

**Regional School District No. 8 Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, October 17, 2022 @ 6:30 pm**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mike Morris called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

BOE Members Present: Michael Morris, Erik Schevchenko, Michael Charron, Gabriel Marques, Joseph Colletti, Heather Summerer, Kirsten Erlandsen, Judy Benson-Clarke, Susan Stolfi, Carey Fraulino, Mary Cochefski

Members Absent: none

Administration Present: Colin McNamara, Superintendent
Eva Gallupe, Business Manager

Student Representative: Ava Roulier and Rowan Akerlind

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments - none

4. Add/Delete Agenda Items - none

5. Student Representative Report – Ava Roulier is a junior and a new student rep for this year. Rowan Akerlind reported upcoming activities to include spirit week and pep rally.

6. BOE Chair Report – M. Morris welcomed Ava as a new student rep and welcomed back Rowan. Congratulations to RHAM volleyball coach, doing very well in the season. College and career fair held and was very successful. Hosted college representatives for the first in person fair since pandemic.

7. Report of the Superintendent – C. McNamara welcomed Ava as the new representative. Congratulations to RHAM volleyball coach, Tim. Thanked Jackie for work in putting together college fair. In the eleventh year of a fourteen-year partnership hosting cultural exchange project students from Spain. Financial aid presentation held for college tuition. Updated plans for Eastconn executive to visit and conduct presentation for Board members. Change in report regarding suspension of students updated as advised by attorneys. Will only contain aggregate numbers of suspensions.

8. Consent Agenda

8.1. Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2022
Amend spelling errors of names, add C. Fraulino as attendee.

8.2 Amend Minutes from August 22, 2022
Amend spelling errors of names as noted.

8.3 Approve Superintendents Attendance at National Conference J. Benson-Clarke supports the superintendent attending trainings but would like the finance committee to have an idea of the cost.

M. Charon moved to approve the consent agenda as amended, seconded by G. Marques. Unanimously approved, with one abstention by M. Cochefski. MOTION CARRIED.

9. Student/Program Spotlight

9.1 Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative – C. McNamara stated there is a need to get skilled employees in manufacturing. Jacqueline Wetherell, CTE Coordinator and YMPI Liaison and Austin Carey, RHAM Manufacturing Teacher reviewed the powerpoint presentation on the Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative. (enclosure 9.1). Success stories by Jacob Arsenault and Nick Da Silva. Charles Daniels, resident and WEPCO Plastics employee, spoke to the program and the field. C. McNamara stated that the skills he learned in shop has enabled him to save funds by doing the work himself. The work you do in class pays dividends down the line.

10. AHM Survey Results

10.1 Survey Results Handout - RHAM has a strong partnership with AHM. AHM biannually gives survey to students in RHAM. The survey is conducted as part of grant funding. Abbreviated findings will be reviewed (enclosure 10.1). J. Benson-Clarke pointed out the term bully by exclusion. In the full report this term is noted with data. J. Benson-Clarke suggested looking into food insecurity issues.

11. Old Business - none

12. New Business

12.1 HVAC Grant – C. McNamara gave an overview of the program in a one-page summary. Reviewed what would be eligible for reimbursement. Looking to the Board for direction. Discussion.

12.2 Policies – First Reading

12.2a 5450 – Sexual Harassment (Students) – current title

12.2b 5000 series – Improving the Completion Rates of FAFSA (newly required policy) 12.2c 6000 series – Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students (new required policy, can replace current policy 6155)

C. McNamara gave an overview of each policy. Legislative changes that should have been adopted in order to be in compliance. Language proposed comes directly from Shipman & Goodwin. Discussion on sexual harassment policy and consequences for the district as a whole. C. McNamara stated that the Board discipline policy would be the policy for all schools. He will look at each school handbook to make sure that they tie in with the Board discipline policy. J. Benson-Clarke would like to look more closely at the Equitable Identification policy.

12.3 Financials – E. Gallupe reviewed all financials

12.3a Expenditure and Revenue Report – Report submitted. Proposed net favorable position \$263,511. Discussion on net favorable position projections.

12.3b Food Service – Smart Funds allocated \$138,224.63. Anticipate fully funding December. Free meals slated to end January 1, 2023.

12.3c Student Activity Report— balanced with bank statement

12.3d STIF Account – will report on a monthly basis.

12.3e Discussion and Possible Action on Proposed Funding for New Irrigation Well E.

Gallupe reviewed the process to date. Vendor suggested relocating the well and drilling for a new well. M. Charron gave background on facilities committee discussion.

S. Stolfi moved to approve a transfer of \$75,431.39 from Capital Improvement unallocated to the new project Irrigation Well Replacement, seconded by J. Benson Clarke. Discussion on not to exceed cost. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

S. Stolfi moved to approve the transfer of \$32,985 from Athletic Fields Repair to Irrigation Well Replacement, seconded by C. Fraulino. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

S. Stolfi moved to approve the Expenditure Reclassification from Operating Fund to Capital Nonrecurring Irrigation Well Nonrecurring Irrigation Well Replacement I the amount of \$13,593 for PO's 230418 and 230541, seconded by J. Benson-Clarke. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

12.3f Budget Appropriation Transfers

M. Charron moved to approve the transfers as presented totaling \$674,216.14, seconded by E. Schevchenko. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

12.4 Health and Medical Insurance Consortium Agreement and By-Laws Established in 2017 to pool insurance enrollees. Pooling is to achieve cost savings. Recommended changes to by-laws to ensure there is clarity on how changes are managed.

E. Shevchenko moved to approve the changes to the Region 8 Health and Medical Insurance Consortium By-Laws and authorize the Superintendent to sign the Updated Consortium By-Laws, seconded by S. Stolfi. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

12.5 Discuss Possible Partnership with Other K-6 or K-8 Districts as a School of Choice M. Morris reviewed previous discussion to possible solutions to mitigate financial impacts to the school. In discussion with C. McNamara the idea of a partnership was touched upon. C. McNamara has not made phone calls to those districts, but rather wanted to bring to the Board for discussion. He is open to engaging with other districts/superintendents if the Board chooses. Transportation would need to be discussed as well as per pupil cost. Discussion. Consensus to entertain further discussion and give C. McNamara authority to engage in discussion with other school systems and Boards.

13. Committee Reports

Facilities/Safety/Transportation – M Charron-topics included to improve fields, well repair, and HVAC grant. Proposal received for fields, all three plus track 1.1 million. **Finance/Audit**

Compliance and Insurance – J. Benson-Clarke - well and legal fees discussed **Negotiations** – meeting on 10/26

Policy – no report

Program/Communication – no report

Facilitators

EASTCONN – J. Benson-Clark – will present at the next Board meeting CAGE – J.
Benson-Clark – workshops scheduled

14. Public Comment – none

15. Informational Items

15.1 Calendar of Events: Middle School, High School – submitted 15.2 In School/Out of
School Suspension Report - submitted

16. Adjournment

G. Marques moved to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m., seconded by C. Fraulino. Unanimously approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tricia Dean, Clerk