

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS -- MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN
September 11, 2023

A regular meeting of the Reeths-Puffer Board of Education was called to order by Kim Bramer at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023, at the Educational Services Building, 991 W. Giles Road, Muskegon, MI 49445

The following members were present:

Kim Bramer, President	Jennifer Romanosky, Vice President
Susan Blackburn, Secretary	Chris Brooks, Treasurer
Alex Keefe, Trustee	Joan Vincent, Trustee

Absent: Sonya Hernandez, Trustee

Others present: Steve Edwards, Superintendent
Rob Renes, Assistant Superintendent
24 Others

The meeting was open with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Steve Edwards introduced J.J. Lewis from United Way. J.J presented the “Distinguished Lakeshore Educator Award” to Karyn Edwards. Karyn was nominated by previous parents from the district and was voted upon by the United Way committee.

Pam Turner presented information that showed the Safe Route to Schools offer. The Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) is a federal Transportation Alternatives Program funded by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), working with the Michigan Fitness Foundation (MFF) and Michigan State University (MSU).

Safe Routes to School (SRTS initiatives aim to unite neighborhoods, ease traffic congestion and air pollution, and contribute to students’ readiness to learn in school.

The purpose of SRTS is to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk, roll and bike to school.

SRTS Action Plan Components:

- Educate students and parents about the safety and benefits of non-motorized transportation.
- Encourage students to walk, bike and roll to school with different events, activities, and programs.
- Engage students, families, teachers, school leaders, municipal staff, and community organizations to build intentional, ongoing collaborative opportunities into the program structure.
- Engineer physical improvements to streets and neighborhoods to increase comfort, safety and convenience.
- Equity by means of ensuring all recommendations benefit students from all backgrounds in the community; and
- Evaluate the perceptions and effectiveness of recommendations before and after their implementation.

The Walking Audit will take place September 26, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm and the Kick-off meeting will follow from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm in the Reeths-Puffer Elementary Library. The goals of the walking audit consist of:

- Identify safety hazards along routes.
- Increase community awareness and support for SRTS by providing first-hand experience of safety problems.
- Begin to identify possible solutions to existing safety concerns.
- Complete the Safe Routes to School planning process.

Steve Edwards explained the “Bond and Beyond” of Reimagining Rocket City. It was The debt should be paid off by 2023.

The last bond passed in 2009 and focused on the Middle School and other upgrades. We are looking at future building without increasing current millage rate. It will be a one ballot question in 2027 with three “series of bonds:

- Series 2027: \$10,000,000
- Series 2027: \$44,450,000
- Series 2033: \$118,200,000

Total: \$172,650,000

The board and audience were shown pictures of other schools that were able to reimage and design their schools for the future.

It was moved by Susan Blackburn and supported by Chris Brooks to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously. The consent agenda follows:

1. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2023
2. Approve Personnel Report
3. Approve the High School band to travel to Obetz, Ohio to compete in the Bands of America Regional.

The meeting was open to the public.

- None

Communications

- Superintendent:
 - 1938 Fair Labor Act – The NPRM proposes to update and revise the regulations issued under section 13(a) (1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act implementing the exemption from minimum wage and overtime pay requirements for executive administrative, and professional employees. The proposed rule would lift the current level for extra earnings from \$35,568 to \$55,000 annually. The new rule would not take effect until January. This is a unique situation for schools.
- Board Members: Kim Bramer thanked everyone for a great start to the school year.

Future Meetings:

- Work session will be held at the Board of Education of Reeths-Puffer Schools on Monday, October 2, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

- Board Meeting will be held at the Board of Education of Reeths-Puffer Schools on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

It was moved by Alex Keefe and supported by Susan Blackburn to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Blackburn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Susan Blackburn, Secretary