



Rocket Express

November 21, 2011

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors met in regular session on Monday, November 21, 2011. The minutes of the committee meeting on 10/17/11 and the regular meeting on 10/17/11 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.

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

Anni Shaffer
Emily Barchey
Brittney Clawson
Travis Smith
Caleb Brougher
Elle Enos

Public Comment:

Mark Bower presented plaques to Board members Dave Tims and Dennis Nicklow for their service and dedication to the students and community while serving in the capacity of school directors for the Rockwood Area School District.

Brooks and Helen Bartlett addressed the Board and expressed their appreciation to the Board for allowing the jazz band to perform this summer at their concert. They informed the Board that the performance was terrific and complimented the students on their behavior and interaction with the people at the concert. They also expressed their gratitude and support for Rich Kingera. Brooks and Helen presented a check in the amount of \$500.00 as a donation to the music department for the future enhancement of the program.

Jeremy Ziller, Staff Sergeant of the United States Army, gave a presentation to the Board on the STAR (Students Taking Active Roles) Program. The program is designed to support leadership and character development in high school students. The program employs the leadership doctrine of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. The Board would like time to review the program in more detail and asked the administration to place the item on the December agenda for consideration.

Old Business:

The board voted to purchase a planer from the Hermance Machine Company for the technology education department in the amount of \$17,580.00.

The board voted to approve the purchase of materials for the construction of the batting cage at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.00.

New Business:

The comprehensive program for unemployment compensation insurance through BUCS at a cost of approximately \$4,500.00 was approved.

The board voted to set annual reorganization meeting date for 12/6/11 at 7:00 P.M., to cancel the regular meeting on 12/19/11, and to authorize the business office to pay the necessary bills in December and to present those bills for approval in January.

The board approved membership in the Rockwood Merchants Association at no cost to the district.

The board approved any school organization to participate in fund-raising activities during Train Day in May with prior approval by the administration.

Pam Schrock was approved as piano accompanist for the Christmas and Spring concerts and rehearsals at a stipend of \$500.00. .

Mark Bower and Brian Coughenour gave a presentation on the Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. Brian Coughenour presented the following financial information from the annual financial report:

Total Revenue	11,236,932.00
Total Expenditures	10,397,154.00
Cash Surplus	839,778.00
Fund Balance	3,146,250.00

Brian also presented a history of the cash surpluses and ending fund balances for the district over the last four years. These figures were as follows:

Cash Surpluses	
2010-2011	839,778.00
2009-2010	1,169,951.00
2008-2009	960,766.00
2007-2008	362,113.00
Fund Balances	
2010-2011	3,146,250.00
2009-2010	2,338,952.00
2008-2009	1,163,787.00
2007-2008	546,277.00

The cash surplus for the 2010-2011 fiscal year came from the following sources:

Refinancing of the 2006 general obligation bonds	130,000.00
Savings from the previous transportation contract	50,000.00
Excess tax revenue	242,000.00
Federal stimulus funds increase	250,000.00
Excess budget for medical insurance, retirement, etc.	168,000.00

Mark Bower presented the Board with a chart and graph showing the revenue, expenditures, cash surplus/ (deficit), and ending fund balances for the district over the past 16 years.

Mark and Brian also informed the Board of the following financial issues that the district will be facing in the future:

- Increases in health care costs
- Future increases in the retirement contribution rate
- Uncertainty of future state budgets
- Future staffing needs
- On-going maintenance concerns
- Enrollment in cyber/charter schools

The annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011 was approved.

The board voted to table the discussion and possible action regarding athletic participation and the future of the athletic program until the next meeting and to establish a committee to research options available to the district.

Education/Personnel:

The board voted in favor of approving an internship for Sarah Breckenridge to work in the guidance department at no cost to the district, pending completion of all paperwork.

Bob Harrold was approved as an unpaid assistant coach for boys' basketball.

The following individual was added to the district substitute list, pending completion of all paperwork:

Kayla Menear

Type 06

The board approved the following agenda items:

The resignation of Gail May as assistant varsity girls' soccer coach.

The resignation of Travis Robison as junior high football coach and approved him as a volunteer assistant.

The resignation of Patrick Wood as assistant varsity boys' soccer coach.

Betty Lou Svonavec was approved as theatre/drama advisor at a stipend of \$1,000.00.

A maternity leave/family medical leave was approved for Andrea Minor beginning 4/23/11 with the use of 13 personal and sick days and 15 days under the FMLA and to advertise for a substitute for this position.

The following conference request was approved:

1. Writing Legally Defensible GIEP's – Altoona, PA – 12/14/11 – Sarah Pletcher, Jessica Knepper - highly recommended by administration.

The following field trip requests were approved:

1. Gateway Clipper French Dinner Cruise – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/10/12 – Farrah Thompson and 40 students – no cost to district (paid by French club).
2. Gateway Clipper Spanish Dinner Cruise – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/17/12 – Andrea Minor and 44 students – no cost to district (paid by Spanish club).

The following use of school facility requests were approved:

1. Rockwood Wrestling Boosters – Rockwood high school cafeteria, kitchen, gymnasium – 1/20/12, 6:00 – 11:00 pm; 1/21/12, 6:00 am – 11:00 pm – 1st & 2nd year tournament.
2. Rockwood Wrestling Boosters – Rockwood high school cafeteria, kitchen, gymnasium – 2/24/12, 6:00 – 11:00 pm; 2/25/12, 6:00 am – 11:00 pm – 18th Annual Chris Truxal Wrestling Tournament.
3. Rockwood Area Merchants Association – Rockwood tennis court – 11/22/11 through the winter months – ice rink.

The following club & class activity request was approved:

1. Reading Team – Scholastic Book Fair – 11/22/11 – raise funds for the purchase of books.

Superintendent Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board that the fall sports season has come to a close and several coaching positions will be advertised. The Winter sports season began on Friday.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the Soph-Senior was held on Saturday night. It was very well organized and no incidents occurred.

Mr. Bower informed the Board that the Kingwood closing was held on Thursday.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the district has met AYP for two consecutive years at the elementary and secondary levels.

Mark Bower once again thanked Dennis Nicklow and Dave Tims for dedicating their time as Board members.

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