

ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Meeting Minutes

Administration Building
Tuesday, March 10, 2020

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 (dept. 5:36 p.m.), Secretary Jude Makulec, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor

Absent: Mr. Anthony Dixon, Ms. June Stanford

Motion by Mr. Connor 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: 5-0-2

The Board was in executive session from 5:01 p.m. to 6:44 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins (dept. 5:36 p.m.), Secretary Jude Makulec, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor
Absent: Mr. Anthony Dixon, Ms. June Stanford
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 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. Congratulations!
 - IHSA Wrestling**
Two students from East High School qualified this year for the IHSA State Wrestling meet. Senior Eh Ta Sor finished fourth in the IHSA Class 3A Barrington sectional tournament in the 113-pound weight class to earn a ticket to state. Sophomore Joey Pineda finished second in the sectional at 285 pounds to qualify for the state meet. Joey and Eh Ta Sor both lost in their first round, but Joey advanced to the second and third round of wrestlebacks, ultimately losing to the third-ranked wrestler in the state in his weight class. Congratulations to both young men on an outstanding season!
 - Poetry Out Loud**
Two Jefferson High School students qualified for the state Poetry Out Loud competition in Springfield last month. Jada Cox and Nada Abdulaziz were among more than 10,000 students from 43 schools competing. There are eight regions in the state, and only the top 16 students make it to the finals. Jada Cox was a top-five finisher with "Mothering Blackness" by Maya Angelou and "I Felt a Funeral in my Brain" by Emily Dickenson. Nada Abdulaziz competed with "Epitaph" by Katherine Philips and "Diameter" by Michelle Y. Burke. Congratulations to these outstanding students!
 - IHSA State Speech**
Jefferson High School senior Jada Cox and Auburn High School senior Aryan Arora competed last month in the IHSA state speech tournament in Peoria. Jada competed in the poetry reading category, sharing "The Autobiography of an Empire." She finished third in the Freeport sectional to qualify for the state meet. Aryan competed in the impromptu speaking category and finished second at sectionals.
At the state tournament, Aryan made history for Auburn and RPS 205. He brought the first state speech title back to RPS 205 in 57 years, and he is the seventh RPS 205 winner ever in the IHSA speech competition.

Aryan recently shared his story in a blog post on the 205 VIBE and shared a lot of thanks to his coaches, teammates, administrators and teachers, and his family for supporting him during the speech season. "But most importantly," he wrote, "to my community that has taught me the importance of my voice. Behind every individual events champion, there is an army of people who fought to make their achievements possible. I didn't win a state championship. We did."

5. Petitions & Communications

There were no speakers.

6. Board Member Comments.

- Mr. Scrivano spoke of the Student Led Tour at RESA Middle School and how well the student ambassadors did on the tour. He also thanked the planning group for the Hall of Fame Banquet as it was an excellent award banquet.

7. *Consent Items

- A. Meeting Minutes:02-25-20, 02-22-20 High Impact Work Session
- B. ~~Purchase Orders~~ – pulled by Mr. Seigel
- C. Contracts Under #10,000
- D. Accounts Payable
- E. Payroll
- F. Travel

8. *Bid Recommendations

- A. RFP 20-14 Benefits Consulting Services
- B. IFB 20-17 Waste Disposal and Recycling Services
- C. ~~IFB 20-18 E-Rate 2020 Infrastructure~~ – pulled by Mr. Seigel
- D. IFB 20-21 Bloom E.S. Asbestos Abatement Project
- E. IFB 20-22 Fairview E.C. Asbestos Abatement Project
- F. IFB 20-24 Interior Renovations at Bloom, Carlson, Fairview, and Lewis Lemon
- G. RFP 20-09 Website Redesign Services
- H. ~~RFP 20-19 New School Buses~~ – pulled by Mr. Rollins
- I. IFB 20-20 Washington E.S. Chimney Stack Removal
- J. IFB 20-23 Carlson E.S. Asbestos Abatement Project

9. *Recurring Contracts

- A. Recurring Agreements for Title-funded Summer Programming – Dr. Woulfe
- B. Apple iPad Lease
- C. ~~Insight Workforce Solutions~~ – pulled by Mr. Connor
- D. Addendum to Workplace Solutions
- E. Addendum to Consulting Agreement – HI Interpreter – Mrs. Jennifer Lawrence, Executive Director of Special Education

10. *Other Consent

- A. Freedom of Information Log
- B. REA Memorandum of Understanding-RPS Employer-Assisted Housing Program – Mr. Matt Zediker, Chief Human Resources Office
- C. Housing Incentive Resolution-Administrators – Mr. Matt Zediker, Chief Human Resources Officer

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

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

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 5-0-2

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve Consent item pulled 7B, Purchase Orders.

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

Abstain: Mr. Seigel

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 4-1-2

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Bid Recommendation pulled 8C, IFB 20-28 E-Rate 2020 Infrastructure.

The bid is for 289 switches with an 85% reimbursement. The dollar amount difference in the bid is due to the first company registering with the supplier receives preferential pricing.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

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

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 5-0-2

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Bid Recommendation pulled 8H, RFP 20-19 New School Buses.

The bid recommendation is higher as the buses requested by the District specified heater hoses on the outside of school buses instead of inside. In addition, 3-point seatbelts will be included in the buses.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

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

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 5-0-2

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Recurring Contract pulled 9C, Insight Workforce Solutions. There have been modest gains with fill rates but did not meet the 85% goal. They will continue to recruit and the goal for the new contract remains the same.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

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

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 5-0-2

11. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. HR Organizational Report & Addendum
- B. Appointment of Maurice Davis as 12 Month Executive Director of Schools
- C. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Certain Support Personnel – Reduction in Force
- D. Notice to Remedy Erin Gehrke
- E. Appointment of Jessica Powell as 12 Month Principal at Marshall Middle Schools

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-2048-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year followed by an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.
- B. GDM-4358-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year.
- C. GDM-4359-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.
- D. GDM-4360-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the entire 2020-2021 school year.
- E. GDM-4361-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the entire 2020-2021 school year.
- F. GDM-4362-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year through the entire 2020-2021 school year.
- G. GDM-4363-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.
- H. GDM-4364-20 – expelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

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

- A. GDM-3997-20
- B. GDM-8064-20
- C. GDM-8091-20
- D. GDM-8093-20
- E. GDM-8094-20
- F. GDM-8095-20
- G. GDM-8096-20
- H. GDM-8097-20
- I. GDM-8098-20
- J. GDM-8099-20
- K. GDM-8100-20
- L. GDM-8101-20
- M. GDM-8102-20
- N. GDM-8103-20
- O. GDM-8104-20
- P. GDM-8105-20

- Q. GDM-8106-20
- R. GDM-8107-20
- S. GDM-8108-20
- T. GDM-8109-20
- U. GDM-8110-20
- V. GDM-8111-20
- W. GDM-8112-20
- X. GDM-8113-20
- Y. GDM-8114-20

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

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

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 5-0-2

14. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett ceded for the Health Insurance Update

B. Health Insurance Update

Ms. Inez Harris, Senior Benefits Manager, presented the update to Board members. The historical summary was presented with FY2019 costs 12.99% higher than in 2011. The average increase over the past eight years is approximately 1.62%. The average medical inflation during the same time period is approximately 6%. FY2020 costs are currently running at \$15,981, Per Employee Per Year (PEPY) which is 10.3% higher than the previous year. The District's trend versus actual has been lower. Factors contributing to the lower cost trend include improved Rx rebates, lower overall utilization, coverage management programs with Express Scripts, Wellness Plans, and added active health disease management program. Potential causes for increased cross are only minor plan changes this year to offset trend, increased cost of specialty medications, and potential for an increase in large claims next year. Cost saving initiatives are continued wellness initiatives, pharmacy management programs, continue virtual visits through Tel-a-Doc, and Rx contract renewed with improved discounts from average wholesale price and better rebates. Board members requested follow up with additional cost of medications, and specialty drug costs. To view the presentation, please click on this link: [Health Insurance Update](#).

15. Action Items

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

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 15A, Rolling Green Elementary Special Needs Playground.

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

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 5-0-2

B. School Maintenance Grant Application Approval – Dr. Woulfe

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 15B, School Maintenance Grant Application Approval.

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

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 5-0-1

C. Northern Illinois University Principal Preparation Program

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 15C, Northern Illinois University Principal Preparation Program.

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

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 5-0-2

D. Network Enhancement and Improvement Project

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 15D, Network Enhancement and Improvement Project.

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

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 5-0-2

E. Ten-Year Life Safety Survey – Final Report – Michael Phillips, Executive Director of Facilities

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 15E, Ten-Year Life Safety Survey – Final Report.

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

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 5-0-2

F. Resolution and Notice of Public Hearing on the Amended Budget for 2019-2020 – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 15F, Resolution and Notice of Public Hearing on the Amended Budget for 2019-2020

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

Absent: Mr. Dixon, Ms. Stanford

Approved: 5-0-2

16. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. District Management Group (DMG) – Dr. Matthew Vosberg, Deputy Superintendent

The primary focus of this work will be to work with school leadership at RESA Middle School and the School Planning and Design Committee on three areas of identified need: improving student attendance; clarifying roles and responsible for existing and incoming support staff; and addressing staff concerns regarding workload and resources raised in the recent staff engagement survey. Through this work, DMGroup will help the school identify a detailed, accurate, and shared understanding of each challenge and prioritize efforts to achieve measurable results. DMGroup will share relevant best-practice research to inform and guide the work throughout this process. The fiscal impact is not to exceed \$75,000.

This will return as an action item at the March 24, 2020 meeting.

B. Board Member Action Steps

- HR Benefits will provide a pharmacy report to Board members.
- HR Benefits were asked to look deeper into the eligibility audit, when does it need to occur again.
- Administration was asked to update Board members regarding plans for Page Park and Styles.
- Administration was asked how action steps follow up are being tracked. Ms. Fromm will follow up with Administration.

17. Adjournment

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

Adjournment: 8:11 p.m.

Approved: 04-14-2020

President: *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/*

Secretary: *Jude M. Makulec /s/*