

**ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Meeting Minutes**

**Administration Building
Tuesday, May 8, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education was called to order by President Kenneth Scrivano at 5:00 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins (arr. 5:05 p.m.), Secretary Michael Connor, Mrs. Jude Makulec, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Jaime Escobedo

Absent: Mr. Anthony Dixon

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel the Board **hold** an executive session to consider the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of employees; the discipline of students; pending or imminent litigation; collective bargaining matters; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2 (c) of the Open Meetings Act.

Approved: 5-0-2

The Board was in executive session from 5:00 p.m. until 6:26 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins (arr. 5:05 p.m.), Secretary Michael Connor, Mrs. Jude Makulec, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Jaime Escobedo
Absent: Mr. Anthony Dixon
Mr. Scrivano thanked RPS 205 graduate, Rod Weddle, and Alan Leon who are working behind the scenes to produce the Board's broadcast on Channel 20.
Mr. Scrivano recognized National Teachers Appreciation Day and asked people to stand who were or had been teachers.
Mr. Scrivano asked Mrs. Roberta Edwards to come to the podium, as this was her last Board meeting before retiring. Dr. Jarrett spoke thanking her for her service, and helping people succeed in the District.
Mrs. Edwards began her career at RPS205 in 1985 as an attendance clerk at Auburn High School. She became school secretary at Thompson Elementary School from 1987 to 1995. From 1995-2002 she was an accounting clerk in Finance and then administrative assistant and executive secretary to the Chief Operations Office, Tom Hoffman. In 2010, she became the Executive Coordinator and Manager for the Superintendent and his office.
Mr. Scrivano asked Board and Cabinet members to step out so that Mr. Edwards could escort Roberta around for handshakes and hugs.
4. Petitions & Communications
Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.
 - Jennifer Hurst asked when the leaks at Froberg Elementary would be repaired. In addition, their fun fair is 5/11/18 and asked people to attend.
5. Board Member Comments
 - Mr. Seigel congratulated Mr. Dixon on the birth of their twins.
6. *Consent Items
 - A. Meeting Minutes: 04/24/18
 - B. Payroll
 - C. Accounts-Payable
 - D. Purchase Orders
 - E. Construction Bid Request Log
 - F. Contracts Under \$10,000
 - G. Travel
7. *Bid Recommendations

- A. IFB 18-48 Eisenhower and Riverdahl Asbestos Abatement
- B. IFB 18-49 West Piping Upgrades
- C. IFB 18-50 McIntosh Boiler - Rebid

8. Recurring Contracts

- A. Innovative Education, Ombudsman Program
- B. Addendum to Youth Services Network Agreement
- C. Intergovernmental Agreement for City Police Services – Earl Dotson, Jr., Chief Communications Officer & Fred Diehl, Director of Security Services
- D. FY18 and FY19 Actuarial and Benefits Consulting Services – Post Employment Benefits Valuation – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer

9. *Other Consent

- A. Continuous Public Office Bonds and Payment Premiums – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
- B. Thomson Reuters
- C. REA Memorandum of Understanding – Haskell Elementary School Year
- D. Freedom of Information Log

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Consent items not pulled.

Yeas: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Mr. Escobedo

Absent: Mr. Dixon

Approved: 6-0-1

10. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Appointment of Darrin Sisk as 12 Month High School Assistant Principal at Jefferson High School
- B. Appointment of Christopher Berndt as 12 Month Executive Director of Facilities
- C. Appointment of Guary Bernadelle as 12 Month Executive Director of Finance
- D. ~~Salary Adjustment for Non-Bargaining Employees and Salary Range Movement~~ – pulled by Mr. Rollins
- E. Residency Hearing Conclusion re: Student X's and Student Y's Residency Dispute
- F. HR Organizational Report & Addendum

11. *Closed Session Consent Items – Student Discipline

“Unless otherwise modified below, the Board adopts and accepts the hearing officer’s findings and recommendations in the following cases in which the students expelled or suspended are prohibited from being on school grounds and school-sponsored activities without the prior written permission of the principal.”

- A. GDM-2034-18 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year through April 20, 2019.
- B. GDM-4177-18 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year.
- C. GDM-4183-18 – expelled for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year through the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year.
- D. GDM-4184-18 – expelled for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year and the entire 2018-2019 school year.
- E. GDM-4185-18 – expelled for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year and the entire 2018-2019 school year.
- F. GDM-4186-18 – the ten day suspension is affirmed.
- G. GDM-4187-18 – expelled for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year through the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year.
- H. GDM-4189-18 – expelled for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year, the entire 2018-2019 school year through April 6, 2020.

12. *Closed Session Consent Items – EIAs

- A. GDM-1016-18
- B. GDM-3536-18
- C. GDM-3537-18
- D. GDM-3538-18
- E. GDM-3539-18
- F. GDM-3540-18
- G. GDM-3543-18
- H. GDM-3544-18

- I. GDM-3545-18
- J. GDM-3546-18
- K. GDM-3547-18
- L. GDM-3548-18
- M. GDM-3550-18

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Closed Session Consent items not pulled.

Yeas: Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Mr. Escobedo, Mr. Rollins

Absent: Mr. Dixon

Approved: 6-0-1

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** Closed Session Consent item pulled 10D, Salary Adjustment for Non-Bargaining Employees and Salary Range Movement.

Four different areas were examined to determine salary adjustments for non-bargaining employees. There was a two percent (2%) base increase for those employees who qualify and a process for determining this. Compression issues were addressed between administrative salaries at the building levels as well as bargaining unit salaries. Market adjustments were addressed in certain departments and positions. Finally, salaries for lunch and breakfast aides were reviewed. This was a collaborative practice with Human Resources, Finance and Legal.

Board members requested Administration review the market for experienced lunch aide positions. Market analysis will take place to see how pay scales compare with other districts. Modifications may be brought to Board dependent on the data.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Yeas: Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Mr. Escobedo, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano

Absent: Mr. Dixon

Approved: 6-0-1

13. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Currently Dr. Jarrett and his team are working on the Strategic Update Plan for the upcoming meeting in June. Feedback has been received on the school scorecard. In addition, Dr. Jarrett and Cabinet members had their first subgroup meeting with Board members from the Education Committee, who provided their feedback regarding the structure of the Committee of the Whole.

There are many student-centered events scheduled. Dr. Jarrett gave a shout-out to the Communications and Pace teams. Three years ago, the District began a student ambassador program for high schools. Currently every high school, 19 elementary and middle schools have student advisory teams who provide tours to dignitaries and interested families. Nicole Bergren, Amy Ekstrom, and recent retiree Marsha Sisney were given kudos for being instrumental with this work.

14. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee – Mrs. Makulec

The committee has not met since the last Board meeting. It will meet Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

B. Finance Committee – Mr. Rollins

The committee has not met since the last Board meeting. It will meet Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

C. Operations Committee – Mr. Connor

The committee met Monday May 1, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. Agenda items included an update of the Facilities Master Plan. All updates can be viewed by clicking on these links: [Construction - RPS205 Facilities Plan - 5/1/18 Update](#). In addition, committee members discussed the Custodial Update including standards and feedback. The full report can be viewed by following this link: [Custodial Update](#). Committee members also discussed the Committee of the Whole proposal. Feedback received included interest in the change and positive engagement through community members. The committee will meet Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

15. *Action Items

A. Heartland Business Systems – Earl Dotson, Jr.

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 15A, Heartland Business Systems contract.

Yeas: Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Mr. Escobedo, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec

Absent: Mr. Dixon

Approved: 6-0-1

B. IGA with RRWRD for Dedication, Abandonment & Replacement of Sanitary Sewers at Constance Lane E.S. – Kevin Behling, Executive Director of Design & Construction

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 15B, IGA with RRWRD for Dedication, Abandonment & Replacement of Sanitary Sewers at Constance Lane E.S.

Yeas: Mr. Connor, Mr. Escobedo, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel

Absent: Mr. Dixon

Approved: 6-0-1

C. Center for Sight & Hearing Impaired - Jennifer Lawrence, Executive Director of Special Education

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 15C, Center for Sight & Hearing Impaired.

Yeas: Mr. Escobedo, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor

Absent: Mr. Dixon

Approved: 6-0-1

16. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Naming of Cherry Valley Gymnasium – Dr. Ehren Jarrett

Cherry Valley and Constance Lane were the Board approved names for the new elementary schools. At Cherry Valley Elementary, there was strong support to honor Leonard B. Keller, who was a U.S. veteran of the Vietnam War and Medal of Honor Recipient. The Administration feels this is a great way to honor an American from the Cherry Valley area and recommends the gymnasium be named after Mr. Keller.

This will return for a vote at the May 22, 2018 meeting.

B. 2018-2019 Student Code of Conduct – Mrs. Angela Hite-Carter, Executive Director of Student Services and Alternative Learning

Mrs. Hite-Carter began by thanking school administrators, classroom teachers, parents, Board Members, and Atty. Hoadley for providing direction with school discipline. The team collaborated with the Peoria, Freeport, Elgin, Aurora West, and Springfield districts. They have experienced similar incidents that Rockford schools are experiencing. The District continues to see a drop in out of school suspensions, although there has been slight incline in areas requiring Board review. Mrs. Hite-Carter also thanked her team members for their work. Assessment and planning began in August and Parent/Teacher Advisory Committee meetings took place at East High School in January and February. The following items were read into the minutes:

105 ILCS 5/13A-1

(b) The State cannot provide its children with the education they deserve and require unless the environment of the public schools is conducive to learning.

(c) That environment cannot be achieved unless an atmosphere of safety prevails, assuring that the person of each student, teacher, and staff member is respected, and that none of those people are subjected to violence, threats, harassment, intimidation, or otherwise confrontational or inappropriate behaviors that disrupt the educational atmosphere.

Mrs. Hite Carter gave a PowerPoint presentation with updates of behavior trends, truancy prevention, and exclusion trends. The full presentation may be viewed by following this link: [FY 2019 Student Code of Conduct Adoption](#). Changes include all bullying offenses require a report on file. This applies to behaviors both at elementary and secondary levels. To view the changes, please click on this link: [SCOC Recommendations](#). To view the updated code, please click on this link: [2018-2019 Student Code of Conduct](#).

Discussion items included:

- Currently, weapon violations for elementary students are a recommendation for mandatory expulsion, which is then presented to Board members. Board members suggested giving elementary principals the option to choose and expulsion or an EIA (Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement) if the student does not pose a threat to other students. Consensus was reached by Board members.
- Board members can lengthen or shorten expulsions, or just uphold suspensions. It was suggested allowing Board members to change length of terms for EIAs. This could lengthen the process for disciplinary issues. A proposal was made to create a recommendation of disciplinary items for certain violations.

Attorney Hoadley and Mrs. Hite-Carter will meet regarding these items. Mr. Scrivano congratulated Administration was congratulated on a job well done.

This will return for a vote at the May 22, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Rollins expressed the following concerns:

- Will schools be ready to open in the fall?
- Is a plan in place this summer to ready classrooms, implement software updates, etc.?

Dr. Jarrett, Atty. Hoadley, and Mrs. Dettman will build a plan and present it to Board members.

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **adjourn**.

Adjournment: 8:29 p.m.

Approved: 5/22/18

President: Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/

Secretary: Michael S. Connor /s/

/ljf