



# **Rocket Express**

## **August 16, 2022**

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2022.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 6/21/2022 and the regular meeting on 6/21/2022 were approved.

The agenda, agenda items, and additional agenda items were approved.

The Board approved the financial and treasurer reports and bills as presented.

### **New Business:**

The Board approved the agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Ignite Education Solutions to provide long term, contracted, and substitute staff on an as needed basis for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved the agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Ignite Education Solutions for Title I Services at St. Peter School for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved the agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Ignite Education Solutions for Title I Services at Somerset Christian School for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved the contract with Bedford-Somerset DBHS for the 2022-2023 school year at the rate of \$54.00 per hour, not to exceed the annual cap of \$22,680.00.

The Board approved the addendum to the contract between the Rockwood Area School District and Pressley Ridge Johnstown for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding/Transitional Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Community Action Partnership, Tableland for the 2022-2023 school year, as required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding/Transitional Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Ignite Learning Solutions for the 2022-2023 school year, as required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The Board approved district paraprofessionals to participate in The Paraeducator Suite through the Appalachia IU08 during the 2022-2023 school year at a cost of \$50.00 per participant.

The Board approved the Boiler System Maintenance Agreement Renewal with Combustion Service & Equipment Co. in the amount of \$3,129.00.

The Board approved the tentative bus and van driver lists for the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the tentative transportation rates and routes for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board voted in favor to remove a Fry Master Deep Fryer from the District's inventory and donate it to the New Centerville Rural Volunteer Fire Company.

The Board approved the 2022-2023 insurance renewal proposal through BDH/Konhaus Insurance Agency in the amount of \$76,783.00.

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District Comprehensive Plan from 7/1/2022 through 6/30/2025; including the Professional Development Plan (Act 48), Induction Plan (Chapter 49), Gifted Education Plan (Chapter 16), Academic Standards and Assessment Requirements (Chapter 4), and Student Services Plan (Chapter 12).

The Board approved the Cooperative Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District for volleyball and track for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved the Cooperative Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District, Salisbury-Elk Lick School District, and Turkeyfoot Valley School District for soccer and golf for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 school years.

The Board voted in favor to adopt the Math Adjustment Proposal for grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> beginning the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved the proposal from the Rockwood Elementary PTO to purchase a "Buddy Bench" to be installed on the elementary playground area.

The Board approved the contract between the Rockwood Area School District and Southwood Psychiatric Hospital at the rate of \$90.00 per day; beginning August 24, 2022, through June 9, 2023, for services as needed.

The Board approved the agreement between the Somerset Area School District and the Rockwood Area School District for emotional support classroom services at a rate of \$112.00 per day for a maximum of \$19,712.00 per student for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board authorized Sherry Benford to cast the votes to the PSBA Legislative Platform on behalf of the Rockwood Area School District.

The Board approved the agreement between Clapper Educational Consulting and the Rockwood Area School District to provide community resource consultation and career activities for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate of \$65.00 per hour, not to exceed 200 hours. Approval is also granted for student participation in all such career related activities.

The Board approved the school photography contract with Megan Snell – Bean Tree Studio Photography for extra-curricular, special events, and yearbook photos for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board voted in favor to accept the bid from Allegheny Restoration, Inc., in the amount of \$48,800.00 for the Proposed Chimney Cap Repair – Main Boiler Chimney Project.

The Board approved a parental request for retention of a student for the 2022-2023 school year pending signatures of all parties on the legal agreement provided by the District's solicitor.

The Board approved the Tower License Agreement with Matthews Communication for the lease of communications tower and transmission equipment for school buses, at the rental amount of \$470.00 per year, which will increase by 2.8% annually, for the period of 7/1/2023 through 7/1/2028.

The Board approved the Tower License Agreement with Matthews Communication for the lease of communications tower and transmission equipment for district office radios, at the rental amount of \$2,200.00 per year, which will increase by 2.8% annually, for the period of 7/1/2023 through 7/1/2028.

The Board approved the one-year maintenance agreement with FIT Optimized Solutions in the amount of \$7,648.00 for the inspection, calibration, and repairs of the automatic temperature control system.

The Board voted in favor to accept the letter of agreement from Somerset Area Ambulance Association, Inc. to provide emergency services for Rockwood Area School District Jr. High and Varsity home soccer games during the 2022-2023 school year, at a rate of \$60.00 per hour.

The Board approved the use of the school facility for search and rescue and law enforcement canine training with PSP, Somerset County DA's office, Somerset County Sheriff's Office, and Somerset County Swift Water Rescue.

The Board approved an Agreement for Expulsion for Student No. 23235.

### **Committee Reports:**

The Board approved the substitute teacher, nurse, instructional aide, secretary, and custodian lists for the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the following mentor teachers for the 2022-2023 school year:

Elyse Cordaro for Cassandra Kemp  
Amber Walker for Shaye Beeman  
Patti Jo Opfar for Rebekah Marietta  
Doug Spiri for Chandler Enos  
Greta Carroll for Allison Shultz

The Board voted in favor to employ Doug Spiri as the auditorium lighting and sound crew assistant advisor effective the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved Christy Hay as the Act 48 Chairperson for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved Christy Hay as the Induction Chairperson for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board approved John Nichols as the bona-fide volunteer head varsity golf coach pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved four (4) additional summer hours for Dave Greene to complete the Rockwood Rocket yearbook.

The Board voted in favor to employ Kristie Snyder as a paraprofessional beginning the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board rescinded the offer of employment to Alexis Chittum as a Secondary Art teacher.

The Board rescinded the offer of employment to Anthony Evans as a full-time maintenance/custodial employee.

The Board voted in favor to employ Shaye Beeman as a secondary art teacher beginning the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Garrett Jano as a full-time maintenance/custodial employee, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Raymond France as a full-time maintenance/custodial employee, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Jason Sechler as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer junior high golf coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Patrick Wood as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer team manager for boys' junior varsity/varsity soccer, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the Paraprofessional Wage Adjustment Proposal.

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

The Board approved Charles Livengood as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer junior high soccer coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add Alisha Bowers to the substitute instructional aide list for the 2022-2023 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

### **Conference Requests:**

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. Explore POWER Library Products & Services – Greensburg, PA – 9/28/22 – Christy Hay
2. “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing” Video Contest training – Location TBD – Date of Trip TBD – Joe Kush

### **Field Trip Requests:**

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Laurel Caverns (5<sup>th</sup> grade) – Farmington, PA – 10/13/22 – Jenna Sembower, Ben Baker, Melissa Gindlesperger, and 43 students
2. Bike Trip – Rockwood, PA – 10/5/22 – Carlee Glessner, Chandler Enos and students in grades 7-9.
3. “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing” Student Video Contest – Location TBD – Date of trip TBD – Joe Kush and 7 students

4. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Nutcracker Trip – Pittsburgh, PA – 12/2/22 – Doug Spiri, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, special education teacher, and 45 students

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

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 9/12/22, 10/3/22, 11/7/22, 12/5/22, 1/9/23, 2/6/23, 3/6/23, 4/3/23, 5/1/23; 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. – PTO meetings.
2. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary library – 9/19/22, 11/14/22, 2/13/23, 4/17/23; 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. – PTO/Teacher meetings.
3. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary chorus room – 10/20/22, 10/21/22; 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.; 10/24/22 through 10/28/22; 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Fall book fair.

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

Mark Bower advised the Board that the exterior door installation project began on August 9<sup>th</sup> and is going very well. The contractors are working long hours to get the project completed.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the roof installation project is coming along nicely. The roofing contractors are also working long hours to complete this project in a timely manner. A request was made for a proposal to have some type of gutter guard installed above the elementary and high school gym entrances to re-route water runoff.

Mark Bower advised the Board that the installation of exterior lights, funded by the 2021-2022 Safe Schools Initiative Grant, made a major difference in illuminating areas around the facility.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the concrete work is almost complete. The sidewalk leading to the elementary playground is finished, and the hand railing at the new steps leading from the student parking lot to the main entrance will be installed soon.

Mark Bower advised the Board that sealcoating and line striping in the high school parking lots have been completed.

Mark Bower informed the Board that teachers will be returning to school on August 24<sup>th</sup>, and students will return on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the District's Health and Safety Plan has been updated and posted to the District's website and needs to be reviewed every six months. The plan will be shared with the Board for formal approval at the September meeting.

Mark Bower discussed the School Safety and Security funding. The guidelines are very specific in what the funds can be used for. Discussion was held in regards to areas the District anticipated using funds and reviewed numerous options on how the funds could be allocated. In addition to using funding to train and compensate a School Police Officer or School Resource Officer, the consensus of the Board was to use funding for the following security-related technology items:

- Surveillance equipment
- Special emergency communications equipment (bus radios, 911 radios, office radios)
- Additional computer hardware for the visitor identification system.

Mark Bower also discussed mental health funding and resources. The guidelines are also very specific in how the funds can be utilized. Discussion was held in regards to various programs for students that include:

- Risk assessment, safety-related, violence prevention curricula, mental health early intervention, self-care and suicide awareness and prevention curricula
- Developing a partnership with a community based non-profit organization for out of school programming for at-risk school-age students
- Coordinating and integrating local and county mental health services and programs for school employees or students
- Providing online programs, educational materials and applications to provide supplemental mental health services to students

Mark Bower informed the Board that he spoke to a company that installs solar panel projects. The solar panels are maintained by the company and would be an additional energy source to supply some electricity to the building. The company is scheduled to meet with the Maintenance Supervisors, Business Manager, and Superintendent in September to review more specific details.

Jordan Svonavec received an estimate to clean out the brush and remove stumps at the fence line by the baseball field and surrounding areas. He intends to solicit additional quotes and present a detailed quote for the project at the September Board meeting.

Mark Bower discussed adding Board member email addresses to the District's website to make them available to the public. The IT Department will create an email account for each Board member. Emails will not be monitored on a daily basis.

Jon Hale advised the Board that the elementary building is ready for students to return. The building is fully staffed, and expectations will be the same as those in place prior to the pandemic.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that PowerSchool is available for parents and students to review their schedules. Student schedules are also being mailed. Orientation for seventh grade students will be held August 25<sup>th</sup>. Meet the Teacher Night is scheduled for September 1<sup>st</sup>. Student picture day is September 6<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades 7-10 will receive new Chromebooks. Athletics are up and running. An Inter County Conference (ICC) meeting will be held on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

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