



Rocket Express

August 17, 2021

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 17, 2021.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 6/15/2021 and the regular meeting on 6/15/2021 were approved.

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

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

Old Business:

The Board approved the revisions to the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Reopening Plan to include:

- The CDC's mandate requiring face masks on public transportation.
- Reporting of confirmed school related COVID-19 cases to the PA Department of Health using the school-based reporting tool, in accordance with applicable privacy and other laws as practicable and feasible. The District will assist the PA Department of Health with school related COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing by preparing and providing information and records to aid in the identification of potential exposures and close contacts at school, as feasible.

The Board approved the estimate from Somerset Planning & Engineering Services to perform a study of the current exhaust/ventilation systems serving the proposed restroom renovation project.

New Business:

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

- 816 District Social Media
- 800.1 Electronic Signatures/Records
- 146.1 Trauma-Informed Approach
- 236.1 Threat Assessment
- 236 Student Assistance Program

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

- 218.1 Weapons
- 218.2 Terroristic Threats
- 247 Hazing
- 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying

- 252 Dating Violence
- 805 Emergency Preparedness and Response
- 805.2 School Security Personnel

The Board approved the following revision to the Rockwood Area School District policy manual and waived the second reading:

- 325 Dress and Grooming

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District junior high baseball and softball program proposal with the stipulation that each team will consist of a minimum of 12 participants per season.

The Board approved the tentative transportation rates and routes for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the bus and van driver list for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of all paperwork.

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 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Ignite Education Solutions for Title I services at St. Peters Catholic School for the 2021-2022 school year.

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 2021-2022 school year.

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

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 addendum to the contract between the Rockwood Area School District and Pressley Ridge Johnstown for the 2021-2022 school year.

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 2021-2022 school year.

The Board accepted the quote from Health eTools for a three-year contract agreement.

The Board approved the one-year maintenance services agreement with FIT Optimized Solutions for the inspection, calibration, and repairs of the automatic temperature control system.

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

2021-2022 school year. Approval is also granted for student participation in all such career related activities.

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District High School Class Activity proposal.

The Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and the Rockwood Area Education Association for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board voted in favor to authorize a Rockwood student to swim and compete independently with the Somerset Area School District at no cost to the District.

The Board approved the boiler system maintenance agreement renewal with Combustion Service & Equipment Co.

The Board approved a modified schedule for a 12th grade student for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board voted in favor to accept the Grants for Growing grant in the amount of \$1,725.00 from the National FFA Organization.

The Board approved the agreement between the Somerset Area School District and the Rockwood Area School District for emotional support classroom services for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved five paraprofessionals to participate in The Paraeducator Suite through the Appalachia IU08 during the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board approved the proposal for Champion Christian School for the 2021-2022 school year, recalculated as a result of COVID 19.

The Board approved homebound instruction for a 5th grade student.

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

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Pennsylvania State Police - Troop A Somerset.

The Board approved a request for a non-resident tuition student to attend the Rockwood Area School District.

The Board approved the quote from Standfirm Excavating for the restoration of storm pipe on Bridge Street and approved additional costs if deemed necessary to complete the project.

The Board appointed Ashley Baker to the Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Committee.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved the substitute teacher, nurse, instructional aide, and custodian lists for the 2021-2022 school year pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Christy Hay as the Act 48 Chairperson for the 2021-2022 school.

The Board approved Christy Hay as the Induction Chairperson for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board withdrew the discussion and possible action to employ an assistant junior high boys' soccer coach, pending completion of all paperwork, because there were no applicants interested in filling the position.

The Board voted in favor to employ Grace Meyers as a bona-fide volunteer assistant junior high girls' soccer coach pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board accepted the resignation of Jessica Knepper as elementary teacher effective June 19, 2021, as per letter of resignation.

The Board approved the retirement of Karen Miller as a learning support paraprofessional effective August 1, 2021.

The Board approved the retirement of Vernon Shumaker as Maintenance Director effective September 30, 2022.

The Board accepted the resignation of Stacey Baker as a high school special education teacher effective August 5, 2021, as per letter of resignation.

The Board accepted the resignation of Kimberly Oliver as an elementary paraprofessional effective September 24, 2021.

The Board accepted the resignation of Alana Letizia as prom/soph-senior advisor effective at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board accepted the resignation of Kristen Mumau as elementary student council advisor effective at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year.

The Board accepted the resignation of Carissa Shipley as an elementary paraprofessional effective August 25, 2021.

The Board approved Jay Best as an unpaid bona-fide position volunteer pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Kelly Thompson as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer swimming coach for the Rockwood Area School District pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved James B. Harrold as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer varsity girls' soccer coach pending completion of all paperwork.

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

The Board approved Molly Miller as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer varsity girls' soccer coach pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Olivia Latuch as an elementary teacher pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Brooke Kroon as a high school special education teacher pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved the following mentor teachers for the 2021-2022 school year:

Leanna Weimer for Jenna Tressler

Greta Carroll for Logan Seybold

Jim Wagner for Nathan Formica

Jenna Wintersteen for Megan Berkebile

Cassie Ohler for Brooke Kroon

The Board approved Cassie Ohler as the secondary special education curriculum coordinator for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board voted in favor to employ Carey Harper Stivison as a high school special education paraprofessional, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Pauletta Lindsay as an elementary classroom paraprofessional, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Zoey Tunstall as an elementary classroom paraprofessional, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to employ Rebecca Enos as an elementary special education paraprofessional, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved Carter Bower as a mentor teacher for Olivia Latuch for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Board voted in favor to employ Patrick Wheatley as the bona-fide volunteer junior high girls' basketball coach for the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add Jessica Fazenbaker to the district substitute teacher list for the 2021-2022 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved a medical leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) beginning December 20, 2021, through March 21, 2022.

Employee ID #120

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association National Convention -Washington DC – 11/15/21 through 11/22/21 (mixed in-person and hybrid) – Amber Caddy
2. Catalyst Connection Manufacturing Video Contest Training – Johnstown, PA – October/November 2021 – Joe Kush

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Somerset County Scrabble Tournament – Somerset, PA – May 2022 – Beth Miller, Jessica Miller, and approximately 12 students
2. Laurel Caverns – Farmington, PA – 10/6/21 – Becky McKinley, Jenna Sembower, 5th grade learning supports co-teacher, nurse, and 40 students
3. 6th Grade Nutcracker Trip – Pittsburgh, PA – 12/3/21 – Doug Spiri, 6th grade teachers, special education teacher, and 50 students
4. Bike Trip – Rockwood, PA – 10/11/21, 10/18/21 – Nick Buterbaugh, Carlee Glessner, and 160 students
5. Catalyst Connection Video Contest – Location to be determined – October/November 2021 – Joe Kush and 8 students

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Soccer Boosters – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 7/11/21, 8/15/21, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Soccer booster meetings.
2. Rockwood Youth Softball – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – Sundays beginning 9/5/21 through 5/1/22, 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. – Youth softball practices.
3. Kingwood/Rockwood Youth Baseball – Rockwood athletic fields, elementary gymnasium, elementary cafeteria – Saturdays beginning 12/4/21 through 6/25/22, 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.; Mondays & Thursdays beginning 1/3/22 through 6/29/22, 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. (when available) – Little league baseball practices.
4. Rockwood Youth Cheerleading – Rockwood high school gym lobby – 8/26/21, 5:30 P.M – 8:30 P.M. – Fundraiser pick up.
5. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary library – 9/13/21, 10/4/21, 11/1/21, 12/6/21, 1/3/22, 2/7/22, 3/7/22, 4/4/22, 5/2/22, 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. – Monthly meetings.
6. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary playground, athletic fields – 9/24/21, 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Health-A-Thon.
7. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary chorus room – 10/21/21 through 10/29/21, 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Fall Book Fair.
8. Rockwood High School Cheerleading Boosters – Rockwood high school gym lobby – 8/27/21, 8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. – Fundraiser pick up.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity requests:

1. French and Spanish Classes – Cookie Dough Sale – 9/30/21 through 10/15/21 – Raise funds for class activities and trips.
2. Friends of the Library – Fun Pasta Fundraising – September and October 2021 – Raise funds for “Author’s Day”.

Superintendent’s Report:

Mark Bower gave an update on the District’s phone system. The District now has a service agreement with Integrated IT Group that includes Mitel support. At this point the phone system is working properly.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the District is still working to find an athletic trainer. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to find someone to fill this role. We will continue our efforts to see if any other options are available.

Mark Bower showed the Board the designs for the renovations that will be completed in the restrooms and locker rooms.

Mark Bower discussed the replacement of air handlers. A recommendation was made to possibly complete this project in the spring due to the high cost.

Mark Bower was contacted by CYS about the need for foster families. CYS plans to contact local Booster groups to help with advertising this need. They also asked if the District would allow them to distribute flyers to send home to families. The Board was supportive of the request.

Mark Bower demonstrated the new interactive tv that was recently installed in the Administrative Board Room. The addition of this equipment, and it’s many features, will be very beneficial when holding meetings.

Irvin Kimmel read a letter from Harbaugh Trucking, Inc. The letter was to inform the District about a 40% rate increase. The increase is due to their main landfill being bought by another waste management company. Unfortunately, this has caused a significant increase in their business operations. They have been forced to increase their rates to offset the additional cost.

Upon discussion, the Board voted to not participate in vaccination clinics and COVID testing held on school premises.

Misty Demchak gave an update regarding WestPAC and the Inter-County Conference (ICC). There are no changes being made for the Rockwood Area School District athletic program at this time. The District will continue to monitor the situation to determine how we will proceed.

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