

REED CITY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Committee of the Whole

Monday, June 6, 2022

5:30 p.m.

Porteous Academic Center

The Committee of the Whole of the RCAPS Board of Education was called to order by President Eichenberg at 5:30p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2022.

Roll Call

Present: Members Eichenberg, Franklin, C. Mund, S. Mund, Quinn, and Vanderhoof
Superintendent Sweet, Recording Secretary Battle, and Interim Business Manager Gray
Approximately 6 attendees, including community members and staff

Absent: Member Bookwalter

Motion by Member Vanderhoof with support by Member S. Mund to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

Communication from the Public

There was no public comment offered.

Discussion Items

The following items were discussed by the Board of Education:

- **School Safety & Security**
Mark Watkins was a special guest of the Board of Education to discuss school safety and security. Mr. Watkins shared his background with emergency management and his role with the district. He shared the status of RCAPS emergency preparedness in terms of the school safety annual district report, staff training schedules, the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), the annual drill schedule, and the threat guides. Mark also explained plans for future drill opportunities and staff training. He shared that he is pleased with the progress and efforts made by RCAPS and the commitment of administration and staff to school safety.
- **Board Policy Update, Thrun Recommendation (5407)**
The Thrun Law recommendations for policy 5407 (Instructional Program and Curriculum Development) were presented and discussed. The policy recommendations will be put to vote at the Business Meeting held on June 20, 2022.
- **Board Self-Evaluation, Member Franklin Request**
The two most recent Board self-evaluations were discussed. Member Franklin encouraged comparison of results and questions. Member Quinn suggested that progress could be attributed to the length of time the Board has worked together and education received. The Board will not request facilitation and review of results by MASB. Mr. Sweet will confirm timeline details for strategic planning.
- **Superintendent Salary Discussion (2022-23)**
Member Eichenberg shared current Superintendent addendum language, specifically "The Board will establish the Superintendent's annual salary for each successor school year under this Contract before July 1 of each school year." This timeline was established in the addendum. Discussion was paused for preliminary 2022-23 budget discussion.

- **Preliminary Budget Discussion (2022-23)**

Superintendent Sweet provided budget recommendations, including total administrator salary increase of 2.74% with individual increases to be determined by the Superintendent. Business Manager Gray provided estimated per pupil allowance and projected enrollment for school year 2022-23 being used for budgeting. The current fund balance was discussed and Member Franklin suggested it is too high and encouraged funds to be used on kids. Designating monies to future capital improvements was also discussed. Member Vanderhoof suggested decreasing the proposed administrator salary increases from 2.74% to 2.5% to offset the cost of inflation. Ms. Gray will send the proposed 2022-23 budgets to Members for review in advance of the Business Meeting.

- **Building Needs**

Superintendent Sweet offered building needs. The dust collection system previously proposed to the Board of Education has substantially increased in price and the amount written into ESSER II funds will not cover due to the increase in cost. Member Vanderhoof suggested looking into the type/brand/options more thoroughly. Updating the male and female locker rooms, expanding the band room, updating the elementary playground equipment, improving the annex yard, the addition of drinking fountains/bottle fillers (Wellness Committee suggestion), improving the baseball field/dugouts, updating the tunnel, replacing the goal posts, and updating the press box were items presented. Continued repair and maintenance of the biodome was provided. A priority list with timelines and costs for projects was encouraged. Member Franklin mentioned that she will continue to encourage an alternative education school. Opportunities for fundraising and bond request were discussed.

- **Superintendent Salary Discussion (2022-23) Continuation**

Further discussion regarding the Superintendent salary for the 2022-2023 school year to be effective July 1, 2022 took place following the Preliminary Budget Discussion (2022-23). It was suggested that the Board propose a 4.3% increase and be put to vote at the Committee of the Whole to allow continuation of budgetary work. It was agreed that the motion and vote would be offered.

Motion by Member C. Mund with support by Member Franklin to approve salary increase of 4.3% for the Superintendent of Schools, for the 2022-23 school year to be made effective starting July 1, 2022.

Motion carries with 5 Ayes to 1 Nay (Member Vanderhoof)

Member C. Mund inquired about the process for educating new employees and substitute employees on the emergency plan for RCAPS. Superintendent Sweet explained that this opportunity has been identified and that it is a work in progress to ensure that this information is reaching all employees and contracted staff. Current and future opportunities of the Behavioral Team to offer drill trauma support for students was discussed and will be further considered. An update was provided by Superintendent Sweet regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) plans for the 2022-23 school year.

Adjournment

Motion by Member Quinn with support by Member C. Mund to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 7:39p.m.