



Rocket Express

January 21, 2025

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. The following directors were present: Ashley Baker, Seth Foreman, Hailey Miller, Melanie Monticue, Brad Pletcher, Matthew Pritts, Tyler Pritts, Adam Sembower, Noah Wareham.

The minutes of the reorganization and regular meeting on 12/3/2024, were approved.

The agenda and agenda items were approved.

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

Board Recognition:

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

December: Landen R. Roebuck
Makiia N. Walker
Havyn S. Wareham
Matthew R. Truszka
Glenn A. Millin
Tyler N. Stahl
Kaleb A. Gerhard

January: Colby L. Trimpey
Mason Z. Foreman
April L. Griffith
Rylee L. Atchison
Ryan A. Kinney
Skylar D. Atchison
Hunter C. Taylor

Board members were recognized during the meeting as a part of School Director Recognition Month. Mark Bower thanked Board members for their time, dedication, service, and efforts in supporting the district's students, families, and staff.

New Business:

The Board approved Equalis Group as a national cooperative purchasing organization for the district to provide contracts competitively solicited by public agencies for a wide array of products and services.

The Board accepted the donation of a 3D printer from ASSA ABLOY - Rockwood Manufacturing for the districts' Engineering and Technology classroom.

The Board accepted the donation of a Baby Grand Piano from Tom and Lorie Skelton.

The Board voted in favor to table the discussion and possible action to approve the Cooperative Sponsorship of Sport between the Meyersdale Area School District and Rockwood Area School District for Golf for the 2025-2026 school year until the February Board meeting.

The Board voted in favor to table the discussion and possible action to approve the Cooperative Sponsorship of Sport between the Meyersdale Area School District and Rockwood Area School District for Varsity Cross Country for the 2025-2026 school year until the February Board meeting.

The Board approved the Independent Contractor Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Megan Snell for photography services and services that include social media communications and academic publications.

On the discussion and possible action to accept a quote for the installation of new carpet in the auditorium, the Board voted in favor to table the agenda item until the February Board meeting.

The Board approved Doug Spiri as a district substitute van driver for Rockwood Transportation, Inc. for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved the use of unpaid days for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) from 1/31/25 through 2/6/25, upon full usage of district allotted personal days. Employee ID #227.

The Board accepted the resignation of Lauren Boczar as Secondary Social Studies Teacher effective January 8, 2025.

The Board approved Matthew Blubaugh as a full-time Secondary Social Studies Teacher.

The Board voted in favor to add Autumn Chonko to the substitute teacher list for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork, and approve her as a long-term substitute elementary teacher.

The Board voted in favor to add Joanna King to the substitute instructional aide list for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Erin Pyle as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer for the district musical for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

On the discussion and possible action to employ a bona-fide volunteer varsity girls' head soccer coach, the Board voted in favor to retain Noah Wareham in his current role as the varsity girls' head soccer coach.

The Board approved Tyler Lytle as a bona-fide volunteer junior high head baseball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

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

The Board accepted the resignation of Courtney Smith as junior high head volleyball coach and to advertise for the position.

The Board approved Martin Minor as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer boys' basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Carissa Shipley as a junior/senior high school ski club advisor effective the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board voted in favor to waive the tuition for the school aged child(ren) of employee ID #71 to attend the Rockwood Area School District.

The Board approved an extended medical leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) through April 4, 2025, using FMLA leave. Employee ID #202.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. Strengthen Phonics Instruction in Any K-2 Reading Program – Online training - 2/27/25 – Jaime Gross, Susan Slope.
2. CRA Math: Addition & Subtraction – Altoona, PA - 2/12/25 – Jaime Gross, Cassandra Conn.
3. CRA Math: Multiplication & Division – Altoona, PA - 2/21/25 – Valerie Friedline, Shanna Wilson.
4. CRA Math: Fractions – Altoona, PA - 3/4/25 – Jenna Sembower.

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip request:

1. STEM Laurel Hill 5th Grade Trip – Laurel Hill State Park – 5/15/25 – Ben Baker, Carter Bower, Jenna Sembower, Melissa Gindlesperger, and 63 students.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 1/10/25; 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Parent meeting.
2. Highlands Volleyball Club – Rockwood high school gymnasium – Tuesdays in February and March 2025 (will coordinate with athletic director); 7:15 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Travel volleyball practices.
3. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary chorus room – 2/27/25 through 3/7/25; 8:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. – Spring book fair.
4. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 2/21/25; 12:45 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. – Marianna's fundraiser.
5. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary library – 4/10/25, 4/11/25; 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Bargain book fair.
6. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood athletic field, playground, elementary gym (in the event of inclement weather); 4/15/25; 9:45 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Egg hunt for students in pre-k through 1st grade.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. Elementary Student Council – Lovable Lollies Sale – 2/12/25 through 2/14/25 – Raise funds for elementary student council.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower held a discussion with the Board regarding the use of snow days and Flexible Instruction Days (FID), as well as remote/virtual instruction days. Depending on the weather for the duration of the winter months, the 2024-2025 school calendar may need to be adapted.

Mark Bower and Jordan Svonavec met with representatives from SitelogIQ, Senator Pat Stefano, and Representative Carl Metzgar to discuss PIPE grant funding opportunities.

Mark Bower provided the Board with an update on SwiftMD Telemedicine Services, the district's virtual care provider. He informed the Board that SwiftMD has been acquired by ReviveHealth. A Bedford-Somerset Health Consortium meeting is scheduled for April to discuss potential enhancements to the services offered.

Mark Bower updated the Board regarding the electrical service upgrades that will be completed during the summer months. The upgrades should not interfere with the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. Options for the 2025-2026 school calendar will be presented to the Board and reviewed at the February Board meeting.

Mark Bower addressed the topic of needs assessment requests, informing the Board that he will conduct a survey among faculty and staff to gather feedback on essential items and resources needed within the district.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the PA Department of Health informed all LEAs of recent changes made to the PA School Code pertaining to student health initiatives. Act 117 – Parental Education of Type 1 Diabetes requires all school entities to share Type 1 Diabetes educational materials with parents/guardians of students either in writing, electronically, or on the school's website. Act 120 established a new protocol for tick removal from students. This protocol must be implemented in all public-school entities, and information must be made available to parents/guardians.

Jon Hale presented a video featuring elementary students in honor of School Director Recognition Month. The video showcased students sharing their thoughts on what they believe a school director's job entails.

Misty Demchak updated the Board regarding mid-terms, senior projects, district band, winter athlete recognition, along with other high school events, that have been rescheduled or postponed due to snow days.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that teachers are preparing for Flexible Instruction Days.

Misty Demchak expressed the excitement by students for the upcoming Junior High Fun Day.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that students recognized as “Riders of the Month” were rewarded for their achievement with a celebratory pizza party.

Nicholas Buterbaugh advised the Board that winter sports competitions are being rescheduled due to snow days and school cancellations.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that the policy regarding athletic expectations and fan/guest code of conduct will be displayed to encourage a positive experience for everyone involved and to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment at sporting events.

Jordan Svonavec held a discussion on the district’s finances and funds and gave an update regarding the cafeteria fund balance.

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