



# **Rocket Express**

## **June 15, 2021**

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 5/18/21 and the regular meeting on 5/18/21 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.

### **Public Comment:**

Martha Mitchell and two exchange students, Rodrigo Renteria Sanchez and Tycho Van Der Meer, addressed the Board to thank them for the opportunity to participate in the student exchange program through the Rockwood Area School District during the 2020-2021 school year and for their continued support of the program.

### **Old Business:**

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Reopening Plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the 2021-2022 homestead and farmstead resolution as a result of accepting the property tax reduction allocation in the amount of \$232,862.93.

The Board voted in favor to adopt a final general fund budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year in the amount of \$13,808,410.00 and a millage rate of 21.89 mills on real estate, a beginning committed fund balance of \$500,000.00, a beginning unassigned fund balance of \$3,190,574.00, a beginning assigned fund balance of \$1,150,000.00, a budgetary reserve of \$500,000.00, and earned income and real estate transfer taxes of ½ %.

The Board voted in favor to table the discussion and possible action to purchase and replace a walk-in cooler from TriMark through the COSTAR's program using the cafeteria fund until it is deemed necessary to purchase and replace the cooler.

### **New Business:**

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding/Transitional Agreement with Community Action Partnership/Tableland as required by Title I.

The Board voted in favor to authorize the business office to make budgetary transfers for the 2020-2021 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 voted in favor to authorize 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 approved the athletic schedules for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board voted in favor to ratify the agreement in lieu of expulsion, student #5112021, effective June 4, 2021.

The Board approved the purchase of elementary language arts textbooks for the 2021- 2022 school year, at an estimated cost of \$84,363.32.

The Board approved the quote from School Health in the amount of \$8,933.00 for the purchase of medical equipment for the nurse's office.

The Board approved the quote from Combustion Service & Equipment Co. in the amount of \$31,294.00, through the COSTARS Program, for the complete retube of the boiler.

The Board approved the PA Emergency Management Agency resolution, PEMA-DAP-1, to apply through FEMA for funding to cover expenditures for a substitute nurse and substitute custodian for the 2021-2022 school year as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The Board approved the Cooperative Agreement between Saint Francis University and Rockwood Area School District for the College in High School program for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the quote from TREMCO/Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. for a 5-year service agreement in the amount of \$27,550.00 for roof sections E1 through E5, F2, G, J1, and J2.

The Board approved an after school strength and conditioning program for Rockwood Area School District students in the weight room as scheduled by a volunteer strength and conditioning weight room supervisor.

The Board approved the Somerset County Nurses' Association meeting schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved 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 Section 520.1 Emergency Instructional Time Plan and authorized the superintendent to submit the appropriate documents to the Department of Education.

The Board approved the changes to the elementary and secondary student handbooks for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the changes to the elementary and secondary faculty handbooks for the 2021-2022 school year and voted in favor to amend the dress code requirements in the faculty handbook, as well as Board policy 325 - Dress and Grooming, to allow male employees the option to wear collared shirts in lieu of a dress shirt and tie. The final determination as to whether dress is appropriate will remain with the school administration.

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

The Board approved a negotiated van transportation reimbursement payment with Rockwood Transportation, Inc. in the amount of \$9,028.45 for payment periods affected by COVID 19.

### **Committee Reports:**

The Board voted in favor to add Jenna Tressler to the district substitute teacher list pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the following curriculum coordinators for the 2021-2022 school year:

Jessica Miller	Elementary ELA
Jessica Knepper	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
Stacey Baker	Secondary Special Education
Amber Walker	Secondary Fine Arts/Practical Arts

The Board approved the athletic fees for officials for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved a 3% increase in coaches' salaries for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved a 5% salary increase for the following employee groups, plus the results of their yearly evaluation: secretarial staff, administrative services, and custodial staff. Instructional aides and hourly employees will receive a \$1.00 per hour increase plus the results of evaluations. In addition, starting salary adjustments will be \$9.50/hour for the starting rate, \$10.00/hour for the second year, and \$10.50/hour for the third year.

The Board voted in favor to employ Nathan Formica as a secondary social studies teacher for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Megan Berkebile as an elementary special education teacher for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ a health room aide/L.P.N. through the Learning Lamp for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved Ashley Bowers as the Elementary Office – Library Paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board accepted the resignation of Whitney Sandin as secondary English teacher, effective the last teacher day of the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board approved Jeremy Romesberg as a volunteer strength and conditioning weight room supervisor for Rockwood Area School District students participating in an after school strength and conditioning program.

The Board voted in favor to employ Loretta Hostetler as a paraprofessional for special education for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Logan Seybold as a secondary English teacher for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of all paperwork.

#### **Use of School Facility Requests:**

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Volleyball Boosters – Rockwood high school gymnasium, elementary gymnasium – 7/17/21, 8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Co-ed volleyball tournament for fundraiser.
2. Rockwood High School Cheerleading Boosters – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 6/18/21, 7/23/21, 8/20/21, 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.; 8/9/21, 8/10/21, 8/11/21, 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. – Gymnastics practice and cheer camp.

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

Mark Bower thanked the Board for supporting the students and their end of year events.

Mark Bower thanked the Board for supporting the Staff Appreciation Dinner event.

Mark Bower informed the Board that all recent interviews went well, and he's very excited about the new faculty that will be joining the district.

Mark Bower advised the Board that all of the summer school related programs are in session and going very well.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the district's focus is to return to a more normal state of operation for the 2021-2022 school year.

Mark Bower provided the Board with an update regarding ESSER funding. The district's Health and Safety Plan will be made publicly available on the district website prior to July 30, 2021, and will be attached to the ARP ESSER application.

Discussion was held regarding the replacement of exterior doors. The cost of the doors to be replaced would be paid using ESSER funds, if ESSER funds are approved. The Board voted in favor to accept the quote from Builders' Hardware, through the COSTAR's program, in the amount of \$212,905.33. In the event ESSER funds are not approved, the cost to replace the doors will be paid out of the district's general fund.

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