



Rocket Express

September 17, 2024

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 8/20/2024 and the regular meeting on 8/20/2024 were approved.

The agenda and agenda items were approved.

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

Board Recognition:

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

Alessandra F. Vough
Caydon A. Frantz
Shawn W. Benner
Leah E. Foreman
Autumn E. Mowry
Elika S. Pletcher
Sadee L. Tinkey

Public Comment:

Leah Hunt, a recent graduate of the Rockwood Area School District and current college student, introduced herself to the Board. She explained that she was in attendance to observe a Board meeting as part of a requirement for her student teaching program.

Old Business:

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

- 146.1 Trauma-Informed Approach
- 218 Student Discipline
 - 218.1 Weapons
 - 218.2 Terroristic Threats
- 222 Tobacco and Vaping Products
- 227 Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia
- 323 Tobacco and Vaping Products
- 351 Drug and Substance Abuse; Post-Offer Pre-Employment and Post-Employment Drug and Alcohol Testing
- 707 Use of School Facilities
- 801 Public Records

- 803 School Calendar
- 805 Emergency Preparedness and Response
- 805.1 Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies
- 805.2 School Security Personnel
- 806 Child Abuse
- 904 Public Attendance at School Events
- 909 Municipal Government Relations

Upon the discussion and possible action to approve Phase 1 of a guaranteed energy savings project for the repair and replacement of electrical infrastructure with Site Logic and a subcontractor, yet to be determined, not to exceed \$1,000,000.00, the Board approved to publish the public notice of a vote on a Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement with SitelogIQ Energy Services Inc. at the October 15, 2024, board meeting. The notice shall be released no later than October 5, 2024.

New Business:

The Board approved the finalized bus and van driver lists for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all required paperwork.

The Board approved the final transportation rates and routes for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board approved the purchase of one seat in the Transition Classroom as part of the Ignite Education Solutions Transition Program for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$11,846.44 per seat.

The Cooperative Agreement between Allegany College of Maryland and Rockwood Area School District for the 2024-2025 school year was approved by the Board.

The Board approved the 2024-2025 Rockwood Area School District Elementary School Wide Title I Plan, as required by the Department of Federal Programs.

The Cooperative Sponsorship of Sport between the Meyersdale Area School District and Rockwood Area School District for Junior High and Varsity Girls Wrestling for the 2024-2025 school year was approved by the Board.

The Board approved the FBLA schedule of events for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board approved the chorus schedule of events for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board approved the band schedule of events for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board approved the tentative high school speech team schedule of events for the 2024-2025 school year.

Committee Reports:

The Board voted in favor to add Joanie Pritts to the substitute administrative assistant/secretary list for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add David Breen to the substitute teacher (Type 06) list for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add Sharidan (Sanders) Shivler to the substitute teacher (Type 06) list for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board voted in favor to add Amanda Mackanos to the substitute nurse list for the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board approved 31.5 additional summer hours for Juliann Picklo to complete the 2023-2024 Rockwood Rocket yearbook.

The Board approved Joanna King as an assistant musical coach effective the 2024-2025 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

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

Hailey Miller

Kaitlyn Miller

Kolbi Martz

The Board approved Carissa Pletcher as an unpaid bona-fide volunteer volleyball coach, pending completion of all paperwork.

The Board accepted the resignation of Greg King as the junior varsity rifle coach and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the resignation of Katie Lambert as the junior high girls' basketball head coach and to advertise for the position.

The Board accepted the resignation of Morgan Beckner as the junior high girls' basketball assistant coach and to advertise for the position.

The Board approved Adam Sembower as a bona-fide volunteer varsity baseball head coach, pending completion of all paperwork. The stipend for this position is waived, as Mr. Sembower is an active Board member. Funds allocated for this position will be reassigned to a designated program.

The Board approved a student to run cross country independently at the cost of \$250.00 to the district.

Jenna Wintersteen was approved by the Board as a mentor teacher for Lauren Svonavec for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board voted in favor to increase the hourly rate for the School Police Officer by 5% for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board voted in favor to increase the hourly rate for Student Services Support Specialists by 5% for the 2024-2025 school year.

The proposal for managing special education supervisor responsibilities for the 2024-2025 school year, including one-time stipends, was approved by the Board.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. PHEAA – Johnstown, PA – 9/20/24 – PJ Opfar.
2. Fall Gifted Network Meeting IU8 – Altoona, PA – 11/21/24 - Christy Hay, Sarah Pletcher.
3. Spring Gifted Network Meeting IU8 – Altoona, PA – 3/19/25 – Christy Hay, Sarah Pletcher.
4. SAP Networking Day – Somerset, PA – 10/22/24 – Doug Spiri, Becky Marietta, PJ Opfar, Brandi Wedge, Jenna Sembower, Heather Hay, Beth Miller, Susan Slope.
5. IEPWriter Fall Focus – Greensburg, PA – 10/2/24 – Cindy Miller, Cassie Wright, Jenna Wintersteen.

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Somerset County Scrabble Tournament – Somerset, PA – 5/16/25 – Beth Miller, Jessica Miller, Sarah Pletcher and 20 students.
2. International Conservation Center – Fairhope, PA – 5/8/25 – Christy Hay and 8 students.
3. Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park (k) – Mill Run, PA – 5/2/25 – Olivia Eller, Jennifer Werner, Josh Bowlin, Julie Johnson, Mindy Singo, Nicole Mcklveen and 46 students.
4. Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium (1st) – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/19/25 – Susan Slope, Jaime Gross, Heather Tims, Jillian Halverson and 40 students.
5. Trains (2nd) – Gallitzin, PA and Meyersdale, PA – Spring 2025 – Cassandra Conn, Sarah Hay, Kristie Snyder, Carla Sager, Susan Hay, Learning Support Teacher and 46 students.
6. STEM Deep Creek Discovery Center (3rd) – Swanton, MD – 10/10/24 – Ben Baker, Valerie Friedline, Beth Mapes and 28 students.
7. Somerset Historical Center (3rd) – Somerset, PA – 5/14/25 – Valerie Friedline, Beth Mapes and 29 students.
8. Gateway Clipper and Acrisure Stadium (4th) – Pittsburgh, PA – May 2025 – Mindy Sarver, Shanna Wilson and 36 students.
9. SCTC (5th) – Somerset, PA – Date TBD – Jenna Sembower, Melissa Gndlesperger, Lauren Svonavec, Brandi Wedge and 62 students.
10. Richland Theaters – Johnstown, PA – 10/01/24 – Christy Hay, Jenna Sembower, Melissa Gindlesperger and 43 students.
11. Young People’s Concert – Johnstown, PA – 11/19/24 – Kari Hostetter and 40 students.
12. Laurel Hill Maple Harvest Program (6th) – Somerset, PA – March 2025 – Elyse Cordaro, Kristen Mumau and 38 students.
13. Washington, D.C. (6th) – Washington, D.C. – 5/15/25 – Elyse Cordaro, Kristen Mumau and 38 students.
14. 6th Grade Picnic – Rockwood, PA – 5/29/25 – Kristen Mumau, Elyse Cordaro and 38 students.
15. Annual Bike Trip – Rockwood, PA – October 2024 – Carlee Glessner, Chandler Enos and students in grades 7-9.
16. SADD Red Ribbon Rally – Somerset, PA – 10/18/24 – Alana Letizia and 5 students.
17. WVU Creativity Academy Jazz Ensemble – Morgantown, WV – 10/29/24 – Kari Hostetter and 32 students.
18. WVU Creativity Academy Percussion Ensemble – Morgantown, WV – 11/4/24 – Kari Hostetter and 33 students.
19. College Fair – Somerset, PA – 11/7/24 – PJ Opfar and 25 students.
20. Concert Choir Musical Trip – Pittsburgh, PA – 11/7/24 – Doug Spiri, Kari Hostetter and 45 students.
21. Chorus Musical – Pittsburgh, PA – 2/27/25 – Doug Spiri, Kari Hostetter and 55 students.
22. Pittsburgh Pirates Incentive Trip – Pittsburgh, PA – Spring 2025 – Andrea Minor and 48 students.

23. Gateway Clipper (French) – Pittsburgh, PA – Spring 2025 – Andrea Minor and 15 students.
24. Gateway Clipper (Spanish) – Pittsburgh, PA – Spring 2025 – Andrea Minor and 40 students.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary library – 9/5/24, 10/3/24, 11/7/24, 1/2/25, 2/6/25, 3/6/25, 4/3/25, 5/1/25; 5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. – Monthly meetings.
2. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood athletic fields – 9/27/24; 7:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Elementary Health-A-Thon.
3. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 10/31/24 – 8:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Family Fun Night Glow Dance set up/decorate and dance.
4. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary gymnasium, chorus room – 10/31/24 through 11/8/24; 8:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. – Fall book fair and set up.
5. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood high school cafeteria – 11/8/24; 12:45 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. – Mrs. Fields fundraiser delivery and pick up.
6. Rockwood Choral Boosters – Rockwood high school chorus room – 9/16/24, 10/21/24, 11/18/24, 12/16/24, 1/20/25, 2/17/25, 3/17/25, 4/21/25, 5/19/25; 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. – Monthly meetings.
7. Wreaths Across America – Rockwood auditorium – 12/14/24; 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M. – To recognize and honor our veterans and first responders for their service.
8. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood athletic fields – 9/11/24; 6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. – Youth football game.
9. Rockwood Soccer Boosters – Rockwood high school library – 9/10/24; 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. – Monthly meeting.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity requests:

1. National Honor Society – Gardners Candies sale – November 2024 – Raise funds for NHS to participate in community service projects.
2. Author Day – school spirit clothing and apparel sale – 9/23/24 through 10/3/24 – Raise funds for Author Day.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board about the successful start of the school year. He also reported that the playground project is nearing completion, with only a few minor tasks remaining. After discussion, the Board reached a consensus to open the playground on September 20, 2024.

Mark Bower, Misty Demchak, Jon Hale, and Nicholas Buterbaugh presented the Board with options for different types and styles of basketball system packages to install on the playground.

Mark Bower advised the Board that the Somerset County Technology Center (SCTC) has invited all board members to attend a dinner at SCTC on September 24, 2024.

Mark Bower held a discussion with the board regarding improvements to the auditorium. There are several lights within the auditorium that are not working properly. The recommendation was made to

purchase and replace the lights now and to postpone the installation of new carpet in this area until a later time.

Misty Demchak recognized and thanked Roni Langley-Burkardt and Shanda Pletcher, student council advisors, for their tremendous efforts in planning and organizing this year's homecoming event. She reviewed the schedule of events planned for the week and reviewed parking arrangements for the day of the event. Homecoming will be held on September 28, 2024.

Nicholas Buterbaugh discussed safety and security measures that have been put into place. All of the high school classrooms have been identified with room numbers and teacher names, as applicable. Speed bumps have been added to the elementary parking lot to slow traffic going into the area.

Nicholas Buterbaugh informed the Board that Rob Harrold of Rockwood Transportation, with the assistance of the district, would like to implement a Transportation Promotion Program. The purpose of the program will be to enhance bus safety in a positive manner and discourage negative behavior. Students will be recognized as "Rider of the Month" for exhibiting positive behavior while being transported to and from school.

Jon Hale advised the Board that the start of the school year in the elementary building has been successful and positive. Student programs, such as "I'm Not Scared; I'm Prepared" are already being scheduled.

Jon Hale, along with the assistance of faculty and staff members, are organizing a student and community event to celebrate the opening of the new playground.

Jon Hale informed the Board that the annual "Trunk or Treat" event will be held on October 31, 2024.

Jordan Svonavec reviewed transportation rates and routes with the Board.

Jordan Svonavec informed the Board that he was notified about a bridge closure on the Mud Pike from September 23 through October 11, 2024. The closure will affect one bus route. The route will run approximately ten minutes later than the regular arrival time to school.

Somerset County Technology Center Updates:

Noah Wareham informed the Board that there have been no major updates to report regarding the Somerset County Technology Center. Adam Sembower announced that he can no longer serve as the district's alternate SCTC representative. Melanie Monticue was appointed to replace Adam Sembower in this position.

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