

RISING STARS ACADEMY
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2022

1. Call to Order: 6:31 pm
 - a. Attendance: Bob Nowak, Susan Uhl, Charisse Cossu-Kowalski, Annette Duda, Robert Spada, Debbie Prentiss, Mark Prentiss, Marsha Salome, Lori Mochty, Emily Bregier, and Joe Haynes (Superintendent Center Line Schools).
2. Citizen Non-Agenda Items: None.
3. Communication: None
4. Teacher Curriculum Presentation: Emily Bregier. Emily presented about the recent trip the Detroit Institute of Arts she and students took to see the “Detroit Style: Car Design in the Motor City, 1950-2020” Exhibit. Emily presented concept drawings that students created as well as posters that reflected a driver within a car, created with a student actually laying on the paper, traced out, designed with tape, and illustrated by students. Students also made a moving vehicle out of every day objects that people throw away every day. Debbie Prentiss advised that she has contacted the DIA about possibly visiting RSA in the future to teach units.

Debbie Prentiss spoke about the (5) occupational therapists (OT) in the building from Macomb Community College. One is working with Emily Bregier on a binder that will include information and ideas about CBIs with cost, where, what they have, etc.

5. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 20, 2022
 - a. Motion made by Charisse Cossu-Kowalsk
 - b. Seconded by Robert Spada
 - c. Roll Call: 5 Yes 0 No – approved by Bob Nowak, Susan Uhl, Charisse Cossu-Kowalski, Annette Duda, and Robert Spada

FINANCIAL

6. Acknowledgement of receipt of check register for December, 2021
 - a. Motion made by Annette Duda
 - b. Seconded by Sue Uhl
 - c. Roll Call: 5 Yes 0 No – approved by Bob Nowak, Susan Uhl, Charisse Cossu-Kowalski, Annette Duda, and Robert Spada

Lori Mochty discussed the financials found within the packet. She advised that there is some reimbursement for chromebook purchases coming soon in the amount of approximately \$19,000 that is NOT listed because not received yet. There is also \$100K that is to be received sometime in January or February. Debbie Prentiss stated that \$100K is a “for sure” item and has been slotted for RSA. The monies will cover the

kitchen remodel that allowed for more mobility by RSA students and will allow RSA to make lunches for students instead of utilizing food from area vendors.

Debbie Prentiss advised that elective classes start 2/1/21. Robotics started with Jenni Allen (teacher). The robot was sent to NASA recently so they could assemble and return.

Bob Nowak questioned the Comcast bills. Lori stated that they have to come off; however, will be done by auditor during the audit. The auditor will have to void them and require an adjustment entry. This will be done at the end of year audit by auditor. RSA does NOT owe \$1600 to Comcast.

Bob Nowak asked how receiving the \$100K will affect the financials. Lori said it makes up for not receiving lunch funds.

Debbie Prentiss stated 11(T) money of \$1,098 per student will come into the budget. It was promised and signed for RSA, Debbie Prentiss stated. Discussion of ESSR funds and what they can be used for was also had. Some districts choose to pay their teachers from ESSR funds.

Debbie Prentiss spoke about “maintenance of effort” which means keeping special education consistent from year to year. If failure to do so, MDE is required to reduce the full allocation of certain federal grand programs for that district.

7. Business Manager Report (covered in the Financials)
8. Approval of 2022 Board Meeting Dates/Times
 - a. Motion made by Sue Uhl
 - b. Supported by Bob Nowak
 - c. Roll Call: 5 Yes 0 No – approved by Bob Nowak, Susan Uhl, Charisse Cossu-Kowalski, Annette Duda, and Robert Spada
 - January 20, 2022 6:30 pm
 - February 17, 2022 6:30 pm
 - March 17, 2022 6:30 pm
 - April 21, 2022 6:30 pm
 - May 19, 2022 6:30 pm
 - June 16, 2022 6:30 pm
 - July 21, 2022 6:30 pm
 - August 18, 2022 6:30 pm
 - September 15, 2022 6:30 pm
 - October 20, 2022 6:30 pm

November 17, 2022 6:30 pm

December 15, 2022 6:30 pm

9. Building and Grounds Report

a) Informational Refi of Land Contract

A discussion took place with pros and cons of securing a mortgage at this time. The board directed Debbie Prentiss to present to the RSA Foundation at their meeting next week to determine their level of support.

Board gave blessing to take the next step with the RSA Foundation and then discuss with attorney and move forward with next step with securing the funding. A final proposal will come to the board at the February board meeting to discuss further and will make a final decision on moving forward to purchase the building.

Debbie Prentiss shared that there was new flooring installed down in the bakery area, and there was a final inspection of the kitchen remodel. She also discussed the concrete that needs to be cut out in the front door area.

10. Superintendent Report

a) RSA School Board – Board Member Appreciation

Debbie Prentiss stated that in honor of Board Member Appreciation Month, board members were presented with a one-of-a-kind student created wooden box filled with goodies from the bakery, a book, and a handmade bookmark by a student at RSA.

Debbie Prentiss also stated that now that we have clear financial information from the county, she will be meeting with individual employees that are due for an increase in salary.

Debbie Prentiss discussed the electives being offered starting 2/1/22: theater/stagecraft (“Lord of the Pies”), photography, ceramics, radio/green screen, jewelry/robotics, Cricut, and cooking.

Debbie Prentiss also recapped school culture (positives/negatives), student/staff retention, financial stability, and leadership outreach from her formal written Superintendent report.

Meeting adjourned: 8:42 pm