

Independent School District #850 School Board Minutes

ROTHSAY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 850
February 14, 2023
Board of Education Regular Meeting

The Board of Education of Rothsay Independent School District 850 held its regular meeting on February 14, 2023, in the conference room at the school. Board Chairman Justin Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:30 a.m. Board members Kevin Brenden, David Simmer, Jessi Colby and Mike Metzger were in attendance. Director Derek Frosolie was absent. Superintendent/Principal Wade Johnson, Elementary Principal Karilee Traurig and District Secretary/Bookkeeper Diane Haugrud were also on hand representing administration at the meeting.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Brenden motioned to approve the agenda with one addition and adjustment; Simmer provided the second. The motion unanimously carried upon vote.

Jodie Zesbaugh and Jen Chapman (both representing Ehlers, Inc.) reviewed the Pre-Sale Report for the General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds.

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

Colby made a motion (which carried unanimously 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 - \$265,061.08, Food Service - \$18,259.65, Community Service - \$1,568.00, Debt Service - \$0.00, Trust Fund - \$1,000.00, Student Activity Fund - \$12,719.45. Total: \$298,608.18.

The student activity account balance was reported as \$136,538.47.

Johnson gave the Superintendent/Principal's report. At Johnson's request, the Board granted permission to attend three upcoming conferences: MSBA Negotiating, MASA and LCSC. Updates were provided on the junior class attending a prep class to help with ACT scores as well as the current state of ACT testing (scholarship prep versus college prep).

Mr. Johnson also discussed the EmpowerU program (socio/emotional component) that is being utilized for 7/8 grade music and phy-ed. A legislative update was provided with highlights including SPED Cross-subsidy, free school lunches and the Governor's proposal. Discussion focused around how different areas of funding will be affecting our school district. Finally, with the impending storm forecasted for our area, he informed the board that he has postponed any activities after 6:00 p.m. this evening.

The Elementary Principal's report was given by Mrs. Traurig. The report highlighted School Board Recognition Month, Random Acts of Kindness Week and School Bus Appreciation on February 22. It was reported that conferences are coming up on the 23rd and 27th of this month. The upcoming

reading challenge (Read Across America) and the Book Fair were also noted. The Tiger Cub Club update was provided with information on grant timings (stabilization grant and financial hardship grant).

The Technology Report was reviewed by all in attendance. Internet connectivity (firewall) and the deployment of 10 new workstations were the only significant points of discussion.

The Preschool Report was reviewed by all in attendance. There are 42 students enrolled for the 2022-2023 school year. ECFE programs continue and have been well-attended to date.

Lori Tillman was present and gave the Activities Director Report. The Board was informed of the interviews for the Head Volleyball Coach, several updates to the sports schedule, vendors for the new softball and volleyball uniforms have been contacted and according to feedback provided from the coaches, the Tiger/Speed Strength Program is going well.

The Budget Committee met this past month to discuss the potential interest adjustment to several of our bonds (conducted in preparation for the Ehlers presentation).

Enrollment was reported at 288 pupils.

Director Colby introduced the following resolution and moved in favor of its adoption:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND THE REASONS THEREFOR.

WHEREAS, the financial condition of the school district dictates that the school board must reduce expenditures immediately, and

WHEREAS, this reduction in expenditures must include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of programs, and

WHEREAS, a determination may have to be made as to which teacher's contracts must be reduced, terminated or not renewed, and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 850, as follows:

The School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions to effectuate economies in the school district and reduce expenditures, and make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Director Metzger and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Metzger, Colby, Simmer, Brenden, Phillips and the following voted against the same: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

February 14, 2023 Mike Metzger
Date Clerk

Simmer moved to approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar as a working document. Brenden seconded this motion which unanimously carried upon vote.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board all agreed that the district should 'part ways' with the remaining property by the old school. Brenden moved to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Rothsay to either transfer or sell the parking lot property by the old school site. Metzger seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed four to one.

Metzger moved to approve Tonya Kort as the Head VB coach for the 2023-2024 school year. Simmer seconded the motion which unanimously carried upon vote.

Member Metzger introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION STATING THE INTENTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BUILDING REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES

General CRP Sign Up, Don't Miss Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up. The new General CRP sign-up will run from February 27 through April 7. CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers use environmentally sensitive land for conservation benefits. Landowners will receive an annual payment ranging from \$50-\$150 per acre and 50% cost share to plant long-term, resource conserving cover to control soil erosion, improve air and water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat on their property.

"CRP is a viable option for agricultural producers with fields that are too small for larger equipment, have odd-shaped corners, low wet areas, or land near lakes, streams and wetlands" according to Farm Bill Technician, Jacob Nelson. "Landowners should consider enrolling these areas in CRP.

For more information, contact Jacob Nelson, at 218-998-5300

2023A, IN THE APPROXIMATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$6,220,000; AND TAKING OTHER ACTIONS WITH RESPECT THERETO

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board (the "Board") of Independent School District No. 850 (Rothsay Public School), Wilkin and Otter Tail Counties, Minnesota (the "District"), as follows:

1. **Background.** It is hereby determined that:

(a) On September 17, 2013, the District issued its General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2013A (the "Series 2013A Bonds"), in the original aggregate principal amount of \$10,000,000 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 475, as amended (the "Act") and a special election held May 16, 2013, to finance the acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities, including the construction and equipping of a new PreK-12 school building. The Series 2013A Bonds are currently outstanding in the principal amount of \$6,090,000 of which \$6,090,000 is currently subject to redemption on February 1, 2023.

(b) The District is authorized by Section 475.67 to issue and sell its general obligation bonds to refund outstanding bonds when determined by the Board to be necessary and desirable for the reduction of debt service costs of the District.

(c) The Board hereby finds and determines that it is necessary and desirable for the reduction of debt service costs to the District, the District issue its General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2023A, in the aggregate maximum principal amount of approximately \$6,220,000 (the "Bonds"), pursuant to the Act, including Section 475.67 of the Act, to redeem and prepay the Series 2013A Bonds.

2. **Covenant as to State Credit Enhancement.**

(a) The District hereby covenants and obligates itself to notify the Commissioner of Education (the "Commissioner") of a potential default in the payment of principal and interest on the Bonds and to use the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.55 (the "Credit Enhancement Act") to guarantee payment of the principal and interest on the Bonds when due. The District further covenants to deposit with the paying agent for the Bonds (the "Paying Agent"), or any successor paying agent, three (3) days prior to the date on which a payment is due an amount sufficient to make that payment or to notify the Commissioner that it will be unable to make all or a portion of that payment. The Paying Agent is authorized and directed to notify the Commissioner if it becomes aware of a potential default in the payment of principal or interest on the Bonds or, on the day two (2) business days prior to the date a payment is due on the Bonds, there are insufficient funds on deposit with the Paying Agent to make that payment. The District understands that as a result of its covenant to be bound by the provisions of the Credit Enhancement Act, the provisions of that section shall be binding as long as any Bonds of this issue remain outstanding.

(b) The District further covenants to comply with all procedures now and hereafter established by the Minnesota Departments of Management and Budget and Education pursuant to subdivision 2(c) of the Credit Enhancement Act and otherwise to take such actions as necessary to comply with that section. The Board Chair, Clerk, Treasurer, Superintendent, or Business Manager of the District are authorized to execute any applicable Minnesota Department of Education forms.

3. **Sale of Bonds.** The Board has retained Ehlers and Associates, Inc. (the "Municipal Advisor"), to serve as the District's independent municipal advisor with respect to the offer and sale of the Bonds and, therefore, is authorized by Section 475.60, subdivision 2(9), of the Act to sell the Bonds other than pursuant to a competitive sale.

4. **Procedure for Review of Proposals and Selection of Purchaser.** The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Superintendent or Business Manager and any School Board member (the "Authorized Officials"), with the advice of the Municipal Advisor, to review proposals for the purchase of the Bonds and award the sale of the Bonds to the prospective purchaser (the "Purchaser") based on the recommendation of the

Municipal Advisor and the following parameter: the true interest cost of the Bonds shall not exceed 3.41 percent (3.41%).

5. **Acceptance of Proposal.** The Board will meet at a regular or special meeting on the first practicable date after acceptance by the Authorized Officials of the proposal of the Purchaser, to ratify such acceptance and take any other appropriate actions with respect to the Bonds.

6. **Authority of Municipal Advisor.** The Municipal Advisor is authorized and directed to assist the District in the preparation and dissemination of a Preliminary Official Statement to be distributed to potential purchasers of the Bonds. The Municipal Advisor is further authorized and directed to assist the District in the award and sale of the Bonds on behalf of the District after receipt of written proposals and to assist the District in the preparation and dissemination of a final Official Statement with respect to the Bonds.

7. **Authority of Bond Counsel.** The law firm of Kennedy & Graven, Chartered, is authorized to act as bond counsel for the District ("Bond Counsel"), and to assist in the preparation and review of necessary documents, certificates, and instruments related to the Bonds. The officers, employees, and agents of the District are hereby authorized to assist Bond Counsel in the preparation of such documents, certificates, and instruments.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Brenden, and upon vote being taken thereon the following director voted in favor of the motion: Metzger, Colby, Simmer, Brenden, Phillips and the following voted against: None. Whereupon the resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

February 14, 2023 Mike Metzger
Date Clerk

Director Colby moved to approve the following resolution:

ROTHSAY PUBLIC SCHOOL RESOLUTION FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) BOOST GRANT

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Safe Routes to School Program assists schools and communities by making it safer for children to walk and bike to school; and

WHEREAS, MnDOT Safe Routes to School Program solicits applications to enable schools and communities to implement Safe Route to School non-infrastructure activities; and

WHEREAS, if Rothsay Public School is awarded a SRTS Boost Grant, these funds would be used to provide non-infrastructure activities to local communities to develop Safe Routes to School initiatives that increase safety and encourage more children to walk and bicycle to school; and

WHEREAS, no local match funding is required; and

WHEREAS, SRTS Boost grant activities will commence after the grant agreement is fully executed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Rothsay Public School authorizes the Elementary Principal to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for financial assistance to fund a Safe Routes to School Boost Grant and eligible expenses.

2. That the Elementary Principal is authorized to execute such Agreement and any amendment(s).

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Metzger. On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Metzger, Colby, Simmer, Brenden, Phillips and the following voted against: None. Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Mike Metzger, Clerk 02-14-2023

Metzger moved to approve the First Reading of the Policy #503 Attendance Policy. Brenden seconded the motion which unanimously carried on vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 a.m.
Mike Metzger, Clerk
Approved March 14, 2023

(March 20, 2023)



Daily Life In The Prison...

After a month of being incarcerated at Hillcrest of Wayzata there had been definite changes in my general condition. The changes had been slow, incidental and incremental. Looking back through my mental notes, I could see the improvement. Looking forward the crystal ball got a lot more hazy.

I had gained considerable strength back. I could now leverage myself to a sitting position on the bed without assistance. I needed help getting from bed to wheelchair and back. The weekday exhausting and demanding gym sessions with Sarah and Lelani were paying dividends.

The weekend sessions with JoJo, Stephanie, Chris and one young man I saw only once, were grueling. With the weekday girls I got a tough, hour of workout followed by a break, lunch and then back to the gym for another hour in the afternoon. Weekends I never got the break, it was the better part of two hours all in one session. The weekends brought out more and different cruel streaks from my physical and occupational terrorists.

We continued with light hearted banter whether it was the regular terrorists or the weekend substitutes. I accused them of inflicting cruel and unusual exercises meant to kill me. In return they accused me of being old, fat, unmanageable and lazy. We were likely both right.

Somewhere during that first month they came up with a little project called "cognitive testing". Now this is important. Pay attention. There will be a quiz on this later. With their cognitive tests they would give you a series of words, sometimes three, a few times five to six. Most of the time there were four random, unconnected words involved. Let's call them duck, school, doctor, ocean. Then the schedule would return to the regular workouts that we had been involved with in past sessions with a few new exercises added from time to time. A long time later you were asked to recall those words.

With Occupational Terrorist Sarah I was becoming more adept at taking things out of the refrigerator, putting them on a table then returning them to the fridge. I could also hang clothing and restock dresser drawers. Running coat hangers through an arm hole, dumping socks unpaired along with unfolded underwear, shirts and pants into the same drawer perplexed Sarah but she had never eliminated that result with her rules so I counted it.

Physical Terrorist Lelani, now that I was sort of walker ambulatory, was focusing on that arena. We alternated exercises between the rigid walker with wheels just on the front, the parallel bars and the wheeled walker with wheels on all four corners, hand brakes and a seat to sit down and rest. The "Cadillac" walker with all the options was slippery, fast and wanted to get away from you creating an additional level of difficulty. Both of the terrorists focused on getting me to use my legs, walk as best I could as far as I could, continue to build up arm and leg strength and improve my balance.

The gym sessions along with a lunch break, took a big bite out of the center of the day. While not involved in the gym, I had a lot of time to spend in my room. I read a lot of novels. I watched a good deal of daytime TV which will rot your mind. Karen was a frequent visitor. I developed a good friendship with Edward, one of the late afternoon-evening attendants. He would make his appointed rounds and then stop in, occupy a spot on my sofa and together we would solve world problems.

The nursing staff was frequently stopping by to evaluate my "vitals". Occasionally that involved being poked and probed with one sharp instrument or another. A frequent test, as in at least once daily, I got a finger stick and a shot in the belly. I really began to question that and found out I was being treated for diabetes which I have never been a victim of. Some reading early in my imprisonment at UofM Hospitals must have triggered the diabetic concerns. After a few more tests the belly shots stopped.

On a daily basis, the one caregiver and I who had gotten off on the wrong foot, continued to be at odds on when exactly my out of bed time was to be. I made it perfectly clear to her that it was not somewhere around 6:00 a.m. so I could sit in a wheelchair for four hours. She pretty much left me alone early in the morning after that. Both she and I did not much care about the cold breakfasts she brought since I seldom ate anything anyway. An armed truce.

Morning sleep was never a given anyway. There was always activity in the hall and the level of conversation increased as the day went on. I did have an interesting cell mate across the hall. Allan was a long retired professor with a number of physical issues. He was also missing a few gaps between the years that he gave lectures and after his retirement. Early most mornings he would loudly begin to rehearse his class lecture for the day.

At peak volume he would blast President Trump and proclaim the glories of the Democratic party. Actually he was kind of a fun guy to visit with when both he and I were so inclined. On days he was mostly with it, I would wheel over to his room for a lusty political debate that we both seemed to enjoy.

In addition to the aide that I did not get along with, there were a host of other very capable guys and gals working the floor. One gal in particular stayed longer than she needed daily just to shoot the breeze. To some it was a career, to others it was a stepping stone as they learned American ways and language. And to a couple, it was a way to earn college money as they pursued a degree in nursing or perhaps even, in one case, a doctorate.

I was having a difficult time of it trying to get working legs back under me. But I was one of the "lucky" and for sure blessed. They had enough confidence in my progression that I was getting the extra weekend sessions. The more fragile patients, with less chance of seeing improvement, got the weekends off.

Now back to more pressing matters. I told you early on there was going to be a quiz. This quiz has only one question and answer. What were the four words that I told you to remember at the beginning of this column? . . . See, it's not so darned easy is it?! You are now officially, certifiably nuts, just like the rest of us.



Hillcrest of Wayzata had been my home for over six weeks. I had been treated well but I had no intention of making it a long stop. I wanted out, the sooner the better.

REGIONAL REPORT
Rothsay, Minn.
March 2023
Edition PAGE 7

Local Man Facing Charges After Stabbing Incident



JOHN FOGELMAN

A Rothsay man was arrested on March 6, following a reported stabbing at the Rothsay Truck Stop.

At approximately 12:09 a.m., the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office dispatch took a 911 complaint of a stabbing.

In what the sheriff's office described as a domestic assault incident, a 42-year-old female received a stab wound and was transported to an area hospital. They stressed the parties were known to each other and that there had been no risk to the public.

The woman's condition is believed to be non-life threatening in nature. Deputies arrested John Fogelman, 52, of Rothsay. He was charged with 2nd-degree assault with a dangerous weapon — substantial bodily harm and misdemeanor domestic assault. Fogelman is currently being held at the Otter Tail County Detention Center.

In addition to the sheriff's office, Pelican Rapids Police Department and Ambulance, Rothsay Rescue and the Wilkin County Sheriff's Office assisted in the investigation.

Tell them you saw it in the Rothsay Regional Report

We're All Ears!

Got A Story Idea?
We would love to hear about it.

Rothsay Regional Report
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