



Rocket Express

January 17, 2017

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2017.

The minutes of the reorganization meeting on 12/6/16 were approved.

The agenda, agenda items, and additional agenda items were approved.

The financial and treasurer reports, bills, and budgetary transfers were approved.

Board Recognition:

The following students of the month for December were recognized by the Board:

Kaitlyn King
Maggie Hay
Jenna Miller
Amber Hixson
Beverly Escontrias
Dylan Zerfoss

The following students of the month for January were recognized by the Board:

Madison Putman
Leah Hunt
Viktorya Floyd
Tara Savage
Richelle Benford
Anni Shaffer

As part of School Director Recognition Month, Mark Bower presented certificates to the Board members who volunteer their time and talents for the betterment of public education in our community.

Old Business:

The Board approved the first reading of the following revisions to the Rockwood Area School District policy manual:

007	Policy Manual Access
251	Homeless Students
336	Personal Necessity Leave
810.2	Transportation – Video/Audio Recording
827	Conflict of Interest

New Business:

The Board approved the Single Audit Report for the fiscal year; ended June 30, 2016.

The Board voted in favor to accept the donation from the Riggs Family Foundation, in the amount of \$1,500.00.

The Board approved the junior high fun night on 2/24/17.

The Board approved the consulting agreement with The KSL Group for E-Rate services for the 2017-2018 school year.

The Board approved the elementary after-school tutoring proposal for the 2016-2017 school year.

The Board approved the first reading of the following policy to be included in the Rockwood Area School District policy manual:

255 Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

The Board approved homebound instruction for a 12th grade student.

The Board approved the memorandum of understanding between the Rockwood Area School District and Somerset County Children & Youth Services for the Transportation Procedures Agreement for Foster Care Youth.

The Board approved the transportation plan between the Rockwood Area School District and Somerset County Children & Youth Services for Foster Care Youth.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved a sick leave of absence for Carter Bower for three weeks starting approximately March 3, 2017.

The Board accepted the resignation of Julie Carlson as an instructional assistant, effective January 4, 2017.

The Board voted in favor to employ Sarah Foy as the bona-fide volunteer assistant track coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved an unpaid leave of absence for Jenna Sembower on 2/10/17.

The Board voted in favor to add the following individual to the district substitute list pending completion of all paperwork:

Noah Ream Sub Teacher - Type 06

The Board approved a special sick leave request for Becky McKinley for approximately six weeks beginning on or about January 24, 2017.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. Text Development Analysis Training – Richland, Pa. – 1/19/17 – Jill Morgan, Greta Carroll, Kristen Mumau, Mindy Sarver, Beth Miller
2. PSLA Annual Conference – Hershey, Pa. – 3/30/17 through 4/1/17 – Christy Hay
3. Guided Math – Altoona, Pa. – 1/24/17 – Sue Slope, Jaime Gross
4. PSSA Math 7th & 8th Grade Sharing – Somerset Pa. – 1/12/17 – April Kretchman
5. ESAP Refresher – St. Vincent College – 2/2/17 – Jon Hale, Becky McKinley, Beth Miller, Kapeka Galazia

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Class of 1967 – Rockwood high school – 10/7/17, 10:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M. – Tour of the high school as part of class reunion.
2. Rockwood National Honor Society – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 11/9/17, 5:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. – Volleyball tournament to benefit Joyce P. Murtha Cancer Center.
3. West Penn Soccer – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 2/5/17, 2/12/17, 2/19/17, 2/26/17, 3/5/17, 3/12/17, 3/19/17, 3/26/17, 4/2/17; 3:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M. – Soccer practice and training.
4. AYSO 415 – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 1/23/17, 1/26/17, 1/30/17, 2/2/17; 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. – Registration.
5. Rockwood Basketball Boosters – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 1/27/17, 6:00 A.M.-7:15 A.M. – Pizza & hoagie delivery.
6. Choral Boosters – Rockwood high school chorus room – 1/17/17, 2/21/17, 3/21/17, 4/18/17, 5/16/17; 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M. – Monthly meetings.
7. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 4th Sunday of the month, January through June; 5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M. – meetings.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity requests:

1. Class of 2021 – Little Caesar’s pizza sale – 1/20/17 through 2/3/17 – raise funds for class activities.
2. Rockwood FBLA – Marianna’s Fundraiser (Pizzas & Subs.) – 2/20/17 through 3/6/17 – raise funds for leadership conference.
3. Rockwood Student Council – Marianna’s Fundraiser (Pizzas & Subs.) – 3/27/17 through 4/10/17 – Raise funds for club activities.

Superintendent’s Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board of the very positive feedback received by the various business people that were present at the senior graduation project presentations. They believe there is value in the senior project for the students.

Mark Bower extended the District's appreciation for the donation from the Riggs Family Foundation, in the amount of \$1,500.00, and from 4-Guys for their donation of scrap metal for the welding class.

Mark Bower informed the Board that Allegheny College of Maryland will be closing their Somerset Campus. This will affect the dual enrollment program that our students participate in.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the four students that have been participating in our blended schools program have enrolled in the District as of today.

General Board Member Discussion:

The Board discussed the proposal to eliminate property taxes and to replace them with increased sales and income taxes. The administration believes that this will not be in the best interest of the District; as the steady revenue stream of tax collections may be eliminated during the first part of the year. This may cause financial problems for districts, especially if a state budget is not passed in a timely manner.

The Board discussed a transportation request from a parent of a pre-school student for a second stop to be added for her child. The administration explained that an administrative procedure was established to allow only one primary stop for pre-school students when the program started. If this request is approved, the District will have to allow secondary stops for all pre-school students. The Board agreed to support the denial of this request.

Disclaimer: This document is only a summary of the above listed meeting and is not an official copy of the school board meeting minutes.