



# **Rocket Express**

## **May 15, 2023**

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 4/18/2023 and the regular meeting on 4/18/2023 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:

Hermiley J. Chalfant  
Joseph R. Sechler  
Landon A. Miller  
Ruth A. Mathias  
Anna M. Hinzy  
Grant O. Mathias

### **Public Comment:**

Several soccer players, representing the girls' varsity soccer team, approached the Board requesting they consider purchasing and replacing weight lifting equipment in the weight room. Those in attendance thanked the Board for supporting the soccer team as well as other programs. A committee has been formed to assess the condition of the weight room equipment and gather pricing for each piece of equipment that needs to be replaced.

### **Old Business:**

The Board approved the amended agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and IU1 for Title I services at Champion Christian School for the 2022-2023 school year (increase of \$9.00).

The Board approved the amended agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Ignite Education Solutions for Title I services at St. Peters School for the 2022-2023 school year (increase of \$9.00).

**New Business:**

Brad Pletcher was elected as Treasurer by acclamation.

The Board approved membership in the PA Association of Rural and Small Schools for the 2023-2024 school year, in the amount of \$940.00.

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

- 137 Home Education Programs
- 137.1 Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students
- 800 Records Management
- 830 Security of Computerized Personal Information/Breach Notification

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

- 137.2 Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students
- 137.3 Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students
- 830.1 Data Governance - Storage/Security

The Board approved the purchase of two seats in the Ignite Transition Classroom as part of the Ignite Education Solutions Somerset Transition Program for the 2023 - 2024 school year at a cost of \$11,350.82 per seat.

The quote from CriLon Corp in the amount of \$11,676.75 for crack repair, sealcoating, and line striping in the high school parking lots was accepted by the Board.

The Board approved the Concurrent Enrollment Agreement between Rockwood Area School District and the University of Pittsburgh from August 2022 through June 2023.

The membership renewal with PSBA in the amount of \$11,186.10 for the 2023-2024 school year was approved by the Board.

The Board approved Barbera Law and Michael Barbera as school district solicitor for the 2023-2024 school year.

The K-12 Voluntary Student Accident Insurance coverage with A-G Administrators LLC for the 2023-2024 fiscal year was approved by the Board, at no cost to the district.

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between Pennsylvania State Police-Troop A Somerset and the Rockwood Area School District for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

The Board appointed Jenny Beckner as fund custodian for the 2023-2024 school year.

First National Bank, Somerset Trust Company, and First People's Community Federal Credit Union were Board approved as school district depositories for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board designated the Somerset Daily American as the newspaper of general circulation for the Rockwood Area School District.

The mandated dental program for the 2023-2024 school year was approved by the Board.

The Board approved the school nurse program for the 2023-2024 school year.

Dr. Christopher Clark was Board approved as the school physician-consultant for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the tentative graduation list for the class of 2023.

The property tax reduction allocation for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, in the amount of \$293,321.13, was accepted by the Board.

Discussion was held on the consideration to adopt the proposed final budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$15,055,640.00 and a millage rate of 22.63 mills on real estate and to advertise this budget for public inspection and final approval at a meeting on June 20, 2023. Upon discussion, the Board voted in favor to amend the motion to adopt the proposed final budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$15,055,640.00 and a millage rate of 23.56 mills on real estate and to advertise this budget for public inspection and final approval at a meeting on June 20, 2023.

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 \$1,476.20 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

The contract with Bedford-Somerset DBHS for the 2023-2024 school year at the rate of \$59.40 per hour, not to exceed the annual cap of \$24,948.00, was approved by the Board.

The Board approved the Cooperative Agreement between Saint Francis University and Rockwood Area School District for the College in High School Program for the 2023-2024 school year.

The quote from Integrated IT Group, in the amount of \$3,206.54, for a Managed Service Agreement for Mitel Support for the 2023-2024 fiscal year was accepted by the Board.

The Board accepted the quote from The Master Teacher, in the amount of \$2,120.40, for paraprofessionals to complete 20 hours of required training, for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

The Board approved a support nurse for 12 days during the Summer Extended School Year Program, paid at per diem rate.

The ESL Consortium Agreement with Appalachia IU08 for the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$4,600.00 was approved by the Board.

### **Committee Reports:**

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) from 8/24/23 through 10/20/23, using sick days and personal leave time. Employee ID #192.

Nathan Formica was Board approved as a bona-fide volunteer junior high head track coach for the 2022-2023 school year.

Carter Bower was Board approved as a bona-fide volunteer junior high assistant track coach for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board voted in favor to add Ryan Schmuck to the substitute teacher list (Type 06) for the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Samantha Smith as a Special Education teacher beginning the 2023-2024 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

Upon discussion, the Board voted to table the consideration to employ a Special Education teacher beginning the 2023-2024 school year as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement salary scale, pending completion of all paperwork until the June 20, 2023, Board meeting.

The Board accepted the resignation of Amber Cane as an instructional special education paraprofessional effective immediately and to advertise for the position.

### **Conference Requests:**

The Board approved the following conference request:

1. Increasing the Effectiveness of Instruction through the Delivery of HIIT – Altoona, PA – 9/13/23, 10/25/23, 11/15/23 – Alana Letizia, Katie Lambert

### **Field Trip Requests:**

The Board approved the following field trip request:

1. Summer Programs – Outdoor Exploration – Laurel Hill State Park – 6/7/23, 6/14/23, 6/21/23, 6/28/23 – Jim Wagner, Ben Baker, Carter Bower and number of students to be determined.

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

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Somerset County Republican Committee – Rockwood high school auditorium – 4/28/23; 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Debate.
2. Rockwood Borough Community Action Group – Rockwood parking lot behind maintenance building – 7/15/23; 3:00 PM – 11:00 PM – Grovefest.

### **Club & Class Activity Requests:**

The Board approved the following club & class activity request:

1. Spanish and French Classes – Cookie Dough Fundraiser – 9/27/23 through 10/11/23 – Raise funds for classroom activities, projects, and trips.

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

Mark Bower reminded Board members that the Staff Appreciation Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

Mark Bower congratulated Misty Demchak on being nominated as Administrator of the Year by Rockwood FBLA.

Mark Bower highlighted the end of year activities that have already occurred and the events that will take place throughout the remainder of the school year.

Mark Bower wished Irvin Kimmel good luck in the primary election.

Mark Bower informed the Board that bathroom renovations have started.

Mark Bower invited Board members to assist in the selection of some remodeling materials for the bathroom and locker room alterations project.

Mark Bower and Jon Hale provided the Board with an update on the redevelopment plans for the elementary playground. Meetings were held with representatives from two companies to discuss playground equipment, project breakdown, funding, etc. The development of a playground committee is underway. The district is currently awaiting estimates and quotes for equipment and installation.

Jon Hale advised the Board of upcoming events in the elementary, such as: field trips, LOT carnival, and track and field day. Students who have gone on fields trips experienced learning opportunities. He informed the Board that PSSA testing has been completed, and summer programs are in the planning process.

Nick Buterbaugh provided the Board with an update on the golf program. He discussed matters such as course location and transportation costs.

Nick Buterbaugh informed the Board that students interested in playing fall sports for the upcoming school year were invited to attend athletic meetings held on May 15, 2023.

Misty Demchak recognized Mrs. Leanna Weimer and her students who raised and released 437 catfish in Somerset Lake earlier in May. She offered Board members the opportunity to view a video of the release.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that she and the Student Services Support Specialists are working together to finalize the schedule for summer programs and identifying students who would benefit from the programs.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that high school students will be participating in Keystone testing and finals during the last few weeks of school.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that the “Class of 2023 Year End Schedules” were distributed to all 12th grade students.

Megan Hetrick updated the Board about the use of Rhithm, a resource that provides immediate feedback regarding the well-being of students and staff in areas unique to their district. In addition, it provides an opportunity to empower all students to practice healthier habits. Rhithm has been utilized in the high school and will soon be used in the elementary.

Megan Hetrick informed the Board that PSSA tests have been completed and returned to the State. She recognized and thanked Cindy Miller, Shanda Pletcher, and Sue McClintock for their assistance in collecting and organizing PSSA materials.

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