



Rocket Express

April 8, 2025

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. The following directors were present: Ashley Baker, Seth Foreman, Hailey Miller, Melanie Monticue, Brad Pletcher, Matthew Pritts, Tyler Pritts, Adam Sembower, Noah Wareham.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 3/18/25, and the regular meeting on 3/18/25 were approved.

The agenda and agenda items were approved.

The Board approved the financial and treasurer reports as presented.

Board Recognition:

The following students of the month were recognized by the Board:

Nadiya R. Putman
Terry L. Sanner
Dawson T. Shaffer
Annah M. Sechler
Benjamin B. Barkman
Ava J. White

Old Business:

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

005	Organization
308	Employment Contract/Board Resolution
823	Opioid Antagonist

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

The Board accepted the recommendation of the Business Office for the coal and propane bids for the 2025-2026 school year.

New Business:

The Board authorized the business office to pay the necessary bills in April to avoid penalties and to present those bills for final approval in May.

The Board approved the discarding or donating of unused items and furniture from the district inventory that are currently stored in the Red Wing.

The Board accepted the donation in the amount of \$3,814.88 from Riggs Industries for the purchase of a new Lincoln Electric SMAW 208 3-phase welder for the district's Engineering and Technology Program.

The Board approved the ESL Consortium Agreement with Appalachia IU08 for the 2025-2026 school year at a cost of \$5,000.00.

The Board approved the purchase of one seat in the Transition Classroom as part of the Ignite Education Solutions Transition Program for the 2025-2026 school year at a rate of \$12,677.30 per seat.

The Board voted in favor to accept the quote from Allegheny Supply, in the amount of \$8,492.01, for the purchase of door mats.

The Board approved the renewal agreement with Metz Culinary Management for the 2025-2026 school year.

The Board approved the "FFA Drive Your Tractor to School Day" event scheduled for June 5, 2025.

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 \$1,811.70 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The Board approved the Site Based Extended School Year Program for eight days from 6/9/25 through 6/19/25, for a total of 32 hours, paid at per diem rate.

The Board approved the Site Based Speech and Language Extended School Year Program for three days from 6/9/25 through 6/19/25, for a total of 7.5 hours, paid at per diem rate.

The Board accepted the bid from CDW Government LLC (CDW•G) in the amount of \$37,258.75 for district technology for the 2025-2026 funding year, to be funded through e-Rate with a 30% match from the district.

The Board approved a lock-in event for the Class of 2025 to be held May 29 through 30, 2025.

The Board approved the Contract, Software License & Hosting Agreement between Rockwood Area School District and Transfinder for the purchase of transportation software, in the amount of \$14,210.00 for year one and \$7,550.00 for year two, for routing, reporting, and communication, pending final administrative review.

Committee Reports:

The Board accepted the retirement of Jane Holt as elementary art teacher effective the end of the 2024-2025 school year and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the resignation of Juliann Picklo as high school art teacher effective April 11, 2025, and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the resignation of Jenna Wintersteen as elementary teacher effective June 30, 2025, and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the resignation of Nichole McKlveen as elementary paraprofessional effective at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the resignation of Heather Tims as elementary paraprofessional effective April 25, 2025, add her to the substitute instructional aid list for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, and to advertise for the position.

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

The Board voted in favor to employ Trenton Troxell as a Type 04 long-term substitute secondary art teacher beginning April 14, 2025, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Jenna Sembower as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer varsity baseball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

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

Nicole Trimpey	Stephanie Cayton	Daniel Ream
Gabby Coddington	Brittany Borosky	Susie Branam
Michael Cordaro	Elizabeth Conn	Lindsey Augustine
Ashley Firestone	Beth Brant (same person as Elizabeth Conn)	

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) during the 2025-2026 school year, beginning August 20, 2025, through October 13, 2025, using sick days. Employee ID #138.

The Board voted in favor to employ Paige Ohler as a full-time special education teacher effective the 2025-2026 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Katelynn Swank as a full-time special education teacher effective the 2025-2026 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference request:

1. Spring Focus Group Meeting/IEP Writer – Greensburg, PA – 5/14/25 – Cassie Wright, Lauren Svonavec or Hanna Goller, Cindy Miller

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Reading Competition – Sidman, PA – 4/1/25 – Kristen Mumau, Christy Hay and 9 students.
2. 6th Grade Field Trip/Picnic – Somerset, PA – 6/4/25 – 6th grade teachers and 35 students.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 3/28/25; 5:15 P.M. – 7:15 P.M. – Soccer practice.
2. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 3/30/25; 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. – Soccer practice.
3. Skylar and Savannah Atchison – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 4/5/25, 1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. – Senior pictures.
4. Rockwood Soccer Club – Rockwood auditorium – 4/4/25; 4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. – Parent meeting for soccer.
5. TJ Dance – Rockwood high school auditorium, chorus room – 9/10/25, 9/12/25, 9/13/25; 3:30 P.M. - ?, 10:00 A.M. - ? – Dance rehearsals and recital.

Superintendent's Report:

During Superintendent's Report, Heather Hay and Carissa Shipley presented the Board with a program titled Canine Partners for Life – Service Dogs at Rockwood. Canine Partners for Life is a non-profit organization that breeds, raises, trains, and matches service and companion dogs with those who need support in their daily lives. The presentation aimed to highlight the potential benefits of incorporating dogs into public schools and classrooms for student well-being and development.

Mark Bower informed the Board that many changes are occurring in Washington, D.C. Superintendents recently met to discuss some of the changes that will be implemented and how they will, or may, affect Local Educational Agencies (LEA); i.e., school districts.

Jordan Svonavec updated the Board on anticipated improvements to the outdoor facilities. He obtained quotes from three contractors, each of whom assessed the athletic fields and other outdoor areas, offering multiple options for enhancement.

Mark Bower informed the Board that work is currently underway on the budget, needs assessment, and one-time expenditures.

Mark Bower advised the Board that the Special Education audit was successful, with only minimal findings, all of which are currently being addressed.

Mark Bower engaged the Board in a discussion about Homecoming and its related events. He sought the Board's input on scheduling the event in a way that would maximize student participation. The Board reached a consensus to keep the event on a Saturday in the fall for now and agreed to revisit the decision at a later date if necessary.

Jordan Svonavec presented the Board with an update on the planning and progress of the upcoming budget.

Jordan Svonavec informed the Board that he met with a contractor who offered suggestions for potential upgrades to the Red Wing.

Misty Demchak reviewed the end of the year schedule for junior/senior high school students and important dates and events coming up. Board members were invited to attend. Events include:

- Band Concert – April 24

- Prom – April 26
- NHS Induction Ceremony – April 30
- Chorus Concert – May 6
- Scholars’ Reception – May 19
- Baccalaureate Service – June 4
- Graduation Ceremony – June 5
- Kennywood Day
- Senior Trip

Misty Dechak recognized several students for their outstanding achievements in FBLA and the National Civics Bee.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that a winter/spring pep rally was recently held. Students actively participated in a variety of activities and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Nicholas Buterbaugh provided the Board with an update on athletics, highlighting upcoming special events and recognizing students for their recent achievements.

Jon Hale expressed his enthusiasm to the Board about the upcoming retirements and celebrations taking place at the elementary school. He extended his best wishes to the retirees and shared his excitement about welcoming new faculty and staff.

Jon Hale announced upcoming elementary field trips and special events planned through the end of the school year.

Jon Hale informed the Board that Author Day was a tremendous success. Students participated in a number of exciting activities.

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