



# **Rocket Express**

## **December 8, 2021**

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its annual reorganization meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2021.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 11/16/21 and the regular meeting on 11/16/21 were approved.

The agenda, agenda items, and additional agenda items were approved.

The Board voted in favor to include the acceptance of the following additional business agenda item; as the matter of business arose within twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting, and action needed to be taken before the next scheduled Board meeting:

Consideration to employ Brett Leavelle as a piano accompanist according to the 2021-2022 activity advisor salary scale, pending completion of all paperwork.

### **Board Recognition:**

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

Annah M. Sechler  
Delaney G. Budzina  
Ruth A. Mathias  
Elwood J. Ream  
Abygail G. Floyd  
Kaitlyn N. Pletcher

### **Public Comment:**

Mr. Joseph Kush and members of the Engineering & Technology Club gave Board members a slide show presentation of a “behind-the-scenes” look at their holiday design. The team won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Somerset Inc. Holiday Design Contest.

### **Reorganization:**

Board President, Irvin Kimmel, announced that the meeting was called for the purpose of reorganization, and Adam Sembower was appointed as temporary chairperson.

Adam Sembower read the certificates of election for the newly elected Board members.

Adam Sembower gave the oath of office to newly elected Board members, April Lynn Hutchison and Melanie M. Monticue.

Irvin Kimmel was elected as President by acclamation.

Adam Sembower was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

Noah Wareham was appointed as the representative to the Somerset County Technology Center, and Irvin Kimmel was appointed as the alternate.

Brad Pletcher was appointed as the PSBA legislative chairperson.

Hailey Miller was appointed as the PSBA employee relations chairperson.

### **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 establish the third Tuesday of every month as the committee meeting and regular meeting dates for the 2022 calendar year with no scheduled meeting during the month of July.

The Board authorized the business office to pay necessary bills in December to avoid penalties and to present those bills for approval at the January meeting.

The Board voted in favor to accept the PARSS grant in the amount of \$980.00 and approve the Saturday Soldering: "Solderdayz" Program.

The Board approved student participation in Student Congress for the 2021-2022 school year, with a detailed list of events to be announced.

The Board voted in favor to reimburse Kathy Mowry for the repair cost for her vehicle, damaged by an unsecured fence gate on school property, for an amount not to exceed \$3,000.00.

### **Committee Reports:**

The Board approved Brittney Clawson as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer for the junior/senior high band program, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Hannah Mitchell as a high school special education paraprofessional, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Heather Snyder as an elementary classroom paraprofessional, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add Hanna Goller, a prospective teacher substitute, to the district substitute teacher list pending completion of all paperwork, and approved the Superintendent to issue a Locally Issued Emergency Day-To-Day Substitute Permit.

The Board approved Vincent Corrado as a high school ski club advisor.

The Board voted in favor to employ Rebecca Foy as a Type 04: Long-Term Substitute Teacher during the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Jenna Tressler as the bona-fide volunteer assistant junior high girls' basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to table the consideration to employ a bona-fide volunteer assistant junior high boys' basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to adjust the minimum starting salary for full-time support staff employees to \$25,000.00. A full-time support staff employee with 3 or more years of service in the District will receive an increase to a minimum salary of \$30,000.00.

The Board voted in favor to table the discussion and possible action to employ a full-time maintenance/custodial employee, pending completion of all paperwork and to re-advertise for the position as no candidate was recommended.

The Board voted in favor to employ Brett Leavelle as a piano accompanist, pending completion of all paperwork.

### **Field Trip Requests:**

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. High School Ski Club – Seven Springs Resort – 1/6/22, 1/20/22, 1/27/22, 2/10/22, 2/17/22, 2/24/22 – Vincent Corrado and 20-30 students.
2. Senator for a Day – Penn State/Fayette – 3/11/22 – James Wagner and 20 students.

### **Use of School Facility Requests:**

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Volleyball Boosters – Rockwood high school gymnasium, concession stand, wrestling room – 1/15/22; 6:00 A.M. – 11:00 P.M. – AAU tournament fundraiser with Highlands Volleyball Club.
2. Laurel Arts Dance Center – Rockwood high school auditorium, chorus room, three classrooms – 5/13/22, 5/20/22; 4:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M., 5/21/22; 9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Dance rehearsals and recital.
3. CEF of Fayette-Somerset – Rockwood elementary classrooms, music room, art room – Every Thursday on regular dismissal days beginning 1/13/22 through 4/7/22; 2:30 P.M. – 4:45 P.M. – After school Good News Club.

### **Club & Class Activity Requests:**

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. Elementary Student Council – Winter/Spring Rockwood Clothing Sale – February 2022 – Raise funds for 5<sup>th</sup> grade dance and Kids Come First.

## **Superintendent's Report:**

Mark Bower informed the Board that the District completed the crisis drill with staff and students as required. He explained how the drills work within the building.

Mark Bower advised that the winter sports season has begun.

Mark Bower commented that both the elementary Christmas store and elementary career fair went very well.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the Somerset County Chorus and the Band Festival were held at the District this year. There was a nice turnout for both concerts. Attendees were very appreciative that the District hosted the events.

Mark Bower advised the Board that the Life Skills Christmas party is scheduled for Friday, December 10, 2021.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the District band and chorus concert will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2021.

Mark Bower advised the Board that Board briefs will not be sent this week. They will be sent on Friday, December 17, and not again until January 7, 2022, due to the Christmas/winter break. A consensus of the Board agreed they would prefer to receive Board briefs via email rather than through the Board portal on the District website.

Mark Bower thanked Sharon Clapper for helping to organize panels for the senior project presentations, which will be held on January 17. Several Board members have volunteered to participate on the panels.

Mark Bower discussed the use of Flexible Instruction Days (FID) and how the District will proceed with the handling of snow days. The consensus of the Board agreed that, in the event of a snow day, the District will not use an FID day. A snow day will be used and the day will be made up at a later time. FID will be considered if all built in snow days are used.

Jordan Svonavec updated the Board on details of the restricted fund balance as it relates to scholarship funds.

Jordan Svonavec explained the surplus in the cafeteria fund for the 2020-2021 school year. The majority of the surplus was a result of funds being transferred to the cafeteria fund from the general fund to pay for the renovations, which occurred during that fiscal year. The remainder of the surplus came from an increase in federal funding.

Mark Bower advised the Board he received notification of the sale of Seven Springs Mountain Resort; however, details are very minimal at this time.

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