

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

**Administration Building  
Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 5:01 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec (arr. 5:02 p.m.), Mr. Anthony Dixon (arr. 5: 27 p.m.), Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Mr. Jaime Escobedo (arr. 6:24 p.m.)

Absent: None

**Motion** by Mr. Rollins 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: 4-0-3**

The Board was in executive session from 5:02 p.m. until 6:41 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:00p.m.
2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call  
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, Mr. Anthony Dixon, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Mr. Jaime Escobedo  
Absent: None  
Mr. Scrivano thanked Conner Childers and RPS 205 graduate Rod Weddle who are working behind the scenes to produce the Board's broadcast on Channel 20.
4. Recognition
  - A. Rockford University Pathway Students  
Select Rockford Public Schools seniors will continue in the Education Pathway this fall at Rockford University. These students are not only graduating seniors, but they are future teachers in Rockford Public Schools, thanks to a partnership with Rockford University. They will do their student teaching in our schools, and they will have 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. The Pathway students are:  
Auburn High School: Michael Rolando, Brieah Grothman, Lynell Perez-Saucedo, Zakeya Coleman, Mario Beltran Gutierrez, Diana Sanchez Arrieta, East High School: Melanie Habben, Andrea Manriquez-Rodriguez, Melissa Saucedo, Guilford High School: Angelina Vernola, Victoria Medina, Jefferson High School: Miranda Johnson, Hailey Brown, Kayley Cruz, Joshua Perea-Hernandez.  
East High School –IHSA Class 4A State Boys Basketball Tournament  
East High School made history – when they advanced to the IHSA State Boys Basketball tournament and returned with a fourth place trophy. The E-Rabs made history in other ways, too.
    - The season marked East's first trip to the state tournament in 41 years.
    - The E-Rabs played in the highest scoring 4A state game in history, their semifinal game against Evanston.
    - And after this season, senior Chris Burnell is the second-highest scorer in RPS 205 history; he's only 91 points behind Auburn Alum and NBA player Fred VanVleet.Head Coach Roy Sackmaster also played every player on the team in the first half of the third-place game. The final game of the season.  
And even more than the stats, we want to congratulate this team for not only their outstanding accomplishments, but their outstanding sportsmanship during this historic season that woke up the E-Rab fan base, which is generations deep. Of course we know, Once an E-Rab, Always an E-Rab. Congratulations!
5. Petitions & Communications  
Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.
  - Jeff Doubek spoke in support of Seesaw.
  - Eppy Adami spoke in support of Seesaw.
  - Janice Fosse spoke in support of Seesaw.

- Emily Daub spoke in support of Seesaw.

6. Board Member Comments

- Mr. Rollins spoke of the new seating arrangement for Board members and commented on Mr. Escobedo's resignation from the school Board. Mr. Escobedo's service is appreciated and he will be missed.
- Mr. Connor echoed Mr. Rollins' comments regarding Mr. Escobedo and finished with "Go Erabs!"
- Mr. Seigel read the following:

*Good evening Board members, Superintendent Jarrett, Cabinet Members, Administrators, support, Principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, nutrition services staff, security, custodians, coaches, volunteers, parents, and members of the communities of Winnebago and Boone counties. I speak tonight as a parent and not as a Board member, for this Friday marks the final day in the state mandated, free and appropriate public education of my son Matthew D. Seigel; a partnership among all of you and my family. All of you consistently came to work to do that which passion compels you to do, and I and my family did what we as citizens and parents must do. We joined our forces to educate and grow an excellent student, citizen, and person. As I have said before in this place, accomplishing such an amazing task could not be completed by myself even with the help of my family.*

*Matt has had so many experiences connected to school that have shaped the person he is now. Field trips, athletic and arts participation, service opportunities, parking tickets.*

*In this partnership we did our basics of paying our taxes, getting Matt as ready to learn each day as we could, and making sure he understands the importance of the education presented to him. In addition we have tried to flesh out, as best we could, those things he learned in school, but I must admit to not being nearly as smart as he is, nor as those charged with educating him. In the time allotted, or any amount of time for that matter, it would be impossible to appropriately express my gratitude to all those responsible for upholding their end of the partnership, but that does not excuse me from trying. While so many will be left out, I must mention some very important people who played key roles in the education of Matt Seigel.*

*Miss Charity Hart, Janice Bubnack, SusanFreiberger, Mrs. Noble, Susan Armellani, Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Wallin, Mrs. Johns, Mr. Aures, Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Laskonis, Mrs. McNamara, Mrs. Meingast, Mrs. Russey, Mrs. Macklezow, Mr. Watts, Ms. Mott, Ms. Zorn, Mrs. Shriver, Mr. Stockton, Mr. Stocker, Mrs. Hoover, Mr. Shah, Mrs. Morrow, Mrs. Beksel, Mrs. Ruggerio, Miss Arroyo, Mr. Rauh, Mr. McCoy, Ms. Campbell, Mr. Owen, Ms. Salivar, Ms. Guinn, Mr. Appino,*

*The late Cindy Gentry, Jill Faber, and Janice Hawkins*

*Greg Barker, Kevin Anderson, Jacob Ditsch, Anthony Hardin, Ernie Stokes, Neil Sherbarth, Butch Olson, Brad Pemberton, Sean Ferguson*

*Officer Sockwell*

*All of you hold an enormous debt of gratitude that I am trying to begin repaying tonight. In the final analysis it is my family's pledge that we will not take your work for granted. I hope you found that we too upheld our end of the partnership. Thank you, thank you, thank you!*

- Mr. Scrivano gave a shout-out to Mrs. Dettman regarding the student retention article on *The Vibe*. He also spoke of attending the Erikson Institute first look at the data points. He, Mr. Seigel, Mrs. Dettman, and Mr. Dotson, Jr., represented the District. There will be a full presentation at a future meeting.

7. \*Consent Items

- Meeting Minutes: 4/23/19
- Payroll
- Accounts Payable
- Purchase Orders
- Contracts Under \$10,000
- Construction Bid Request Log
- Travel

8. \*Bid Recommendation

- IFB 19-31 Asbestos Abatement at West MS
- IFB 19-32 Asbestos Abatement at Eisenhower MS
- IFB 19-33 Asbestos Abatement at Haskell School

9. \*Recurring Contracts

- Newsela Pro – Dr. Matthew Vosberg, Deputy Superintendent on behalf of Kennedy Middle School
- Addendum to Consulting Agreement – Accounting Assistance – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer

10. \*Other Consent

- A. Prevailing Wage Resolution
  - B. Freedom of Information Log
- Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** Consent Items not pulled  
**Approved: Unanimously**

11. \*Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Appointment of Jenny Keffer as 12 Month High School Principal at Auburn High School
- B. Appointment of Michael Vella as 12 Month Director of Facilities/Operations/Design and Construction
- C. Appointment of Jonathan Manning as a 12 Month Technology Services Coordinator
- D. Appointment of Jennifer Speakes as 10 Month Dean at Jefferson High School
- E. Appointment of Amy Powell as 10 Month Dean at Cherry Valley Elementary School
- F. Salary Adjustment for Non-Bargaining Employees and Updated Salary Ranges
- G. HR Organizational Report & Addendum

12. \*Closed Session Consent Items – Student Discipline – pulled by Mr. Escobedo

Unless otherwise modified below, the Board adopts and accepts the Hearing Officer's findings and recommendations in the following cases in which 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-4271-19 – expelled for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year through the entire 2019-2020 school year.
- B. GDM-4272-19 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year through the entire 2019-2020 school year.
- C. GDM-4273-19 – expelled for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year through the entire 2019-2020 school year.
- D. GDM-4275-19 – expelled for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year through the entire 2019-2020 school year.
- E. GDM-4277-19 – expelled for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year through the entire 2019-2020 school year.

13. Closed Session Consent Items – Student Discipline (EIAs)

- A. GDM-1047-19
- B. GDM-3820-19
- C. GDM-3821-19
- D. GDM-3824-19
- E. GDM-3826-19
- F. GDM-3872-19
- G. GDM-3873-19
- H. GDM-3874-19
- I. GDM-3875-19
- J. GDM-3876-19
- K. GDM-3877-19
- L. GDM-3878-19
- M. GDM-3879-19
- N. GDM-3880-19
- O. GDM-3881-19
- P. GDM-3882-19
- Q. GDM-3883-19
- R. GDM-3884-19
- S. GDM-3885-19
- T. GDM-3886-19
- U. GDM-3887-19
- V. GDM-3888-19
- W. GDM-3889-19
- X. GDM-3890-19
- Y. GDM-3891-19
- Z. GDM-3892-19
- AA. GDM-3893-19
- BB. GDM-3894-19
- CC. GDM-3895-19

DD. GDM-3896-19  
EE. GDM-3897-19  
FF. GDM-3898-19  
GG. GDM-3899-19

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

**Approved: Unanimously**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to **approve** Closed Session Consent items pulled, 12A-12E, Student Discipline.

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

**Abstain:** Mr. Escobedo, Mr. Dixon

**Approved: 6-0-1**

14. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett gave a brief update to members. He thanked Mr. Escobedo for his service stating his presence will be missed. Dr. Jarrett also thanked teachers for their support of Seesaw. He ceded his time to Mr. Slife for the transportation update.

B. Transportation Update – Mr. Michael Slife, Executive Director of Transportation

Mr. Slife gave a presentation for Transportation. Comparisons were shown between 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school year of number of routes, transported students, average riders per route, average ride time, number of drivers, number of buses, and number of buses per mechanics. Due to the three-tier bus schedule going into effect for the 2019-2020 school, the number of students on a bus for over fifty minutes will decrease. Challenges include driver shortage and attendance, weather, and employee morale. Programs are in place to encourage attendance. The department hosted a Monster Bus event, a cookout, a winter lunch and will host an end of year lunch. Employee recognitions include Veterans of War and perfect attendance parking. Driver training includes beginning of the year meeting, post-accident training, and mid-year trainings. The presentation may be viewed by following this link: [Transportation](#).

15. \*Action Items

A. The College Board for Thurgood Marshall – Dr. Heather Psaltis, Director of Special Programs

**Motion** by Mr. Seigel seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 15A, The College Board for Thurgood Marshall.

**Approved: Unanimously**

B. Pearson K-12 Solutions for Thurgood Marshall – Dr. Heather Psaltis, Director of Special Programs

**Motion** by Mr. Seigel seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 15B, Pearson K-12 Solutions for Thurgood Marshall.

**Approved: Unanimously**

C. Seesaw – Susan Uram, Educational Tech Coordinator

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 15C, Seesaw.

Comments included how to keep parents involved who did not have cell phone, iPads, etc. Currently the program is targeted for K-2. Licenses can be increased by ten percent without any financial impact. Professional development classes are scheduled in August for Seesaw.

Mr. Scrivano called

**Approved: Unanimously**

D. Purchase of Property, 5052 28th Ave., Rockford, IL - Michael Phillips, Executive Director of Facilities

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 15D, Purchase of Property, 5052 28th Ave., Rockford, IL.

Robust discussion occurred regarding the purchase of the property. Concerns include the cost of relocating ILC (Innovative Learning Center) currently housed in the Operations building. The current building is in poor condition and requires significant renovations. Site work for the current facility is estimated at \$3,162,672, which does not address environmental and site security issues. The purchase and renovations of the proposed property is \$2.5 million. It was suggested to table the vote in order to clarify the executive summary.

**Motion** by Mr. Escobedo seconded by Mrs. Makulec to **table the vote** for item 15D for two weeks. Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Yeas:** Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Escobedo

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

**Failed: 2-5-0**

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote on the original motion.

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

**Nays:** Mr. Escobedo, Mr. Rollins

**Approved: 5-2-0**

16. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Rockford Systems LLC Safeguard Donation

Approval of this donation allows Rockford Systems, LLC to collaborate with the Production (EMITT) Academy at Guilford High School to ensure machines comply with OSHA safety standards.

This will return for a vote at the 5/28/19 meeting.

17. Adjournment

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

Adjournment: 8:14 p.m.

Approved: 5/28/19

**President: *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/***

**Secretary: *Jude Makulec /s/***

/ljf