



Rocket Express

April 18, 2023

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 3/21/2023 and the regular meeting on 3/21/2023 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:

Emma W. Brown
Annah M. Sechler
Nellie M. Keller
Kaitlyn R. Lishia
Cruz A. Rodriguez Garcia
Lukas S. King

Old Business:

The Board voted in favor to accept the recommendation of the Business Office for the coal and propane bids for the 2023-2024 school year.

New Business:

The Board approved the agreement with New Directions, Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc. for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate of \$140.00 per day, per student.

The Board approved the removal of old computer equipment from the district inventory and to donate the equipment to the Large Scale Systems Computer Museum.

The Board approved a lock-in event for the Class of 2023, with the date of the event to be determined.

The Board approved the District's participation in the PaTTAN's Autism Initiative for the elementary life skills classroom for the 2023-2024 school year, and approve all required professional development training sessions.

The Board approved the Flexible Instructional Day Program for the 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026 school years.

The Board approved revisions to the Rockwood Area Jr./Sr. High School District Course Selection Guide for the Art Program for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the Cooperative Agreement between Allegany College of Maryland and Rockwood Area School District for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board voted in favor to operate summer extended tutoring, open library hours, and other instructional opportunities for the 2022-2023 school year with the use of ESSER funds.

The Board approved the agreement with Government Software Services, Inc. for the printing of tax duplicates for the 2023 fiscal year.

The Board approved the Agreement in Lieu of Expulsion for Student No. 31455, effective April 12, 2023.

Committee Reports:

The Board accepted the resignation of Alana Letizia as high school Student Council Advisor, effective the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

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

Tamara Breegle	Shanta Zorn	Rebecca Cramer
Jessica Fundis	Amanda Edwards	

The Board approved Amber Walker as a mentor teacher for Juliann Picklo effective immediately through the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board voted in favor to employ Latesha Benner as a Student Services Support Specialist, not to exceed 30 hours per week and to employ Carissa Shipley as a Student Services Support Specialist, not to exceed 15 hours per week, funded by the Rockwood Area Mental Health & Safety/Security Grant and district funds for the term of 4/19/23 through 7/31/24, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Patrick Wheatley as a bona-fide volunteer girls' varsity basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to enter into an agreement with Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps to staff a Rockwood Area Mental Health & Safety/Security Grant funded AmeriCorps Service Member for the term of May 2023 through August 2023.

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) from 5/18/23 through 5/30/23, with the use of sick days. Employee ID# 60.

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

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip request:

1. Gifted Students to Penn State University – State College, PA – 5/9/23 – Sarah Pletcher and 11 students.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary library – 5/2/23; 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. – Lunch for elementary staff for teacher appreciation week.
2. Rockwood Youth Cheerleading – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 3/30/23, 4/20/23; 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. – Rockwood youth cheerleading parent meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board that the restroom and locker room alterations project is underway. The contractors would like to begin reconstruction as soon as possible.

Mark Bower discussed services and activities that could potentially be performed by the Rockwood Area Mental Health & Safety/Security Grant funded AmeriCorps Service Member during the term of May 2023 through August 2023 and recommended Kaitlyn Pletcher for the position.

Mark Bower updated the Board about equipping the interior and exterior doors with door prop surveillance alarms, which would increase security within the building.

Mark Bower informed the Board that Mr. Hale has worked diligently to complete the PreK Counts application, which is due Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

Mark Bower addressed the Board regarding school employees who wish to serve as volunteers. He requested the Board allow school employees to serve as volunteers during certain events without Board approval. School employees would still be required to complete a Volunteer Agreement Form and have it signed by the appropriate advisor/coach/immediate supervisor, athletic director, school principal, and superintendent. Board members supported the request.

Mark Bower advised the Board that Mrs. Sharon Clapper, Mr. Kush, and several students attended a Manufacturing Day field trip. Special thanks to Mrs. Sharon Clapper for arranging this great opportunity for the students. Mr. Kush made wooden “thank you” plaques to give to supporting businesses for setting up the manufacturing tours. The Board had the opportunity to view the plaque during the meeting.

Jordan Svonavec reviewed the Preliminary Budget and One Time Expenditures for the 2023-2024 school year.

Nicholas Buterbaugh advised the Board that the junior high baseball tournament held at the school on Saturday, April 15, was very successful. A junior varsity tournament is planned for this Saturday, April 22.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that the MOLU Mobile Lab, sponsored by Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS), visited the district on April 13. The event was a huge success due to both student and staff involvement.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that Mrs. Sharon Clapper and several students participated in Female Manufacturing Day on April 18. She thanked Mrs. Clapper for coordinating the day. Several schools in the county participated.

Misty Demchak congratulated Mr. Kush, Mrs. Sharon Clapper, and the “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing” team for placing second in the video contest.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that 7th and 8th grade students would be visiting Laurel Hill State Park on April 19. Students will rotate through six stations to learn about watersheds.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that FBLA is competing at Hershey this week, and at least one group in the top 15 made it to finals.

Misty Demchak informed the Board of upcoming events scheduled in the high school, such as: NHS Induction Ceremony, band concert, SADD assembly, prom, chorus concert, Scholars Reception, etc.

Megan Hetrick advised the Board that interviews have been scheduled for the Special Education Teacher positions.

Megan Hetrick informed the Board that PSSA testing will begin next week and Keystone exams will be given in the upcoming weeks.

Mark Bower reminded the Board that the May Board meeting has been rescheduled and will be held on Monday, May 15, instead of Tuesday, May 16.

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