ROMEO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2022
Powell 9th Grade Academy – Media Center

Called to Order

6:02 p.m. Called to order by President, Anita Banach. 4 members present. 2 members absent with notice (Antoine, Conner), 1 member absent without notice (Young)

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by the Board

Approved

Agenda for August 22, 2022 Regular Meeting. Demas moved. Barrows supported. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried. Agenda Approved.

Ms. Banach recommended a friendly amendment to move up the public comment and Board Discussion so that there is no action after closed session.

Celebrations

Dr. Robinson shared the following celebrations:

- Photos were shared of Bulldog Days. Dr. Robinson stated that he was grateful that it could be run in the traditional format and that he was appreciative to all staff involved.
- Mr. Murray & Ms. McFarlane held new Teacher Orientation last week with a variety of activities. Photos were shared of the teachers with their 'New Dawg' t-shirts and Dr. Robinson stated that it was a great way to create bonding amongst the new teachers. They attended safety training and have been busy getting their classrooms set up.
- The buildings held activities to welcome the kindergarten and Young 5 students. He shared photos of some of the events and a photo of the 'Welcome New Bulldog' signs which will be distributed to the kindergarteners and will soon be seen throughout the community.

6:05 Mr. Young arrived

Presentations

None

Approved

Consent Action Items. Young moved. Demas supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- General Fund Bills (check register)
- Financial Reports (summary, revenue & expense reports)
- Wire Transfer report
- Purchasing Card Expenditures
- Minutes from Regular meeting held on July 11, 2022
- Minutes from Special Meeting held on July 25, 2022
- Board Policy Update 1st Reading – Miller Johnson Policy Update – July 2022

Informational Updates/New Business

Communications – Two communications were shared with the board – a congratulatory letter indicating that staff member Ann Marie Barrow received her HR Specialist certification and a note from former student, Jonathan Klatt, with thanks for scholarships that he received.

Committee Reports –

- Facilities – Ms. Rilley stated they had a lengthy discussion on 2016 bond project updates. They discussed the 2021 bond projects: Hamilton-Parsons and Indian Hills are in the design phase, they reviewed drawings of the Early Childhood Center and Memorial Field. She mentioned that the plan for Memorial Field is that it will only be used for the next 3 years because they will then have the facility behind the middle school. Mr. Storm discussed roofing repairs at the meeting. They did special infra-red testing, looking to rehab the roofs instead of complete restoration. An equipment auction was held that earned $35,000. The Committee reminded the principals to check their buildings for cleanliness before the students return. Future actions such as the RMS Cafeteria and the Ham-Par & Indian Hills additions were also discussed.

  Ms. Barrows asked if the architects will supply the board with print-outs of the projects and Dr. Robinson stated that they are putting together a packet and schematic designs will be included in that documentation.

- Curriculum – Ms. Rilley gave an overview of the meeting. She mentioned the 'Healthy Living' textbook is ready for approval and that they discussed revisions to the Top 10 procedures to include a more college-like recognition. They received staffing updates from Rob & Jennifer, discussed summer school information, back to school PD, the new coaching model and teacher lab model, new phonemic awareness supplement for kindergarten (which was requested by the teachers). At the secondary level, they discussed The Girls in STEM Program, health curriculum and materials update, PD and Academy work.

- Policy - Ms. Barrows stated they reviewed several policies and discussed tweaking some verbiage. They reviewed and made revisions to the Title IX policy. Dr. Robinson mentioned that we are now moving between the1st & 2nd consideration and the resolution will be in September so we have time to reach out to the provider if anything comes up.

- Safety - Mr. Young stated they had a great presentation with Steve from Safe-Ed on a new management system for visitors. The Safe-Ed staff would operate the system using a state ID which will run a check on the individual and would give notification of anyone on the sex-offenders list. It also gives real-time data on who is in the building. They are looking to implement this with RHS, RMS and the 9th Grade Academy and then will move forward with the elementary buildings. For the second portion of the meeting, they had a county level assessment for safety. It was proposed to have barricades in front of the high school. The majority of doors in the district have been replaced for safety purposes. AVERT training took place with staff and outside of a handful of people, the entire staff has been trained. The district is still working on a 2-way radio communication system which is tricky due to the differing elevations of our buildings.

Dr. Robinson stated that there is only one committee meeting scheduled in September.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Robinson stated that new staff training took place and that 37 participants were trained in emergency protocols and AVERT. Another training will take place at the end of September to train the remaining staff members. On August 29th there will be a 90-minute building safety update and a relocation walk-thru. They are hoping to take the staff to the reunification sites and will spend a short amount of time to get familiarized with the facility and where students and staff would assemble. Dr. Robinson named the relocation sites and stated he is very thankful to those organizations. There is a system in place to bus shuttle the students (with the exception of Amanda Moore students who can walk) to their reunification site. There is still work to be done on the reunification process. The intent is to train the staff at the Administration Building, Technology Dept. and possibly members of the Operations Dept. on how to

carry out the reunification process so it's not dependent on the staff from the buildings and so that students can get back to their parents as quickly as possible.

Dr. Robinson stated that Mr. Young did a good job of explaining the visitor management system. Mr. Young mentioned that if the system is approved, parents will get courtesy emails letting them know that it is being implemented. Dr. Robinson stated that there is a digital camera that comes with the system that will print a picture badge for the visitors. The Safe-Ed staff can use walkie-talkies to make people aware of where the visitor is heading. The system will also allow tracking the amount of traffic in the buildings. The system will be used during instructional hours.

Dr. Robinson stated that conversations took place pre-pandemic regarding middle school students at the 32 mile building. There was always some concern about access but when it was a high school they knew that the majority of students were driving to school. There is now a collection of students that walk to school and it has been the desire of the Village and the district to close the sidewalk from the Malburg Funeral home to the Copperwood subdivision. The Village has gone through the bid process and approved a contractor for concrete work as well as electrical work. The Village has reached out and asked if the district would be willing to help out with the expense of this project. Dr. Robinson told Christine from the Village that he would present the information to the Board at the board meeting. He stated he believes the cost of the project is $211,000 or $217,000. Mr. Young asked if it would be a 50/50 split and Dr. Robinson responded that he was told that there was no set expectation. Ms. Banach asked if he discussed an amount with the Business Office and Dr. Robinson responded that it came up at the cabinet meeting but nothing formal was addressed. Ms. Rilley asked the source of funds and Dr. Robinson stated he thought it would have to come from the general fund. Ms. Banach stated that she's not opposed but is a little skittish because it sets precedence and there are sidewalks all over town that have issues. She would like to get a recommendation of a number and where it would come from before making any decisions. Mr. Young stated he would be OK to make a motion to enter a partnership with no financial obligation. Dr. Robinson stated that they approved the project but there was definitely discussion about us participating financially. Dr. Demas asked if this could happen without us & Dr. Robinson responded that it could. Ms. Banach mentioned getting rationale so we're not setting a precedence. Mr. Young mentioned that it is dark in the morning on the north side of 32 and asked if there are plans to put lighting there. Dr. Robinson responded that this would be included in this project. Dr. Robinson mentioned that we have the issue of 32 and Sisson where we can't find a crossing guard and have had to utilize staff. They have expanded the bus routes to try and pick up and bus more students but it's been a challenge with the shortage of bus drivers. Mr. Young stated that he is curious on the cost of additional lighting because it is very dark on the west side of the cemetery in the morning hours. Dr. Robinson stated he has the bid package but not the award and that he will get more information with the potential of a resolution in September. Ms. Barrows asked if they are still working on the traffic situation and Dr. Robinson responded that they are and they have to wait for the start of school to really understand the volume. He encouraged the community to have students ride the bus as it will help with traffic congestion.

Dr. Robinson shared photos of the tennis courts and stated that the first varsity tennis match is being held there this evening. They did a video recording with MITT and WBRW. He stated that the PE teachers can now incorporate the courts into their curriculum which they could never do before.

Dr. Robinson shared a photo of the Transportation Facility and stated that things are moving forward. March is the estimated completion date. He mentioned being thankful for a slower construction schedule this summer because there are school districts that had to delay the start of school due to significant construction projects not being completed. The driver lounge/portable is gone and the old transportation building will remain up for staff until they can move to the new building.

Dr. Robinson shared a sketch of the Croswell Childhood Center with the new addition (new entryway, family center, 4 new classrooms and a multi-purpose area). The architects are building a 3D scale model which will be shared with the board. Dr. Robinson stated that in Oct-Dec we will be seeing many projects going out to bid and we

will be awarding contracts for the following year. The Croswell project will be a 16-month project with completion in the fall of 2024.

Academic Services Update – Mr. Murray shared updates at the elementary level and explained the use of a new web-based platform, 'Clever', which gives the students a single sign-on to multiple applications that are used on a daily basis. They will launch it on August 29th to the teachers. 'Clever' has auto rostering and therefore much of the work that is done with NWEA for testing will be fed into 'Clever' through PowerSchool. There is no cost to the district for using 'Clever'.

Mr. Murray presented information on the intentional approach to Professional Learning and mentioned that it began with the results of the culture/climate survey. They looked at the action steps that they wanted to take and sent out a form to the teachers to solicit feedback. The Principals planned the beginning PD and made a sketch of what they wanted the rest of the year to look like which allowed us to be better prepared than in the past. More work needs to be done with the teachers regarding the focus on Tier I and Tier II instruction, student engagement and looking at opportunities such as teacher labs or new teacher training.

Mr. Murray stated they discovered a gap in the kindergarten program related to phonemic awareness. He met with 9 kindergarten teachers to discuss this. The teachers attended some training at the MISD and recognized that we could be doing better for our kids. They decided to supplement the curriculum using the Haggerty Phonemic Awareness. The materials have come in and the district has subscribed for 1 year to a virtual learning platform for teachers.

Ms. Rilley stated she appreciated that we are asking the teachers what they need in terms of professional learning.

Ms. McFarlane shared updates at the secondary level and stated they used 'Clever' at the middle school as a pilot and it worked very well. She stated that middle & high school teachers were also surveyed about PD days. The middle school has partnered with AMLE. Their facilitators will be coming in to present. Their work is on supporting students and teachers and growing awareness on needs of students. The high school had a desire to look at student engagement. They will have 2 days of KAGAN cooperative learning. The work with the administrative team is also about PD and growing our teachers. They also had someone come in to present to them. Pertaining to the Academies at Romeo, the Macomb County Planning & Economic Development has hired someone to support the Ford NGL districts. Ms. McFarlane was able to meet with her and they restructured some of the leadership structures within the academies. Dr. Robinson is working on getting more champions. Ms. McFarlane mentioned another development is that when students get into PowerSchool, they can toggle between that and Schoology.

Public Comment None

Approved

Resolutions

- **Employee Services Resolution #62 – Personnel Update**
  Demas moved. Barrows supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Board of Education Resolution #63 – MASB Annual Conference**
  Young moved. Barrows supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Superintendents Resolution #64 – MLI Strategic Planning Service**
  Demas moved. Rilley supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Superintendents Resolution #65 – KeepnTrack Proposal**
  Young moved. Demas supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Ms. Barrows asked the timeframe of when the elementary schools will be implemented. Mr. Young stated that they want to use it and make sure it's effective before rolling it out to all the schools. Dr. Robinson mentioned that we do not have Safe-Ed staff at the elementary buildings so our clerical staff would have to be trained to use the system.

- **Academic Services Resolution #66 – Adventures in Food & Nutrition Textbook Adoption**
  Young moved. Rilley supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Employee Services Resolution #67 – AFSCME Maintenance Tentative Agreement**
  Demas moved. Young supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Employee Services Resolution #68 – AFSCME Child Care Tentative Agreement**
  Young moved. Demas supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- **Superintendents Resolution #69 – District Leadership Priorities 2022/23-Part 3**
  Demas moved. Barrows supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Board Discussion/ For the Good of the District

Mr. Young mentioned that as we approach the Peach Fest it is prime time for different clubs and programs to raise funds and he reminded everyone that these funds really help those organizations throughout the year.

Mr. Young stated that he read an article about Edu-Log being implemented in Rochester which is a system that gives real-time tracking of buses. Parents will be fed information on late buses and other bus information. They also get push notifications when the bus is approaching. Other districts have also implemented similar systems to enhance communication with parents. He mentioned he would like our district to look into it as he feels it would be a great tool for parents to have.

Ms. Banach stated she is looking forward to a great start to the school year.

Public Comment

Parent Katherine Rice stated she was at the Village Meeting and thanked the board for the consideration of partnering with them. She stated only 13% of kids walk to school now as opposed to 38% a decade ago. She feels if we get the sidewalk, more students will walk to school and it will help the traffic problem and create a safer situation on 32 Mile. She asked if the parents could be privy to the Title IX language change.

- **Closed Session**
  Young moved. Rilley supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

  7:08 p.m. into Closed Session for the purpose of Attorney Client Privilege. Roll Call: 5 members present. Todd Robinson, Vicki Laseke, Dana Abrahams and Bill Bowman were also present.

  8:19 p.m. out of Closed Session. Into Open Session. Young moved. Demas supported. Roll call: 5 members present. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Adjournment 8:20 p.m. Young moved. Barrows supported. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

Approved by: Mike Antoine, Secretary _____