



Rocket Express

September 20, 2022

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2022.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 8/16/2022 and the regular meeting on 8/16/2022 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:

Miley G. Beckner
Isabelle I. Schmuck
Autumn E. Mowry
Elika S. Pletcher
Chloe R. Streczywilk
Payge P. Lytle

Public Comment:

Jeff Clevenger, a district resident, approached the Board requesting to review the social studies curriculum being taught in grades K-12; specifically, American History and Civics.

Old Business:

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Plan.

New Business:

The Board approved the final transportation rates and routes for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved revisions to the bus and van driver lists for the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the letter of agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Tableland Services, Inc. for the use of one elementary classroom for the 2022-2023 school year.

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 2022-2023 school year at the rate of \$105.00 per day for Day Treatment students and \$55.00 per day for Adolescent Partial Hospitalization students, if placement is needed throughout the year.

The Board approved the removal of old laptops from the district inventory.

The Board voted in favor to accept sealed bids for the communications tower that was removed from the high school gymnasium or dispose of it.

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District Elementary School Wide Plan.

The Board approved activities related to the Community Based Instruction (CBI) Program for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved the FBLA schedule of events for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved the chorus schedule of events for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved the band schedule of events for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved a modified schedule for a 12th grade student to participate in the school to work program.

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District Organization Chart to be added to Board Policy 003 – Functions.

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District Fee Schedule for Use of School Facilities.

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, JV, and Varsity boys and girls home basketball games during the 2022-2023 school year, at a rate of \$60.00 per hour.

The Board accepted the quote from Some Guys Contracting & Excavating, LLC, to clean out the brush and remove stumps at the fence line by the baseball field and surrounding areas.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved an unpaid leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) on September 23, 2022. Employee ID #226.

The Board accepted the resignation of Vincent Corrado as the High School Social Studies teacher, assistant varsity track coach, ski club advisor, and student congress coach effective September 16, 2022, and to advertise for the positions.

The Board voted in favor to add the following individuals to the substitute teacher list for the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

- Maria LaRotonda (Type 06)
- Nicole Halverson (Type 06)
- Brianna Welch (Type 06)
- Zoe Leasock

The Board voted in favor to retain Mark Bower as Superintendent of Schools for an additional term of five years commencing July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2028, and approved the Superintendent Agreement outlining the terms and conditions of his employment.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. PHEAA Workshop – Johnstown, PA – 9/16/22 – PJ Opfar
2. IU8 Text Dependent Analysis Series – Duncansville, PA; Altoona, PA – 9/20/22, 10/20/22, 11/10/22 – Greta Carroll
3. TDA Training – 9/20/22, 10/20/22, 11/10/22 – Melissa Gindlesperger
4. College in High School Teacher’s Meeting – Virtual Zoom meeting at RASD – 9/29/22 – Greg King
5. IU8 Math Network Meetings – Johnstown, PA – 10/4/22, 11/10/22, 2/15/23, 4/17/23 – Alana Letizia, Katie Miller
6. County Counselor Meetings – Dates and locations to be determined – PJ Opfar
7. IEPwriter Fall 2022 Updates Meeting – Greensburg, PA – 10/12/22 – Megan Hetrick, Cindy Miller, Cassie Wright, Jenna Wintersteen
8. County Nurses Meetings – Locations to be determined - 2nd Tuesday of each month – Rebekah Marietta

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. 9th Grade Tour of SCTC – Somerset, PA – 9/15/22 – PJ Opfar, Allison Shultz and 39 students
2. Red Ribbon Rally – Somerset, PA – 10/21/22 – Alana Letizia and 5 students
3. College Fair – Somerset, PA – 11/3/22 – PJ Opfar and 25 students
4. 2022 State SADD Conference – Seven Springs – 11/14/22 – Alana Letizia and 5 students
5. SADD Local Conference – Somerset, PA – March 2023 – Alana Letizia and 5 students
6. 6th Grade Laurel Hill State Park Maple Syrup Program – Somerset, PA – March 2023 – Kristen Mumau, Elyse Cordaro and 43 students
7. 2nd Grade Train Trip – Gallitzin, PA, Meyersdale, PA – April/May 2023 – Carter Bower, Linda Carolus, Sarah Hay, Heather Snyder, Rebekah Marietta and 40 students
8. Somerset County Scrabble Tournament – Friedens, PA – 5/5/23 – Beth Miller, Jessica Miller, Sarah Pletcher and 16 students

9. Kindergarten Yogi Bear Park – Mill Run, PA – 5/9/23 – Josh Bowlin, Olivia Latuch, Kelsey Pletcher, Susan Tressler, Julie Johnson, Jennifer Werner and 46 students
10. 1st Grade Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/15/23 – Susan Slope, Jaime Gross, Tammy Meyers, Carla Harrold and 34 students
12. 6th Grade Washington D.C. Trip – Washington, D.C. – 5/17/23 – Elyse Cordaro, Kristen Mumau, Jenna Wintersteen and 47 students
14. 4th Grade Acrisure Stadium & Gateway Clipper – Pittsburgh, PA – May 2023 – Mindy Sarver, Faith Hemminger, Shanna Wilson, Jenna Wintersteen and 40 students
15. 6th Grade Picnic/Walking Trip – Rockwood Grove – 6/1/23 – Elyse Cordaro, Kristen Mumau and 43 students

The Board tabled the following field trip requests until the October 18, 2022 meeting:

11. 3rd Grade Carnegie Science Center – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/17/23 – Valerie Friedline, Cassandra Kemp, Beth Mapes and 58 students
13. Elementary Gifted Program Carnegie Science Center – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/18/23 – Christy Hay and 11 students

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Choral Boosters – Rockwood high school chorus room – 9/20/22, 10/18/22, 11/15/22, 12/20/22, 1/17/23, 2/21/23, 3/21/23, 4/18/23, 5/16/23; 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. – Monthly meetings.
2. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary playground, athletic fields – 9/30/22; 7:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. – Health-A-Thon.
3. STEM Ambassador Program – Rockwood high school classrooms – 10/8/22; 9:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. – STEM outreach program.
4. 6th Grade Christmas Store – Rockwood elementary chorus room, gymnasium - 11/21/22; 8:30 A.M. - ?, 11/22/22; 8:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M., 11/23/22; 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. – Christmas Store.
5. Laurel Arts Dance Center – Rockwood high school chorus room, classrooms, auditorium – 5/12/23; 4:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M., 5/19/23; 4:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M., 5/20/23; 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. – Dance rehearsals and recital.
6. Rockwood Volleyball Boosters – Rockwood lobby outside high school gymnasium – 9/17/22; 7:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. – Fundraiser receipt, organization, and distribution.
7. Rockwood Alumni Basketball – Rockwood high school or elementary gymnasium – Sundays beginning 12/4/22 through 4/2/2023; 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Recreational basketball for Rockwood graduates.
8. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 10/2/22, 10/9/22, 10/16/22, 10/23/22, 10/30/22; 4:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – Indoor soccer practice.
9. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 1/8/23, 1/15/23, 1/22/23, 1/29/23, 2/5/23, 2/12/23, 2/19/23, 2/26/23; 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. – Futsal and indoor soccer league.

10. Rockwood Soccer Boosters – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 10/13/22 – 5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Monthly meeting.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity requests:

1. NHS – Gardners Candies sales - November 2022 – Raise funds to participate in community projects throughout the year.
2. Elementary Student Council – Rockwood spirit wear clothing sale - October/November 2022 – Raise funds to support student council and elementary activities.
3. FFA – Country Meats beefsticks sale – Throughout 2022-2023 school year – Raise funds to purchase jackets, trips, etc.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower recognized and congratulated the elementary administration, faculty, and staff on being named as the winner of the National Blue Ribbon Award. Rockwood is one of 10 Pennsylvania schools named 2022 National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education. Mark Bower and Jon Hale plan to attend the Awards Ceremony in Washington D.C. on November 3rd and 4th. Jon Hale also recognized all District personnel, parents, and community members for making such a positive impact on our students as they strive to meet high academic standards.

Mark Bower mentioned the upcoming Somerset County Technology Center Board Member Dinner Tour. All Board members from sending school districts were invited to attend. The event will take place on September 27, 2022.

Mark Bower advised the Board the start of the school year was busy, yet positive.

Mark Bower announced homecoming will be held on Friday, September 30, 2022.

Mark Bower reminded the Board that Vernon Shumaker will be retiring on September 30th. He expressed his gratitude for all that Vernon has done, on and off the clock, over his years as a District employee in the Maintenance Department.

Mark Bower informed the Board that auditors from Kotzan CPA & Associates P.C. were here in September. They worked with Jordan Svonavec, Business Manager, and Jenny Beckner, Accounts Payable Administrative Assistant, and were very impressed with their reviewing of records.

Jordan Svonavec discussed the School Wide Lunch Program. On September 9, 2022, Governor Tom Wolf announced that Pennsylvania will make it possible for all schools participating in the School Breakfast Program to provide free breakfast for all enrolled students during the 2022-2023 school year, beginning with breakfast meals served October 1st. After this announcement was made, we found the

District to be eligible to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program. CEP is a federal option that enables high-needs schools to offer breakfast and lunch to students at no charge. Jordan will conduct an analysis and submit the application if the District is interested in the program and able to absorb the additional cost to participate.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that students are invited and encouraged to participate in homecoming week, which will be held the week of September 26-30. Many activities are scheduled, including a homecoming spirit week sponsored by Student Council, powderpuff game, crowning of the homecoming queen, annual bonfire, and many other activities. Parents Day for soccer will be held the following day, October 1.

Jon Hale advised the Board that the elementary school has had a good start to the school year.

Jon Hale informed the Board about the “Chalk the Walk” event that will be held in the elementary parking lot on Friday, September 23, 2022. This has been a well-attended event for elementary students.

Nick Buterbaugh updated the Board on athletics. All sports programs have been running smoothly, and the co-ops are going well.

Megan Hetrick thanked the Board for supporting the events related to the Community Based Instruction (CBI) Program. The students benefit greatly from the activities scheduled.

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