



# Rocket Express

## October 19, 2021

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 9/21/2021 and the regular meeting on 9/21/2021 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:

Leah E. Foreman  
Faith C. Foy  
Jeremiah R. Tomcanin  
Anna M. Hinzy  
Allison E. Harrold  
Autumn L. Murphy

On behalf of PSBA, Mark Bower presented certificates to Noah Wareham for eight years of service and to Richard Stoner for sixteen years of service to public education.

Ben Baker addressed the Board to thank them for supporting the recent GAP Trail Relay event and for their overall efforts in continuing to support the District's faculty, staff, and students.

Ben Baker requested that the Board reconsider the field trip guidelines currently in place for each grade level. He provided additional details regarding the Laurel Hill State Park Maple Tour trip that was denied at the September 21, 2021, Board meeting. He asked the Board to reconsider their decision and approve the field trip.

Upon discussion, the Board reconsidered and approved the following field trip request as presented:

Laurel Hill Maple Syrup Tour – Somerset, PA – March 2022 – Ben Baker,  
Kristen Mumau, Elyse Cordaro, and 45 students.

Upon further discussion, the Board made a recommendation that teachers requesting Board consideration for additional field trips attend a regular Board meeting to provide details that support their request.

**Old Business:**

The Board discussed possible action on revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Reopening Plan. No changes were made to the plan.

**New Business:**

The Board approved the Policy Maintenance Program Participation Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA).

The Board approved the high school career/college schedule of events for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the high school speech schedule of events for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved Dave Harrold as a district van driver for Rockwood Transportation, Inc., pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, and submit the report to PDE by the October 31, 2021, deadline.

The Board approved donations to the Rockwood and New Centerville Fire Departments in the amount of \$500.00 each and donations 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 Schoolwide Title I School Plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the annual senior class trip to Baltimore, MD, Annapolis, MD, and Lewes, DE, with tentative dates of May 27, 2022, through May 30, 2022.

**Committee Reports:**

The Board accepted the resignation of Mindy Sarver as an elementary reading competition co-advisor effective 9/17/21, as per letter of resignation.

The Board voted in favor to employ Kristen Mumau as an elementary reading competition co-advisor effective 9/17/21.

The Board voted in favor to employ Jon Hale as the bona-fide volunteer junior high baseball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Adam Sembower as the bona-fide volunteer assistant junior high baseball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Jason Sechler as the bona-fide volunteer junior high softball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Jeremy Romesberg as the bona-fide volunteer assistant junior high softball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved a medical leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) beginning November 4, 2021, for approximately four weeks. Employee ID # 23.

The Board approved an extended, un-paid medical leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) through November 29, 2021. Employee ID # 97.

The Board accepted the retirement of Mary Gosnell as Supervisor of Special Education and Student Services effective March 18, 2022.

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

Courtney Latuch  
Brittney Sanner  
Kelly Albright  
Kelly Kalp

The Board approved Maggie Hay as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer varsity girls' basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to promote Edward Clay to Maintenance Director In-Training effective January 1, 2022.

The Board voted in favor to advertise for a full-time custodian/maintenance district employee.

### **Conference Requests:**

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. IU8 Gifted Network – Johnstown, PA – 10/21/21 – Sarah Pletcher, Christy Hay
2. IU8 Bloxels Training for STEM – Johnstown, PA – 10/27/21 – Ben Baker, Jenna Sembower.
3. SAP Fall Thematic Workshop: “A Fresh Start” – St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA – 11/9/21 – Amanda Custer, PJ Opfar, Brandi Wedge, Doug Spiri, Becky McKinley, Jenna Sembower, Susan Slope, Beth Miller.
4. IU8 Gifted Network – Altoona, PA – 3/23/22 – Sarah Pletcher, Christy Hay.
5. County Counselor Meetings – location to be determined – one Friday per month – PJ Opfar.

### **Field Trip Requests:**

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Fall Reading Competition – Bellwood, PA – 11/2/21 – Kristen Mumau, Christy Hay and 9 students.

2. Holocaust Field Trip – Washington, D.C. – 2/28/22 – Nathan Formica, James Wagner, Vincent Corrado, one additional teacher and 68 students. (pending receipt of grant funding)
3. Pittsburgh Zoo (2<sup>nd</sup>) – Pittsburgh, PA – February or March 2022 – Sarah Hay, Olivia Latuch, Carter Bower, three classroom aides and 57 students.
4. SADD Local Conference – Somerset, PA – March 2022 – Alana Letizia and 5 students.
5. Somerset County Courthouse Tour & Flight 93 – Somerset, PA – Two separate days in March or April 2022 (two teachers each day) – James Wagner, Vince Corrado, Nathan Formica and 68 students.
6. Engineering & Technology Club Manufacturing Trip – Bedford County, PA – 4/8/22 – Joe Kush and 30 students.
7. Johnstown Flood Museum – South Fork, PA – 5/20/22 – Vince Corrado, one additional social studies teacher and 45 students.

### **Use of School Facility Requests:**

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Dave Johnson – Rockwood elementary parking lot – 10/2/21; 2:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. – Overflow parking area for private wedding.
2. Rockwood Young Farmers – High school library – 11/4/21, 11/11/21, 11/18/21, 1/13/22, 1/20/22, 1/27/22, 2/3/22, 2/10/22, 2/17/22, 2/24/22, 3/3/22, 3/10/22, 3/17/22; 7:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. – Young Farmer Meetings.
3. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary band room, gymnasium – 10/22/21; 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – Fall family fun night.
4. Rockwood Youth Football – High school cafeteria – 10/18/21 – 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Equipment turn in and banquet ticket sales.
5. Community Prayer Group – Rockwood high school and elementary classrooms, cafeterias – 11/15/21; 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Community prayer event for school, students, and staff.

### **Club & Class Activity Requests:**

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. Class of 2023 – Dippin’ Dots Ice Cream sale – April 2022 – Raise funds for prom.

### **Superintendent’s Report:**

Mark Bower commented on the art work created by elementary students that was displayed in the Board Room by Mrs. Holt, elementary art teacher, and shared a newsletter article from Laurel Arts recognizing some of our District students.

Mark Bower gave an update on fall sports. Boys’ varsity soccer currently holds a 13-2 record, girls’ varsity soccer is playoff bound, and the student athletes participating in the Berlin football co-op are doing very well this season.

Mark Bower congratulated the elementary school on being recognized as one of the top 30% of Pennsylvania schools this year, according to U.S. News.

Mark Bower gave an update on the donations received from the GAP Trail Relay event. As of now, the fundraising event has raised between \$12,000.00 - \$13,000.00. He was very appreciative of all the support.

Mark Bower shared with the Board a preliminary drawing from Somerset Planning & Engineering of the renovations to the nurse's office bathroom. Access funds can be used to help fund the renovation project because the additional work was not an anticipated capital project, and the restroom must be made handicapped accessible.

Mark Bower advised the Board that the district only received one estimate for the concrete work that needs completed. The estimate includes options to repair or replace the concrete and railings at the walkway and handicap ramp outside of the high school entrance and the steps leading from the student parking lot to the high school entrance. He provided the Board with some options for consideration. Due to the change in seasons and weather, a recommendation was made to have the work completed in the spring.

The Board authorized the Administration to contact a contractor as soon as possible to have the chimney repaired.

Discussion was held regarding roof replacement. Mark Bower provided the Board with a quote from TREMCO containing estimates to replace certain sections, as well as all remaining sections of the roof. Mark Bower will present a confirmed quote at the November Board meeting for consideration.

Mark Bower advised that Board briefs will not be completed Friday, October 22, 2021.

Misty Demchak showed the Board pictures of the privacy dividers that have been installed in the locker rooms and advised all work should be completed in the near future.

Misty Demchak updated the Board on the status of the WestPAC. No real changes at this point related to the status of the league. The WestPAC is considering moving towards no longer being an All Sports Conference. If it comes to a vote at the WestPAC meeting, the Board consensus was to have Misty Demchak vote in favor of moving away from an All Sports WestPAC conference in order to offer more opportunities for other individual sport specific schools to apply to the WestPAC.

Misty Demchak advised that the District SADD team won first place in the Red Ribbon SADD PSA video contest sponsored by Somerset County Drug-Free Communities. Emily Hostetler, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, created a one-minute video displaying the message "Drug Free Looks Like Me" and what that means to Rockwood High School.

Jon Hale invited the Board to attend the "Truck or Treat" event and activities being held Friday, October 22, 2021.

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