



Rocket Express

October 17, 2023

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 9/19/2023 and the regular meeting on 9/19/2023 were approved.

The agenda, agenda items, and additional 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:

Isabella M. Bird
Shawn W. Benner
Hunter A. Stiffey
Fredricka E. Sutton
Adeline V. Barkman
Aliyah K. Ross

Old Business:

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

New Business:

The Board approved donations to the Rockwood and New Centerville Fire Departments in the amount of \$500.00 each, to Somerset Area Ambulance Association in the amount of \$200.00, to Meyersdale Area Ambulance in the amount of \$150.00, and to Berlin Ambulance Association in the amount of \$150.00.

The Board approved the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and to submit the report to PDE by the October 31, 2023, deadline.

The Board approved the musical performance of “Back to the 80’s” for the 2023-2024 school year; to be held on March 8 and 9, 2024.

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

828 Fraud

The Concurrent Enrollment Agreement between Rockwood Area School District and the University of Pittsburgh from August 2023 through June 2024 was approved by the Board.

The Board approved the Engineering & Technology Club Bench Project proposal to build benches to place along the Great Allegheny Passage and Flight 93 National Memorial Trail.

The Board authorized the Business Office to contract with Total Mobility Services for the development of bid specifications to serve as a publishable notice soliciting competitive bids for the district's stair chair project. Section 508 vote: All directors present voted in the affirmative.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved Lauren Boczar as a high school ski club advisor.

The Board accepted the resignation of Samantha Ritenour as high school School Security Receptionist effective 10/11/2023, and to advertise for the position.

The Board voted in favor to employ Melissa Kemp as the high school School Security Receptionist, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add Heather Tims to the substitute instructional aide list for the 2023-2024 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board accepted the resignation of Elizabeth Faidley as head cheerleading coach and to advertise for the position.

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) from May 8, 2024, through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Employee ID # 250.

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

Melissa Putman

Ambry Dupont

Hayli Carnes

The Board voted in favor to promote Seth Judy to the position of Assistant Maintenance Director effective immediately.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. Somerset County School Nurse Association Meetings – Somerset County – 10/9/23, 11/14/23, 12/12/23, 1/9/24, 2/13/24, 3/12/24, 4/9/24 – Rebekah Marietta.
2. Civics Education Summit at UPJ – Johnstown, PA – 10/23/23 – Jim Wagner.
3. SAP Networking Day – St. Francis University, Loretto, PA - 10/26/23 – Susan Slope, Doug Spiri, Brandi Wedge, PJ Opfar, Jenna Sembower.
4. IU8 Gifted Network Meeting – Altoona, PA – 11/15/23 – Sarah Pletcher, Christy Hay.
5. IU8 Spring Gifted Network Meeting – Altoona, PA – 3/26/24 – Sarah Pletcher, Christy Hay.
6. County Counselor Meetings – Dates and locations to be determined – PJ Opfar.

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Johnstown Flood Museum – South Fork, PA – 10/25/23 – Lauren Boczar, Jim Wagner and 36 students.
2. Portage Solar, Wind, ASSA ABLOY – Portage/Rockwood, PA - 10/31/23 – Joe Kush and 30 students.
3. Nuclear Power Plant – Aliquippa, PA – 3/1/24 – Joe Kush and 30 students.
4. Senator for a Day – Penn State – Fayette, PA – 3/7/24 – Jim Wagner and 10 students.
5. Holocaust Museum – Washington, D.C. – March 2024 – Nathan Formica, Roni Langley-Burkardt, Jim Wagner, nurse and 66 students.
6. SADD Local Conference – Somerset, PA – March 2024 – Alana Letizia and 10 students.
7. Courthouse Tour – Somerset, PA – Two dates TBA – Jim Wagner, teacher TBA and 65 students.
8. Spanish Gateway Clipper – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/21/24 – Andrea Minor and 48 students.
9. French Gateway Clipper – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/14/24 – Andrea Minor and 48 students.
10. College Fair – Somerset, PA – 11/2/23 – PJ Opfar, Nathan Formica and 40 students.
11. IU8 Math 24 Challenge Regional Competition – Altoona, PA – 5/17/24 – Sarah Pletcher and 5 students.
12. NHS Special Olympics – Seven Springs, PA – 2/15/24 – Jenna Tressler, Kurt Woolslayer and 40 students.
13. Teach the Future – St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA – 11/8/23 – PJ Opfar and 5 students.
14. 9th Grade Experience – SCTC, Somerset, PA – 12/1/23 – PJ Opfar and 15 students.
15. Somerset Exchange Club Student of the Month – Somerset, PA – date TBA – PJ Opfar and 2 students.
16. Elementary Reading Competition – Bellwood, PA – 11/14/23 – Kristen Mumau, Christy Hay and 11 students.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Chorus Boosters – Rockwood high school cafeteria, kitchen – 3/22/24; 3:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Music and Meatballs Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.
2. Rockwood Alumni Volleyball – Rockwood high school gymnasium – Sundays beginning 10/22/23 through 5/26/24; 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. – Alumni Volleyball.
3. Rockwood Young Farmers – Rockwood high school classroom, library – Thursdays in November, January, February, March; 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. – Young Farmers Meetings.
4. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood athletic fields -10/14/23; 1:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. – Youth football playoff game.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity requests:

1. Rockwood FFA – Beef sticks sale – October 2023 through June 2024 – Raise funds for FFA jackets, dues, banquet, etc.
2. 6th Grade Class – Christmas Store – 12/13/23 through 12/15/23 - Raise funds for Washington, D.C. field trip.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower was contacted by a representative of Pinnacle Acoustics. The company offered to donate used sound panels to the district. Additional information regarding the size and weight of the panels has been requested.

Mark Bower updated the Board in regards to replacing the district's stair chair lift. The district received a quote that included drawings, permitting, etc. The Business Office will reach out to the company to see if they are able to provide bid specs for the project.

Mark Bower held a discussion to share information regarding concerns with the operation of the districts' boiler system, following the restart of the system after the restroom and locker room renovations.

Mark Bower reminded Board members that the November Board meeting was rescheduled and will be held on the 14th of the month instead of the 21st.

Mark Bower informed the Board of upcoming building improvements to the Somerset County Technology Center and how it may affect the district financially.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that the dedication of the Rockwood Fitness Center in memoriam of Savannah Cavanaugh received strong support from the district and community. The family was deeply touched and honored by the event.

Nicholas Buterbaugh congratulated the golf team for winning the ICC Championship and for taking second at the District 5 tournament.

Nicholas Buterbaugh congratulated the boys' and girls' soccer teams and the football team for advancing to playoffs.

Nicholas Buterbaugh updated the Board on the projected number of students interested in participating in the track program and the number of athletes that will be participating in winter sports.

Misty Demchak and Nicholas Buterbaugh discussed possible athletic co-op opportunities.

Nicholas Buterbaugh held a discussion regarding 9th grade athletes participating at the junior high level versus the junior varsity/varsity level.

Misty Demchak recognized and congratulated several high school students who received awards for their individual accomplishments, as well as student groups who will be recognized at upcoming events.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that Red Ribbon Week will begin on October 23. As part of Red Ribbon Week, guest speaker, Rebecca Mull will address the student body to discuss the dangers of vaping and making responsible decisions using social media.

Misty Demchak updated the Board regarding high school field trips, such as Rockwood FFA members who visited Saylor Farm, Robs Rations, and Friends Stockyard, where they gained knowledge in the field of agriculture.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that the homecoming event went well despite the weather and expressed her appreciation to the student council for organizing the event. She also recognized and thanked everyone who sponsored a booth and participated in activities.

Misty Demchak informed the Board about upcoming events for high school students, such as the fall formal and soph-senior dances.

Misty Demchak recognized Mrs. Sharon Clapper for her coordination with the Transition Fair at the Somerset County Technology Center. The event is specifically designed for special needs students to interact with employers, trade schools, agencies, and advisors as they plan their careers and futures. Our students had the opportunity to meet with several local employers.

Misty Demchak recognized Nicholas Buterbaugh for organizing the dedication of the Rockwood Fitness Center.

Jon Hale invited Board members and their families to attend the elementary Trunk or Treat event on October 20. He thanked teacher, Mrs. Jenna Sembower, for organizing the event.

Jon Hale updated the Board on the playground renovation project. The administration will contact Somerset Engineering to update their quote to include services for bidding the project and construction supervision. Fundraising for the project has been going well.

Jon Hale informed the Board that the elementary PEBBLE room is proving to be a great support for students experiencing difficulties with behavior. The PEBBLE room team meets every other week to discuss behavior data.

Jon Hale expressed his utmost appreciation to the Rockwood Volunteer Fire Department for visiting with students in kindergarten through third grade to discuss fire safety. The presentation was well received.

Jon Hale recognized Mr. Ben Baker and the elementary staff who are preparing a presentation for Veterans Day. Veterans will be invited to attend the program.

Jordan Svonavec updated the Board regarding tax revenue coming into the district.

Jordan Svonavec provided information related to the district's cafeteria fund and potential future projects that may be supported by those funds.

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