



Rocket Express

October 18, 2010

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors met in regular session on Monday, October 18, 2010. The minutes of the committee meeting on 9/20/10 and the regular meeting on 9/20/10 were approved. The agenda, agenda items, and additional agenda items were approved.

The financial and treasurer reports, bills, and budgetary transfers were approved as presented.

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

Julie Walker
Emily Barchey
Damon Mort
Kathleen Miller
Elle Enos
Justin Lasure

Public Comment:

John Kreger addressed the Board on the district using Capital Tax to collect the earned income tax prior to January 1, 2012. Brian Coughenour said that he would not recommend leaving the local office until the deadline, and several Board members expressed their agreement.

Old Business:

The final transportation rates for the 2010-2011 school year were approved.

The board approved the second and final reading of policy 620 (Fund Balance) of the Rockwood Area School District.

The board voted in favor of amending policy number 328 (Compensation Plan) of the Rockwood Area School District to include the school psychologist.

New Business:

The board authorized the administration to submit the annual financial report by the October 29, 2010 deadline and present the report for final approval at the November 15, 2010 meeting.

The board approved the contract entitled "Agreement for Purchase of Services of School Psychologist," for the providing of School Psychologist Services to the Turkeyfoot Valley Area School by the Rockwood Area School District, as presented by the Superintendent to the Board at this meeting, and that the appropriate officers of the Board be and hereby are authorized to execute said contract with the understanding that the execution thereof by any two officers of this Board shall conclusively establish that said contract is the contract approved and agreed to by the adoption of this motion.

Homebound instruction for an 8th grade student was approved.

The board discussed the drawings and the bleacher support design. Upon discussion, the board voted to authorize Mark Bower to write a letter to Somerset Planning in regards to the district's dissatisfaction with the original drawings for the installation of the bleachers. A draft copy will be sent out in Board briefs for review prior to the submission to the company.

The board approved the offer of \$10.00 for the purchase of the old ash hoist, to scrap the old cafeteria oven, and to remove other scrap on the grounds as needed.

Committee Reports:

The board voted to employ Steve Barto as the baseball coach for the 2010-2011 school year, contingent upon the fielding of a team for the season.

The following individual was added to the district substitute list, pending completion of all paperwork:

Jill Zborovancik

Type 06 Emergency

The board approved a Family Medical Leave for Tricia Juran from approximately 11/5/10 through 1/3/11.

The board voted in the affirmative that the Rockwood Area School District employ Wendy Westwood as a School Psychologist at an initial annual compensation of \$52,000.00, for the 2010-2011 fiscal school year, and that said employment be for a 10-month year of 211 days, with five (5) vacation days, four (4) personal days and 11 sick days, and with health insurance and other benefits and terms and conditions of employment to be as fixed by the Compensation Plan of the District with respect to a School Psychologist as adopted and from time to time amended by the Board of School Directors of the Rockwood Area School District. If, because of the date of hire, School Psychologist does not work a full 211-day term during the 2010-2011 school year, salary and benefits shall be appropriately prorated. This employment shall not, however, be effective until both the Rockwood Area School District and the Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District shall have approved and executed the contract entitled "Agreement for Purchase of Service of School Psychologist" whereby the Turkeyfoot Valley Area School District will purchase certain School Psychologist Services from the Rockwood Area School District and pay the Rockwood Area School District therefore on the terms specified in said contract.

The board approved the superintendent's evaluation form, with the form to be distributed to Board members in March, returned to the committee for review by the April meeting, and to review the evaluation with the superintendent in May.

The board approved the job description for the school psychologist.

The board amended the Act 93 agreement to include the new school psychologist.

Kaitlyn Raszewski was approved as a substitute school nurse, pending completion of all paperwork.

The board approved the following support staff performance evaluations and salary adjustments:

Support staff annual salary increases will be determined by the Board each year at the June meeting. The Board reserves the right to adjust salary increases annually using either a percentage or fixed dollar increase. The base salary increase will be adjusted according to the support staff member's annual performance evaluation and the following respective methods.

PERCENTAGE SALARY INCREASE

For each area that an employee receives an "exemplary" rating, the percentage will increase by 0.5%, to a maximum of 5%. For each area that an employee receives a "needs improvement" rating, the percentage will decrease by 0.5%, to a minimum of 0%. When an employee receives an "unsatisfactory" rating, the employee will receive no increase in salary, regardless of the number of "needs improvement" or "exemplary" ratings.

FIXED DOLLAR SALARY INCREASE

For each area that an employee receives an "exemplary" rating, the percentage will increase by \$50.00, to a maximum of \$200.00 increase in the base salary increase. For each area that an employee receives a "needs improvement" rating, the percentage will decrease by \$50.00, to a minimum of no salary increase. When an employee receives an "unsatisfactory" rating, the employee will receive no increase in salary, regardless of the number of "needs improvement" or "exemplary" ratings.

The board discussed the elimination of the third shift custodian during certain times of the year. Upon discussion of the efficiency of using the third shift person on other shifts at various times throughout the year, Mark Bower made the suggestion to meet with Vernon Shumaker and report back to the Board on this issue at a later date.

The following conference requests were presented:

1. Conference for Photoshop Users – Altoona, Pa. – 11/17/10 – Pat Weston
2. College in High School Update Meeting – Pittsburgh, Pa. – 11/5/10 – Greg King
3. Sustainable Energy Workshop – Altoona, Pa. – 10/27/10 – Jack Illar
4. SAP Training – Everett, Pa. – 11/18/10 – Catherine Fischer, Amanda Custer, Jay Best

Conference request number 1 died for the lack of a motion.

Conference requests #2 through #4 were approved.

The following field trip requests were presented to the Board for consideration:

1. Seven Springs Mountain Resort – Champion, Pa. – 1/6/11, 1/20/11, 2/3/11, 2/17/11 – Jon Hale, Devin Schrock, Catherine Fischer and 15-30 students – no cost to district (paid by students) - **approved**
2. Johnstown Children's Museum and Incline Plane – Johnstown, Pa. – 5/10/11 – Denise Miller, Mindy Sarver and 42 students – no cost to district (paid by the Educational Opportunity Grant) - **approved**.
3. Washington D.C Trip – Washington, D.C – 5/19/11 – Ben Baker, Jack Illar, Devin Schrock and 70 students – no cost to district (paid through the 6th grade account) - **approved**.
4. Mountain Playhouse, Somerset Giant Eagle – Jennerstown, Somerset, Pa. – 5/6/11 – Susan Slope, Carter Bower, Heidi Johnson and 65 students – no cost to district (paid by parents and PTO) - **approved**.
5. Allegheny College of Maryland – Somerset, Pa. – April or May 2011 – Catherine Fischer and the 11th grade class – no cost to district (paid by ACM) - **approved**.

6. FBLA Region 17 Leadership Conference – Johnstown, Pa. – 1/7/11 – Amber Walker and 28 students – no cost to district (paid by FBLA) - **approved.**
7. 10th Annual Students in Free Enterprise Business Day – Loretto, Pa. – Amber Walker and 28 students – no cost to district (paid by FBLA and students) - **approved.**
8. Mallard House and Martin’s Personal Care Home – Rockwood, Pa. – 12/17/10 – Andrea Minor, Farrah Thompson and 36 students – no cost to district - **approved.**
9. Gateway Clipper Spanish Night Cruise – Pittsburgh, Pa. – May 2011 – Andrea Minor and 39 students – no cost to district (paid by Spanish club) - **approved.**
10. PNC Park – Pittsburgh, Pa. – May 2011 – Andrea Minor, Farrah Thompson and 31 students – no cost to district (paid by Spanish and French clubs) - **approved.**
11. Region 17 Leadership Workshop – Somerset, Pa. – 11/9/10 – Amber Walker and 30 students – no cost to district (paid by FBLA) - **approved.**
12. Soldiers and Sailors Auditorium and Rey Azteca – Pittsburgh, Pa. – 11/18/10 – Andrea Minor and 20 students – no cost to district (paid by Spanish club) - **approved.**
13. Rey Azteca – Somerset, Pa. – April 2011 – Andrea Minor and 15 students – no cost to district (paid by Spanish club) - **approved.**
14. Justo Concert and Rey Azteca – Meyersdale and Somerset, Pa. – November 2010 – Andrea Minor and 30 students – no cost to district (paid by Spanish club) - **approved.**
15. Au Petit Paris French Restaurant – Frostburg, MD – 11/12/10 – Farrah Thompson and 35 students – no cost to district (paid by French club) - **approved.**
16. Gateway Clipper French Language cruise – Pittsburgh, Pa. – May 2011 – Farrah Thompson and French students – no cost to district (paid by French club) - **approved.**
17. Six Flags America – Woodmore, MD – May 2011 – Doug Spiri and 40 students – no cost to district (paid by Marching Band boosters and parents) - **approved.**
18. Pa. Winter Special – Hidden Valley Resort – 2/22/11 – Kurt Woolslayer and 40 students – no cost to district (paid by high school ski club) - **approved.**
19. Science Center and Snow Shoe Ski Resort – Greenbank, WV – 12/17/10 through 12/19/10 – Kurt Woolslayer and 40 students – no cost to district (paid by high school ski club) - **approved.**
20. Seven Springs Resort – Champion, Pa. – 1/6/11, 1/20/11, 2/3/11, 2/17/11, 3/1/11, 3/17/11 – Kurt Woolslayer and 60 students – no cost to district (paid by high school ski club) - **approved.**
21. Pasquerilla Center, Flood Museum, Heritage Center – Johnstown, Pa. – 2/9/11 – Ben Baker, Jack Illar, Devin Schrock, and 70 students - **approved**
22. Johnstown Symphony – Johnstown, Pa. – April 2011 – Doug Spiri and 54 students - **approved**
23. Fall Reading Competition – Altoona, Pa. – date to be announced – Deb Phillippi, Devin Schrock, and 90 students - **approved**
24. Spring Reading Competition – Meyersdale, Pa. – 4/14/11 – Devin Schrock and 70 students – **approved.**
25. The Hayloft (kindergarten graduation) – Rockwood, Pa. – 6/2/11 – Jon Hale, Josh Bowlin, Tammy Minnick, Jamie Gross, Cathy Phillippi and 70 students - **approved**
26. Holocaust Museum – Washington, D.C. – 5/19/11 – Jennifer Knepper and 1 student (riding the sixth grade bus) - **approved**
27. District 6 Elementary Songfest – Richland, Pa. – 5/13/11 – Doug Spiri and 4 students - **approved**
28. Benedum Center – Pittsburgh, Pa. – 12/10/10 – Doug Spiri and 69 students – **not approved**
29. Somerset County Scrabble Tournament – Somerset, Pa. – 4/29/11 – Janet Dotson, Beth Miller and 20 students - **approved**
30. Laurel Caverns – Farmington, Pa. – 5/20/11 – Jenna Sembower, Jessica Knepper, Tricia Juran, and 60 students – **not approved**
31. Laurel Hill State Park – Somerset, Pa. – 5/20/11 – Denise Miller, Mindy Sarver and 40 students - **approved**
32. Somerset Historical Center – Somerset, Pa. – May 2011 – Dianne Milyak, Becky McKinley, Christy Hay and 70 students - **approved**
33. Carnegie Science Center – Pittsburgh, Pa. – April 2011 – Kirby Barclay, Tom Jones, Deb Phillippi and 56 students - **approved**
34. Laurel Arts Art Seeds – Somerset, Pa. – 11/2/10, 11/4/10 – Pat Weston and 6 students - **approved**

35. Try Math A Lot Problem Solving Tournament – Johnstown, Pa. – 5/4/11 – April Sayler and 16 students - **approved**
36. Teens Talk/High School Highlight banquet and workshop – Somerset, Pa. – May 2011 – Nicole Hetrick and 2 students - **approved**
37. Summers Best Outdoor Classroom – Davidsville, Pa. – May 2011 – Kurt Woolslayer and 40 students - **approved**
38. PSC Capstone Seminar – Morgantown, WV – 5/22/11 through 5/24/11 – Kurt Woolslayer and 20 students - **approved**
39. County Quiz Team Competition – Meyersdale, Pa. – April 2011 – Sarah Pletcher and 12 students - **approved**
40. Regional Math counts competition – Johnstown, Pa. – February 2011 – Sarah Pletcher and 6 students - **approved**
41. SciTech Days – Pittsburgh, Pa. – 3/10/11 – Sarah Pletcher and 20 students - **approved**
42. St. Francis University Math Day – Loretto, Pa. – March 2011 – Sarah Pletcher and 15 students - **approved**
43. SCMEA County Chorus Festival – Davidsville, Pa. – 11/22/10 through 11/23/10 – James Rudisill and 16 students - **approved**
44. District 6 Chorus Festival – Berlin, Pa. – 1/12/11 through 1/15/11 – James Rudisill and 6 students - **approved**
45. Region III Chorus Festival – Huntington, Pa. – 2/23/11 through 2/26/11 – James Rudisill and 4 students - **approved**
46. State Chorus Festival – Hershey, Pa. – 4/13/11 through 4/15/11 – James Rudisill and 2 students - **approved**
47. District Band Auditions – Barnesboro, Pa. – 11/21/10 – Rich Kingera and 6 students - **approved**
48. Somerset All-County Band Festival – Berlin, Pa. – 12/1/10 through 12/2/10 – Rich Kingera and 30 students - **approved**
49. District Jazz Band Auditions – Davidsville, Pa. – 12/5/10 – Rich Kingera and 6 students - **approved**
50. District Jazz Band Festival – Somerset, Pa. – 1/20/11 through 1/22/11 – Rich Kingera and 4 students - **approved**
51. District Band Festival – Westmont, Pa. – 2/9/11 through 2/12/11 – Rich Kingera and 4 students - **approved**
52. Regional Band Festival – Altoona, Pa. – 3/23/11 through 3/26/11 – Rich Kingera and 2 students - **approved**
53. Fallingwater – Mill Run, Pa. – Spring 2011 – Pat Weston and 25 students - **tabled**
54. TATU Training – Berlin, Pa. – 2/23/11 – Dana Weimer and 5 students - **approved**
55. Somerset Community Hospital – Somerset, Pa. – May 2011 – Dana Weimer and 4 students - **approved**
56. County Envirothon – Kooser State Park – May 2011 – Tim Vought and 10 students - **approved**
57. State Envirothon – Pa. location – May 2011 – Tim Vought and 5 students - **approved**
58. Somerset Courthouse and Jail – Somerset, Pa. – March 2011 – James Wagner and 9th grade students - **approved**
59. Model United Nations Conference – Johnstown, Pa. – 11/1/10 – James Wagner and 16 students - **approved**
60. Johnstown Flood Museum, Incline Plane – Johnstown, Pa. – April 2011 – Russ Daubert and 65 students – **not approved**
61. IU 08 Interscholastic Reading Competition – Meyersdale, Pa. – 4/15/11 – Jill Morgan and 50 students – **approved**
62. Byham Theater – Pittsburgh, Pa. – 5/5/11 – Mary Jo Picklo, James Rudisill and 42 students – est. cost to district – **not approved**
63. Somerset Exchange Club Luncheon – Somerset, Pa. – January 2011 – Catherine Fischer and 2 students – **approved**
64. 8th Grade Career Fair – Seven Springs – April 2011 – Catherine Fischer and 58 students – **approved**
65. College Fair – Somerset, Pa. – March 2011 – Catherine Fischer and 53 students – **approved**

66. Pa. FBLA State Leadership Conference – Hershey, Pa. – 4/3/11 through 4/6/11 – Amber Walker and 14 students – **tabled**

The following use of school facility requests were approved except #13 (tabled):

1. 6th Grade Class – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 11/17/10 through 11/19/10, 8:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M. - Holiday Store.
2. Class of 2013 – Rockwood elementary gymnasium, chorus room – 11/13/10, 5:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M. – soph.-senior dance.
3. Rockwood Volleyball Alumni – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – Thursday evenings, 7:30 P.M.-10:00 P.M. – recreational volleyball.
4. Rockwood Basketball Boosters – Rockwood high school gymnasium – 12/3/10, 6:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M. – red & white game.
5. Rockwood Wrestling Boosters – Rockwood high school cafeteria, kitchen, gymnasium – 1/14/11, 6:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M.; 1/15/11, 6:00 A.M.-11:00 P.M. – 1st and 2nd year wrestling tournament.
6. Rockwood Wrestling Boosters – Rockwood high school gymnasium, Ag. Room, multi-purpose room – 11/1/10 through 3/25/11, 6:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M. – wrestling practice and booster meetings.
7. Rockwood Wrestling Boosters – Rockwood high school gymnasium, kitchen, cafeteria – 2/25/11, 6:00 P.M.-11:00 P.M.; 2/26/11, 6:00 A.M.-11:00 P.M. – 17th annual Chris Trial wrestling tournament.
8. Rockwood softball program – Rockwood high school gymnasium, athletic fields – 11/2/10 through 3/5/11 – off season practice.
9. Rockwood Wrestling Boosters – Rockwood elementary cafeteria – 10/18/10, 6:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M.; 10/19/10, 6:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M. – wrestling sign-ups.
10. Rockwood Merchants Association – Tennis Court – winter months – ice skating rink.
11. Adult Young Farmers – Rockwood High School room 211 – Thursday evenings, 11/4/10 through 3/7/11 – young farmer meetings.
12. Rockwood U.M.C. Charge – Rockwood high school auditorium – 12/2/10 through 12/5/10, 6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. – Power Team motivational show.
13. Rockwood Education Foundation – Rockwood high school gymnasium – date to be announced – professional wrestling exhibition - **tabled**.
14. Junior High Boys Basketball – Rockwood elementary gymnasium – 1 night per week – open gym.

The following club & class activity request was approved:

1. Technology and Engineering Club – sale of manufactured products – 11/17/10 through 11/19/10 during the Christmas Holiday Store – raise funds for future class projects.

Superintendent Report:

Mark Bower informed the board that the 10/8/10 cutoff date for the purchase of the Kingwood school has passed and the original buyers could not come up with the money. Currently, the building has been shown 3 times to another prospective buyer who is very interested. An offer has not been made at this time, as the prospective buyers would like to run various test on the property before an offer is made.

Mark Bower informed the Board that a donation in the amount of \$3,000.00 has been received for the installation of a fence in front of the dugout and by the baseball field. A preliminary estimate to do this project would be around \$6,000.00. Several Board members requested that Mr. Bower get additional quotes for the completion of the fence the whole way to the maintenance building.

Mark Bower informed the Board of a situation involving the calculation of a student's G.P.A. The Board gave him authorization to report to colleges that students are tied for first place in class rankings if their G.P.A. is over 4.0 for scholarship purposes. The G.P.A. situation will be addressed at a later time.

Mark Bower informed the Board that there will be presentations on the annual financial report, PSSA test scores, and a district needs assessment at the November meeting.

Mark Bower informed the Board that the gym floor will need to be sanded down in the future. An estimate of the cost is \$18,000.00.

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