



Rocket Express

December 4, 2023

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its annual reorganization and regular meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 11/14/23 and the regular meeting on 11/14/23 were approved.

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

Reorganization:

Board Vice President, Adam Sembower, announced that the meeting was called for the purpose of reorganization and other general school purposes.

Brad Pletcher was appointed as temporary chairperson.

Brad Pletcher read the certificates of election for the newly elected Board members.

Brad Pletcher gave the oath of office to newly elected Board members, Seth Foreman and Matthew Pritts and re-elected Board members, Brad Pletcher and Adam Sembower.

Tyler Pritts was elected President.

Adam Sembower was elected Vice President.

Noah Wareham was appointed as the representative to the Somerset County Technology Center Joint Operating Committee, and Adam Sembower was appointed as the alternate.

Melanie Monticue was appointed as the PSBA Legislative Chairperson.

Hailey Miller was appointed as the PSBA Employee Relations Chairperson.

The Board accepted the declination of a seat in Region 2 as vacant due to Irvin Kimmel declining the office of school board director after being elected.

The Board appointed Ashley Baker to the Board of School Directors to represent Region 2 for a term of two years until the next board of directors' general election.

Old Business:

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

- 815 Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources
- 819 Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response

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 2024 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 PARRS Grant in the amount of \$1,000.00, written by Leanna Weimer, for the Rockwood FFA Fish Tank project was accepted by the Board.

The Board approved the Agreement for Autistic Support Classroom Services between the Somerset Area School District and the Rockwood Area School District at a rate of \$115.00 per day for a maximum of \$20,240.00 per student for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the Addendum to Contract between Camco Physical and Occupational Therapy and Rockwood Area School District from 8/1/23 to 7/31/24 to provide speech therapy services at a rate of \$56.00 per hour.

The Professional Civil/Site Engineering Services Fee Proposal from The EADS Group in the amount of \$61,490.00 for the New Playground Project was approved by the Board.

The Board voted in favor to reinstitute the community walking program for registered walkers.

The Board accepted the quote from Total Mobility Services in the amount of \$32,342.50 for the purchase and installation of a commercial inclined platform wheelchair lift.

The Board approved the quote from C.M. Eichenlaub Co., in the amount of \$1,750.00 for telescopic bleacher inspections.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved Kathleen Lambert as the bona-fide volunteer junior high girls' head basketball coach.

The Board accepted the resignation of Latesha Benner as Student Services Support Specialist effective December 1, 2023, and to advertise for the position.

The Board approved Tom Skelton as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer junior high baseball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Jenny Beckner as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer junior high girls' basketball coach.

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) from 2/26/24 through 3/1/24. Employee ID# 81.

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) for a period of at least 4 to 6 weeks, beginning 11/28/23. Employee ID# 34.

The Board accepted the resignation of Jill Morgan as the Secondary ELA Curriculum Coordinator effective immediately.

The Board approved Roni Langley-Burkardt as the Secondary ELA Curriculum Coordinator for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) beginning 2/29/24 through 4/22/24. Employee ID# 142.

The Board voted in favor to employ Heather Tims as a paraprofessional, pending completion of all paperwork.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 12/13/23; 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. – Marianna's fundraiser delivery and distribution.
2. Somerset County Library/Tableland Services/PA Career Link Somerset - Rockwood high school library – 1/8/24 through 1/12/24; 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. – Provide STEM workshop series.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. Rockwood FBLA – Applelicious Gourmet Chocolate Apples sale – 1/1/24 through 1/12/24 – Raise funds to support FBLA activities, workshops, and conferences.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower distributed information to Board members regarding Required School Director training.

Mark Bower discussed the district's Needs Assessment and will have information available for Board members at the January meeting.

Mark Bower advised the Board that McClure Company is interested in receiving feedback to their follow up feasibility study presentation. Board members had additional questions and would like to have a more detailed discussion at a later date.

Mark Bower informed the Board that Rockwood FFA received a \$500.00 donation from the MJ Miller Agriculture Heritage Fund and thanked them for their generosity in supporting the district's FFA program.

Mark Bower invited the Board to attend upcoming district events leading to Christmas, such as the band and chorus concert at 7:00 pm on December 12th and the sixth grade Christmas store.

Mark Bower thanked the Board for their continued support over the past years.

Jon Hale thanked Rockwood PTO for decorating the elementary lobby for the holidays and for organizing special events throughout the school year.

Jon Hale recognized and thanked the elementary student council for sponsoring events over the holidays. Events include: candy cane sale, tree decorating contest, Christmas movie for students, and a faculty breakfast service project. Elementary students will also participate in a Christmas Sing-a-Long, supported by Mr. Spiri and other faculty and staff.

Jon Hale informed the Board that elementary staff members are currently evaluating ELA/Reading and Mathematics curriculum to align standards and concepts taught within grade levels.

Jon Hale advised the Board that the district will be supplying Title I services to Champion Christian, Somerset Christian, and the Diocese of Altoona Johnstown during the 2024-2025 school year.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that the winter athletic schedule has been created, and changes have been made according to sports and community needs.

Nicholas Buterbaugh congratulated the girls' varsity basketball team for winning the Ridley Banks Memorial tournament held in Ferndale. Two of the district's participants made the all-tournament team.

Nicholas Buterbaugh recognized and congratulated several district athletes for being selected as the Daily American All County Picks.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that the Dick Stoner Memorial event will take place on January 12, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Misty Demchak shared with the Board that the Video Production class completed another virtual announcement the day before Thanksgiving break. Mrs. Walker and the students did a great job. They are currently working on a special Christmas video.

Misty Demchak thanked Jenna & AJ Sembower and Carter Bower for coordinating the Turkey Trot fundraiser to support Kids Come First & the Backpack Programs.

Misty Demchak recognized and thanked the Rockwood PTO for decorating the high school lobby. The students and staff were pleasantly surprised.

Misty Demchak congratulated Mr. Kush and his students for winning first place in the Holiday Design Contest for their fruitcake display.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that the Keystone Winter Wave 1 will start on December 5.

Misty Demchak advised that senior projects will be presented on January 15 and thanked Mrs. Sharon Clapper for helping to organize the event. Board members were invited to participate on a panel during the presentations if interested.

Megan Hetrick informed the Board that the Life Skills Christmas party will be held at SCTC on December 8. She thanked Mrs. Sharon Clapper for being a huge supporter of this event.

Jordan Svonavec provided the Board with safety updates. The Safety Committee is looking to increase the expenditure of funds to address safety concerns throughout the facilities.

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