



# **Rocket Express**

## **November 17, 2020**

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

Brian Coughenour announced that the Board held a special informational meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2020, at 1:00 P.M. in the Administrative Office of the Rockwood Area School District.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 10/20/2020 and the regular meeting on 10/20/2020 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:

Autumn Mowry  
Tanner Salyer  
Rachel Lambert  
Bena Croushore  
Brooke Wagner  
Carissa Struckoff

### **Public Comment:**

Erin Eckert from PSBA attended the meeting virtually to present a certificate to Irvin Kimmel for eight years of service and to provide a brief update of services offered by PSBA.

### **Old Business:**

The Board discussed possible action on revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Reopening Plan to implement a three phase face covering plan, recommended by the Administration, as follows: (1) require all students, staff and visitors to wear a face mask, (2) for individuals who qualify for an exception, a face shield is required, (3) when neither is possible, parents of students, staff members, and visitors shall provide a sworn written statement of exception. Upon roll call vote, the motion failed.

The Board discussed possible action on revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Athletic Health and Safety Plan. The Board voted in favor of not making any changes to the plan at this time.

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

103	Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
104	Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff
247	Hazing
249	Bullying/Cyberbullying
317.1	Educator Misconduct
824	Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries

The Board voted in favor to accept the final approval of the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020.

**New Business:**

The Board voted in favor to establish the date for the annual reorganization meeting as Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

The Board voted in favor to adopt the Act 1 resolution electing not to increase the tax rate above the index for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

The Board voted in favor to accept the Hudl Basketball System at a cost of \$2,700.00 and to split the cost between the Rockwood Area School District and the Rockwood Basketball Boosters.

The Board voted in favor to accept the Grief Grant, in the amount of \$500.00, from The New York Life Foundation.

The Board approved the quote for the 5 year extended warranty from TREMCO/Weatherproofing Technologies Inc., in the amount of \$9,608.00, for roof sections H1, H2 and H3.

The Board approved the contract between the Rockwood Area School District and Southwood Psychiatric Hospital at the rate of \$90.00 per day, beginning September 8, 2020, through June 30, 2021, for services as needed.

The Board voted in favor to appoint Jordan Svonavec as the voting delegate to the Somerset County Tax Collection Committee effective 11/18/2020.

**Committee Reports:**

The Board approved tenure for Brandi Wedge and Jessica Miller.

The Board voted in favor to add Joanie Pritts to the substitute instructional aide list, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to authorize the Administration to establish guidelines for approving emergency paid sick leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) for employees who qualify for such leave for their own medical condition, or if the employee was ordered to quarantine by the Department of Health as a close contact. The Board will then consider approving such leave as special sick leave, which qualifies for Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System (PSERS) creditable service time, on a case by case basis.

The Board voted in favor to employ Amber Caddy as a bona-fide volunteer Speech Coach for the 2020-2021 school year.

Upon a roll call vote, the Board voted in favor to approve a 3-year extension to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and the Rockwood Education Association from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

The Board approved Danielle Stair as a bona-fide unpaid volunteer cheerleading coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to accept the resignation of Carlee Glessner as the bona-fide junior high boys' soccer coach effective immediately.

The Board approved Haley Lehman as a bona-fide unpaid volunteer girls' varsity basketball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

#### **Conference Requests:**

The Board approved the following conference request:

1. Gifted Boot Camp – Virtual at Rockwood Area School District – 12/16/20, 1/6/21, 1/26/21 – Christy Hay

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

The Board approved the following use of school facility request:

1. Rockwood Choral Boosters – Rockwood high school cafeteria, faculty room, kitchen and chorus room – 3/19/21; 3:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

#### **Club & Class Activity Request:**

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. Rockwood Class of 2023 – Spirit wear clothing and accessories sale – December 2020 through April 2021 – Raise funds for class activities and trips.

## **Superintendent's Report:**

Mark Bower thanked the Board for participating in an informational session on Sunday, November 8, 2020, to discuss issues related to positive COVID 19 cases and how they were affecting the District.

Mark Bower expressed his appreciation toward the staff and faculty for the accommodations made while doing remote learning during the week of November 9-13, 2020. He commended the staff and faculty for doing a great job of providing services best suited for our local students and families.

Mark Bower advised that every student will soon have access to a Chromebook.

Mark Bower discussed the options available for students who need to gain access to internet services and "hot spots".

Mark Bower reviewed the budgeted transportation costs and discussed how the costs could be affected by remote learning and transportation reimbursement. He expressed his appreciation for the van and bus drivers who helped to provide services during remote learning and the relationship the drivers have with our District families.

The Board voted in favor to authorize the Business Office to develop an agreement with Rockwood Transportation to continue providing services associated with the "Operation Rocket Deliver" program during remote learning.

Mark Bower congratulated the boys' varsity soccer team on their District 5 Championship and their incredible season.

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