

From the Superintendent

Governance, finance and accountability are the operative words from the District Office for the month of April.

This spring four Board of Education seats will be up for election and interested parties should see the article enclosed. No one influences the direction the school takes in meeting its mission more than the seven volunteers who serve our community in this capacity. Terms of office are for three years, and the rewards include long hours, no pay, criticism for acts of omission and commission, and most importantly, the opportunity to shape the lives of the young people of our area through the provision of services within the school setting.

Finance becomes a major concern for members of the Board of Education each year, as they struggle to provide quality educational services at an affordable cost. The test of their capacity to manage this task is taken each year, now on the third Tuesday of May, when the community comes forward to vote on the proposed school budget. Discussions of the budget will dominate the Board's agenda over the next three meetings as it has for the past two months. The budget will be the entire focus of the May issue of the Bulletin. Our hope is that by that time we will have accurate and final State Aid projections to use in determining the impact of any proposed spending increase on the local taxpayer. Only our legislators in Albany, another governance structure affecting our school and everyone else's, can control the timing and the amount of our State Aid, however, and their record for producing equitable and on-time State budgets has not been good for the last decade and more on either score.

Accountability for the policy and financial decisions made by the Board of Education as the governing body of the school is also measured annually by the State in the form of the School Report Card. **School Report Card Day is scheduled for March 31**, and about the time you receive this Bulletin, you will also see the local papers inundated with comparative data. Because the State is releasing individual district results in mid-March, and because we will not have access to other school's data until the end of the month, we will not be able to present the same comparisons with neighboring districts which we have in the past in time for this issue of the Bulletin. Interested parties may check our webpage, www.rcs.k12.ny.us, for a full copy of the Romulus School Report Card, and/or www.nysed.gov for data on any school in the State. Our Board believes that the accountability data you find on our School report Card will certainly justify the expenditure proposals they have offered in the recent past, as well as the one they will offer the community next month.

I hope you will find our governance, our finances and our accountability worthy of your continued support at the polls on May 18th. Please feel free to call me at any time about any of these or other issues of importance to you.

Chris Manaseri
Superintendent

Four Board Seats Open Petitions Due April 12

The terms of office of Rhonda Dickenson, Cornelia Johnson, Michael Karlsen, and Anne Morgan on the Romulus Board of Education expire on June 30, 1999. Individuals interested in running for one of these seats should contact the District Office for a petition form.

Petitions signed by 30 district residents endorsing the candidacy of any interested individual must be filed with the District Clerk by 5 PM on Monday April 12, 1999. Candidates will also be asked to provide some biographical information and a photograph to be used in the May edition of the Bulletin, announcing candidates for election on May 18, 1999.

If you have questions about Board service, please feel free to call the District Office, or any member of the current Board.

Absentee Ballots for May 18 Budget and Board Vote

Romulus Central School District qualified voters who will be out of the District on May 18, 1999 can request an application for an Absentee Ballot from the Board Clerk, beginning April 27, 1999. The process of voting by absentee ballot is as follows:

- Request an application by phone, mail or in person at the District Office.
- Applications from those residents who will be mailing their absentee vote must be requested no later than May 11, 1999.
- Applications from those persons who wish to pick up ballots may be submitted until 5 PM on May 17th.
- Applications for an absentee ballot should be submitted to the District Clerk who will supply the qualified resident with the appropriate paper ballot and accompanying delivery instructions.

IMPORTANT: Only those ballots returned to the District Office by 5:00 PM on May 18, 1999 (day of vote) will be included in the final vote tally.

Absentee ballots are available only to those qualified residents who are unable to vote in person for one of the following reasons:

- Hospitalization, illness, or physical disability

- Duties, occupation, business or studies that will require the voter to be outside of Seneca County on May 18th (A brief description of such reasons or special circumstances will be required).
- Vacation (Required will be the starting and ending dates, location, name and address of employer, or, if self-employed, where, and, if retired, when.)
- Detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial, or confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony.

If you are a qualified voter and are the spouse, parent, or child of a person who will be voting by absentee ballot for any of the above reasons, and you reside in the same household, you, too, may request an application for an absentee ballot to vote on May 18th by reason of accompanying the voter.

If you are a “permanently disabled” voter as indicated by the Seneca County Board of Elections, and request an absentee ballot for the May 18th School District Election, you will be entitled to receive absentee ballots in subsequent School District elections without re-applying.

A list of all persons receiving absentee ballots shall be maintained and available for public inspection during office hours until the day of the election, at which time it will be posted at the election site, pursuant to Education law Section 2018-b, 7,a.

Please call the District Office with any questions you may have regarding this procedure.

1999-2000 Budget and Board Candidates Timeline

March 14	Nominating Petitions for prospective Board of Education candidates available from the District Office
April 8	District Shared Decision Making Committee reviews draft three Budget Proposal
April 12	5 PM deadline for Petitions for Board of Education Election
April 13	Board of Education Reviews Draft Three Budget proposal
April 27	Absentee Ballots available
April 28	Board Approves final Budget Proposal
May 11	Board Presents Budget Hearing and Meet the Candidates Night Deadline to request absentee ballots by mail
May 17	Deadline to request absentee ballots in person
May 18	Budget Vote and Board Election

COMMISSIONER HOSTS PBS PARENT NIGHT APRIL 8

The School Report Card is a tool for parents and the community to use in assessing the performance of its local public schools. On Thursday April 8, 1999 from 6 to 7 PM, WXXI in Rochester and WCNY in Syracuse will air a special New York Learns, “Parent Night” devoted

to the issue of accountability reporting through the School Report Card process. This is a live call -in program with comments and questions welcomed. The toll-free number to use to join in the discussion is 1-800-295-9994. Please consider joining New York State Commissioner of Education Richard Mills for what promises to be an interesting presentation.

“Summer Club” Jobs Available

Each year, the Romulus School employs a small number of students during July and August to assist the custodial staff with the extensive cleaning which occurs in the building during school vacation. This is an excellent opportunity for motivated young people to gain summer employment within the community. If you or your child are 16 or older and looking for summer work, apply to Mr. Terry Mays, Head Custodian, through the Guidance Office, beginning April 1, 1999. Candidates will be interviewed for positions and appointed as part-time summer substitute help by the Board in May.

1999 Section V Class D Cheerleading Champions

This year, for the first time in the history of RCS, the Varsity Cheerleaders took home the Section V Class D trophy. Throughout her eight years coaching Romulus Cheerleading, Donna Morrell has watched her squads improve year by year. “I know that you guys have the potential to get first place this year,” she told her girls in a practice before the Cheeroff.

In 1997, the Romulus Cheerleaders placed for the first time ever, taking home the yellow ribbon for third. In 1998, the squad won the red ribbon for second. Throughout the 98-99 season the Cheerleaders couldn't help but wonder if their improvement trend would continue.

On February 6, 1999, the girls realized that they had gotten what they hoped for when the announcer in the Blue Cross Arena said. “And in second place... Geneva-DeSales!” Congratulations to Coach Morrell and all of the Varsity Cheerleaders for their excellent work!

Pictured are: *Back Row*- Coach Donna Morrell, Kristin Brewer, Sam Hagadorn, Tiffany Chiarilli, Bridget Godkin, Tiffany Lap, Stephanie Chalker, Jamie Egan. *Front Row* - Meri Oberbeck, Erica Callahan, Amber Willower, Tiffany Ward, Stephanie Werner, Nicole Olson, Heather Preston, Andi Dahl, Sally Swartly.

THE RED CROSS VISITS RCS

BLOODMOBILE
APRIL 29, 1999

**10 AM TO 4 PM
HELP RCS HELP OTHERS
CALL JIM DELIA AT
EXTENSION 200
FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

Message to Parents and Students of the Class of 2000

Most Commonly Asked Yearbook Questions by parents and seniors:

- Q. When are Senior portraits due to the Yearbook staff?
A. Glossy portraits are due no later than Wednesday September 15, 1999. The staff cannot and will not accept late portraits.
- Q. When should the portrait be taken?
A. During June or July 1999.
- Q. Who can take my glossy portrait?
A. That is the preference of each family. There are several studios in Geneva who have processed Romulus Seniors in the past. Most of them are familiar with RCS Yearbook staff expectations.
- Q. Are there criteria that must be met for the portrait?
A. Pictures are to be a portrait acceptable for a school publication. The senior may not be portrayed with another individual or pet. Students must avoid extreme necklines or loud patterns. A preference for males is a conservative shirt and tie. Background of the photo is somewhat specific. Each family will receive a letter with specifications. These specifications should be given to the photographer you choose. These specs must be met for submission to the yearbook.
- Q. Does the yearbook have a baby page?
A. Yes. A baby picture (senior only is preferred) must be submitted for publication NO LATER THAN Friday, September 10, 1999. Pictures CANNOT be submitted for publication after this date.
- Q. What else is expected of seniors?
A. Each senior should submit and last will and testament and a personal quote. These are due NO LATER THAN Friday September 10, 1999, Last wills and quotes CANNOT and WILL NOT be accepted after the deadline.
- Q. When do I purchase a Yearbook?
A. Each senior will be asked to fill out an order form in September. Each Senior is responsible for the purchase of his or her own book. Books must be ordered at this time because there is no guarantee that extras will be available in the Spring.
- Q. What if I have other questions about the Yearbook?
A. Contact Mr. Bob Ike, Arrowhead Yearbook advisor, extension 159.

What Can I Do? I Forgot to Order a 1999 Yearbook!

NEVER FEAR...The yearbook staff has some extra copies. Please contact Mr. Ike to obtain one. They are \$42.80. Checks may be made payable to RCS Yearbook.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL DISTRICT VOTE/ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing for the purpose of discussion of the expenditure of funds and the budgeting thereof will be held in the Romulus Central School Auditorium at 7:30 PM on May 11, 1999.

NOTICE is also given that voting to fill the four (4) vacancies on the Board of Education, and voting on the budget will be held on Tuesday May 18, 1999. Voting by machine will be in the

Elementary Gymnasium of the Romulus Central School, 5705 Main Street, Romulus, NY, and polls will be open between the hours of 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Only qualified voters will be permitted to vote. Proof of residency will be required.

AND NOTICE is also given that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for the ensuing year for school purposes, exclusive of public money, may be obtained by any taxpayer in the District during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the designated Annual Meeting date, except Saturday, Sunday, or holidays, at the District Clerks' office, 5705 Main Street, Romulus, NY between the hours of 8:00 am and 5 PM.

AND NOTICE is also given that the petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the District Clerk no later than 5 PM on Monday April 12, 1999. The four vacancies to be filled on the Board of Education are for three (3) year terms created by the expiration of Board appointments made by previous election on June 30, 1999.

Each petition must be directed to the Board Clerk, must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District, must state the residence of each signer, and must state the name and address of the candidate.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots will be available after April 27, 1999 at the office of the District Clerk, Romulus Central School, 5705 Main Street, Romulus NY 14541. Eligible District voters may use absentee ballots under the following conditions:

- a. Hospitalization, illness, or physical disability
- b. Duties, occupation, business of studies requiring travel our of Seneca County on May 18, 1999
- c. Vacation outside of the County of residence
- d. Detention or confinement in jail

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Education Law Section 2018-b, subdivision 2a, qualified voters requesting absentee ballot application from the District Clerk must:

- a. State the reason in the application why he/she is not able to appear in person on the day of the District Election
- b. Submit the application to the District Clerk at least seven (7) days before the election if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter; or
- c. Submit the application no later than the day before the election if the absentee ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

PLEASE ALSO TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Education Law Section 2018-b, subdivision 9, all absentee ballots must reach the office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 PM on May 18, 1999.

Also pursuant to Education Law Section 2018-b, subdivision 7a, a list of all persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued will be maintained and made available for public inspection in said office of the District Clerk. Such list shall also be posted at the polling place, and any

qualified voter challenging the acceptance of an absentee ballot must file a written statement with the District Clerk, or inform the election inspectors on the day of the vote.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LEANNE KEEL
DISTRICT CLERK