



Rocket Express

May 19, 2020

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2020

The minutes of the committee meeting on 4/21/2020 and the regular meeting on 4/21/2020 were approved.

The agenda and agenda items were approved.

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

Public Comment:

Martha Mitchell and foreign exchange student, Lara Windhaus, thanked the Board for their support of the foreign exchange program. Lara was very pleased with her experience at Rockwood and thanked the Board for their support and approval of the program.

Old Business:

The Board rejected the bids received for the cafeteria/kitchen flooring project and authorized the Business Office to re-advertise the project.

The Board accepted the recommendations of the Business Office for the coal, propane, and custodial supply bids for the 2020-2021 school year.

New Business:

The Board approved the agreement with Government Software Services, Inc. for the printing of the tax duplicates.

The Board approved the membership in the Pa. Association of Rural and Small Schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board voted in favor to appoint Gail May as fund custodian for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board approved First National Bank and Somerset Trust as school district depositories for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board voted in favor to designate 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 2020-2021 school year.

The Board approved the school nurse program for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board approved the contract with Dr. Christopher Clark as the school physician-consultant for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board approved Barbara Law and Michael Barbera as the school district solicitor for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board approved the tentative graduation list for the class of 2020.

Brad Pletcher was elected as Treasurer by acclamation.

The Board voted in favor to accept the property tax reduction allocation for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$232,930.33.

The Board voted in favor to adopt the proposed final budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year in the amount of \$12,818,893.00 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 23, 2020.

The Board approved the ESL consortium agreement with Appalachia IU 08 for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years.

Committee Reports:

The Board voted in favor to accept the resignation of April Kretchman as math teacher, prom/soph.-senior advisor, and national honor society advisor at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

The Board approved Alana Letizia as the prom/soph.-senior advisor for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board approved 20 additional hours for Pat Weston for the completion of the yearbook.

The Board voted in favor to accept the retirement of Brian Coughenour, as business manager, Board secretary, and director of transportation effective August 27, 2021 and to advertise for the position.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower updated the Board on the cafeteria project. The paraprofessionals will be painting in the cafeteria as well as in the classrooms.

Mark Bower discussed the Local Loot program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Since the staff appreciation dinner has been cancelled, and the funds for the dinner have been budgeted, he would like permission to use these funds to purchase gift certificates through the Local Loot program. The Board agreed with this recommendation.

Mark Bower discussed the summer hours for staff members, as was done last year, where the staff works longer hours on Monday through Thursday and has Friday off. The Board agreed with this recommendation.

Mark Bower gave the Board a pandemic update as it relates to the school district. The district will be applying for flexible instructional days for the 2020-2021 school year, and a plan for those days must be developed and approved by the Board. The administration will develop a plan and present it to the Board in June for consideration.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the district is scheduled to receive CARES Act funding in the amount of approximately \$116,000.00. The district plans to make one-time purchases of hardware and software that can be used while students are in school or out of school. A small portion of these funds must be allocated to the non-public schools utilized by the district.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the food service feeding program will end on June 3, 2020.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the summer newsletter will be dedicated to the Class of 2020, with a special section honoring each of the graduates.

Mark Bower reviewed the graduation plan the district administration and senior class leadership were considering, strictly following guidance under the “yellow” phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Board decided to authorize the class to hold a graduation ceremony on the athletic fields, following the social distancing guidelines and other safety measures as recommended. The ceremony will be limited to a small group of family members per student. Family groups will be expected to adhere to and follow the guidelines for social distancing.

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