

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF ROYAL OAK  
1123 Lexington Boulevard  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**JANUARY 10, 2008  
6:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** President Gary Briggs, Vice President Michael Hartman, Secretary Kevin McLogan, Treasurer Daniel Champagne, Trustee Deborah Anderson and Trustee Christine Hartwig

**ALSO PRESENT:** Superintendent Thomas Moline, Executive Director Business and Technology Services G. Anders Linell, Executive Director Business and Personnel Services John Schwartz, Executive Director Student Services Carol Hansen, Executive Director Administrative Services Cheryl Goodgine, visitors and members of the press

**ABSENT:** Trustee Lisa Bradford

1. Opening of Meeting

Mr. Briggs called the meeting to order at 6:26 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given at this time.

2. Adjourn to Closed Session – Attorney/Client Privilege

Moved By: Mr. McLogan                      Seconded By: Mrs. Hartwig

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak adjourns to a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing written opinion of legal counsel as is permissible under the Open Meetings Act 15.268, Section 8, Subsection (h).

Roll Call Vote	
Mrs. Hartwig	Yes
Mrs. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Champagne	Yes
Mr. Hartman	Yes
Mr. Briggs	Yes
Mr. McLogan	Yes

Motion Carried: Unanimously

The Board adjourned to closed session at 6:27 p.m.

*Minutes of the January 10, 2008 Board of Education Regular Meeting*

3. Reconvene – The Regular meeting reconvened at 7:09 p.m.
4. Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was given after item 1.
5. President’s Comments

Dr. Moline stated that January is Board Recognition Month and read a statement recognizing the Board for their work and commitment.

Oak Ridge teacher Pam Edgington represented Oak Ridge and thanked the Board for their work and presented each Board Member and Executive Council with a Dr. Seuss book of *Oh, The Places You Will Go*.

State Representative Marie Donigan also recognized the Board Members as facing tough challenges and read a proclamation designating January as Board Recognition Month in Michigan.

PTA Council President Peggie Lawrence presented a token of appreciation to Board Members of a PTA Flexible Folder.

Mary Kerwin from the Troy City Commission also recognized the Board for their work.

5.1 \*Gift - Royal Oak Middle School White Team – Cash Donation

That the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak hereby accept the donation of funds for the use by the Royal Oak Middle School White Team.

\*\*\*\*\*

A donation of \$500 was received from an anonymous donor to be used by the Royal Oak Middle School White Team. The donation is used to provide extra experiences and activities the students might otherwise not be able to have. The donor has been a silent advocate for the White Team for several years.

5.2 Pride of Royal Oak

5.2.1 Jeff Synowiec

Dr. Moline read the following resolution:

Moved By: Mr. McLogan                      Seconded By: Mrs. Anderson

Whereas Jeffrey Synowiec has been instrumental in protecting the property of the School District of the City of Royal Oak and property belonging in Troy; and

Whereas Mr. Synowiec viewed a surveillance tape capturing a suspect and the suspect’s vehicle involved in Larceny From Autos, including a Royal

Oak Schools maintenance van, as declared by the Royal Oak Police Department; and

Whereas Mr. Synowiec observed a vehicle matching the description and followed it into the City of Troy and informed the Police; and

Whereas Police units stopped the suspect and vehicle and determined that the suspect had just stolen a trailer in the City of Troy; and

Whereas Mr. Synowiec received a Citizen's Award from the Royal Oak Police Department; now

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak recognizes Jeffrey Synowiec as a Pride of Royal Oak Award recipient.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Champagne	Yes
Mr. Hartman	Yes
Mr. Briggs	Yes
Mr. McLogan	Yes
Mrs. Hartwig	Yes
Mrs. Anderson	Yes

Motion Carried: Unanimously

#### 5.2.2 Keith Wilkins

Dr. Moline read the following resolution:

Moved By: Mr. McLogan                      Seconded By: Mr. Hartman

Whereas Keith Wilkins has been inspirational in helping with the care of historical items through the District's consolidation and renovation process; and

Whereas Mr. Wilkins has helped to remove and clean tiles from the former Franklin and Whittier Elementary buildings and secure these tiles along with tiles from the former Longfellow Elementary building; and

Whereas Mr. Wilkins has helped to secure many artifacts from closed buildings, including a time capsule from the former Starr Elementary building; and

Whereas Mr. Wilkins has helped with hanging and securing of the murals at Royal Oak Middle School; and

Whereas Mr. Wilkins has demonstrated a pride in the historical significance of items owned by the Royal Oak Schools, the importance of historical treasures in the eyes of the Royal Oak Historical Society and the preservation of history for the Royal Oak Community of students of all ages; now

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak recognizes Keith Wilkins as a Pride of Royal Oak Award recipient.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Hartman	Yes
Mr. Briggs	Yes
Mr. McLogan	Yes
Mrs. Hartwig	Yes
Mrs. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Champagne	Yes

Motion Carried: Unanimously

5.3 January 19 Board Workshop

Dr. Moline stated that the Board is in agreement for January 19, 2008 as a workshop date for discussing the 2008-09 Budget and future goals of the District.

5.4 All Day Kindergarten Discussion

Dr. Moline stated that there has been discussion regarding all day kindergarten. Elementary principals have met to discuss this topic. It has also been discussed by the Curriculum Committee.

Mrs. Hansen shared many benefits for children provided a full day kindergarten. Number of teachers and rooms would double. It is still in the discussion phase.

Mr. Schwartz stated that we do offer an extended day program for kindergarten students called the Acorn Program. Acorn is a tuition-based program. Mr. Schwartz explained that double the space and kindergarten teachers would be needed. Mr. Schwartz also reminded everyone that the costs to have an all day kindergarten program could outweigh the revenue if additional students were not brought in at the kindergarten level and those additional costs would have to come from another program. Retaining students the following year would also be crucial in offsetting the costs of an all day kindergarten program.

There was much discussion regarding this item.

5.5 Economic/Budget/Audit Update

*Minutes of the January 10, 2008 Board of Education Regular Meeting*

Mr. Schwartz stated that the preliminary work for the 2008-09 year has been completed and is in the process of obtaining information. The budget workshop on January 19 is the next step. Mr. Schwartz stated that declining enrollment, health insurance costs, inflation, energy costs, housings costs and the impact it has on the District, as well as the school aid fund are all challenges the District faces.

6. Enrollment Forecast – Dr. Bruce Van Deusen

Dr. Bruce Van Deusen stated that there is an increase in kindergarten enrollment this year. Dr. Van Deusen stated that the elementary level student population is leveling off while the middle and high school levels continue to decline. The resident enrollment is declining at a slower rate than the non-resident.

7. Communications

Mr. McLogan received the following communications:

- Kathy Guest regarding the Oak Roots Green Team meeting on 1/30/08.
- Emails from Kathy Beechler, Maureen Shannon and Laura DeBastos regarding the bussing situation at Addams.
- OCSBA dinner meeting information.

8. Opportunity for Citizens to Speak

If you would like to address the Board of Education:

Please remain seated and raise your hand. When you are called on by the Board President, please come to the microphone, state your name and address for the record. You will have 3 minutes to address the Board. Please address the Board as a whole and not individually. When you are finished, please sign the sign-in sheet before you return to your seat. If you exceed your 3 minutes the Board President will ask you to please finish your comments, if you need more time you are offered a second opportunity to address the Board at the end of the meeting with an additional 3 minutes. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Chris Carden - 907 Wyandotte spoke regarding all day kindergarten and student enrollments.

Sue Willard - 723 Willis St. spoke regarding parking and traffic issues at Addams and transportation concerns.

Stacy Iles - 3127 Ferncliff Ave. spoke regarding all day kindergarten.

Pamela Lemme – 806 Woodcrest spoke regarding bussing and parking safety issues at Addams.

Lisa Liu - 1102 Montrose spoke regarding missing records.

Rick Barrer - 727 S. Laurel spoke regarding bussing and parking issues at Addams. Also spoke regarding the accumulation of water and geese on the Addams property.

Peggie Lawrence spoke regarding the PTA Council RO Disability Awareness Open House on January 31 at Churchill.

Jeanie Dolson - 126 N. Connecticut spoke regarding teacher Mr. Weathers who retired.

Jim Gostiaux - 715 S. Edison spoke regarding a recommendation for the new ROHS football coach and also a strength training program.

9. Superintendent's Comments

9.1 Special Recognition

The Board was recognized earlier in the agenda.

Dr. Moline stated that he and Mr. Linell will be meeting with the Addams PTA on January 14 regarding bussing, parking and boundary issues.

Dr. Moline wished everyone a happy new year. Dr. Moline reviewed the accomplishments of the past year: two middle schools were moved into one building; eight elementary buildings consolidated to six; consolidation; construction; demolition; property sales; restoration of the middle school building and the building of a new elementary building; continuation of work in the high school and elementary buildings. However student achievement remains the focus with continued individualized instruction and an international curriculum introduced.

9.2 ROHS Video Cameras

Dr. Moline stated that the new surveillance system caught theft activity in the high school locker room.

9.3 Fast ForWord

Dr. Moline stated that the Fast ForWord program is on the agenda for recommendation, if approved it will be piloted in one of our elementary buildings. Mrs. Hansen and Mrs. Olson explained the program, which will aid in the beginning of reading.

10. **\*Consent Agenda Item Considerations** – The Consent Agenda Items were approved at this time.

11. **\*Approval of Minutes of the Regular and Closed Meetings of December 13, 2007**

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak approve the minutes of the Regular and Closed Meetings of December 13, 2007.

12. Personnel/Instruction/Business

12.1 \*Regular Personnel Changes

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak hereby approves the following regular personnel change.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Dale Burr	Teacher	Resignation	July 1, 2007

12.2 \*Fast ForWord Recommendation

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak approves \$36,000 for the purchase of a software license in order to pilot the Fast ForWord Reading program. This program will be piloted for one year in one elementary school in the district. The Board further authorizes \$20,000 to upgrade the one-year program license to a perpetual license if data indicates significant improvement in reading progress for at-risk students.

12.3 \*Michigan School Readiness Program Grant

Whereas, the Legislature continues to acknowledge the importance of improving school readiness by providing quality preschool education for four-year-old children who may have extraordinary need of special assistance and the importance of providing parenting education programs for families of all children birth to kindergarten entry; and

Whereas, Sections 32d and 37 through 40 of the State School Aid Act provide for comprehensive compensatory education for these children and families; and

Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of the State Aid Act, the School District of the City of Royal Oak is eligible to receive an allocation of \$88,400 for fiscal year 2007-2008 to operate a school readiness program for a maximum of 26 children and/or to provide comprehensive parent involvement and education programs for all families of children birth to kindergarten entry; now therefore, be it

Resolved that the School District of the City of Royal Oak certifies that it will provide half-day, all day / alternate day, or home-based preschool education for 26 eligible four-year-old children, and that \$88,400 of the stated amount, based on the approved per capita allowance of \$3,400 will be used specifically for this purpose; and be it

Resolved that the School District of the City of Royal Oak certifies that it will not provide full-day preschool education for eligible four-year-old children, and that

\$0 of the stated amount, based on the approved per capita allowance of \$6,800 will not be used specifically for this purpose; and

The School District of the City of Royal Oak further certifies that more than 50 percent of the children enrolled in the school readiness program will meet the income eligibility guidelines outlined in Sections 32d and 37 through 40; and therefore be it

Resolved that the School District of the City of Royal Oak certifies that it will not provide comprehensive parent involvement and education programs for all families of children birth to kindergarten entry, and that \$0 will be used specifically for this purpose; now therefore be it finally

Resolved that any unallocated funds, as a result of this resolution, shall be redistributed to other eligible districts.

#### 12.4 Update on Redistricting

Mr. Linell presented a revision of suggested boundaries. The revision removed areas that were not residences, such as golf courses, cemeteries, etc. Boundaries by street were provided. The staggering of start times for Oakland and Keller could help with bus transportation. There was discussion on this information.

There was discussion on Addams parking and the potential for a traffic study.

High school bus issues were discussed.

Mr. Linell provided a PTA survey for Oakland Elementary families who are enrolled under open-enrolment in another building. This will probably be completed as a phone survey.

#### 12.5 Property Matters Update

Mr. Linell explained that the majority of the 2005 Bond focused on the high school, middle school and the new elementary building. The sale of properties is designated for the renovation of the remaining buildings. Of the ten properties, three have been sold and closed on and the remainder are in the process or in the due diligence period. Mr. Linell stated that eight and a half months to twelve months is the approximate amount of time required for the process of selling property.

##### 12.5.1 \*Longfellow – Valentino

WHEREAS, the School District has offered for sale certain surplus real property situated in the City of Royal Oak, Oakland County, Michigan, described as follows:

A 4.94+/- acre parcel, Sidwell Number 25-16-380-026, commonly known as Longfellow Elementary School (the "Property"),

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2007, the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak authorized the Superintendent to negotiate the terms and conditions of a final Offer To Purchase for 1.98 +/- acres of the Property (the "Premises") with Valentino Development ("Valentino") for a purchase price of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) and on the terms substantially similar to those contained in Valentino's Offer dated June 20, 2007 in order to build twelve (12) single-family home sites;

WHEREAS, due to certain requirements of the City of Royal Oak, it became necessary to reduce the size of the Premises being purchased by Valentino to 1.27+/- acres, and the number of residential lots from twelve (12) lots to eight (8) lots (the "Revised Premises");

WHEREAS, Valentino submitted a Revised Offer To Purchase to the School District for the Revised Premises. The Revised Offer, as submitted, proposes a purchase price of Six Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$620,000.00) for the eight (8) residential lots, and includes certain terms which may not be deemed "substantially similar" to those terms contained in the Offer dated June 20, 2007;

WHEREAS, the School District is desirous of accepting said Revised Offer and authorizing the sale of said Revised Premises; and

WHEREAS, the School District is further desirous of authorizing the Superintendent of the School District to execute the Revised Offer dated January \_\_, 2008, and any and all documents necessary and incidental to the sale of the Revised Premises on behalf of the School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The School District authorizes the sale of said Revised Premises for a purchase price of Six Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$620,000.00) and on the terms generally described above and substantially similar to those contained in Valentino's Revised Offer dated January \_\_, 2008.
2. The Superintendent of the School District is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary and incidental to the sale of said Revised Premises on behalf of the School District.

The administration is recommending that Michelle Kerns of LeCole Planners engaged as consultant relative to the Bond Project:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak authorizes the administration to hire Michelle Kerns of LeCole Planners at the rate of \$100 per hour, not to exceed \$14,000. Further that the cost of any other consultants recommended for engagement will not exceed \$5,650.

12.7 \*Payment of Expenditures

Resolved that the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Royal Oak hereby approves expenditures as processed in the amount of \$10,533,978.42 for the period of October 27, 2007 through November 23, 2007.

13. Board Action and Non-Action Items

13.1 Comcast PEG Channel Lineup

Moved By: Mr. McLogan

Seconded By: Mrs. Anderson

Whereas, Comcast Cablevision, is among the companies that furnish or will be furnishing cable television subscriptions to residential customers; and

Whereas, the School District of the City of Royal Oak and other governmental entities have committed substantial resources to deliver programming on governmental and educational access channels, also known as PEG and has participated with other governmental entities in the Community Media Network (CMN) and the Intergovernmental Cable Communication Authority (ICCA); and

Whereas, Comcast Cablevision has indicated that it intends to change the channel lineup and location of the public, educational and government access channels (PEG) from present locations, where they have been situated for many years, to the channel lineup in the 900's, which will require customers to have a digital converter set-top box, a cable card or a QAM\* capable television; and

Whereas, the result is added costs, inconvenience, and confusion with respect to citizens who intend to view educational and governmental access channels;

Whereas, since Comcast's announcement, many citizens have voiced their opposition to the news that Comcast intends to change the location of PEG channels and require customers to have a digital converter box to receive the channels;

Now, therefore, be it resolved:

1. Comcast Cablevision is requested to preserve the channel locations for public, educational and governmental access channels (PEG) and agree

that they will not be changed in the future without the written consent of the School District of the City of Royal Oak or governmental entity or entities which provide programming on such channels;

2. The School District of the City of Royal Oak requests that Public Act 480 of 2006 be immediately amended to require that public, educational and governmental access channels remain at the current locations and that the same not be subject to change unless the written consent of the affected governmental entity providing the programming is obtained.
3. The School District of the City of Royal Oak requests that I.C.C.A legal counsel explore sections of Michigan's Public Act 480 of 2006, for provisions that already exist to potentially assist the School District in maintaining the best delivery of its programming to Royal Oak residents via the cable TV and video systems. In addition, that I.C.C.A. continue talks with local providers, as well as investigate appropriate measures, to protect the School District's investment in providing programming for local access channels, as these channels are important means of communicating with residents.  
(\*QAM tuners in televisions enable direct reception of digital cable channels without the use of a set-top box.)

Roll Call Vote

Mr. Briggs	Yes
Mr. McLogan	Yes
Mrs. Hartwig	Yes
Mrs. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Champagne	Yes
Mr. Hartman	Yes

Motion Carried: Unanimously

Moved By: Mr. Briggs

Seconded By: Mr. Hartman

Mr. Briggs stated that Mr. McLogan would like to attend the Federal Relations Network and is asking that the District pay for his registration of approximately \$570.

Roll Call Vote

Mr. McLogan	Yes
Mrs. Hartwig	Yes
Mrs. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Champagne	Yes
Mr. Hartman	Yes
Mr. Briggs	Yes

Motion Carried: Unanimously

*Minutes of the January 10, 2008 Board of Education Regular Meeting*

14. Opportunity for Citizens to Speak

Pam Lemme - 806 Woodcrest spoke regarding elementary boundaries relating to Longellow families going to Northwood and Addams, and Addams parking issues.

Marty Cardamone - 410 N. Rembrandt spoke regarding Addams parking.

15. Board Comments/Liaison Report

Mrs. Hartwig announced that the Royal Oak Kiwanis Club sends two students to the State Law Enforcement Academy open to 10, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Students interested in applying should contact Mr. Stemas at the high school.

Mrs. Anderson stated that March 1<sup>st</sup> at Royal Oak Middle School will be a Swing Dance put on by the Murals Committee and the Royal Oak Historical Society.

Mr. Hartman attended the holiday orchestra concert. The Jazz Expo is tonight.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin McLogan  
Secretary, Board of Education