. He is working with our District Leadership Team (DLT), made up of administrators and teachers, to develop a three year plan vs. a five year plan. Members of our DLT have volunteered to take the lead to work on various committees dealing with student achievement, communication, facilities and finances. In addition, Mr. Gurka also spoke with the PTA to get volunteers from the community to work on various projects to get community engagement and communication. Mr. Sidoti will talk to the Finance Advisory and Audit committee to get members to work on the finance piece. The facilities task force will work on our facilities goal. The aim is to have a draft of the new Strategic Plan by May and adopt the new three year Strategic Plan in June.

Mr. Gurka addressed the board with a plan about the possibility of closing of the Early Childhood Center (ECC). Today, Mr. Gurka and his Administrative Team visited the ECC and elementary buildings to inform the staff that a discussion of the ECC will take place this evening. Over the past few months, when looking at staffing and class numbers, it became evident that due to grade level sizes, we would be in a position to reduce elementary staffing through attrition and other methods, which opened up classrooms in the three buildings. This created an opportunity to look to bring the pre-k and kindergarten back to the three elementary buildings next year. The ECC was created back in 2003 and was a wonderful temporary fix for thirteen years. One of the educational values of going back to the elementary schools is eliminating the transition for kindergarteners going to first grade. It also provides them with the opportunity to have role models in the older grades. It makes it easier for our kindergarten teachers to communicate with the teachers at the elementary levels. There is a significant cost savings in going back to the elementary schools. The goal is to do this without losing any staff.

Mrs. Arendt questioned if moving the ECC classes back to the elementary buildings would require re-districting. Mr. Gurka explained that we are not looking at changing any of the programs that we offer nor do we see a need for redistricting. We currently offer three sections of all-day, every day kindergarten. We will continue to offer this with one section of all-day kindergarten at each elementary building. In addition, we will still offer every other day kindergarten – two sections at Royal View with one teacher to fill those sections; two sections at Valley Vista with one teacher to fill those sections; and three sections at Albion with one and a half teachers to fill those sections. Preschool will be at Royal View elementary.

Dr. Kelly asked about the classified staff that is currently employed at the ECC. The ECC has a head custodian, a utility custodian and a cleaner. They also have a cafeteria manager, several aides and a secretary. Mr. Gurka is hoping that through attrition, we can place those employees.

Dr. Kelly also asked about over flow if we have larger numbers of students in future years. The facilities task force is going to study our facilities and plan for this. There are certain things we can do such as adding modular units, putting "art on a cart" or "music on a cart" instead of having their own classroom.

There was discussion on where the Pupil Services department would go. They used to be in the high school. There is a section of the high school that was specifically designed to be an administrative office. It has since been repurposed. It may be possible to reutilize that space. Another option is to put a second modular unit by the board office, but that would require an expenditure.

Moving kindergarten back to the elementary will allow for some things that weren't possible at the ECC. For example, students will be in an appropriately sized classroom; they will have the full elementary experience of specials; may get to experience intramural programs; get to take part in all school assemblies; students can be involved in cross grade-level programs by working with older peers. Another positive for students is that the bus rides won't be as long.

At the end of this conversation it was decided to further discuss the closing of the ECC at the March meeting with a possible resolution on the agenda.

Mr. Presot gave the board a contract for Taylor Consulting. This company will work with us to develop bid specs for our district roof projects. They assist with bids and also oversee the project as the work is being done correctly. He also discussed the bids received from six companies for our roof project and which company was chosen to do this work.

Mr. Sidoti discussed the district's budget with the board. Our district is on the positive end of the budget proposal that was listed in the paper from the governor. While North Royalton may receive additional funding from the state, we will still rely heavily on local property taxes.

**2. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Review:**

The board reviewed the February 9, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda and made changes where needed.

**VII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

It was decided that the board will hold a special meeting at a later date for the purpose of discussing Boardmanship. Mrs. Reinkober asked Dr. Kelly and Dr. Clark to come up with a process to develop the superintendent and treasurer evaluations so that we can establish goals for the year.

**VIII. RESOLUTION 2015-51: ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Adjourn to executive session at 8:15 PM to discuss matters required to be kept confidential by law and to consider the sale of property at competitive pricing.

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

Seconded by Arendt

Meeting called back to order at 9:05 PM

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

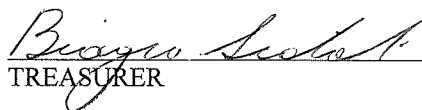
PHNR Meeting	February 11, 2015	9:00 AM NRHS Community Room
N. R. Recreation Board Meeting	February 24, 2015	6:00 PM at N. R. City Hall
Regular Board Meeting/Work Session	March 5, 2015	6:30 PM at NRHS Community Room
Regular Board Meeting	March 9, 2015	7:00 PM at NRHS Community Room
Financial Audit & Advisory Committee	April 16, 2015	7:00 PM at NR Board Office

**X. RESOLUTION 2015-52: Motion to Adjourn**  
Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:04 PM.

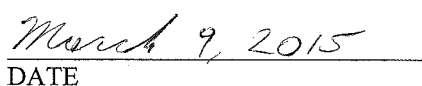
Moved by Kelly  
Voting Aye: Kelly, Arendt, Reinkober, Clark  
Motion Carried

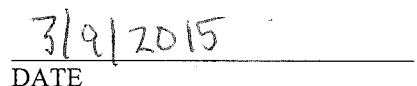
Seconded by Arendt

ATTEST:

  
TREASURER

  
BOARD PRESIDENT

  
DATE

  
DATE