



Rocket Express

September 19, 2023

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 8/15/2023 and the regular meeting on 8/15/2023 were approved.

The agenda, agenda items, and additional 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:

Thatcher A. Bruening
Joshua L. Stevanus
Izabella R. Livengood
Nellie M. Keller
Elika S. Pletcher
Aaron T. Show

Old Business:

The Board approved the Rockwood Area School District Health and Safety Plan.

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

- 006 Meetings
- 216.1 Supplemental Discipline Records
- 251 Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability

New Business:

The Board voted in favor to reschedule the November 2023 committee meeting and regular meeting of the Rockwood Area Board of School Directors from Tuesday, November 21, 2023, to Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

The Board approved the 2023-2024 Rockwood Area School District Elementary School Wide Title I Plan, as required by the Department of Federal Programs.

The Board approved the finalized bus and van driver lists for the 2023-2024 school year, pending completion of all required paperwork.

The Board approved the final transportation rates and routes for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the FFA schedule of events for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the tentative high school speech team schedule of events for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the FBLA schedule of events for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the chorus schedule of events for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved the band schedule of events for the 2023-2024 school year.

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 23, 2023, through June 6, 2024, for services as needed.

The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding/Transitional Agreement between the Rockwood Area School District and Community Action Partnership, Tableland for the 2023-2024 school year, as required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The Board accepted the donation of equipment from Rockwood Manufacturing – ASSA ABLOY for the districts' Engineering and Technology classroom.

The Board approved the Boiler Service Agreement with Combustion Service & Equipment Co. in the amount of \$3,898.00, for the period of September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024.

The Board approved the Field Placement Affiliation Agreement between Grand Canyon University and Rockwood Area School District beginning September 6, 2023, through September 6, 2026.

The Board approved the Affiliation Agreement between Pennsylvania Western University and Rockwood Area School District for an Academic Experience Site.

The Board approved the high school (grades 7-12) art proposals for student trips and in-class activities.

On the discussion and possible action regarding preschool classrooms in the Rockwood Area School District during the 2023-2024 school year, the motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Committee Reports:

The Board approved the resignation of Ashley King as elementary school security receptionist effective August 31, 2023.

The Board voted in favor to employ Elisha Fazenbaker as the elementary school security receptionist beginning September 5, 2023.

The Board approved Jaime Gross as a mentor teacher for Jessica Fazenbaker for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved Andrea Minor as the French Honor Society advisor effective the 2023-2024 school year.

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) from 12/22/23 through 4/3/24. Employee ID #84

The Board approved Kelly Atchison as the bona-fide volunteer junior varsity volleyball coach.

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

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

Courtney Suter
Nicole Little
Jenna Sanner
Angela Romesberg
Marylee Roe
Bailey Mohr
Sarah Lambert

The Board accepted the retirement of Susan Tressler as elementary instructional aide effective December 31, 2023, and approved her as a substitute instructional aide effective January 2, 2024.

The Board approved nine additional summer hours for Juliann Picklo to complete the 2022-2023 Rockwood Rocket yearbook, at a rate of \$20.00 per hour.

The Board approved a leave of absence for the following employee (referenced by employee identification number) from 12/13/23 through 1/19/24. Employee ID #52.

The Board approved professional staff be compensated at the rate of \$40.00 per hour for after school tutoring, using funds provided through the REAP grant.

Conference Requests:

The Board approved the following conference requests:

1. IU8 Math Networking Meetings – Johnstown, PA – 10/12/23, 12/12/23, 3/12/24, 4/22/24 – Alana Letizia, Katie Lambert.
2. Mandatory CHS Annual in Person Meeting – Pittsburgh, PA – 9/28/23 – Greg King.

3. PHEAA Workshop – Johnstown, PA – 9/15/23 – PJ Opfar.
4. Intro to 3D Science – Duncansville, PA – 10/12/23 – Misty Thompson, Leanna Weimer.
5. Jostens New Advisor Workshop – Pittsburgh, PA – 9/21/23 – Juliann Picklo.

Field Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following field trip requests:

1. Kindergarten Yogi Bear Park – Mill Run, PA – 5/3/24 – Olivia Eller, Josh Bowlin, Jennifer Werner, Julie Johnson and 35 students.
2. Kindergarten Graduation – Rockwood, PA – 5/30/24 – Jon Hale, Josh Bowlin, Olivia Eller and 35 students.
3. Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium (1st grade) – Pittsburgh, PA – 5/20/24 – Susan Slope, Jaime Gross, Kristi Snyder, Sue Tressler and 45 students.
4. 2nd Grade Train Trip – Gallitzin, PA & Meyersdale, PA – 4/26/24 – Cassandra Conn, Tammy Meyers, Sarah Hay, Linda Carolus and 34 students.
5. Deep Creek Nature Center (3rd grade) – Swanton, MD – 10/12/23 - Ben Baker, Beth Mapes, Valerie Friedline and 36 students.
6. Somerset Historical Center (3rd grade) – Somerset, PA – 5/8/24 – Valerie Friedline, Beth Mapes, Susan Hay, Carla Harrold and 36 students.
7. Pittsburgh Tour/Acrisure Stadium (4th grade) – Pittsburgh, PA – May 2024 – Mindy Sarver, Shanna Wilson, Carter Bower, Hanna Goller and 56 students.
8. 5th Grade SCTC Tour – Somerset, PA – March 2024 – Brandi Wedge, Jenna Sembower, Melissa Gindlesperger, Faith Hemminger and 40 students.
9. 5th Grade Laurel Caverns – Farmington, PA – 10/12/23 – Melissa Gindlesperger, Jenna Sembower, Learning Support Teacher and 40 students.
10. Nutcracker performance (6th grade) – Pittsburgh, PA – 12/8/23 – Doug Spiri, 6th grade teachers, special education teacher and 60 students.
11. Maple Syrup Program (6th grade) – Laurel Hill State Park, PA – 3/8/24 – Elyse Cordaro, Kristen Mumau and 48 students.
12. 6th Grade Washington D.C. Trip – Washington, D.C. – 5/16/24 – Elyse Cordaro, Kristen Mumau, Faith Hemminger and 48 students.
13. 6th Grade Picnic – Rockwood, PA – 5/30/24 – Elyse Cordaro, Kristen Mumau and 48 students.
14. Somerset Scrabble Tournament – Somerset, PA – 5/3/24 – Beth Miller, Jessica Miller, Sarah Pletcher and 20 students.
15. Young People’s Concert – Johnstown, PA – 11/14/23 – Kari Hostetter and 40 students.
16. PA Capitol Building – Harrisburg, PA – Spring 2024 – Christy Hay and 10 students.
17. Red Ribbon Rally – Somerset, PA – 10/20/23 – Alana Letizia and 5 students.
18. Pittsburgh Musical Theater – Pittsburgh, PA – 11/2/23 – Doug Spiri, Kari Hostetter and 40 students.
19. 9th Grade Tour of SCTC – Somerset, PA – 9/14/23 – PJ Opfar, Andrea Minor and 45 students.
20. Health & PE Fall Bike Trip – Rockwood/Garrett, PA – 10/2/23, 10/4/23, 10/6/23, 10/11/23 – Carlee Glessner, Chandler Enos and 50-70 students.
21. Transition Fair – Somerset, PA – 10/12/23 – Cassie Wright, spec. ed. staff and 26 students.

Use of School Facility Requests:

The Board approved the following use of school facility requests:

1. Rockwood Youth Football – Rockwood athletic fields – 8/21/23, 8/24/23; 6:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. – Pictures.
2. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary parking lot (gymnasium in case of inclement weather) – 10/20/23; 4:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Family Fun Night.
3. Rockwood Choral Boosters – Rockwood high school chorus room – 9/19/23, 10/17/23, 11/14/23, 12/19/23, 1/16/24, 2/20/24, 3/19/24, 4/16/24, 5/21/24; 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. – Monthly Meetings.
4. Orlando Friends and Family Event – Rockwood athletic fields – 10/7/23; 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Activities for family reunion.

Club & Class Activity Requests:

The Board approved the following club & class activity requests:

1. Elementary Library/Playground – Read-a-thon – 11/1/23 – 11/10/23 – Raise funds for author day and playground supplies.
2. Band – Sarris Chocolate Bars Sale - 2/1/24 – 2/29/24 – Raise funds for band concerts, activities, music.

Superintendent's Report:

Mark Bower informed the Board that the district had a great start to the school year. The construction from the restroom and locker room alterations project is nearly complete, and the custodial/maintenance staff did a fantastic job cleaning and preparing the building for the start of the year, especially those areas affected by the project.

Mark Bower advised the Board of some minor transportation issues the district has been dealing with; however, each situation is being managed.

Mark Bower recognized the Class of 1965 for their generosity in donating instruments and funds to the district's band program.

Mark Bower informed the Board that Ed Clay contacted a company for a quote to replace the district's chair lift.

Mark Bower reminded the Board they have all been invited to attend the SCTC All-Board Dinner and Tour.

Misty Demchak reviewed activities associated with the annual homecoming event, which will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2023. The powderpuff game will take place on Friday, September 22nd.

Misty Demchak gave an update on the World of Learning (WOL) program. The district continues to work through some minor issues; however, the students are adjusting well to the program. Mrs. Jill Morgan has been doing a fantastic job teaching the French expos.

Misty Demchak informed the Board that yearbooks have been received and will be distributed to students within the next few days.

Misty Demchak advised the Board that Megan Snell, district photographer, and Ms. Juliann Picklo have been working together to take photos of all district related events, including athletic competitions.

Nicholas Buterbaugh discussed school safety and security. He recently met with other safety coordinators and found our district to be standing in a good place with the safety and security procedures the district has in place.

Nicholas Buterbaugh continues to correspond and work with coaches and students in regards to athletics. He has been monitoring transportation concerns related to extracurricular activities and events.

Jon Hale informed the Board that the beginning of the school year for elementary students had a great start, and events that have already occurred, such as grandparents' day, were well attended.

Jon Hale advised the Board that many programs and assessments have been started in the elementary, a few include: MTSS/IST meetings, Guided Reading, DIBELS 8 assessments, and DRA assessments.

Jon Hale informed the Board that fundraisers for the playground renovation project have begun. He expects to receive a quote for the project by mid-October and is also awaiting information regarding an engineering proposal for the project.

Jon Hale advised the Board that bus safety and behavior lessons were completed on September 18th. These lessons focused on student safety around the bus and general bus rules. Activity packets were sent home with students.

Mark Bower recognized Megan Hetrick for her efforts and commitment in supporting the district while she is on maternity leave.

Jordan Svonavec reviewed purchases made through the government surplus program. He was able to purchase discounted items for the district, such as instruments for the band program and furniture.

Jordan Svonavec discussed the reasoning behind parents receiving P-EBT cards. Any student who was eligible for free or reduced-price school meals and enrolled into May 2023 with a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program was eligible to receive a summer 2023 P-EBT benefit. Jordan plans to provide clarification by sharing this information with parents through a SchoolMessenger announcement.

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