



Rocket Express

February 21, 2023

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 1/17/2023 and the regular meeting on 1/17/2023 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:

Garrison T. Hale
Izabella R. Livengood
Glenn A. Millin
Nicholas A. Strait
Makayla S. Peck
Alyssa J. Hunt

Public Comment:

Tom Skelton, a district resident, addressed the Board on behalf of children in the community who participate in youth sports. He requested the district review options that would provide availability for all district organizations to use school facilities.

Old Business:

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

011 Principles for Governance and Leadership

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
200 Enrollment of Students
202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students

- 204 Attendance
- 217 Graduation
- 218 Student Discipline
- 220 Student Expression/Dissemination of Materials
- 221 Dress and Grooming
- 227 Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
- 233 Suspension and Expulsion
- 236.1 Threat Assessment
- 237 Electronic Devices
- 251 Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability
- 805 Emergency Preparedness and Response
- 805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
- 805.2 School Security Personnel
- 808 Food Services
- 810 Transportation
- 913 Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals

New Business:

The Board approved the school calendar for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the Letter of Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and The Meadows Psychiatric Center for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, in the event placement is needed.

The Board voted in favor to accept the agreement with Smart Futures, in the amount of \$3,000.00, for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

The Board approved the Agreement for Expulsion for Student No. 26185.

The Board approved partial homebound instruction for an 11th grade student.

The Board voted in favor to accept the 2023 National Rifle Association Grant in the amount of \$3,100.00.

Committee Reports:

The Board accepted the resignation of Samantha Dietz as a long-term substitute Art Teacher 7-12 (fulfilling a student teaching experience) effective January 20, 2023.

The Board voted in favor to accept the resignation of Shanna Wilson as the Assistant Varsity Track Coach and to advertise for the position.

The Board approved Graycen Breckenridge as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer varsity track coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Eric Costea as the assistant varsity baseball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

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

Susan Baker
Erin Evans
Alyssa Prinkey

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) for a total of 16 days beginning 5/10/2023 through 6/1/2023. Employee ID #188.

The Board voted in favor to accept the resignation of Bob Hay as the Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach and advertise for the position.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. Child Nutrition Coalition Meeting – Somerset, PA – 2/7/23 – Andrea Minor, Susan Clark
2. Sondag Systems 1 Training – Online – 3/1/23 through 3/31/23 – Megan Berkebile
3. PAFPC Annual Conference – Pocono Manor, PA – 4/16/23 through 4/19/23 – Jon Hale
4. MWEE Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience IU8 – Fort Hill, PA – 4/21/23 – Leanna Weimer

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. 7th Grade Factory Tour of ASSA ABLOY Rockwood Manufacturing – Rockwood, PA – 5/10/23 – Joe Kush and 30 students
2. Steps to Making Maple Syrup – Markleton, PA – 3/10/23 – Christy Hay, Cassandra Kemp, Valerie Friedline, Beth Mapes and 58 students
3. What's So Cool About Manufacturing? Award Ceremony – Johnstown, PA - 4/13/23 – Joe Kush and 7 students

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 3rd Sunday of each month beginning 2/19/23; 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Monthly business meetings.
2. Somerset County Library – Rockwood high school library – 3/27/23 through 3/31/23; 2:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. – Drone after school program.

3. TJ Dance – Rockwood auditorium, chorus room – 9/13/23, 9/15/23; 4:00 P.M. - ?, 9/16/23; 12:00 P.M. - ? – Dance rehearsals and recital.
4. Rockwood PA West U13 Soccer – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 2/23/23, 3/2/23, 3/9/23, 3/16/23, 3/23/23, 3/30/23, 4/6/23,4/13/23, 4/20/23; 7:30 P.M. – 8:45 P.M., 3/5/23, 3/12/23, 3/19/23, 3/26/23, 4/2/23, 4/9/23, 4/16/23; 6:30 P.M – 8:00 P.M. – Soccer Practice. * Dates and times will be coordinated with Athletic Director.
5. Rockwood PA West U11 Soccer – Rockwood high school gymnasium - 2/23/23, 3/2/23, 3/9/23, 3/16/23, 3/23/23, 3/30/23, 4/6/23,4/13/23, 4/20/23; 6:15 P.M. - 7:30 P.M., 3/5/23, 3/12/23, 3/19/23, 3/26/23, 4/2/23, 4/9/23, 4/16/23; 5:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M – Soccer Practice. * Dates and times will be coordinated with Athletic Director.
6. Berlin Football – Rockwood high school gymnasium, weight room, mat room – M,W,Th. (March through May); 3:15 P.M. – 5:15 P.M. or 5:15 P.M. – 6:45 P.M., M,W,Th. (June and July); 4:30 P.M. – 6:45 P.M. – Weight training and conditioning. * Dates, locations, and times will be coordinated with Athletic Director.
7. Rockwood Youth Softball – Rockwood high school gymnasium, elementary gymnasium, athletic fields, softball field – 2/22/23 through 7/4/23 – 10u softball practices. * Dates, locations, and times will be coordinated with Athletic Director.
8. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 3/4/23, 3/11/23, 3/18/23, 3/25/23; 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. – U19 Soccer Practice. *Dates and times will be coordinated with Athletic Director.
9. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 3/16/23, 3/21/23; 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Youth football sign-ups.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. Class of 2024 – Cotton Candy Sale – 4/27/23 – Raise funds for 2023 prom.

Superintendent’s Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board that the pre-bid meeting for the restroom and locker room alterations project was held on 2/15/23. Nine contractors attended the meeting and four contractors participated in a “site visit” on 2/20/23.

Mark Bower advised the Board that the District qualified for Federal Small, Rural School Grant funding. Suggestions on how to utilize the grant funding include supporting a pre-k program and after school tutoring programs.

Mark Bower informed the Board that a copy of the Needs Assessment would be provided to them, in upcoming board briefs, for review in order to begin budget discussion.

Mark Bower gave the Board an update regarding the Fair Funding Lawsuit, which could ultimately provide a more efficient way for funding the public education system and provide all children with a better education.

Jordan Svonavec reviewed the Transportation Safety Guidelines and advised the Board that the information has been posted on the District's website. He informed the Board that Mr. Hale and other staff members conducted a thorough review of bus safety with all elementary children. Bus safety trainings will be conducted each nine weeks with all students in the District.

Jordan Svonavec informed the Board he has been working on the budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

Jon Hale advised the Board of upcoming elementary events and kindergarten registration. The faculty, staff and administration continue to provide supports to students in all grade levels. Evident growth has been seen in basic academics.

Nicholas Buterbaugh updated the Board regarding the number of students interested in track. He anticipates an increase in participation as the season gets closer. Currently there are two varsity track coaches and several open coaching positions at the junior high level.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board he has been sending weekly emails to all staff and students, highlighting events related to clubs, organizations, and athletics. He has also been recognizing students who have excelled in sports and other events and achieved success in the programs they participate in.

Nicholas Buterbaugh updated the Board on athletic playoff games and competitions.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that the number of athletes participating in varsity baseball is large; therefore, he is looking into the possibility of scheduling a few junior varsity baseball games.

Nicholas Buterbaugh advised the Board that both baseball and softball tournament opportunities are being planned.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that he has been working closely with Officer Doman to review safety concerns. Mr. Buterbaugh has also been introducing students to Officer Doman, who is currently working to familiarize himself with students by name.

Misty Demchak discussed grant opportunities that would enhance dual-credit programs.

Misty Demchak informed the Board of upcoming events for high school students and field trip opportunities that include: 9th grade trip to Flight 93 National Memorial, 12th grade Somerset Courthouse observations, Johnstown Flood Museum, and the Kennywood Incentive Program.

Misty Demchak advised the Board of the District Musical that is scheduled for March 10th and 11th. Each Board member will receive one complimentary ticket to attend the performance of their choice.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that the District will host a Social Media presentation for all parents in grades K-12 on March 7th.

Misty Demchak updated the Board on upcoming student events that are being organized by Sharon Clapper. She has done an exceptional job helping to plan events for our students.

Megan Hetrick advised the Board that she has been participating in a significant amount of student IEP meetings, and students within the Special Education Department are gearing up for State testing.

Bruce Mancini of TREMCO addressed the Board to discuss the plan to repair the roof located on the elementary side of the building, which is under warranty until 2026.

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