

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

**Administration Building
Tuesday, January 9, 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 Jude Makulec, Secretary Michael Connor, Mr. Anthony Dixon, Mr. Tim Rollins, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Jaime Escobedo

Absent: None

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon that 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: 7-0-0

The Board was in executive session from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order – *President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.*
2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Michael Connor, Mr. Anthony Dixon, Mr. Tim Rollins, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Jaime Escobedo
Absent: None
Mr. Scrivano thanked RPS 205 graduate, Rod Weddle, for volunteering his time and his assistance in running the cameras for the Board Meeting.
4. Recognition
 - A. Rockford University Masters Cohort – Earl Dotson, Jr.
Twenty teachers in Rockford Public Schools are in the second Master’s Cohort of the RPS205/Rockford University Education Pathway. They will begin their classes in January. The following teachers were named:
Jason Andrews, Auburn
Joe Avery, East
Latsamy Bounleutay, Ellis
Christopher Coulter, Guilford
Sarah Craig, Kennedy
Bren Fritz, Auburn
Jennifer Grabowski, Auburn
Olivia Guido, Guilford
Richard Hacker, East
Brian Hierstein, Roosevelt
Natalie Hinz, Lincoln
Braxton O’Hearn, Jefferson
Sara Patch, Summerdale
Nicole Ronan, Kennedy
Justin Saichak, West
Sarah Schiro, West
Britton Solverson, Kennedy
Billi Sparacino, Kennedy
Robert Walton, Jefferson
Jennifer Wood, Lathrop
 - B. Confluence Honorees – Earl Dotson, Jr.
RPS 250 was recognized at the Rockford Chamber of Commerce Confluence Honors. Honorees included:

Building Hope: Habitat for Humanity Partnership – Guilford High School students through EMIT Academy built a two-story, four bedroom Habitat home. Partners included Alignment Rockford, Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity and Rockford Public Schools. In addition the Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity nominated the Guilford High School EMIT Academy Construction Trades class for the Presidential Youth Service Award through the Association of Fundraising Professional's National Philanthropy Day – and Guilford won. UTC Aerospace Engineering Program – Chris Underwood of UTAS connects engineers to Lincoln Middle School students for math tutoring. Partners are UTC Aerospace and Rockford Public Schools' Lincoln Middle School.

After School Alliance: thirteen schools partner with the YMCA for drop-off and after-school care that impacts six hundred (600) enrolled students. Partners include Northern Illinois Food Bank, Rockford Public Schools, and YMCA of Rock River Valley.

5. Petitions & Communications
There were no speakers.
6. Board Member Comments
 - Mr. Seigel welcomed back everyone and wished a Happy New Year.
7. *Consent Items
 - A. Meeting Minutes: 12/12/17
 - B. Payroll
 - C. Accounts-Payable
 - D. Purchase Orders
 - E. Contracts Under \$10,000
 - F. Construction Bid Request Log
 - G. Travel
8. Recurring Contracts
 - A. Second Addendum to Consulting Agreement – Accounting/Budget Development Assistance – Ms. Nicole Thorn, Chief Financial Officer
9. *Other Consent
 - A. Monthly Investment Report-November 2017 – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA – Executive Director of Finance
 - B. Financial Results: November 2017 – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA – Executive Director of Finance
 - C. Freedom of Information Log

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to **approve** Consent items not pulled.
Approved: Unanimously
10. *Closed Session Consent Items
 - A. Appointment of Donielle Oliveira as 12 Month Director of Payroll
 - B. Appointment of Michele Sather as 12 Month Executive Director of Budgeting
 - C. 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-4133-18 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year through the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year.
 - B. GDM-4134-18 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year.
 - C. GDM-4135-18 – expelled for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year.
 - D. GDM-4136-18 – expelled for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year through the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year.
 - E. GDM-4137-18 – expelled for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year through the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year.
12. *Closed Session Consent Items – EIAs
 - A. GDM-3387-18

- B. GDM-3398-18
- C. GDM-3399-18
- D. GDM-3400-18
- E. GDM-3401-18
- F. GDM-3402-18
- G. GDM-3403-18
- H. GDM-3404-18
- I. GDM-3405-18
- J. GDM-3406-18
- K. GDM-3407-18
- L. GDM-3408-18
- M. GDM-3409-18
- N. GDM-3410-18
- O. GDM-3411-18
- P. GDM-3412-18
- Q. GDM-3415-18
- R. GDM-3416-18
- S. GDM-3417-18
- T. GDM-3418-18
- U. GDM-3419-18
- V. GDM-3420-18

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

Approved: Unanimously

13. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett spoke of the Second Rockford University Masters Cohort that was recognized. He spoke of teachers and certified staff taking on the challenge of the Rockford University Partnership. This is part of the District's longer term strategy to ensure it has attraction and retention of high quality teachers, as this is essential to the success of the District. In addition, there are approximately one-hundred students that are in the senior level education pathway for high school students.

14. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee – Mrs. Makulec

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

B. Finance Committee – Mr. Rollins

The committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The committee will meet Monday, February 5, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.

C. Operations Committee – Mr. Connor

The committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The committee will meet Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

15. *Action Items

A. Resolution Authorizing Executive Director of Special Education to Resolve Special Education Complaints at Resolution or Mediation Sessions

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 15A, the Resolution Authorizing Executive Director of Special Education to Resolve Special Education Complaints at Resolution or Mediation Sessions.

This resolution is required by statute as the District has to participate in mediation sessions and there is a very short timeframe to do this.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

B. Naming/Renaming of Facilities – Dr. Jarrett

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Seigel **to name Elementary School #1 The Constance Lane School in Cherry Valley.**

Following a robust discussion Board member comments included:

- The name honors Constance Lane, the District's first African American teacher and administrator. It is offered as a compromise for all stakeholders.
- Community meetings were held and processes were followed.
- The work of the committee was appreciated.
- It is preferred that Board members have a robust discussion to close the education gap.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote:

Yeas: Mr. Dixon, Mr. Rollins, Mrs. Makulec

Nays: Mr. Scrivano, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Mr. Escobedo

Motion Failed: 3-4-0

Motion by Mrs. Makulec seconded by Mr. Rollins to defer the decision of naming School #1 until such time as the students and staff assigned to Cherry Valley, Thompson and White Swan Elementary Schools have the opportunity to vote and bring a recommendation to the Board from the following names (1) Jane Addams, (2) Leonard B. Keller, (3) Constance Lane, and (4) Cherry Valley. In addition, I move that the vote for School #2 be deferred until such time as the vote for the naming of School #1 has concluded, and until such time as students and staff assigned to Beyer, Kishwaukee and Nelson Elementary Schools have the opportunity to vote on and bring a recommendation to the Board from the following names (1) Jane Addams, (2) Leonard B. Keller, (3) Martin Luther King, and (4) Constance Lane, unless one of the names from this list has been chosen for School #1, in which case said name will be removed from this list. I further move that prior to voting, students and staff will be informed as to the origin, historical relevance, and any current usage within the community of the names on these lists.

A vigorous dialogue continued regarding the naming of the facilities. Board member comments included moving forward with naming Elementary School #1. The recommendation to name Elementary School #2 at a future Board meeting is due to the late start of construction. The original recommendation by the Superintendent is naming Elementary School #1 Cherry Valley School. It was hoped that students and staff could be engaged in naming the facilities.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Yeas: Mrs. Makulec

Nays: Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Mr. Escobedo, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano

Motion Failed: 1-6-0

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to accept the recommendation of the Administration to name Elementary School #1 Cherry Valley Elementary School.

Approved: Unanimously

16. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Resolution Affirming and Revising Board Policy 5.20; General Personnel, Anti-Harassment/Anti-Discrimination Policy – Atty. Hoadley

This resolution reaffirms the current Board policy on non-harassment and non-discrimination. The State of Illinois has enacted a statute reiterating that harassment is prohibited in the workplace. This reaffirms the statutory requirements. There will be minor changes to the policy to reflect the statutory changes. The policy itself will be presented at a future meeting.

This will return for a vote at the 1/23/18 meeting.

B. Contract with Melanie Rick/Focus Five- Dr. Woulfe

The contract is for professional development for the District in compliance with the Professional Development for Arts Educators program. The grant program defines the assessment plan and includes a report to the U.S. Department of Education. Seven Islands Consulting is our external evaluator. The professional development implementation dates were created between teachers, teaching artists, administration, and the consultant. The fiscal impact is \$12,146.00.

This will return for a vote at the 1/23/18 meeting.

Dr. Jarrett asked Board members when to involve students and faculty from the schools per Mrs. Makulec's earlier motion; and if the Board wished him to engage with faculty and staff of the building, or is it the preference of the Board to stand on the recommendation of the committee as it stands. Dr. Jarrett asked members to give this some thought. Mr. Connor recommended that a detailed discussion on how to approach this, in particular as two names are very prominent, Dr. King and Mrs. Lane. Mrs. Makulec added that the decision for naming a school was made at the meeting and questioned why change the method.

The policy does not give adequate direction. Dr. Jarrett affirmed that Administration will move forward more quickly with its recommendation for naming Elementary School #2 and that the policy will be revisited at a future meeting.

17. Adjournment

Motion by Mrs. Makulec seconded by Mr. Seigel to adjourn.
Adjournment: 8:13 p.m.

Approved: 01/09/18

President: *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/*

Secretary: *Michael S. Connor /s/*

/ljf