

ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Meeting Minutes

Administration Building
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 6:30 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. Connor 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: Unanimously

Pursuant to a Motion made in accordance with the Illinois Open Meeting Act and approved on a roll call vote, the Board, utilizing Zoom, was in executive session from 6:30 p.m. to 6:55 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President Kenneth Scrivano, utilizing Zoom, 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 Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, Mr. Anthony Dixon, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford
Absent: None
4. Petitions & Communications
Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.
 - Mrs. Shavina Baker, principal of Jackson Charter School, thanked Board members for their consideration for the charter renewal and acknowledged their concerns. She spoke of their work with Illinois Empower funds through ISBE, transition to a K-5 building, and the hiring of qualified and invested staff.
 - Mr. Scott Anderson thank the Board for their consideration of the Jackson Charter renewal and how the school serves families most in need in the community. He spoke of Jackson demonstrating performance with students who have attended the school for several years.
5. Board Member Comments.
 - Mr. Connor spoke of the current challenges encountered during the COVID-19 crisis and asked Administration to set aside time to speak of the strategies of reopening.
 - Ms. Stanford sent a shout-out to Administration for allowing Crusader Clinic to set up a COVID-19 testing site at Auburn High Schools.
 - Mr. Dixon also spoke in agreement to Ms. Stanford's shout-out and thanked individuals who are serving breakfasts and lunches in neighborhoods.
6. *Consent Items
 - A. Meeting Minutes: 4-14-20
 - B. Payroll
 - C. Accounts Payable
 - D. Purchase Orders
 - E. Construction Bid Request Log
7. *Bid Recommendations
 - A. ~~RFP 20-31 Uniformed Security Officers~~ – pulled by Mr. Rollins
 - B. ~~RFP 20-32 Wellness Program Administrator~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec
8. *Recurring Contracts
 - A. ~~Rockford Marlins – RPS Partnership – Dr. Matthew Vosberg and Mr. Mat Parker~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec
 - B. ~~FY20 Actuarial and Benefits Consulting Services for Post Employment Benefits Valuation and Early Retirement Obligations Valuation – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec
 - C. ~~The Lamar Companies – Dr. Matthew Vosberg on behalf of Auburn, Guilford, East, Jefferson and Roosevelt High Schools~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec

- D. ~~Addendum to Sunrise Transportation LLC. — Michael Slife, Executive Director of Transportation~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec
- E. ~~Comcast Internet Essentials Sponsored Service — Jason Barthel, Executive Director of Technology~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec

9. *Other Consent

- A. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – March 2020 – Jamie Murray – Executive Director of Finance
- B. Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Third Quarter Treasurer's Report – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA – Chief Financial Officer
- C. Continuous Public Official Bond and Payment of Premium – Ms. Michelle R. Jah, CPA – Chief Financial Officer
- D. Financial Results: March 2020 – Ms. Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
- E. Adoption of the 2020-2021 Proposed Board Meeting Schedule – Dr. Ehren Jarrett, Superintendent
- F. Employment Agreement General Counsel
- G. Freedom of Information Log

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Bid Recommendation pulled 7A, RFP 20-31 Uniformed Security Officers.

Comments included having a robust force majeure in place, paying only for services provided, having a more consisted process for presenting the RFPs as it was difficult to compare each company.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to approve Bid Recommendation pulled 7B, RFP 20-32 Wellness Program Administrator.

Every company was provided with the same criteria; however, the difference in the RFPs consisted of what was included and what items were a la carte. Administration was asked to provide a more consistent process for future presentations.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to approve Recurring Contracts pulled. 8A, Rockford Marlins – RPS Partnership.

Concerns raised by members included issues with in-kind services, errors in the contracts, was the District getting its money's worth, and few scholarships for economically challenged students. Robust conversation took place regarding the partnership and following the facility use policy. Discussion also included the importance of maintaining a feeder system for the District's swim teams.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Yeas: Mr. Connor, Mr. Scrivano

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

Failed: 2-5-0

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Recurring Contracts pulled 8B, FY20 Actuarial and Benefits Consulting Services for Post-Employment Benefits Valuation and Early Retirement Obligations Valuation.

Actuarial Services are necessary for the District to be in compliance with GASB 75 accounting and financial reporting for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) and for Early Retirement Obligations (ERO) plans.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to approve Recurring Contracts pulled 8C, The Lamar Companies.

Five billboards will place with each high school's valedictorian and salutatorian and their pictures. These will go up on May 11 to June 7 with a fiscal impact of \$17,500.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Yeas: Mr. Connor, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mr. Seigel

Nays: Mrs. Makulec

Approved: 6-1-0

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Recurring Contracts pulled 8D, Addendum to Sunrise Transportation, LLC.

Members were asked to approve payment of 100% of payroll costs and 70% of operational costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic from March 23 to June 3, 2020. The District would be reimbursed for 80% of the costs. In depth discussion took place regarding the options available to Sunrise including Federal Relief and that its drivers are eligible to file for unemployment benefits.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Yeas: Mr. Connor

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

Failed: 1-6-0

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Recurring Contracts pulled 8E, Comcast Internet Essentials Sponsored Service.

Rockford Public Schools, local officials, and Comcast have partnered to proceed with sponsored services agreement; whereas, the district will enter an agreement with Comcast on behalf of the families unable to acquire internet on their own. The agreement provides each low income family a 25MB/3MB internet service with wireless modem at their residence for \$9.95 per month. The district must commit to a minimum of 25 sponsored accounts for 6 months, with the first 2 months being free. Parents have until May 13 to sign up for the program if they need it. Based on survey results, 1252 families responded with not having internet service. Schools have reached out to each family as has the Winnebago County Housing Authority and Concorde Commons to promote and encourage parents to apply on their own. The minimum requirement is 25 accounts.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

10. *Closed Session Consent Items

A. Appointment of Desiree Wrightsel as 10 Month Elementary Dean at Brookview Elementary Schools

B. Appointment of Larry Goodrich as 12 Month Principal at West Middle School

C. HR Organization Report & Addendum

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

Approved: Unanimously

11. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett provided special recognition for the District's seniors, letting them know that Administration and staff are thinking about them. Dr. Jarrett also assured parents that the District will work hard to have a high quality graduation experience within the allowed parameters, and looking into the possibility of a delayed senior prom. Next week, the schools teams will send out information regarding this.

12. Action Items

A. Jackson Charter School Renewal Recommendation – Dr. Woulfe

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to approve item 12A, Jackson Charter School Renewal Recommendation

Concerns were raised regarding the agreement, as a modified three year agreement was requested. Discussion included the District setting clear performance targets based on next spring's (2021) standardized tests. The District expects a 10% improvement on ELA and 7.5% on math proficiency in fall of 2021. Jackson Charter School has restructured and changed their management team in order to meet the District's requirements. Students must also meet the 50% growth percentile in ELA and math as measured on the State test. Failure to meet the goals triggers a notice of revocation process. The revocation process and timeline were reviewed with Board members. The revocation process can take up to two years. Robust and lengthy discussion took place regarding the goals, length of the agreement, and the revocation process. Board members additionally discussed the three year term.

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mrs. Makulec to amend the Jackson Charter School Renewal Recommendation to Two (2) years.

Discussion continued regarding accountability in the agreement that includes Bilingual, Special Education, percentage of certified teachers, financial audits, compliance with Open Meetings Act (OMA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), board composition, etc. These are accountability items for all the charter schools.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

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

Approved: Unanimously as amended

B. Kagan Professional Development

The appropriation was changed from twenty-five (25) percent to twenty (20) percent. Administration believes this to be an adequate amount.

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 12B, Kagan Professional Development.

Mr. Rollins called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

13. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

The Administration is seeking to suspend the rules for an immediate vote to consider TBE Benchmark. The curricular is part of the approved FY20 budget and is an anticipated line item for the course adoption. The purchase is made from this year's funds, to be received by June 30, 2020, so that Distribution can inventory and deliver the items to schools for fall implementation.

A. **TBE Benchmark – Misael Nascimento, Executive Director of Bilingual

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Seigel **to suspend the rules** to consider item 13A, TBE Benchmark.

The Administration is requesting to suspend the rules to ensure delivery by June 30, 2020.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 13A, TBE Benchmark

Approved: Unanimously.

B. Board Policy 4.50 Operational Services; Payment Procedures

C. Board Policy 7.260 Students; Exemption from Physical Activity\

Board Policy 4.50 was updated to describe the payment of salaries and benefits from all funding sources including Federal awards.

Board Policy 7.260, the description of students exempt from Physical Education classes was updated.

These will return for a vote at the May 12, 2020 Board meeting.

D. Board Member Action Steps

- Administration was asked to provide a report on middle school pools, including cost and usage. Dr. Vosberg will speak to Ms. Redmond regarding the Kennedy pool. Input from Mr. Phillips will include insurance costs.
- A checklist for all three charter schools will be developed.
- The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Rockford Park District expired in January. Inquiries have been made for summer use by the Park District of Guilford High School's tennis courts.
- Administration was asked to return to the Board with a revised contract for the Marlins. Are students being encouraged by teachers, is there a sliding scale for students in need, etc. These questions will be explored by Administration.
- Conversation continued regarding why the District has not brought to the Board an IGA with the Park District.
- Dr. Jarrett stated he would respond to the Board member requests with an e-mail.

14. Adjournment

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

Adjournment: 9:27 p.m.

Approved: 5/12/20

President: *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/*

Secretary: *Jude B. Makulec /s/*