



Rocket Express

October 18, 2022

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

The minutes of the committee meeting on 9/20/2022 and the regular meeting on 9/20/2022 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:

Ellie M. King
Maxwell G. Kemp
Fredricka E. Sutton
Devin W. McCauley
Aaron T. Show
Abygail G. Floyd

Public Comment:

Zach Gaskin, a district resident and Rockwood varsity boys' soccer coach, addressed the Board regarding athletic field needs. He asked the Board to consider providing additional maintenance to the athletic field. Suggestions included: over seeding the field at least two times per year and pest and weed control.

Lisa Kimmel, a district resident, approached the Board to discuss scheduling the annual Homecoming festivities and events on a different day in the future. A growing number of district students participate in athletic activities that are part of a co-op program with another school district and are unable to participate in homecoming. She requested to either move homecoming to a Saturday evening or a different time of the school year so all students could participate.

Old Business:

The Board approved Jack Tressler as a district bus driver for Rockwood Transportation, Inc., pending completion of all paperwork.

New Business:

The Board approved the donations to the Rockwood and New Centerville Fire Departments in the amount of \$500.00 each, to Somerset Area Ambulance Association in the amount of \$200.00, to Meyersdale Area Ambulance in the amount of \$150.00, and to Berlin Ambulance Association in the amount of \$150.00.

The Board approved the agreement between the Rockwood Area School District Elementary School and Intermediate Unit 1 to provide Title I services for Champion Christian School North Campus during the 2022-2023 school year, at the rate of \$1,038.00 per student.

The Board approved the district Christmas Instrument Drive.

The Board approved the musical performance of “Do You Wanna Dance” for the 2022-2023 school year; to be held on March 10 and 11, 2023.

The Board approved the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, and to submit the report to PDE by the October 31, 2022, deadline.

Committee Reports:

The Board voted in favor to add Rachel Bower to the substitute teacher list (Type 06) for the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add Denise Peck to the substitute instructional aide and substitute custodian lists for the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the following individuals as unpaid position volunteers, pending completion of all paperwork:

Alyson Nichols
Carissa Shipley
Donna Truszka
Rachel Long

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) from 12/19/2022 through 12/22/2022 and from 1/3/2023 through 1/6/2023 with the use of sick days. Employee ID #45.

The Board voted in favor to employ Amber Cane as an instructional special education paraprofessional, after completing a successful three-month probationary period, according to the first year of service/experience paraprofessional and support staff hourly wage scale, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Connor Pielmeier as a Social Studies 7-12 teacher, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the Evaluation Form for the K-12 Assistant Principal/Athletic Director/Security Coordinator.

The Board approved the Evaluation Form for the Director of Maintenance.

The Board approved the establishment of a School Police Officer position.

The Board voted in favor to authorize the District Solicitor to submit an application to a judge of the court of common pleas to appoint a person or persons, as the board of directors of the school entity or the administration may designate, to act as a school police officer for the school district; granting the school police officer power to arrest, issue citations for summary offenses, detain students until the arrival of local law enforcement, and/or any combination thereof, and grant the school police officer the authority to carry a firearm if the officer satisfies the requirements under section 1305-C.

The Board voted in favor to employ Jeffrey Doman as a full-time School Police Officer, pending completion of all paperwork and training/course requirements and to create an employee compensation plan to include the rate of pay, eight hours per day, up to 186 days per year and vision insurance.

The Board approved the district to pay the cost for Jeffrey Doman to participate in a School Resource Officer (SRO) training.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. Annual PASBO Conference – Kalahari Resorts, Pocono Manor, PA – 3/14/23 – 3/17/23 – Jordan Svonavec
2. SAP Networking – Latrobe, PA – 11/8/22 – Doug Spiri, Misty Demchak, Brandi Wedge, PJ Opfar, Megan Hetrick, Susan Slope
3. School-Based Speech and Language Pathologists: Foundations of School-Based Practice Learning Network – Virtual at Rockwood Area School District – 10/24/22, 12/6/22, 2/7/23, 4/7/23 – Amber Caddy
4. Gifted in PA Virtual Webinar – Virtual at Rockwood Area School District – 3/28/23 – Sarah Pletcher, Christy Hay, Megan Hetrick
5. IU8 Gifted Network Meeting – Johnstown, PA – 10/26/22 – Sarah Pletcher, Christy Hay, Megan Hetrick
6. PASC Conference – Pittsburgh, PA – 11/18/22 – Jenna Tressler
7. Unpacking the Science of Reading: Explicit, Systematic Phonics – Altoona, PA – 1/11/23 – Susan Slope, Jaime Gross
8. Unpacking the Science of Reading: Oral Language and Vocabulary - Altoona, PA – 2/28/23 – Susan Slope, Jaime Gross
9. Unpacking the Science of Reading: Comprehension and Close Reading - Altoona, PA – 3/22/23 – Susan Slope, Jaime Gross
10. Unpacking the Science of Reading: The Reading Brain - Altoona, PA – 11/15/22 – Susan Slope, Jaime Gross

11. Title I Improving Schools Conference – Pittsburgh, PA – 1/29/23 – 2/1/23 – Jon Hale, Jessica Miller
12. Laurel Highlands Forensic Speech Workshop – Patton, PA – 10/18/22 – Roni Langley-Burkardt
13. A/CAPA Fall Conference 2022 – Hershey, PA – 10/26/22 – 10/28/22 – Cindy Miller

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Carnegie Science Center (3rd Grade & Gifted) – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/17/23 – Valerie Friedline, Cassandra Kemp, Beth Mapes, Christy Hay and 64 students
2. Musical in Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, PA – November 2022 – Doug Spiri, Kari Hostetter and 42 students
3. Engineering & Technology Club & Classes Cambria County Manufacturing Tours – Cambria County, PA - 4/14/23 – Joe Kush and 30 students
4. Pittsburgh Pirates Incentive Trip – Pittsburgh, PA – May 2023 – Greta Carroll, Andrea Minor and 48 students
5. French Gateway Clipper – Pittsburgh, PA – May 2023 – Greta Carroll and 48 students
6. Spanish Gateway Clipper – Pittsburgh, PA – May 2023 – Andrea Minor and 48 students
7. Somerset Exchange Club Luncheon – Somerset, PA – 11/16/22 – PJ Opfar and 2 students
8. Senator for a Day – Penn State Fayette – 3/9/23 – Jim Wagner and 10 students
9. Open Heart Surgery Observation – Pittsburgh, PA – 12/20/22 – Sarah Pletcher and 10 students
10. IU8 Math 24 Competition – Altoona, PA – 5/19/23 – Sarah Pletcher and 5 students
11. 7th and 8th Grade Trip to Laurel Hill – Somerset, PA - April 2023 – Leanna Weimer, Misty Thompson, Jeremy Romesberg, Social Studies teacher and 90 students
12. NHS Special Olympics Trip – Seven Springs, PA – 2/16/23 – Jenna Tressler, 2nd Chaperone TBD and 40 students
13. Kindergarten Graduation 2023 – Rockwood, PA – 6/1/23 – Jon Hale, Josh Bowlin, Kelsey Pletcher, Olivia Latuch, three paraprofessionals and 45 students
14. Fall Bike Trip – Rockwood, PA – 10/17/22 through 10/19/22 – Carlee Glessner, Chandler Enos and 45 students.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Athletics – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 11/14/22; 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. - Volley for a Cure tournament fundraiser.
2. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 10/21/22; 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Family Fun Night.
3. Rockwood Young Farmers – Rockwood high school library – 11/3/22, 11/10/22, 11/17/22, 1/5/23, 1/12/23, 1/19/23, 1/26/23, 2/2/23, 2/9/23, 2/16/23, 2/23/23, 3/2/23, 3/9/23, 3/16/23; 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. – Young farmers’ meetings.
4. Rockwood U10 Indoor Soccer – Rockwood elementary gym – 10/15/22; 4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. – Indoor soccer practice.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity requests:

1. Rockwood Band – Sarris chocolate bars sale – December 5-20, 2022 – Raise funds to buy instruments, supplies, equipment, music, and repairs.
2. Rockwood Band – Donations through Teamworks – October 20 – November 2022 – Raise funds to buy instruments, supplies, music, and repairs.
3. Class of 2024 – 59-minute popcorn sale – 11/17/22 – 11/21/22 – Raise funds for senior class trip and class activities.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower discussed the use of Flexible Instruction Days (FID) and how the District will handle snow days throughout the school year. The consensus of the Board agreed that, in the event of a snow day, the District will first utilize “snow make-up days” built into the school calendar. FID will be considered when all built in snow days are used.

Mark Bower updated the Board about the GAP Trail Relay. The event has raised \$6,100.00 in donations to date.

Mark Bower recognized Jordan Svonavec for his efforts in conducting an analysis related to the school food program. All district students are now receiving free breakfasts and lunches. The program will greatly benefit our students and their families, with little cost to the district.

Mark Bower talked about lead testing in schools. The district will discuss lead issues in school facilities at a public Board meeting once a year.

Mark Bower informed the Board that board briefs will not be sent on Friday due to the Board meeting being held this week.

Jon Hale advised the Board that Susan Clark, Homeless Liaison, participated in Compliance Monitoring for the Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program. He commended Susan for doing a great job with the monitoring process.

Jon Hale announced that “Trunk or Treat” and “Family Fun Night” will be held this Friday, October 21. These events are always well attended. He invited board members, students, and district families to attend.

Jon Hale informed the Board of a new program in the elementary that will teach students responsibilities. Students will earn various treats for positive performance.

Jon Hale advised the Board that elementary students will participate in the “I’m Not Scared; I’m Prepared” safety assembly this week.

Jon Hale informed the Board that teachers and students continue to focus on meeting the high standards expected in the elementary school.

Misty Demchak advised the Board of the upcoming Red Ribbon Rally that will be held this Friday at the Somerset Church of the Brethren. This year the district has three high school winners who have been invited to attend the event.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that Mrs. Sharon Clapper has been visiting the high school on a regular basis to discuss career counseling with students.

Nick Buterbaugh gave the Board an update on the athletic program. The fall season is wrapping up, and the district has several teams headed to playoffs.

Nick Buterbaugh informed the Board about safety meetings and discussions he has participated in. The district registered the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to the public AED registry, which gives the location of an AED. He also discussed other safety features within the school that have been identified by PA State Police.

Megan Hetrick advised the Board that the Life Skills class recently participated in a Community Based Instruction (CBI) trip. The students had an enjoyable, educational experience.

Megan Hetrick discussed staff shortages and the difficulty in working with outside agencies to provide services to all students in need. She thanked the Board for approving an additional instructional special education paraprofessional to help meet the needs of students.

Megan Hetrick announced that the Life Skills Christmas Program is being organized. A special thanks to Sharon Clapper for her involvement in making this event happen for the students.

Jordan Svonavec gave an update on the receipt of real estate taxes coming in.

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