



Rocket Express

January 18, 2010

The Rockwood Area Board of School Directors met in regular session on Monday, January 18, 2010.

The minutes of the committee meeting on 12/21/09 and the regular meeting on 12/21/09 were approved.

The agenda and agenda items and additions 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:

Megan Thorpe
Travis Smith
Travis Roddy
Laura Dice
Madison Ringer
Dylan Meyers

Public Comment:

Larry Lemon addressed the Board regarding the agenda item to consider advertising for bids on the Kingwood elementary school. This is a very big decision for the Board to consider and he believes that it should not have been placed on the agenda before the committee had a chance to discuss it with the whole Board. He believes that the building may be needed down the road and the taxpayers are not willing to pay for another building project as a result. He asked the Board to keep this in mind when they cast their vote on this item.

Dan Rullo reviewed the various options that the Board had with regard to the Kingwood elementary school. The summary of these options are as follows:

1. Lease the building to an outside organization pending a sale.
2. Sell the building by way of a public auction or through a sealed bid process, or through a private sale that is approved by the court of common pleas.
3. Transfer ownership by the approval of 2/3 of the Board to a corporation holding 501(c)3 status, to an adjacent borough or township, or to a fire or ambulance department, with the ownership reverting back to the district if use is terminated.
4. Donate the building to a historical society if the building is deemed historically significant.
5. Do nothing.

Board member, James Harrold, believes the building is an important asset to the district. He feels that the district needs to keep the building to prevent the district from needing a major building project in the future.

Old Business:

The board authorized advertising for sealed bids for the Kingwood elementary school with specification and bid documents to be prepared by the district solicitor.

The Board established the following committee to assist in drafting the specification for the Kingwood elementary school:

Clair Saylor
Richard Stoner
Zach Gaskin

New Business:

The board approved hosting the ATOMS program at the Rockwood Area School District from 6/14/10 through 6/18/10.

The board voted to adopt the following Act 1 resolution as prepared by the business manager:

**Resolution of the Board of school Directors
Of the Rockwood Area School District
Electing to Not Increase its Tax Rate Above the Index**

Whereas, Act 1 of Special Session of 2006 requires school districts to adopt a preliminary budget proposal no later than 90 days prior to the date of which the election immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the preliminary budget will take effect.

And Whereas, Act 1 of Special Session of 2006 further provides that a Board of School Directors may elect to adopt a resolution no later than 110 days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the upcoming fiscal year indicating that it will not raise the tax rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the following fiscal year by more than the index.

And Whereas, the Board of School Directors of the Rockwood Area School District desires to keep all proposed tax increases for the 2010-2011 school year within its index to provide the necessary revenue to meet the proposed expenditures for the 2010-2011 school year:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that pursuant to Act 1 of Special Session 2006, the Rockwood Area Board of School Directors hereby certifies that it shall not increase any tax used for the support of the school district by a rate greater than the adjusted index of 3.3 percent as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the Rockwood Area School District.

And Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of School Directors, hereby certifies that if:

- i. Shall not increase any tax rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education;
- ii. Shall comply with the budgeting procedures set forth in 24 P.S. s.s. 6-687 for the adoption of its proposed and final budgets; and

Shall by limiting its tax rate no greater than the index have sufficient funds to balance its final budget.

Committee Reports:

The board accepted the retirement of Kathy Dequenne effective the duty day after the completion of her last day including all accumulated sick and personal leave.

Sheila Bower was approved as a long-term substitute for Kathy DeQuenne for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year.

General Board Member Discussion:

Allen Pletcher would like to ensure that our staff is being fully utilized in light of the budget situation.

Zach Gaskin thanked the Board for approving the ice skating rink. He believes that it is a major success with the community.

Clair Saylor wants the Board to continue to watch spending, as we are not out of the budget crisis at this time.

Ron Saler made the following appointments to fill the vacancies if the district committee structure:

Outdoor Facilities Committee

Richard Stoner

Mark Phillippi

Negotiations Committee

Clair Saylor

Mark Phillippi

Legal Committee

Richard Stoner

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