



*Electronic Meeting &  
@ RCS Central Office  
36540 Grant Road  
Romulus, MI 48174*

Phone: 734-532-1600  
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Benjamin Edmondson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

**Board of Education**

Edward Martell, President  
Debi Pyles, Vice President  
Ursula Wester, Secretary  
Denisa Terrell, Treasurer  
Theresa Beard, Trustee  
Susan Evitts, Trustee  
Judy Kennard, Trustee

**MINUTES: Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
Monday, March 22, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by President Edward Martell at 6:01 p.m. via *YouTube public stream, and, in-person at the RCS Board Room or Google Meet.* Streaming is live on our YouTube channel due to the current safeguards in place for COVID-19. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, led by President Martell. Audio difficulty during portions of meeting.

ROLL CALL of Board Members Present: In-Person Participation @ RCS Board Room, Unless Noted Otherwise

Present: President Edward Martell, Vice-President Debi Pyles, Secretary Ursula Wester, Treasurer Denisa Terrell, Trustee Susan Evitts, Trustee Judy Kennard (6:42 arrival; virtual participation via Google Meet)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Trustee Theresa Beard

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Benjamin Edmondson, Executive Director of Instruction Dr. Sophia Lafayette-Lause, Director of Human Resources Margaret Hazlett, Director of Special Services Angela Broaden, Director of Integrated Technology David Cooper, Manager of Operations Bill Garland

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Motion by Martell, supported by Wester

Roll Call Vote, 5/0 Ayes: Pyles, Terrell, Evitts, Wester, Martell. Agenda Approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine in nature by the Board of Education and were acted upon by one motion. There was no separate discussion on these items, unless noted otherwise.

1. Approval: To approve the minutes of the Board of Education --
  - a. March 2, 2021 Special Meeting
  - b. March 2, 2021 Closed Session Meeting
  - c. March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting, and;
2. Approval: To approve the Bills for Payment as submitted by Interim Director of Finance Jewell Clair in the amount of **\$579,456.48**.
3. Approval: To approve the personnel recommendations as submitted by Director of Human Resources Margaret Hazlett, including --

Employment: #1: Kristin Felsburg/Teacher; #2: Autumn Foley/Paraprofessional; #3: Tyquana Hunt/Extended Care Person; #4: Eliza Johnson/Paraprofessional; #5: Jamie Mitchell/Paraprofessional; #6: Ashleigh Oubre/Paraprofessional; #7: Hailey Smith, Paraprofessional, and;

Resignation: #1: Dawser Al-Adhami/Teacher; #2: Angela Rudolph/Director of Business & Operations for RCS.

**APPROVAL of Consent Agenda, as presented.**

Motion by Martell, supported by Wester

Roll Call Vote, 5/0 Ayes: Evitts, Terrell, Pyles, Wester, Martell

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

RECESS: 6:02 p.m.; RECONVENE: 6:02 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Benjamin Edmondson

Miscellaneous: Updates included -

- #1: Happy birthday to Board Secretary Ursula Wester.
- #2: Changing Culture/Climate - Shared upcoming promotional video, My Future Starts with Romulus Community Schools. Comments on Board member visits to buildings, capturing enrollment, and, a RCS kindergarten video.
- #3: Millage - Postcards mailed to absentee voters. Expenses for "vote yes" information - getting information to business partners.
- #4: Human Resources - Recognition of hires included on this Consent Agenda and Margaret Hazlett's commitment to filling positions. Four open contracts.
- #5: COVID Dashboard - Current, to date; include when face-to-face. Cancelled basketball seasons.
- #6: Director of Finance Position - Plans to post tomorrow. Comments on Edmondson is present/did not have surgery.
- #7: Wayne RESA Superintendent Search - MASB update 3:00 tomorrow for Board members to provide input on search. This is a Wayne RESA superintendent search, and not a search for a RCS superintendent.
- #8: A Board seat is open at RESA; an incumbent is running. RCS needs a Board representative to announce who RCS will support.
- #9: Angela Broaden - Acknowledgement of work on EBT/Pandemic EBT cards.
- #10: In-Person Learning Deadline - Tomorrow is the last day to opt for in-person. Not guaranteed, but if we can accommodate. We are social distancing 6'; maybe 3' in summer. Transportation. Reminder we are in pandemic. Approximately 150 have expressed interest to return to in-person learning; decision is at principal level.
- #11: Spring Break is Next Week - Renovation to Board Room and Board building, including landscape.

COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan: Monthly Plan Update

**APPROVAL:** Approve the presented March 2021 RCS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan dated March 18, 2021.

Motion by Martell, supported by Wester

Roll Call Vote, 5/0 Ayes: Terrell, Evitts, Pyles, Wester, Martell. Motion Approved.

*Edmondson shares he is getting texts that YouTube audience (at this meeting) was unable to hear for awhile. Edmondson received a verbal statement this has been fixed.*

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION: Dr. Sophia Lafayette-Lause

Overnight Field Trip: RHS Wrestling

**APPROVAL:** Approve the overnight field trip of Romulus High School Wrestling: April 1-2, 2021.

Motion by Martell, supported by Terrell

Roll Call Vote, 5/0 Ayes: Evitts, Pyles, Terrell, Wester, Martell. Motion Approved.

NOTES: Principal Floretta Marino shared trip information. Wrestling State Finals.

*Martell: Brief pause for audio check.*

REPORT OF THE MANAGER OF MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAL OPERATIONS: Bill Garland

Re-Roofing RCS Central Office

**APPROVAL:** Approve the pricing proposal with Duro-Last to re-roof RCS Central Office for the bid amount of \$75,640.

Motion by Martell, supported by Wester

Roll Call Vote, 5/0 Ayes: Terrell, Evitts, Pyles, Wester, Martell. Motion Approved.

Utility Tractors Purchase

**APPROVAL:** Approve the purchase of the following equipment from Deere & Company for the Maintenance Department:

#1: John Deere 2025R Compact Utility Tractor, \$30,714.91, and;

#2: John Deere 4066R Compact Utility Tractor, \$53,841.49.

Motion by Martell, supported by Wester

Roll Call Vote, 5/0 Ayes: Evitts, Pyles, Terrell, Wester, Martell. Motion Approved.

NOTES: Quote ID #23618488 and Quote ID #23638067.

REPORT OF BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES: None

REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT: Edward Martell

*Martell* announced today would be his last Board meeting. Comments on serving the community and it having been a honor. He resigns due to personal reasons.

*Edmondson* commented on the Board president:superintendent relationship. Speaking for the community, thanked *Martell* for all he has done and for the benefits of his influence and leadership.

*Martell* spoke of the Board growing together. If given a choice, he would not have left.

*Edmondson* commented on *Martell's* resignation from the Board.

*Martell* commented the interim will be the vice-president during this transition. Then internal Board elections, and an appointment.

*Edmondson* commented on community/Board members knowing someone with interest in serving - someone with heart, commitment and interest in being an elected official. Comments on the process, and, the seat term expiration.

*Kennard* expressed appreciation of *Martell*, for what he brought to the table, and, who he is as an individual. Apologized for late arrival due to personal business/medical. Comments on Board policy relating to a vacant seat, MASB Board information including 30 days effective today - the date of the announcement - to fill the seat if the Board so desires (by April 21, 2021), and, the process of filling a seat. With Board wishes, will send information to *Martell* pertaining to this, and, as a Board deciding on making the decision, and, the process of how the seat will be filled.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- *Pyles* commented on *Martell's* notice of his departure. Spoke of his passion and his leading the Board. Spoke of his strong advocacy of negotiations before he was elected. Under his presidency, accomplished settled contract before it expired. Comments on "Law Day".
- *Martell* spoke of Law Day, a trial program, the success of settling a contract, driving down Wayne Road and seeing the "face of the high school" - the Board should smile, and, pride of a strong Central Office team.
- *Edmondson* commented on: #1: *Martell*; #2: keeping Trustee Theresa Beard in our thoughts (loss of her father), and; #3: announcement of his not having surgery.
- *Wester* said ditto to comments of others. Much work came together under *Martell's* presidency.
- *Terrell* agreed with things that have been said. *Martell* will be missed.
- *Evitts* commented on *Martell's* encouragement on her running for School Board, and, his support.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:02 p.m.

Moved by *Martell*, supported by *Pyles*

Roll Call Vote, 6/0 Ayes: Terrell, Evitts, Pyles, Kennard, Wester, Martell



Ursula Wester, Secretary  
Board of Education  
Romulus Community Schools