

The regular meeting of the Board of Education for the School District of the City of River Rouge, Wayne County, Michigan was held in the said offices of the Board of Education on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

The President, William White, called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Cornelius Cooper, Marcella Cora, Francis Krupinski,
Kevin Sabuda, Jonathan Tate, William Watson
and William White

Members Absent: None

Swearing in of New Board Members

President White requested that in the absence of Judge Raymond Charron who was unable to attend this evening's meeting, Member Marcella Cora as Secretary of the Board swear in the new board members Kevin Sabuda and Jonathan Tate. Both members said a few words.

After the new board members were sworn in, President White then stated that he would accept nominations for the presidency of the Board of Education.

A. Election of President

President White nominated Marcella Cora, seconded by Member Cooper to be President of the Board. There were no other nominations. The motion was carried for Member Cora to be the President

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried

At this time Member White turned over the meeting to the new President Cora.

B. Election of Vice President

President Cora accepted nominations for the Vice President of the Board of Education. Member Watson nominated William White, seconded by Member Tate to be Vice President. When any other nominations were requested, Member Sabuda nominated Francis Krupinski, seconded by himself. The role was called for Member White for Vice President and the motion was carried for Member White to be the Vice President.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: Krupinski and Sabuda

Motion Carried

C. Election of Secretary

President Cora accepted nominations for the Secretary of the Board of Education. Member Cora nominated Francis Krupinski, seconded by Member Cooper to be Secretary. There were no other nominations. The motion was carried for Member Krupinski to be the Secretary.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried

D. Election of Treasurer

President Cora accepted nominations for the Treasurer of the Board of Education. Member White nominated William Watson, seconded by Member Tate to be Treasurer. There

Minutes
Page 2
1-13-10

were no other nominations. The motion was carried for Member Watson to be the Treasurer.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried

Seating of the Board Members/Roll Call

After the officers were elected, the board members were seated in their new positions with Member Krupinski and Member White changing seats and President Cora requested the roll call. President Cora congratulated all the officers. Member Krupinski stated there were many committees to serve on and members should express their interest in a committee to serve on.

President Cora called for the roll

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried

Consent Agenda

President Cora offered a motion, seconded by Member Cooper, to approve this evening's consent agenda.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried

Board Member Appreciation Month

Superintendent Lopez stated that January is Board Member Appreciation Month, he read and presented a copy of the Resolution to each board member. Dr. Gibson and two students presented Certificates of Appreciation that were given to each member.

Teen Coalition

Ryan Bodary represented the Teen Coalition sponsored by the Guidance Center and is working with six gentlemen from River Rouge. Three of these gentlemen were with him this evening and stated that they are doing community service and working with the students from the River Rouge School District. They have worked with the Salvation Army and helped deliver food baskets. Mr. Bodary stated that the Teen Coalition will also be working with Ms. Glavin's 1st – 2nd grade collecting donations of snow pants, gloves and hats for the children.

New Tech High

Superintendent Lopez stated that the Board has given him permission to proceed with the New Tech High and River Rouge School District has made some cuts. He went on to explain that the required signatures have been obtained and the paperwork will be sent in.

Two classes will be combined such as English and History and a dual project will be completed and the students will receive grades in both classes. The students will have both an English and History teacher working together on project based learning. He went on to state that the purpose of education is not to fail but to educate. Superintendent Lopez also stated that E20/20 will roll into the 2nd Semester and Dr. Gibson provided training to the staff today.

The New Tech High design constitutes a "pilot" and/or "experimental" program under Section 15(4) of the Public Employment Relations Act (PERA), MCL 423.215(3)(h) Act 112 and gives the district permission not to have to bargain with teachers. Superintendent Lopez explained

Minutes
Page 3
1-13-10

that he and Dr. Gibson have seen many schools teaching in this model such as the new tech high schools they visited during their trip to California.

Superintendent Lopez reminded the Board that he will be leaving on Friday, January 15th and will return on Tuesday, January 26, 2010. He will be sending out a letter to MEA/RREA outlining the items from Thrun Law Firm.

Superintendent Lopez acknowledged the appreciations from Ann Visger PreK-5 Preparatory Academy as well as CB Sabbath K-8 Preparatory Academy.

Glen Reid, Technology gave an update on the E-Rate funds being requested and granted by the River Rouge School District.

Communications/Correspondence

There were no communications or correspondence this evening.

Comments from the Board

Member Krupinski welcomed the new Board Members Kevin Sabuda and Jonathan Tate. Member Cora also welcomed the board members and also thanked former Board Member Arapakis for his service as a board member.

Mr. Arapakis, who was present in the audience, also wanted thank the board members and community for everything during his time on the Board.

Attorney Update

Student 08-09-10

Attorney Joseph McCarroll stated that an expulsion hearing was held on Monday, January 11, 2010 for student #08-09-10, it was stated that neither the student nor the parent appeared at the hearing. It was confirmed that there was an incident at the high school involving four other students, three girls and one boy.

Student #08-09-10 is hereby permanently expelled from the School District of the City of River Rouge and a copy of this resolution will be served to his parent/guardian within five (5) days

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, that Student #08-09-10 is hereby permanently expelled from the School District for the City of River Rouge; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be served upon the parent or guardian of Student #08-09-10 within five (5) business days, by personal service or by registered mail, return receipt requested.

Member Krupinski made a motion seconded by Member Cooper that student #08-09-10 be permanently expelled.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None
Motion Carried

Minutes
Page 4
1-13-10

Attorney McCarroll stated that a closed session will be needed this evening to discuss pending litigation with MEA/RREA. Member Krupinski asked if the board would adjourn from the closed session. Attorney McCarroll stated that the board would need to resume the meeting and call for a vote after the meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business this evening.

New Business

Superintendent Lopez thanked Mr. Arapakis for his service as a board member on the Board of Education.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield-Retirees

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Krupinski that at the last board meeting held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, Mr. Al Cotter from Stakor & Associates, Inc. gave a presentation regarding transferring the board paid medical coverage for a select group of River Rouge School District retirees from BC/BS paid through RRSD to a BC/BS which is paid through the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System (MPERS). The difference in the plans would include deductible and co-insurance levels. These differences can be covered by establishing a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) handled by a Third Party Administrator (TPA). Since Medicare is still the primary carrier, BCBSM/MPERS is a secondary carrier and the HRA will reimburse retirees for the deductibles, co-insurance and prescription drug co-pays. The new arrangement will be a cost savings to the district. The retirees will be required to submit paper claims to be reimbursed for the differences in co-pays and deductibles. Additionally, for those retirees that will realize a deduction from their monthly pension check due to the State Blue Cross coverage, the district will reimburse these retirees 100% of the amount of the deduction. The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to complete the necessary paperwork to transfer the medical coverage of the current retirees to the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System.

Under discussion President Cora stated that for over twenty (20) years these payments have been being made and through this action it will help the district improve the bottom line. Member Watson questioned if we will end up in court over this action. Superintendent Lopez stated we will have to wait and see – but we can't afford to continue this way and risk the doors of the district to be closed.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Tate, and White
Nays: Members: Sabuda and Watson

Motion Carried

Health Care Dependent Audit

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, President Cora made a motion seconded by Member Tate that as part of the districts ongoing effort to reduce expenditures, a review of all dependents currently enrolled on each employee's health insurance is being considered. Mr. Al Cotter, from Stakor & Associates, in coordination with a member of his firm and the district's business office will be conducting the review. A copy of the timeline and the activities of the audit was included as part of the board packet. The cost for the dependent health care audit is \$3,000.00.

Under discussion, Member White asked if we would be better off to do the audit internally rather than spend the money on an outside firm. The discussion continued as to what areas of

Minutes
Page 5
1-13-10

money on the premiums. Superintendent Lopez went on to discuss the Deficit Elimination Plan and the effort on behalf of the district to take all measures to cut costs.

Vice President White requested that the motion be amended to state that a letter would go out to all employees that would require them to complete questions regarding the dependents and other questions necessary to begin the in-house audit and that the business office would update the board once the letters have been completed.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried

E-Rate 2010-2011

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Krupinski made a motion seconded by Member Tate that after careful review and upon the recommendation of Patricia DeLaTorre and Glen Reid, the board authorized the Superintendent to maintain the current vendors for all services under the Priority 1 filing of E-Rate for the 2010-2011 school year, except for the cellular services. The vendors for the services eligible under Priority 1 filing includes AT&T Local and Long Distance, AT&T mobility, American Messaging, Altura Communication Solutions and AT&T DataCom. The new vendor recommended for cellular services is T-Mobile. These companies provide the district with phone service, internet paging and cellular service as well as the maintenance agreement for the district phone service. The reimbursement rate is anticipated to be approximately 87%. These are services that the district uses regardless of whether E-Rate monies are approved or not.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried

Title I Brain Boost Teacher

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Lopez, Member Krupinski made a motion seconded by Member Tate that in the best interest of the district, Ms. Patricia Perryman be given the Title I Brain Boost Teaching position at Sabbath School, effective as soon as mutually agreed upon. This appointment is contingent upon the successful completion of all of the required paperwork and results of the physical, drug screen, 1230B responses and criminal records check that are required to be an employee of the school district. Salary (beginning step of teacher salary scale) and benefits will be prorated accordingly.

Under discussion it was understood that one of our laid off teachers had applied for the position. Member Watson questioned if there were qualified laid off teachers who applied and if the interviews were conducted would we end up in court by passing over a laid off teacher.

President Cora asked Superintendent Lopez and he was willing to amend the motion to recommend the currently laid off teacher, Ms. Diana Hampton, who had applied for the position instead of Ms. Perryman. Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Watson.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried

Board Committee Reports

There are no board committee reports this evening. Member Cooper has requested to have a Building & Grounds/Athletics Meeting and will set the time and date. Members will need to be appointed to the following committees.

Comments from the Audience

President Cora asked for any comments from the audience and several members of the audience came up and asked questions and stated their opinions of their matters of concern.

At 7:53 p.m. President Cora suspended the meeting to enter the Closed Session to discuss litigation matters.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

At 8:28 p.m. President Cora called for the roll to resume the meeting.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

Settlement Agreement 01-09-10 (Mariam Logan)

Member Cooper made a motion seconded by Member Watson that the settlement agreement proposed by RREA in the case regarding employee #01-09-10 (Mariam Logan) to be denied.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

At 8:29 p.m. President Cora stated for the good of the order and the meeting was concluded and roll call was taken.

Yeas: Members: Cooper, Cora, Krupinski, Sabuda, Tate, Watson and White
Nays: Members: None

Motion Carried.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 with the study session beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis Krupinski, Secretary
Board of Education
FK/mb