

Wakefield School Board/Rochester School Board  
AREA School Board Meeting  
December 9, 2019, 6 p.m.  
Spaulding High School, Richard Creteau Regional Technology Center - Cafe, Rochester  
**Minutes - Approved**

**Present:** Rochester School Board: Chair Paul Lynch, Vice Chair Sarah Harrington, Members Bob Watson, Anne Grassie and Matt Beaulieu; Superintendent SAU #54 Kyle Repucci, Assistant Superintendent Sandie MacDonald; CTE Director Michele Halligan-Foley, SHS Deputy Principal Margaret Callahan; SHS Special Education Coordinator Jeanne Civiello, and Executive Secretary to the Superintendent Cherie Mann; Wakefield School Board Chair Bob Ouellette, Board Members Jen McCawley; SAU/School staff: Superintendent SAU #101 Jerry Gregoire, Paul School Principal James Lampron, Business Administrator Marie D'Agostino, Administrative Assistant Larissa Mulkern;

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair Lynch called the meeting to order about 6:28 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, following a tour of the Creteau Regional Technology Center Addition.

**Update on Creteau Technology Center:** Ms. Halligan-Foley led a tour and presented an update on the renovations. She reviewed a list of extensive programs, educational pathways and experiences available to students at the center, including; Mr. Repucci added they work with business partners on advisory boards; Community experts advise on curriculum. Details were also provided on the Running Start Program, opening ceremonies for the Tech Center, the Café, and upcoming tours at the high school for Paul School 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Student Enrollment Percentage, Rental Fee:** Mrs. McCawley asked what percentage of Spaulding High School students go on to college. Mr. Repucci said the high school profile on the district website includes the number of students who choose two- or four-years school, enter the military or enter the workforce.

Mrs. McCawley asked about school safety, as she feared the crime rate in Rochester is high. Mr. Repucci said the school has a full time School Resource Office and administrators and staff walk through the halls. Ninety five percent of the students are well behaved. Staff and administrators build relationships and offer support. In response to a query from Mrs. D'Agostino, administrators noted support from the City Council and do not foresee any problems with school funding. Regarding enrollment percentage of slots open [for the high school lottery] the 10 percent figure is what was agreed upon in the current AREA Agreement. Mr. Repucci noted any changes in the agreement would have to be approved by both school boards. Mrs. McCawley noted that in past years, the limited number of slots available via the lottery had been a problem, but this year there were four slots and only three applicants for the lottery. Any changes to the rental fee [rental charge of 2 percent included in the tuition rate] as noted in the current AREA agreement would require input from attorneys.

In response to a query from Mrs. McCawley regarding the dropout rate, officials discussed options for students who may be struggling in school, such as enrollment in the Bud Carlson Academy or with Rochester Community Education. In addition, Honors programs are offered in many subject areas, are well attended, with no threats to funding. Mr. Repucci said the state mandates students earn 20 credits, and that the Rochester School District standards meets or exceeds that. Plus, students in honors programs can move on when they are ready; some students, between 15 and 20, graduate early and start college or enter the workforce early.

Public Comment: In response to a query from Mr. Lampron regarding whether Paul School was doing enough to transition students from the Paul School to Spaulding, Mrs. Halligan-Foley said Paul School is doing a good job, although entering Spaulding can be a shock for many students, even those coming from the Rochester Middle School. Mr. Gregoire added there are opportunities for interaction between Paul School and Spaulding students, such as coming down for the school play.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business, board members made, seconded and approved a motion to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:  
Larissa Mulkern  
Administrative Assistant