



Rocket Express

March 18, 2025

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

The minutes of the committee meeting on 2/18/25 and the regular meeting on 2/18/25, 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:

Jonas L. Blystone
Maci L. King
Havyn S. Wareham
Chloe L. Tressler
Faith C. Foy
Jeremiah R. Tomcanin

New Business:

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District's Comprehensive Plan, Induction Plan, Gifted Education Plan Assurances, and Professional Development Plan for the period 7/1/2025 through 6/30/2028.

The Board approved the Agreement between Epic Communications, Inc. and the Rockwood Area School District for E-Rate Funding Year 28 (2025-2026).

The Board approved the Letter of Agreement between The Meadows Psychiatric Center and the Rockwood Area School District for educational services, at the rate of \$100.00 per day, for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school years, in the event placement is needed.

The Board approved the Psychoeducational Evaluation Services Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Kurt Metz, a PDE-certified school psychologist, for evaluation services at a cost of \$1,000.00.

The Board approved the Somerset County Technology Center Adult Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

On the consideration to approve the Somerset County Technology Center Secondary Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Board voted in favor to table the item until the April 8, 2025, Board meeting.

The Board authorized the Business Office to advertise for the following bids for the 2025-2026 school year:

Coal Propane

The Board approved the agreement between Somerset Area School District and Rockwood Area School District for emotional support classroom services at a rate of \$120.00 per day for a maximum of \$21,120.00 per student for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Appalachia IU08 General Fund Operating Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year was approved by the Board.

Sherry Benford distributed and collected the ballots for the election of Appalachia IU08 Board of Directors.

The Board approved the Cooperative Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Salisbury-Elk Lick School District for golf and soccer for the 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school years.

The Board voted in favor to accept the donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the district's FFA program from the M.J. Miller Family Agricultural Heritage Fund of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.

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

005 Organization
308 Employment Contract/Board Resolution
823 Opioid Antagonist

On the discussion and possible action regarding Rockwood Borough water service, no action was taken by the Board.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved the Amendment to Employment Agreement for the Position of Superintendent between the Rockwood Area School District and Mark Bower.

The Board accepted the resignation of Stephen Barto as junior high golf coach and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the retirement of Mindy Sarver as elementary teacher effective after the last student day of the 2024-2025 school year and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the retirement of Beth Miller as elementary teacher effective after the last working day of the 2024-2025 school year and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the retirement of Gregory King as high school math teacher effective after the last teacher day of the 2024-2025 school year and to advertise for the position.

The Board voted in favor to employ Vincent Show as a full-time secondary math teacher effective the 2025-2026 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Shawn Hughes-Ankrom as a full-time secondary math teacher effective the 2025-2026 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) for a period of 12 weeks, beginning 4/9/25. Employee ID #56.

The Board voted in favor to add Courtney Hilyer to the prospective substitute teacher and substitute teacher list for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Ashley Shrum as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer junior high baseball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference request:

1. Pennsylvania School Librarians Association Conference – Eric, PA - April 3-5, 2025 – Christy Hay.

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Behind the Scenes Machines of Bowling – Somerset, PA – 5/9/25 – Joe Kush, additional chaperone TBD and 50 students.
2. 4-H Farm City Days – Berlin, PA – 5/8/25 – Valerie Friedline, Beth Mapes, and 30 students.
3. Elementary Fun Day K-1 – Somerset, PA – 4/9/25 – Kindergarten and 1st Grade staff and 85 students.
4. Elementary Fun Day – Somerset, PA – 4/16/25 – 2nd and 3rd Grade staff and 78 students.
5. Elementary Fun Day Grades 4, 5, and 6 – 5/16/25 – 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade staff and 131 students.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 2/28/25; 3:15 P.M. – 6:15 P.M. – Soccer practice.
2. Rockwood Soccer Boosters – Rockwood high school library – 3/5/25; 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Booster meeting.
3. Class of 2025 – Rockwood auditorium – 6/4/25; 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Baccalaureate service.
4. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 3/9/25; 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Soccer practice.
5. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 4/9/25; 12:45 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. - Pierogies delivery and pick up.
6. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood high school library – 3/12/25; 6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. – Monthly meeting.
7. Rockwood 8U Youth Softball – Rockwood high school and elementary gymnasiums – 3/18/25, 3/25/25; 5:15 P.M. – 7:15 P.M. – 8U softball practice.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower updated the Board regarding the district's social media. Megan Snell has been doing a great job posting school related activities and events on platforms such as Facebook. Although the district does not accept comments on posts, the positive feedback by its followers has been exceptionally good.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the Mobile Ag Lab is on-site this week to conduct lessons/activities with our elementary students. This is a great program for our students. He encouraged Board members to stop by for a visit.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the Special Education audit indicates the district is in excellent standing, with everything looking positive according to the unofficial report. The official findings will be shared at a later date.

Mark Bower advised the Board that a meeting is scheduled with Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District to discuss the phase out of cooperative programs and returning to athletic competitions between the districts in the future.

Mark Bower informed the Board that Mr. Joe Kush has been honored as one of six teachers recognized with Saint Francis University's Teacher of the Year award. This recognition coincides with his nomination for the prestigious PARSS award. Mr. Kush will be celebrated at a dinner and Honors Convocation two nights before accepting the PARSS award on May 1st. Congratulations, Mr. Kush!

Misty Demchak informed the Board that the senior project presentations were held on March 14. She recognized and thanked Mrs. Sharon Clapper for her efforts in organizing and assisting with this event. In addition, she expressed her gratitude towards all of the community/business representatives who volunteered to participate. Panelists provided great feedback about the students and the project itself. The students did a great job and everyone passed!

On behalf of Jon Hale who was unable to attend the meeting, Nicholas Buterbaugh shared that the elementary talent show was a great event.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that several students have qualified to participate in an All-Star basketball game on March 30 in Everett. He also recognized numerous student-athletes for their achievements.

Nicholas Buterbaugh advised the Board that spring athletic programs have started. He recognized and thanked the maintenance staff for their efforts in getting the baseball and softball fields prepped for games. They did a fantastic job!

Jordan Svonavec informed the Board that he attended the Annual PASBO Conference last week and had an opportunity to meet with various vendors who showcased products and services that can help boost schools' effectiveness.

Jordan Svonavec advised the Board that he, along with several district staff members, recently met with SitelogIQ to assess the building's electrical components in preparation for Phase 1 of the energy efficiency and facility solutions project, which will focus on electrical upgrades.

Jordan Svonavec discussed the renewal agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Metz Culinary Management.

Jordan Svonavec shared with the Board that he has been in contact with at least two companies to discuss field maintenance, treatment, and overall care.

Jordan Svonavec informed the Board that he recently attended a bus safety meeting with Rockwood Transportation. As part of these safety measures, bus evacuations are scheduled for March 19.

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