

**ROMULUS CENTRAL SCHOOL
ROMULUS, NY 14541**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2012
7:00 P.M. – BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Robert McCann – President; Laurie Asermily – Vice President; Seth Brandow; Rebecca Jessop; Timothy Kuryla; James O. Somerville

ABSENT: Susan Backlund

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael J. Hoose – Superintendent; Leanne B. Keel – District Clerk; Robert J. Boulware – Business Manager; Lynn Rhone – PK-12 Principal; Christopher Puylara – RFA President; Donna Newcomb – Teacher Assistant, Computer Lab; Steven Goldberg; Kim Williams; Kara Mapstone; Linda Mastellar; Daniel Bowman; Rebecca Bennett; Liz Montesanto; Various Community parents and residents

Mr. McCann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. welcomed guests and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION:

1.0 4th Grade Lego League – Donna Newcomb and eight League members
Mrs. Newcomb stated that the Lego League is a national initiative of Time Warner Cable entitled Connect a Million Minds (CMM). Because there has been a decline in science, technology, engineering and math nation-wide, Time Warner created this robotics program whose goal is to connect one million young minds to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through after-school programs. Mrs. Newcomb received funding through Time Warner's sponsorship grant to fund the purchase of robot kits.

Mrs. Newcomb indicated that they are learning critical thinking, team-building and presentation skills as they design, build, and program their robots. The team then demonstrated their creations, and explained the findings of their research.

After a Q & A session, the Team and Mrs. Newcomb left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mapstone presented her comments on Governor Cuomo's budget announcement that was released today, connecting how it relates to a merger study vote. She stated that she would like to see RCS "wait on a merger study and see what money will be given by Albany on an efficiency study." Mentioned also was research she has conducted on merger vs. efficiency and sharing of services, and that teachers should be saved in other ways than merger.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Mrs. Williams elaborated on research she has conducted on the pros and cons of Consolidation; i.e. labor relations, transportation, parent involvement, motivation for students and parents, safety, crime and violence, and mixed variables on financial information. Mr. Goldberg expressed his thanks to the Board of Education for their continued work on merger study. And, Mrs. Mastellar stated that the best interests for kids vs. money and a merger should be looked at along with a need at RCS to increase revenues and student numbers, and stating that the Board is moving forward for a merger without a backup plan. "We should be thinking about what we have to offer and promote RCS, if we believe it."

CLERK'S REPORT:

- 1.1M Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2011
Motion made by Mrs. Asermily, seconded by Mr. Brandow, and carried unanimously.
- 1.2M Approval of Payroll for December, 2011
Motion made by Mr. Brandow, seconded by Mrs. Asermily, and carried unanimously.
- 1.3M Approval of Treasurer's Report for November, 2011
Motion made by Mr. Kuryla, seconded by Mrs. Asermily, and carried unanimously.
- 1.4M Approval of Student Activities Report for November, 2011
Motion made by Mr. Somerville, seconded by Mr. Brandow, and carried unanimously.
- 1.5 Board **information copies** of the following Warrants for December, 2011:
- . Fund A #11 (12/15/11), Fund A #12 (12/31/11)
 - . Fund C #9 (12/15/11), Fund C #10 (12/31/11)
 - . Fund F #9 (12/15/11), Fund F #10 (12/31/11)
 - . Fund TA #16 (12/15/11)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

VARIOUS NOTES OF INTEREST

2.1 Update

Mr. Hoose stated that the participation of three RCS students on the Seneca Falls CSD Girl's Lacrosse athletic team has been approved by their Board for the Spring 2012 season, and that Senator Nozzolio will be hosting Senator John Flanagan, Chairman of the NYS Senate's Education Committee, at an education summit on February 3, 2012 in Geneva, NY. And, the Capital Project Public Hearing will be held on January 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

Mr. Hoose also mentioned that Michel Pane, RCS Athletic Director, Mr. Hoose, Mr. Kuryla, Mr. Brandow, and Mrs. Jessop met with the Athletic Director and Superintendent from South Seneca CSD to discuss sharing of Coaches and students for Varsity Baseball this Spring, and other athletic teams in the future as much as possible. Mr. Hoose mentioned that Section 5 requires a merged program and would only occur in sports that have low participation numbers. The RCS Sports Boosters have offered their assistance in this endeavor. Mr. Hoose mentioned that League approval and Section 5 approval would be mandated to effect this effort.

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2.2 **Information copies of the** RCS Foundation for Educational Opportunities Report for Fiscal Years ending June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011

2.3M Authorization of the following **revision** by the RCS Foundation for Educational Opportunities **to the previously approved (on 10/25/11) Marketing Trip @ \$1,800 to \$2,300.**

Motion made by Mrs. Asermily, seconded by Mr. Kuryla, and carried unanimously.

**MERGER STUDY CONSULTING FIRM
RESOLUTION**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. made by Mr. Somerville, seconded by Mr. McCann, and carried unanimously, for the purpose of conferring with Mr. Silky (via phone) on his Firm's continued interest in conducting a Merger Study pending Grant approval.

REGULAR SESSION

Motion to reconvene in regular session at 8:10 p.m. made by Mr. Brandow, seconded by Mr. Kuryla, and carried unanimously.

2.4RS WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Romulus Central School District is desirous of retaining a consulting firm to facilitate a Reorganization Study by centralization with the South Seneca Central School District; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Romulus Central School District is desirous of entering into a consulting relationship with the Consulting Firm of Castallo & Silky; and

WHEREAS Castallo & Silky specialize in providing organizational and management consultant services, specifically including reorganization studies to School Districts;

BE IT, THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Romulus Central School District hereby authorizes the signing of a Contract with the Consulting Firm of Castallo & Silky for the purpose of facilitating a Reorganization Study with the South Seneca Central School District subject to Grant approval.

Motion made by Mrs. Asermily, seconded by Mr. Brandow. Mr. Somerville abstained. Motion passed with five affirmative votes. Ms. Backlund was absent.

**GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION
FOR MERGER STUDY**

2.5RS WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Romulus Central School District is interested in participating in a Merger Study with the South Seneca Central School District; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Romulus Central School District is interested in partnering with the South Seneca Central School District to develop and submit a New York State Local Government Efficiency Grant to fund a Reorganization Study; and

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WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Romulus Central School District hereby designates Superintendent Michael Hoose to be the Lead Applicant Contact Person for the Grant to partner with South Seneca Central School District Superintendent, Janie Nusser, and to submit a Grant Application in the amount of \$45,000.00 for school year 2011-2012, and to execute all financial and/or administrative processes relating to the grant program; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Romulus Central School District is prepared to support the Grant with a local share of \$2,250.00;

BE IT, THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education of the Romulus Central School District hereby approves participation in a Reorganization Study by centralization with the South Seneca Central School District and the submission of a New York State Local Government Efficiency Grant to fund the Reorganization Study. Motion made by Mrs. Asermily, seconded by Mr. Kuryla, and carried unanimously.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:

3.1 Update

Mr. Boulware will be meeting with the BOE Safety & Insurance Committee members and the RCS Union Presidents in early February regarding a new high-deductible plan. Also, he stated that the Benefit Resource Group will be submitting a proposal to offer HRA and HSA services to RCS employees, replacing EBS Remsco.

PK-12 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

4.1 Update

Mrs. Rhone mentioned that Midterm and Regents exams will be given during the week of January 23, 2012

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

ERICA SINICROPI

7.1L Erica Sinicropi – Childbearing leave of absence, effective approximately February 10, 2012 and returning on or before September 4, 2012, utilizing accumulated sick leave days, and unpaid leave days.

Motion made by Mrs. Asermily, seconded by Mr. Brandow, and carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS: As Recommended by Mr. Hoose

6.1A Sharon Stuck – Substitute Childcare Worker (Kidsafe Program)

Motion made by Mr. McCann, seconded by Mrs. Jessop, and carried unanimously.

6.2A Samantha Strally – Social Worker Intern, effective February 12, 2012 -

May, 2012, Unpaid

Motion made by Mrs. Asermily, seconded by Mr. Brandow, and carried unanimously.

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COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT:

- 9.1M Approval of the recommendations as listed in the CSE Minutes of:
- . December 7, 13, 14, 21, 2011
 - . January 4, 2012

Motion made by Mr. Kuryla, seconded by Mrs. Asermily, and carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE ON PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT;

9.2M Approval of the recommendations as listed in the CSE Minutes of January 4, 2012

Motion made by Mrs. Asermily, seconded by Mr. Kuryla, and carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

BOE PRESIDENT COMMENTS

. Relative to Public Comments at the beginning of this meeting, Mr. McCann stated that every option is being looked at. "There is a lot on our plate but the focus for the BOE right now is the Capital Project and the budget situation." He also said that the BOE is glad they are getting information on merger, but are also exercising due diligence and looking at things in a realistic situation. He asked for community information and faith in the RCS Board of Education.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by Mrs. Asermily, seconded by Mr. Kuryla, and carried unanimously, to enter into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. for the purpose of specific personnel issues and litigation. Mr. Somerville excused himself from the second half of the session.

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED

Motion to reconvene in regular session at 9:28 p.m. made by Mrs. Jessop, seconded by Mr. Kuryla, and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:31 p.m. made by Mrs. Asermily, seconded by Mr. Kuryla, and carried unanimously.

LEANNE B. KEEL
DISTRICT CLERK