



Rocket Express

June 20, 2023

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 5/15/2023 and the regular meeting on 5/15/2023 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.

Old Business:

The Board approved the second and final reading of the following revisions to the Rockwood Area School District policy manual:

- 137 Home Education Programs
- 137.1 Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students
- 800 Records Management
- 830 Security of Computerized Personal Information/Breach Notification

The Board approved the second and final reading of the following new policies to the Rockwood Area School District policy manual:

- 137.2 Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students
- 137.3 Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students
- 830.1 Data Governance - Storage/Security

The Board approved the 2023-2024 Homestead and Farmstead Resolution as a result of accepting the property tax reduction allocation in the amount of \$293,321.13.

The Board voted in favor to adopt a final general fund budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$15,049,539.00 and a millage rate of 23.55 mills on real estate, a beginning committed fund balance of \$500,000.00, a beginning unassigned fund balance of \$1,466,965.00, a beginning assigned fund balance of \$2,350,000.00, a budgetary reserve of \$1,000,000.00, and earned income and real estate transfer taxes of ½ %.

The Board approved one time expenditures for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the allotted amount of \$750,000.00.

New Business:

The Board authorized the business office to make budgetary transfers for the 2022-2023 fiscal year in order to avoid line item and categorical over-expenditures resulting from audit re-classifications and to present those transfers for final approval with the acceptance of the annual financial report.

The Board authorized the business office to pay the necessary bills in July to avoid penalties and to present those bills for final approval in August.

The Board authorized the Superintendent and/or Business Manager to sign change orders for the restroom and locker room alterations project. All change orders will be reviewed with the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Board approved the Eastern Alliance Insurance Group Workers' Compensation Proposal through Reschini Insurance Agency for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$16,182.00.

The Board voted in favor to meet in executive session to review the School Safety and Security Coordinator's annual report as required by Section 1309-B of the PA Public School Code.

The Board approved the purchase of elementary ELA textbooks for the 2023-2024 school year, at an estimated cost of \$ 8,962.30.

The Board approved changes to the elementary and secondary student handbooks for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved changes to the elementary and secondary faculty handbooks for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved changes to the coaches' handbook for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the removal of old textbooks from the district inventory and authorized the administration to contact companies for the purchase of the old textbooks.

The Board approved the athletic schedules for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved an agreement between Highlands Golf Club at Seven Springs and the Rockwood Area School District.

The Board accepted the estimate from Webster's Fitness Products Inc. (CoStars State Contract #014-E23-298) in the amount of \$102,120.00 for the purchase and replacement of weightlifting and fitness equipment in the Rockwood High School Fitness Center/Weight Room and authorized the administration to accept sealed bids for the purchase of the old equipment.

The Board authorized the district's maintenance department to create a roadway from the high school parking lot through the lawn to the old tennis courts to add additional parking spaces for student drivers and to enhance safety.

The Board approved Eric Enos as a district bus driver for Rockwood Transportation, Inc. beginning the 2023-2024 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board authorized the Rockwood Youth Football Organization to make roof repairs to an athletic field concession stand, at no cost to the district.

Committee Reports:

The Board voted in favor to employ Hanna Goller as an elementary special education teacher beginning the 2023-2024 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Heather Hale as a special education paraprofessional beginning the 2023-2024 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board accepted the resignation of Jenna Tressler as the bona-fide volunteer assistant junior high girls' basketball coach effective immediately.

The Board approved Courtney Smith as the junior high head volleyball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Jessica Maurer as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer volleyball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Elyse Cordaro as the head junior high girls' basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Morgan Beckner as the assistant junior high girls' basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Nate Bergstresser as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer junior high soccer coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Teresa Polcha as an unpaid position volunteer, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board accepted the resignation of Tonya Sager as the bona-fide volunteer assistant junior high volleyball coach effective immediately and advertise for the position.

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) from 10/26/23 through 1/2/24. Employee ID #197.

The Board approved the following mentor teachers for the 2023-2024 school year:

Brooke Kroon for Samantha Smith
Jenna Wintersteen for Hanna Goller

The Board approved the following curriculum coordinators for the 2023-2024 school year:

Jessica Miller	Elementary ELA
Elyse Cordaro	Elementary Math
Ben Baker	Elementary Science
Shanna Wilson	Elementary Social Studies
Jenna Wintersteen	Elementary Special Education
Jill Morgan	Secondary ELA
Greg King	Secondary Math
Joe Kush	Secondary Science
Jim Wagner	Secondary Social Studies
Amber Walker	Secondary Fine Arts/Practical Arts
Cassie Wright	Secondary Special Education

The Board voted in favor to employ a health room aide/L.P.N. through the Learning Lamp for the 2023-2024.

The Board approved the athletic fees for officials for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved a 3% increase in coaches' salaries for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved coaches' starting salaries for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the activity advisor salary scale for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved a 3% salary increase for the following employee groups, plus the results of their yearly evaluation:

- Administrative Assistants
- Administrative Services
- Custodial/Maintenance Staff
- Paraprofessionals and Hourly Employees

On the discussion and possible action to increase the substitute teacher rate beginning the 2023-2024 school year, the Board voted in favor to keep the rates that are currently in place. No adjustments were made at this time.

On the discussion and possible action to increase the substitute nurse rates beginning the 2023-2024 school year, the Board voted in favor to keep the rates that are currently in place. No adjustments were made at this time.

The Board approved a 3% increase to the paraprofessional starting hourly rate. Adjustments are as follows:

- First year of service in District increased from \$10.00/hour to \$10.30/hour
- Second year of service in District increased from \$10.50/hour to \$10.82/hour
- Third year of service in the District increased from \$11.00/hour to \$11.33/hour

The Board approved a 1% increase to the support staff starting salary. Adjustments are as follows:

- Minimum starting salary for full-time support staff employees adjusted from \$27,000.00 to \$27,220.00.
- Salary for full-time support staff employees with three (3) or more years of service in the District adjusted from \$32,000.00 to \$32,320.00.

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Flight 93 National Memorial (7th grade) – Stoystown, PA – Fall 2023 – Greta Carroll, teacher TBD and 48 students
2. Flight 93 National Memorial (9th grade) – Stoystown, PA – Spring 2024 – Jim Wagner, teacher TBD and 48 students

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood High School Cheerleading – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 8/3/23, 8/4/23, 8/5/23; 8:45 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. – Cheer Camp
2. Rockwood Youth Cheerleading – Rockwood high school mat room – 8/18/23, 8/25/23; 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. – Pictures
3. Rockwood Girls' Varsity Basketball – Rockwood high school gymnasium, concession stand – Mondays and Wednesdays from 7/3/23 through 7/31/23; 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Basketball Summer League
4. Rockwood Alumni Volleyball – Rockwood high school gymnasium – Sundays in June, July, and August 2023; 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Alumni Volleyball
5. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood athletic fields – 9/9/23, 10/1/23; 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. – Youth Football Games

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. National Honor Society – Gardner's Candy Sale – November 2023 – Raise funds for NHS activities.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board of three change orders to the restroom and locker room alterations project. The changes were minor and minimal in cost.

Mark Bower discussed obtaining quotes for additional building updates. He suggested some areas where improvements are needed.

Mark Bower advised the Board that the District's summer programs are going very well. Approximately 65 students are participating in summer camps.

Mark Bower informed the Board that board briefs will be put on hold from the date of this meeting through August 2023. The Board will be updated on matters as needed.

Mark Bower discussed the potential need for Pre-K teachers. If grant funding is awarded for a Pre-K program, the district will be evaluating and interviewing candidates to fill vacant positions.

Jordan Svonavec reviewed an investment rate comparison between First National Bank and Somerset Trust Company.

Jordan Svonavec shared a safety concern discussed at a recent Safety Committee meeting. To enhance the safety for student drivers and create additional parking spots, a suggestion was made to create a roadway from the high school parking lot through the lawn area to the old tennis courts, which would be the location of the additional parking spots.

Jon Hale informed the Board that summer camps have started. Students were provided with many options, including:

- Kindergarten Readiness - Beth Mapes and Jess Miller
- MTSS - Jaime Gross, Sue Slope, Valerie Friedline
- STEM - Ben Baker, Jessa Sembower, Carter Bower, and Joe Kush
- 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade Transition Camps - Mindy Sarver, Shanna Wilson, Faith Hemminger, Jenna Sembower, Melissa Gindlesperger, Ben Baker, Elyse Cordaro, and Kristen Mumau

Jon Hale advised the Board that open library hours are being held this summer on Wednesdays from 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Jon Hale informed the Board that Title I services will be provided at Champion Christian School through Intermediate Unit 1. The District will not serve Somerset Christian School or St. Peter School this year.

Jon Hale advised the Board that he is currently finishing up the 2023-2024 schedule, organizing duties, and looking at furniture needs.

Jon Hale updated the Board on the playground renovations project. A committee met on June 5th to discuss the strengths and needs of the playground, visited the playground to assess needs, and reviewed possible timelines, budget needs, fundraisers, and quotes.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that Mr. Kush held a summer welding program for students this week. Students will tour Edgewood Welding & Fabrication and Super City Manufacturing. Students will learn about welding and fabrication-related careers. They will learn about the skills employers are seeking from prospective employees. The program was made possible due to funding from the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools grant.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that summer programs are up and running. Summer school is being offered through Odysseyware.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that she has been working on the master schedule, student schedules, back to school information, etc. in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that eleven students are completing summer community service to qualify for the senior trip.

Nicholas Buterbaugh updated the Board about the district's athletic programs. He discussed scheduling, use of facilities requests, team drop-ins, team camps, and summer leagues. He also advised that there are open positions for the upcoming season, including: JV Girls' Basketball Coach and Jr. High Volleyball Assistant Coach.

Nicholas Buterbaugh discussed items that will enhance school safety and security, such as: labeling exits and entrances, purchasing and installing prop alarms (funded by the Safe Schools Grant), and training opportunities.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that policy updates have been completed, details will be added for the PBIS/LOT plans in the elementary to improve bus behaviors, and preparations are underway for the new school year.

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