

Roseland Board of Education Update Highlights of Thursday, August 27th meeting

Below please find a summary of the key highlights from our August Board of Education meeting ([long agenda](#))

- Superintendent Gross [presented](#) and overview of some staffing updates, including sick and maternity leave replacements.
- Superintendent Gross shared details about the [Professional Development plan](#) for the 2015/6 school year.
- Ms. Thorn presented potential options for [podcast hardware](#) for board consideration.
- Mr. Bohm [presented](#) three items related to transportation
 - Guidelines for bus drivers - will be meeting with president of bus company to review training and guidelines
 - Cameras on buses - proposed system would record bus activity, with recordings stored offline and accessible only by authorized school personnel in the event of an issue. Cameras are being considered at the request of other schools in the consortium who are interested in such a service. [SafeStop app](#) - allows parents to track their student's bus and receive alerts
 - Mr Bohm provided a construction update - playground cracks and top of driveway were patched thanks to our town, front vestibule almost complete; awaiting window
 - Mr Bohm indicated a recall motion will not appear on the November ballot as the deadline to reach the required number of signatures has lapsed
 - Mr. Mastrangelo reviewed the process for board and district goal setting, goals for 2015/6 and next steps, and plans to link actions on the agenda to board and/or district goals as appropriate
- District goals
 1. Improve student achievement
 2. Expand the outreach and transparency to the community
 3. Improve the quality of the teaching and learning process
- Board goals
 1. Continue to improve transparency and board communication with stakeholders
 2. Support the hiring and training of a new Principal
 3. Prepare a fiscally responsible and educationally sound budget
 4. Successfully complete negotiations
- Mr Mastrangelo noted that this board is a thoughtful and dedicated group with one common objective aligned with that of our parents and community - to enable our school to provide the best public education possible for our students and create lifelong learners.

He stressed the board does not engage in back room deals, there are no elaborate conspiracies; and no hidden agendas. Hiring is based on credentials, sample class performance for teachers, and exceptional references.

- Negotiations Committee - Mr Goldstein provided details of the teacher contract: The overall 3-year raise was 7.6% (inclusive of increment cost – the cost of moving teachers through the salary guide). That settlement translated into a 2.7% increase for 2015-16; a 2.5% increase for 2016-17 and a 2.4% increase for 2017-18. We also increased the entry level salary to \$50,000+ for the 2017-18 school year and added an additional step at the top of the salary guide to reduce an increment bubble. Finally, we revised the language to require that employees must work 30 hours per week in order to qualify for health benefits (compliant with the ACA), which will provide the district with greater flexibility with part-time employees.

- Some key items the board approved:
 - Change of [Policy](#) 5516-Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices to remove use during recess
 - 2015-2018 Roseland Education Association (REA) contract
 - 2015-2016 Curriculum
 - Conquer Math and Orton-Gillingham Professional Development
 - Thomas August as Acting Head Custodian
 - Personnel for sick and maternity leave replacements
 - Board and District Goals

- Public comments included bus safety, bus cameras, SafeStop app, podcasting equipment, bond redemption, use of fields, and gifted and talented

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24th at 7:30pm in the Noecker Media Center

Roseland Board of Education

Communications Committee