



# **Rocket Express**

## **September 17, 2013**

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, September 17, 2013. The minutes of the committee meeting on 8/20/13 and the regular meeting on 8/20/13 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:

**Christopher Buxton**  
**Joseph O'Brien**  
**Sydney Beam**  
**Nicholas Papson**  
**Kayla Phillippi**  
**Kayla Rugg**

Public Comment:

Mr. Dice thanked the Board for allowing several students to run cross country independently with the Somerset Area School District.

Old Business:

The board approved the second and final reading of policy number 805.1 (Relations with Law Enforcement Agencies) of the Rockwood Area School District policy manual.

The final transportation rates and routes for the 2013-2014 school year were approved.

New Business:

The board discussed the approval of a trip to Mexico for the Spanish club in May or June 2014 at no cost to the district.

Andrea Minor presented a trip itinerary to the Board showing the places to be visited and the approximate cost per student for the trip. The estimate may change due to extra excursions and shopping opportunities. The two dates being considered are June 14<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup>. Upon discussion, the board approved a trip to Mexico for the Spanish club from May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The board discussed the transportation contracts that will expire on June 30, 2014. The Board expressed their interest in negotiating with a single contractor for all bus and van routes including extra-curricular contracts. The Board also expressed the importance of including a camera system and a communication system on all of the routes.

The board authorized Brian Coughenour to meet with Rockwood Transportation in the near future to discuss the option of a single contractor for the district.

The board authorized Catherine Fischer to attend the Somerset County Counselor's Association meetings for the 2013-2014 school year.

Homebound Instruction was approved for a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student.

The following individuals were added to the district substitute list, pending completion of all paperwork:

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Emily Carver</i>         | <i>Elementary Education</i> |
| <i>Brady Rex</i>            | <i>Type 06</i>              |
| <i>Charlotte Carrabotta</i> | <i>Elementary Education</i> |

Charles Smith was added to the district substitute custodial list, pending completion of all paperwork.

A maternity leave was approved for Mary Jane Sauder in December for approximately 8 weeks.

The board approved a salary for Courtney Bowman for both JV and Varsity Volleyball.

Jessica Knepper, was approved as an unpaid assistant for junior high volleyball, Tammy Keating as an unpaid assistant for varsity volleyball, and Kelsey Pletcher as an unpaid assistant for volleyball, pending completion of all paperwork.

John Emert and Brian Phillippi were approved as unpaid assistants for junior high football, pending completion of all paperwork.

The following revised football salaries for the 2013-2014 school year were approved, pending completion of all required paperwork and the turning in of all required equipment within 30 days from the date of this meeting:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Julian Sleasman</b> | <b>Jr. High Football Starting Salary</b> |
| <b>Chad Lytle</b>      | <b>1/3 junior varsity salary</b>         |
|                        | <b>1/2 junior high assistant salary</b>  |
| <b>Fran Brancato</b>   | <b>1/3 varsity salary</b>                |
|                        | <b>1/2 junior high assistant salary</b>  |
| <b>Joe Brown</b>       | <b>1/3 varsity salary</b>                |
| <b>Nathan Miller</b>   | <b>1/3 varsity salary</b>                |
| <b>Greg Pruett</b>     | <b>1/3 varsity salary</b>                |

A medical leave of absence was approved for Randy Berkey from 11/25/13 through 2/25/14.

The revised Memorandum of Understanding with the Rockwood Education Association was approved.

Kristy Kasserma and Devon Schrock were approved as co-head speech/forensic coaches for the 2013-2014 school year, pending completion of all paperwork.

The following field trip requests were approved:

1. Camp Alleghany – 5/29/14 – Kindergarten class
2. Pittsburgh Zoo – 5/16/14 or 5/23/14 – First grade
3. Laurel Caverns – 5/9/14 – Second grade
4. Johnstown Children’s Museum and Incline Plane – 5/2/14 – Third grade
5. Paul Bunyan Sugar Camp – March or April 2014 – Third grade
6. Somerset Historical Center – May 2014 – Fourth grade
7. Gettysburg Battlefield – 5/1/14 – Fifth grade
8. Washington, DC – 5/20/14 – Sixth grade
9. Benedum Center – 12/6/13 – Music
10. Somerset County Scrabble Tournament – 5/2/14 – any qualifying students
11. Seven Springs – 4 days, January through March – Elementary Ski Club
12. Reading Competition – 11/21/13 – 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades
13. Reading Competition – April 2014 – 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades
14. Lancaster County/Strasburg Railroad – 4/1/14 – Gifted class
15. Hayloft- 6/4/14 – Kindergarten graduation
16. 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade - Bike Trail – 10/18/13 through 10/25/13, 8:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

The following use of school facility requests were approved:

1. PA Game Commission – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 10/8/13, 3:30 – 7:00 PM; 10/9/13, 3:30 – 7:00 PM – Hunter/trapper education classes.
2. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary gymnasium, chorus room – 10/18/13 – 6:00 – 8:00 PM – Fall family fun night.
3. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary chorus room – 10/18/13 through 10/25/13, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM – Book fair.
4. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary gymnasium, chorus room – 2/28/14 – 6:00 – 8:00 PM – Spring family fun night.
5. Rockwood PTO – Rockwood elementary chorus room – 2/28/14, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM; 3/7/14, 8:30 – 3:00 PM – Book fair.
6. Drop-in Volleyball – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – September 2013 through May 2014, Thursday evenings, 7:00 – 10:00 PM – Recreational volleyball.
7. Adult Farmer – Rockwood high school room 211 – 11/7/13, 11/14/13, 11/21/13, every Thursday – January through March 2013, 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM – Adult farmer classes and updates on agriculture skills.

The following club & class activity request was **not** approved:

1. Engineering & Technology Club – Teen Quest – 10/5/13 – raise funds for field trip.

General Board Discussion:

Brian Coughenour was authorized to vote for the following candidates for the PSBA officer elections:

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Mark Miller</b>     | <b>President</b>       |
| <b>Charles Ballard</b> | <b>Vice-President</b>  |
| <b>Otto Voit III</b>   | <b>Treasurer</b>       |
| <b>Kathy Swope</b>     | <b>At-Large Member</b> |

Superintendent Report:

Mark Bower discussed the Success in Somerset County Grant that was recently received through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. This grant was written by Sharon Clapper and was modeled after the program held in Rockwood last year.

The board authorized Mark Bower to pursue the staff recognition dinner.

Mark Bower informed the Board that he has been nominated to serve on the state Board of directors for PARSS. This will consist of 4 or 5 meetings per year in State College. The Board gave their approval for Mr. Bower to serve on the Board.

The Board discussed the future of the football program at Rockwood. Mark Bower provided 3 options for the Board to consider. These options included ending the program, trying to rebuild the program by playing Maryland and West Virginia teams as in the past, or pursuing a coop with another school. The Board would like to continue the junior high program if possible and authorized Mark Bower to pursue a coop agreement for junior varsity and varsity.

The board voted to place the consideration to purchase a sound system for the athletic field on the next agenda.

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