

Minutes of the NORTH ROYALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Meeting/Work Session

Held _____

DECEMBER 4

2014

SUMMARY

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. RESOLUTION 2014-275: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA
- V. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS
- VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- VII. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
- VIII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS OF BOARD MEMBERS
- IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- X. ADJOURN

I. **CALL TO ORDER.** President Dr. John Kelly called the Regular Meeting of the North Royalton Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m., December 4, 2014, at the North Royalton High School Community Room.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** President John Kelly requested all present to join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

III. **ROLL CALL.** Present: President John Kelly, Vice-President Barbara Ann Zindroski, Anne Reinkober, Jacquelyn Arendt and Susan Clark. Also present were Superintendent Gregory Gurka, Treasurer Biagio Sidoti, and Assistant Superintendent Jim Presot.

IV. **RESOLUTION 2014-275: FINALIZATION OF AGENDA.** Resolve the Board of Education approve agenda as presented.

Moved by Clark

Seconded by Zindroski

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

Motion Carried

V. **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

There were no guests or presentations this evening.

VI. **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.

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

a. **Superintendent's Update:**

Mr. Gurka discussed:

- Mr. Gurka gave each of the board members a breakdown of election results for the failed Bond Issue.
- Foreign Language: Ann Radefeld, Mike McGinnis and Melissa Vojta are in the beginning stages of collaborating to develop a class that would offer a 5th year of AP French for students that began taking a foreign language in the 8th grade. This would be a mixture of an online course with a regular class. It would be an additional period of the day for these students. There may be a possibility of offering a course like this to other districts on a tuition basis.
- Technology Department: Jason Fullington, Network System Coordinator, resigned effective December 6, 2014. The board office administration is looking for the most cost effective way to fill this vital role. They are considering utilizing companies that the district currently uses for assistance with technology needs to fill this role until the end of the school year. It can then be determined what the most economical way to proceed with filling this position would be.
- OAA results from the 3rd grade were discussed. 82.9% of our third graders scored proficient or better with 88.1% meeting the third grade reading guarantee. Last year 81% were proficient or better. We are still seeing improvement.
- Board Members received packets at the December 1, 2014 special meeting with Policy Updates.
- **Facilities Task Force:** Mr. Gurka would like to develop a Facilities Task Force that will examine our facilities and gather information from our community. Mr. Gurka has a vision for the district that he would like to see come to fruition. It is a place where the educational program is designed around 21st century skills that students need to compete after graduation. Our classrooms need to be environments rich with problem solving and creative thinking centers that have ready access to technology as the tools to learning. The lead theme of the task force would be made up of a cross section of the community representing the various groups, PTA, Boosters, senior citizens, non-parents, businesses, political, those who opposed the previous issues and staff. This should not be an administrative or board led committee, in fact, our involvement would be on an as needed basis from the committee. The committee will work with outside advisors and consultants when necessary to engage, survey and provide other needed directions. Focus groups and data gathering will be a big part of this. The plan is to begin assembling this task force in January. Mr. Gurka would be glad to take suggestions of people that may be interested in serving on this committee.

There was discussion on providing a different method of communication to the board and the community about the repairs that are being made and what the P.I. dollars are spent on. Each month there is a building and grounds report that lists this information, but that does not seem to report the clear picture. Board administration will work to provide a report two to three times a

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year, different from The Bear Way, but a tool that goes to each resident to keep them informed of the day to day operations of the district. This will be in addition to the current ways we communicate: Key Communicator, The Bear Way, Constant Contact, Website, Twitter, Facebook, and Quality Profile.

- Strategic Plan: One of the main goals of our Strategic Plan was our facilities. We are now coming to the end of our Strategic Plan. Mr. Gurka would like to survey our community to see what aspects they think are working and what aspects need to be improved. Our Strategic Plan should remain the same with our beliefs, mission and goals - it is our action steps that may need tweaking. Dr. Clark talked about how many businesses are starting to move toward a one year, highly focused, very data enhanced, Strategic Plan. It then becomes very visible to the community what you are focusing on and if you are achieving those goals.

Land Sale: Mr. Presot and Mr. Gurka discussed the Land Sale of a district owned Edgerton Road property. Mr. Sidoti explained that the money earned from the sale of this land will have to be used towards capital improvement. It was decided that the minimum bid will be \$200,000. The board decided to add this Land Sale to the agenda for December 8, 2014.

Food Services: Mr. Presot discussed the fact that we are looking at adding non-caloric, carbonated beverages such as Coke Zero and Diet Coke to our food services offerings at the high school. Many other schools have implemented this. This does follow the Smart Foods/Snacks Policy.

b. **Upcoming Meeting Agenda Review:**

The Board reviewed the December 8, 2014 regular meeting agenda draft.

Partnership for a Healthy North Royalton and some of our High School Fall Sports coaches will be giving presentations at the December 8, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Sidoti reviewed financial agenda items with the Board.

VIII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS OF BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. Reinkober made a motion to add an item to discuss Boardmanship to the December 8, 2014 agenda. Mrs. Reinkober will email the board members the items for discussion before the December 8, 2014 meeting.

Moved by: Reinkober

Seconded by: Arendt

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

Motion Carried

Mrs. Zindroski addressed additional items that she put on the agenda as follows:

1. Present a list of the top three priority needs for each building - High School, Middle School, Albion, Royalview and Valley Vista. Attached with this list three closely configured estimates needed from companies like David Smith of Brewar Garrett and Benjamin DiMarco of DiMarco & Associates, about our HVAC system and the many other needed building repairs. Both companies are willing to go through our district buildings and prioritize our needs with an estimate as closely aligned with current costs.

There is no cost to these estimates and will provide a better view on the present cost of these priorities.
2. Timeline list of big items needed to be replaced, i.e. boilers, roofs, etc. , dates purchased and estimated useful life. We need to establish putting money in a fund to support those replacement needs.
3. To establish a yearly forecast for the \$1 Million PI Fund as in good business practice.
4. Given the state of confusion and controversy about the bond issues along with unusual public relations/comments in our local paper, I will suggest that our finance/audit committee interview 3 CPA firms with school auditing expertise for an honest assessment of internal controls and other concerns taxpayers have of our school system.

Item #1 and Item #2 Discussion: Mr. Gurka and Mr. Presot discussed that the district currently works with companies that perform the type of estimates that Mrs. Zindroski asked for. Mr. Gurka would also like to this to be part of the community Facilities Task Force that will be formed in January. Ohio Schools Facilities Council will come to the district for free and assess our buildings with current cost estimates. Mr. Presot communicates with companies on a regular basis to see if they can offer us better, more cost effective services. Mr. Presot does have documentation of building repair needs.

Item #3 Discussion: As Mr. Gurka discussed earlier in the meeting, he agrees that we need to communicate to the community how we spend our P.I. money other than a board reports at our board meetings. A million dollars a year of P.I. money spread over all of district's expenses cannot solve everything. This situation is not going to change. Our buildings are going to continue to age and we need to decide what to fix depending on where we see some of these buildings in the future. Mr. Presot explained how difficult it would be to state in

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January how our one million dollar P.I. fund is spent for the entire year, because we may not know what our spring projects are until after the winter. The possibility of communicating this information to the community quarterly was discussed.

Mrs. Zindroski spoke of being competitive with getting companies to give us assessments. Mr. Gurka explained that the energy companies that Mrs. Zindroski is speaking of give us estimates on what they feel our facilities need. The competitiveness comes in when you are ready to pay for the project and companies bid on actually doing the work.

There was a discussion of things being communicated to the press by board members before they were discussed at a meeting. Mr. Gurka said that he could do a press release regarding informing the public that the district already works on the items that Mrs. Zindroski presented.

Discussion on Item #4: There was a discussion on the difference between internal controls and operational expenses. Mr. Sidoti explained that internal controls are to make sure that our checks and balances are in place. It is a function of the auditor's office to look at our internal controls. He clarified what is meant by internal controls – they look at your procedures such as that the person who processes your payroll is not the same person that processes the funds for that payroll. They want that division of control. This is how it relates to CPA firms or auditors. Mrs. Zindroski explained that she was interested in looking at cost savings to the district. She was not trying to slight our treasurer's department, but to try and find cost savings.

Mrs. Arendt stated that she feels that how the board members represent themselves and the way they word things to the public is a reflection on the whole board. To clarify some of the confusion surrounding agenda items and getting information to the public, there was discussion of Robert's Rules and the appropriate way for Board Members to get items put on an agenda.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regular Board Meeting	12/08/14	7:00 PM	HS Community Room
PHNR Meeting	12/10/14	9:00 AM	HS Community Room
Board of Education Special Mtg.	12/16/14	2:30 PM	Board Office Conf. Rm.
Board of Education Meeting	01/08/15	6:30 PM	HS Community Room
Board of Education Organizational/Reg. Mtg.	01/12/15	7:00 PM	HS Community Room

X. ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m..

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

Seconded by Reinkober

ATTEST:

Biagio Sidoti
TREASURER

John H. Kelly
BOARD PRESIDENT

1/12/15
DATE

1/12/15
DATE