



Rocket Express

March 21, 2023

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 2/21/2023 and the regular meeting on 2/21/2023 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:

Eli V. Show
Haylie R. Snyder
Benjamin B. Barkman
Adeline V. Barkman
Alexa A. Lintz
Jacob J. Griffith

Old Business:

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Plan.

New Business:

The Board approved the Appalachia IU08 General Fund Operating Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Sherry Benford distributed and collected the ballots for the election of Appalachia IU08 Board of Directors.

The Board authorized the Business Office to advertise for the following bids for the 2023-2024 school year:

Coal Propane

The Board approved the Somerset County Technology Center Adult Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

The Board approved the Somerset County Technology Center Secondary Budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

The Board approved the Site Based Extended School Year Program for 12 days from 6/20/23 through 7/20/23, for a total of 44 hours, paid at per diem rate and approved a paraprofessional be paid at the rate of \$20.00 per hour for services rendered during the program.

The Board approved the Site Based Speech and Language Extended School Year Program for four days from 6/20/23 through 7/20/23, for a total of 23 hours, paid at per diem rate.

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District Comprehensive K-12 School Guidance and Counseling Program.

The Board approved the renewal agreement with Metz Culinary Management for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the purchase of additional cafeteria equipment using cafeteria funds.

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

The Board voted in favor to accept the Rockwood Area Mental Health & Safety/Security Grant, in the amount of \$220,742.00, approve all grant funded activities, and authorize the Business Office to advertise for a Student Services Support Specialist to employ for the duration of the grant funding period.

The Board accepted Somerset Engineering's Contractors Recommendation for award of each of the prime contracts for General Construction, Plumbing, Electrical, and Mechanical for the Proposed Restroom and Locker Room Alterations Project and to award corresponding bids as follows:

- General Construction:
\$824,835.00 to Darr Construction, Inc., of 2863 Brotherton Road, Berlin, Pennsylvania 15530
- Plumbing:
\$395,328.00 to K & K Plumbing Co., Inc., of 302 Constable Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15904
- Electrical:
\$140,550.00 to Darr Construction, Inc., of 2863 Brotherton Road, Berlin, Pennsylvania 15530
- Mechanical:
\$123,400.00 to Hranec Sheet Metal, Inc., of 763 Route 21, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401

The Board voted in favor to reschedule the committee meeting and the regular meeting of the Rockwood Area Board of School Directors from Tuesday, May 16, 2023, to Monday, May 15, 2023.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved the Act 93 and Related Compensation Plan for the period 7/1/2023 through 6/30/2028.

The Board voted in favor to employ Juliann Picklo as a Secondary Art Teacher, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Ben Baker as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer varsity track coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board accepted the retirement of Melissa Putman as Elementary Special Education Teacher effective the last teacher day of the 2022-2023 school year and advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the retirement of Dana Weimer as High School Special Education Teacher effective the last teacher day of the 2022-2023 school year and advertise for the position.

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

Breanna Reel Jillian Halverson Renee Shipley

The Board approved an FMLA medical leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) from the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year through October 2, 2023. Employee ID# 225.

The Board approved Tyler Pritts as a bona-fide volunteer junior high soccer coach, pending completion of all paperwork. Stipend is waived, as candidate is an active Board member. Funds allocated for this position will be reassigned to a designated program.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference request:

1. Unpacking the Science of Reading: Building the Foundation for Successful Early Readers – Altoona, PA – 4/25/23 – Kelsey Pletcher, Josh Bowlin, Olivia Latuch.

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Flight 93 Memorial – Stoystown, PA – 5/19/23 – Jim Wagner, Nathan Formica and 40 students
2. Somerset Courthouse Tour – Somerset, PA – 4/24/23 and 4/27/23 – Jim Wagner and 35 students/day
3. Johnstown Flood Museum – Johnstown, PA – 5/11/23 – Connor Pielmeier, Jim Wagner and 45 students

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood high school auditorium – 3/12/23, 1:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. – Parent/coaches meetings.
2. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 3/4/23, 3/11/23, 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.; 3/15/23, 7:15 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Soccer practice.
3. Rockwood Youth Softball – Rockwood high school gymnasium – Mondays & Wednesdays 3/20/23 through 4/26/23, 7:15 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – 12U open gyms.
4. Rockwood Baseball Boosters – Rockwood high school gymnasium lobby – Dates and times to be determined – Booster meetings.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. Elementary Student Council – Candy Gram Sale – 4/17/23 through 4/21/23 – Raise funds for Leaders of Tomorrow program to fund student activities.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower reviewed the Rockwood Area School District Facilities and Program's Needs-Assessment and discussed immediate needs as well as potential, future needs.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the addition of a School Police Office has been a tremendous asset to the district and has received a lot of positive feedback.

Mark Bower advised the Board that the application to offer a Flexible Instructional Day (FID) program during the 2023-2024 school year must be submitted by June 1, 2023.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the Pre-K Counts Letter of Intent was completed and submitted to PDE. Grant funding will not be awarded until after a final State budget is approved.

Jon Hale advised the Board that kindergarten registration went well. As of now, 34 children have registered. He thanked Cindy Miller and other staff members who assisted with the registration process.

Jon Hale informed the Board that staffing for the elementary and class sizes are looking adequate for the 2023-2024 school year.

Jon Hale updated the Board on elementary programs, events, and end of year activities. The elementary Geography Bee went well and was well attended by parents. The Leaders of Tomorrow incentive program, which rewards positive behavior, has been very successful this year. A 5th and 6th grade dance, sponsored by elementary student council, will be held on April 5th during the school day.

Misty Demchak recognized individual students for their personal achievements and informed the Board of high school events, athletics, and upcoming activities, such as:

- Three students will be attending the Regional Band Festival on March 23 & 24.
- The Mobile Oil Field Learning Unit (MOLU) is scheduled to be at the school on April 13.

- SATs will be given to selected students at the school on March 22.
- Homecoming for the 2023-2024 school year is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, with activities being coordinated by Student Council.
- The Mobile Ag Lab will be at the school during the week of March 27 – 31, with special thanks to Mrs. Leanna Weimer for coordinating this opportunity.
- The HVAC program will be returning to SCTC.
- The scheduling process for students in grades 7-12 has begun.

Misty Demchak read a letter from the musical staff and cast. They thanked the Board for their continued support of the program.

Megan Hetrick advised the Board of the need to fill two vacant special education teaching positions, beginning the 2023-2024 school year.

Jordan Svonavec informed the Board that the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) conference he attended in March was very beneficial. He gained a lot of valuable information.

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