



Rocket Express

January 17, 2011

The Rockwood area Board of School Directors met in regular session on Monday, January 17, 2011, at 7:30 P.M. in the Administrative Office.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 12/6/10, the reorganization meeting on 12/6/10, and the special meeting on 12/20/10, were approved. The agenda, agenda items, and additional agenda items were approved.

The financial and treasurer reports, bills, and budgetary transfers for the months of December and January were approved as presented.

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

Amanda Armstrong
Jessica Dice
Lisa Lichty
Shannon Knopsnyder
Chelsea Beal
Hanah Svonavec

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

Haley Lawrence
John Knox
Kiersten Hanneesson
Brandon Schmuck
Ashley Lytle
Kyle Stutzman

Mark Bower distributed certificates of appreciation to all of the Board members as part of school director recognition month. He expressed his gratitude for the time and effort that is put forth with the duties of a Board member.

The following agenda items were approved:

The revision to policy number 103 (Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices) of the Rockwood Area School District policy manual.

The revision to policy number 103.1 (Nondiscrimination-Qualified Students with Disabilities) of the Rockwood Area School District policy manual.

The revision to policy number 104 (Nondiscrimination in Employment/Contract) of the Rockwood Area School District policy manual.

The revision to policy number 113.1 (Discipline of Students with Disabilities) of the Rockwood Area school District policy manual.

The revision to policy number 227 (Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia) of the Rockwood Area School District policy manual.

The revision to policy number 247 (Hazing) of the Rockwood Area School District policy manual.

The revision to policy number 248 (Unlawful Harassment) of the Rockwood Area School District policy manual.

The revision to policy number 348 (Unlawful Harassment) of the Rockwood Area School District policy manual.

The revision to policy number 607 (Tuition Income) of the Rockwood Area School District policy manual.

The Board discussed the senior privilege program that is currently in place. Mark Bower informed the Board that seniors that have high academic standards and good attendance are authorized to leave 8th and 9th periods if they have a study hall and are not involved in a club.

The Board discussed the needs assessment document that was distributed in December. They agreed that the document should be reviewed in conjunction with budget talks at a special meeting of the Board. The board voted to hold a special meeting on March 7, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. to discuss the budget, the needs assessment, and for any others general school purposes.

The board voted to accept the offer from Shanda Lee for the old meat slicer that has been replaced in the cafeteria in the amount of \$125.00.

The annual donation to the Somerset County Reading Teachers' Association in the amount of \$100.00 for the annual Scrabble tournament was approved.

The following Act 1 resolution electing not to increase real estate taxes beyond the state certified index was adopted:

Whereas, Act 1 of Special Session of 2006 requires school districts to adopt a preliminary budget proposal no later than 90 days prior to the date of which the election immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the preliminary budget will take effect.

And Whereas, Act 1 of Special Session of 2006 further provides that a Board of School Directors may elect to adopt a resolution no later than 110 days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the upcoming fiscal year that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the following fiscal year by more than the index.

And Whereas, The Board of School Directors of the Rockwood Area School District desires to keep all proposed tax increases for the 2011-2012 school year within its index to provide the necessary revenue to meet the proposed expenditures for the 2011-2012 school year;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that pursuant to Act 1 of Special Session of 2006, the Rockwood Area Board of School Directors hereby certifies that it shall not increase any tax used for the support of the school district by a rate greater than the adjusted index of 1.4 percent as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the Rockwood Area School District.

And Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of School Directors, hereby certifies that it:

- i. Shall not increase any tax rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education;
- ii. Shall comply with the budgeting procedures set forth in 24 P.S. s.s. 6-687 for the adoption of its proposed and final budgets; and

Shall by limiting its tax rate to no greater than the index have sufficient funds to balance its final budget. Adopted at a meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Rockwood Area School District this the 17th day of January, 2011.

Homebound instruction for an 8th grade student was approved.

The 9th period proposal for the 2011-2012 school year allowing for academic programs on Monday through Thursday and club period on Friday was approved.

The 7th and 8th grade course selection guide for the 2011-2012 school year was approved.

The 9th through 12th grade course selection guide for the 2011-2012 school year was approved.

The Rockwood Area School District Research Writing Handbook was approved.

The board approved a preliminary Act 77 study to be performed by TRANE at no cost to the district.

The following individuals were added to the district substitute list, pending completion of all paperwork:

Sheri Ritenour	Secondary Mathematics
James Mayer	Secondary Mathematics
Nathan Menhorn	Type 06-Emergency Permit
Karen Kirchner	School Nurse

Beth Miller and Mike Bradley were approved as volunteer coaches for girls' junior high basketball, pending completion of all paperwork.

The board discussed the current Board committee structure. Upon discussion, the Board dissolved the Turkeyfoot and Kingwood committees, kept the outdoor facilities committee in place, and renamed the red wing committee as the building facilities committee.

Lugene Miller was approved for a 130 hour human services internship through Allegheny College of Maryland, pending completion of all paperwork.

The following conference requests were approved:

1. Elementary Student Assistance Program Training – St. Vincent College – 2/23/11, 2/24/11, 3/29/11, 3/30/11 – Jon Hale, Catherine Fischer, Amanda Custer, Irene Kovach – est. cost to district - \$2,040.00 (paid through Safe & Drug Free Schools and Communities grant).
2. PA Title I Improving School Performance Conference – State College, PA – 1/23/11 through 1/26/11 – Jon Hale, Irene Kovach – est. cost to district - \$1,492.00 (paid by ARRA Title I stimulus funds).
3. Southwest Immunization Coalition 9th Annual Immunization Conference – Greensburg, PA – 4/21/11 – Amanda Custer – est. cost to district - \$186.50

4. Gifted Network Meeting for Teachers – Ebensburg, PA – 2/2/11 – Sarah Pletcher, Jessica Knepper – est. cost to district - \$215.08.
5. Videoconference Integration Science – Altoona, PA – 2/10/11 – est. cost to district - \$136.00.

The following field trip requests were approved:

1. Laurel Caverns – Farmington, PA – 5/20/11 – Jenna Sembower, Jessica Knepper, Tricia Juran and 60 students – est. cost to district - \$381.00.
2. Johnstown Flood Museum, Incline Plane – Johnstown, PA – April 2011 – Russ Daubert and 65 students – est. cost to district - \$510.00.
3. Byham Theater – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/5/11 – Mary Jo Picklo, James Rudisill and 42 students – est. cost to district - \$462.00.

The following use of school facility requests were approved:

1. Class of 2014 – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 4/19/11, 6:00 – 9:00 PM – donkey basketball game.
2. Learning Lamp – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 2/3/11, 7:00 – 8:00 PM – pre-school art gallery.
3. Learning Lamp – Rockwood pre-school room – 4/7/11, 6:30 – 8:00 PM – registration for next year.
4. Rockwood AYSO – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 1/20/11, 6:00 – 8:00 PM; 1/23/11, 9:00 – 11:00 AM; 2/8/11, 6:00 – 8:00 PM – AYSO soccer sign-ups.
5. Rockwood Soccer Boosters – Rockwood high school gymnasium, athletic fields – 4/29/11, 6:00 – 8:00 AM; 7/25/11 through 7/30/11, 9:00 – 11:00 AM, 3:00 – 8:30 PM – soccer camp and fundraiser pick-up
6. Rockwood Basketball Boosters – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 2/18/11, 3:15 – 6:00 PM; 2/19/11, 6:00 – 11:00 PM – dance.

The following club & class activity request was approved:

1. Student Council – Spring clothing sale – 2/1/11 through 2/15/11 – raise funds for activities and promote school spirit.

Superintendent Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board that districts have been told to budget the ESBE subsidy at 2008-2009 levels.

Mark Bower expressed his concern over the number of cyber school students that are in the district. Currently there are 35 students and the district needs to take a look at the situation in the coming months.

Mark Bower informed the Board that an automated parent notification system will soon be ready to test in the district on a trial basis. The trial period will be at no cost to the district.

Mark Bower informed the Board that 22 people completed the cafeteria survey and the results were favorable. Portion size was still the biggest concern.

The Board discussed the Olweus bullying prevention program through Highmark. A grant will cover the first year of the program but the district will incur a cost of approximately \$3,000.00 in future. The Board decided not to pursue the program.

The board met in executive session for the discussion of personnel.

The board voted to accept the resignation of Timothy Gastley as full time custodian and advertise for the position, as well as for substitute custodial positions.

The board voted to accept the resignation of Sue Barclay as Act 48 chairperson effective at the end of the 2010-2011 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.