



Rocket Express

February 15, 2022

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Irvin Kimmel announced that the Board held an executive session on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 6:30 P.M. in the Administrative Office of the Rockwood Area School District for the purpose of personnel and student matters.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 1/18/2022 and the regular meeting on 1/18/2022 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:

Lane M. Svonavec
Autumn E. Mowry
Nicholas A. Strait
Emma J. Pletcher
Alyssa J. Hunt
Elissa J. Cramer

Public Comment:

Annie Langley addressed the Board to express some concerns regarding the junior varsity and varsity boys' basketball program.

Old Business:

The discussion and possible action on revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Reopening Plan died for the lack of a motion.

New Business:

The Board approved the school calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved the Summer Shop Proposal (promote STEM with hands-on activities) submitted by Joe Kush.

The Board voted in favor to approve Classroom Monitor Permits through PDE, as outlined in Act 91, for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years and to pay the paraprofessional the substitute teacher rate for any days they serve as a monitor for which they are qualified and trained.

The Board approved the estimate from Shane Shaffer, Inc., in the amount of \$4,583.50, for the replacement of a heating unit in the elementary.

The Board voted in favor to accept the Safe Schools Initiative Competitive Targeted Equipment Grant Agreement in the amount of \$25,000.00 for new exterior lighting, and in lieu of the one percent grant writing stipend, fund an appreciation activity for transportation personnel.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved Kelly Atchison as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add Lugene Miller to the substitute instructional aide list for the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to accept the resignation of Sarah Hay as the bona-fide volunteer junior high track coach effective immediately and to advertise for the position.

The Board voted in favor to employ Savannah Cavanaugh as a bona-fide volunteer junior varsity volleyball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Eileen Buchanan as an unpaid position volunteer, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved summer hours for Dave Greene for the completion of the Rockwood Rocket yearbook.

On the discussion and possible action to offer an incentive program for any school employee who successfully completes the bus driver licensing process and has driven a minimum number of trips and/or routes, the Board approved for the District to reimburse the employee for fees associated with obtaining their bus driver's license and the District will provide a \$200.00 bonus after an employee drives their first two trips and/or routes.

The Board voted in favor to create two auditorium lighting and sound activity advisor positions, beginning the 2022-2023 school year. The lead advisor will receive a \$1,200.00 stipend per year, and an assistant advisor will receive a \$600.00 stipend per year.

The Board voted in favor to employ Seth Judy as a full-time maintenance/custodial employee, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board accepted the resignation of Christopher Hostetler as Assistant Maintenance Director effective February 28, 2022, and to advertise for the position.

The Board approved Bradley Pletcher as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer coach for the youth basketball program, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to waive the tuition for the school aged children of employee ID #170 to attend the Rockwood Area School District.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference request:

1. PAFPC Annual Conference: Federal Programs – Seven Springs – 4/3/22, 4/4/22, 4/5/22, 4/6/22 – Jon Hale, Jordan Svonavec.

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip request:

1. Junior High County Scrabble Tournament – Somerset, PA – 4/6/22 – Sarah Pletcher and 4 students.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Volleyball – Rockwood high school gymnasium, gym lobby, concession stand – 3/19/22, 7:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M. – Adult co-ed fundraiser tournament.
2. Rockwood Soccer Boosters – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 2/20/22, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Monthly booster meeting.
3. Rockwood Youth Volleyball – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 4/25/22, 4/27/22, 4/29/22, 5/2/22, 5/4/22, 5/6/22, 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – Elementary volleyball camp.
4. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 3/1/22, 3/24/22, 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.; 3/5/22, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. – Youth football and cheerleading sign-ups.
5. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood auditorium and lobby area – 4/8/22, 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Spring Family Fun Night
6. Rockwood Little League U10 – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 3/5/22, 3/12/22, 3/19/22, 3/26/22, 4/2/22, 4/9/22, 4/16/22, 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. – Little league baseball practice.

7. Rockwood Soccer Club/PA West – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 3/6/22, 3/13/22, 3/20/22, 3/27/22, 4/3/22, 4/10/22, 4/17/22, 2:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. – PA West soccer practice U12.
8. Rockwood Ministerial Association – Rockwood auditorium, high school chorus room – 5/7/22, 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Christian gospel concert.
9. Rockwood Post 279 Jr. Legion Baseball – Rockwood elementary gymnasium, athletic fields – 3/5/22 through 8/6/22, various times to be determined – legion baseball practices and games.

Superintendent's Report:

Misty Demchak gave the Board an update about winter sports. The girls' varsity basketball team will participate in their first playoff game on February 22, 2022.

Mark Bower discussed the 6th grade Virginia/Washington D.C. field trip, and Jon Hale reviewed the itinerary with the Board. The administration supports the schedule of events and will continue to monitor the situation in Washington D.C.

Mark Bower distributed copies of the Rohistat Newspaper created by the Journalism students and commented on the outstanding job done by Mr. Seybold and the students.

Mark Bower provided the Board with an update regarding PreK opportunities for the District. Administrators met with representatives from the Learning Lamp and Tableland to discuss options for PreK programs.

Mark Bower reviewed options with the Board for expanding Safety and Security staff within the District. He outlined four possible options to consider, including:

- a. School Police Officer (Requires approval from the Court of Common Pleas to establish a police department within the District)
- b. School Resource Officer (Requires a local police department to assign an officer to the District as their full-time duty station).
- c. School Security Guard (No arresting powers, but allows the employee to carry a weapon with appropriate training).
- d. Cooperative Police Service Agreement with a local municipality (Only offers part-time coverage).

Mark Bower updated the Board on the pending Independent School District matter that originated in June of 2012. The current Secretary of Education ruled the original transfer petition is meritorious from an educational standpoint. The petition is to establish an independent school district for property situated in Jefferson Township, for the purposes of transfer from the Somerset Area School District to Rockwood Area School District. However, it is likely this matter will be appealed to Commonwealth Court again.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the District received revenue from transfer tax for the property sale at Seven Springs.

Mark Bower advised the Board he will be updating the Needs Assessment in the near future.

Mark Bower updated the Board regarding transportation routes and drivers. The District is currently running eight routes.

Jordan Svonavec advised the Board that the District had to purchase coal from an alternative source because the price from the original source was much higher than the bid amount.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the company replacing the doors has delivered many of the frames and are requesting payment for the materials. Payment will be sent for the materials on site. The remainder of the bill will be paid after installation is complete.

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