



Rocket Express

November 19, 2013

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, at 7:30 P.M. The minutes of the committee meeting on 10/15/13 and the regular meeting on 10/15/13 were approved. The agenda, agenda items, and additional agenda items were accepted.

The financial and treasurer reports, bills, and budgetary transfers were approved as presented.

Board Recognition:

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

Devon Glover
Skylar St. Clair
Anni Shaffer
Keri Pritts
Jamie Knopsnyder
Luke Clay

Public Comment:

Ben Leverknight, food service director from Metz, introduced himself to the Board. He thanked the Board for the recent purchase of the oven and encouraged the Board to contact him anytime with questions or concerns regarding the food service operations of the district.

Fran Brancato discussed the possibility of participating in a short sided football program with other districts that are struggling with numbers. He will research this concept and may return to the Board with a proposal in the future.

Several parents attended the meeting requesting consideration for transportation for the junior high wrestlers that are participating in the co-op agreement with Berlin. They are building a good program and believe they can bring it back to Rockwood if the Board would support the transportation for the co-op this year.

Old Business:

Brian Coughenour presented the following district financial information from the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013:

Major Financial Highlights

Total Revenue	11,087,956.00
Total Expenditures	10,692,823.00
Cash Surplus	395,133.00
Fund Balance	3,962,536.00

The breakdown and designation of the fund balance as of June 30, 2013 is as follows:

Unassigned Fund Balance	2,597,411.00
Assigned Fund Balance	1,000,000.00
Committed Fund Balance	350,000.00
Non-spendable Fund Balance (inventory)	15,125.00

History of Cash Surpluses

2012-2013	395,133.00
2011-2012	420,402.00
2010-2011	839,778.00
2009-2010	1,169,951.00
2008-2009	960,766.00
2007-2008	362,113.00

History of Fund Balances

2012-2013	3,962,536.00
2011-2012	3,567,400.00
2010-2011	3,146,250.00
2009-2010	2,338,952.00
2008-2009	1,163,787.00
2007-2008	546,277.00

Major sources of Cash Surplus for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year

1. The actual revenue in the local and state categories exceeded the budgeted amounts by approximately \$340,000.00. This was the result of a better than average collection of real estate taxes, delinquent real estate taxes, and earned income taxes. The district also received \$39,000.00 for the accountability block grant that was not budgeted and retirement reimbursements from the state exceeded the budgeted amounts.
2. The district saved approximately \$90,000.00 in transportation costs through the elimination of a bus route and the elimination of a van route to Johnstown for the majority of the year.
3. The district kept 8% in the budget for health care insurance and the actual rate came in at approximately 3% resulting in a surplus of \$75,000.00.
4. General expenditure categories throughout the budget were not exceeded and came in lower than expected.

Financial Issues Facing the District

Enrollment in Cyber/Charter Schools
On-going maintenance concerns
Increases in retirement contribution rate
Uncertainty in state budget
Possibility of additional elementary teacher depending on enrollment
Impact of collective bargaining agreement

The annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013 was approved.

The board voted to table action on the purchase of an outdoor public announcement system until the December meeting.

The board authorized the administration to obtain proposals for separate contractors for the district bus routes and van routes, as well as consider proposals for a single contractor for both.

The Board discussed the future direction of the football program. Mark Bower discussed the three options that are available to the district. These options include: not having a program, pursuing a co-op agreement with another district, or maintaining a program within the district.

Following discussion, the board voted in favor of pursuing a junior high and junior varsity football schedule within the district for the 2014-2015 school year, including the co-op with Turkeyfoot, solely at the Rockwood School District and with total commitment from the athletes.

The board authorized the administration to advertise for a food service management company for the 2014-2015 school year.

New Business:

The annual reorganization meeting was set for Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

The board voted to remove old promethean boards from the district inventory and place the boards for possible sale with the proceeds to go to the district television production club.

The board approved the annual senior trip to New York City from 5/24/14 through 5/26/14.

The board adopted the following resolution to dissolve the local Act 511 earned income tax office:

Be it resolved that, in view of the small amounts involved, the School District does not believe an audit of the Rockwood Area Act 511 Tax Office is necessary for 2012 and 2013 and that the cost thereof would exceed the value of an audit for those years. Therefore, this School District waives the requirement of an audit and releases the Rockwood Area Act 511 Tax Office of any obligation to provide one.

The board authorized a student to participate in the dual enrollment program at ACM during the 2014-2015 school year at no cost to the district.

Homebound instruction for a 9th grade student was approved.

The board tabled the discussion on a district credit card until the January meeting.

Education/Personnel:

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

Billie Jo Miller

Art Education

Bradley Keplar was approved as the junior varsity boys' basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

Robert Regan was approved as an unpaid assistant coach for junior varsity boys' basketball, pending completion of all paperwork.

John Emert was approved as a volunteer softball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The board approved 10 days of sick leave for Ben Baker upon the birth of his child.

The board accepted the resignation of Erica Henry as an instructional assistant, and approved her placement on the district instructional assistant substitute list.

The board approved Nicole Johnson as a long term substitute instructional assistant for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year.

Sydney Rigo was employed as head cheerleading coach for the winter season, pending completion of all paperwork.

Ashlee Lepley was employed as assistant cheerleading coach for the winter season, pending completion of all paperwork.

The board accepted the resignation of Sue Slope as elementary reading curriculum coordinator.

The following conference request was denied by the board:

1. Be Successful in Making the 3 Shifts Required for Implementation of the PACS and Effective Rtll Using the PA Core Standards – Altoona, PA – 12/4/13 – Sue Slope, Jenna Sembower –

The following field trip request was approved:

1. High School Highlights Banquet – Somerset, PA – 5/7/14 – Lee Hetrick and 2 students

The following Use of School Facility Requests were approved:

1. Child Evangelism Fellowship of Fayette/Somerset Counties – Rockwood elementary library – every Thursday, 1/9/14 through 4/10/14, 3:08PM – 4:30 PM – after school good news club.
2. Rockwood Basketball Boosters – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 12/13/13, 6:00AM – 7:30 AM – pizza & hoagie pick-up.

The following club & class activity requests were approved:

1. Materials Processing Class – Christmas tree ornament sale – 11/20/13 through 12/20/13 – raise funds for Henry Ford Museum trip.
2. Class of 2017 – Auntie Anne's fundraiser – 11/20/13 through the 2nd week in January – raise funds for Soph-Sr., prom, senior trip, graduation.

Superintendent Report:

Mark Bower asked the Board for permission for Julian Sleasman to patch several sections of drywall in the red section. The Board had no problem with this request.

Mark Bower informed the Board of a liability concern for the district that arises for students that are not transported to and from school sponsored activities on school provided transportation. The wrestling co-op with Berlin has specifically raised the concern. The board voted to approve transportation for the junior high wrestlers participating in the co-op with Berlin.

Mark Bower informed the Board that he was proud of the students that attended the luncheon with Governor Tom Corbett.

Work on the needs assessment is still in progress. Mark Bower asked the Board to contact him with any items that Board members would like placed on the needs assessment.

The Board was updated on the results of the election with regards to the vacant seat and if the write in candidates accumulate the votes received. Betsy Kreger has 6 votes, Jason Coho has 4 votes, and Adam Johnson has 3 votes. Dan Rullo has contacted Betsy Kreger to see if she is interested in the position. A response has not been received at this time.

The board approved a donation to the Kids Come First organization in the amount of \$500.00.

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