



Rocket Express

February 18, 2025

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. The following directors were present: Ashley Baker, Seth Foreman, Hailey Miller, Melanie Monticue (via phone), Matthew Pritts, Tyler Pritts, Adam Sembower. Absent: Brad Pletcher, Noah Wareham.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 1/21/2025 and the regular meeting on 1/21/2025, 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:

Ella G. Pletcher
Faith M. Millin
Olivia L. McKlveen
Lilly G. May
Taylor M. Demchak
Adeline V. Barkman
Noah D. Hunt

Public Comment:

Lisa Kimmel, a district resident, addressed the Board regarding district co-op programs. Through a slideshow presentation, she advocated for cooperative agreements and voiced concerns about public comments and circulating rumors.

Old Business

The Board approved the Cooperative Sponsorship of Sport between the Meyersdale Area School District and Rockwood Area School District for Golf for the 2025-2026 school year.

The Board approved 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.

The Board accepted the quote from The Carpet Outlet, in the amount of \$16,283.69, for the installation of new carpet in the auditorium.

New Business:

The Board approved the 2025-2026 school district calendar.

The Board voted in favor to add the Rockwood FFA Booster Program to the list of Board Authorized Groups that do not require a certificate of insurance to use the district facilities and are covered under the district's general liability policy.

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Pennsylvania State Police-Troop A Somerset and the Rockwood Area School District for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years.

The Board approved the Cooperative Agreement between Rockwood Area School District and Berlin Brothersvalley Area School District for Golf for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school years.

The Board voted in favor to accept the Spring Semester-Long Living to Serve Grant from the National FFA Organization, written by Leanna Weimer, in the amount of \$1,200.00 and to award Mrs. Weimer the one percent grant writing stipend for writing the successful grant.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved the use of unpaid days for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) from 4/8/25 through 4/11/25, upon full usage of district allotted personal days. Employee ID #81.

The Board approved Tara Allison as an unpaid position volunteer, pending completion of all paperwork.

Jim Wagner was Board approved as a mentor teacher for Matthew Blubaugh for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board accepted the resignation of Jaime Gross as assistant junior high girls' soccer coach effective immediately and to advertise for the position.

The Board voted in favor to add Trenton Troxell to the substitute teacher (Type 06) list for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add Erin Pyle, a Prospective Teacher Substitute, to the district substitute teacher list for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all required documentation, and approved the Superintendent to issue a Locally Issued Emergency Day-To-Day Substitute Permit.

The Board accepted the resignation of Alana Letizia as Secondary Math Teacher and SADD adviser at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year, and to advertise for the positions.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. Firefly Mathematics Item Review for Grades 5-7 – RASD online virtual meeting – 2/18/25 – Sarah Pletcher
2. K-8 STEM Planning Day – Altoona, PA – 2/26/25 – Ben Baker
3. PAFPC Annual Conference – Hershey, PA – 5/11/25 through 5/14/25 - Jon Hale

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood high school library – 2/10/25; 7:00 P.M. – 8:15 P.M. – Monthly meeting.
2. Rockwood Youth Baseball League – Rockwood elementary chorus room – 3/8/25; 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M., 3/2/25; 3:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. – Parents meeting.
3. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 3/4/25; 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M., 3/16/25; 12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. – Youth football registration.
4. Laurel Arts – Rockwood high school auditorium – 3/22/25; 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. – Rehearsal space for dance competition.
5. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 3/29/25; 9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. – Fundraiser turn-in.
6. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 4/12/25; 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. – Fundraiser delivery.
7. Rockwood Community Action Group – Rockwood high school parking lot – 4/26/25; 11:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. – JVS E-recycling drop off center.
8. Evolve Studio of the Arts – Rockwood high school auditorium, classroom – 4/26/25; 9:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. – Dance rehearsal and recital.
9. Laurel Arts Dance – Rockwood high school auditorium, classrooms, chorus room – 5/10/24; 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., 5/16/25; 4:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M., 5/17/25; 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. – Dance rehearsals and recital.
10. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood athletic fields – 5/13/25; 10:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. – Kona Ice Truck.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board that the senior project presentations have once again been postponed due to weather. The rescheduled date is March 14, 2025, a scheduled Teacher In-service Day.

Mark Bower shared with the Board that Mr. Joe Kush has been named this year's PARSS Educator of the Year for grades 7-12. Each year, the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS) honors an exceptional educator, and it is an honor and a privilege that Mr. Kush has earned this well-deserved recognition. He will be formally recognized at the PARSS Conference and Banquet on May 1, 2025, in State College, where Mr. Bower will have the honor of introducing him to the attendees.

Mark Bower advised the Board that the Special Education audit, conducted in mid-February, went very well.

Mark Bower informed the Board that The Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial provides education scholarships to schools in Pennsylvania so that students can learn about the events of 9/11. An application was submitted by Mr. Wagner, and the district received a scholarship.

Mark Bower provided the Board with an update on social media platforms. He noted that Megan Snell is collaborating with the administration to determine appropriate content for public posting.

Mark Bower advised the Board that he has been receiving applications for the Secondary Math Teacher position.

Jon Hale provided the Board with an update on elementary school activities and events, which included:

- The science fair, held at the beginning of the month, was a great success.
- Valentine’s Day parties were held on February 14. The students enjoyed the “lovable lollies” sale to raise funds for elementary student council activities.
- The “Crankies” theater group will be performing to elementary students on February 21.
- Elementary students will attend a Musical matinee on February 28.
- The PTO is holding a Book Fair during the week of March 3 – 7 to celebrate Read Across America. Elementary students will participate in a vocabulary parade on March 3 as part of the week-long event.
- The Talent Extravaganza will be held on March 13.
- Kindergarten registration will be held on March 20 and 21.
- Author Day in the elementary will be held on March 28. Robin Moore is the author/storyteller visiting with our students.
- PSSA testing for elementary students will begin on April 23.
- Elementary students will have the opportunity to visit the on-side Mobile Ag Lab during the week of March 17.

In the absence of Misty Demchak, Nicholas Buterbaugh advised the Board about a few high school activities/events, which included:

- Junior High Fun Day was a big hit with the students who attended. Mr. Buterbaugh shared two videos from the event.
- This week is National FFA Week. Many activities have been scheduled for the week, including the FFA Olympics on February 20.
- The district Musical will be held on February 28 and March 1.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that the Athletic Department is focused on finishing up the winter season and preparing for spring sports.

Jordan Svonavec informed the Board that he met with representatives from Somerset Trust Company, who expressed interest in visiting classrooms and speaking with students as part of their community outreach program. He also noted that he plans to meet with First National Bank in March.

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