



Rocket Express

May 18, 2021

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 4/20/21 and the regular meeting on 4/20/21 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:

Glenn A. Millin
Adeline V. Barkman
Anna M. Hinzy
Jonathan M. Felesky
Madison R. Putman
Danielle L. Johnson

Avri R. Wareham
Tyler N. Stahl
Makayla S. Peck
Alyssa J. Hunt
Kaitlyn E. King
Leah G. Hunt

Public Comment:

Mark Bower passed around a thank you card from the Musical cast and displayed projects created in Mr. Kush's class by Brady Burnsworth and John Hinzy.

Mark Bower introduced Jenna Tressler; the applicant being recommended for the Biology teacher position.

Old Business:

The Board discussed possible action on revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Reopening Plan. Upon discussion and a roll call vote, with the Administration's recommendation to maintain compliance with the State's guidelines and mandates regarding face

coverings, the Board voted in favor to amend the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Reopening Plan, effective immediately, to make face coverings optional and voluntary for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status. Upon further discussion, the Board also voted in favor or allow 100% occupancy at all indoor and outdoor events.

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

The Board voted in favor to rescind the previous motion made at the April 20, 2021, meeting to tentatively approve turning the old tennis courts into a helicopter landing zone for emergency services.

The Board accepted the recommendations of the business office for the coal, propane, and custodial supply bids for the 2021-2022 school year.

New Business:

President, Irvin Kimmel, called for nominations for the office of Treasurer of the Board.

Irvin Kimmel nominated Brad Pletcher.

Brad Pletcher was elected as Treasurer by acclamation.

President, Irvin Kimmel, called for nominations for the office of Secretary.

Irvin Kimmel nominated Sherry Benford.

Sherry Benford was elected as Secretary for a 4-year term by acclamation.

The Board approved membership in the PA Association of Rural and Small Schools for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$850.00.

The Board approved First National Bank, Somerset Trust, and First People's Community Federal Credit Union as approved school district depositories for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board appointed Gail May as fund custodian for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board designated the Somerset Daily American as the newspaper of general circulation for the Rockwood Area School District.

The Board approved the mandated dental program for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the school nurse program for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the contract with Dr. Christopher Clark as the school physician-consultant for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved Barbera Law and Michael Barbera as school district solicitor for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the tentative graduation list for the class of 2021.

The Board voted in favor to accept the property tax reduction allocation for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the amount of \$232,862.93.

The Board voted in favor to adopt the proposed final budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the amount of \$13,108,206.00 and a millage rate of 21.89 mills on real estate and to advertise this budget for public inspection and final approval at a meeting on June 15, 2021.

The Board approved the speech and language extended school year program from 6/29/21 through 7/27/21 at 2.5 hours per day for (4) four days.

The Board approved the updated K-12 Rockwood Area School District Chromebook Program for the 2021-2022 school year for a period of four years.

The Board approved the membership renewal with PSBA in the amount of \$10,704.15 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The Board approved the agreement with Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for support services for local and state validation reporting for PIMS in the amount of \$637.45 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The Board voted in favor to accept the National Rifle Association Grant in the amount of \$1,400.00.

The Board approved a modified schedule for a 12th grade student for the 2021- 2022 school year.

The Board voted in favor to approve and sponsor the Rockets Run for Kids team, comprised of Rockwood staff and community members, to participate in the 2021 GAP Trail Relay to raise funds for the Kids Come First and Rocket Fuel Backpack programs and for the district to pay the registration fee for the event.

The Board approved the musical production of “Grease: School Version” for the 2021-2022 school year; to be held on March 4 and 5, 2022.

The Board approved partnering with the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation in the America’s Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by Bayer fund, grant program to fund the Mobile Ag. Science Lab during the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board voted in favor to remove Brian Coughenour from the district signature cards and replace with Sherry Benford as Board Secretary and Jordan Svonavec as Business Manager.

The Board approved the Rockwood varsity baseball team to participate in the Altoona Curve Classic Tournament during the 2021-2022 school year; with the baseball boosters paying the required \$1,000.00 admission fee.

The Board discussed possible action to purchase and replace a walk-in cooler from TriMark through the COSTAR's program using the cafeteria fund. Upon discussion, the Board voted to table the discussion and possible action to purchase and replace a walk-in cooler until more information is provided, with an analysis of previous equipment repairs.

Committee Reports:

The Board voted in favor to employ Jenna Tressler as a Biology teacher for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add Mary Heiple to the district substitute teacher list, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved 20 additional summer hours for Pat Weston for the completion of the Rockwood Rocket Yearbook.

The Board approved the retirement of Jay Best as a Social Studies teacher effective the last teacher day of the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board approved Patrick Wheatley as the bona-fide volunteer junior varsity girls' basketball coach pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the resignation of Chelsey Weimer as Elementary Special Education Learning Support/Autistic and Emotional Support teacher effective June 18, 2021.

The Board accepted the resignation of Sarah Hay as the bona-fide volunteer junior high girls' soccer coach.

The Board accepted the resignation of Kathleen Miller as the bona-fide volunteer junior high girls' assistant soccer coach.

The Board voted in favor to employ Zach Gaskin as the bona-fide volunteer head junior high soccer coach pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Noah Wareham as the bona-fide volunteer coach for the junior high soccer program pending completion of all paperwork.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood athletic fields – 8/13/21, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.; 8/14/21, 12:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.; 8/28/21, 9/11/21, 10/3/21, 9:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Host Youth Football Games.
2. TJ Dance – Rockwood high school auditorium, chorus room – 10/13/21 and 10/15/21, 4:00 P.M. - ?; 10/16/21, 12:00 P.M. - ? – Dance rehearsals and recital.
3. Highlands Volleyball Club – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 7/6/21 and 7/8/21, 5:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. – Volleyball open gym/mini-camp.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. Elementary Student Council – Popsicle sale – 6/1/21 – Raise funds for elementary student council events.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower thanked the Board for their support, time, and commitment throughout the last year.

Mark Bower informed the Board that interviews for the Social Studies teaching position will be held on June 9, and paraprofessional interviews will be held on May 26.

Mark Bower gave an update regarding projects to be completed using ESSER funds. He met with Somerset Planning and Engineering regarding the bathroom renovations. They reviewed blueprints and renovation options. We may not be able to bid the project until the fall of 2021; however, some construction may be able to be completed during the upcoming school year. More updates will be provided as they become available.

Mark Bower discussed which doors were to be replaced. ESSER funds have not yet been released, and we are waiting for quotes.

Mark Bower updated the Board about upcoming year-end events, which include: one team competing in the State Envirothon, senior trip, District 5 track championship, baseball and softball playoffs, Scholars' Reception, awards assemblies, baccalaureate ceremony, graduation ceremony (tickets will be issued), elementary track and field, kindergarten graduation, first grade promotion event, and the Staff Appreciation dinner, which will be held on June 7.

Mark Bower advised the Board that due to all of the upcoming activities, Board briefs will be sent on an "as needed" basis until further notice.

Mark Bower discussed Eileen Buchanan's retirement and the transition process with training her replacement, Cindy Miller. It was suggested to begin the transition/cross-training process prior to Eileen's retirement in October, as well as beginning to train Cindy's replacement.

Jon Hale discussed the teacher and paraprofessional positions and the rotation that is expected in the elementary school for the upcoming school year.

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