



# Rocket Express

## September 21, 2021

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 2021.

Irvin Kimmel announced that the Board held an executive session on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. in the Administrative Office of the Rockwood Area School District for the purpose of confidentiality related to a student matter.

Irvin Kimmel announced that the Board held an executive session on Thursday, September 2, 2021, at 8:30 P.M. in the Administrative Office of the Rockwood Area School District for the purpose of matters of litigation, employment issues, and school safety and security.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 8/17/2021 and the regular meeting on 8/17/2021 were approved.

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

The Board approved the financial and treasurer reports and bills as presented.

### **Board Recognition:**

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

Isabelle I. Schmuck  
Seth P. Kimmel  
Elika S. Pletcher  
Dustin W. Dran  
Bena E. Croushore  
Kaitlyn E. King

### **Old Business:**

On the discussion and possible action on revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Reopening Plan, the Board voted in favor to amend the District's Health and Safety Plan to follow the PA Department of Health's Face Covering Order as written and to formally adopt the procedure of allowing parents to state in writing if their child qualifies for one of the exceptions included in the order when their child qualifies for such exception.

On the discussion and possible action on revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Reopening Plan, the Board voted in favor to require Board action to authorize and make changes to the District's Health and Safety Plan and related procedures when new orders from the Commonwealth of PA are issued.

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

816	District Social Media
800.1	Electronic Signatures/Records
146.1	Trauma-Informed Approach
236.1	Threat Assessment
236	Student Assistance Program

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

218.1	Weapons
218.2	Terroristic Threats
247	Hazing
249	Bullying/Cyberbullying
252	Dating Violence
805	Emergency Preparedness and Response
805.2	School Security Personnel

**New Business:**

The Board voted in favor to accept the letter of agreement from Somerset Area Ambulance Association, Inc. to provide emergency services for Rockwood Area School District Jr. High and Varsity home soccer games and JV and Varsity home basketball games on an as-needed basis.

The Board approved the contract between the Rockwood Area School District and Southwood Psychiatric Hospital beginning August 24, 2021, through June 9, 2022, for services as needed.

The Board approved the FFA schedule of events for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board authorized Jay Slack to cut down and remove a dead tree located on Rockwood Area School District property.

The Board approved the letter of agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and The Children's Aid Home Programs of Somerset County, Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year, if placement is needed throughout the year.

The Board approved the FBLA schedule of events for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the band schedule of events for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the chorus schedule of events for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the final transportation rates and routes for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the cost estimate from Somerset Planning & Engineering Services, LLC to add an additional restroom to the existing renovation project.

## **Committee Reports:**

The Board voted in favor to add Kimberly Oliver to the substitute instructional aide list for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Jordan Svonavec as a bona-fide volunteer assistant varsity boys' soccer coach pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Jennifer Werner as an elementary classroom paraprofessional pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Tonya Sager as a bona-fide volunteer assistant junior high volleyball coach pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add Allison King to the substitute school nurse list (Type 06) for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Jenna Sembower as an elementary student council co-advisor.

The Board approved Valerie Friedline as an elementary student council co-advisor.

The Board approved Elyse Cordaro as the elementary mathematics curriculum coordinator for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved Vincent Corrado as the student congress coach.

The Board approved a medical leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) beginning September 7, 2021, through October 21, 2021. #97

The Board approved Logan Seybold as a soph-senior co-advisor.

The Board approved Logan Seybold as a prom co-advisor.

The Board approved Andrea Minor and Amber Walker as senior class co-advisors.

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

Drew Henry  
Alyssa Thomas

The Board voted in favor to add Donna Bittner to the substitute instructional aide list for the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

## **Field Trip Requests:**

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. 2021 Red Ribbon Rally – Somerset, PA – 10/8/21 – Alana Letizia and 5 students

3. Pittsburgh Pirates Cookie Dough Incentive Trip – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/20/22 - Greta Carroll, Andrea Minor and 40 students
4. French Gateway Clipper – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/10/22 – Greta Carroll and 40 students
5. Spanish Gateway Clipper – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/24/22 – Andrea Minor and 40 students
6. Phipps Conservatory – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/19/22 – Christy Hay and 6 students
8. Rockwood Tour – Rockwood, PA – 5/11/22 – Becky McKinley, Jenna Sembower, Amanda Custer, Melissa Putman, and 43 students
9. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington DC Trip – Washington, DC – 5/17/22 – Ben Baker, Kristen Mumau, Elyse Cordaro, and 45 students - trip approved tentatively, with the condition that the administration will monitor the situation in Washington D.C. and consider an alternative field trip if it is unsafe for students to travel to Washington DC.
10. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Walking Trip to the Grove – Rockwood, PA – 6/1/22 – Ben Baker, Kristen Mumau, Elyse Cordaro, Melissa Putman, and 45 students
11. SADD State Conference – Seven Springs – 11/1/21 – Alana Letizia and 4 students
12. Heinz Field and Gateway Clipper – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/18/22 – Mindy Sarver, Faith Hemminger, Shanna Wilson, Megan Berkebile, and 41 students
13. Yogi Bear Campground – Mill Run, PA – 5/20/22 – Josh Bowlin, Kelsey Pletcher, Julie Johnson, Paraprofessional (TBD), and 32 students
14. Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/16/22 – Susan Slope, Jaime Gross, Tammy Meyers, Zoey Tunstall, and 40 students
15. Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park – Mill Run, PA – 5/18/22 – Valerie Friedline, Melissa Gindlesperger, Beth Mapes, and 41 students
16. Special Olympics Winter Games – Seven Springs – 2/7/22 – Jenna Tressler, Nick Buterbaugh, and 35 students
17. Kindergarten Graduation – The Hayloft, Rockwood, PA – 6/2/22 – Jon Hale, Josh Bowlin, Kelsey Pletcher, Paraprofessionals, and 40 students
18. Remembering 9/11 – Somerset & Stoystown, PA – 9/23/21 – Kristen Mumau, Ben Baker, Elyse Cordaro, Jane Holt, and 45 students

The Board denied the following field trip requests:

2. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade UPJ Tour – Johnstown, PA – 10/29/21 – Brandi Wedge, Elyse Cordaro, Kristen Mumau, Ben Baker, Melissa Putman, and 45 students
7. Laurel Hill Maple Syrup Tour – Somerset, PA – March 2022 – Ben Baker, Kristen Mumau, Elyse Cordaro, and 45 students

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

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Soccer Boosters – Rockwood high school parking lot – 10/2/21, 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – Food truck for parent/senior day.

2. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood high school gymnasium, cafeteria, elementary gymnasium, cafeteria – 8/18/21 through 11/7/21, 4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Football practices in the event of inclement weather – when available.
3. Rockwood Choral Boosters – Rockwood high school chorus room – 9/21/21, 10/19/21, 11/16/21, 12/21/21, 1/18/22, 2/15/22, 3/15/22, 4/19/22, 5/17/22, 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. – Monthly meetings.
4. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Store – Rockwood elementary chorus room, gymnasium – 11/22/21, 8:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M., 11/23/21, 8:30 A.M. – 8:00 P.M., 11/24/21, 8:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. – Christmas store.
5. Rockwood Rockets Football Club – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 9/17/21, 9/24/21, 10/1/21, 10/8/21, 10/15/21, 10/22/21, 10/29/21, 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Indoor soccer practice.
6. Rockwood Soccer Boosters – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 10/14/21, 6:30 P.M. - ? – Booster meeting.
7. Rockwood Elementary Girls’ Basketball – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – Mondays & Thursdays starting October 2021 – November 18, 2021, 4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. (based upon availability) – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls’ basketball practice.

**Club & Class Activity Requests:**

The Board approved the following club & class activity requests:

1. Rockwood FFA – Beef sticks sale – 9/3/21 through 6/15/22 – Raise funds for dues and jackets.
2. NHS – Gardners Candies sales – November 2021 – Raise funds to participate in community projects throughout the year.
3. French Honor Society – Snow cones sale – Throughout the school year – Raise funds for French Honor Society membership fees and activities.

**Superintendent’s Report:**

Mark Bower recognized and commended our District families, faculty, and staff for being responsible in handling illness and following COVID-19 procedures.

Mark Bower updated the Board on the COVID-19, 14-day rolling period. A minimal number of cases have been reported within the District.

Mark Bower advised the Board of a safety concern. Currently, there is no railing surrounding the ash pit area. The District’s maintenance staff has been directed to install a railing around this area as a safeguard to assist in the prevention of injury.

Mark Bower advised the Board of another safety concern which deals with the concrete handicap ramp outside of the high school entrance. We are hoping to obtain a quote with the cost to fix this area of walkway, as well as replace the steps leading from the student parking lot to the high school entrance.

Mark Bower gave an update about the upcoming GAP Trail Relay. This fundraising event has been receiving a steady flow of contributions. Funds raised will go to the Kids Come First and

Rockwood Rocket Fuel Backpack programs. Donations are greatly appreciated, as the District has many families who benefit from these programs.

Mark Bower thanked the Board for their guidance and continued support during the last several months and for attending additional executive sessions that were necessary to discuss important District related matters.

Mark Bower advised the Board that the Pixellot System, a system that broadcasts athletic events, has been working well. The Board had the opportunity to view a portion of a varsity soccer game using the system.

The Board authorized the administration to spend up to \$2,000.00 for the purchase of changing pods or privacy dividers for the locker rooms.

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