

# Oakland Township Sentinel

**Sunday, March 27, 2022      Bob Yager – Editor**

<https://oaklandtownshipsentinel.org/>

[yagera@comcast.net](mailto:yagera@comcast.net)

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## Board of Trustees (BOT)

### March 22, 2022 Meeting Summaries

I will wait until the draft minutes are available to report on the two meetings. There was a conflict between the Board and Parks Commission Officers present (Craig Blust -Treasurer, Emily Barkham – Chairperson) over Board imposed budget amendments. I frankly do not yet understand the impact of these budget amendments so can't yet report on that intelligently. I did receive a copy (link below) of an email sent to the Board by Craig Blust where he points out the Board had an incorrect (old copy) of the Parks proposed budget in their 3/22 packet, whereas they previously had the correct information in their 3/8 packet. Hopefully this will all get resolved.

### Craig Blust Email:

**From:** Craig Blust

**Date:** March 24, 2022 at 2:00:06 PM EDT

**To:** John Giannangeli <[jgiannangeli@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:jgiannangeli@oaklandtownship.org)>, Lana Mangiapane <[lmangiapane@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:lmangiapane@oaklandtownship.org)>, Dave Mabry <[dmabry@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:dmabry@oaklandtownship.org)>, Robin Buxar <[rbuxar@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:rbuxar@oaklandtownship.org)>, Dominic Abbate <[dabbate@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:dabbate@oaklandtownship.org)>, Jack Elder <[jelder@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:jelder@oaklandtownship.org)>, Andy Zale <[azale@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:azale@oaklandtownship.org)>

**Cc:** Craig Blust <[cblust@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:cblust@oaklandtownship.org)>, Mindy Milos-Dale <[mmdale@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:mmdale@oaklandtownship.org)>, Emily Barkham <[ebarkham@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:ebarkham@oaklandtownship.org)>

**Subject:** Incorrect Parks and Recreation and Land Preservation budgets provided to BOT on March 22nd meeting Agenda

***"Board of Trustees (BOT),***

***Please review your March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting BOT agenda packet which included the latest March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 Park and Recreation Commissions revised and recommended budget revisions for the BOT. As a commission we reviewed and resubmitted the March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 Land Preservation budget and the Parks and Recreation budget as requested by the BOT in February this year. These two***

***budgets met the requested 6 month reserve requested by the Township BOT treasurer. By the fact they are in your March 8<sup>th</sup> agenda packet you all received this information.***

***In the BOT March 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda packet you and the residents of Oakland Township were incorrectly supplied an obsolete "Preliminary Budget Report for Charter Township of Oakland – Calculations as of 12/31/2021". When you voted to approve the township budget by group, you used and referenced an obsolete document in the BOT agenda packet. When you voted to amend the budget by line item you amended it from the same obsolete "Preliminary Budget Report for Charter Township of Oakland – Calculations as of 12/31/2021". version of the OT Budget.***

***The reason why I dug into this is because the BOT township treasurer stated that he had issues with the Park and Recreation Budget as it did not meet the 6 month reserve funds request which I knew to be false. In your agenda packet for March 22<sup>nd</sup> you also showed the possible Budget amendment of removing 200,000 from the Park and Recreation budget but in our latest March 3<sup>rd</sup> budget update that amount is \$166,000 showing again you had incorrect information supplied to the BOT for the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.***

***This is a major mistake, and I am assuming it has to be corrected before March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you need for review, both BOT agenda's are on the township website.***

***To help to better inform all of you, the BOT, properly and to not just use this email as your only communication of this problem, I have reviewed this with the Park & Recreation Director ( Mindy ) and I asked her to inform all of the Board of Trustees directly with a memo stating all of the information and facts.***

***I am also re-attaching the Park and Recreation Commission Resolution 22-01. This funds transfer from the Park and Recreation budget is in reference to the \$166,000 I mentioned earlier ( Park and Recreation March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 Budget from BOT Agenda Packet March 8, 2022 ). The resolution is dated and signed on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022. This is an action of transfer of funds is not for BOT review as it was budgeted and approved by the BOT in 2021. The transfer of the funds as stated in resolution 22-01 will need to be completed by the Township treasurer by the terms of the resolution before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.***

***Thank you,***

***Craig Blust***

***(his cell phone number included)”***

**Next meeting – April 12, 2022**

## **Fire Department**

No news. Annual report expected soon.

## **Historic District Commission (HDC)**

### **March 16, 2022 Meeting**

I'll post a link to draft minutes when available and make any additional comments I think are useful.

**Next meeting – April 20, 2022**

### **Board Accepting Applications for HDC Appointment**

Apply to be appointed. Two HDC members' terms expire 5/22. See application at this link:

[https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS AND COMMISSION APPLICATION.pdf](https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS_AND_COMMISSION_APPLICATION.pdf) According to the township website direct any questions to [mail@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:mail@oaklandtownship.org)

## Michigan Legislature

The Michigan House of Representatives has 100 members. It has 25 Standing Committees, 17 Appropriations Subcommittees, and 5 Statutory (required to have by law) Committees.

<https://www.house.mi.gov/Committees>

The Michigan Senate has 38 members. It has 19 Standing Committees, 6 Appropriations Subcommittees, and 7 Statutory (required to have by law) Committees. Link to committees page: <https://committees.senate.michigan.gov/>.

The time to support or object to legislation is when a committee or subcommittee considers it and invites the public to comment. Of those 79 committees and subcommittees we are attempting to follow only those that most directly impact local government. We are alarmed by past bills that passed and reduced the amount of local control our township has. For example we now have little control over fracking sites or new agricultural sites due to state laws of the past 20 years.

We intend to follow these committees and subcommittees.

### House:

- **Agriculture**
- **Education**
- **Local Government and Municipal Finance**

These two bills add timelines for action to modify existing laws that already allow the governor to remove certain elected officials for cause. I was surprised that such a law exists. Is this an appropriate power for a governor, since we citizens already have the power to petition for recall for any reason? Could not a rogue governor cause havoc?

HB 4884 (Rep. Marino) Education; governing boards; process for removal of school board member or intermediate school board member; modify.

HB 4885 (Rep. Yaroch) Local government; employees and officers; gubernatorial removal process of local government officers; modify.

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2021-2022/billanalysis/House/pdf/2021-HLA-4884-57952A3F.pdf>

- **Regulatory Reform**

## Senate:

- Agriculture
- Education and Career Readiness

### AGENDA (3/22/22)

**SB 925 Sen. Bizon School aid; categoricals; learning loss recovery grant program; create.**

This bills gives up to \$1500 to student to recover lost learning from Covid-19 impacts on their education.

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2021-2022/billanalysis/Senate/pdf/2021-SFA-0925-G.pdf>

The following four bills require education systems to address dyslexia in students through testing, teacher training and certification and a state level guidance committee.

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2021-2022/billanalysis/Senate/pdf/2021-SFA-0380-G.pdf>

**SB 380 Sen. Irwin Education; other; prescreening for dyslexia in public schools; provide for.**

**SB 381 Sen. Theis Education; other; certain requirements for the approval of teacher preparation institutions; create.**

**SB 382 Sen. Polehanki Education; other; certain teacher certification requirements; modify.**

**SB 383 Sen. Runestad Education; other; dyslexia resource guide advisory committee within the department of education; create.**

- Local Government and Municipal Finance
- Regulatory Reform

If you want to follow a bill committee or subcommittee go to this page and sign up for email notifications.

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(yenpah5qdfjwj2r2rmfzdaq\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=home](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(yenpah5qdfjwj2r2rmfzdaq))/mileg.aspx?page=home)

## Natural Areas Notebook

### Probably Everything You Could Want to Know About Why You Should Plant an Oak Tree This Year

(By Cam Mannino for Parks and Recreation Commission)

Link: [Nourish Nature Around You: Plant an Oak! | Natural Areas Notebook \(oaklandnaturalareas.com\)](https://oaklandnaturalareas.com)

## Oakland County

### County wins 30<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive financial reporting awards

This quote below from the County website (link below).

*“Pontiac, Michigan – Oakland County has received top honors in financial reporting. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded Certificates of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the county for its **Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)** for the 30th straight year and its **Fiscal Year 2020 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)** for 24 years in a row.”*

Link to full news release: [Oakland County, Michigan | News \(oakgov.com\)](https://oakgov.com)

It would be interesting to hear from accountants / financial experts out there in the population as to how meaningful these awards are. It is beyond anything I have time / skill to do. Any useful opinions will be published with name and credentials in a future article. No personal attacks please.

## **Parks and Recreation Commission**

### **March 9, 2022 Meeting Summary:**

Please read the draft minutes. It takes only a few minutes. I cannot improve upon nor better summarize what contract recording secretary Ingrid Kliffel has done to explain each agenda item. The PRC always has a large agenda with an enormous supporting meeting packet (739 pages in this case) covering many items. There is no short cut to keeping informed. You must read these minutes each month.

<https://ecode360.com/documents/OA3183/public/651721567.pdf>

### **Run for Parks and Recreation in August Primary, Filing Deadline April 19 or run as an Independent (little chance of success) filing deadline July 21.**

There is one opening due to the resignation of Maryann Whitman, elected in 2020 and replaced until December 2022 by Board appointment of Judy Workings.

Historically only Republican party candidates will win Oakland Township elected office in the November election, so the August primary is where all is decided; by as little as 10% of voters. (20% vote, 10-20% determines winner)

Partisan candidates must file their nominating petitions and affidavit of identity not later than 4:00 p.m., April 19, 2022. (168.349). Candidates without political party affiliation must file qualifying petitions and affidavit of identity not later than 4:00 p.m., July 21, 2022. (168.590c).

See more details on the township website here:

<https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/UPDATED%20Candidate%20Info%20Parks%20and%20Rec%20Comm.%20PARTIAL%20TERM%202022.pdf>

This office pays \$70 per meeting with about 1.3 meetings per month



## **Volunteer Needed for Bird Monitoring at Charles Isley Park**

(Received the below email on 3/23/22)

*"Hi Stewardship Folks,*

*We maintain nest boxes in a few of our parks to benefit bird species like Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. **This season we have an opportunity for one volunteer to assist with nest box monitoring at Charles Isley Park.** The current volunteer for eight boxes at this park is only able to monitor one day per week, but the boxes need be checked twice per week from mid-April through late July or early August. We collect nest monitoring data as part of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch program (<https://nestwatch.org/>). Our volunteers find that nest monitoring is very rewarding, especially watching those little baby birds grow from fuzz balls to gangly youngsters leaving the nest for the first time!*

*If you are interested this would be a summer-long commitment (mid-April to early August, we can cover occasionally if you'll be out of town). You would be responsible for checking eight nest boxes once per week in coordination with the current volunteer. You would collect data using NestWatch protocols (training provided). If you have any questions about what would be required or what the monitoring entails, please email Grant Vander Laan at [gvanderlaan@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:gvanderlaan@oaklandtownship.org).*

***If you are interested please let us know as soon as possible.*** We'll select the first volunteer who replies that can commit to the full season of monitoring. We will be training volunteers soon so that they will be ready to start monitoring in April!

**Grant Vander Laan**

*Grant Vander Laan  
Stewardship Specialist  
Oakland Township Parks and Recreation  
4393 Collins Rd, Rochester, MI 48306  
P: 248-651-7810 Fax: 248-601-0106"*

## **Planning Commission (PC)**

### **Board Accepting Applications for PC Appointment**

Apply to be appointed. Two PC members' terms expire 9/1/22. See application at this link:

[https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS\\_AND\\_COMMISSION\\_APPLICATION.pdf](https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS_AND_COMMISSION_APPLICATION.pdf) According to the township website direct any questions to [mail@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:mail@oaklandtownship.org)

For more information about PC, see their webpage:

[http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards\\_and\\_commissions/planning\\_commission/index.php](http://www.oaklandtownship.org/boards_and_commissions/planning_commission/index.php)

**Next Planning Commission Meeting April 5, 2022, 7 PM**

## **Safety Paths and Trails Committee (SPTC)**

### **Board Accepting Applications for SPTC Appointment**

Apply to be appointed. Two SPTC members' terms expire 5/22. See application at this link:

[https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS\\_AND\\_COMMISSION\\_APPLICATION.pdf](https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS_AND_COMMISSION_APPLICATION.pdf) According to the township website direct any questions to [mail@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:mail@oaklandtownship.org)

For more info about SPTC see their webpage:

[http://www.oaklandtownship.org/township\\_departments/safety\\_paths\\_and\\_trails.php](http://www.oaklandtownship.org/township_departments/safety_paths_and_trails.php)

**Next SPTC Meeting April 6, 2022, 6PM**

## **Schools**

**Rochester Community Schools Board of Education Meeting 3/21/22 - School Parents Request Resignations of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and entire Board of Education. Others start recall petitions and petition our governor for their removal.**

About 250 people were in attendance. About 60 spoke in three hours of 2 public comment sessions (3 minutes maximum per person).

### **First Public Comment Session**

These people had submitted summaries of their comments and asked to be on the meeting agenda. My summary of their comments is derived from their on-line submissions which can be seen at this link:

<https://rochesterk12.communitybydiligent.com/document/25129ec3-cbf1-4758-ba69-bf0684b0f581>

Nineteen people commented on the recent lawsuit.(See article below) Most recommended termination of Superintendent Robert Shaner, Assistant Superintendent Debra Fragomeni, other involved administrative personnel, if any, and resignation of all or most of the Board of Education. One told the Board of a petition to the governor to remove the entire Board (this option is in our state law).

A member of the “audience” sitting near me who had spoken told me a recall petition to remove the Board was before a judge; a step towards putting it on a ballot.

Eleven people commented on the Historic Administration Building, formerly a school, desiring it to be put to a use that substantially preserves it based on plans made from input from residents. (See more in article below.)

Others communicated on these concerns and issues

- One person said “Bring back ALA to middle school. Consider adding additional programs. Implement a more robust and substantial virtual platform.”
- One said social media monitoring “should be with an eye to improving the district by seeing what parents are advocating for.”
- One person said the “Board should communicate a clear plan for moving forward.”
- One person cited lack of transparency and communication that the BOE should address concerns publicly and not responding is not acceptable.
- One person requested that the administration follow its administrative regulations regarding public complaints.
- One person commented that habitually absent Board members should be removed.
- One person requested more transparency regarding the budget.
- One person asked for “heightened oversight of course content” and characterized the administration and BOE as “insulated bullies”.
- One person advocated for action against those who violated the code of conduct.
- One person requested bringing the annual planning and reporting in the School-Police Liaison Program into alignment with what is stated in the formal written agreement of 2010.
- One person sent “thanks and well wishes”.

### **Second Public Comment Session:**

This session was for people who submitted a “yellow card” at the meeting asking to speak. I did not summarize their comments, as I was still in shock and disbelief from the first session. However, as I recall, the themes of the lawsuit, claims of bullying parents and curriculum concerns were raised among other topics. I believe about 20 people spoke.

At the start of the meeting, Board of Education President Kevin Beers went over the meeting “ground rules”, as I would call them. Part was this statement, made at all regular meetings *“We will not be answering direct questions or responding to comments tonight but will make sure someone follows up with you to address your concerns.”* The Board has a lot of responding to arrange as a result of this meeting.

Board member, Joe Pittel, who has been on the Board only about 6 months read a summary of the subjects of numerous emails received by the Board recently. He also introduced a resolution aimed at preventing retaliation against parents. I’m unclear on what action was taken on his proposal.

### **Rochester Community Schools, Board of Education, 3/23/22 Meeting**

The Board of Education voted 5/1 (President Kevin Beers was absent) to appoint Jessica Gupta, a licensed therapist, to the position left vacant by Michael Zabat’s resignation. This followed candidate interviews of four finalist candidates selected from a field of 25 in a ½ hour meeting at 6:30 on 3/21/22.



Jessica Gupta

Trustee, serves through December 31, 2022

Jessica is a licensed clinical social worker and mental health practitioner. She and her husband, Shishir, are 11-year residents of Rochester and parents of a 2020 Rochester High School graduate. In appointing Jessica, Board members cited her longtime involvement with RCS, including her leadership in FIRST Robotics districtwide, and her professional background in mental

health. Jessica will serve the remainder of Zabat’s volunteer term of service, which expires December 2022.

Superintendent Shaner has this to say about this appointment in a recent email –

***Board of Education. During a special meeting broadcast live to the public Wednesday evening, Jessica Gupta was approved by the RCS Board of Education to fill the trustee position vacated by Mike Zabat. Jessica’s service began immediately following the oath of office, which was administered by Vice President Kristin Bull. The term for this volunteer position will continue through December 31, 2022. In appointing Jessica, Board***

***members cited her longtime involvement with RCS, including her leadership in FIRST Robotics districtwide, and her professional background in mental health.***

I was also very impressed with the leadership experience, energy, and intelligence of the three who were not selected. As the only citizen making a public comment at this meeting (this surprised me greatly), I recommended the Board consider involving the three in leading citizen groups to make recommendations to the Board on important issues such as some brought up on 3/21/22.

The applications of the four candidates can be seen here:

<https://rochesterk12.communitybydiligent.com/document/97df5de6-d013-41b3-9fdf-68218d8a47b3>

## **The Lawsuit - Dinverno vs. Rochester Community Schools District et al**

From PACER website

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2:21-cv-11001-MAG-KGA Dinverno v. Rochester Community Schools District et al

Mark A. Goldsmith, presiding

Kimberly G. Altman, referral

Date filed: 05/03/2021

Date terminated: 03/25/2022

Date of last filing: 03/25/2022

Apparently this was settled out of court without the initially requested jury trial. You can see the complaint and response below. Essentially RCS only admits that Assistant Superintendent Debra Fragomeni called Marty Blake, part owner of Blake's Hard Cider and his wife.

Elena Dinverno worked for Blake's Hard Cider and feels she was terminated as a result of those calls.

Here are the main documents of 29 court documents on PACER. I am not a lawyer and do not claim to provide legal advice. Comments below are my layman's interpretation of events. Consult a lawyer for a sound legal opinion, if you need one.

***Summons to Assistant Superintendent Debra Fragomeni***

<https://oaklandsentinel.files.wordpress.com/2022/03/summons.pdf>

***Amended Complaint*** – this is what Elena Dinverno claims happened to her to cause her to lose her job at Blake's Hard Cider.

<https://oaklandsentinel.files.wordpress.com/2022/03/amended-complaint.pdf>

***Answer to Amended Complaint*** – this is what RCS admits to, denies or says “prove it” to each item listed in the Amended Complaint

<https://oaklandsentinel.files.wordpress.com/2022/03/answer-to-amended-complaint.pdf>

***Stipulation for Order of Dismissal*** – this can be confusing; it just means the parties are not going to trial and are settling out of court. The statements of no costs, etc, is misleading and confusing but legally correct within narrow bounds.

<https://oaklandsentinel.files.wordpress.com/2022/03/stipulation-for-order-of-dismissal.pdf>

***Settlement Agreement*** – not available

I will file a FOIA request to RCS for the settlement documents. Michigan courts have ruled in at least one school case that these cannot be withheld from the public.

[Opinion\\_and\\_Order.PDF \(mlive.com\)](#)

### **Rochester City Council Claims Strongarming, Bullying, Lack of Communication from Rochester Community Schools on Issue of Plans for a New Administration Building and the old Historic Administration Building (501 W. University).**

At some point Rochester Community Schools decided to relocate their administration to a building on Dequindre and to sell the old building. Rochester City Council put a resolution on their 1/10/22 Agenda to consider “the historical aspects”. They were then upset about the email response they got from RCS on the day of their meeting. I have FOIA’d this response, but don’t have it yet. The Rochester City Council verbal concerns expressed in the video below are worth watching.

Part of Rochester City Council January 10, 2022 Meeting video

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR0cJp-XfOsokIEkh626Yw7e5KhJZPuCXIf4TnyBY7hrEI99vTiejy5SLw&v=kzqOVypznW4&feature=youtu.be>

Rochester City Council Agenda 1/10/22 – Resolution for consideration.

<http://www.rochestermi.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/2939>

**The proposed resolution that RCS had concerns about. (below)**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
HISTORICAL PROPERTY PRESERVATION**

**WHEREAS**, Rochester Community Schools ("RCS") is the owner of property and building located at 501 W. University ("RCS Building") in the City of Rochester, which serves as RCS's administration offices;

**WHEREAS**, RCS has purchased a different parcel of property in Rochester with the intent to relocate its administrative offices from the RCS Building;

**WHEREAS**, it is the City of Rochester's understanding that RCS is in the process of evaluating the RCS Building and its contents with the intent of selling the RCS Building; and

**WHEREAS**, the City considers the RCS Building and the various artwork, murals, artifacts and other components located therein to have great historical significance, and that great care and thought should go into saving, relocating and repurposing as much of the historical value as possible.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

1. That the City values and places great historical significance on the RCS Building and the historical items located therein;
2. That Rochester City Council encourages the RCS Board to consider the historical nature of the buildings and contents when evaluating the proposals that are received through the RFP and sale process;
3. That Rochester City Council encourages the RCS Board to move forward with the sale of the RCS Building only after vetting possible reuses and salvaging, repurposing and relocating of the historical items can be accomplished, while considering giving incentive to prospective buyers to help facilitate such preservation goals;
4. That Rochester City Council understands that it is not the owner of the RCS Building and cannot control the desired historical preservation, but that this Resolution encourages the RCS Board to maximize historical preservation at the RCS Building and expresses its willingness to participate and lend assistance in furtherance of this goal; and
5. That any project involving the RCS Building would need to come before the Rochester Planning Commission and/or City Council for review and approval.

Made and passed this \_\_\_\_ day of January, 2022.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Lee Ann O'Connor, the duly authorized Clerk of the City of Rochester, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the City of Rochester City Council on January \_\_\_\_, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Ann O'Connor, City Clerk



## **Current Plans for Historic Admin. Building at 501 University – Bidding closes on 3/28/22**

Below is from a 3/25/22 Email from Superintendent Dr. Robert Shaner

*“Administration building. The Board of Education has a fiduciary responsibility as stewards of taxpayer dollars to act in the best interest of the community. Purchasing the existing, modern, energy-efficient building on Dequindre Road provides the least amount of financial impact to the district. This ensures that funding is available to support our mission of providing a high-quality education for our students.*

*As part of the 2019 Kingscott & Associates assessment, Clark Construction Company estimated that it would cost the district approximately \$20 million to renovate the 501 W. University Drive structure. The Dequindre Road property was purchased for \$7 million; estimated costs for necessary upgrades are \$5.5 million.*

*Funding sources for upgrades to the Dequindre building are varied. The 2015 bond program designated \$3.6 million for administration building repairs. Additional funds will be supported with cost savings realized through rebates, grants, relief funds, permits, etc. For example, technology services obtained a total of \$3.8 million from: E-rate reimbursements; the MiConnect device purchasing rebate program; coronavirus relief funds; the Cares Act; food service funds; and the competitive school safety grant program. Investments from the 2015 bond also yielded \$3.7 million in interest. Additionally, the district applied for and received \$370,000 in DTE and Consumers Energy rebates. The list continues. It’s important to note that these additional cost savings benefit projects across the entire district, not only upgrades to the Dequindre Road property.*

*RCS continues to receive proceeds from renting a portion of the Dequindre Road building. The current tenant has agreed to lease terms to occupy a portion of the warehouse area of the building for one year with the option for an additional year. The tenant pays the district \$25,900 monthly or \$310,800 per year. This equates to approximately one half of the expected loan payment during the first year.*

*The sale of the property located at 501 W. University Drive will likewise help offset costs. Last month, the district issued a [Request for Proposal](#) (RFP) for parties interested in purchasing the property and structure. Information is posted on the [district website](#). All proposals to purchase this site must be submitted in writing by March 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. using the required form in the proposal package. If any community member knows of a qualified buyer, please encourage them to submit a proposal. As shared in the RFP, the district is interested in creative or unique proposals for alternative use or redevelopment that respects the history of the property and its place in the community.*



## What is a School Board's Role? – Michigan Association of School Board's Opinion

<https://masb.org/school-boards.aspx>

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### The Role of the School Board

A school board is able to fulfill its mission when the members of the board and the superintendent understand their roles and work together in an environment of trust, mutual respect, understanding and shared purpose.

Both board members and the superintendent, in order to develop and maintain a working relationship that will enable the board to get its job done and the school district to move forward, must spend significant amounts of time and energy in developing the board/superintendent relationship.

In general, it's the school board's job to make policy, while the superintendent is charged with administering the policy. With effective board/superintendent teams, each side clearly understands its roles and responsibilities. The school board's areas of responsibility include:

- **Goal Setting:** The district vision is translated into long- and short-term goals. The board establishes the structure to accomplish the vision, and periodically evaluates the results.
- **Policy:** Establishes policy for the district and shares in policy development.
- **Designating and Evaluating the Superintendent:** Recruits, hires and evaluates the performance of the superintendent.
- **Budget:** Reviews the budget submitted by the superintendent and aligns the funding priorities with the district goals.
- **Curriculum:** Approves recommended curriculum and textbooks based on standards, goals and policies established by the board. Review and evaluate curriculum as it relates to student assessment results.
- **Staffing and Appraisal:** Adopts policies governing salaries and salary schedules, terms and conditions of employment, fringe benefits, leave and professional development, and employee evaluations.
- **Facilities:** Determines school facility needs and communicates proposed construction plans to the community.

## Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

**Minutes of March 15, 2022** – Election of officers, Blust resignation.

<https://ecode360.com/documents/OA3183/public/650878364.pdf>

### Board Accepting Applications for ZBA Appointment

Apply to be appointed. Two ZBA members' terms expire 9/1/22. See application at this link:

[https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS\\_AND\\_COMMISSION\\_APPLICATION.pdf](https://cms4files1.revize.com/oakland/docs/BOARDS_AND_COMMISSION_APPLICATION.pdf) According to the township website direct any questions to [mail@oaklandtownship.org](mailto:mail@oaklandtownship.org)

**Next Meeting April 15, 2022**