



Rocket Express

January 17, 2023

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

The minutes of the reorganization and regular meeting on 12/6/2022 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:

Ronin J. Bergstresser
McKenzie A. Bowers
Coralie G. Struckoff
Bryce M. Wagner
Harlie A. Sanner
Finnleigh E. Gould

Havyn S. Wareham
Meadow F. Meyers
Hunter C. Taylor
Amelia R. Beener
Dustin W. Dran
Charlotte A. Ream

Mrs. Leanna Weimer and four FFA students attended the Board meeting and were recognized as recipients of the 2023 Keystone State Degrees. Rockwood had a combined total of 11 students receive this honorable award. This degree is the highest degree a student can receive for FFA in the state of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Weimer explained to the Board the requirements students must meet to be eligible to receive the award. The four students in attendance introduced themselves and highlighted their Supervised Agricultural Experiences.

Mark Bower presented Board members with certificates for School Director Recognition Month and thanked them for their time and efforts in supporting the District's students, families, and staff.

Old Business:

The Board approved the amended agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Ignite Education Solutions for Title I Services at St. Peter School for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board voted in favor to revise the finalized bus driver list for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved extended homebound instruction for a 10th grade student.

New Business:

The Board voted in favor to accept memorial contributions made to Rockwood FFA.

The Board approved the revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Course Selection Guide for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the development of a Mechatronics online course and approved compensation for Joe Kush, according to the collective bargaining agreement, for the development of the course.

The Board approved the first reading of the following new policy to the Rockwood Area School District policy manual:

011 Principles for Governance and Leadership

The Board approved the first reading of the following revisions to the Rockwood Area School District policy manual:

- 103 Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
- 104 Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff
- 200 Enrollment of Students
- 202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students
- 204 Attendance
- 217 Graduation
- 218 Student Discipline
- 220 Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials
- 221 Dress and Grooming
- 227 Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
- 233 Suspension and Expulsion
- 236.1 Threat Assessment
- 237 Electronic Devices
- 251 Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability
- 805 Emergency Preparedness and Response
- 805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
- 805.2 School Security Personnel
- 808 Food Services
- 810 Transportation
- 913 Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals

The Board voted in favor to eliminate the following policy from the Rockwood Area School District policy manual, as the guidelines and procedures are included in policy # 251 Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability:

255 Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care

The Board voted in favor to contract with Jostens for district school pictures K-12.

The motion to add a substitute driver to the district driver list for van routes and extra-curricular trips for the 2022-2023 school year failed.

Committee Reports:

The Board accepted the resignation of Noah Wareham as the head junior high soccer coach and approved him as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer girls' varsity soccer coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board accepted the resignation of Dan Weaver as the assistant varsity baseball coach and approved him as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer baseball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Jason Sechler as the bona-fide volunteer junior high softball assistant coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Eric Costea as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer varsity baseball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Jeremy Grimes as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer junior high baseball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Nate Bergstresser as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer junior high baseball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Courtney Smith as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer volleyball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to waive the tuition for the school aged children of employee ID #81 to attend the Rockwood Area School District.

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip request:

1. Elementary Ski Club – Seven Springs – 2/2/23, 2/16/23, 2/23/23 – Jon Hale, Ben Baker, Carter Bower, Elyse Cordaro and 20 students

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary chorus room – 3/2/23 through 3/10/23; 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Spring book fair.
2. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 3/10/23; 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. – Little Caesars fundraiser delivery/pick up.
3. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 3/27/23; 1:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. – Marianna’s fundraiser delivery/pick up.
4. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 1/14/23, 1/21/23, 1/28/23, 2/4/23; 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. – U10 indoor soccer practice.
5. Jenny Beckner and Morgan Beckner – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 1/21/23, Afternoon hours – Senior pictures.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. Elementary Student Council – Lovable Lollies Sale – 2/13/23 through 2/17/23 – Raise funds for Author Day and student council activities.

Superintendent’s Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board that senior project presentations were conducted on January 16, 2023. He thanked four of the Board members for volunteering their time to sit on a panel. In addition, 65 community members offered their time to participate on panels. Mark also thanked Mrs. Sharon Clapper for all of her efforts in helping to organize the event by reaching out to businesses and professionals. He also recognized teacher, Allison Shultz for doing a great job helping students prepare for their senior presentation and thanked all of the teacher who led panels. All seniors received a passing grade!

Mark Bower advised the Board of a major water leak within the building that occurred over the Christmas break due to a frozen pipe. Upon notification, the maintenance staff responded immediately to stop the leak by shutting off water valves and removed the water from the building.

Mark Bower updated the Board about ongoing drain issues. Ed Clay, Maintenance Supervisor, is developing a proactive plan to clean out and snake the drain lines on a regular basis in hopes to avoid backup due to clogs in the drain lines. He is currently looking into various options to repair the ongoing problem.

Mark Bower advised the Board of ongoing roof leaks. The roofing contractor was on site last week and made some repairs to roof sections installed over the summer. The roofing system manufacturer was also contacted because of roofs currently under warranty that are leaking in the elementary. They plan to work with our staff to create a plan to address the roof leaks.

Mark Bower updated the Board regarding restroom and locker room alterations. The district will advertise for bids in the next few weeks. The project engineer anticipates a bid will be awarded by the March 2023 Board meeting.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the district's solicitor will petition the court on January 19, 2023, for the School Police Officer position. Immediately following, the School Police Officer will be sworn in. A SchoolMessenger announcement will be sent to district families notifying them of the School Police Officer position.

Mark Bower gave an update about the School Safety Grant. A portion of the funding will be used to cover approximately 15 months of the School Police Officer salary. Funds from the grant will also be used for additional mental health and wellness activities over the summer months, as well as a grant funded Student Support Services Specialist. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) advised the Administration that they would approve the use of funds for these programs.

Jon Hale advised the Board that the elementary school students will be participating in a "Leaders of Tomorrow" mid-year awards activity on January, 20, 2023. He thanked Nick Buterbaugh, Megan Hetrick, Susan Clark, and Brandi Wedge for helping to organize the event. This event is held to reward students for positive behaviors, academic effort, and completion of assignments.

Jon Hale informed the Board that the Johnstown Tomahawks visited the Elementary School on January 17, 2023, to read books to the students.

Jon Hale advised the Board that DIBELS assessments will be completed this week.

Jon Hale informed the Board that elementary tutoring sessions have started. Approximately 40 students are participating.

Nick Buterbaugh recognized several students for their athletic achievements.

Nick Buterbaugh advised the Board that the number of students interested in track are low, and there are currently two coaching positions available. The Board requested to be updated on the number of interested participants at the February Board meeting.

Misty Demchak and Nick Buterbaugh updated the Board about the transition to the Inter-County Conference (ICC). The transition has been smooth thus far.

Nick Buterbaugh informed the Board that the boys' varsity basketball team is currently 3-0 in the WestPAC South standings, with the potential to participate in the semi-final game on Feb. 15, 2023.

Misty Demchak expressed her gratitude towards the teachers, community members, and Mrs. Sharon Clapper for participating in the senior projects presentations.

Misty Demchak recognized a 12th grade student who was recently accepted into the Merchant Marine Academy. The student received the exciting news from Congressman John Joyce via speaker phone during class. The class joined in to congratulate the student on this amazing achievement.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that students are taking the mid-term finals this week, and report cards will be distributed next week.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that optional after school tutoring is available for high school students.

Megan Hetrick informed the Board that the Special Education Department is fully staffed.

Megan Hetrick advised the Board that the Life Skills Christmas party was a success.

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