



Rocket Express

October 15, 2024

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 9/17/2024 and the regular meeting on 9/17/2024 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:

Kourtney L. Ansell
Lux B. Lee
Isaac J. Foy
McKenzie A. Bowers
Kasie D. Sanner
Lauryn B. Jones
Cheyenne M. Judy

Public Comment:

During public comment, Rebecca Foy, a resident of the district, addressed the board with concerns about social issues impacting today's students. Discussion was held regarding ways that the district's faculty, staff, and administration currently provide support and resources to assist students with managing social issues. She also had questions regarding the athletic program and who determines whether 9th grade students participate as junior high athletes versus junior varsity/varsity athletes. The administration addressed the question by commenting that, at the present time, the parent makes the determination. However, the recommendation is that the parent and coach communicate to discuss which option is most beneficial for the student.

Old Business:

The Board held an annual discussion regarding lead testing in the facility.

On the consideration to authorize payment to Expert Paving Co., LLC in the amount of \$149,672.00 for paving and line painting, the Board, by unanimous consent, resolved to postpone taking action until the next scheduled Board meeting.

New Business:

On the consideration to approve the Initial Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract with SitelogIQ Energy Services, Inc. for the Rockwood Area School District to include electrical service upgrades, not to exceed \$1,100,000.00, the Board voted in favor to approve the contract pending amendments to the contract after discussion and agreement with SitelogIQ.

The Board approved software upgrades to the district's accounting software, eFinance, in the amount of \$10,080.00 to be split between the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 fiscal years.

The Board approved the quote from Parlights, Inc. in the amount of \$13,930.34 for the replacement and installation of new stage light fixtures in the auditorium.

The Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement between Saint Francis University and Rockwood Area School District for field experience and student teaching placements from 9/16/24 - 12/31/25.

The Board approved an increase in donations to the Rockwood and New Centerville Fire Departments, Somerset Area Ambulance Association, Meyersdale Area Ambulance, and Berlin Ambulance Association as follows:

- Rockwood Fire Department increase from \$500.00 to \$750.00
- New Centerville Fire Department increase from \$500.00 to \$750.00
- Somerset Area Ambulance Association increase from \$200.00 to \$300.00
- Meyersdale Area Ambulance increase from \$150.00 to \$250.00
- Berlin Ambulance Association increase from \$150.00 to \$250.00

The Board approved the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and to submit the report to PDE by the October 31, 2024, deadline.

The Board approved the musical performance of “Disney’s High School Musical” for the 2024-2025 school year; to be held on 2/28/25 and 3/1/25.

The Board approved a Rockwood homeschool student to swim and compete independently with the Somerset Area School District and to allocate \$250.00 from district funds to support the student’s participation.

The Board approved Option #1 of the 2025 Rockwood Junior High Fun Night proposal and approved transportation costs be paid by the district.

The Board accepted the Rockwood Area School District 2024-2025 School Safety & Mental Health Grant in the amount of \$111,753.00 and approved all grant funded activities.

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

- 113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- 113.2 Behavior Support
- 202 Nonresident Students
- 236.1 Threat Assessment
- 254 Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- 607 Tuition Students
- 805.2 School Security Personnel

Committee Reports:

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

Melissa Marker	Josh Fraley	Melanie Fraley
Nicole Cramer	Shuree Harbaugh	Sandra Millin

The Board accepted the resignation of Jon Hale as junior high baseball head coach and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the resignation of Nicholas Foreman as varsity boys' basketball assistant coach, to advertise for the position, and approved him as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer varsity boys' basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Elyse Cordaro and Kristin Mumau as Elementary Washington, D.C. Trip co-advisors effective the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board voted in favor to employ Elyse Cordaro and Kristin Mumau as Elementary Student Council co-advisors effective the 2024-2025 school year.

No action was taken by the Board in regards to the employment of a bona-fide volunteer varsity head rifle coach due to the absence of a suitable applicant for the position.

The Board voted in favor to employ Acacia Svonavec as a bona-fide volunteer junior high girls head basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. PASBO Conference – Hershey, PA – March 11-14, 2025 – Jordan Svonavec
2. County Counselors Meetings – locations to be determined – 3rd Friday of each month – PJ Opfar
3. Somerset County School Nurse Association Meetings – Somerset, PA – 11/12/24, 12/10/24, 1/14/25, 2/11/25, 3/11/25, 4/8/25 – Rebekah Marietta

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. One Book, One Community (5th) – Rockwood, PA – 5/6/25 – Melissa Gindlesperger, Jenna Sembower, Carter Bower, and 61 students
2. Kindergarten Graduation – Rockwood, PA – 5/29/25 – Jon Hale, Nick Buterbaugh, Josh Bowlin, Olivia Eller, Mindy Singo, and 50 students
3. Allegheny Health Network Open Heart Surgery Observation Program – Pittsburgh, PA – 11/22/24 – Jenna Tressler and 12 students
4. NHS and Special Olympics – Seven Springs, PA – 2/13/25 – Jenna Tressler, Kurt Woolslayer and 30 students
5. Holocaust Field Trip – Washington, D.C. – 3/7/25 – Nathan Formica, Jim Wagner, Roni Langley-Burkardt and 36 students

6. Senator for a Day – Lemont Furnace, PA – 3/13/25 – Jim Wagner and 10 students
7. G-S Products, Hostetler Lumber, and Past Times Arcade Museum – Somerset, PA, Girard, OH – 4/11/25 – Joe Kush and 32 students
8. Somerset County Courthouse – Somerset, PA – 2 days/spring 2025 – Jim Wagner, additional teacher and 53 students
9. Flight 93 Memorial – Stoystown, PA – 2 days/May 2025 – Jim Wagner, additional teacher and 46 students
10. SCTC 9th Grade Experience – Somerset, PA – 11/21/24 – PJ Opfar and number of students to be determined
11. Johnstown Flood Memorial – South Fork, PA – 4/8/25 – Lauren Boczar, Jim Wagner, and 40 students

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. 6th Grade Class Christmas Store – Rockwood elementary chorus room, gymnasium – 12/16/24, 12/17/24, 12/18/24; 7:45 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. - Annual Christmas Store.
2. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood athletic fields – 10/5/24; 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. – Youth Football Game.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity requests:

1. Rockwood FFA – Beef sticks sale – throughout 24/25 school year – Raise funds for FFA jackets, etc.
2. Rockwood FBLA – Applelicious Chocolate Gourmet Apples sale – 10/16/24 through 10/30/24 – Raise funds to support FBLA activities, workshops, and conferences.
3. Leaders of Tomorrow – Dress Down Days/Spirit Days – Every Wednesday throughout 2024-2025 school year – Raise funds for Elementary Positive Behavioral Program.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board that the Rockwood Backpack Feeding Program is up and running and thanked local community members and organizations for their generous donations.

Mark Bower provided the Board with updates regarding roof leaks. Repairs have been made.

Mark Bower informed the Board that recipients of the Public-School Facility Improvement Grant will be announced in the coming weeks.

Mark Bower advised the Board of a drain line leak. The maintenance department has temporarily patched the leak, and professional repairs are scheduled to take place soon.

Mark Bower shared with the Board that Owen and Kevin Mathias, along with their colleagues at Woodmen of the World, will be volunteering their time and service to power wash the school building's exterior near the main entrances to remove the buildup of coal dirt and mildew. These efforts will be completed as part of a volunteer beautification project.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the district's administrative team and athletic director met with the administrative team and athletic director from Berlin Brothersvalley School District to discuss athletic cooperative opportunities for students in the future and that future meetings are planned to include Rockwood Area School District, Berlin Brothersvalley School District, and Meyersdale Area School District.

Jordan Svonavec provided the Board with an update in regards to additional menu items, particularly breakfast foods, being offered to students in the cafeteria. The Board expressed their interest in providing a few more options for students to choose from.

On behalf of Jon Hale who was unable to attend the meeting, Nicholas Buterbaugh provided the Board with updates related to the elementary school. Updates included:

- The elementary playground project has been completed. Students are being taught safety lessons on the proper way to use the new equipment.
- The Health-A-Thon was held for elementary students last week. This was an enjoyable event for students to participate in.
- A parent involvement session titled "Mothers and Muffins" will be held for elementary parents on October 25, 2024.
- Elementary students are invited to attend the "Trunk or Treat" event on October 31, 2024. Additional events have also been planned for the evening.

Nicholas Buterbaugh advised the Board that sign-ups for winter sports have begun and meetings have been held with coaches to prepare for the upcoming season.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that there are several open coaching positions. The positions have been advertised on the district's website as well as the district's Facebook page. The athletic department will be accepting applications until all positions have been filled.

Nicholas Buterbaugh congratulated both the girls' and boys' varsity soccer teams for being eligible to compete in the upcoming playoffs.

Nicholas Buterbaugh advised the Board that additional first aide kits will be purchased to place throughout the facilities, specifically in high-risk areas.

Nicholas Buterbaugh commented that the "Bus Rider of the Month" program has been going well. He recognized students who have received awards for showing positive behavior while riding the bus.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that Rockwood's National Honor Society will be sponsoring a Cold Weather Clothing Drive from October 16 – 25. Items collected will be sent to North Carolina to help those affected by the recent hurricanes. Items being collected include: new/gently used blankets, coats, jackets, sweaters, gloves, scarves, etc.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that the Fall-Formal dance will be held on November 1, and the Soph-Senior dance is schedule for November 16.

Misty Demchak recognized and thanked Roni Langley-Burkardt, Shanda Pletcher, Ed Clay, the custodial staff, teachers, coaches, advisors, and students for their participation in the Powder Puff game and homecoming event.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that digital testing will be done for the PSAT, SAT, and ASVAB. Some PSSA testing for grades 7 and 8 may be digital as well. All tests will be administered digitally beginning the 2025-2026 school year, as required by the PA Department of Education.

Misty Demchak recognized and thanked Sharon Clapper for coordinating two presentations for high school students.

Misty Demchak recognized and congratulated the Red Ribbon winners. Mrs. Letizia will be taking a few students to the Red Ribbon Rally in Somerset on October 18.

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