



Rocket Express

October 20, 2020

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 9/15/2020 and the regular meeting on 9/15/2020 were approved.

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

The Board approved the financial and treasurer reports, bills, and budgetary transfers as presented.

Board Recognition:

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

September:

- Faith Foy
- Elika Pletcher
- Alexa Lintz
- Abygail Floyd
- Autumn Murphy
- Catherine Houghton

October:

- Matthew Lambert
- Jeremiah Tomcanin
- Madelyn Raley
- Isaiah Brumbaugh
- Kendra Kalp
- Savannah Ware

Old Business:

The Board discussed possible action on revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety reopening plan. No changes were made to the plan.

The Board approved the following revision to the Rockwood Area School District Athletic Health and Safety Plan:

The Board initiated discussion and authorized a decrease in capacity at all athletic events from 50% capacity to 25% capacity to adhere to the Governor and Secretary of Health's guidelines.

New Business:

The Board approved the Field Placement Memorandum of Understanding between the Rockwood Area School District and Drexel University, beginning October 1, 2020, and continuing until written notice is given by the District.

The Board approved the final transportation rates and routes for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board approved the proposal from Eastern Elevator Service & Sales Company in the amount of \$1,020.00 to perform the required five-year elevator safety test.

The Board approved the Schoolwide Title 1 School Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board approved the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, and to submit the report to PDE by the October 31, 2020, deadline.

The Board approved the annual donations to the Rockwood and New Centerville Fire Departments and the Somerset Area Ambulance Association in the amount of \$500.00 each.

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

103	Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
104	Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff
247	Hazing
249	Bullying/Cyberbullying
317.1	Educator Misconduct
824	Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

Committee Reports:

The Board voted in favor to employ Megan Hetrick as a School Psychologist, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the job description and responsibilities for the Business Manager/Director of Transportation.

The Board approved the job description/responsibilities and evaluation document for the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Secretary.

The Board voted in favor to employ Elizabeth Faidley as a bona-fide volunteer cheerleading coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Emily Lloyd as a long-term substitute teacher for Melissa Gindlesperger.

The Board voted in favor to add Heather Snyder to the substitute instructional aid list pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the contract for Jordan Svonavec as Business Manager/Director of Transportation per the contract on file.

Discussion by the Board was held regarding the formation of a Negotiation's Committee. Brad Pletcher, Tyler Pritts, Hailey Miller and Irvin Kimmel volunteered to serve on the committee.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. SAP Thematic Workshop: "Keeping the Focus" – Virtual at Rockwood Area School District – 11/3/2020 – Amanda Custer, Misty Demchak, Jonathan Hale, PJ Opfar, Brandi Wedge, Beth Miller, Jenna Sembower, Sue Slope, Becky McKinley
2. K-12 SAP Training – Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA - 12/8/20 through 12/10/20 – Doug Spiri
3. Annual College in High School Meeting – Virtual at Rockwood Area School District – 10/15/20 – Greg King

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary music room and elementary gym lobby – 10/22/20 & 10/23/20 – 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and 10/26/20 through 10/30/20 – 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Fall Book Fair
2. Rockwood Youth Football League – High school athletic fields – 10/31/20 – 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. - Youth Football All-Star Game
3. Rockwood Alumni Volleyball – Elementary gym – Sundays beginning 11/1/20 through 4/25/21 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Play alumni volleyball
4. Rockwood Basketball Boosters – Rockwood high school gym lobby – 11/19/20, 12/17/20, 1/15/21, 2/18/21, 3/18/21, 4/15/21 – 6:00 p.m - ? – Monthly booster meetings.

Club & Class Activity Request:

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. Rockwood FFA Club – Beef sticks sales – 2020-2021 school year – Raise funds for jackets

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower recognized and congratulated Vileska Gelpi on winning the PIAA Class AA Girls State Golf Championship.

Mark Bower provided the status of the fall sports: The Boys' Varsity Soccer Team is currently undefeated with a record of 15-0, the Girls' Varsity Soccer Team is currently in third place, the Varsity Volleyball Team has a record number of wins this year compared to past seasons and is in the running to make playoffs, and the JV and Varsity Football Teams are currently undefeated.

Mark Bower expressed his gratitude for being in the eighth week of in-person instruction and thanked the faculty and staff for their support thus far.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the Administration continues to plan for the possibility of remote learning. They continue to review the challenges being faced. Internet access for students has been a main challenge and obstacle. The Administration has been working with various organizations to discuss options that will allow students to gain access to internet services and "hot spots".

Mark Bower informed the Board that cyber school attendance has increased. There are approximately 20 students who enrolled into cyber schools at the beginning of the school year due to the current circumstances. The additional cost associated with increased enrollment could exceed our budget by \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the State released the Act 1 Index for the Rockwood Area School District for next year at 3%. At this point, the District does not see the need to raise taxes above the index. It is most likely a resolution will be prepared and adopted according to the Act 1 timeline, indicating the District will not raise taxes above the index.

Mark Bower shared with the Board an email received from another school district. A student athlete from another school district experienced an injury during a sporting event. The parent of the athlete expressed her appreciation to our coaching staff for handling the athlete's injury.

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