

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 Frosie was absent. Superintendent/Principal Wade Johnson, Elementary Principal Karilee Traurig and District Secretary/Bookkeeper Diane Haugrud were also in attendance 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 - \$.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 focus 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 February 23 and 27. 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 ten 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 teachers' 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:

That 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 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, that 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 if, 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 SRTS program solicits applications to enable schools and communities to implement SRTS

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 SRTS 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. 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 SRTS Boost grant and eligible expenses.

2. 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.
February 14, 2023 Mike Metzger
Date Clerk

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

(May 22, 2023)

Been There!...
...Done That!
Now I'm
Looking Back...
Hunting Colorado
By: Gene Prim

A Little More Independence Is Gained...

I had continued to make progress in my efforts to regain the ability to walk. It had been too long since I had been upright under my own power. February 1, 2019 had been my last day afoot. Now we were turning the pages on early May and I was slowly working my way back to physical independence.

Occupational terrorist Sarah and physical terrorist Leilani continued to work on me twice a day during the week. On weekends JoJo would take over for a workout that was only once a day but extended out to nearly two hours. There was overlap in all of the physical exercises that they demanded. All three used the resistance rubber bands for arms and legs. The trio used the parallel bars to improve walking. They used walker exercises but differently.

Sarah threw in daily chores that one might be called upon to do around the home or getting in and out of a vehicle. Leilani focused mostly on hard, at least for me, exercises that included lengthening walks down hallways, first with a rigid walker and then with a much more skittish wheeled walker. JoJo used all of the above but was a big fan of the stationary elliptical bike. We were getting my body to work a lot of different muscle groups.

In addition I had also devised a plan of my own for getting out of bed in the morning. After a few false starts and scares I worked out a procedure that got me up, out of the bed and allowed me to get dressed on my own. I could also clean up, brush my teeth and shave with no help or interference. After the initial session, I never had assistance in that area from staff ever again. They were glad to be rid of me, apparently. Nothing was ever said about my extra-curricular travels from bunk to chair.

The evening crew, however, took their job seriously. When they showed up somewhere around 9:00 p.m. I would be relieved of my gym shorts and t-shirt and would be outfitted with a hospital gown. Not my usual sleeping attire but rules is rules.

My usual valet for the nighttime costume change was Edward. He and I had a lot of meaningful conversations when time allowed. As a night owl I was usually up until well past midnight and Edward would often stop by for a chat. We conversed about everything from politics to the weather, to his crazy family as well as his equality, in his opinion, crazy girl friend. He seemed to appreciate the sanctuary of my room to spend a few minutes with someone whose mind was reasonably sound, or at least as sound as my mind had ever been.

While not of much consequence on a national or world scale, my ability to take care of my early morning duties such as getting out of bed on my own, dressing and shaving, were a big morale booster for me. It was a definite sign of progress. Or at least that's what I thought.

I had been taking care of myself mornings for at least a week, maybe longer, when the topic came up somehow in a conversation with occupational terrorist Sarah. "What do you mean you're getting out of bed on your own, dressing and going to the bathroom all by yourself? Who signed off on that?," she demanded, obviously more than a little miffed. "How long have you been doing that?"

"Well, I don't know. Since I was three or four I suppose. I don't really remember," I responded.

"You can't just start doing things on your own. You have to ask or tell someone! You know what? You're impossible some times. What are we going to do with you?," Sarah asked, more than a little peeved and exasperated.

That's funny. I don't even remember the marriage vows between Sarah and I and here I was getting a husbandly lecture completely out of the blue. I, of course, have heard similar sermons many times, but those have occurred over more than 50 years of wedded bliss. Those lectures have always been totally undeserved and now I was getting one laid on me from a little slip of a girl who was really mad at me. Somehow I seem to be good at triggering that response in those of the female gender.

There was little said on the matter after that. Sarah returned to being bossy and demanding. I retired to the complaint department and the inhumane way I was being treated in the gym. I would still profess to anyone who would listen, that all of the young ladies in the terrorist department were trying to do me great bodily harm, perhaps even kill me. The good natured banter between the terrorists and I continued.

But there were some changes. I soon had a visit from a "consultant" who questioned me about my progress. How had I been when I checked in and where did I think I was at right now? Was I feeling good about myself? Was I safe at home? It was at least as much a mental evaluation as a physical one. We did the cognitive tests again where you are to remember a series of unconnected words. We gave you that test a few weeks back in this column and if I remember right, you failed miserably.

I don't know whether I was given a pass or fail grade but I do know things changed a lot after the sitdown evaluation with the shrink. I was given more freedom. This came in the form of a little piece of green satin ribbon that was tied to my walker. That announced to the world, or at least to the staff, that I was semi-sane. I was footloose and fancy free, had some if not most of my mental faculties and had the walk of the home wherever I wanted to go. Unsupervised, I might add. Progress?!?! . . .

Progress, perhaps, but it came at a heavy cost. Within a few therapy sessions I was enrolled in the scariest physical exercise that I had yet to encounter. You will be familiar with the torture device. You have them in your own home I am betting. You probably refer to them as stairs.

It was announced at one of my terrorist sessions, I forget by who, Sarah, Leilani or perhaps both. They planned to double team me again on this first excursion into this troubled and forbidding land of stairs. It really was scary. I was barely maneuvering flat ground without incident. Now they were looking at me walking vertical miles.



My grandson Zach's dog Dakota was one of my visitors during my incarceration. She understood me better than any other female on the staff and was much more forgiving. Certainly far less bossy and demanding.

City Of Rothsay Council Minutes...



City Council Meeting
Rothsay City Hall
Unapproved Minutes
April 5, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Joseph Tillman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.0 Call to Order: The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Joseph Tillman at 7:00 p.m. Council Members present Tulsa Kugler, Nathan Ziegler and Dana Holland Jr. Council members absent: Shane Balken. Others present: Amanda Kuschel, Jordan Barry, Tony Harris, Jill Harris, Darrel Tollefson, Kary Danielson, Chris Buckingham and Breck Eckley.

2.0 Public Forum:

2.1 Darrel Tollefson brought to Council that the Lions Club would be willing to paint the American Legion East Park Shelter this year. The Lions would like to put up a plaque stating this is a Lions Project.

2.2 Kary Danielson talked on behalf of the Rothsay Baptist Church and they are interested in the old school parking lot it is would go up for sale by the city.

2.3 Tillman spoke on behalf of some of the Fire Department wives wanting to start a Ladies Auxiliary. The council decided they need more information before approving.

3.0 Approval of Agenda: After two additions; A MOTION was made by Ziegler, seconded by Kugler to approve the agenda. Carried.

4.0 Approval of March Council Minutes: A MOTION to approve was made by Kugler, seconded by Holland. Carried.

5.0 Approval of February Special Meeting Minutes: A MOTION to approve was made by Kugler, seconded by Holland. Carried.

6.0 Approval of Township Meeting Minutes: A MOTION to approve was made by Tillman, seconded by Kugler. Carried.

7.0 Budget Review:
7.1 March Statement & Ending Balance: A MOTION to approve was made by Kugler, seconded by Ziegler. Carried.

7.2 Review and Approve April Accounts Payable: A MOTION to approve was made by Holland, seconded by Ziegler. Carried.

8.0 EDA Minutes: Next Agenda.

9.0 Committee Reports:

9.1 Nathan Ziegler:

• The city will revamp the building permits and permit process. Update website once current policy review is complete.

• Conduct outreach to local builders and RAEDA Housing Sub-Committee.

• Information about Property tax Rebate Programs, Minnesota Family Investment and tax incentives.

• Coordinate with the City Clerk on any recent or future annexations/purchase to consider.

9.2 Dana Holland Jr.: Reviewed final March numbers and April's proposed expenses. Shane Balken: Started working on the Rothsay Wall of Fame. Meeting with Gary Wigdahl to discuss a list of initial members.

10.0 ROTHSAY FIRE DEPARTMENT:

10.1 Fire Report:

• Cancelled training in Duluth due to weather.

• SCBA Packs were delivered and have been trained for use and put in service.

• The DNR Grant 50/50 is now open and will be applying for fore equipment this month.

• Reminder to the residents to keep fire hydrants by their residence clear of snow.

10.2 Clerk's Collection Report: There was a total of 17 calls in the month of March; Eight Medical, Two False Alarms/Cancelled, and Seven Car Accidents. Additional billing is still being processed by the Fire Chief.

11.0 EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

11.1 Jordan Barry:

• Skid steer tire needs to be replaced. The cost of a new tire is \$1550.00 Request for Ripley's to come and clean snow from dump road ditch and creek to help with Spring flooding. A MOTION to approve was made by Kugler, seconded by Ziegler. Carried.

• MRWA came and checked fire hydrants for leaks. One was found on

the intersection of Center and Main Ave. Hydrant was bagged and will be fixed when weather permits.

• Vacation request for April 22-April 29.

11.2 Eric Larson:

• Wait for the dust control contract from Fergus Power Pump to see how the weather and road conditions will be.

• Looking into pothole repair options and will bring pricing to May Council Meeting.

• Plow truck needs new radiator. When the weather warms up will remove and send in for repairs.

11.3 Amanda Kuschel:

• Attended MCFOA Conferences in St. Cloud and Safety and Loss Workshop in Alexandria.

• Sign up for Clerk's Institute is April 3. Dates for the Institute are May 8-May 12.

• A teams meeting is set for April 4 with Loffler to look into the Elevate software. Working with engineer to try and set up group texting to residents. All they offer is individual texts currently.

• UB Max utility billing program was bought out by a different company. Had a meeting with gWorks and the new program has a lot to offer. I will have pricing for the May meeting.

11.4 Sara Frosie: Food drop scheduled for April 12.

• A total of three new fitness memberships last month.

• Contacted Life Fitness, Push Pedal Pull on how to repair treadmill.

12.0 NEW BUSINESS:

12.1 Resolution 2023-4 Waiver of Municipal Consent: MN DOT Fence approval. A MOTION to approve was made by Ziegler, seconded by Kugler. Carried.

12.2 Police Contract: Up 27 calls from previous year. The cost for the new contract is \$11,988.37 for the year. Police contract has not been paid in three years.

12.3 Hazardous Waste Contract: Contract was signed for this year.

12.4 REC Custodian: Watterud will take on full responsibility as REC custodian. Approval for \$18.00 an hour. A MOTION to approve was made by Holland, seconded by Ziegler. Carried.

12.5 REC Equipment: City does not claim ownership of the shooting machine, volleyballs, and volleyball nets. Equipment should be stored and locked away by the school after use.

12.6 Resignation: On behalf of the Rothsay City Council and the Rothsay Community—I want to thank you Tulsa for everything you have done, the time spent, your influence, tough decisions, and perspective you have brought to the City Council. We will miss you! A MOTION to approve was made by Holland, seconded by Ziegler. Carried.

12.7 Rothsay Truck Stop Project: Variance for new fuel island. A MOTION to approve was made by Kugler, seconded by Ziegler. Carried. Holland abstained.

Submit letter to the County. A MOTION to approve was made by Tillman, seconded by Kugler. Carried. Holland abstained.

13.0 OLD BUSINESS:

13.1 RAEDA Report:

• Facebook page in up and thank you to Steph Curtis for all your hard work.

• Working to support Rodeo.

• Approval to purchase an Owl 360 for council and EDA meetings. City and EDA would split the cost of \$1,200.00. A MOTION to approve was made by Ziegler, seconded by Kugler. Carried.

13.2 REC Project-Contractor: Entryway complete.

13.3 Business Opportunities: Working with SVEDA to hire a grant writer.

13.4 Old School Parking Lot Purchase: Purchase price of \$1.00. A MOTION to approve was made by Ziegler, seconded by Holland. Carried. Kugler abstained.

14.0 MOTION to adjourn made by Kugler, seconded by Ziegler, and carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully transcribed by,
Amanda Kuschel,
City Clerk/Treasurer

(05/22/2023)

REGIONAL REPORT

Rothsay, Minn.

May 2023
Edition

PAGE 7