



# **Rocket Express**

## **May 21, 2024**

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 4/16/2024 and the regular meeting on 4/16/2024 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:

Bella M. Miller  
Emma W. Brown  
McKenzie A. Bowers  
Sadie L. Tinkey  
Noah D. Hunt  
Emily N. Hutchison  
Ace J. Hay  
Cody M. Livengood

### **Old Business:**

The Board accepted the recommendation of the Business Office for the coal and propane bids for the 2024-2025 school year.

### **New Business:**

Brad Pletcher was elected as Treasurer by acclamation.

On the discussion and possible action concerning paving for the maintenance building and elementary playground parking areas, the Board voted in favor to table the discussion until the June Board meeting.

The Board accepted the quote from Visual Sound, Inc. (COSTARS State Contract #034-E22-167) in the amount of \$57,768.41 for the purchase and installation of a projection system in the Rockwood High School Auditorium.

The Board approved the Cooperative Agreement between Saint Francis University and Rockwood Area School District for the College in High School Program for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board approved the Audit Engagement Letter with Kotzan CPA & Associates, P.C. for independent audit services for the years ended June 30, 2024, 2025, and 2026.

The Board approved the Agreement between Camco Physical and Occupational Therapy, LLC and the Rockwood Area School District for the period August 1, 2024 through July 1, 2026, at a rate of \$60.00 per hour.

The Board approved Barbera Law and Michael Barbera as school district solicitor for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board accepted the quote from Culinary Depot (COSTARS State Contract #036-E23-052) in the amount of \$31,497.50 for the purchase of a Combi-Oven, to be paid from the district's cafeteria fund.

The Board approved the Agreement with Government Software Services, Inc. for the printing of tax duplicates for the 2024 fiscal year.

The Board approved homebound instruction for an 11th grade student.

The Board approved homebound instruction for a 12th grade student.

The Board approved the Membership in the PA Association of Rural and Small Schools for the 2024-2025 school year, in the amount of \$975.00.

The Board approved the Letter of Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Tableland Services, Inc. for the use of one elementary classroom for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board approved the tentative graduation list for the class of 2024.

The Board approved the PSBA Insurance-Better Unemployment Compensation System (BUCS) Comprehensive Program for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, at the cost of \$3,926.35.

The Board appointed Jenny Beckner as fund custodian for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board approved First National Bank, Somerset Trust Company, and First People's Community Federal Credit Union as school district depositories for the 2024-2025 school year.

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

The Board approved the mandated dental program for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board approved the school nurse program for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board approved Dr. Christopher Clark as the school physician-consultant for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board accepted the property tax reduction allocation for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$353,328.77.

After amendment, the Board voted in favor to adopt the proposed final budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$14,515,346.00 and a millage rate of 24.82 mills on real estate and to advertise this budget for public inspection and final approval at a meeting on June 18, 2024.

The Board approved the quote from Integrated IT Group, in the amount of \$3,358.51, for a Managed Service Agreement for Mitel Support for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Board voted in favor to accept the quote from Play & Park Structures (COSTARS State Contract #014-E22-291) in the amount of \$107,540.00 for pour-in-place rubber surfacing at the elementary playground site.

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District Structured Literacy Comprehensive Professional Development Plan for the period spanning 2023 through 2028.

The Board accepted the quote from CriLon Corp in the amount of \$12,056.99 for crack repair, sealcoating, and line striping in the elementary school parking lot.

The Board approved the request from Rockwood Softball Boosters to acquire permission to purchase a batting cage to be placed on the third baseline of the district's softball field during softball season.

### **Committee Reports:**

The Board approved part-time district employees to work up to 30 hours per week during the summer months to assist with cleaning and painting, paid at per diem rate.

The Board accepted the resignation of Noah Wareham as the Varsity Girls' Assistant Soccer Coach and approved him as the Varsity Girls' Soccer Head Coach. The stipend for this position is waived, as candidate is an active Board member. Funds allocated for this position will be reassigned to a designated program.

The Board accepted the resignation of Adam Sembower as the Junior High Assistant Baseball Coach effective the end of the 2023-2024 season and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the resignation of Jessica Fazenbaker as Elementary Teacher effective June 30, 2024.

The Board accepted the resignation of Hannah Mitchell as a high school special education paraprofessional effective April 26, 2024, and approved her to the district substitute instructional aide list for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board accepted the resignation of Becky Saylor as a high school special education paraprofessional effective May 10, 2024, and approved her to the district substitute instructional aide list for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved Denise Kroon and Irvin Kimmel, Jr. as unpaid position volunteers, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to amend the Support Staff Handbook for full time maintenance / custodial employees and administrative assistants to include the district longevity increment described in the professional collective bargaining agreement.

The Board voted in favor to amend the Support Staff Handbook for full time maintenance / custodial employees and administrative assistants to include the payment for unused sick days upon retirement in the amount of \$100.00 per day, not to exceed 200 days.

The Board voted in favor to re-classify Ashley Bowers from Elementary Library/Office Paraprofessional to Elementary Daily Operations Administrative Assistant effective June 3, 2024.

The Board approved the job description and responsibilities for the Elementary Daily Operations Administrative Assistant.

The Board voted in favor to add Kaitlyn Pletcher, a Prospective Teacher Substitute, to the district substitute teacher list for the 2023-2024 school year, pending completion of all paperwork, and approve the Superintendent to issue a Locally Issued Emergency Day-To-Day Substitute Permit.

The Board voted in favor to add Lacey Snyder to the district substitute instructional aide list for the 2023-2024 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Heather Hay and Mindy Singo as full-time elementary teachers beginning the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Morgan Beckner, Nichole Mcklveen, and Heather Lape as paraprofessionals, pending completion of all paperwork.

### **Conference Requests:**

The Board approved the following conference request:

1. PATTAN ABA Training – Altoona, PA – 8/12/24, 8/13/24, 8/14/24 – Heather Snyder, Sandra Goller

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

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Ministerial Association – Rockwood high school classrooms, auditorium, chorus room – 5/28/24; 11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M., 5/30/24; 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Baccalaureate Service.
2. Rockwood Community Action Group – Rockwood parking lot behind maintenance building – 6/15/24; 1:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M. – Parking for Grovesfest.

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

Mark Bower informed the Board of year-end events occurring for students in the Class of 2024. Many seniors will be participating in the fun-filled “senior lock-in” event, senior class trip over Memorial Day weekend, baccalaureate service on May 30, and the graduation ceremony on May 31.

Mark Bower and Misty Demchak attended the Somerset County Technology Center's Certificate Ceremony on May 17. This year, twenty-seven Rockwood students graduated and received a certificate in their specified trade.

Megan Hetrick advised the Board that programs within the Life Skills classes have wrapped up for the school year. She thanked Board members for their continued support.

Misty Demchak informed the Board of a new Trail Passport Program that will be coming soon. Details about the program will be announced in the near future. Several of Rockwood's students, faculty, and staff have been involved in the project.

Misty Demchak reviewed end-of-year events in the high school, including the awards assembly that will occur on May 30.

Nicholas Buterbaugh advised the Board that Tara Pritts, the district's newly hired High School/Athletic Office Administrative Assistant, is doing a great job fulfilling her new responsibilities.

Nicholas Buterbaugh acknowledged several students who have committed to playing sports in college.

Nicholas Buterbaugh updated the Board on the track and field co-op with Meyersdale. The program was very successful this year and has received a lot of positive feedback and support.

Nicholas Buterbaugh announced the dates and times for softball and baseball playoff games.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that announcements will be going out to students and their families in regards to fall sports sign-ups.

Jon Hale thanked the Board for supporting the district's faculty and for approving all of the newly hired faculty and staff.

Jon Hale updated the Board of elementary year-end events. Students were excited to participate in field trips over the past few weeks. Author Day was a huge success. Visiting author, Linda High Oatman, delivered a message to all students regarding writing books and the importance of literacy. A special thanks to the Board for supporting the event and to Mrs. Hay, Mrs. Holt, Mrs. Gindlesperger, Mr. Baker, Mr. C. Bower, and all the teachers for participating.

Jon Hale advised the Board that LOT (Leaders of Tomorrow) Day is scheduled to occur this week. The PTO is sponsoring a visit by the KONA Ice Truck. A Reader's Theater will also be held during the week. Other events include: Track and Field Day, 6th grade Rocket Day, and Kindergarten Graduation.

Jordan Svonavec informed the Board that he participated in a Wellness Committee Meeting; where students provide feedback from their peers regarding cafeteria likes and dislikes. Students were well prepared and had a lot of great suggestions.

Jordan Svonavec advised the Board that he will be looking at purchasing supplies for the district and shared some ideas about items of interest.

Jordan Svonavec held a discussion regarding bids received for the Playground Renovation Project.

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