



Rocket Express

January 18, 2022

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

The minutes of the reorganization meeting on 12/8/2021 were approved.

The agenda and 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:

Haylie R. Snyder
Glenn A. Millin
Tyler N. Stahl
Alexa A. Lintz
Charlotte A. Ream
Evan H. May

Hunter A. Stiffey
Fredricka E. Sutton
Bryce M. Wagner
Jake A. Barkman
Finnleigh E. Gould
Kendra L. Kalp

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

New Business:

The Board voted in favor to approve and submit the Independent Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.

The Board approved Kari Hostetter as a district van driver for Rockwood Transportation, Inc., pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board authorized the Administration to plan the Staff Appreciation Dinner for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved homebound instruction for a 12th grade student.

The Board approved a modified schedule for a 12th grade student to participate in the school to work program.

The Board approved homebound instruction for an 8th grade student.

The Board approved the revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Course Selection Guide.

Committee Reports:

The Board voted in favor to accept the retirement of Gail May as Assistant Business Manager effective July 31, 2022, and to advertise for an Accounts Payable position.

The Board approved Fenna Queer as an unpaid position volunteer, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Scott Sager as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer junior high softball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved a medical leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) beginning April 10, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year, with the use of sick days, personal days, and FMLA days. Employee ID #142

The Board voted in favor to add Tamara Nichols to the substitute teacher list, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to accept the retirement of Patricia Weston as High School Art Teacher and Rocket Yearbook Advisor effective the last teacher day of the 2021-2022 school year and to advertise for the position.

The Board approved Kari Haer as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer coach for the boys' youth basketball program, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved compensating custodial/maintenance staff for boiler coverage at a rate of \$50.00 or one hour of compensation time, per occurrence, for weekend and/or holiday coverage outside of the regularly scheduled work hours.

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip request:

1. Elementary Ski Club – Seven Springs Mountain Resort – 1/27/22, 2/10/22 – Jon Hale, Carter Bower, Ben Baker and 15-30 students

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Kingwood/Rockwood Youth Baseball League – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 1/22/22, 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.; 1/25/22 and 2/3/22, 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – Youth baseball sign-ups.
2. Rockwood Soccer Boosters – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 1/23/22, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Booster meeting.
3. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary chorus room – 3/3/22 through 3/11/22, 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Spring book fair.
4. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 3/11/22, 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. – Little Caesars fundraiser delivery/pick-up.
5. Student Congress – Rockwood high school classroom – 2/16/22, 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. – Student Congress competition.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity requests:

1. Journalism/Creative Writing – Sarris candy bars sale – February & March 2022 – Raise funds for publications, field trips, supplies, scholarship, etc.
2. Rockwood FBLA – Applelicious Gourmet Apples & Treats sale – 3/1/22 through 3/11/22 – Raise funds to support activities, workshops, and conferences.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower advised the Board that senior project presentations had to be postponed due to the weather. They have been rescheduled for February 21, 2022, which is a scheduled Act 80 day. Over 50 community members have volunteered to be on panels for the presentations.

Mark Bower informed the Board that staff members were permitted to work remotely on January 17, 2022; a scheduled Act 80 day. Faculty participated in Zoom meetings and had activities and events scheduled throughout the day.

Mark Bower shared with the Board that while the maintenance department was plowing, the wiring harness in one of the plow trucks burnt up. The truck was towed to K & D Auto Electric to assess the damage.

Mark Bower advised the Board that fire brick fell out of one of the boilers. The boiler had to be shut down for a short period of time for Combustion Services & Equipment to make repairs. The Maintenance Department will be firing the boiler back up.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the cafeteria cooler stops working periodically. It is currently working and the Maintenance Department will keep an eye on it.

Mark Bower advised the Board that the District is still looking for someone to fill the vacant maintenance/custodial position. The position has been re-advertised.

Mark Bower discussed preliminary budget planning:

- Mark Bower will be updating the Needs Assessment for review.
- Mark Bower updated the Board on the increase in health care expenditures and the potential for increasing next year's premiums above the Act 1 projection.
- Mark Bower offered to take Board members on a building walk-through during an upcoming Board Committee Meeting.
- Upon a previous request from the Board, Mark Bower reviewed District student enrollment numbers and how they may impact staffing needs, as well as budgetary planning in the future. The Board discussed the following as options:
 - Budgetary savings
 - Class size reduction
 - Expanding existing educational programs
 - Expanding Pre-K opportunities for all District residents to be eligible to participate

Jordan Svonavec informed the Board that One Stop Auto made generous donations to several booster groups in an amount equivalent to the reimbursement cost for repairs to Kathy Mowry's vehicle that was damaged by an unsecured fence gate on school property.

Jordan Svonavec discussed excess cafeteria funds and how the funds could be utilized. The consensus of the Board was to authorize Jordan Svonavec to research the process to obtain official approval on how funds can be used to replace the cooler in the cafeteria, due to the cost being in excess of \$5,000.00. Jordan Svonavec will work with Betsy Smith, General Manager of Metz Culinary Management at Rockwood School District, on obtaining updated quotes to replace the cooler.

Jordan Svonavec advised the Board that adult meal prices have increased again for the 2021-2022 school year due to federal school nutrition programs regulations.

The Board authorized the Business Office to adjust changes to adult meal prices as needed according to the federal school nutrition programs regulations.

Misty Demchak approached the Board about using both the elementary and high school gymnasiums for baseball and softball practices since both programs have been expanded to include junior high teams. The consensus of the Board agreed to allow both gymnasiums to be used for baseball and softball practices. The Board requested Misty Demchak look into the cost to purchase protective coverings for the scoreboards located in the high school gymnasium.

Mark Bower discussed the possible use of Emergency Instructional Days in the event the District would have to close and go remote due to COVID-19 cases.

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