



# Rocket Express

## April 16, 2024

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 3/19/2024 and the regular meeting on 3/19/2024 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:

Ashlynn D. Fundis  
Eli V. Show  
Leah E. Foreman  
Faith C. Foy  
Elizabeth R. Hostetler  
Journey N. Escontrias  
Michael J. Hay  
Elwood J. Ream

### **Public Comment:**

Susie Branam addressed the Board to thank them for supporting the district musical over the years. She also thanked them for supporting her during her soccer coaching career. Susie announced her resignation as girls' varsity soccer coach.

### **Old Business:**

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

249 Bullying/Cyberbullying  
903 Public Comment in Board Meetings

The Board approved the request for Kathleen Lambert to depart school after seventh period every Tuesday and Thursday beginning 1/6/25 through 5/3/25 to attend an in-person college class to meet the requirements to teach the College in High School Calculus course.

**New Business:**

The Board accepted the 2023-2024 COVID-SFR School Mental Health Grants in the amount of \$108,137.00 and approve all grant funded activities.

The Board accepted the Kongsberg Grant in the amount of \$3,080.00, written by Joe Kush, for a Summer Soldering Electronics mini-camp.

The Board accepted the National Rifle Association Grant in the amount \$1,900.00.

The Board voted in favor to accept funding in the amount of \$5,454.55 from Behavioral Health Services of Somerset and Bedford Counties, Inc. HealthChoices Program for the use in educating youth in the prevention of drugs, alcohol, and other high-risk behaviors.

The Board approved the removal of old equipment from the district inventory and to accept bids for any equipment that remains in working condition.

The Board approved the Rockwood Jr./Sr. High School Online Rocket Summer Credits Program and approved to pay the summer school coordinator \$25.00 per student for credit recovery and \$50.00 per student for full-year course.

The contract with Bedford-Somerset Developmental and Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) for the 2024-2025 school year at the rate of \$65.35 per hour, not to exceed 420 hours, was approved by the Board.

The Board approved the membership renewal with PSBA in the amount of \$11,595.91 for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board approved the ESL Consortium Agreement with Appalachia IU08 for the 2024-2025 school year at a cost of \$4,700.00.

The Board approved the agreement with Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for support services for local and state validation reporting for PIMS, in the amount of \$1,556.72 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board approved a lock-in event for the Class of 2024 to be held in May 2024.

The Band Room Mural Proposal was approved by the Board.

On the consideration to approve the agreement between The Dr. Gertrude A. Barber Center, Inc. and the Rockwood Area School District to provide Community Participation Support services from 4/22/24 through 5/31/24 at the rate of \$5.23 per 15-minute unit, not to exceed 420 units of service, was tabled indefinitely by the Board.

The Board approved Metz Culinary Management, Inc. as the district's Food Service Management Company for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board voted in favor to amend the current transportation contract between Rockwood Area School District and Rockwood Transportation, Inc.

### **Committee Reports:**

The Board accepted the resignation of Susie Branam as the girls' varsity soccer coach effective April 17, 2024, and to advertise for the position.

The Board voted in favor to employ Tara Pritts as a High School/Athletic Office Administrative Assistant, pending completion of all paperwork.

### **Conference Requests:**

The Board approved the following conference request:

1. Human Trafficking Conference – Johnstown, PA – 4/19/24 – PJ Opfar
2. 2024 IEP Writer Spring Focus Group – Greensburg, PA – 5/1/24 – Cassie Wright, Jenna Wintersteen, Cindy Miller

### **Field Trip Requests:**

The Board approved the following field trip request:

1. Kongsberg Grant Tour – Johnstown, PA – 6/7/24 – Joe Kush and 12 students

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

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. TJ Dance – Rockwood high school chorus room, auditorium – 9/11/24, 9/13/24, 9/14/24; 4:00 P.M. - ? (9/11, 9/13), 11:00 A.M. - ? (9/14) – Dance rehearsals and recital.
2. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary classroom – 5/8/24, 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Teacher appreciation lunch.
3. Rockwood Girls' Basketball – Rockwood high school gymnasium – Tuesdays and Thursdays in June and July 2024; 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Summer basketball league.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

Mark Bower informed the Board that faculty, staff, and students were invited to wear purple on April 17 in support of military children and their families. The United States Department of Defense has designated the month of April as the "Month of the Military Child".

Mark Bower recognized Mr. Joe Kush and the students in the Engineering & Technology Club for the great job they did in making benches for the Great Allegheny Passage Trail. The project is coordinated by the Somerset County Parks and Recreation Board. Each bench is engraved to highlight a person or organization who sponsored the bench. Mr. Kush was able to print a QR code on each bench, which provides information on the sponsors.

Mark Bower addressed the Board, requesting that they consider allowing students in grades 10th and 11th the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. as a field trip during the next few years, since those students were unable to participate in the trip during their 6th grade year because of the pandemic.

Jordan Svonavec held a discussion in regards to the district's budget and provided the Board with an overview of where the district stands financially.

Jon Hale invited Board members to attend the "Shape the Sky" presentation on April 23, 2024. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Jon Hale informed the Board of the many activities and field trips that will be taking place in the elementary during the months of April and May.

Jon Hale provided the Board with an update regarding the playground renovation project. Playground equipment has been ordered.

Jon Hale advised the board that elementary students will begin PSSA testing next week.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that the rescheduling of baseball and softball games has been ongoing due to inclement weather. The athletic department has been working closely with other districts to get as many games rescheduled as possible.

Nicholas Buterbaugh advised the Board that the athletic department started planning for the end of the year athletic awards that will be presented to students during the awards assembly.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that faculty, staff, and students will participate in a severe weather drill as part of the district's school safety and security procedures.

Nicholas Buterbaugh commented to the Board about the attractive appearance of the district's athletic fields. He recognized and thanked Ed Clay and the custodial/maintenance staff for their hard work in preparing and maintaining the fields.

Misty Demchak recognized and congratulated two high school students for their personal achievements.

Misty Demchak informed the Board of upcoming high school and year-end events, as well as student testing dates. She invited Board members to attend events such as: NHS/FHS/SHS Induction Ceremony, Scholars Reception, band/chorus concerts, and Graduation.

Misty Demchak held a discussion with the Board in regards to guidelines and suggestions for students who plan to drive tractors to school on the last day of school. She will work on adjusting the guidelines, as per the direction of the Board, and will share them with the Board upon completion.

Megan Hetrick informed the Board of upcoming events and activities planned for the Life Skills class.

Megan Hetrick recognized and thanked Cindy Miller, Shanda Pletcher, and Sue McClintock for their behind-the-scenes work in preparing PSSA testing materials for students in grades 3rd through 8th.

Megan Hetrick informed the Board that the Special Education Department is looking into purchasing an updated reading intervention curriculum that would span K-12 for the 2024-2025 school year with ACCESS Funding.

### **Somerset County Technology Center Update:**

Noah Wareham gave a brief update on things occurring at the Somerset County Technology Center. He reported that several instructors are resigning at the end of the school year. SCTC has also hired a few new instructors who have already made a positive impact on the students. Noah updated the Board regarding roof repairs and replacement on the SCTC facility. He indicated they may be able to make repairs in lieu of doing a complete roofing replacement at this time.

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