

Independent School District #850 School Board Minutes

ROTHSAY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 850
December 13, 2022
Board of Education Regular Meeting

The Board of Education of Rothsay Independent School District 850 held its regular meeting on December 13, 2022, in the Conference Room at the school. Chairman Justin Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members Kevin Brenden, David Simmer, Mike Metzger, Derek Froslie, and Jessi Colby also were present. Representing administration for the meeting was Superintendent/HS Principal Wade Johnson. Due to inclement weather, Elementary Principal Karilee Traurig, District Secretary/Bookkeeper Diane Haugrud, and Business Manager Neil Kusler all joined the meeting virtually. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Johnson read the school's mission statement, "To prepare our students to become responsible citizens and life-long learners."

Neil Kusler conducted the Levy Hearing for the Board and provided a quick overview of the budget to date.

Brenden made a motion to approve the agenda with one addition (property by old school); Colby seconded this motion, which carried upon vote.

Brenden moved to approve the full minutes of the regular November meeting as presented; Simmer seconded this motion, which carried upon vote. The school mailer and the Rothsay Regional Report will publish the minutes.

Colby made a motion, which carried upon vote following Metzger's second, to approve the financial reports and to authorize the fiscal agent for ISD 850 to pay accounts payable and hand payables in the following amounts: General Fund - \$205,851.15, Food Service - \$25,007.39, Community Service - \$2,871.29, Debt Redemption - \$3,150.00, Student Activity - \$13,273.52, Total - \$250,153.35. The student activity account balance was reported to be \$147,030.00.

Mr. Johnson's Superintendent/Principal report updated the board on the cameras for the buses, meeting with Lake Country Service Cooperative to see what (if any) services are available to support the school with technology services, and details surrounding the bus stop arm camera grant that the district has applied for funding. He discussed the property being sold by the district near the old school – The Board elected to postpone this discussion to be held at a later point during the meeting. The World's Best Work Force report was presented. Mr. Johnson reported that the concerts recently held at the school were well attended and well done by the students and staff. The upcoming MSBA Convention (held mid-January) was briefly discussed, and the initial participation of our board members noted. Reflecting upon the budget discussion presented earlier in the meeting, the need to look at and/or discuss an operating referendum in the years ahead was milled over by the board. Mr. Johnson informed the Board that we currently have 14 students participating in the new e-sports team and that the preseason schedule is already off and running. A clear, concise procedure for Booster Club donations will be placed in the School's Handbook with both parties agreeing to the conditions/terms. The Board was updated on the requirements for e-learning days (five days allowed per school year). A new reading, writing, and math curriculum will be reviewed for the elementary grades. The solar panel project continues as the state has reviewed and approved the larger of the two systems submitted (installation to begin the end of March/beginning of April). Finally, the district is looking into purchasing a "ShopSaber" metal cutting tool for the Ag Education program and a build slot for a new school bus has been reserved for the district.

Mrs. Traurig gave the Elementary Principal's report which informed the Board that the "Tiger Tube" is full of positive behavior tickets and that grades K-3 and 4-6 will be holding celebrations shortly before Christmas break. Detail surrounding a SRTS (Safe Route To School) grant application were shared with the group which if approved, would involve bikes and a storage shed for student use. Mrs. Traurig also informed the Board of the current Paraprofessional head count and shared that the new hires are doing very well in their roles.

The TCC Report was included in the packet and reviewed by the Board. Brief personnel changes and an updated head count were the only significant items of note for the past month.

Lori Tillman gave the Activities Director report discussing the recent wave of illnesses that have hampered the attendance levels at practices. She indicated that a group of parents are planning to donate the banner pictures for the winter sports. Mr. Nordick has met with the coaching staffs for both boys and girls basketball regarding the Tiger Speed and Strength Program – All are pleased thus far and the program is being conducted as planned. Mrs. Tillman informed the Board that some of the area schools are still keeping on schedule with their extra-curricular activities even though the district in question has elected to declare an e-learning day. The Board will review this topic in further detail at next month's regular meeting.

The Technology Report was reviewed by the Board. It was reported that a new customer representative has

been assigned to the district and that they hope to have updated lifecycle recommendations to make to the Technology Committee sometime in the first quarter of the new year.

The Preschool Report indicated that we currently have 41 students enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year. The first ECFE class of the year was held on November 2nd with 13 kids and their families in attendance. Parent/Teacher conferences for this age group were held this past month with nearly 100% participation.

Several Board Committee meetings were held this past month:

- Buildings & Grounds – Topics of note included the need for all of the school's parking lots to be striped and seal-coated this coming summer (~\$30,000). The addition of a windscreen for the chain-link fence by the preschool room will be installed when the weather cooperates. The football scoreboard continues to have gremlins pop up and is being repaired for this next season. The stairs going up to the football press box will be rebuilt this coming summer. The sound system in the gym will be evaluated for an upgrade. The baseball diamond will be receiving additional agri-lime ahead of this coming season.

- Non-Certified - Topics of note included the summer custodial position, bus drivers and training requirements, paraprofessional performance to date and several potential additions to the School's Handbook.

- Certified Committee - Topics of note included the current administration contract with School Administrative Specialty Services and the feasibility of combined classes and prep time/sub hours with a focus on streamlining the process. Enrollment was reported at 296 pupils.

Brenden moved to approve the administrative contract with SASS for the 2023-2024 school year and for the 2024-2025 school year as presented. Metzger seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

Colby moved to approve the employment agreement with Kate Mansfield as the RHS Gaming Team Coach for the 2022-2023 season. Froslie seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

Metzger moved to approve to hire Tiger Strength as a strength training program for all sports this coming year. Froslie seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

Following discussion between the Board and a personal representative of a former school employee, the termination of the Custodial Assistant position was tabled until the regular January meeting to give the district's attorney time to review the documentation. An earlier meeting between the parties may occur if deemed necessary.

Brenden moved to approve the World's Best Workforce Report as presented by administration. Simmer seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

Metzger moved to set the 2022 payable 2023 Levy at \$1,371,389.78 (a decrease of 2.19%). Colby seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

Colby moved to approve the Resolution Establishing combined Polling Places (Froslie second). A roll call vote was taken with the following voting in favor: Brenden, Simmer, Froslie, Colby, Metzger, and Phillips - Voting against: None. Whereas the said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Froslie moved to adopt the Resolution Accepting Donations for the following:

- Rothsay Prairie Chix \$500.00 Calendars – Initiative Fund
- Rothsay Prairie Chix \$500.00 Meals – Angel Account

Metzger seconded this motion. A roll call vote was taken with the following voting in favor: Brenden, Simmer, Froslie, Colby, Metzger, and Phillips - Voting against: None. Whereas the said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

The Policy Committee has reviewed all the changes and recommend the first reading approval of the following policies. Metzger moved to approve the first reading of the policies listed below. Brenden seconded this motion, which unanimously carried upon vote.

- Substantive Policy Changes:
 - 208 - Development, Addition, and Implementation of Policies
 - 209 - Code of Ethics
 - 210 - Conflict of Interest - School Board Members
 - 410 - Family and Medical Leave Policy
 - 415 - Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults

City Of Rothsay Council Minutes...

Budget Hearing
Rothsay City Hall
Approved Minutes
December 22, 2022 @ 4:00 p.m.

1.0 Call to Order: The public hearing was called to order by Mayor Joseph Tillman at 4:01 p.m. Council Members present: Dana Holland, Jr., Daryl Schleeter, and Darrell Tollefson. Council absent via phone: Tulsa-Leigh Kugler. Others present: Amanda Kuschel and Nathan Ziegler.

2.0 2023 Final Budget: MOTION by Holland, seconded by Kugler and carried unanimously, to set the 2023 FINAL Tax Levy and Budget as follows:

Total Final Certified Levy Taxes Payable in 2023: \$171,283.00
Bonded Levies: \$207,167.00
Tax Capacity Based Levy: \$378,450.00
Total Final 2023 Budget: \$927,027.00
The 2023 FINAL budget for the City of Rothsay may be reviewed in its entirety, upon request, at the office of the City Clerk.

3.0 Adjourn: MOTION to adjourn made by Tollefson, seconded by Schleeter. The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Amanda Kuschel,
City Clerk/Treasurer
(02/06/2023)

416 - Drug and Alcohol Testing
417 - Chemical Use and Abuse
418 - Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School
515 - Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records
524 - Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy
534 - School Meals Policy
603 - Curriculum Development
604 - Instructional Curriculum
708 - Transportation of Non-public School Students
709 - Student Transportation Safety Policy

721 - Uniform Grant Guidance Policy
Regarding Federal Revenue Sources
722 - Public Data and Data Subject Requests
Non-Substantive Policy Changes
104 - School District Mission Statement

404 - Employment Background Checks
420 - Students and employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and certain other Communicable Disease and Infectious Conditions

506 - Student Discipline
508 - Extended School Year for Certain Students with Individualized Education Programs
509 - Enrollment of Nonresident Students
517 - Student Recruiting
522 - Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance and Procedure and Process

525 - Violence Prevention (Applicable to Students and Staff)
527 - Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections, and Searches
528 - Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination
529 - Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students

532 - Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to remove Students with IEPs from School Grounds
533 - Wellness
601 - School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals

602 - Organization of School Calendar and School Day
613 - Graduation Requirements
617 - School District Insurance of Preparatory and High School Standards
618 - Assessment of Student Achievement

619 - Staff Development for Standards
620 - Credit for Learning
624 - Online Learning Options
701 - Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget

701.1 - Modification of School District Budget
702 - Accounting
703 - Annual Audit
704 - Development and Maintenance of an Inventory of Fixed Assets and A Fixed Asset Accounting System
705 - Investments
706 - Acceptance of Gifts
707 - Transportation of Public-School Students

710 - Extracurricular Transportation
711 - Video Recording of School Buses
712 - Video Surveillance other than on Buses

713 - Student Activity Accounting
714 - Fund Balances
720 - Vending Machines
801 - Equal Access to School Facilities

802 - Disposition of Obsolete Equipment and Material
805 - Waste Reduction and Recycling
806 - Crisis Management Policy
901 - Community Education
902 - Use of School District Facilities and Equipment

903 - Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites
906 - Community Notification if Predatory Offenders
907 - Rewards

Mayor Joe Tillman from the City of Rothsay was on hand to discuss the ongoing public auction of the property by the old school (colloquially known as the "teacher's parking lot"). Upon review, the Parcel Identification of the property in question was incorrectly labeled at the County Recorders Office and as such, was put up for sale under the wrong identifier (listed for sale as Parcel 29-150-0010 instead of 29-150-0020 – the nomenclature has since been updated/corrected via the County GIS Department). Furthermore, there was some uncertainty surrounding the legal jurisdiction of the property with regards to the Joint Powers Agreement signed by both parties in 2015. Both the School District and City will work together to clearly define an understanding of the property going forward. Metzger moved to immediately suspend the sale of the property in question until further notice. Froslie seconded this motion, which carried upon vote (Phillips abstained).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Metzger, Clerk
Approved January 10, 2023
(February 6, 2023)



We made it through January and only 2 more months of winter left! I have never been a fan of winter; it is cold, snows too much, it is cold, you shovel snow, it is cold, and it is slippery. Once you come back home from being gone, you don't want to go back out cause it is or going to get dark and colder. But, here at PARTNERS we do have some activities to take away the winter blues.

We offer two exercise programs on Mondays and Thursdays: Tai Ji Quan is at 9:00 a.m. New Life Church and Bingo is 10:30 am at the Rothsay Baptist Church. Please join us! Out Book Club is the last Thursday of the month at 10:00 am in the PARTNERS building.

On Monday, February 13 at 3:00 p.m. The Rothsay Women's Group is inviting all our seniors to a Valentine's Day Party at the Westrom Apartments Community Room. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to either Marlys Winkels at 218-329-8973 or Mary Brandt at 218-867-2693 by Friday, February 10, 2023.

Our Foot Care Clinic is held the second and third Tuesday mornings of every month at PARTNERS in Rothsay. We do have some early openings for February 14, and openings for February 21, please call 218-867-1234 to make an appointment. For the low cost of \$15, we will soak your feet, trim your nails and message your feet. The Breckenridge/ Wahpeton Community Foundation and United Way of Otter Tail/Wadena County help financially to keep the cost down.

Take part in the "Book Blizzard" at the library site inside of our building, read or listen to four books, write them down and return to Marlys at the library, this winter reading adventure is going on now until February 28th.

Rothsay's Attic is full of unclaimed treasures, come check out their line of sweaters, Valentine collection or some unique items. You never know what you will uncover! Their hours are Tuesday-Friday from 2pm to 5pm and Saturday from 10am to 2pm.

Don't forget about our loan closet, we have walkers, canes and wheelchairs just to name a few of the items available.

Preventive Care for Seniors
Preventive services are important for everyone, especially for older adults. This is because your risk for health problems increases as you age. By preventing problems, or identifying them early, you are more likely to live a longer, healthier, and more satisfying life.

What are preventive services? Preventive services include screenings, vaccinations, and health advice.

The following preventive services are especially important for older adults.

- Annual wellness exam
- Influenza vaccine
- Pneumococcal vaccines
- Breast cancer screening
- Colorectal cancer screening
- Cholesterol screening
- Diabetes screening
- High blood pressure screening
- Osteoporosis screening

Things to consider.
More than half of adults 65 years of age and older are not up to date with the preventive services doctors recommend. Skipping these services can be dangerous. That's because some diseases and conditions may not be found in time for effective treatment.

Many seniors don't get these services because they're concerned about cost. However, most insurance and Medicare plans cover all costs of preventive services.

- Some questions for your doctor
 - How often do I need to have each screening?
 - How is each screening done?
 - Can I get all these tests done at my yearly doctor appointment?
 - Are there things that make me more likely to have a certain disease or condition?

Funding for this article provided by



Remember we follow the Rothsay Public School's weather policy, if they are closed, starting late or closing early, so will PARTNERS and The Attic, be safe this winter season.



Physical And Occupational Terrorists...

As the calendar pages flipped over from April to May I was presented with new faces and a new battery of tests. I had been at Hillcrest of Wayzata for over a month and had evolved into a work in progress. None of the days seemed like a big improvement over the day before until you looked back at the whole month. There was obvious improvement. I was getting stronger. Things that had been impossible when I had been admitted were now routine . . . not easy, just routine.

I saw Sarah and Leilani on a regular weekday basis for two-a-days in the gymnasium. Weekends I got JoJo and a concentrated, extended workout in the gym. All of them were tough but JoJo was probably the hardest to please. She demanded a lot and then expected more.

Later in my sentence I would be introduced to Stephanie. She would take over therapy sessions when nobody else was available. She also did a lot of work with me late in my incarceration when I started to retain water in my legs following the workouts. I would have handled this problem myself in nothing flat had I been home alone with access to my medications. I have been on a diuretic for years to take care of this very problem. If it develops I had been instructed to simply take another pill and then don't wander too far away from the bathroom. Your excess water will disappear one frequent flush after another.

Apparently my medical degree had lapsed and they did not like my approach to problem solving. "What about the potassium you're going to lose with that remedy?"

How the hell do I know. It's never been a problem before. If you think it is, give me a potassium pill to go with all the other pills I take. Nope, they were going to fix it their own way which resulted in some elaborate elastic leg wraps from time to time.

The wraps were more nuisance than anything else. They were alright to sleep in but were simply in the way and tended to unravel during a workout. And workouts I was getting. The better I got, the more work they piled on. Sarah focused hard on the occupational drills that I worked on. I was becoming quite adept at taking things out of the refrigerator and setting the table for a meal. And then putting it all back in the refrigerator after nobody ate it. There was one thing we never touched in that refrigerator. There was a pizza box in there of indeterminate age. We never did anything with it except work around it. We had no inclination to see what the box may contain or its stage of decomposition.

In addition to setting and unsetting a table, Sarah had me hanging up clothes from a laundry basket. We only did that exercise a couple of times as she was very hard to please. I cared not whether the hanger went through the neck or perhaps out an arm hole or leg. Clothing hangs just fine whether put on the hanger top or bottom first. Things bound for the dresser drawer were even easier. Distract Sarah, make an all-in-one dump, basket to drawer. Much of the exercise was to provide me with something to do while not hanging on to wheelchair or walker.

Leilani in the physical therapy department, was focusing on getting my legs some work. In a little over a month I had progressed from wheelchair to a solid walker. These are walkers with a solid aluminum frame and two or four caster wheels on the front. The back end of the walker serves as a leaning post. You can stop walking and let the tail end of the walker hit the floor where the rubber caps on the legs actually work as brakes.

From there we graduated to a wheeled walker which has rolling wheels on all four corners as well as handbrakes. Those walkers are designed for racing. It's amazing how quick those things are on turns and especially walking in a straight line. The things have a mind of their own and actually seem to want to pick up speed with every step.

Sarah and Leilani close to doubled my workload as soon as I took over the four-wheeled walker. Now much of my exercise was focused around what I could and could not do with the walker. Where previous exercises had resulted in a feeling that you were getting stronger, the walkers gave a quantifiable result . . . distance. How far, and how many steps can you take? Keep your shoulders upright, don't bend at the waist. Don't walk with your arms supporting you. We had some known distances and some that we measured afterwards.

My first major milestone was a walk across the gymnasium from the parallel bars to the open doorway, 30-plus feet. From the elevator to the gym, 105-feet. Down the side hall to the curve, exactly 100 feet, walk it down and back. From the elevator, through the occupational therapy tables and all the way to the back hallway door, 145-feet.

The girls started to use the walkers more with each exercise schedule. In addition to the walkers they added more and more difficult procedures. That's when I officially changed their job titles. Instead of therapists they would henceforth be referred to as terrorists. Sarah became my occupational terrorist. Lelani was my physical terrorists. The names stuck. Soon the entire home had eliminated the therapist title and referred to them as terrorists.

It was all taken with good humor by the therapy ladies. In fact it brought a little humor to what were some pretty grim and dismal days for some of the residents. I could not complain. Well, that's not quite true, I could and almost daily did complain, long, loud and often but it did me no good. They just kept piling on the work, expecting more and more of me as my muscles began to work the way they were supposed to.

I was one of the lucky ones. I could take a look in my mental rear view mirror to where I had been to where I was now and there had been a lot of slow, steady improvement. Karen commented on my progress often.

There were a lot of people in here who were not getting better and were never going to get better. I was truly one of the blessed ones. But that did not mean that I had to give up heckling my jailers, guards, handlers and parole officers. If they could double the work load, I was entitled to double the complaint load. Terrorists, indeed.



Occupational terrorist Sarah and physical terrorist Leilani spent much time conjuring up new and demanding rehab exercises for me. All began with getting up and out of my wheelchair.

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