



Rocket Express

March 17, 2015

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 2/17/15 and the regular meeting on 2/17/15 were approved.

The agenda and agenda items were approved.

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

Board Recognition:

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

- Sophia Yachere
- Makayla Morocco
- Corrina Struckoff
- Tanner Bower
- Amanda Armstrong
- Tyler Trimpey

Public Comment:

Greg King addressed the Board, thanking them for their support for the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the sick day transfer policy. He also thanked the Board for their continued support of the rifle team.

Old Business:

The Board voted in favor of accepting the resignation of Irvin Kimmel as school director effective 3/17/15.

The Board voted in favor of appointing Fran Brancato to the vacant Board seat created by the resignation of Irvin Kimmel.

The Board elected Shannon Berkey as Treasurer by acclamation.

The Board approved the second and final reading of the revisions to the Rockwood Area School District policy manual as presented.

The Board approved the second and final reading of the following policies of the Rockwood Area School District policy manual:

235.1	Surveys
317.1	Educator Misconduct
810.2	Transportation – Video/Audio Recording

New Business:

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District calendar for the 2015-2016 school year.

The Board approved the Somerset County Technology Center General Fund Budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The Board approved the Somerset County Technology Center Adult Budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The Board approved the Appalachia IU 08 General Fund Budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Brian Coughenour distributed and collected the ballots for the election of the Appalachia IU 08 Board of Directors.

The Board approved the contract with New Directions for the 2015-2016 school year.

The Board voted in favor of authorizing the business office to advertise for the following bids for the 2015-2016 school year:

Coal, Propane, Custodial Supplies

The Board approved the one-time expenditures for the 2015-2016 school year.

The Board approved Somerset Planning & Engineering Services as the engineering firm for the development of the paving project.

The Board approved the addition of the junior high track program to the existing cooperative sports agreement with Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District.

Committee Reports:

The Board voted in favor of employing J.B. Harrold as the bona-fide volunteer junior high boys' soccer coach for the 2015-2016 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor of employing Heather Hay as the bona-fide volunteer junior high girls' soccer coach for the 2015-2016 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor of accepting the resignation of Tanner Lambert as the bona-fide assistant baseball coach and approved him as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer baseball coach.

The Board approved the re-structuring of the track coaching positions as follows:

Carter Bower – Head Coach
 Dave Griffith – 1st Assistant Coach
 Ben Baker – Varsity/Assistant/Junior High Coach
 Elyse Branam – 2nd Assistant Coach

The Board approved Jody Leasock as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer coach for baseball, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Jessica Eller as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer track coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor of accepting the resignation of Robin Younkin as the bona-fide assistant director of the school district musical.

The Board approved Jim Miller as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer track coach.

Conference Requests:

The following conference requests were approved by the Board:

1. Autism – Putting the Pieces Together – Saint Francis University – 4/10/15 – Cassie Ohler
2. Child Abuse Awareness Workshop – Johnstown, PA – 4/18/15 – Amanda Custer

Field Trip Requests:

The following field trip requests were approved by the Board:

1. Washington DC Gifted Trip – Washington DC – 5/19/15 – Jessica Knepper and 10 students.
2. Jingles the Clown and Mr. 88 – Rockwood Mill Shoppes – last week of April – Tammy Minnick, Josh Bowlin and 47 students.
3. To Think I Saw It on Mulberry Street – Rockwood Mill Shoppes – first week of May – Sue Slope, Cathy Phillippi and 41 students.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The following use of school facility request was approved by the Board:

1. PA West Soccer – Rockwood high school gymnasium – Monday through Friday, 5:30 – 7:30 PM – entire month of March (unless needed for in-season sport) – soccer practice.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The following club & class activity requests were approved by the Board:

1. Class of 2018 – pizza & hoagie sale – 4/7/15 through 4/17/15 – raise funds for class projects.
2. Student Council – pizza & hoagie sale – 5/1/15 through 5/11/15 – raise funds for fall events.
3. Class of 2015 – Pie Shoppe fundraiser – 3/19/15 through 3/26/15 – raise funds for class activities.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board that county superintendents met with various legislators regarding schools. The topics that were discussed included education funding, cyber/charter schools, and pension reform.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the district is getting quotes for replacing the front breezeway steps prior to the spring concerts. The funds will be taken from the 2014-2015 one-time expenditures.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the staff appreciation dinner will be held May 5th at the Hayloft.

Mark Bower informed the Board that members of the student support team and administration met with representatives from the Back Pack Program. Initial funding for the program will be obtained through grants but future funding may have to occur with the use of district funds. A proposal will be presented at a later meeting.

Mark Bower informed Board members that the school musical will take place on 3/20/15 and 3/21/15.

Mark Bower informed the Board that Emily Barchey and Renee Svonavec have qualified for national competition in speech/student congress in Ft. Lauderdale.

The Board approved the following field trip that was missed in the fall when all trips were presented:

1. Reading Competition – Forest Hills – 4/8/15 – Jenna Wintersteen and 30 students

Mark Bower informed the Board that he denied a late request to be submitted for Board approval for the junior high quiz club to participate in this year's national competition. Mr. Bower informed the Board that he would submit the request for their consideration. No support was expressed for bringing the proposal for their consideration.

General Board Member Discussion:

The Board discussed the need for school related organizations to be required to complete use of school facility requests for delivery of fund raiser items, since the fund raiser has already been approved. The Board agreed that the completion and approval is not necessary.

The Board discussed changing the day for the cutoff of Board briefs to Thursday instead of Friday because of delivery times. The Board agreed to let the cutoff of information the way it currently is being done.

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