

ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Meeting Minutes

Administration Building
Tuesday, November 12, 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, Mr. Anthony Dixon, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford

Absent: None

Motion by Mr. Connors seconded by Mr. Dixon that the Board **hold** an executive session to consider the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees; student disciplinary cases; the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; collective bargaining matters; security procedures, school building safety and security; the purchase, sale or lease of real property; 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 5:04 p.m. to 6:54 p.m.

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1. Call to Order – President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:15 p.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 (arr. 7:16 p.m.), Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford
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. Petitions & Communications
Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.
 - Faye Marcus, as spokesperson for AAUW (American Association of University Women) spoke in opposition to the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) Resolution 1, arming staff.
 - Jo Minor spoke in opposition to IASB's Resolution 1, arming staff.
 - Malissa Love spoke lack of cleanliness and issues at Auburn High School.
 - Chad Anderson, Vice President of Rockford Education Association (REA) spoke in opposition to Resolution 1, arming staff.
 - Nancy Gdowski spoke of the 11/06/19 Committee of the Whole meeting, regarding the \$4MM not used due to hiring shortages and urged Board and Administration members to hire more staff in schools. She also suggested to restore Special Education administrators in the school buildings.
 5. Board Member Comments
 - Mr. Connor spoke of November 11, 2019, Veterans Day, and gave a heartfelt thanks to veterans Mr. Rollins, Mr. Dotson Jr., and Mr. Diehl. He also thanked all veterans and those in active service.
 - Mr. Seigel expressed his congratulations to Haskell STEAM Academy for a job well done and his appreciation for their efforts. He failed to express this at the November 6, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting.
 - Mr. Scrivano reminded Board members that Friday, November 15, 2019 is National School Board Day. He thanked members for running for office, being elected, and spending endless hours with him!
 6. *Consent Items
 - A. Meeting Minutes: Special Board Meeting 10-22-19
 - B. Payroll
 - C. Accounts Payable
 - D. Purchase Orders
 - E. Construction Bid Request Log
 - F. Travel
 7. *Recurring Contracts

- A. ~~Recurring Contract with ROE and ULLC for IL Empower Services—Dr. Woulfe – pulled by Mr. Seigel~~
- B. Fee Agreement for Additional Audit Services from Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP
- C. Crypsis Master Services Agreement Addendum

8. *Other Consent

- A. Worker's Compensation Settlement Agreement – AM
- B. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Intergovernmental Agreement by and Between ISBE and Rockford Public School District 205
- C. ~~Resolution Abating Property Taxes for Ten (10) Years on Real Estate commonly known as Magic Waters Waterpark Located at 7820 North Cherryvale Boulevard, Cherry Valley, Illinois owned by Rockford Park District and lease by Six Flags, MW, LLC. — Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, Chief Financial Officer – pulled by Mr. Connor~~
- D. Resolution Abating the Tax heretofore Levied for the year 2019 to Pay Debt Service on Taxable General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016 (Qualified School Construction Bonds – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, Chief Financial Officer
- 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 Contract pulled 7A, Recurring Contract with ROE and ULLC for IL Empower Services.

Service hours are determined by the schools' leadership teams.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Other Consent Items pulled 8C, Resolution Abating Taxes for Ten (10) Years on Real Estate commonly known as Magic Waters Waterpark located at 7820 North Cherryvale Boulevard, Cherry Valley, Illinois owned by Rockford park district and leased by Six Flags MW, LLC.

This agreement does remove property tax revenue. The District has held the levy flat for eight years.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

9. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. ~~Notice to Remedy—Rebekah Lindvall – pulled by Mr. Connor~~
- B. Appointment of Scott Jensen as 12 Month Director of Early Childhood Curriculum and Assessment
- C. HR Organizational Report & Addendum

10. *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 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-4311-20 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.
- B. GDM-4312-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the entire 2020-2021 school year.
- C. GDM-4313-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.
- D. GDM-4314-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the entire 2020-2021 school year.
- E. GDM-4315-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.
- F. GDM-4317-20 – the ten-day suspension is affirmed.
- G. GDM-4318-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.
- H. GDM-4319-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.
- I. GDM-4320-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.
- J. GDM-5014-20 – the four-day suspension is affirmed.
- K. GDM-5015-20 – the ten-day suspension is affirmed.

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

- A. GDM-1070-20
- B. GDM-1072-20

- C. GDM-3943-20
- D. GDM-3944-20
- E. GDM-3948-20
- F. GDM-3951-20
- G. GDM-3953-20
- H. GDM-3954-20
- I. GDM-3957-20
- J. GDM-3958-20
- K. GDM-3959-20
- L. GDM-3961-20
- M. GDM-3962-20
- N. GDM-3964-20
- O. GDM-3966-20
- P. GDM-3967-20
- Q. GDM-3968-20
- R. GDM-3969-20
- S. GDM-3970-20
- T. GDM-3973-20
- U. GDM-3974-20
- V. GDM-3975-20
- W. GDM-3976-20
- X. GDM-3977-20
- Y. GDM-3978-20
- Z. GDM-3979-20
- AA. GDM-3981-20
- BB. GDM-3982-20
- CC. GDM-3983-20

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Closed Session Consent item pulled 9A, Notice to Remedy – Rebekah Lindvall.

Yeas: Mr. Seigel, Ms. Stanford, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec

Abstain: Mr. Connor

Approved: 6-0-1

12. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett spoke of the upcoming celebration of Alignment Rockford's 10th anniversary. He also echoed previous remarks of support for the Nation's veterans and recognize the great sacrifices they made. He also reaffirmed Mr. Scrivano's remarks of Board member service. The rest of his time was ceded to Mrs. Catherine Ellis and the 2019 Summer Cleaning Performance.

B. 2019 Summer Cleaning Presentation

Mrs. Ellis reviewed the 2019 survey results, year to year comparisons, and opportunities at Carlson, Gregory, Wilson Aspire, McIntosh, Jefferson, RESA, and Lewis Lemon. Successful flooring projects took place at Auburn, Guilford, and Johnson schools. The presentation may be viewed by clicking on this link: [2019 Summer Cleaning Performance](#).

13. *Action Items

A. Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Audited Financial Statements

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve item 13A, Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Audited Financial Statements

Approved: Unanimously

Board Members agreed to vote on items 13B-13F with one motion and one vote.

B. Board Policy 4.32 Operational Services; Tax Abatement

C. Board Policy 4.170 Operational Services; Safety

D. Board Policy 5.220 Professional Personnel; Substitute Teachers

E. Board Policy 5.230 Professional Personnel; Maintaining Student Discipline

F. Board Policy 7.70 Students; Attendance and Truancy

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to approve items 13B-13F, Board Policies.

Approved: Unanimously

G. IASB Delegation Resolutions – President Kenneth J. Scrivano

Resolution 1 - Student Safety *option of arming staff in school buildings.*

Resolution 2 - Business Enterprises - *Minority Owned - preferences for businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans, disabled.*

Resolution 3 - School Safety Grant Program - *advocate for State funding of school resource officers, off-duty officers, recently retired officers.*

Resolution 4 - School District Police Force - *allow a school district that had its own police force previously to reinstate it.*

Resolution 5 - Background Checks - Substitute Teacher - *develop a centralized process for Regional Superintendent offices for submitting certification results to share for hiring purposes of substitutes teachers.*

Resolution 6 - Traffic Zones - *increasing traffic-calming resources in front of all schools.*

Resolution 7 - School Board Elections - *Seating of New members - seating of new members allowing newly elected, uncontested candidates for board positions to be sworn in at next board meeting after election, within 14 days.*

Resolution 8 - School Board Elections - Swearing In - *allow newly elected board members to be sworn in by Board President, County Clerk or Judge*

Resolution 9 - School Board Elections - Terms - *allows that all communities under 500,000 people shall serve 4-year terms and be seated at the next board meeting within 14 days.*

Resolution 10 - School Board Elections - *Compensation - allows school districts to offer compensation to its school board members.*

Resolution 11 - Charter School - Renewal of Charters - *allows participation of host school district in the Charter renewal process for State authorized charters.*

Resolution 12 - Charter Schools - At-Risk Students - *defines the special expectations of State authorized charter schools to educate at-risk students, and report publicly in achieving expectations.*

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to **approve** IASB Resolutions 4-12.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** IASB Resolution 1, Student Safety.

Board members had a robust discussion regarding this resolution. Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Nays: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Ms. Stanford, Mr. Dixon

Yeas: Mr. Connor

Motion Failed: 1-6-0

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** IASB Resolution 2, Business Enterprises.

Yeas: Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Rollins

Nays: Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec

Approved: 5-2-0

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** IASB Resolution 3, School Safety Grant Program.

Approved: Unanimously

14. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Resolution to Approve 2019 Tax Levies – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Jahr gave a presentation to members of the resolution. This is the eight consecutive year that the District is holding the levy flat. The tax rate in 2015 was \$7.9379, and for 2019 is \$6.8792. New properties and CPI (Consumer Price Index) is not included.

Comments included that Mr. Rollins has been the champion of holding the levy flat. In addition, other county taxing districts are also holding their levies. Mr. Biondo was thanked for his guidance to Board members. To view the presentation and documents, please click on this link:

<http://go.boarddocs.com/il/rps205/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BGKSWT748032>

This will return for a vote at the November 26, 2019 meeting.

B. Vans for Instructional Purposes – Bridget French, Executive Director of College & Career Readiness

Previously, the Board approved vans for instructional purposes; however, the State of Illinois changed vendors for minivans. This is a consortium purchase through the State of Illinois. The fiscal impact is \$135,000.

This will return for a vote at the November 26, 2019 meeting.

C. Independent Speech/Language Contractor – Mike Ryia, Director of Special Education

Currently, there is a need for Speech Pathologists, and due to the shortage, the District needs to enter into contracts with outside vendors. The proposed contract is for Sarah DeMichele with a fiscal impact of \$82,080.00.

Comments included the District creating a pathway program, and hiring interns.

This will return for a vote at the November 26, 2019 meeting.

D. Tax Abatement Proposal – Ingersoll Expansion – Atty. Hoadley
Ingersoll Machine Tools is requesting the District and other taxing bodies in the area for letters of intent to abate property taxes in order to compete with a location in Alabama for the Magellan telescope. This could add as many as twenty-five full-time positions. The abatement stipulates the following

- A minimum \$2.5 million capital investment in the project
- The creation of a minimum of 10 full-time jobs
- The incentive abates property taxes for a total of nine years:
 - 100% abatement in years 1-3
 - 75% abatement in years 4-6
 - 50% abatement in years 7-9

Ingersoll would also agree not to protest or object to its property tax assessment during the duration of the abatement, nor its property taxes for five years after the end of the abatement program.

This will return for a vote at the November 26, 2019 meeting.

E. Board Member/Administration Action Steps

Mr. Scrivano outlined the following items.

1. Mr. Scrivano will be responsible for voting at the IASB Delegate Assembly
2. Speech and Language Pathway/Recruiting, opportunities. Perhaps this can be investigated by the Special Education Department and updates/ feasibility can be provided in the Superintendent's report.
3. Follow up to what is the Board's expectation to the Administrative team regarding increasing graduation rates. This includes creating a strategic initiative to increase these.
Mr. Scrivano is challenging Administration to create the initiative, commit resources, tutors, etc. to achieve this goal. This is for both Board and Administration to work together on this.

15. Adjournment

At 8:39 p.m., Mr. Scrivano called for a motion and a second to reconvene into Closed Session to discuss the superintendent's contract; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **reconvene to Closed Session.**

Approved by Voice Vote

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to convene to Closed Session to discuss the superintendent's contract; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

Approved by Voice Vote

Motion by Mrs. Makulec seconded by Mr. Scrivano to **adjourn.**

Adjournment: 9:41 p.m.

Approved: 11/26/19

President: *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/*

Secretary: *Jude B. Makulec /s/*

/ljf