



Rocket Express

April 20, 2021

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 3/16/21 and the regular meeting on 3/16/21 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:

Mackenzie A. Foster
Natalie L. Gary
Harlie A. Sanner
Salome C. Germa-Laurent
Olivia R. Kemp
Sarah M. Purbaugh

Old Business:

The Board discussed possible action on revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Reopening Plan with the following amendments:

- The Board voted in favor to allow the administration to coordinate and approve end-of-year classroom and grade-level student activities; including educational activities in the local community that would require students and staff to leave school grounds. (The need for transportation and substitute teachers would be limited).
- The Board approved revisions to the cleaning guidelines for outside organizations using school facilities, which would allow outside organizations to clean district facilities after use without the utilization of a professional cleaning company as long as the outside organization is following the disinfecting and sanitizing guidelines being implemented by the District.

- The Board voted in favor to approve the following events, which would include allowing members of the public to attend: Chorus Concert, Band Concert, NHS/FHS/SHS Induction Ceremony, Scholars' Reception, Graduation.
- The Board approved the 6th grade step-up to Jr/Sr. High transition activity at Laurel Hill State Park (district transportation required).

The Board discussed possible action on revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Athletic Health and Safety Plan (No changes were made to the plan).

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

- 137.1 Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students
- 252 Dating Violence

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

- 150 Title I – Comparability of Services
- 810.3 School Vehicle Drivers
- 218.3 Discipline of Student Convicted/Adjudicated of Sexual Assault
- 103 Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students
- 113.1 Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- 113.2 Behavior Support
- 113.4 Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
- 122 Extracurricular Activities
- 123 Interscholastic Athletics
- 123.2 Sudden Cardiac Arrest

New Business:

The Board approved the administration to apply for four (4) AmeriCorps Service Member positions for the 2021-2022 school year to be funded by ESSER III funds.

The Board voted in favor to tentatively approve turning the old tennis courts into a helicopter landing zone for emergency services and requested the administration provide more legal and constructional details to the Board prior to proceeding with the project.

The Board voted in favor to adopt the joint Resolution Calling for Charter School Legislation Reform.

The Board approved the Summer Shop Proposal (promote STEM with hands-on activities) submitted by Joe Kush.

The Board voted in favor to table the consideration to remove old sports uniforms and equipment from the district inventory until a list of items is presented to the Board for review.

The Board approved the letter of agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Ignite Education Solutions for instructional services at the Somerset Christian School as required by Title I.

The Board approved the letter of agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Ignite Education Solutions for instructional services at the St. Peter School as required by Title I.

The Board approved the audit engagement letter with Kotzan CPA & Associates for independent audit services for a three-year period.

The Board approved the extended school year program from 6/29/21 through 7/29/21 at 4 hours per day for 12 days.

The Board approved the elementary and secondary tutoring/credit recovery programs and for teachers to be paid by the ESSER grant funding at the Homebound Instructional rate included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Board approved the elementary and secondary summer school programs for the 2020-2021 school year at no cost to students.

The Board discussed possible action regarding the District's Driver's Education Program, which would include an option for students to participate in a program through Brant's Driving School. The Board approved for students to receive a "post completion scholarship" reimbursement from the District for students who successfully complete the program and provide proof of payment to Brant's Driving School. The District would reimburse the cost of the program minus \$50.00 that would be the normal fee if attending a Driver's Education program through the District.

The Board approved the agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and PowerSchool Group LLC to upgrade the current version of eFinance Plus.

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding for Preschool Services between The Learning Lamp, Community Action Partnership for Somerset County, and Rockwood Area School District for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding/Transitional Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and The Learning Lamp/Ignite for the 2021- 2022 school year as required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Committee Reports:

The Board voted in favor to employ Susan Clark for social work services for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to amend the Act 93 and Related Compensation Plan.

The Board approved the job description and responsibilities for the School Social Worker.
The Board approved the Evaluation Form for the School Social Worker.

The Board approved the following individuals as un-paid bona-fide volunteers for the Rockwood Area School District instrumental music program, pending completion of all paperwork:

Justin Myers

Richard Showers

Katie Strong

The Board voted in favor to accept the resignation of Kelly Atchison as the bona-fide volunteer junior high girls' basketball coach and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the resignation of JB Harrold as the bona-fide volunteer assistant boys' soccer coach, to advertise for the position, and approved him as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer coach for girls' and boys' varsity soccer.

The Board approved the retirement of Eileen Buchanan as Student Services/Special Education Office Administrative Assistant effective October 15, 2021.

The Board voted in favor to employ Cindy Miller as the Student Services/Special Education Office Administrative Assistant.

The Board authorized the administration to pursue an agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Ignite Education Solutions for a health room aide for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved an unpaid leave for an employee covered under the Act 93 agreement and authorized the Superintendent to manage the modifications to the employee's work schedule.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference request:

1. IUP Spring Methodology Conference on Foreign Language Teaching – Virtual at Rockwood Area High School – 4/16/21 – Andrea Minor

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests, with the stipulation that proper cleaning and disinfecting arrangements will be made following each use of the facility, and with the understanding that the school building is open for use and COVID-19 guidelines are followed:

1. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary chorus room – 5/3/2021 through 5/7/2021, 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. – Spring Book Fair.
2. Rockwood Area School District Summer Shop I and Summer Shop I Plus – Rockwood high school classrooms #210 & #211 – 6/14/2021 through 6/18/2021, 7:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.; 6/21/2021 through 6/25/2021, 7:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. (if necessary) – Promote student growth in STEM related activities.
3. Rockwood Elementary Federal Programs – Rockwood elementary classrooms, cafeteria, library, outdoor areas – 6/14/2021 through 6/17/2021, 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M – WINNERS MTSS Learning Camp.
4. Rockwood Elementary Federal Programs – Rockwood elementary classrooms, library, STEM lab, outdoor areas – 6/21/2021 through 6/24/2021, 8:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. – STEM Camp for 4th, 5th, and select 6th grade students.
5. Rockwood Elementary Federal Programs – Rockwood elementary classrooms, cafeteria, library, outdoor areas – 8/23/2021 and 8/24/2021, 8:00 A.M. – 2:30 P.M. – KINDER Camp for newly enrolled kindergarten students.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board that the varsity baseball team will have the opportunity to play a baseball game at the Altoona Curve baseball stadium on Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Mark Bower discussed the tentative graduation plans for the Class of 2021.

Mark Bower advised the Board that he has received several applications for the Biology Teacher and Special Education paraprofessional positions.

Mark Bower discussed the Staff Appreciation Dinner. A decision was made to hold the event on a date after the last student day of the current school year.

Mark Bower discussed summer hours for staff members, as was done last year, where the staff works longer hours Monday through Thursday and would have each Friday off. The summer work schedule would begin June 21, and staff would return back to regular hours the week prior to the start of mandatory fall sports practices. The Board agreed with this recommendation.

Mark Bower recommended adjusting Sherry Benford's work shift to 8:00 am – 4:00 pm daily, as the need for her to be in the office during these hours is more relevant now due to the adjusted school day schedule. The Board agreed with the recommendation.

Mark Bower advised the Board that Superintendent Evaluation Forms would be provided to Board members for completion.

Jordan Svonavec provided an overview of the District's Federal Funding in regards to ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III Grants and explained where funds would be allocated.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that Vileska Gelpi was recently recognized at a virtual District V meeting for her golfing achievements. Vileska will also be recognized during the end of the year awards assembly.

Mark Bower advised the Board that PSSA and Keystone testing has started. Misty Demchak explained how the testing would influence/impact our students during the upcoming years.

Jon Hale informed the Board that the elementary school intends to hold a kindergarten graduation ceremony this year.

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