

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF ROYAL OAK  
1123 Lexington Boulevard  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2009  
5:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** President, Michael Hartman; Vice-President, Gary Briggs; Secretary, Kevin McLogan; Treasurer, Deborah Anderson; Trustee, Lisa Bradford; Trustee, Marty Cardamone; and Trustee, Christine Hartwig

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent, Thomas Moline; Executive Director Business and Technology Services, G. Anders Linell; Executive Director Business and Personnel Services, John Schwartz; Executive Director Student Services, Carol Hansen; Executive Director Administrative Services, Cheryl Goodgine; and many visitors

**ABSENT:**

1. Opening of Meeting – Mr. Hartman called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
2. Adjourn to Closed Session - Negotiations

Moved By: Mrs. Hartwig

Seconded By: Mr. Briggs

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak adjourns to a closed session for the purpose of discussing negotiations as is permissible under the Open Meetings Act 15.268, Section 8, subsection (c).

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Cardamone	Yes
Mrs. Bradford	Yes
Mr. Briggs	Yes
Mr. Hartman	Yes
Mr. McLogan	Yes
Mrs. Hartwig	Yes
Mrs. Anderson	Yes

Motion Carried: Unanimously

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:34 p.m.

3. Reconvene

The Board reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

The Board took a ten-minute recess.

The Board reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

4. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

5. President's Comment

Mr. Hartman announced that the Drama Club is putting on *Into the Woods* this weekend.

December 9<sup>th</sup> is the high school orchestra concert at the middle school and on the 10<sup>th</sup> is the band's Winter Concert.

Mr. Hartman recognized Mr. Jeff Brinker and Mrs. Carrie Beerer the new Board Members who will be seated in January.

Mr. Hartman reassured the audience of concerns regarding the music program during the process of the budget recommendations due to the reductions of State funding.

5.1 Gifts

5.1.1 \*Royal Oak Middle School – Cash Donation

That the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak hereby accept the donation of funds for the use by the Royal Oak Middle School Special Education White Team.

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A donation of \$500 was received from an anonymous donor to be used by the Royal Oak Middle School Special Education White Team. The donation is used to provide extra experiences and activities the students might otherwise not be able to have. The donor has been a silent advocate for the White Team for several years.

5.1.2 \*Keller Elementary – Keller PTA Donation

That the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak hereby accepts the donation for the use by Keller Elementary for the purpose of funding the installation of a handicap accessible playground.

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A very generous donation of \$1,473.00 has been made by Keller PTA for the Keller Elementary handicapped accessible playground. This donation

will help to fund the purchase of a handicapped accessible playground and allow for installation of Phase I of the playground.

## 5.2 Curriculum/Instruction Update

Mrs. Hansen talked about Election Day In-Service for teachers and administrators. Gary Howard from Reach Center for Multicultural Education and author of *Why We Can't Teach What We Don't Know*. Focus was on inclusion, equity and excellence for closing the achievement gap. A leadership team also met with Gary Howard for what the next steps will be.

## 5.3 Economic/Budget/Audit Update

Mr. Schwartz provided a presentation to address the State funding reductions of 2.8 million dollars. The \$553 per student reductions are still not final yet. Recommendations for this year are also done in conjunction with next year as well. The following recommendations minimally impacts programs for this year, however next year may not be the same. Mid-year budget cuts are difficult and have impact on programs and staff.

Mr. Schwartz reviewed the following budget reduction recommendations for 2009-10 which amount to approximately \$2.5 million:

- ARRA Special Education IDEA 50% Rule (Reduces required Maintenance of Effort)
- Hiring Freeze (where possible)
- Eliminate Overtime
- Reduce Supply, Material and Capital Outlay Allocation by 10%
- Reduce Bus Purchase Allocation
- Reduce Athletic Fund Transfer
- Reduce Community Fund Transfer
- Eliminate Contribution to Band Uniform/Instrument Sinking Fund
- Eliminate Music Sectionals (outside of school day)
- Increase Indirect Cost Allocation to Food Service Fund
- Athletic Fund Reductions
- Athletic Transportation Changes (One way only)
- Eliminate Substitute Usage for School Improvement Activities
- Field Trips Must Be Self-Supporting
- Reduce Technology Hardware Purchases and Technology Services

Budget Challenges for 2010-11:

- Per student shortfall projected at \$600 or more
- Federal stimulus dollars are almost gone
- P.A. 18 Special Education Funding will be reduced
- Costs are increasing
- No easy budget reductions

Significant changes in programs and operations will occur in 2010-11.

Many budget considerations for 2010-11 were presented.

6. Communications

Mr. McLogan received the following communications:

- Music Program Issues received from: Deanna Taylor, Karen Kline, Judi Rosas, Pat Kwarsick, Judi Johnson and Margo Snay
- Anne Kuzma regarding high school and middle school transportation issues.
- Lynne Porter regarding fire drill at the high school.
- Karina Landis pictures of the BRIDGES pancake breakfast at the middle school.
- Budget suggestions from: Debra and Dale Burr regarding teacher pay, Allison Sykes regarding athletics and teacher compensation, Pam Shewchuck offered several suggestions, Todd Swartz regarding teacher meetings, and Susan Love also offered several suggestions
- Luann Adams regarding thanks for the “Message from the Superintendent” in the November issue.
- Jeff Spakowski regarding schools of choice receiving legislative information.
- Mary Ann Campbell regarding team planning issues, music and other issues.
- Attended the march in Lansing on Tuesday for SOS: Rick Valone, Karen Kline (also spearheading a bake sale for Michigan education, Mark Petit and Jeanne Dolson.
- Jacqui Morris regarding issues at Oak Ridge.

7. Opportunity for Citizens to Speak

If you would like to address the Board of Education:

Please remain seated and raise your hand. When you are called on by the Board President, please come to the microphone, state your name and address for the record. You will have 3 minutes to address the Board. Please address the Board as a whole and not individually. When you are finished, please sign the sign-in sheet before you return to your seat. If you exceed your 3 minutes the Board President will ask you to please finish your comments, if you need more time you are offered a second opportunity to

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address the Board at the end of the meeting with an additional 3 minutes. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

- Rebecca Bonkowski 1112 N. Maple Ave. spoke regarding concerns for music program reductions.
- Laura Linenfelter 3027 W. 13 Mile Rd. spoke regarding a statewide bake sale and a letter from Karen Kline on Cookies for MI Kids.com.
- Dan Kline 2424 Elmhurst spoke regarding the music program, and played the tuba.
- Paige Pomroy read a letter from a classmate Elly Campbell, regarding the music program.
- Rosemary Pomroy 316 E. Windemere spoke regarding the music program.
- Craig Gossett 1406 Woodsborough spoke regarding volunteers and discussions of cuts.
- Mary Dixon 1212 Woodlawn spoke regarding employee concessions during this economy.
- Bob Mueller spoke regarding teacher step increases, wage freezes, concessions and saving programs.
- Telly Newman 26713 Rialto Madison Heights spoke regarding the music program.
- Sid Kardon ROEA President Huntington Woods spoke regarding buyouts and early retirement incentives.
- Robert Meyers 1915 Rowland spoke regarding health care concessions.
- Pam Shewchuck Cresthill spoke regarding the fight for public education.
- Michelle Villerot 1917 Clawson spoke regarding supporting education in Royal Oak, personal contributions, support of health care concessions, and negotiation issues.
- Paul Engelberts 3124 Ferris Royal Oak spoke regarding hall guards and security in the schools and issues regarding the same.
- Mary Swiajeck 4518 Hillcrest spoke regarding school calendar and negotiation issues.

- Ruth Parmentier 7927 Rowland spoke regarding transportation routing issues and provided Board Members a routing plan. Also spoke regarding custodial issues and the loss of a secretary at the custodial/maintenance building and concerns.
- Laurie Moore Executive Director of ROEA, ROESA and ROESPA spoke regarding negotiations concerns.

8. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Moline invited everyone to the drama production of *Into the Woods* this weekend.

Dr. Moline congratulated the high school girls swim team as they are the Oakland County division champs this year.

Dr. Moline addressed concerns mentioned in public comment. Initial plan for security in the stairwells at the high school could not be used per the fire department, which is why an alarm system was placed to address issues.

Dr. Moline clarified a comment made under public comment regarding administrators receiving bonuses. There are no bonuses given out to administrators in the school district.

Dr. Moline also addressed the bus transportation routing comments made under public comment. The routes have been reviewed.

Dr. Moline attended the rally in Lansing for education. Dr. Moline urged the community to contact the legislators. Dr. Moline stated that we need a system for funding education. Royal Oak has continued to reduce and consolidate.

9. **\*Consent Agenda Item Considerations** – The Consent Agenda Items were approved at this time.

10. \*Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2009 and Workshop of October 31, 2009

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 21, 2009 and the Workshop of October 31, 2009.

11. Personnel/Instruction/Business

11.1 Calendar Recommendation

Moved By: Mr. McLogan

Seconded By: Mrs. Hartwig

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak and the Royal Oak Education Association are currently involved in collective bargaining negotiations covering the 2009-2010 school year; and

WHEREAS, those negotiations have not produced an agreement with regard to the 2009-2010 school calendar relative to the period of November 30, 2009 through March 1, 2010; and

WHEREAS, it is now November 12, 2009, and it is now critical for the community, parents, students, and employees of the School District to have a school calendar for the 2009-2010 school year established relative to the period of November 30, 2009 through March 1, 2010;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak hereby adopts the following school calendar for the period of November 30, 2009 through March 1, 2010, and directs members of the bargaining unit represented by the Royal Oak Education Association to report for duty accordingly at their assigned starting times:

November 30, 2009 as the return date to school following the Thanksgiving recess

December 2, 2009 as a 90 minute Professional Development meeting for certified secondary staff with a late start for students

December 8, 2009 as a 90 minute after school Professional Development meeting for certified secondary staff and as a 60 minute before school Professional Development meeting for certified elementary staff

December 21, 2009-January 1, 2010 as the Winter Holiday recess

January 4, 2010 as the return date following the Winter Holiday recess

January 5, 2010 as a 30 minute after school Business meeting for all certified staff

January 12, 2010 as a 90 minute after school Professional Development meeting for certified secondary staff and as a 60 minute before school Professional Development meeting for certified elementary staff

January 18, 2010 as Martin Luther King Day recess

January 27-29, 2010 as High School Exam days

February 1, 2010 as Teacher Records Day; no school for students

February 2, 2010 as a 30 minute after school Business meeting for all certified staff

February 3, 2010 as a 90 minute Professional Development meeting for certified secondary staff with a late start for students

February 4, 2010 as a half-day Professional Development for certified elementary staff with an early release for students

February 9, 2010 as a 90 minute after school Professional Development meeting for certified secondary staff and as a 60 minute before school Professional Development meeting for certified elementary staff

February 18-19, 2010 as February recess

February 22, 2010 as the return date following the February recess

Roll Call Vote

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Mrs. Bradford	Yes
Mr. Briggs	Yes
Mr. Hartman	Yes
Mr. McLogan	Yes
Mrs. Hartwig	Yes
Mrs. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Cardamone	Yes

Motion Carried: Unanimously

11.2 \*Great Start Readiness Program Recommendation

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak approves the Great Start Readiness Program recommendation as presented.

11.3 \*Payment of Expenditures

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak hereby approves expenditures as processed in the amount of \$4,441,757.95 for the period of August 29, 2009 through September 25, 2009.

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Expenses in the amount of \$4,441,757.95 for the period of August 29, 2009 through September 25, 2009 as detailed in the Expenditure Register are presented for approval.

11.4 2009-10 Budget Recommendations

Moved By: Mr. Briggs

Seconded By: Mrs. Hartwig

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak hereby approves the 2009-10 budget reductions as presented.

Before the roll call vote, Board Members shared their dismay for the cuts that are proposed due to the financial challenges with the economy and the mid-year loss of funding from the state.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Briggs	Yes
Mr. Hartman	Yes
Mr. McLogan	Yes
Mrs. Hartwig	Yes
Mrs. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Cardamone	Yes
Mrs. Bradford	Yes

Motion Carried: Unanimously

11.5 Community Farm Recommendation

Moved By: Mr. McLogan

Seconded By: Mrs. Anderson

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak authorizes the Administration to negotiate and sign an agreement with the Royal Oak Business Association regarding the temporary use of the Lincoln site as a Community Farm. Terms for the agreement are as outlined in memo to the Superintendent on November 5, 2009.

Mr. David Baldwin from the Royal Oak Business Association stated that organic practices would be used. Mr. Baldwin addressed questions from the Board.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Hartman	Yes
Mr. McLogan	Yes
Mrs. Hartwig	Yes
Mrs. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Cardamone	Yes
Mrs. Bradford	Yes
Mr. Briggs	Yes

Motion Carried: Unanimously

11.6 Resolution in Support of Funding for Education

Moved By: Mrs. Hartwig

Seconded By: Mrs. Anderson

Whereas, education is the cornerstone of a successful economic turnaround and investment in education is the key to a new Michigan; and

Whereas, the children of Michigan deserve educational opportunities that allow them to compete on a national and international basis; and

Whereas, it is imperative to combine needed investments in education with meaningful, money-saving reforms in the delivery of educational programs; and

Whereas, the long-term economic health of our state, and opportunity for our citizens is conditioned on meaningful structural reform to provide stable and fair funding for education; and

Whereas, given the crippling effects on our citizens and our educational institutions of continuing short-term, temporary measures and budget impasses over education funding; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak encourages the governor and legislature to immediately find the revenues necessary to reduce the cuts to the education budget to meet their Constitutional responsibility to the children of this state; and

Be it further resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak encourages the governor and legislature to look beyond the immediate revenue shortfall and focus on the perennial and structural deficit that plagues school finance in Michigan.

This resolution will be forwarded to Oakland Schools, legislators in State House, Senate and the Governor.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. McLogan	Yes
Mrs. Hartwig	Yes
Mrs. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Cardamone	Yes
Mrs. Bradford	Yes
Mr. Briggs	Yes
Mr. Hartman	Yes

Motion Carried: Unanimously

11.7 \*Extension Agreements

11.7.1 \*Royal Oak Education Association (ROEA)

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak approve the Extension Agreement between the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak and the Royal Oak Education Association.

11.7.2 \*Royal Oak Educational Support Association (ROESA)

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak approve the Extension Agreement between the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak and the Royal Oak Educational Support Association.

12. Board Action and Non-Action Items

12.1 \*First Reading - Policy Revision – Section 1000 Administration

12.2 \*2010-11 Schools of Choice Recommendation

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak accepts kindergarten through third grade eligible applicants under Schools of Choice Section 105, on a per building space available basis for the 2010-11 school year. Beginning December 1, 2009 through June 25, 2010 applications will be available on the District website, at the Administrative Building and at each of the school buildings.

13. Opportunity for Citizens to Speak

- Sid Kardon Huntington Woods President of ROEA spoke regarding negotiation issues.

14. Board Comments/Liaison Report

Mrs. Hartwig attended the Addams PTA meeting where fundraising ideas and use of volunteers were discussed.

Mrs. Hartwig shared her thoughts regarding comments under public comment on disrespect of teachers.

Mr. Briggs asked for clarification on cancelled negotiation sessions.

Mrs. Bradford shared her personal economic cuts and health insurance costs.

Mr. McLogan stated that the OCSBA meeting is on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McLogan also announced the kindergarten round-up dates.

Mr. McLogan stated that he appreciated a response in a communication from Mr. Brinker.

Mr. Hartman attended the middle school BRIDGES pancake breakfast.

Mr. Hartman also stated that he appreciates the volunteers and the parents of our community, such as the efforts of Karen Kline and the band program.

Mrs. Anderson attended the Northwood PTA meeting also stated that they are looking for solutions to cuts.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin McLogan  
Secretary, Board of Education