

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

**Administration Building
Tuesday, March 20, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education was called to order by President Kenneth Scrivano at 5:30 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Michael Connor, Mr. Anthony Dixon (arr. 5:34 p.m.) Mr. Tim Rollins, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Jaime Escobedo

Absent: None

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel 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: 6-0-1

The Board was in executive session from 5:32 p.m. until 6:53 p.m.

1. Call to Order – *President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:04 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. State-Level Competitors: Winter Activities – Earl Dotson, Jr.
ILMEA All-State Festival:
Six students represented Auburn High School this year at the Illinois Music Education Association All-State festival. Lucas Lemonholm performed with the All-State Jazz Band; Ben Lash and Emma Mork performed with the All-State Choir; and Audrey Bernado and Noah Herrmann performed with the All-State Honors Choir.
Illinois State Theatre Festival
Guilford High School students participated in auditions and interviews for collegiate theatre programs at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival at Illinois State University in January. Students had the opportunity to present their work to 39 universities across the country. Congratulations to the following Guilford students: Celestino Dominguez, Coralys Hernandez, Sadie Kruse, Blake Larys, Riley DeBoer, Thomas Kellogg, Macey Montavon, Evandia Penix and Seve Morse.
IHSA State Chess
Chess teams from Auburn, Guilford and Jefferson high schools all competed at the IHSA State Chess Tournament. Auburn High School sophomore Vincent Do made NIC-10 and Rockford Public Schools history this year winning the IHSA State title. According to the Rockford Sports Coalition, Do was a perfect 7-0 on Board 1 and he was one of just three players on the top board to be undefeated at the tournament. He earned the top spot out of 128 players on the top board.
The State Tournament was a great showing for all RPS 205 top chess players. Guilford freshman Jeremiah Davis finished 13th on Board 1, and Jefferson senior Daniel Ojeda finished 15th.
CHESS PLAYERS:
Rockford (Auburn)
Head Coach: Joseph Guth
Radison Akerman
Owen Connor
Vincent Do

Sengdao Inthavong

Charles Kang

Sreyansh Mamidi

Benjamin Watts

Richard Yang

Rockford (Guilford)

Head Coach: Erik Czerwin

Abib Aseini

Jeremiah Davis

Celestino Dominguez

Randy Lundeen

Moritz Merkel

Mario Mirchevski

Jocelyn Nunez-Monreal

Lizzy Rogers

Judah Salberg

Joaquin Santillan

Mallory Vicente

Jonah Wolfe

Rockford (Jefferson)

Head Coach: Ronald Brown

Asst. Coach: Carla Brown

Sebastian Casas

Michael Hernandez

Daniel Ojeda

Austin Olejniczall

Kyle Reed

Isaiah Sample

Gabriel Trejo

IHSA Boys Bowling

East High School senior Brandon Folk and Auburn High School junior Matt Seigel bowled well enough at the IHSA Boys Bowling Sectional Tournament to advance to -level competition in January. At the tournament, Matt Seigel finished 14th. Congratulations!

IHSA Girls Bowling

Guilford High School's girls bowling team finished fourth at the IHSA Sectional tournament, while East High School junior Teagan Peterson and Auburn High School freshman Caitlyn Bannister both made it to the tournament in individual play. At the IHSA Girls State Bowling tournament, Guilford took ninth as a team. Congratulations!

Guilford High School Girls Bowling

Head Coach: Kailey Hoppe

Assistant Coach: Rob Cabello

Clara Arco

Elli Cabello

Graci Cabello

Shayla Johnson

Carrie Minnier

Kayle Monestero

Megan Peterson

Lexi Sullivan

IHSA Scholastic Bowl

Earlier this month, Auburn High School's Scholastic Bowl team won its 17th consecutive sectional tournament and took their 17th consecutive trip to compete in the IHSA State Tournament in Class 2A. On Friday, heading into the final question of the championship round, Auburn and Stevenson high School were tied 380 to 380. Stevenson beat Auburn to the buzzer and won with a final score of 420 to 380. The Knights took second place, marking Auburn's 17th straight top-four finish.

Earlier this month, Auburn finished in first place at the Masonic Bowl State Tournament . This was the Knights first Masonic Bowl championship in 10 years. The team travels to Atlanta in May to compete in the National Academic Quiz Tournaments National Championship. The team includes Lilliana Chavez, Kodai Speich, Ethan Strombeck, Morad Suliman and Leif Verace.

IHSA Boys Swimming

Auburn High School's Mitchell Johnson qualified for the IHSA Boys Swimming State Tournament in two events, both the 100 yard breaststroke and 200 yard individual medley. At State, he finished 26th in the 200 meter individual medley and 28th in the 100 yard breaststroke.

IHSA Girls Diving

Guilford High School senior Britlyn Greenlee took eighth in the IHSA State Diving Tournament in November. She was the first RPS 205 student in nine years to place at an IHSA State-level swimming and diving meet.

IWCOA State Wrestling Tournaments

Two East High School students competed in tournaments through the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association. Madelynn Hongmoungkhouna competed in the IWCOA Girls State Tournament and finished second in her weight class of 113 pounds. Carter Wyatt competed in the IWCOA Frosh/Soph State Tournament and finished eighth in his weight class of 170 points. Both Maddie and Carter are sophomores.

IHSA State Wrestling

East High School senior Dontrell Johnson took sixth place in his weight class at the IHSA Class 3A Wrestling Tournament. Dontrell earned more than 115 career wins and finished his senior year with 46 wins and 8 losses. He is ranked ninth on East High School's list of all-time wrestling wins and broke the all-time takedown record at East with 191 takedowns.

IHSA Competitive Cheerleading

Guilford High School's Co-Ed Cheer team made history this season by finishing in sixth place in the Co-Ed Division of the IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Championships. The Guilford Vikings are the first RPS 205 team to place in since the IHSA made cheerleading a competitive sport in 2005-2006.

Racheal Gray

Miranda Brook

Rachel Cable

Joel Cordonnier

Jayden Downen

Lauren George

Kay Gray

Holland Harkins

Cerenity Johnson

Katherine Larson

Skyler Mathis

Panu Phomsopha

Mckenzie Wannahwilai

Poetry Out Loud

Jefferson High School seniors Haifa Ali and Ana Plankenhorn advanced to the competition for Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest, after finding success at the Northern Illinois Regional Contest in February. At State, Haifa Ali finished in the top five, and Ana Plankenhorn finished in the top 16! Their competition included more than 40 schools and 8,800 students.

B. Education Pathway Seniors Committing to Rockford University – Earl Dotson, Jr.

Rockford Public Schools offered 20 seniors the opportunity to continue in the Education Pathway at Rockford University in the fall. The students have committed to continue their education for a fraction of the cost and work toward teacher certification. These students are not only graduating seniors, but they are the District's future teachers in Rockford Public Schools, thanks to this partnership. They will do their student teaching in our schools, and priority placement for available teaching jobs in RPS 205 when they receive their degree. If hired, they can work to receive a master's degree in urban teaching from Rockford University for free. Congratulations to these students.

2018 RU Education Pathway Undergraduate Cohort

Ezra Adams

Nikki Bowyer

Ryan Callahan

Karina Castanon

Mariana De Casas
Sofia Dunn
Makenna Foht
Brennen Harkey
Victoria Helm
Janelly Lizardi Mora
Jade Martins
Rian McGraw
Jessica Pequeno-Mendoza
Katelyn Phillips
Antonio Ramirez III
Roxanna Ramos
Aldo Sapien
Catherine Stewart
Tommy To
Miracle Toney

5. Petitions & Communications

Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.

- Elizabeth Ulrick spoke in support of the pathway students and of the teachers' contract.
- Erik Czerwin spoke in support of the engagement survey provided by K12 Insight facilitating connections between decision makers and classrooms.

6. Board Member Comments

- Mrs. Makulec spoke of the diversity of talent; this is not limited to sports but also includes poetry, fine arts, music, and scholastic bowl. It is important that it's being acknowledged and Mrs. Makulec requested that members of the local media cover the achievements of these students.
- Mr. Dixon spoke of attending the combined Auburn and West Choir Concert. Ellis had an award ceremony that was innovative. Negative comments are always common and much less are said about positive events. Ellis had a thirty percent growth and many students were not straight "A" students. There was a lot of excitement in the building as those students walked across the stage. Mr. Dixon thanked the staff for doing this for the students.

7. *Consent Items

- A. Meeting Minutes: 02/27/18
- B. Payroll
- C. Accounts-Payable
- D. Purchase Orders
- E. Contracts Under \$10,000
- F. Construction Bid Request Log
- G. Travel

8. *Bid Recommendations

- A. RFP 18-15 Wellness Program Administrator

9. Recurring Contracts

- A. ~~AT&T-Centrex Service~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec
- B. ~~AT&T IP Flex (digital) Telephone Service~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec
- C. Third Addendum to Consulting Agreement – Accounting/Budget Development Assistance – Ms. Nicole Thorn, Chief Financial Officer

10. *Other Consent

- A. Financial Results: February 2018 – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA,, Executive Director of Finance
- B. Monthly Investment Report – February 2018 – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Executive Director of finance
- C. Resolution Appointing Michelle R. Jahr as School Treasurer – Lori L. Hoadley, General Counsel
- D. ~~REA Collective Bargaining Agreement~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec
- E. Freedom of Information Log

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Recurring Contracts pulled 9A and 9B, AT&T Centrex Service, AT&T IP Flex (digital) Telephone Service.

The Centrex contract is traditional analog telephone service. IP Flex Service is the digital phone service. Both analog and digital services have usage charges. The Constance Lane Elementary School phone lines will be covered under the AT&T contracts. Cherry Valley Elementary School will have a separate provider, Frontier.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to **approve** Other Consent item pulled 10D, REA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Dr. Jarrett gave a brief summary of the contract. The PPO500 is removed and replaced with PPO1000. Employees will contribute 12.5% up from 7%. This will amount to approximately \$2MM in contributions over the three year period of the contract. Single coverage contributions will remain at 7%. The contract includes lanes and steps increases over the next three years. These equal to \$6.3 MM or \$2.1 MM in each year. There is also a retirement incentive that may allow the District to achieve larger than expected retirement numbers that could offset steps and lanes costs. The contract includes a plan to launch Elementary Innovation Zones which provides additional resources to as many as six schools with a goal to boost student achievement. Institute Days will be used to provide professional development throughout the school year. More work will continue regarding differentials.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

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

Abstain: Mr. Rollins

Approved: 6-0-1

11. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Appointment of Michelle R. Jahr as 12 Month Chief Financial Officer
- B. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Non-Tenured Administrators
- C. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Temporary/Part-Time Teachers
- D. ~~Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Teachers – pulled by Administration~~
- E. HR Organizational Report & Addendum

12. *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-4165-18 – expelled for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year and the entire 2018-2019 school year.
- B. GDM-4166-18 – expelled for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year.
- C. GDM-5009-18 – the four day suspension is affirmed.

13. *Closed Session Consent Items – EIAs

- A. GDM-3473-18
- B. GDM-3478-18
- C. GDM-3483-18
- D. GDM-3487-18
- E. GDM-3491-18
- F. GDM-3492-18
- G. GDM-3493-18
- H. GDM-3495-18
- I. GDM-3496-18
- J. GDM-3497-18

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

Approved: Unanimously

14. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Jarrett

- A. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett spoke of what the District celebrated at the beginning of the meeting. He thanked Mr. Earl Dotson, Jr., and the Communications Team for the winter sports group for recognition. There were many different activities and co-curricular activities recognized, as well as seeing the wide variety of talent represented. Dr. Jarrett also spoke of how gratifying to see twenty of the District students sign their letters

of intent to be part of its future teaching force. The HR team was commended for delivery the students and for making a big deal of the occasion.

15. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee – Mrs. Makulec

The committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

B. Finance Committee – Mr. Rollins

The committee met March 19, 2018. Agenda items included a review of health care costs. Health care plan costs were reviewed on a per person per year basis. Current costs are above the national average. The cost of specialty medications was covered. These are drugs without a generic equivalent. The complete presentation may be viewed by following this link: [Health Care Plan Cost](#). The preliminary budgets for Education Services [Educational Services](#), School Team [FY2019 School Team](#), and 2019 Charter Schools [FY2019 Charter Schools](#) were reviewed with committee members.

C. Operations Committee – Mr. Connor

The committee met March 6, 2018. Agenda items included the Credit Union at Guilford High School. This will be administered by Rockford Bell Credit Union. Updates included the Facilities Mater Plan, Life Cycle Reports, and the custodial update. To view the packet please click on this link: [Operations Committee Meeting](#). The next meeting is Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

16. *Action Items

A. Contract with Newsela for Online Subscription Services – Dr. Woulfe

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 16A, Contract with Newsela for Online Subscription Services.

Approved: Unanimously

17. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

Administration is requesting the Board to suspend the rules to consider item 17A. The deadline to submit the IGA is April 1, 2018! The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) sent the IGA on March 10, 2018. This is the last Board meeting before the April 1, 2018 deadline.

A. ****Intergovernmental Agreement By and Between ISBE and Rockford Public School District 205 – Matt Zediker, Interim Chief of Human Resources**

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **suspend the rules** to consider item 17A.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to **approve** item 17A, Intergovernmental Agreement By and Between ISBE and Rockford Public School District 205.

Approval of this IGA will enable the District to recruit teachers from Spain. The District did focus on Puerto Rico, but wasn't able to fill all the vacancies due to certification issues and a lack of proficiency in English. In addition, Puerto Rico is still recovering from the devastating hurricane season. The District will continue to recruit teachers from Puerto Rico.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

B. Defined STEM – Kari Neri, Executive Director of Curriculum and Heidi Dettman, Executive Director of Academics

C. Core Connections Integrated1 – Kari Neri, Executive Director of Curriculum and Heidi Dettman, Executive Director of Academics

D. Picture Perfect Science – Kari Neri, Executive Director of Curriculum and Heidi Dettman, Executive Director of Academics

E. World Cultures and Geography – Kari Neri, Executive Director of Curriculum and Heidi Dettman, Executive Director of Academics

Ms. Neri presented items 17B – 17E. Defined STEM is an online resource for K-5 Integrated Literacy Curriculum. This includes contents and skills in all content areas and will be customized to meet the District's curriculum outcomes. The Fiscal impact is \$265,763.00.

17C, Core Connections Integrated1 includes both print and digital resources for the District's Integrated Math 1 curriculum. Integrated Math 1 is a new course that will begin in the fall of the 2018-2019 school year and will be the first course in the District's high schools math sequence. This will be for ninth grade students and honors eight grade students. The fiscal impact is \$239,772.72.

17D, Picture Perfect Science which is a print resource with text sets for literacy and hands on science and engineering activities for K-5 literacy integrated curriculum. The fiscal impact is \$323,043.88.

17E, World Cultures and Geography is for the District's new ninth grade global studies course which will begin in the fall of the 2018-2019 school year. This includes print and digital material in both English and Spanish. The fiscal impact is \$310,501.43.

Each of the resources was selected by the District's Curriculum Leadership Team. Members include teachers led by content area deans. They begin by evaluating current resources to see if they will meet the needs for the District's new curriculum. The new curriculum has new standards in science and social studies and is not supported by current resources. The team then evaluated new resources that would align to the new standards.

Ms. Neri will bring forward at the next Board meeting an additional Instructional Resource Adoption, Follett. The curriculum is being developing by Follett, using the District's essential learning targets and outcomes for K-5 and working with the Curriculum department to select texts directly aligned to teaching those standards. An estimate was provided to Board members of future fiscal impact for curriculum adoptions. For 2019, \$2MM and \$2MM for 2020, this is based on the five year plan.

These will return for a vote at the April 10, 2018 meeting.

F. Cengage Learning /National Geographic Learning – Misael Nascimento, Executive Director of Bilingual This is a new integrated resource for bilingual students. This is designed to move English learners to cognitive academic language proficiency and reading independence using science and social studies content. The fiscal impact is \$431,742.05. This includes 2-1/2 days of staff training. Most materials are printed with some visual.

This will return for a vote at the April 10, 2018 meeting.

G. Board Policy 2.150 Board of Education Committees – Kenneth J. Scrivano

Recently, interest has been expressed to change the committee structures. Presently, the Board has three standing committees; Education, Finance, and Operations. The last meeting is April is when the Board is restructured, at which time members could decide to return to two committees. Due to the fiscal year, it was advised to continue with the Finance Committee until the end of June 2018.

Comments included:

- Lately, a lack of quorum at meetings has come up. The concern voiced is that Board members are spread too thin among the three committees. Having three members on two committees would help with the lack of quorum issues and fill the informational gap.
- A new committee structure was presented to members, Committee of the Whole. This would allow members to meet one additional time and discuss in depth presentations, instructional materials adoption, etc. Another advantage to the Committee of the Whole would allow items presented as "first" readings and subsequent approval at the following business meeting. It also allows for more conversation.
- One Committee of the Whole meeting and two Board (business) meetings would take place on a monthly basis. Typically, items scheduled for a Board (business) meeting would first be vetted at the Committee of the Whole.
- Dr. Jarrett offered to work with Atty. Hoadley and his cabinet to create a draft for the Board to consider this proposal. This will be presented to the Board at the second meeting in April.
- Status reports could be part of the Superintendent's Update or Strategic Plan meetings.

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

Adjournment: 9:10 p.m.

Approved: 04/10/18

President: Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/

Secretary: Michael S. Connor /s/

/ljf