

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

**Administration Building**  
**Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, Mr. Anthony Dixon, Mr. David Seigel, Ms. June Stanford,

Absent: Mr. Michael Connor

**Motion** by Mr. Seigel seconded by Mr. Rollins 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: 6-0-1**

The Board was in executive session from 5:01 p.m. to 6:34 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 7:20 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, Ms. June Stanford

Absent: Mr. Michael Connor

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. State-level competitors – Earl Dotson, Jr.

**IESA Basketball**

Eisenhower Middle School's seventh grade girls basketball team defeated Vernon Hills Hawthorn North 31-to-30 in the sectional in December to qualify for the IESA State Tournament. At state, Eisenhower lost to New Lenox Martino, and the team ultimately finished the season 16-and-3, and we're looking forward to the girls' eighth grade season.

Eisenhower Middle School's eighth grade boys basketball team defeated Lake in the Hills Marlow 44-to-34 in the sectional earlier this month to qualify for the IESA State Tournament. At state, Eisenhower lost to Markham Prairie-Hills, and the team ultimately finished the season 23-and-5.

Kennedy Middle School's seventh grade boys basketball team defeated Algonquin Heineman 48-to-26 in the sectional earlier this month to qualify for the IESA State Tournament. The team was undefeated going into the state tournament! At state, Kennedy lost to Morton Junior High School, a team that ultimately took third in the state.

Kennedy ultimately finished the season 14-and-1, and we're looking forward to the boys' eighth grade season!

**IESA Cheer**

Rockford Public Schools had two middle school compete in the IESA State Cheer Tournament – Eisenhower and Lincoln! Lincoln Middle School's cheer team finished in third place at the IESA State Cheer Tournament – Small Cheer Division – with a score of 77.40. The team trailed the second-place team by 0.08 points! (77.48). Eisenhower Middle School's cheer team also competed at state in the Small Team Routine.

**All-State Choir & Orchestra**

The Illinois Music Education Association offers opportunities for band, orchestra and choir students to audition to perform with some of the best students in the state. It's a rigorous, competitive process, and the association tries to choose students equally from around the state, so all areas – or divisions – are represented. Fine Arts Director Bonnie Spurling shared, "As our program has grown and become more competitive, we are taking positions away from other schools within our geographic district that are used to bringing more students to state. Our increasing presence in the ILMEA Conference at state in Peoria is getting RPS 205 students positive attention statewide!"

Congratulations to the following students:

From Guilford

- All-State Choir: Oscar Almonaci, Tim Gaumont
- All-State Honors Choir: Joy Murphy, Hadassah Cooper, Teaunn Lucas Guilford
- All-State Orchestra: Ruby Garey

From Auburn

- All-State Honors Choir: Vanessa Schoensiegel
- All-State Choir: Jasai Wafford

### **IHSA Chess**

Auburn and Guilford high schools each had teams qualify to compete in the IHSA State Chess tournament. The trip downstate marked Auburn High School senior Vincent Do's third consecutive trip to the state tournament. He earned six points for the Knights, and the team ultimately finished 30<sup>th</sup> in the state of 128 schools.

Guilford High School finished in 31<sup>st</sup> place, and Vikings junior Jeremiah Davis earned seven points for his team, earning a perfect 7-0 run on Board 1. Congratulations!

### **Guilford Esports**

Guilford High School students made history in December when the team made it to the final four of the Illinois High School Esports Association state tournament for Rocket League. The Vikings played with a three-person Rocket League team and ultimately won the tournament – making the Guilford Vikings the state Esports champions! This season made history in another way, too: Guilford senior Zach Dimond became the first Esports competitor in RPS 205 history to receive a scholarship. In January, Zach signed a letter of intent to compete and study at Illinois College. Congratulations to these students, and we hope to hear more good news in the coming years from our Esports teams!

#### 5. Petitions & Communications

Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.

- Mr. Brandon Gordon spoke of the importance of System 44, used for students below grade level, and the importance of increase that teaching block and decreasing the ELA block.
- Mr. Brandon Gordon spoke of the importance of instituting an "Every Child Gets A Ride" for those students that live within the 1.5 mile radius. Children often don't attend on inclement weather days and this affects their behavior

#### 6. Board Member Comments.

- Mrs. Makulec asked Mr. Gordon about working with Representative Maurice West to change this. She was told the impotence needs to begin at the local level.
- Mr. Rollins spoke of appreciating recent discussions on academic results and spoke at length of what the District tests. Currently, the District uses the Illinois Assessment Readiness (IAR) test for grades three through eight for common core indicators. The purpose is to determine college and career readiness for students. He read two example questions.
- Mr. Scrivano thanked Board and Administration members for their attendance and participation at the February 22, 2020 meeting. This was collaborative, productive, and team building.

#### 7. \*Consent Items

- A. Meeting Minutes: 02-11-20, 01-28-20 - Corrected
- B. Payroll
- C. Accounts Payable
- D. Purchase Orders
- E. Contracts Under \$10,000
- F. Travel

#### 8. \*Bid Recommendations

- A. IFB 20-12 Lincoln MS Water Main Project
- B. IFB 20-13 Auburn HS Box Culvert Project
- C. IFB 20-16 Tire Services – Transportation/Operations

#### 9. \*Recurring Contracts

- A. Bradley and Bradley Architects – Recommendation on Approval of Contract for Architectural Design Services – Michael Phillips, Executive Director of Facilities

#### 10. \*Other Consent

- A. AFSCME 692 (Paraprofessionals) Tentative Agreement
- B. Fiscal year (FY) 2021 Student Fees – Ms. Michelle R Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
- C. Financial Results: January 2020 – Ms. Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
- D. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – January 2020 – Jamie Murray – Executive Director of Finance

E. Freedom of Information Log

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

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

**Absent:** Mr. Connor

**Approved:** 6-0-1

11. \*Closed Session Consent Items

A. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Teachers

B. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of 4th Year Probationary Teachers

C. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Temporary/Probational Teachers

D. Resolution Authorizing Reclassification of a Certified Administrator

E. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Certain Non-Certified Educational Support Personnel – Reduction in Force

F. Appointment of Dr. Heather Psaltis as 12 Month Executive Director of Schools and Special Programs.

G. 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 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-2047-20 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the first trimester of the 2020-2021 school year.

B. GDM-4354-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the entire 2020-2021 school year.

C. GDM-4356-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the entire 2020-2021 school year.

D. GDM-4357-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the entire 2020-2021 school year.

E. GDM-5017-20 – the three day suspension is affirmed.

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

A. GDM-1080-20

B. GDM-8018-20

C. GDM-8020-20

D. GDM-8022-20

E. GDM-8067-20

F. GDM-8075-20

G. GDM-8076-20

H. GDM-8077-20

I. GDM-8078-20

J. GDM-8079-20

K. GDM-8080-20

L. GDM-8082-20

M. GDM-8083-20

N. GDM-8084-20

O. ~~GDM-8085-20~~ – pulled by Administration

P. GDM-8086-20

Q. GDM-8087-20

R. GDM-8090-20

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

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

**Absent:** Mr. Connor

**Approved:** 6-0-1

14. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

B. School Data Presentation – Early Childhood

Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Kirschbaum presented the Early Childhood Data Presentation to Board and Administration. The presentation consisted of Research Based Model Essential Requirements, targeted outreach, and preschool children served. Assessments including early learning scale, classroom assessment scoring system, and preschool family engagement activities were reviewed. Kindergarten enrollment numbers RPS and non-RPS EC children, and the

kindergarten individual development survey were presented. Strengths include targeted outreach, Prenatal to Three program, and social emotional self-regulation. Weaknesses are phonological awareness. Opportunities are family engagement, transportation, principals in classrooms providing feedback daily, Kindergarten Transition Specialist, and majority of special education service inside general education. Threats are support staff attendance, support staff split between buildings, qualified workforce, staff vacancies, and inconsistency in funding. Next steps are to continue staff recruitment efforts, action planning to support inclusion, and enhanced transitions between early childhood and elementary schools. Board members and Administration conducted a robust discussion To view the presentation, please click on this link: [Early Childhood](#).

15. Action Items

A. Board Policy 7.270 Students; Administering Medicines to Students

**Motion** by Mr. Seigel seconded by Mr. Dixon to **approve** item 15A, Board Policy 7.270 Students; Administering Medicines to Students

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

**Absent:** Mr. Connor

**Approved: 6-0-1**

16. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Rolling Green Elementary Special Needs Playground – Mrs. Ann DeLang, Director of Operations

The current Special Needs playground is no longer safe for children. The District was awarded the Community Heroes Grant to be used towards the purchase of a qualified main composite playground structure. The fiscal impact for the District is \$47,923.63.

This will return as an action item at the March 10, 2020 meeting.

B. School Maintenance Grant Application Approval – Dr. Woulfe

The boilers at Hillman Elementary School needs to be replaced as part of the District's 10-Year Facility Plan to improve learning environments for students. The State of Illinois has launched a grant program that provides up to \$50,000 with a required match of at least that amount for a long-term capital improvement. Prior authorization is required by the Board in order to apply for the grant. The anticipated cost of the boiler is \$492,725. The cost would be reduced by up to \$50,000 with the grant award

This will return as an action item at the March 10, 2020 meeting.

C. Board Member Action Steps

- Mrs. Kirschbaum and Mrs. Nelson will provide Board members with the additional information requested from the Early Childhood presentation.

17. Adjournment

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

**Adjournment: 8:23 p.m.**

Approved: 03/10/2020

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

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